

DOTHAN CITY SCHOOLS' JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADER AND MASCOT CODE OF CONDUCT

PURPOSE OF ORGANIZATION

1. To promote school spirit.
2. To promote good sportsmanship.

RESPONSIBILITY

1. Promote and participate in all Cheerleading and mascot activities unless excused by the coach.
2. Promote school spirit throughout the school year.
3. Adhere to the Dothan City Schools' High School Cheerleader and Mascot Code of Conduct.
4. Participate in and fulfill fundraising activity assignments as assigned by the coach and approved by the administrator.

ELIGIBILITY

1. A student must be currently enrolled and attending Dothan City Schools in order to try out for cheerleader or mascot.
2. To be eligible for tryouts, a student must meet the eligibility requirements of the DCS Academics First Guide.
3. A student must pass all requirements for tryouts
4. If any student quits the squad at anytime during the year or is removed from the squad at any time during the year, he/she will not be eligible to try out the following year.

CHEERLEADER TRYOUTS

1. Three to five judges shall be selected and each shall be an individual from outside the school system.
2. Financial obligations shall never hinder a student from trying out or being selected for either cheerleader or mascot.
(However, all funds must be paid in full by the payment due dates. If funds are not paid by August 1st, cheerleader will be suspended until funds are paid)
3. Criteria for judging Cheerleaders shall be:
 - 80% - *Cheering Skills (See score sheet)*
 - 10% - *Clinic Rating*
 - 10 %- *Teacher Evaluations*

**We will review the score sheet on the first day of the try-out clinic.*
4. Criteria for judging Mascots shall be:
 - *Musical Skit/Dance exhibiting school spirit and enthusiasm = 100 pt*

5. An administrator will remain present until the tryouts have been completed.
6. Each cheerleader/ Mascot must have the following in order to tryout:
A current health physical (one calendar year)

- Medical Insurance
- Indemnification Agreement
- Signed Parental Permission Form
- Signed Code of Conduct
- AHSAA Required Paperwork

COMPOSITION OF CHEERLEADING SQUADS

1. High School: A varsity squad of 20-24 and a Junior Varsity squad of 10-16 cheerleaders will be selected from grades 10-12. All 10th grade students are only eligible to tryout for the Junior Varsity Squad. All 12th grade students are only eligible to tryout for the Varsity squad. Students in the 11th grade may be selected for the Junior Varsity or Varsity squad depending on the ranking of their scores.
2. Junior High School: 9th grade, 8th grade, and 7th grade squads, each composed of 10-14 cheerleaders each, will be selected from each grade level based on scores.
3. Competition Squad: A competitive squad composed of 12-20 females and up to 6 males will be selected from grades 7-12 based on scores.
4. ALL Junior High and High School squads will handle football, basketball and any other assigned obligations designated by the coach.

REQUIREMENTS FOR CLINIC

1. All forms required for tryouts (see checklist) must be signed by parent/guardian with whom student resides.
2. Clinic sessions are mandatory unless pre-approved by Coach.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR MAINTAINING POSITION

1. Maintain throughout year all qualifications as previously stated.
2. Attendance at all Cheerleader/Mascot activities is required.
3. In order to receive an excused absence from a practice, a game, or an activity, a member must present a written note (from the parent/guardian) to the coach. Then at the discretion of the coach, an excused absence will be granted and must be **presented 7 days prior**. The note must include the member's name, date, reason for absence and parent/guardian signature and phone number.
 - In case of illness, a parent/guardian must speak to the coach by telephone or through text message/email prior to the practice/game or activity and the member, upon returning must present a written note with the information stated above.
4. Cheerleading/mascot class attendance will follow school policy and Code of Conduct.

5. The following actions by a cheerleader/mascot during school/cheerleader/mascot-related activities will result in dismissal from the position:

- Using, possessing, selling, transferring, or to be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, alcoholic beverage, toxicant, inhalant, or other intoxicant.
- Use of any tobacco products, including vaping products.
- Improper conduct such as stealing, use of profane or obscene language or behavior towards another person through personal contact and/or electronic devices.
- Acting in a way as determined by the coach and approved by the administrator that will discredit the organization.
- Committing an act that results in a legal conviction.
- Riding home from an out-of-town activity with anyone other than school chaperone, without prior written permission.
- Not meeting the Dothan City Schools Board Policy – JF (Participating in Extracurricular Activity - Academics First).
- Receiving the maximum number of demerits in accordance with the demerit system.
- Assigned to Alternative School and/or suspension or sent to Diversion Center.
- Pregnancy due to safety of mother and child
- Violation of the Dothan City Schools' Code of Student Conduct will result in removal of the student from the Cheerleader/Mascot squad.

DEMERIT SYSTEM

1. All demerits received by the student will be approved by the coach. A total of 11 demerits will result in dismissal from the position for the remainder of the year. If dismissed for demerits, tryouts for the following year will be at the coach/administrator's discretion.
2. Any cheerleader or mascot receiving demerits will be notified in writing. This notification must be signed by all parents/guardians and returned to coach. (Student Cheerleader is responsible for notification of parents when signature is obtained). Failure to return the signed form will result in further demerits.
3. If a cheerleader/mascot has accumulated 5 demerits he/she and parent or guardian will be notified in writing. The cheerleader will not be allowed to participate in scheduled event for one week; however, the cheerleader must attend the events in uniform.

PRACTICES AND ACTIVITIES

1. Dates and length of practices will be set by coach. Schedule will be available at least a week in advance.
2. Tardies are not excused and will result in demerits.
3. Attendance at all activities is required. A member may not have more than two Unexcused absences from practices, games, or activities.
4. Students must be in attendance at least half of the school day in order to participate in games and activities associated with their duties. Being absent from school on the day of a scheduled activity will result in not being able to participate in said event.

UNIFORMS

1. Uniforms must be clean and pressed for all functions. This includes clean socks and shoes.
2. Items needed for cheerleading squad must be paid for by each cheerleader. This includes uniform, shoes, socks, megaphones, bodysuits, bloomers, ribbons, jackets, wind-suits, pom-poms, clothes for summer clinic, and any personalized items.
3. The mascot will be responsible for his/her uniform being kept in good condition and clean at all times.
4. The mascot must remain in complete uniform as designated by the coach at all times when in public.
5. Cheerleaders are not to wear uniforms outside of required cheer activities.
6. Bow/ Ribbons must be worn in a high ponytail as uniform with hair off the shoulders and out of face for safety reason.

TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM OUT-OF-TOWN

1. Board policy will be followed at all times.
2. A member may be allowed to leave a game or function with his/her parents/guardians. The following procedures must be followed:
 - A note must be presented to the coach **24 hrs.** in advance. It must state member's name; date of game, name and signature of parent/guardian; telephone number and reason. The reason for the request must be outlined in the written statement.
 - This request must be approved 24 hrs. prior to the game, by an Administrator.
 - Parents/guardians must personally take responsibility for the member by meeting the coach at the end of the game/activity. If the adult, who is to take the member does not follow this procedure, the member must return on the bus with the coach. Any exceptions to this procedure must be approved by the coach and an administrator.

CAPTAIN or CO-CAPTAIN(s)

1. Must be very mature, responsible and capable persons.
2. Captains and Co-captains will be chosen at coach's discretion.
3. Captain and co-captain must follow coach's instructions at all times.
4. Coach has the authority to dismiss the captain and co-captain(s) if they do not fulfill the duties of the position. The coach may then appoint a replacement.
5. Report any squad problem to the coach.
6. Act as a host in welcoming visiting squads, as well as checking on

activities during games.

SUMMER CAMP/CLINIC

1. Summer clinic is **mandatory** for Varsity, Junior Varsity, 9th grade, 8th grade, and 7th grade squads and the mascot (if available for mascots).
2. All of the coaches' expenses to summer clinic must be paid by the cheerleading/mascot fund.
3. Dates must be announced to parents/guardians before the end of school for summer clinic.
4. Only in an extreme emergency will a coach approve an absence from summer clinic. Examples of extreme emergency include death in the immediate family (mother, father, sibling, or grandparents), hospitalization of cheerleader with documentation required.)
5. Parents/guardians must pay for clinic costs. This includes main clinic cost and clinic clothes. (There will be fundraisers held during school year and during the summer).
6. Each cheerleader and mascot must abide by all rules and regulations as stated in this Code of Conduct, as well as the rules established for the clinic.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. There will be many jobs, duties, and responsibilities too numerous to mention in this code of conduct that will be assigned to cheerleaders and mascots by the coach. Cheerleaders and mascots will be expected to carry these out in a positive manner and failure to do so may result in a disciplinary action as determined by the coach.
2. An estimated cost will be given at the time of tryouts/parent meeting and a final cost will be given following announcement of the new squad/parent meeting.
3. This Code of Conduct does not cover all possible situations; therefore, the coach maintains discretion in all decision making.

DEMERIT DOCUMENTATION

Cheerleader Name: _____ Date: _____

Demerit violation

- | | |
|--|----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unexcused absence from a PRACTICE | 3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unexcused absence from a GAME | 11 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Failing to be in position at the beginning of a game: at the beginning of the second half; and all during the game | 2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Late to a home game or late for away departure time | 2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Late to practice | 2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leaving early from a game without permission/not staying to clean up | 2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Late being picked up from a PRACTICE | 1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Failing to assume responsibility such as games jobs, making game signs, putting up/taking down signs; cleaning up after cheering/mascot activities (games/pep rallies and practices,etc.); as well as any other responsibilities assigned by coaches. | 3 |

Appearance

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Improper uniform for game or in school (poms, briefs, bow, shoes, etc.) | 3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wearing nail polish or having nails that are too long | 2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wearing jewelry at practice or games(including belly, tongue rings, etc.) | 2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dirty uniform | 2 |

Behavior

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Using cell phone at games or practice | 3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chewing gum or eating food at undesignated times | 2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inappropriate PDA (<i>Public Display of Affection</i>)during games or while in uniform | 3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Using inappropriate language during games or practice | 3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Showing disrespect to a coach or squad member | 5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Violation of Code of Conduct resulting in Detention/Saturday school | 5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Violation of the School Code of Conduct resulting in ISS/OSS | 5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illegal substance abuse (Possessing and or using, selling, transferring, or to be under the | |

influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, alcoholic beverage, toxicant inhalant, lighter, matches, electronic cigarettes, vaping products or other intoxicant while at school or during any school function, whether as a cheerleader, a mascot, or as a participant, or committing an act that result in a legal conviction). 11

- BULLYING** is automatic **REMOVAL FROM THE SQUAD**. (*We do not and will not tolerate any bullying from any team member*). 11
- Assignment to Alternative School and or Suspension 11
- Showing disrespect to a teacher or other staff member 5
- Inappropriate posts on ANY form of social media 5
- Lacking spirit or enthusiasm at games 2
- Lacking knowledge of cheers/chants/dances during games 2

Other:

- Not participating in warm-ups and stretches 2
- Disrupting practices or games (unnecessary talking, playing, etc.) 2
- Talking during stunting 2
- Not turning forms/ Dues/ fundraiser money in on time 1
- Stunting without a coach present or without permission 5
- Socializing during games 2
- Failing classes. Must maintain a "C" or above in **ALL** (per classes). Anything below a "C" will result in **5 Demerits** and **Benched** for **2 Full Game Days**. This goes for **Progress Reports** and **Report Cards**. 5

Previous # of Demerits: _____ **Added # of Demerits:** _____ **New total # of Demerit:** _____

Comments/Action Taken: _____

Coach Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Cheerleader Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Please note that if a cheerleader receives 5 demerits they will be benched for two or 1 games and placed on probation or suspension. In the event that a cheerleader acquires 10 or more demerits, he/she will be removed from the squad. Additionally, extreme violation of rules will result in an automatic dismissal.