

Whitewright Cheerleader & Drill Team Constitution



Whitewright ISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, or disability in providing educational services, activities, and programs, including athletic programs in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

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Whitewright High School

CHEERLEADER/DRILL TEAM CONSTITUTION

This Whitewright ISD Cheerleader and Drill Team Constitution outlines standards of eligibility and procedure for all Whitewright ISD Cheerleader and Drill Team candidates and standards of conduct and behavior to which all Whitewright ISD Cheerleader and Drill Team members are expected to adhere as representatives of their student body and of the Whitewright ISD. Acceptance of a candidate to the Whitewright ISD cheerleading or drill team programs or removal there-from, shall be in accordance with this Constitution on the basis of ability, skill, presentation or any other basis set forth, but shall not be on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability or pregnancy.

Preamble

The following articles have been developed with the advice and consent of the campus cheerleader and drill team sponsors for the purpose of communicating the standards of eligibility and procedure which all candidates must meet to be eligible for tryouts and for the purpose of articulating the standards of conduct and behavior to which all Whitewright ISD Cheerleader and Drill Team members are expected to adhere as a condition of participation in cheerleading or drill team activities. Participation in extracurricular activities, including cheerleading and drill team activities, is a privilege, not a right, and student participants will be held to higher standards than students who choose not to participate in extracurricular activities. Failure to comply with the standards of conduct and behavior outlined in this Cheerleader and Drill Team Constitution may subject the member to disciplinary action, **up to and including removal from the squad**, in addition to any consequences imposed in accordance with the Whitewright ISD Student Code of Conduct or Whitewright ISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct.

This document may be amended at any time and does not limit a sponsor's ability to make decisions pertaining to his or her program, consistent with the guidelines set forth herein.

Article I—Mission Statement

The purpose of the Whitewright ISD cheerleading and drill team programs shall be to promote and encourage team spirit, to foster good fellowship and sportsmanship by example, and to engender enthusiasm and loyalty to team and school. Members will lead by example; shall exemplify exemplary qualities of character; and will uphold the highest moral standards in their service to the school and the community as representatives of their student body and of the Whitewright ISD.

Article II—Candidate Eligibility

- 2.1** A cheerleader or drill team candidate must be currently enrolled in a Whitewright ISD School. Candidates may be male or female.
- 2.2** A cheerleader or drill team candidate must not have been academically ineligible, as defined by “No Pass No Play” rules, for two or more six-weeks during the current school year. A student with disabilities must be meeting the standards in his or her IEP at the time of tryouts for purposes of academic eligibility for try outs.
- 2.3** A cheerleader or drill team candidate who has resigned or been removed from his or her squad may not try-out in subsequent years.
- 2.4** All candidates must demonstrate exemplary attendance, behavior, and citizenship habits. Candidates must have had at least a 90% attendance rate for the current school year and must not have received out of school suspension, assigned to D.A.E.P., or expelled at any time during the current school year to be eligible for tryouts. The campus principal or designee will make the final determination regarding a candidate’s citizenship eligibility for try-outs.
- 2.5** All candidates must be in good financial standing with Whitewright ISD. Candidates who have outstanding balances, including but not limited to fines for lost or damaged textbooks, library fees, late fees, or other extracurricular fees, will not be eligible for tryouts.
- 2.6** Candidates must complete all requirements for try-out **prior** to tryouts, including but not limited to timely submission of application, timely submission of all required forms, and attendance of all required meetings, practice sessions or clinics. Candidates must be physically able to try out on the scheduled date. Any candidate failing to complete all try-out requirements who is otherwise eligible for tryouts will **not** be allowed to try-out, absent extenuating circumstances as determined by the sponsor.
- 2.7** All candidates and their parent or guardian must attend the mandatory orientation meeting(s) for their program to be eligible for tryouts. However, if unable to attend, a parent or guardian, with **prior** written approval from the sponsor, may designate another responsible adult as a proxy to attend the meeting in his or her place. Failure of the parent, guardian, or proxy to attend the mandatory orientation meeting(s) will result in the candidate being ineligible for try-outs.
- 2.8** All high school students, including incoming freshmen, are eligible to try out for Varsity Cheer, JV Cheer, Drill Team, and Mascot.

Article III—Candidate Membership and Expectations

- 3.1** Candidates should understand that acceptance into the Whitewright ISD Cheerleading or Drill Team program is a privilege. Cheerleading and drill team members represent to the community and the public not only themselves, but their student body and the Whitewright ISD. These members should uphold the highest moral standards.
- 3.2** Candidates should exemplify exemplary qualities of character. Candidates should be responsible, honest, reliable, dependable, cooperative, dedicated, and loyal.
- 3.3** Candidates should be enthusiastic, self-disciplined, willing to learn, and prepared to practice to improve their performance and the performance of the squad.
- 3.4** Candidates who are accepted for membership should understand that the schedule of a cheerleader or drill team member will require a large time commitment and that members will be **expected to put cheerleading or drill team above participation in all other non-school sports activities**, including after-school or weekend jobs.
- 3.5** The varsity team will compete at the annual UIL Spirit Competition. Additional members may be invited to participate at the sponsor's discretion.

Candidate Membership

Membership numbers are subject to change based upon noticeable gaps between the resulting high, middle and low scores, provided that any such change in numbers shall be approved by the sponsor and the assigned administrator. Membership may be terminated at any time for failure to comply with the standards of conduct and procedures outlined herein.

Members must be willing to meet reasonable financial obligations as deemed necessary by the sponsor. **All fees must be PAID IN FULL before the first performance or that member will not perform until all fees are paid.**

Members are responsible for general repairs such as rips, zippers, or hems. The sponsor must approve all alterations to uniforms.

Members will be issued props owned by the school. Members are responsible for replacement cost of lost or damaged props.

Members of the varsity cheerleader squad and mascot for one year are eligible for a letter jacket. Members of the JV Cheer Squad and Drill Team are eligible for a letter jacket after two years of service. Letter jackets are not awarded until students enter the 11th grade.

Grade classifications named below are for the year following tryouts and will be determined according to official school records of Whitewright High School.

The Varsity Cheerleading Squad will be comprised of at least 10 members but no more than 12. Of these members, one head cheerleader shall be chosen according to sponsor recommendation and popular vote of the squad. The head cheerleader must be a member who was on the Whitewright Varsity Squad the previous year. Final decisions regarding head cheerleader for all squads will be made by the sponsor(s).

The Junior Varsity cheerleading squad will be comprised of at least 6 members but no more than 8. Of these members, one head cheerleader will be named by popular vote of the squad and sponsor recommendation.

Whitewright High School will provide three judges from an approved cheerleader association. Two criteria will be used to determine members of each squad: teacher evaluations (30%) and judges' scores (70%). The top ten to twelve scores will determine the Varsity cheerleading squad. The next six to eight scores will determine the JV cheerleading squad.

Whitewright Drill Team officers will depend on the size of the team. Candidates for captain shall be a junior or senior member who has been on the Whitewright Drill Team for at least one year and lieutenants shall be sophomore, junior, or senior members who have been on the Whitewright Drill Team for at least one year. Total membership of the team, as well as the number of officers, will be at the final discretion of the sponsor with recommendations of the judges.

Article IV—Expectations for Members

4.1 Members will be on time and prepared for all cheerleading and drill team activities.

Members should be dressed in the required uniform prior to the start of the activity.

4.2 Members will be neatly presented in appearance, with hair neatly groomed and pulled back from face. No jewelry allowed during performance.

4.3 All tattoos must be covered completely any time a member is in uniform, coverage must be approved by sponsor.

4.4 Members will attend and perform all required duties at all practices, games, events, or functions, including any required camp or competition. Members who miss a required practice or fail to perform a required duty may not be allowed to perform at the next game, event, or function.

4.5 Members will maintain their eligibility status under "No Pass, No Play" rules. Members must maintain a grade of 70 or above in all classes. Members with disabilities must meet the standards in their IEP to be eligible to participate.

4.6 Members will maintain at least a 90% attendance rate throughout the school year.

4.7 Members must be present at least three periods on the day of the performance in order to perform. A member who is absent from school on the day of the performance may not have the privilege of performance.

4.8 Members shall keep cell phones in bag during the game. No calls or texting are allowed during the game.

- 4.9** Members may only leave the game or field of play with sponsor's permission.
- 4.10** Members will comply with all TEA-UIL Side by Side Guidelines for Cheerleading and Drill Teams.
- 4.11** Members will comply with all rules and regulations outlined in their program handbook, along with student code of conduct, and the student handbook.
- 4.12** All cheers, chants, skits, and dances must be approved by sponsor.
- 4.13** Members will cheer during all quarters and time-outs. Breaks will be determined by the sponsor. **Cheerleaders who play basketball will be expected to cheer for three quarters of the varsity basketball game of which they do not play.**
- 4.14** Members will stand at attention without leaning on walls or fences.
- 4.15** Members will ride the bus to and from all out-of-town games and activities. The sponsor must approve any exception to this rule

Article V—Standards for Member Removal

Due to the high level of visibility of campus cheerleader and drill team members, members are expected to demonstrate leadership, honor, and integrity both in and out of uniform. Because acceptance into the Whitewright ISD Cheerleader or Drill Team programs is a privilege, not a right, members will be held to higher standards than those imposed on the general student body. Members may incur disciplinary consequences for behavior that does not constitute a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, and may also incur disciplinary consequences from both the appropriate administrator and his or her sponsor for conduct that does constitute a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

Members must comply with all standards of conduct outlined below, in addition to the standards of conduct and behavior outlined in the Whitewright ISD Student Code of Conduct. Members will be subject to the standards of conduct outlined herein, **at all times**, regardless of when or where the conduct occurs, whether on or off school property and whether or not school is in session. Failure to comply with the standards of conduct may result in disciplinary action against the member, **up to and including removal from the squad**.

- 5.1** Members will not engage in inappropriate behavior, including but not limited to inappropriate sexual contact, fighting, public intoxication, possession or consumption of alcohol or illegal drugs, or other criminal activity, excluding minor traffic offenses.
- 5.2** Members will not engage in behavior that warrants suspension from school, removal to DAEP, or expulsion from school. Members who have been suspended from school, removed to DAEP, or expelled from school shall be removed from the squad for the remainder of the year. Disciplinary action leading to ISS may result in removal from the squad. Action to be determined by sponsor and administration.
- 5.3** Members may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including removal from the squad, for any other behavior which the sponsor deems inappropriate, including but not limited to unsportsmanlike conduct, insubordination, lewd or profane behavior including internet and social media. (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, Cyber Dust, etc...).

Handbook Signature Sheet

Student Commitment

I have read the Constitution and will follow the guidelines set forth for the Whitewright Cheerleader/Drill Team programs. Every organization must have guidelines to become successful and I agree to the terms and conditions of my responsibilities to this organization.

Student Name: (PRINT) _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Commitment

I have read the Constitution and will help my student follow the guidelines of the Whitewright Cheerleader/Drill Team programs. I understand that all organizations have guidelines that allow them to be successful and I agree to be supportive of the terms and conditions that my child must follow to be a member.

Parent/Guardian: (PRINT) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____