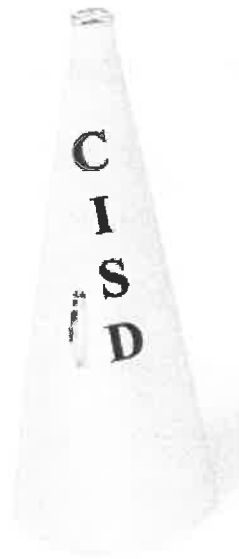


Celeste Independent



School District



**Cheerleader/Drill Team
Constitution
and
Procedures**

Table of Contents

PHILOSOPHY/PURPOSE.....	3
COMMITMENT.....	3
GENERAL GUIDELINES.....	3
TRYOUT REQUIREMENTS.....	3
TRYOUT GUIDELINES.....	4
REPLACEMENTS.....	5
RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHEERLEADER/DRILL TEAM MEMBERS.....	5
“NO PASS-NO CHEER” REQUIREMENTS.....	7
RANDOM DRUG TESTING REQUIREMENT.....	7
PRACTICE GUIDELINES.....	7
SUMMER CAMP.....	7
FIELD/COURT ETIQUETTE AND SAFETY.....	7
PEP RALLIES.....	8
TRANSPORTATION.....	8
FUNDRAISING.....	8
ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION.....	9
GENERAL CONDUCT RULES.....	9
CHEERLEADER/DRILL TEAM CODE OF CONDUCT FORM.....	11
PARENT CODE OF ETHICS.....	12

Celeste I.S.D. Cheerleader/Drill Team Constitution and Procedures

PHILOSOPHY/PURPOSE

Being a Celeste I.S.D. cheerleader, drill team member, or mascot is an honor and special privilege. Cheerleaders/drill team members/mascots are first and foremost representatives of their school and must exemplify at all times behavior suitable to their position. Cheerleaders/drill team members/mascots exist to promote good sportsmanship, good citizenship and optimistic and enthusiastic school spirit. C.I.S.D. cheerleaders have a fundamental responsibility to play a leadership role in building teamwork and promoting good sportsmanship. Cheerleaders/drill team members, & /mascots are expected to be positive role models, serving as ambassadors at school, in the district, and in the community. Members of the cheerleading squad and drill team will be expected to maintain a higher standard of behavior both on and off campus and academic achievement than that of their peers.

COMMITMENT

Candidates selected to be a member of the cheerleading squad are expected to make a commitment to the activity for the full cheerleading year. Any Cheerleader or drill team member who voluntarily quits the squad before the end of the year without the approval of the principal and sponsor will not be allowed to tryout for the next year.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- All cheerleaders/drill team members must be full-time students on their campus and must wear the school approved uniform when performing.
- Any transporting of the squad, as a group, to any school or stadium must be via Celeste ISD approved vehicles.
- Prior to commitment, the principal must approve any other cheerleading activities.
- Any cheerleader who violates the Student Code of Conduct shall be subject to disciplinary action.

TRYOUT REQUIREMENTS

Candidate Qualifications

A student is eligible to tryout for cheerleader and/or drill team officer, if the following conditions are met:

Drill Team officer – Current 10th or 11th grade and must have completed 1 year of drill team with no major behavior issues

Varsity Cheerleader– Current 8th, 9th, 10th, or 11th grade

Junior High Cheerleader – Current 6th or 7th grade

Mascot- Current 8th, 9th, 10th, or 11th grade

Eligibility Requirements

- The candidate must be enrolled as a student in Celeste ISD for a minimum of one full six weeks prior to tryouts.
- The candidate must be passing all classes with a cumulative grade average of at least 70 in each subject through the last completed six weeks period. (Advanced Placement class grades will be weighted.)

Celeste I.S.D. Cheerleader/Drill Team Constitution and Procedures

Ineligibility

The following would cause a candidate to be ineligible to tryout for Cheerleader:

- Not being enrolled for one full semester prior to tryouts
- Failing to meet the required 70 grade average
- Excessive absences
- Suspension from school
- Truancy
- Alternative Education Program placement (AEP)
- More than 1 placement in (ISS) In School Suspension
- Possession of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs
- Inappropriate Social Media

TRYOUT GUIDELINES

Philosophy: It is the belief of CISD that every candidate should have the opportunity to tryout for cheerleader, mascot, and/or drill team officer, if all of the requirements are met. Through this selection process, each candidate will have equal opportunity to be selected cheerleader/drill team officer.

- The sponsors will be responsible for the preparation and distribution of the packet of information to be made available to all candidates. This information will include specific tryout dates, times, and procedures. Before the student is allowed to participate in the tryout process, candidates and parents must sign a form stating that they understand and will comply with all the information in the packet regarding the following:
 - Tryouts
 - Rules
 - Selection Process
 - Financial Responsibility
 - Contents of this Constitution
- All tryout practices will occur before or after school hours.
- The Cheerleader candidates must not wear any cheer related clothing including but not limited to, cheerleading shoes, shirts, shorts, or hair accessories.
- Due to safety issues in cheerleading, hair must be out of the candidate's face and pulled back at all times. There should be no hair in the face or eyes at any time! Hair bands are not permitted. All hair must meet the sponsor's approval.
- Due to safety issues in cheerleading, **NO** jewelry of any kind may be worn during tryouts.
- Cheerleader candidates will perform a combination of cheers, chants, dance and various jumps as determined by the sponsor.
- Mascot candidates will create a 1-3 minute skit to perform. They may use music or props during the performance. Skit must be approved prior to tryouts.

Selection Process

- Candidates will meet all qualifications and requirements addressed in the sections labeled Candidate Qualifications, Eligibility Requirements, Tryout Requirements, and Tryout Guidelines.

Celeste I.S.D. Cheerleader/Drill Team Constitution and Procedures

- Candidates will tryout in front of judges. Each candidate will receive an overall score based on the individual scores from two areas: cheer judges and teachers.
- A minimum of 6 cheerleaders will be chosen for the varsity squad
- A minimum of 6 cheerleaders will be chosen for the junior high squad
- The number of drill team officers will vary depending on number of drill team members
- One mascot will be chosen for the varsity cheerleading squad

CHEERLEADER REPLACEMENTS

If a member of the cheerleading squad or the mascot moves (or there is an opening for any reason), the principal and sponsor may fill the opening based on the tryout rank scores. Any replacement will take place on or before the first day of school and is at the principal and sponsor's discretion.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHEERLEADER/DRILL TEAM MEMBERS

It is a privilege to be a cheerleader representing Celeste ISD. With such privilege, comes responsibility. Celeste ISD Cheerleaders are expected to be responsible, law-abiding citizens who are able to ascertain right from wrong. The school mascot is considered a member of the cheerleading squad.

General Responsibilities of CISD Cheerleaders include but are not limited to the following:

- Cheer at all athletic events scheduled by the sponsor
- Organize, plan, set up and clean up after pep rallies
- Promote school spirit
- Promote good sportsmanship
- Participate and do their fair share in the preparation of spirit paraphernalia as directed by the sponsor
- Attend practice sessions
- Be on time to all functions when scheduled to participate
- Be dressed in the proper uniform as directed by the sponsor
- Attend summer camp
- Maintain good physical condition with proper exercise and diet in order to be able to perform to the best of your ability.
- All U.I.L. Eligibility rules will be in effect for Cheerleaders.
- Jobs or other activities cannot interfere nor be an excuse for being late or missing a practice, game or other cheer activity.
- All Cheerleaders are responsible for notifying the sponsor prior to missing or arriving late to a scheduled practice, game, meeting or any other events planned by the sponsor.
- Cheerleaders' hair and nails will be a natural color.
- Cheerleaders will be respectful of teachers, sponsors and administration at all times. Insubordination will not be tolerated.
- **Mascot**

As a member of the cheer squad, the mascot should promote school spirit, support the athletics program and help develop good sportsmanship among the student body.

Additional Responsibilities

- Mascots will be responsible creating skits for pep rallies.

Celeste I.S.D. Cheerleader/Drill Team Constitution and Procedures

- Mascots should not be a distraction during national anthem or when someone else has the floor.
- Mascots should not do anything to degrade the game officials or any athlete.
- Mascot needs to be available for appearances during basketball season.
- Mascots must treat costume with care at all times. The mascot may not remove any article of their uniform in public.
- In the event the costume is lost or damaged (beyond normal wear and tear) the member will be held responsible.
- Personal use of the costume is prohibited.

Qualifications/ Expectations

- Enthusiasm
- Creativity
- Physically capable to perform dances, cheers, and other cheerleading duties.
- Ability to interact positively with children
- Ability to improvise and be animated

Financial Responsibilities of CISD cheerleaders/drill team include but are not limited to the following:

- Purchase of team accessories including but not limited to bloomers, legging tights, body liner, shoes, socks, bag, camp wear and hair accessories. A deposit of \$100 will be required at the time uniforms are ordered. Payment in full is required before the release of the uniform and accessories.
- Camp Cost – All cheerleaders/ mascot/ drill team members must attend summer camp to learn all of the most recent cheer/dance material. Funds for the camp are the responsibility of the individual cheerleader/drill team member and his/her parents. The deposits for camps range from \$50 - \$80. The sponsor will notify the participating squads as soon as possible as to the location and cost of the camp that will be attended.
- Fundraising – All cheerleaders/mascot/drill team members will participate in school approved fundraiser(s) chosen by the sponsor/principal and approved in advance by district administration.

Academic Responsibilities of CISD Cheerleaders/mascot/drill team members include but are not limited to the following:

- Maintaining eligibility in order to participate and contribute to the squad.
- Must be present for at least one half of the day to perform that night unless the sponsor and/or principal approve a valid reason in advance.
- All cheerleaders will travel to and from games with the sponsor on the bus unless the sponsor has written consent from the parents allowing their child to ride home with them.
- CISD cheerleaders/drill team members will conduct themselves in an appropriate manner at all times. It is never acceptable for a cheerleader/drill team member to display disrespectful or inappropriate behavior with faculty, staff, members of the community, or the student body. Examples of unacceptable behavior include but are not limited to:
 - a. Smoking, drinking alcoholic beverages
 - b. Using inappropriate language
 - c. Using inappropriate gestures
 - d. Being written up in class for any reason

Celeste I.S.D. Cheerleader/Drill Team Constitution and Procedures

- e. Any activity that results in the cheerleader being assigned In School Suspension (ISS) or Alternative Education Program Placement (AEP)
- f. Inappropriate use of social media

“NO PASS-NO CHEER” REQUIREMENT

Students who pass all courses for the six-week period are eligible for the next six-week period. Students who are ineligible must continue to practice with their team, but they may not perform.

RANDOM DRUG TESTING REQUIREMENT

All cheerleaders/drill team members will be required to participate in the district’s drug testing program.

PRACTICE GUIDELINES

All Cheerleaders/drill team members/are required to attend and be on time to all practice sessions. In the event of an unexcused absence, the cheerleader/drill team member will NOT participate in the halftime performance and will be subject to other disciplinary action. Excessive tardies/absences will be subject to disciplinary action by the sponsor. Cheerleaders/drill team must not practice as a squad without a sponsor present. Cheerleaders may not stunt without a sponsor present. When stunting, all available cheerleaders should be ready to spot. No jewelry is allowed, as it is a tremendous safety hazard. Hair must be pulled back away from face. Cheerleaders/drill team members/mascot must be present for at least one half of the day to attend practice that night unless the sponsor and/or principal approve a valid reason in advance. The sponsor and/or principal will evaluate any reason for an absence including school sponsored events. If the absence is considered excused or extenuating, the cheerleader/drill team member/mascot must make up the day of practice. This will be at the discretion of the sponsor.

SUMMER CAMP

All Cheerleaders/mascot/drill team members are required to attend a mandatory summer camp. Mandatory practices will be held during the summer. If any days are missed, all material that was not learned, they will not be allowed to perform and will sit out. Cheerleaders/drill team members/mascot and their parents are responsible for camp costs and expenses as they are not refundable to us.

FIELD/COURT ETIQUETTE AND SAFETY

The increased athletic activity in cheerleading/drill team/mascot has resulted in an increased concern for safety. Cheerleaders are placed on notice that improper conduct of cheerleading activity may result in a catastrophic injury, paralysis or even death. In becoming a Celeste ISD cheerleader/mascot, you voluntarily assume the risk involved by participation.

Cheerleaders/mascot/drill team members will not be allowed to wear jewelry of any kind while they are performing or practicing. This is a tremendous safety hazard and therefore will not be tolerated. Also, hair must be pulled back away from the face at all times. There should be no hair in the face or eyes at any time. Hairbands are not permitted. If hair is too short for a ponytail, the cheerleader will meet with the sponsor to discuss styling options. All cheerleaders will look the same and wear the same ribbons or hair ties to match.

Celeste I.S.D. Cheerleader/Drill Team Constitution and Procedures

Cheerleaders must stay in their formation for the entire game. No one is permitted to leave the sideline/stands without the sponsor's permission. Boyfriends or other persons outside the squad/drill team will not be allowed to sit with the squad/drill team at any time during the game. Cheerleaders/drill team members must not converse with any individuals either in the stands or standing along the fence line. Cheerleaders are not allowed to eat or drink on the field or court. Cheerleaders can take a break at halftime. However, the squad must be back on the field before the team returns from halftime. Public displays of affection by any squad/drill team member **will not be tolerated** both on and off the field/court. It is a hazard to have trash on the field, not only for safety reasons, but it looks unprofessional and impolite to the audience and field participants. No gum chewing. Cheers will not be practiced during games. Group and private discussions will not be tolerated during performances.

Cheerleaders/mascot/drill team members will arrive at scheduled events at the time directed by the sponsor. Continual tardiness will be grounds for dismissal. Cheerleaders/drill team members will not leave early from any scheduled event, unless acutely ill and with the knowledge and permission of the sponsors or other available administrators.

PEP RALLIES

All Cheerleaders/mascot are required to organize, set up, and clean up after pep rallies. All Cheerleaders/mascot are expected to know the material for each pep rally. The sponsor will approve all pep rally material. Cheerleaders/mascot are to participate in all pep rallies unless prior permission has been granted not to do so. If a cheerleader/mascot does not know the material or does not have the correct uniform and accessories needed for the pep rally, they will not participate and will become subject to other disciplinary action. If a practice is missed with an excused absence, the cheerleader/mascot is responsible for learning the pep rally material on their own. In the event of an unexcused absence, the cheerleader/mascot will not participate in the pep rally and will be subject to other disciplinary action.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation will be provided by Celeste ISD to all events in which cheerleaders/mascot/drill team members will be participating, unless otherwise specified. All cheerleaders/mascot/drill team members are required to ride the bus to and from all events. Cheerleaders/drill team members requesting to ride home with their parents will only be allowed to do so with written consent from their parents/guardians. Parents/Guardians must be present before the sponsor will release the cheerleader/drill team member. Cheerleaders/mascot/drill team members will not be released to brothers, sisters, cousins, aunts, uncles, etc.

FUNDRAISING

Celeste ISD cheerleaders/mascot/drill team may conduct fundraisers each year with the approval of the Sponsor and/or the Principal. All Cheerleaders/mascot/drill team members will participate in all fundraising projects. The money will be deposited into the appropriate CISD activity fund. All expenses will be discussed with the squad and approved as a group with the sponsor and/or principal having

Celeste I.S.D. Cheerleader/Drill Team Constitution and Procedures

ultimate control.

Issues appropriate for discussion with the sponsor and/or school administrator:

- Mental and physical treatment of a student
- Student plan for success
- Student behavior
- Student safety

Issues not appropriate for discussion with a sponsor (*due to confidentiality*):

- Squad selection of cheers, chants, stunts,, routines or elements of a performance
- Any situation that deals with other students/or squad members

GENERAL CONDUCT RULES

CISD cheerleaders/mascot/drill team members are held to a higher standard of conduct than the general student body. Celeste ISD views participation in extracurricular activities as a privilege not a right. Cheerleader/mascot/drill team members are required to maintain and uphold the reputation of the CISD cheerleaders/mascot/drill team members through their own conduct and squad spirit. It is imperative that members make every attempt to ignore or dissuade negative responses at events and not become involved in such action themselves. Mutual respect and politeness toward other members, the sponsor, teachers, administrators, etc. are basic elements that contribute to the total success of the squad. Any student who violates the CISD cheerleader/mascot/drill team constitution shall be subject to disciplinary action as set forth by the sponsor. This includes any misconduct, regardless of time or location, that would reflect negatively upon Celeste ISD. Students clearly involved in major disciplinary infractions (i.e. including, but not limited to, drugs, alcohol, and violent behavior) will be placed on probation, removed temporarily, or removed permanently from extracurricular activities.

Social Media Policy

Assume nothing is private, ever. If you are putting your thoughts on the internet or in a text, there is no "invasion of privacy." Keep in mind what you post can be seen by the world. Be Wise! The following should be considered inappropriate and will require disciplinary action.

- Posting text or "like" any inappropriate pictures or video. (This includes photos and videos of a suggestive nature.)
- Tweeting, posting, reposting, text or "like" any foul language or sexually explicit comments.
- If you text, tweet, post, repost, or "like" something, you are communicating that you agree with it and promote it.
- Publicly complaining about school, coaches, teachers, students, etc. This negative talk will not solve any problems.
- Trash talking your past, present, or future opponents.

Celeste I.S.D. Cheerleader/Drill Team Constitution and Procedures

LEVEL I -

Immediate Reminders: The cheer/drill team coach will enforce the reminder at the time of the infraction. All discipline is assigned to be corrective and not punitive in nature. Consequences of behaviors will result in removal from some football game traditions and/or quarters. The list below includes, but is not limited to, examples of some behaviors which would require immediate reminders:

- Tardiness to practice and/or a game or event
- Wearing jewelry in practice, game, or performance
- Chewing gum, eating candy, or snacking during a game, practice, or activity without permission
- Being disruptive, horsing around, talking excessively during a game, practice, or activity
- Socializing with friends or family without permission
- Failure to help clean, load, unload, put away supplies, etc
- Failure to be in complete uniform
- Failure to bring necessary equipment, uniform pieces, etc. to game, performance, or practice

LEVEL II -

Behavioral Infractions:

Any of the following behaviors listed will result in a strike as well as disciplinary action as set forth by the sponsor:

- Disrespect/insubordination toward the cheer sponsor
- Disrespect toward a teacher or administrator
- Disrespect/inappropriate language toward other team members
- An absence to a game/practice/event
- Leaving a performance, practice, or event without prior permission
- Refusing to work or pay attention at practice
- Unsportsmanlike conduct at a game or performance
- Talking on cell phones during a game, practice, or activity
- Academic dishonesty
- Assignment to ISS
- Receiving a discipline report (for behavioral issues)
- Not participating in fundraising activities
- Repeatedly forgetting to remove jewelry
- Repeatedly receiving “reminders” for Level One
- Inappropriate use of social media

Strikes will be given based on a squad member’s behavioral infraction. The sponsor will document each behavioral infraction. If at any time a squad member has received **three strikes**, he/she will be removed from the cheer program for the remainder of the year.

The following will occur when Level Two infractions are continually a problem:

Strike One- Parent notification and conference with student

Strike Two- Meeting with parent, student, sponsor, and principal

Strike Three- Parent notification and immediate removal from team

All strikes are permanent.

Celeste I.S.D. Cheerleader/Drill Team Constitution and Procedures

LEVEL III -

The following behaviors or events will result in immediate removal from cheer program:

- Assignment to AEP
- Failing any two six weeks
- Alcohol
- Drug use
- Smoking
- Destruction or vandalism of school property
- Suspension from school
- Stealing
- Receiving three strikes
- Physical Fighting

The cheer member will need to complete a minimum of the following consequences as set forth by the sponsor/principal in order to be considered for reinstatement for the following year:

1. 24 community service hours
2. A formal apology to the cheer program

The sponsor will follow the General Conduct Policy as is outlined in the Celeste ISD Cheerleader and Drill Team Constitution; however, the sponsors/administration have discretion to determine discipline for other infractions not listed here in accordance with the Constitution as well as the Student Code of Conduct.

Cheerleaders/Drill Team Code of Conduct

I, _____, have received a copy of the Celeste ISD Cheerleader and Drill Team Constitution and Procedures. I fully understand the policies and rules which govern the Celeste ISD cheerleaders and drill team.

I understand it is my responsibility to attend all cheerleader/drill team practices, fund-raisers, public appearances and events. I am aware that I must contact the sponsor if I will not be at a practice or event and understand the penalties assessed with an excused or unexcused absence.

I understand that if I am gone for a school related activity, I will not be penalized for my absence as long as I notify the sponsor in advance. I also understand I will need to make-up the practice.

I agree with the enclosed responsibilities and commitments and will obey all rules outlined in the CISD student handbook, student code of conduct, and this constitution.

I have read the General Conduct Rules and understand the penalties involved. If I have a question concerning any of the conduct infractions and resulting disciplines, I understand that I may call or see the sponsor and/or principal to further discuss the particular situation in question.

Cheerleaders/drill team members are constantly in the eye of the public and need to present a professional attitude at all times. With both the parents/guardians and the cheerleaders'/drill team members' cooperation, we will have an outstanding year.

By signing below, I understand the duties and obligations of this position. I also understand and agree to the financial responsibilities that go along with being a cheerleader/drill team member.

Student/Candidate Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Sponsors Signature

Date

Celeste I.S.D. Cheerleader/Drill Team Constitution and Procedures

Parent/Guardian Code of Ethics

We believe that cheerleading/drill team should demonstrate high standards of ethics and sportsmanship and promote the development of good character and other important life skills. We also believe that the highest potential of cheerleading/drill team is achieved when participants and their parents are committed to pursuing victory with honor and pride.

- I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support at all events.

- I will ensure that my child is at all practices.

- I will demonstrate respect and positive support for all cheerleaders/drill team members and sponsors.

- I will be mindful of my role at all times, provide support and will not openly instruct or criticize during any performance or practice.

- I will participate in things that will uplift and encourage the team.

- I understand that cheerleading/drill team is a privilege.

- I understand that cheerleading/drill team is an extension of the classroom, offering learning experiences for use in life.

- I understand that failing will not be tolerated.

- I will do my very best to make my child's cheerleading/drill team experience a positive one.

- I will require my child to treat other cheerleaders, drill team members, students, teachers, sponsors, administrators, and officials with respect regardless of race, sex, creed, or ability.

- I will support the decisions of the sponsor(s). (Sponsors have the best interest of the squad and the cheerleader/drill team member at heart.)

- I will discourage my cheerleader/drill team member from criticizing other cheerleaders/drill team members.

- I will refrain from actions which would bring discredit to myself, our squad/team, and/or Celeste ISD.

By signing below, I understand that my student and I are being held to a higher standard. I pledge to provide support, care, and encouragement for my cheerleader/drill team member. My signature will verify that I have received, read, and understand the CISD Cheerleading Constitution and the Code of Ethics. I also understand and will adhere to, in letter and spirit, the rules and guidelines set forth in this policy.

_____ Contact # home _____ work _____ Date: _____
(signature of parent/guardian)
Students Name: _____

