



Spring Branch Independent School District

Spring Branch I.S.D. Cheerleading Constitution Revised February 11, 2016

Inspiring minds. Shaping lives.

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www.springbranchisd.com

ARTICLE I PURPOSE

It shall be the purpose of this organization to promote and uphold school spirit, to develop good sportsmanship among students, to support athletic programs, and to develop positive relationships in the community and between schools. This organization will also promote athleticism and creativity by participation in competitive events. Our plan is to work in harmony with the administration, faculty, band, athletic teams and other school organizations to promote all of the above items.

ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- A. Members of this organization shall be chosen from the student body of each high school or feeder school.
- B. The team member's term begins on the day that his/her name is officially posted and continues until that membership is terminated either upon graduation, transfer to another high school, or until the next cheer tryout. Each cheer member is responsible for strict adherence to all rules and regulations specified in this constitution and the student code of conduct.
- C. To obtain and retain membership, each student must fulfill the following requirements:
 - 1. Each prospective member must try out for the cheer squad. Any student who is currently ineligible per the "no pass-no play" rule will be considered eligible to try out if qualifications are met.
 - 2. Student conduct will be considered by the coach in determining team membership.
 - 3. Prospective members—returning and/or prospective cheerleaders—MUST present a form to their coach prior to tryouts that shows they successfully passed a complete physical conducted by a licensed physician. The due date of the required form will be determined by the campus.
- D. A student must be attending a Spring Branch Independent School District (SBISD) school in order to try out. Residency and address must be assigned to the home campus for where the student is trying out unless the student is on a district approved transfer to that campus. Students currently registered at Westchester Academy of International Studies may try out at their home high school with plans to transfer to their home school in the upcoming school year should they be selected to the cheer squad.
- E. Prospective and current members will apply for membership during the time announced by the coach. The application process may consist of the following:
 - 1. An application and permission slip to be filled out and signed by the applicant and their parent/guardian and returned to the coach.
 - 2. A copy of the SBISD Cheer Team Constitution and a general information sheet to be distributed to and read by the prospective member and parent(s)/guardian.
 - 3. A code of conduct evaluation checklist to be completed by the grade level principal.
- F. The tryout procedures follow:

1. Squads will be chosen by a panel of four qualified and objective judges.
 2. Female cheer candidates will be evaluated on a cheer, a dance, their jump skills, their tumbling skills, and overall impression.
 3. Male cheer candidates will be evaluated on a cheer, their stunting skills, their jump skills, their tumbling skills, and overall impression.
 4. Mascot candidates will create a 1-3 minute skit that will be evaluated by the judges based upon its creativity, spirit, execution, and overall impression.
 5. Tryouts are closed to the public. Only judges, coaches, administration, and current varsity senior cheerleaders are allowed.
 6. Tryouts will occur in the spring semester as determined by the campus.
- G. Each campus may choose to have any or all of the following squads: junior varsity and varsity.
- H. Squad size, type of squad, and the number of squads will be determined by each campus.
- I. Sub-varsity teams' travel will be scheduled at a minimum. Travel exceptions may include playoff games, competitions and special performances.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP EXPECTATIONS

Each member—cheerleaders, mascots, and managers—must adhere to and abide by all rules and regulations as set forth in the SBISD cheerleading constitution.

GRADES

Each member must meet “no pass-no play” requirements based on U.I.L. rules. If a member fails a class during a six-weeks grading period, he/she is ineligible for the next three weeks. Eligibility may be regained by passing all classes at the three-week progress report time. Ineligible students will not participate in any extracurricular performances, games, or special functions until eligibility is regained.

Cheerleaders with failing grades at the end of the six weeks period will be suspended from events, not practices, for the next three weeks. A student will be **AUTOMATICALLY DISMISSED** from the team on the first day of the beginning of the 7th week of academic ineligibility. Failure does not have to be in the same class or consecutive six weeks periods. Only classes listed as *Designated or Advanced* courses in the Student Handbook/Code of Conduct for maintaining eligibility will be acknowledged in the case of exempting a failing grade.

BEHAVIOR

Members of the cheer squad are held to a high standard of behavior that applies both on and off the competition/performance arena. Cheer squad members represent themselves, their family, their team, the student body, their school, their alumni, and SBISD. Any disciplinary action taken by campus authorities could result in disciplinary action by the cheer coaching staff.

The following infractions will result in **AUTOMATIC DISMISSAL** from the team.

1. Possession/use of tobacco, drugs, or alcohol on campus or at any cheer function.

2. Any infraction that results in placement at the district alternative education center.
3. Hazing.
 - A. This includes any member who organizes or participates in a hazing incident.
 - B. Any assumption of authority by a student whereby another student suffers or is exposed to any cruelty, intimidation, humiliation, embarrassment, hardship, oppression, or is required to perform exercises to excess, to become sleep deprived, to commit dangerous activities, to curry favor from those in power, to submit to physical assaults, to consume offensive foods or alcohol, or the threat of bodily harm or death, or the deprivation or abridgement of any right. (Section 484 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 [51 U.S.C. 20 U.S.C 1091])

ALCOHOL/DRUGS (off-campus incidents)

- A. First Offense: Alcohol/drug use at events or activities where drug/alcohol use is occurring including, but not limited to, M.I.P., P.I., D.U.I, etc., will result in a three-week probation. During probation, the member is not allowed to participate in any cheer events/performances, but attendance is mandatory.
- B. Second offense: Dismissal from the team.

**ARTICLE IV
GENERAL POLICIES**

UNIFORMS/EQUIPMENT

- A. Each uniform and piece of equipment is an object of pride, bearing school colors, and should therefore be worn with respect and dignity. They will be maintained in the condition in which they were received.
- B. The uniforms may consist of the following:
 1. Formal performance uniform
 2. Game day - school dress uniform
 3. Practice uniform
 4. All props, poms, t-shirts and accessories
- C. Uniforms are only to be worn to approved events, functions, or games unless specified by the coach and may not be worn by anyone other than the assigned squad member.
- D. Any items (i.e. bags, shirts, jackets, etc.) that reference or use the cheer organization’s name and/or mascot must be pre-approved by the coach.

ATTENDANCE

Cheerleaders are to be prompt and punctual to ALL designated events.

- A. Excused absences include the following:
 1. Personal illness (with a doctor’s note)
 2. Death in the family

3. Prearranged special activities with cheer coach approval

- B. Unexcused absences from practices, games, or any cheer function may result in probation, suspension, and/or dismissal from the team.
- C. All members of the cheer team are required to attend summer camp and summer practices.
- D. Should the coach suspect a health condition that could be injurious to the cheerleader/mascot if he/she continues to cheer, the coach has the right to ask him/her to submit to a doctor's examination at the cheerleader's expense and obtain a doctor's release before continuing to cheer. Dismissal will result when a medical or physical condition prohibits safe performance for more than twelve cumulative weeks or 60 calendar days.

**ARTICLE V
EXPENSES**

- A. ALL members should participate in the designated fundraising activity (ies) instructed by the coach.
- C. If a check is returned due to "insufficient funds" more than once, all remaining payments must be submitted either in cash or with a money order.
- D. If a member is dismissed or is no longer going to be part of the cheer squad, the member is still responsible for all monies owed.
- E. All monies paid toward the cheer team are non-refundable and shall be due in full by a date determined by the coach.
- F. If a member is dismissed or is no longer a part of the cheer squad, all monies pertaining to fundraising are non-refundable and will be redistributed to the activity fund.

**ARTICLE VI
TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

Upon official termination of membership, the following conditions must be met:

- A. A written statement of membership termination, that specifies the reason for termination, must be signed by the member and forwarded to the member's parent(s)/guardian.
- B. The member will receive a class schedule change from cheerleading and be cleared from team records only after the member turns in all uniforms, equipment, accessories, etc.