

KLEIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
CHEERLEADER/MASCOT CONSTITUTION
HIGH SCHOOLS

ARTICLE I - Purpose

- A. To promote and uphold school spirit throughout the year.
- B. To encourage good sportsmanship among the students.
- C. To improve relationships between schools during all athletic events.
- D. To establish the high personal ideals and good character expected of a high school cheerleader in the Klein School District.

ARTICLE II - Tryout Qualifications

- A. At the time of tryouts, a cheerleader candidate must currently be a resident of the attendance zone in which the school for which the student is trying out is located, or have an approved transfer from the office of school administration to attend that school for the next school year.
- B. A permission slip explaining estimated expenses and other constitutional requirements must be signed by the parents and returned to the school before tryouts.
- C. A physical waiver form signed by parent or guardian is necessary prior to student's participation in clinic and tryouts.
- D. At the beginning of tryouts, the students running for varsity cheerleader must be a sophomore or junior; for junior varsity, they may be either a freshman, sophomore or junior; for freshman cheerleader, they must be an eighth grade student.
- E. All Klein ISD cheerleading activities must be in compliance with the guidelines delineated in the AACCA Cheerleading Safety Manual.
- F. A candidate's course schedule must require them to complete the entire term of the cheerleader year.

ARTICLE III - Mascot

(To be utilized only if the high school chooses to have a student serve as mascot.)

- A. Tryout Qualifications
 - 1. Same as for cheerleaders A – F.
 - 2. At the time of tryouts, the candidates must be classified as a freshman, sophomore or junior.
 - 3. Candidates must wear the costume provided by each school.
- B. Election
 - 1. It will be held during the second semester of the school year.
 - 2. All candidates will be screened by the judges.
 - 3. The candidate with the highest score will be named mascot for the following year.
 - 4. If only one candidate tries out for mascot, he/she must achieve a minimum score of at least 30 out of 60 points.
- C. Duties and Obligations
 - 1. Same as for cheerleaders.
 - 2. Will attend/participate in all practices.
 - 3. Must keep complete uniform on while in public view.
 - 4. Will return uniform cleaned and repaired.
- D. Penalties for Constitution Violations
 - 1. Same as for cheerleaders.
 - 2. If for any reason the elected mascot cannot perform, the alternate may be called upon to replace the mascot.

ARTICLE IV - Tryouts

- A. In the Klein ISD the permitted ranges for the number of cheerleaders on a high school squad are as follows:

| SQUAD | MAXIMUM |
|-------------|---------|
| Varsity | 16 |
| Jr. Varsity | 14 |
| Freshman | 12 |

- B. Varsity cheerleader tryouts will be held during the second semester of the school year and no later than April 30. The KISD standardized tryout guidelines will be used. The candidates with the highest scores from the judges will be varsity cheerleaders for the following year.
- C. Junior Varsity cheerleaders will be selected using the same scoring system.
- D. Freshmen cheerleaders will be selected using the same scoring system.
- E. All candidates will be screened by professional judges who are not employees of KISD.
- F. Any student who is currently ineligible as per the “no pass-no play” rule will be considered eligible to attend the judging or election activities and the clinic prior to the judging activities providing that all other tryout qualifications are met.
- G. All candidates must attend cheerleader clinic and tryouts in order to try out.
- H. Candidates with a medical excuse should consult the sponsor and school administration if they are physically disabled at the time of tryouts.

ARTICLE V - After Elections

- A. The selection of a head cheerleader will be determined by the sponsor.
- B. All uniforms for cheering or camp must be decided upon by the cheerleaders and sponsor within one month after elections.
- C. A cheerleader is required to abide by the constitution immediately upon election.
- D. Cheerleaders should be familiar with the AACCA Cheerleading Safety Manual, the constitution, school alma mater and fight song.
- E. After being elected cheerleader, students who participate in conflicting UIL activities will receive appropriate demerits.
- F. Cheerleaders will continue to be responsible for all duties until the election of the next squad.

ARTICLE VI – Grade Requirements after Elections

- A. A six weeks grade below 70 will result in a suspension from all activities for the given period of time as defined by the state “no pass-no play” guidelines. Cheerleaders may not wear their uniform during the academic ineligibility period.
- B. Any cheerleader who receives two or more “F’s” as a semester grade during the cheerleading year will be permanently removed from the squad.

ARTICLE VII - Practice

- A. Practice is required during the summer as well as during the school year.
- B. A schedule will be made for summer practice. It may require about fifteen hours a week for several weeks.
- C. Only cheerleaders and mascot will attend practice.
- D. A cheerleader who is absent for more than one-third of any grading period must have a doctor's written statement. After one month of extended illness or injury, the cheerleader may be removed.

- E. A cheerleader who does not participate in cheerleading class and/or practice after school will not be allowed to participate in the performance/event to be held that evening or the following day unless the absence is approved by one of the sponsors. However, the cheerleader must attend the event in uniform and sit with the sponsor. The appropriate number of demerits will be issued as set by the constitution. Non-participation includes absences, early dismissals, and sitting out.

ARTICLE VIII - Pep Rallies

- A. Uniforms will be worn to school on pep rally and game days as determined by the sponsor.
- B. The pep rally program will be planned and turned in three (3) days in advance for approval from the administration.
- C. Cheerleaders must be ready fifteen minutes before the pep rally.
- D. After the pep rally, the cheerleaders will remove signs from the walls and follow the sponsor's directives.
- E. JV and freshman squads will help the varsity with the setup and cleanup of pep rallies; i.e., chairs, signs, props, etc.

ARTICLE IX - Rules for Summer Camps

- A. Summer camp is required for all high school cheerleaders under the direction of a sponsor
- B. Any group attending a cheerleading camp is representing its school and must act accordingly.
- C. Everyone must attend classes and competition as a group.
- D. Transportation to and from camp will be per sponsor's directive.

ARTICLE X - Game Rules

- A. Football (Pep Rally and Game)
 - 1. These functions are required for all cheerleaders. The only excused absences are those for personal illness or death in the family.
 - 2. Varsity cheerleaders must ride to and from away games on the bus.
 - 3. All varsity cheerleaders and necessary equipment must be on the bus at designated departure time. Cheerleaders are solely responsible for whatever equipment is needed at the game.
 - 4. Cheerleaders are required to put up signs upon arrival at game site.
 - 5. Cheerleaders must be prepared to lead cheers twenty minutes before game time.
 - 6. For home games, cheerleaders will be at game site at time designated by sponsor.
 - 7. Permission must be obtained from the sponsor before errands are run.
 - 8. There will be no breaks unless the sponsor gives special permission.
 - 9. Cheerleaders must remain in front of stands in area designated by sponsor.
 - 10. While performing, there will be no socializing with spectators or fellow cheerleaders.
 - 11. Visiting cheerleaders may be welcomed and **may be met before or** during the game.
 - 12. One large sign may be made by each cheerleader for each football game.
- B. Volleyball
 - 1. A schedule will be set up at the beginning of the season to support a minimum of four games.
 - 2. Sponsor will assign signs to be made as needed.
 - 3. All pertinent rules stated under Football also apply to Volleyball.
- C. Basketball
 - 1. All cheerleaders will attend at least one game (boys or girls) per week.
 - 2. Sponsor will assign signs to be made as needed.
 - 3. All pertinent rules stated under Football also apply to Basketball.
- D. All Other Sports/Play Off Games
 - Sponsor will assign games to attend.
- E. Away Games
 - The principal's permission must be obtained before performing at any away games. In such cases, the entire squad must attend and ride KISD approved transportation.

- F. Other Activities
Cheerleaders may be asked at various times to act as hostesses or guides at various school functions. It is considered a part of a cheerleader's responsibility to perform these duties.
- G. Cheerleaders will be expected to know the rules and official signals in all sports and be able to lead an appropriate cheer corresponding with the call.
- H. Uniform
 1. Anyone who does not wear the proper uniform at any required function will not be allowed to participate unless the uniform can be obtained quickly.
 2. Cheerleader uniforms should be worn only at school-sponsored activities.

ARTICLE XI – Grooming, Uniform, and Behavior Code

- A. While performing in uniform or at practice, cheerleaders:
 1. will not wear heavy make-up
 2. will not wear jewelry
 3. will wear all hair pulled up
 4. will not wear colored nail polish
 5. will keep nails trimmed as per sponsor's discretion
- B. When in uniform or at practice, the sponsor will establish appearance guidelines.
- C. Gum chewing is not allowed when cheering or practicing.
- D. Uniforms must be clean and neatly pressed at all times.
- E. Shoes must be clean and in good condition at all times.
- F. No display of affection in uniform per sponsor's directive.

ARTICLE XII - Cheerleader Class

- A. Cheerleaders are receiving P.E. credit for this class; therefore, they will be working out every day. They should wear a sport shirt, shorts and tennis shoes every day, except on game days when uniforms are worn to school.
- B. If at all possible, they should never miss this class. Important information could be given at any time.
- C. It is especially important that cheerleaders be on time to this class. They will have five minutes after the tardy bell rings to be dressed and ready to practice.
- D. The grade one receives for this class is based on dressing out in uniform, participating in practice, dependability – responsibility, and preparation.
- E. Conduct grades will also be given for this class.
- F. Cheerleaders are expected to maintain excellent school attendance.

ARTICLE XIII - Head Cheerleaders Duties

- A. Set a good example for the squad to follow.
- B. Plan pep rallies with the help of the squad.
- C. Be responsible for cheer and chant list at games.
- D. Decide, with sponsor's approval, cheers and chants to be used.
- E. Show no partiality toward other members of the squad.
- F. Take charge of all practices, teaching yells, pompon routines and stunts.
- G. Work with sponsor on all major decisions.
- H. Inform squad members of changes in plan or uniforms.
- I. Inform sponsor of infractions.
- J. Assist sponsor as needed.
- K. If the head cheerleader fails to abide by any of the above rules, the sponsor may appoint a new head cheerleader.

ARTICLE XIV - Competitions

- A. A squad may compete in no more than four contests during the school year, should they receive an invitation and provided there are not schedule conflicts. Financial arrangements should be at the discretion of the squad and the sponsor.
- B. Participating cheerleaders should attend tournaments as a group with the sponsor.
- C. Participating preliminary competitions must be limited to within the state. All KISD requirements must be met before out-of-state contests are planned.
- D. A competitive team may be selected from current freshmen, JV & Varsity cheerleading squads. A separate tryout may be held to select this team.

ARTICLE XV - Penalties for Constitution Violations

- A. The interpretation of all rules lies with the cheerleading sponsors, campus administration and district administration.
- B. The school principal may remove any cheerleader from his/her position as a result of serious or persistent misconduct.
- C. A cheerleader will be dismissed from the squad for the following reasons:
 - 1. assignment to the DAEP (district alternative education program) at any time during the cheerleading year
 - 2. expulsion from KISD any time during the cheerleading year
 - 3. two or more "F's" as a semester grade during the cheerleading year
 - 4. more than 20 demerits during the cheerleading year
- D. Any cheerleader who resigns from the squad during the school year (exception being illness, disability or early graduation) or is dismissed will not receive cheerleader honors or awards, nor will he/she be allowed to attend banquets.
- E. If a cheerleader does violate a rule, a sponsor, faculty or administration may report the violation. The report should immediately be presented to a sponsor, who will determine the demerits.
- F. Refusing to participate in any cheerleading activity may result in immediate dismissal from the squad.
- G. Cheerleader year:
 - 1. The cheerleading year is defined as tryout to tryout.
 - 2. Any cheerleader who receives more than 10 demerits during the cheerleading year will be suspended from all school sponsored cheerleading activities for three weeks. During this type of suspension a cheerleader will be required to attend all pep rallies and games, dressed in uniform, but will not be allowed to participate. They must participate in all practices.
 - 3. Any cheerleader who receives more than 10 demerits during organized summer activities, i.e., practice, clinics, camps, will serve suspension the first three weeks of ensuing school year.
 - 4. Any cheerleader who receives more than 20 demerits during the cheerleading year will be dismissed from the squad.
- H. Demerits
If an infraction occurs with a combination of discipline penalties for one (1) offense, the maximum number of demerits assigned would be for the penalty requiring the greatest number of demerits. For example, a student may be assigned ISS and OSS for the same infraction. The maximum number of demerits for that offense would be 15 for the OSS assignment (not a combination of 26 demerits).

Permanent Demerits (may not be worked off)

Games

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. Unexcused game/cheer function absence (no notification) | 11 |
| 2. Unexcused game/cheer function absence (advance written parent notification - 24 hours) | 5 |

Practice

1. Unexcused practice (no notification) 4
2. Unexcused practice (advance written parent notification-24hours) 3

Bus/Games

1. Failure to ride approved transportation to the game 5

Conduct

1. "P" in any six weeks 5
2. "U" in any six weeks 11
2. Assignment to ISS 11
3. Assignment to OSS 15

Non-Permanent Demerits (may be worked off at the discretion of the sponsor)

The group may be offered the opportunity to earn merits for specific events as determined by the sponsor. No individual negotiations for merits will be considered.

Signs

1. Failure to make sign 3
2. Late sign 2
3. Failure to put up or remove signs 2

Bus/Games/Practice

1. Arriving late for the bus 2
2. Arriving late/leaving early for any game/practice 2

Conduct

1. Detention (except for tardies) 5
2. Detention (tardies only) 2
3. Skipping class or competition at camp 5
4. Undignified behavior (determined by sponsor) 5 – 10
5. Undesirable language or unacceptable behavior (determined by sponsor) 5 – 10
6. Failure to notify sponsor of detention, ISS or OSS on the school day the student is notified 4
7. Failure to abide by request of head cheerleader or sponsor 3

Uniform

1. Wearing cheerleader uniform except shoes to anything but cheerleader functions without the approval from sponsor and head cheerleader 3
2. Wrong uniform 3
3. Uniform code infraction 2

Miscellaneous

1. Chewing gum per guidelines 2
2. Failure to regain eligibility at progress report time 5
3. Demerits for any infraction of constitution rules not listed above will be determined by the sponsor and the school administration.

I. Absences

1. All excused absences for games or practices require notification to a sponsor prior to the event and must be verified by a written excuse, signed by a parent or guardian. These excused notes must be turned in the following day. If no excuse is turned in, the absence will be considered unexcused. Absence from any cheerleading activity is unexcused except for these circumstances listed below:
 - a. Personal illness or accident
 - b. Death in family
 - c. Extenuating circumstances will be addressed
2. A cheerleader who has excessive absences, excused or unexcused, from cheerleading activities may warrant a review by the principal and may be removed.

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