



Waller Junior High
School
2019-2020
Cheer and Mascot
Constitution

WISD JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL CHEER CONSTITUTION

2019-2020

ARTICLE I: PURPOSE AND EXPECTATIONS

SECTION I: PURPOSE

The primary purpose of this organization is:

- To promote and uphold school spirit throughout the year
- To encourage good sportsmanship among the student body
- To improve relations between schools during all athletic events
- To emphasize physical fitness
- To build character
- To encourage student responsibility and independence in following rules

SECTION II: EXPECTATIONS

- Cheerleaders are responsible for behaving **above and beyond** the normal school rules
- The cheerleading program has an extremely high set of standards
- To be a member of the cheerleading team is not a right but a privilege for the dedicated student
- Cheerleaders should not receive a discipline referral at any time. These will be reviewed by the cheer sponsor and cheerleading AP to determine suspension or dismissal from the cheer team.
- Parents and cheerleaders are to follow cheerleading rules at all times
- All teachers at WISD junior highs will be given lists of members and will be asked to contact the coach if problems arise so that the consequences may be administered
- Cheerleaders should strive to work towards independence, positive attitude, dedication, and role modeling at all times
- Laziness and bad attitudes will not be tolerated at any time by members and can result in probation for a time determined by the cheer sponsor and cheerleading AP.

ARTICLE II: TRYOUT QUALIFICATIONS

SECTION I-. GRADE REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible to tryout for WISD junior high Cheerleader, a candidate must:

- Have not been academically ineligible during the last six weeks for the current academic year and have no failures
- Meet all extra-curricular eligibility rules as stated in the WISD Junior High Student/Parent Handbook and the Texas Educational Code

SECTION II: CONDUCT RESPONSIBILITIES

To be eligible to tryout for WISD junior high Cheerleader, a **candidate** must:

- Not been assigned to an Alternative Education Center, been suspended or expelled during the current school year.
- Not been assigned to ISS (in school-suspension) during the current school year (this will be considered by the cheer sponsor and cheerleading AP to determine the seriousness of the behavior and if the applicant should be denied eligibility).
- Not have been removed from any cheerleading team because of grades, or conduct, or quit for any reason other than illness or disability

SECTION III: TRYOUT CANDIDATES

In addition to grade and conduct requirements, candidates for WISD junior high cheerleader must meet the following additional criteria:

- Meet enrollment requirements:
A candidate must have been enrolled in Waller Independent School District prior to the tryout sign up deadline.
- Proof of physical fitness:
Each candidate must present a physician's medical history and physical examination form as well as a physical waiver form signed by a parent/guardian prior to the first day of tryout camp. Any current cheerleader trying out for a team who is physically injured at the time of tryouts, with medical documentation, should consult with a coach and the designated administrator.
- Proper financial support:
Each candidate/parent must understand that cheerleading is a year-round expense. An estimated expense list will be given at the beginning of the year but does not reflect exact costs. Approximate costs are \$400.00/year.
- Fulfill cheerleading obligation first:
While students are encouraged to be well rounded and to participate in other activities, a cheerleader must fulfill cheerleading requirements before fulfilling other organizational requirements. If any other activity should come into conflict with any cheerleading activity or practice, the cheerleader, coaches, sponsor(s) and/or administrator will work together to determine the activity that will take precedence.

ARTICLE III: TRYOUT PROCESS

- A minimum of two judges will screen all candidates on their cheerleading skills including but not limited to motions, jumps, tumbling, spirit, dance, and coed stunting for males. All females will perform an identical tryout cheer and dance. All males will perform the male counterpart to the same cheer, but they may substitute coed stunting specified by the coach for the dance. All candidates may individually enhance their routine with tumbling skills approved during the cheer clinic. The tryout material will be taught en masse to candidates at the tryout clinic. Tryout scores will be calculated by an official tabulator.
- Judges scores will count 100%
- "Break-Point" System Explanation- the size of each squad will be determined through the use of a "break-point" system. At the completion of the tryouts, the "natural break" in scoring will be mutually agreed upon by the campus administrator and squad sponsor. This will be the official "break point" for determining the final squad size.

ARTICLE IV: PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

A cheerleader must abide by the constitution immediately upon election to the WISD junior high Cheerleader team.

- Any cheerleader who resigns from a WISD junior high cheerleading team during the school year (exception being documented illness, or disability) or is dismissed for academic or disciplinary reasons will not receive WISD junior high Cheerleader honors or awards. Additionally, any cheerleader who resigns or is removed from the team will not be allowed to tryout the following year, and no refund of money will be given. All absences from cheerleading practice are unexcused except for the following:
- Personal illness or accident- cheerleader must contact coach regarding his/her absence prior to practice and must bring a note from the doctor the following practice to avoid demerits
- All-Star cheerleading requirements will also be excused.
- Death in the family- provide note from parent
- School sponsored field trips/activities in which the cheerleader will be absent from a practice can be excused by the coach. A note or documentation from the supervising teacher/sponsor is required. These activities are excused at the discretion of the coach with at least two weeks advance notice.

ARTICLE V: CAPTAINS/CO-CAPTAINS

SECTION I: SELECTION

- Coaches will select the captain(s) with the point system and all decisions are final.
- Receiving the title of captain is a privilege and not a right. Inadequate performance of captain's duties or any other sub-standard behavior may result in the loss of the captain's position. These decisions are made by the coaches only and are final.

SECTION 11: DUTIES

- Coaches will assign duties ranging from calling cheers to planning fundraising, etc.

ARTICLE VI: GROOMING AND APPEARANCE

- **NO JEWELRY OF ANY KIND** is allowed at any practice or performance. Girls must wear hair completely secured away from the face in a ponytail. Girls with short hair must **have it** secured from the face also.
- Gum chewing is not allowed at practices, games, or while in uniform.
- **Colored nail polish is not** allowed while in uniform.
- Uniform must be clean and neatly pressed at all times. Shoes must be clean and polished at all times.
- Cheer shoes **ONLY** must be worn during any performances.
- Uniform must be worn completely at all times. No unzipped/unbuttoned tops or skirts or untied shoes.
- A cheerleader may not remove any part of his/her uniform in public.
- Cheerleaders must be dressed alike whenever they are representing the school at games, special events, etc.
- Cheerleaders are not allowed in uniform unless a sponsor is present.
- Females must wear sports bras under uniform top, but if they are visible at the back of the neck area, they must match the color of the uniform area.
- Females must wear bloomers under practice shorts. Bra straps are to be pinned so that they do not show.

ARTICLE VII: PRACTICES- SUMMER, CAMP, YEAR-ROUND

- Summer camp and camp practices are mandatory for all cheerleaders. NO EXCEPTIONS. The coach will select the camp and dates.
- 5 Missed practices at anytime during the summer or year WILL result in having to sit out during 1 performance or 1 game. All decisions made by the coaches are final.
- Each cheerleader must go in person to their coach when unable to be present at a practice or event.
- Cheerleaders are asked on occasion to attend a school sponsored event as representatives of the school, this can include the annual bike ride, relay for life, etc...

ARTICLE VIII: FOOTBALL GAMES- HOME

- ✓ Cheerleaders will meet at the designated time and place given by the coach.
- ✓ Each cheerleader may bring water bottles and the designated bag, which must contain his/her warm ups, and other personal items (including purses). If it doesn't fit into the bag, it doesn't go to the game.
- ✓ There will be no errands run and restroom breaks will only be allowed at designated times unless an emergency.
- ✓ Cheerleaders must remain in front of the stands as designated by the coach.
- ✓ While performing, there is no socializing with fellow cheerleaders, family, or friends.
- ✓ Cheerleaders must be in attendance for the entire event except in the case of an emergency or an excused activity requirement which must be cleared with the coach ahead of time.
- ✓ After an event, cheerleaders may leave ONLY with their parent/guardian. Parents/guardians must sign their cheerleader out at all events. Some events may require the cheerleaders to ride the bus to and from the performance area.
- ✓ Cheering for any sport after football will be at the coach's discretion.

ARTICLE IX: UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

- The coach will designate the purchasing of the uniforms. The cheerleader will be responsible for any alternations and the cost of these alterations. Alterations may only be made if they are reversible.
- Cheerleading uniforms are to be worn only when approved by the coach.
- Cheerleading uniforms, including jackets are not to be worn by anyone other than the cheerleader.

ARTICLE X: PROBATION AND REMOVAL FROM THE TEAM

SECTION I: ELIGIBILITY TO PERFORM

- Cheerleaders on probation for any reason except academic ineligibility, will not be allowed to perform, but will be required to dress in uniform and attend all performances. In addition, cheerleaders on this type of probation will be required to attend and participate in all practices. Probation can be given at the discretion of the coach and cheerleading principle.
- Any cheerleader not maintaining passing grades will automatically become academically ineligible and put on probation for 3 weeks or 6 weeks. During this probation, the cheerleader will not be allowed to wear any cheerleading attire to any school function or to school, will not be able to attend any event or game as a cheerleader, but will be required to attend and participate in all practices.

SECTION II REASONS FOR PROBATION

A cheerleader will be put on probation for:

- not meeting WISD eligibility guidelines for grades
- receiving a "U" in conduct
- cheating
- Excessive tardies (3 or more)
- Conduct unbecoming of a cheerleader as determined by the coach and campus administrator.

*** Probation length will be determined by the cheer sponsor and cheerleading AP based on the infraction at hand. ****

SECTION III: REMOVAL FROM THE TEAM

A cheerleader may be immediately removed from the team for:

- Placement in AEP
- Expulsion, suspension from school, ISS (in-school-suspension).
- Any other reason deemed by the coach and Waller Jr. High administration.
- Any violation of the Code of Conduct.

ARTICLE XII: PARENTAL CONCERNS

If a parent is in question of a rule or procedure, it is the parent's responsibility to refer to the constitutional rules before conferencing with the coach.

Parents are welcome to discuss rules and procedures with the coach after making an appointment with the coach, but should expect all decisions to be consistent with the constitution.

In order to receive maximum cooperation and consideration, parents are encouraged to follow the chain of command with concerns by urging their cheerleader to come to the coach first with concerns.

The chain of command is as follows:

- Step 1- Conference between cheerleader and coach at cheerleader's request
- Step 2- Conference/ phone call between parent, coaches and cheerleader.
- Step 3- Conference with parent, member, coach, and cheerleading administration

ARTICLE XIII: MODIFICATION TO THE CONSTITUTION

Recommendations to this constitution will be reviewed each year and revisions made as necessary. The revised document will be submitted to the principal for final approval.

I have read the 2019-2020 Waller Junior High Cheer Constitution in full. I understand the expectations and the consequences if those expectations are not met. I agree to abide by the 2019-2020 Waller Junior High Cheer Constitution and will accept any consequences if I do not adhere to the expectations.

Candidate Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date