

Plemons-Stinnett-Phillips Consolidated Independent School District



Extra-Curricular Handbook

2019-2020

**PLEMONS-STINNETT-PHILLIPS CISD
EXTRACURRICULAR CODE OF CONDUCT**

Dear Parents and Students,

The pages of this document contain information that applies to students who participate in any extracurricular activity at West Texas High School and West Texas Middle School. Also included are the specific codes of conduct for each extracurricular activity at West Texas High School.

Please read over this information carefully. Questions you have concerning this information should be directed toward the head coach, director, or sponsor of the activity.

THE SIGNING AND RETURNING OF THE WTHS STUDENT HANDBOOK'S LETTER IS AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT THE EXTRACURRICULAR CODE OF CONDUCT INCLUDED IN THAT HANDBOOK HAS ALSO BEEN READ AND UNDERSTOOD. THAT NOTIFICATION LETTER OR THE EXTRACURRICULAR ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM MUST BE SIGNED AND RETURNED BEFORE STUDENTS WILL BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.

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PLEMONS-STINNETT-PHILLIPS CISD EXTRACURRICULAR CODE OF CONDUCT

I. Definition: Extracurricular activities are school-sponsored activities that are not directly related to instruction of the essential knowledge and skills, but that may have an indirect contribution to a student's personal, physical, and social development. Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege and not a right, and students must meet specific requirements in order to participate. Activities may include, but are not limited to, performances, contests, demonstrations, displays, and club activities.

II. Objectives: Through participation in extracurricular activities we believe that students can be provided the opportunity to

1. Be involved.
2. Perform outside the classroom.
3. Develop socially, mentally, and physically.
4. Achieve positive character development.
5. Learn responsibility.
6. Exhibit teamwork and cooperation.
7. Develop self-esteem.
8. Achieve success.
9. Represent the school in a positive manner.

III. Expectations: Because participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege and not a right, we hold the following expectations of the participants. They should

1. Create a positive image for our school.
2. Display school spirit, pride, enthusiasm, and cooperation.
3. Demonstrate respect for authority, self, and others.
4. Perform to the best of their ability.
5. Exhibit a positive attitude.
6. Make a continuous effort to create, maintain, and promote good sportsmanship.
7. Respect facilities at home and away.

The coach, sponsor, or director of an extracurricular activity is responsible for the overall management of that activity, which includes, but is not limited to, determining the extent (and level) of each student's participation, and handling discipline. Participants in extracurricular activities are to abide by the written code of conduct for those activities and are subject to the penalties imposed by the coach, sponsor, or director for violations of the code. A coach, sponsor, or director may dismiss or discipline a student within the activity if he or she feels the student's presence is detrimental to the team and school or is unfair to other members of the team based upon repeated violations of the activity's practices and expectations and/or documented occurrences of behavior listed in Section V which apply to all activities. Decision to dismiss a student from an activity must

be made in consultation with the principal (and athletic director if the decision involves athletics).

IV. Consequences. Participants in any extracurricular activity who engage in any inappropriate behaviors other than those listed in section V at any time or any place during the year are subject to the following punishments: For offenses beyond the normal discipline procedures of an activity or sport as determined by the coach, director or sponsor, the following steps will be taken.

1st Offense

Personal conference with the coach, director or sponsor and the student to discuss the student's behavior as it applies to that activity. This conference will determine appropriate action or consequences for the student. This student meeting will take place at the earliest appropriate time. After this conference, the coach, director or sponsor will contact the parent/guardian of the substance of this meeting within 48 hours by phone or personal conference. It is left to the discretion of the coach, director or sponsor to determine the extent of the consequences. This conference and the consequences will be reported to the parent/guardian and the principal or athletic director (as appropriate) in writing within one calendar week.

2nd Offense

Personal meeting of the head coach, director or sponsor, the student, and the parent/guardian with the principal or athletic director (as appropriate) to discuss the student's behavior as it applies to that activity. This meeting will take place at the earliest appropriate time. It is left to the discretion of the coach, director or sponsor to determine the extent of the consequences. A written report of the substance of this meeting will be turned in to the superintendent in writing within 72 hours. This report will include a copy of the 1st offense report.

3rd Offense

Personal meeting of the head coach, director or sponsor, the student and the student's parent/guardian with the principal or athletic director (as appropriate) to discuss the student's behavior. This meeting will take place at the earliest appropriate time. This meeting may result in removal of that student from that activity and the student cannot return to a related activity until the next semester or until the season for that particular activity is over. These consequences will be reported to the superintendent by the athletic director/principal in writing within 72 hours.

If a student/parent chooses for that student to quit an activity as a result of any offense, the student will be subject to the quitting policy of that activity.

V. Behaviors which result in immediate dismissal:

1. Assaults a teacher, [See FNCH (LEGAL)*] or on more than one occasion is involved in a physical confrontation with another student.
2. Sells, gives, or delivers to another person or possesses or uses or is under the influence of:
 - a. Marijuana or a controlled substance, as defined by the Texas Controlled Substances Act or by 21 U.S.C. 801, et seq.
 - b. A dangerous drug, as defined by the Texas dangerous drug law...
3. Possesses a firearm, an illegal knife, a club, or a prohibited weapon, as those terms are defined in the Penal Code. [See FNCG (LEGAL)]
4. Engages in conduct that contains the elements of an offense relating to abusable glue or aerosol paint under the Texas Controlled Substances Act, or relating to volatile chemicals under Article 4476-13a.
5. Engages in conduct that contains the elements or the offense of arson under Section 28.02, Penal Code; i.e., starts a fire or causes an explosion with intent to destroy or damage District property, including any building, habitation, or vehicle.
6. Engages in conduct that contains the elements of the offense of criminal mischief under Section 28.03, Penal Code, if the offense is punishable as a felony; i.e., intentionally or knowingly destroys tangible District property and the loss is \$750 or more. Effective September 1, 1994, threshold loss is \$1,500.
7. Engages in conduct that contains the elements of the offense of public lewdness under Section 21.07 of the Penal Code; i.e., engages in sexual contact or sexual intercourse in a public place or, if not in a public place, is reckless about whether another is present who will be offended or alarmed by the act.

The “year” shall be defined as June 1 through May 31 of the year in question.

The following will be the criterion used to determine that the behavior in section V has occurred and is to be a documented incident:

1. The citing, ticketing, or conviction of a student.
2. Witnessing of the behavior by the student’s head coach, sponsor, director, or school administrator.
3. Other reports of occurrences of behavior in section V will be considered hearsay. Investigation of that hearsay and any decision to apply punishment and treat the occurrence as a documented incident will be left to the discretion of the head coach, sponsor, or director.

Incidents of above conduct and punishments applied are to be documented. This documentation should be maintained throughout a student’s enrollment in school.

Documented incidents of inappropriate behaviors, as outlined in sections III and V, regardless of when they have occurred during the year, may affect a student’s membership or participation in an activity the next year, in accordance with procedures outlined in section IV.

*Board Policy Manual, Plemons-Stinnett-Phillips CISD

VI. Eligibility The following criteria shall be used to determine eligibility for extracurricular activities. To be eligible at the beginning of the year, 9th graders must have been promoted from the 8th grade, sophomores must have 5 credits, juniors must have 10 credits, and seniors must have 15 credits. Students shall be suspended from participation for the next 3 weeks period if they receive a grade of less than 70 in any class the preceding 6 weeks as per U.I.L. policy. Students shall not be allowed to miss a class more than 10 times per year due to extracurricular activities. No student shall be allowed to take part in any game or contest if he or she is not in school on that day, unless it is a case of a known illness of a temporary nature or other circumstances (example: funeral, illness in family) which are totally justified in the most critical appraisal of the coach, director, and administration.

VII. Transportation A student cannot be released from a school sponsored trip to use other forms of transportation unless the parent or guardian has applied in writing, prior to the trip, to the administration. The parent must sign a release of responsibility. Deviation from this policy may be made only in case of an emergency, and the sponsor or coach in charge is to exercise his or her best judgment in rendering the decision. Students will not be allowed to drive themselves to or from activities nor will they be allowed to be driven to or from an activity by another student.

VIII. Lettering Policy Students will receive a major (letter jacket) award if they have not previously earned such an award.

To letter, an athlete must meet the following requirements:

1. Be a member of the varsity team and remain in good standing throughout the year
2. Play a major role on the team (opinion of the coaches).
3. Attend all practices and games unless sick or injured.
4. Complete the season in good standing as a team member
5. Must be recommended for lettering to the Athletic Director by the coach.

The Athletic Director, upon recommendation of the coach, may letter an athlete who is unable to meet the requirements due to injury or illness.

Lettering requirements for each sport are as follows:

- A. Football – An athlete must compete in a minimum five games.
- B. Basketball & Volleyball – An athlete must compete in a minimum of 15 games.
- C. Baseball & Softball – An athlete must compete in a minimum of ten games. If no Junior Varsity team is fielded due to lack of numbers, the student must compete in a minimum of 30 innings at the varsity level.
- D. Track & Cross Country – Must compete for two consecutive years and in the opinion of the coach is striving to improve his or her ability or score points in district meet.
- E. Golf & Tennis - Must compete for three consecutive years and in the opinion of the coach is striving to improve his ability or score points at district meet.
- F. Power Lifting - Must compete for three consecutive years or qualify for regionals in a class with more participants than the qualifying limit.
- G. Athletic Student Trainer -

Cheerleaders

Varsity cheerleaders are selected on a one-year basis and will be eligible to receive a major award to be ordered at the end of basketball season, provided they have been in good standing as cheerleaders and have not received a major award in some other activity. The principal, upon recommendation of the sponsor, may letter a cheerleader who is unable to meet the requirements due to illness or injury.

Band

- A. 1st division on a class two solo as a freshman or sophomore.
- B. 1st division on a class one solo at any grade level.
- C. 1st division on a class two ensemble as a freshman or sophomore.
- D. 1st division on a class one ensemble at any grade level.
- E. All-Region.
- F. Must have completed three years in program.
- G. Anything else deemed exceptional and notable by the director.

Academic

- A. A 90 or above average of semester grades for 3 years.
- B. Band, choir, physical education, athletics, and local credit grades will not be counted.
- C. Students must take:
 - (a) Regular English or English Honors
 - (b) Three years of college bound math beginning with Algebra I
 - (c) Three years of college bound science.

UIL Literary

All students participating in the Regional UIL Literary Meet will be awarded a major award.

STUDENTS ARE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE ONLY ONE MAJOR AWARD DURING HIGH SCHOOL. IF A STUDENT MEETS THE LETTERING REQUIREMENTS AND HAS ALREADY RECEIVED HIS MAJOR AWARD, HE WILL RECEIVE A MINOR AWARD.

ANY STUDENT WHO HAS NOT BEEN IN GOOD STANDING AND HAS NOT, IN THE OPINION OF THE COACH, DIRECTOR, OR SPONSOR, PRODUCED QUALITY PARTICIPATION OR HAS BEEN DETRIMENTAL TO THE PROGRAM SHALL NOT RECEIVE AN AWARD.

ATHLETICS POLICY MANUAL

GENERAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Discipline of Athletes

1. A student is not required to take part in athletics, nor is it required for graduation. Therefore, athletics is a privilege. Consequently, when high ideals and standards are violated, this privilege can be revoked. All athletes will be expected to conduct themselves with pride and dignity at all times.
2. All students participating in team sports are required to be involved in the strength and conditioning program. If the student athlete only participates in an individual sport (i.e. tennis, golf), then it is up to the discretion of that coach to determine whether they will be involved in the strength and conditioning program.
3. The general philosophy of the Athletics Department is that we will attempt to help an individual who has made a mistake; however, if a mistake is repeated, the welfare of the team must take priority. (A mistake may mean a violation of training rules, missing practice, poor attitude, etc.)
4. Coaches have the right to discipline athletes on their individual teams but should exercise sound judgment in evaluating specific penalties. Keeping in mind the welfare of the team as well as the welfare of the individual, coaches will discipline consistently; all circumstances being equal.
5. Coaches should not dismiss a player from a team until they have discussed with the Athletic Director and that sport's head coach.
6. Athletes found in possession of, under the influence of, or discovered to have used alcohol, drugs or tobacco products at a school sponsored activity or trip will be removed from athletics.

Playing time

Athletics teaches us about life, and the reality of life is that nothing is free, and we must work hard in order to succeed. Another reality is that those that do the best job gain a higher position on the ladder of success.

At the Jr. High level, we will try to make sure that every child is a consistent part of the competition. In sub-varsity competition, the individual coach will distribute playing time at his/her discretion, making sure that each player gets into the game at some point. In Varsity competition, playing time is not guaranteed. Who plays, and how much time they get to play is at the discretion of the coach. We all need to remember that playing time does not increase nor diminish a child's importance to the team, or their value as a person. There are many hidden faces and unknown names behind successful organizations.

ATHLETE'S CODE OF CONDUCT

It is very critical that our players understand the seriousness in the use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco. Any prohibited substance can take from you the ability that you have as an athlete and a person. More importantly it can have a habitual affect on you that can destroy your life and those lives around you.

A) Alcohol & Tobacco Products

Athletes found in possession of, under the influence of, or discovered to have used alcohol or any type of tobacco product other than at school or on a school-sponsored trip will receive the following punishment:

Punishment:

- *1st Offense 10 miles completed before next competition*
- *2nd Offense 20 miles completed before next competition*
- *3rd Offense 30 miles completed before next competition*

B) Drugs

Student athletes will not use, sell, or in any way become involved with illegal drugs, period.

Punishment:

First offense will result in the athlete being removed from participating athletics for the remainder of the school year. On the second offense, players may be suspended from participating in all competitive athletic programs for one consecutive 12-month period. On the third offense, a player will be permanently removed from participating in any West Texas High School athletic program. Athletes will be allowed to become part of the off-season program during suspensions and must complete the following punishment before they are allowed to participate the following school year.

C) Academics

Student athletes will be expected to excel to their fullest potential in the classroom. Student athletes will be expected to be the example of the ideal student in the classroom; misbehavior or misconduct is not the acceptable behavior. Any athlete failing two consecutive six week periods will be dismissed from that sport in season and placed in the off-season program. If the student athlete passes the next two grading periods, they will be allowed to participate in the next sport. **Academic failure is unacceptable!** Failing athletes are expected to attend any extra tutorials held by their teacher except during practice time.

D) Athletics Absences

Players are expected to attend every practice. Make up work is expected at the discretion of the head coach in season. If a player cannot attend a practice it is his responsibility to call and let the coaches know he will not

be attending and explain as to the reason why. If the player does not call in then this will constitute either an unexcused or a skipped absence. If you do not reach a coach when you call in make sure to leave a message.

Athletic Phone Numbers:

Girls Coaches office: (806) 878-4207

Boys Coaches office: (806) 878-2433

Cell Phone Boys Athletics-Coach Flowers: (806) 886-4370

Cell Phone Girls Athletics-Coach Williams: (806) 494-1393

Practice will occur during some holidays. We want to be sensitive to family values and special times you may spend together.

E) Athletic Game Ejections

Any athlete ejected from competition for unsportsmanlike conduct will be suspended for one-tenth of that sports schedule. (Example: Football-one game, Basketball-two games) If that sport does not allow for full suspension, it will carry over to the next sport that the individual will participate in. (example: Ejected last football game, plays basketball, then athlete will be suspended for two basketball games).

F) Quitting Policy

Before an athlete can quit a sport he/she must bring his/her parent to meet with the head coach of that sport. When an athlete quits a sport then he/she will be assigned to an off-season program until that season is complete. For each sport, there will be a two-week window at the beginning of the season during which a student may choose not to participate in a sport and still be allowed to go to a different sport. After the two weeks, the student who chooses to quit will go to off-season for the remainder of the season. Athletes who quit or are removed from a sport 2 times in high school will not be allowed back in athletics for the remainder of the year.

G) Removal from Athletics

1. An athlete will be removed from athletics if he/she has any two of these offenses: excessive absences; being disrespectful to coaches, teachers, administrators; or other major offences.
2. When an athlete is removed from athletics the athlete cannot return to athletics until the next semester or until that season for that particular sport is over. For example, an athlete cannot quit or be removed from basketball in December and come back into athletics in January. They would have to wait until basketball season is over.

H) Cursing

Coaches will punish cursing on the spot. Each sport will tell their athletes what the punishment for cursing will be. If an athlete has to be punished for cursing an excessive number of times, a letter will then be sent to his/her parents about it. This will be considered step one of the removal policy.

I) U.I.L. requirements for athletes

All forms and/or necessary paperwork will be filled out and filed with the appropriate persons before an athlete will be allowed to participate in any way or in any sport. (Forms include physicals if needed; insurance, parent consent forms, acknowledgement of rules, medical history, Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Form, Concussion Acknowledgement Form, Parent/Student Steroid Agreement Form, and athletic policy rules form.)

J) Facility Pride

We have some of the best facilities in the state. You are expected as a team to take pride in our facilities and keep them neat and clean all year. Failure to take pride in our facilities will result in team punishment as prescribed by the coaches.

K) Summer Workouts

In order to establish and maintain a winning program all athletes will be expected to participate in the organized summer strength and conditioning workouts.

L) Athletic Training/Off Season

All athletes will be in an athletic training and conditioning period. The focus of this period will be to develop discipline, explosive power, and strength. Very few sport specific skills will be worked during the "off-season."

M) Scholarships

We pride ourselves as a coaching staff in taking all steps needed to expose our players to college recruiters. We view this as our responsibility as a staff to promote and put our players information in the recruiter's hands. However, it is the college coaches who ultimately decide who receives the scholarships. Very, very, few high school players receive Division I athletic scholarships. In order to help the recruiting process it is critical that athletes take the ACT or SAT during his/her junior year.

Bottom Line — We expect you to be a West Texas Comanche and continue the winning traditions at West Texas High School. We expect you to represent your parents, our school and our community in a positive way that exhibits true Comanche Pride! Do not embarrass your parents, teammates, school and community.

COMANCHE BAND CODE OF CONDUCT

The directors are responsible for the overall management of the band program. As such, students are expected to demonstrate respect and follow instructions. A director may dismiss or discipline a student if he or she feels the student's presence is detrimental to the group or is unfair to the other members of the band.

Any student, who continuously displays an immature and/or negative attitude, violates the Band's rules and responsibilities, or displays behavior which results in embarrassment for the directors, Band or the school may be dismissed from the Band and refused future participation.

Color Guard

Color Guard is an auxiliary marching unit of the band and is open to Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors. Auditions for the guard are held in the spring of each year. Areas to be considered for the guard include: citizenship, attendance, grades, marching skills, and flag skills. The director will determine the size of the guard.

Comanche Band Attendance Policy

1. A student is required to attend all scheduled practices starting in August.
2. A student is required to attend all performances.

In the event the student has to miss a rehearsal/performance, written notification from the parent is to be given as soon as possible.

Emergencies such as extreme illness or deaths in the family are unavoidable; therefore they will be excused.

Any unexcused absence will result in the student being placed in an alternate position, and the student's grade will be lowered. A second unexcused absence can result in dismissal.

OVERVIEW OF FFA

The FFA Advisor is responsible for teaching the FFA program to the student. The student must be aware of his/her responsibilities as a member, as well as the FFA Code of Conduct.

Prior to joining the FFA organization the student will be made aware of the FFA's aims and purposes, rules and responsibilities, as well as the FFA Code of Conduct.

The FFA program is an elective organization. When a student chooses to be in the FFA program, he/she has committed to responsibilities of members and to follow the FFA Code of Conduct. The student has made a commitment to an organization that has rules and expectations for its members.

Being an FFA member is a privilege. Students will learn leadership, citizenship, and cooperation. In addition, the FFA gives a student another arena in which to excel or achieve success. Students in the FFA program will live and learn by the FFA motto:

Learning to Do
Doing to Learn
Earning to Live
Living to Serve

THE FFA CODE OF ETHICS

We will conduct ourselves at all times in order to be a credit to our organization, chapter, school and community by:

1. Dressing neatly and appropriately for the occasion.
2. Showing respect for the rights of others and being courteous at all times.
3. Being honest and not taking unfair advantage of others.
4. Respecting the property of others.
5. Refraining from loud, boisterous talk, swearing and other unbecoming conduct.
6. Demonstrating sportsmanship in the show ring, judging contests and meetings and being modest in winning and generous in discussion.

7. Attending meetings promptly and respecting the opinion of others in
8. Taking pride in our organization, activities, supervised experience programs, exhibits and the occupation of agriculture.
9. Sharing with others experiences and knowledge gained by attending district, state, area and national meetings, if so chosen.
10. Refraining from the use of alcohol and drugs at any time.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF FFA MEMBERS

For an FFA chapter to operate effectively, each member must take an active role. The FFA is truly an organization of, by and for its members. Members decide and direct the activities of their own chapter. They hold positions of leadership and conduct all activities. The success or failure of chapter activities and programs rests with the membership.

Each member is charged with the responsibility of upholding the ideals and principles of the organization as well as participating in all chapter activities. Anyone wishing to participate in the FFA program is welcome. However, they must be willing to follow the responsibilities of members and the FFA Code of Conduct.

Members who fail to live up to the responsibilities of members and the FFA Code of Conduct will be subject to a disciplinary hearing. The hearing criteria and consequences will be in compliance with the Student Handbook on rules and regulations for extra-curricular activities.

FCCLA

ALL WEST TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL FAMILY, CAREER AND COMMUNITY LEADERS OF AMERICA MEMBERS WILL:

1. Attend scheduled meetings.
2. Participate in the fund raising projects.
3. Pay \$8.00 dues by November 1st.
4. Participate in the group activities.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Second semester sophomores, juniors, and seniors shall be eligible for membership into the Dalton Chapter of the National Honor Society of Secondary Schools if they meet the following criteria:

1. Completion of 1 semester at West Texas High School (entry must be no later than the end of the first six weeks of the semester).
2. A scholastic average of 90.0 or higher (cumulative semester average of all grades except athletics, physical education, choir, band, and local credit courses). The ten points added to semester grades for advanced courses will be included in the average. Students not seeking a recommended or distinguished diploma are not eligible for membership.
3. Acceptable service, leadership, and character qualities as determined by a majority vote of the faculty advisory committee.

Membership shall be probationary. Once elected, members must maintain at least a 90.0 average and all other standards which are the basis for their election. Members must display outstanding character through conduct both in and out of the academic setting, which includes having no disciplinary referrals. Members must participate in organized community service assigned or approved by the sponsor and principal. Members falling below the standards face possible removal from membership, or may be given one semester to correct the deficiency. Removal from membership shall be considered permanent.

TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF FUTURE EDUCATORS

West Texas High School will support a chapter of Texas Association of Future Educators whose purpose is to promote education as a profession. It will be organized in accordance with the state guidelines provided by the Texas Association of Secondary Principals. Membership will be open to any interested student.

GUIDELINES FOR UIL ACADEMIC PARTICIPATION

1. Dress appropriately for your contest. Your sponsor will advise you on what is appropriate for your event.
2. Be respectful of all contest administrators, judges, and graders. Their decisions are to be accepted in a gracious manner.
3. Abide by all rules of travel set up by the trip sponsor or principal in regards to conduct, curfew, and room assignments.
4. Always do your best. Remember others are depending on you for sweepstakes points and as team members.
5. Display a positive manner about WTHS. Conduct yourself in a way that will reflect our high academic and moral standards.

GUIDELINES FOR ONE-ACT PLAY PARTICIPATION

1. Abide by the above guidelines for academic participation.
2. All participants must wear dress clothes to the critique. This includes, but is not limited to, for males -- dress slacks, a tie, and dress shoes, and for females – a nice dress and heels.
3. All participants must attend all rehearsals and performances unless excused by the director in advance. Allowances will be made for workouts and practices of other extra-curricular activities on an individual basis.

WEST TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADER HANDBOOK

PURPOSES

The purposes of the cheerleading program are to promote and uphold school spirit, develop a sense of *good* sportsmanship among the students and adults, promote a unification of crowd involvement during athletic events, to strive to build better relationships between schools, and to strive to uphold the highest personal as well as cheerleading standards.

GOALS

- *Develop leadership abilities
- *Develop physical fitness and coordination
- *Develop courtesy, tolerance, and self-control
- *Develop good sportsmanship
- *Develop sports appreciation
- *Develop responsibility, patience, and respect for self and others
- *Develop communication skills
- *Develop self-confidence
- *Develop character and citizenship

MEMBERSHIP

Varsity cheerleaders will be selected from members of the freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior classes. The varsity squad will consist of 12 members. If a vacancy occurs after the cheerleading squad has been determined, the sponsor(s) and administration will determine whether or not the vacancy will be filled. The vacancy will not be filled after the last instructional day of the school year.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

At all times, the discipline policy of West Texas High School will be in effect. Several terms used in defining the discipline policy for cheerleading include the following:

Dismissal from the squad: termination of all cheerleader activities for a full year. Specifically, will result in no recognition for the full year such as yearbook pictures, or awards.

Suspension: Will include withdrawal from participation for a temporary time period set by the sponsor. Attendance may be required and student will sit with the sponsor in stands during suspension time.

Emergency: Includes accidents, family crisis or medical reasons.

Tardy: Cheerleader is five minutes (5) late after the scheduled time for any activity.

TRYOUTS

Tryouts will be held each spring. Each person trying out must sign up prior to deadline. Students trying out for cheerleader must have an overall grade average of 75 and must not be failing any subject at time of tryouts. Students will participate in a group cheer and perform one individual cheer before student body and judges. Judging will be 25% student vote, 25% teacher assessment and 50% judge's decision.

CO-CAPTAIN POSITIONS

The selection of co-captains will be determined by members of squad and the sponsors. Duties include coordinating all decisions as requested by sponsors, calling and assuming control of all practices, meetings and performances, being responsible for actions of the squad, beginning practices on time, helping to eliminate all problems or disagreements within the squad, reporting all violations to the sponsor.

CHEERLEADER CONDUCT

- *Cooperate with co-captains, sponsor, officials and other squad members.
- *Be enthusiastic, well groomed and in command of the situation
- *Promote school spirit throughout the student body
- *Plan pep-rallies, contribute ideas and help control attitude of crowd
- *Help with revenue projects during the year
- *During football season, help make posters to decorate the field and gymnasium, attend all games, practice sessions, meetings with sponsor and assisting with homecoming activities.
- *While cheering, cheerleaders (1) will be on time to all activities (2) will be in clean and proper uniform (3) will not eat or chew gum while on the field or court, nor wear jewelry (4) will not sit in stands or leave the squad until the end of the game (5) will not participate in excessive display of affection with members of the opposite sex while in uniform or while representing West Texas High School as cheerleader (6) will arrive at least 30 minutes before game time during football season (7) will arrive 15 minutes early for games in the gymnasium (8) will go directly to the bus after game is over.
- *Students will be respectful at all times to the sponsor and school authorities
- *At all times the majority of the squad will determine all decisions. Everyone will abide as the majority decides.

ELIGIBILITY

All cheerleaders must maintain eligibility under current UIL rules and Senate Bill 1 in order to participate. Once elected, each student must maintain an overall average of 70, and not be failing any subject.

DRUGS – ALCOHOL – SMOKING

Use of drugs, alcohol or tobacco will warrant immediate dismissal from the squad. Please conduct your behavior so that it will reflect highly on the student body you represent.

EXPENSES

Cheerleaders are responsible for the cost of some items. When ordering items, each student must be present. The sponsor must approve all items ordered. These items must be paid in full on the date set by sponsor unless other arrangements have been made.

GAMES

Varsity squad will cheer for all varsity football and basketball games. If the cheerleaders are required to miss school for tournaments, etc., the cheerleaders will not cheer at those games.

TRANSPORTATION

All cheerleaders are required to ride as a group to all games. Written notes from parents will be required PRIOR to leaving for the game in order to ride home with parents.

PRACTICES

All practices are required and will be held with sponsor or parent in attendance. They will be scheduled whenever possible to avoid conflicts. Two (2) unexcused tardies will result in suspension of cheerleading for the next activity.

ROUTINES

Only two pep rallies may use a dance routine that was learned at cheerleader camp as long as there is no display of inappropriate body movement.

MUSIC

All taped music to be used for routines and pep rallies must be approved by the principal prior to the beginning of school.

ABSENCES

All activities are required. Any absence will be determined excused or unexcused by the sponsor. Excused absences may include illness, funeral of relative or family member, and other reasons approved by the sponsor prior to the activity. A written excuse should be turned in to the sponsor within two days of the absence. Unexcused absences will result in suspension of cheering for the next activity. Students will be required to sit with the sponsor during the activity. Parents will be notified of any unexcused absence. If a student has two (2) unexcused absences this will result in permanent dismissal from the squad. Two (2) unexcused tardies will equal one unexcused absence.

EVALUATION

The sponsor will evaluate the squad regularly. Evaluations will be used as a measuring device and lack of acceptable evaluations will result in suspension or dismissal.

FUND-RAISING

All profits from fund raising projects will be used for the operation of the squad's program.

PREGNANCY

The sponsor should be notified immediately if any cheerleader becomes pregnant.

SPONSOR RESPONSIBILITIES

- *Willing and capable of directing the program
- *Making all final decisions for the program
- *Be aware of and approve every action taken by the cheerleading squad
- *Make sure that all cheerleaders follow rules and guidelines
- *Encourage the use of previous uniforms to help cut down costs

PARENT RESPONSIBILITY

- *Aid student in meeting responsibilities and duties of cheerleading
- *Help student understand that cheerleading is a demanding as well as exciting job
- *Ensure student's attendance at all cheerleading activities
- *Support the cheerleading squad by your presence at games and pep rallies
- *Cooperate with other cheerleading parents
- *If needed, provide transportation for students