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**Corsicana Cheer**

**2020-2021**

**Middle School and High School**

**Cheerleading Guidelines**

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**Corsicana Independent School District**

**Cheerleading Constitution**

**2019-2020**

Corsicana ISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, or disability in providing education services, activities, and programs, including vocational programs, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

**Preamble**

The following articles have been developed with the advice and consent of the campus cheerleader sponsors for the purpose of communicating the standards of eligibility and procedure which all candidates must meet to be eligible for try-outs and for the purpose of articulating the standards of conduct and behavior to which all Corsicana ISD Cheerleaders are expected to adhere as acondition of participation in cheerleading. Participation in extracurricular activities, including cheerleading 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 Mascot 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 Corsicana ISD Student 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**

nstructional and performance activities are affirmatively directed toward development of individual member improvement, resulting in a highly skilled and spirited competitive team. Each student selected must be cognizant of the time commitment and individual dedication demanded in striving for personal improvement and teamwork through responsibility and discipline. Students are exposed to teaching, practice, and performance opportunities that result in the development of responsibility, self-respect, and that encourage honest effort in striving for excellence. These opportunities also develop character, teamwork, and pride in quality performance and physical fitness by emphasizing the maintenance of high standards. Members shall also lead by example, exemplify exemplary qualities of character, and uphold the highest moral standards in their service to the school and the community as representatives of their student body and of Corsicana Independent School District.

**Article II—Candidate Eligibility**

2.1 A cheerleading candidate must be a resident of the Corsicana ISD and currently enrolled in a Corsicana ISD school for at least 15 days. Candidates may **not** automatically transfer from one squad to another if they transfer campuses mid-year. Candidates may be male or female.

2.2 A cheerleading candidate must not have failed more than one class during the first semester.

2.3 The coach will be responsible for the preparation and distribution of a packet containing information concerning the tryout process to be made available to all candidates. This information will include specific tryout dates, times, attire, and procedures. Candidates and parents must sign and return the acknowledgement form found in the tryout packet. The form confirms that they have read and understand all information contained in the tryout packet and constitution. By signing, both the parent and candidate agree to comply will all rules and policies found in the tryout packet and constitution. This form must be received before candidates will be allowed to participate in the tryout process.

2.4 A cheerleading candidate who has resigned or been removed from his or her squad may not try-out in subsequent years.

2.5 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 with no make-up hours and must not have been suspended (excluding in-school suspension), assigned to D.A.E.P., or expelled at any time during the current school year to be eligible for try-outs. The campus principal or designee will make the final determination regarding a candidate’s citizenship eligibility for try-outs.

2.6 Candidates must not have committed any offense listed under the categories in the CISD Student Code of Conduct: mistreatment of others, possessing, using, giving, selling, or buying prohibited items, possession of illegal prescription and over-the-counter drugs, property offenses, disregard for authority and other misconduct. Candidates must not have more than 3 office referrals during the current school year for offenses listed in the category “miscellaneous offenses” in the CISD Student Code of Conduct.

2.7 All candidates must be in good financial standing with Corsicana 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 try-outs.

2.8 All candidates must be medically fit to participate in all cheerleading activities including but not limited to all motions, jumps, stunting and tumbling as certified by a medical doctor. Cheerleading candidate are required to submit the Preparticipation Medical Evaluation-Medical History form Prior to tryouts. Please notice that students are NOT required to have a physical exam until they make the team, unless information presented in the Preparticipation for is deemed by the Corsicana School Trainer to warrant a physical prior to participation in the tryout.

2.9 Candidates must complete all requirements for try-outs **prior** to try-outs, including but not limited to submission of application on the given due date, timely submission of all required forms, and attendance of all required meetings, practice sessions or clinics. Any candidate failing to complete all try-out requirements who is otherwise eligible for try-outs will **not** be allowed to try-out, absent extenuating circumstances as determined by the sponsor.

2.10 The goal of a centralized tryout is to provide a consistent, equitable and monitored tryout process for all cheerleading/mascot candidates across the district. Every student wishing to audition must do so on the defined tryout date.

2.11 The Coaches will have final approval for judges hired. The judging panel will score candidates cheerleading/mascot ability.

2.12 All candidates **and** their parent or guardian must attend the mandatory orientation meeting(s) for their program to be eligible for try-outs. 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. Parents will not be allowed in the building during any phase of the tryouts

**JUDGING CRITERIA FOR CHEERLEADER TRYOUTS**

Run In/Spirit

Jumps

Cheer

Chant

Dance

Standing Tumbling

Running Tumbling

**JUDGING CRITERIA FOR MASCOT TRYOUTS**

Crowd Appeal

Energy

Animation

Variety

Coordination

**COST COVERED BY CISD**

1. CISD will provide competition uniform pieces. Members are required to return the district-provided uniform pieces upon leaving the team. As these uniform pieces are CISD property, failure to return them will result in disciplinary action by school administration.

2. Letter jackets must be earned by finishing one year on the varsity team. Letter jackets will be purchased by the cheerleading program. Anything added to the letter jackets will be purchased at own expense.

3. A record of all uniforms and equipment issued to members will be kept. Students will be assessed the replacement cost of items not returned. Items with excessive abuse and/or items deemed unusable or destroyed must also be replaced at the student’s expense. Failure to meet the above requirements constitutes a terminal offense.

**Article III—Candidate Membership and Expectations**

**Candidate Expectations**

Candidates should understand that acceptance into the Corsicana ISD Cheerleading program is a privilege. Cheerleading members represent to the community and the public not only themselves, but their student body and the Corsicana ISD and should uphold the highest moral standards. Candidates should be enthusiastic, responsible, honest, reliable, dependable, cooperative, loyal, dedicated, self-disciplined, willing to learn, and prepared to practice to improve their performance and the performance of the squad.

Candidates who are accepted for membership should understand that the schedule of a cheerleader will require a large time commitment and that members will be expected to put CMS/CHS cheerleading as their main priority. This might make participation in other CMS/CHS organizations that are nonacademic, including after-school or weekend jobs very difficult. Parents of selected candidates should understand that upon acceptance of membership to the Corsicana ISD Cheerleading Program, the parent will be expected to make commitments to the betterment of the team including their time and financial obligation of their child. Cheerleading is a family commitment.

**Candidate Membership**

Membership in the Corsicana ISD Cheerleading program is from the date of try-outs to the last day of school the following school year. Membership numbers are subject to change based upon drastic drop-off rates or 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 procedure outlined herein.

3.1 The Varsity cheerleading squad shall be comprised of sophomore, junior or senior members who are above the natural break in the scores.

3.2 The Junior Varsity cheerleading squad shall be comprised of freshmen, sophomores, and/or juniors who opt in.

3.3 The CHS Tiger mascots shall be comprised of no more than 2 students, whose scores are comparable. If the scores are not comparable, the highest scoring candidate will be chosen.

3.4 The UIL competition team will consist of freshmen, sophomore, juniors and seniors with the top 30 scores upon tryouts. The team will have 2 alternantes if number allow.

3.5 The NCA competition team will consist of freshmen, sophomore, juniors, and seniors. The division that is entered will be determined by the coach.

3.6 The 7th grade squad will consist of students in 7th grade.

3.7 The 8th grade quad will consist of students in 8th grade. If there are not enough 7th and or 8th grade cheerleaders to make 2 different squads, the teams will be combined. The combination of teams will be determined by the coaches.

\*Final decisions regarding co-captains and head cheerleader for all squads will be made by the coach/coaches.

**Specialty Groups**

3.9 It is up to the discretion of the coaches to decide whether to offer specialty groups such as the UIL team and competition teams.

3.8 Any member is eligible to be selected for specialty groups unless on academic or disciplinary probation.

3.10 Specialty groups are: captains and co-captains, social committees, UIL teams, competition teams, travel teams, and any other special groups defined by the coach. It is considered a privilege to be a part of specialty groups, and participation is not a guaranteed right of a Cheerleading member. Failure to make the performance contest team may bar a member from traveling with the team.

3.11 Participation is granted at the sole discretion of the coach for any group that is going to another campus or location, for the purpose of representing or promoting the cheerleading program, via activities such as camps, pep rallies, volunteer opportunities, community outreach etc.

3.12 There will be tryouts for each performance. The coach will judge routines. Factors such as attitude, manners, and effort will be taken into consideration as well as ability. Students unable to execute the routine to the expected standard or who have exhibited excessive negativity regarding practices will not be chosen to perform

**Practices and Performances**

3.13 Cheerleading team members must attend practice as determined by the coach. Absence from practice may result in a missed performance if the coach determines that the absence has hindered the ability of the team to practice productively.

3.14 Activities and practice time must be in accordance with TEA guidelines. Practices will average a total of ten hours per school week outside the school day. A school week is determined as from Monday 12:00 a.m. to the end of the school day on Friday.

3.15 Students should use discretion in his/her commitments to multiple extracurricular activities.

3.16 Members should strive to maintain a high level of physical fitness.

3.17 If a member is removed from the performance due to tryouts, absences, illness, or injury, that member must continue to attend practices and team performances in uniform unless the illness or injury prohibits him/her from doing so.

3.18 A student may only perform if in correct and complete uniform at the time of performance.

**Attendance**

*Absences (these rules govern all practices, including those not during school hours)*

3.19 Attendance at all cheerleading team activities and practices is mandatory.

3.20 Absence from practice or games will result in student making up the practice and sitting out of the performance if the coach determines the student’s absence hindered the ability of the team to practice efficiently for that performance.

3.21 Any absence approved by the administration for other school activities including religious holidays will not be recorded as an absence.

3.22 Members must call ahead if they are going to be absent.

3.23 Upon return from any absence, members must bring a note from a parent or physician explaining their absence.

3.24 Outside employment is not an excuse to miss any part of cheerleading activities. Doing so constitutes an unexcused absence.

3.25 Students who are absent from school on a performance day are ineligible to perform. (exception: school field trips, religious holidays, coach approved)

**Eligibility**

*To be eligible at the beginning of the school year, students must have earned the accumulated number of credits in state approved courses*

3.26 A student who lacks the prescribed number of units shall remain ineligible for the first six-week period of the fall term. If at that time the student has passed all classes for the grading period, the student becomes eligible.

3.27 In order to be eligible following the initial grading period of a school year, a student shall not have a recorded grade average lower than 70 on a scale of 0-100 in any course for the preceding grading period. To be eligible to participate in the grading periods following the initial grading period of a school year, a student must not have a recorded grade average lower than a 70 in any course for that preceding grading period.

3.28 A student whose recorded grade average in any course is lower than a 70 at the end of a grading period shall be on academic suspension from competition or performance. A suspension continues for at least three weeks and is not removed during the school year until the student is passing all subjects taken. This suspension shall become effective seven calendar days after the last day of the nine-week period during which the grade lower than 70 was earned.

3.29 A student who regains eligibility at the end of a grading period or three-week period shall not become eligible until the end of the school day seven calendar days later.

3.30 Students on academic probation must continue to attend classes and all practices, must sit out of all performances. Students on probation are not allowed to wear the team pep rally or performance uniform.

**Article IV—Expectations for Members**

4.1 Members shall be on time and prepared for all cheerleading activities. Members should be dressed in the required uniform prior to the start of the activity.

4.2 Members shall be neatly presented in appearance, with hair neatly groomed and pulled back from face.

4.3 Member shall not have unnatural nail colors and nails should be kept short at all times during the year

4.4 Members shall not wear any jewelry. No ear/body piercings will be allowed.

4.5 Members must attend and perform all required duties at all practices, games, events, functions, camps, and competitions. 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 and will be required to make up the missed event. Members who do not attend camp must have medical documentation explaining why they cannot attend camp. Failure to do so will result in dismissal.

4.6 Members shall maintain their eligibility status under No Pass, No Play Rules. Members must maintain a grade of 70 or above in all classes, other than an identified honors or advanced class, to be eligible to participate. Members with disabilities must meet the standards in their IEP to be eligible to participate. Members who are academically ineligible for two nine weeks will be dismissed from the squad. AP classes will follow UIL rulings.

4.7 Members shall maintain at least a 90% attendance rate throughout the school year. Attendance will be determined according to state policy.

4.8 Members shall comply with all TEA-UIL Side by Side Guidelines for Cheerleading.

4.9 The use of alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs are expressly forbidden and will not be tolerated. Any infraction, on or off campus, will result in a principal/coach/parent/student review. Dismissal from the team may result from this review.

4.10 No visible tattoos or body piercing will be allowed during any team function/activity. Failure to abide by this policy will result in demerits for insubordination.

4.11 Members shall comply with all rules and regulations outlined in their program Handbook

A. REGULATIONS AND POLICIES

The following are considered rule infractions and demerit deductions for each area indicated. Demerits are strictly used only to determine disciplinary probation periods and are not used for grading purposes. A member’s grade will be affected for failure to participate in practice due to personal choice. Points are deducted for one grading period but will have negative impact on the member’s semester average. The only exception is if a disciplinary action (benching, probation) has been determined in the previous year but not yet activated. In this case, the disciplinary action will become active on the first day of school of the next year, and then that student’s record will be cleared.

B. Benching:

Member attends functions in uniform but will not take part in the team performance, game, and/or competition.

C. Probation:

Member is not allowed to participate in performances of the team or of specialty groups. The member is not allowed to travel with the team for any reason. Member may not wear the cheerleading uniform. Member must continue to attend classes, work periods, and practices as scheduled during and before/after school hours. If a student is academically ineligible at the time of a benching or disciplinary probation, the penalty will be served at the time that the student regains eligibility.

D. Benching and Probation:

The coach may assign any member of the team benching, probation, disciplinary contract, coach review, and/or removal from the team or team events for actions the coach deems worthy of such action.

**Explanations**

Make up: This is not a consequence; it is merely the team member’s responsibility to make up any missed team workouts, community appearance, game, etc.

Demerit: Demerits are subject to the Coaches discretion and issues will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

**Article V—Standards for Member Removal**

Due to the high level of visibility of campus cheerleading and mascot, members are expected to demonstrate leadership, honor, and integrity both in and out of uniform because acceptance into the Corsicana ISD Cheerleader program 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 Corsicana 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 shall 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. This includes the posting of the above named activity on any social media site.

5.2 Members shall 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.

5.3 Members may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including removal from the squad, for any other behavior which the coach deems inappropriate, including but not limited to unsportsmanlike conduct, insubordination, or lewd or profane internet behavior.

***A. Probation—Academic***

A cheerleading member may be placed on academic probation for academic citizenship reasons as stated in the TEA/CISD policies. If a member is placed on academic probation, that member will also be on probation regarding team activities and may not audition for or perform with the team for the remainder of the academic probation term.

***B. Probation—Disciplinary***

A cheerleading member may be placed on disciplinary probation for indicated periods of time as described in the regulations, policies, discipline, and attendance sections of this document. A cheerleading member on disciplinary probation will not be allowed to participate in auditions or performances of the team. A cheerleading team member on disciplinary probation will not be allowed to travel with the team for any reason. The member will not be allowed to wear the uniform. During the probationary period, the student must attend classes, work periods and practices as scheduled during and before/after school hours.

***C. Removal***

A cheerleading member may be removed from the cheerleading team or placed on disciplinary probation at the discretion of the cheerleading coach for violation of the Standards of Conduct or Regulations and Policies sections of this constitution. A cheerleading member will be removed from the team after two disciplinary probation periods in one year. If a member of the team suffers loss of credit for the cheerleading course for excessive absences, he/she may be removed from the team subject to coach’s review.

5.4 A cheerleading member who is placed in “In School Suspension” more than one time during the cheerleading year will be subject to a coaches review, which may result in removal from the team.

5.5 A cheerleading member who is suspended from school will be removed from the team.

5.6 A cheerleading member who is expelled from school will be removed from the team.

5.7 If a cheerleading team member misses more than ten (10) practices in one term, he/she will be subject to a coaches review that could result in removal.

5.8 Students who have been removed and those who voluntarily quit retain no rights to team awards, recognitions, etc. The dismissed team member loses all privileges associated with the cheerleading team membership, including attending cheerleading only events, using cheerleading facilities, and wearing cheerleading attire.

5.9 A cheerleading member who has been removed may or may not be eligible to participate in the next year’s tryouts. If a member has already tried out for the next year’s squad and made the team but is removed or quits the team before the current school year is over then their membership in the upcoming school year will be subject to the coaches discretion.

**Article VI- Social Media**

Each cheerleader represents the team as a whole on and off campus. Cheerleaders are expected to represent CMS/CHS as positive role models on social media. Any inappropriate or explicit photographs or post of any team member are unacceptable. This also applies to any written comments on any social networking site or public domain. Cases will be review by the coaches.

**Article VII— Coach's Discretion**

The Coach's will have all authority with regards to managing the Corsicana Cheerleading Team. The Coach's discretion clause of this constitution gives power to the coach of the cheerleading team to interpret all rules and policies of the constitution and apply them to the operation of the cheerleading team. Any situation, policy, or complaint that is not specifically addressed in the constitution will fall under the Coach’s Discretion clause. The Coach reserves the right to amend the Constitution at any time, if she deems the change necessary for the betterment of the team. Areas considered to be under the coach’s discretion clause are:

**A. Day to day operations**

Team rules and policies

Practice schedules

Uniforms and costumes to be worn

Workouts to be done

Grade earned for the Cheerleading class period

**B. Status of cheerleading members**

All issues concerning members status to perform in field routines, pep rallies.

Specialty groups, etc

Removal of cheerleading members

Removal of officer titles

Appointment to specialty groups

Discipline of team members

It is considered a privilege to be a member of the Corsicana Cheerleading Teams, not a right. It will be up to the coach’s discretion to evaluate each team member’s behavior and performance for continued affiliation with the Corsicana Cheerleading Teams.