



**BURLESON ISD
CHEERLEADING
CONSTITUTION
2024-2025**

**THE CONSTITUTION OF CHEERLEADING
FOR
BURLESON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Introduction

I. Purpose	1
II. Membership & Eligibility	1
III. Tryouts	2
IV. Participation Requirements	3
v. Grades	4
VI. Attendance	5
VII. Uniforms and Equipment	5
VIII. Finances and Fundraising	8
IX. General Conduct	8
X. Benching, Probation, Suspension, Dismissal, and Resignation	9

**CONSTITUTION OF THE
BURLESON ISD HIGH SCHOOL
CHEERLEADERS**

Each Cheerleader must adhere to the following articles. As an athlete of this cheer program, the student is a representative of the BURLESON ISD, Burleson Athletics, and its high schools and is required to maintain high moral and ethical standards.

**ARTICLE I
PURPOSE**

The purpose of the cheerleading program is to create and promote loyal school spirit, encourage quality performance, and maintain high academic standards through the development of spirit, cheer technique, leadership, cooperation, self-discipline, and sportsmanship in each individual athlete. BURLESON ISD cheerleaders will encourage their student body and their community through support and promotion of athletics and other events and activities that will inspire fellow students to perform to the best of their ability. We, the cheerleaders, hereby pledge our time, our ability, our minds, and our hearts to that purpose. We agree to abide by the rules and regulations as set forth in this Constitution.

**ARTICLE II
MEMBERSHIP AND ELIGIBILITY**

- Section 1.** Any BURLESON ISD student who meets the set qualifications will not be discriminated against because of race, color, religion, national origin, age, gender, disability, family status, or sexual orientation.
- Section 2.** Prospective candidates for the cheer program shall be entering grades 7,8, 9, 10, 11, or 12. Mascot(s) and managers are subject to the same rules and regulations as the cheerleaders, as they are considered part of the cheer program.
- Section 3.** **Requirements:** Prospective candidates must meet the following requirements.
- A. Must not have lost credit for any course due to absences from the previous semester. Must have earned the minimum number of academic credits per UIL regulation requirements. Any candidate allowed to audition under these circumstances will enter the cheer program with a signed probationary contract as determined by the coach, campus principal, and Athletics Director. All attendance credit must be made up pursuant to school policies.
 - B. All returning athletes must have a zero balance unless prior approval has been received by the campus principal or Athletics Director.
 - C. If a candidate has been academically ineligible for two 6-week periods on the report card during the. academic year, eligibility will be determined after an academic review. Any candidate allowed to audition under these circumstances will enter the cheer program with a signed probationary contract as determined by the coach, principal, or Athletics Director.
 - D. A prospective candidate must meet BISD's residency requirements within the attendance zone of the school they are zoned to attend or show proof of future BISD residency within the appropriate attendance zone or have a transfer request on file with BISD. This also applies for choice schools.

- Section 4.** **Additional Probationary Considerations:** Tryout eligibility of a candidate who has been dismissed or has resigned from the cheer program for any reason will be at the discretion of the coach, principal, or Athletics Director. Any candidate allowed to audition under these circumstances will *enter* the cheer program with a signed probationary contract as determined by the coach and the principal.
- Section 5.** **Tryout Meeting:** All candidates and their parents/guardians are strongly recommended to attend and sign in at your school's tryout orientation meetings. Prospective cheerleaders and parents must sign that they have viewed the tryout informational PowerPoint.
- Section 6.** **Returning Athletes:** All returning athletes must submit completed paperwork and try out each year. No one will be automatically reinstated.
- Section 7.** **Early Graduation:** Candidates or current athletes who plan to graduate within the school year must have approval from coaching staff prior to tryouts.
- Section 8.** **Cheer Season:** The cheer season runs from March to March. All candidates that make a team in the cheer program are expected to fully participate in the entire cheer season. Failure to fully participate and attend all practices and events the entire cheer season may result in removal from the cheer program.
- Section 9.** **Tryout Packet (Required Forms):** All candidates must print, complete, and file required forms by the designated date and time for a candidate to qualify for consideration on any team.
- Section 10.** **Attendance:** A candidate must attend all sessions during the tryout week. Candidates are expected to attend school half a day to be eligible to participate in each of the tryout days, during the tryout week.
- Section 11.** **Required Skills:** The required skills for each school are noted in the mandatory tryout meeting. Each required skill must be consistently performed, and properly executed, during the tryout week. Each candidate must have their required tumbling skill approved by a coach to qualify for teams that have a tumbling requirement.

ARTICLE III TRYOUTS

"Only candidates, coaches, administrators, and trainers will be allowed in the gym or other room where the tryout is being held. Failure to comply will result in the candidate's disqualification.

- Section 1.** **Qualifications:** Each candidate must fulfill all requirements before they may be considered for a team in the cheer program. Teams may be redefined at different times during the season, as determined by the coach.
- Section 2.** **Tryout Week Attire:** Each candidate must wear their campus' designated tryout attire with athletic shoes, a tryout number, and hair in a ponytail, as applicable. Clothing and accessories may not display any lettering or emblem indicating prior cheerleading experience. No jewelry is allowed.

- Section 3. Adjudication:**
- A. The tryout week will be held on dates designated by the Head Cheer Coach.
 - B. Each candidate will be evaluated in the following skills but not limited to cheer, chant, band chant, dance, jumps, standing tumbling, running tumbling, and stunts. Candidates will also be evaluated on performance. Required tumbling skills must be properly and consistently executed during the tryout process.
 - C. Team sizes will be determined by the coaches. Varsity teams may have a maximum number of team members. This will be decided upon by the Head Varsity Cheer Coach.
 - D. A sample copy of the tryout rubrics will be provided prior to the tryout.
- Section 4. Announcements of New Teams:** The time, date, and location of the announcement will be decided by the cheer coach prior to the tryout.
- Section 5. New Teams:** The new teams will report for practices/uniform ordering on the designated day(s) following tryouts. New and returning members must register with their counselor for the designated cheer class for the upcoming school year. Middle school class period is up to administration.
- Section 6. Sports/Extracurricular Activities:** If a candidate makes a cheer team, the candidate may be permitted to participate in sports/extra-curricular activities that do not conflict with the cheerleading schedule and season with the permission of the Head Cheer Coach.
- Section 7. Candidate Review:** A candidate not selected for the cheer program may elect to request tryout feedback following the posting of results within one week from the posting. An appointment with the cheer coaching staff and campus-designated cheer administrator must be made with the school's office.

ARTICLE IV PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

- Section 1.** Athletes are expected to participate in all team activities if eligible. Athletes involved in organization/activities outside of your school cheer team are required to communicate your schedule to your cheer coach and your conflicting organization with no less than two weeks' notice prior to the conflicting event. If two weeks' notice is not feasible because of the nature of the conflict, notice should be provided as soon as the student is able to provide it.
- Section 2. Events During School Breaks:** All athletes are expected to attend cheer camp during summer break and practices/events during all school holidays as designated by the cheer coaching staff. Failure to attend all required events may result in removal from the cheer program. Schedules will be provided as early as possible, and families are expected to plan family vacations and functions accordingly.
- Section 3. Attendance:** Members may not leave any function for any reason other than illness, injury, or death in the family. Prior to departure, a written note should be submitted in advance to the coach and must state that the student is leaving with the parent/guardian, the time and date of departure, and the reason for early departure.
- Section 4. Competition:** Competition is required for all cheerleaders. When selected for a competition team, as a participant or alternate, attendance and participation are mandatory. Competition teams will not necessarily be the same as the school teams. Members selected as alternates

are considered true members of a competition team and are held to the same expectations. The coaches will determine the placement on the competition teams based on skills, balanced stunt groups, size guidelines of the competitions, and cheerleader behavior. Changes in placement may occur at any time due to injury, illness, loss of skills, excessive absences, eligibility, or change in team numbers. It is the goal of the coaches to create strong balanced teams for competition purposes. Competition teams must attend a minimum of 1 event, only under the supervision of the coach. Any athlete of the cheer program that quits the competition team will be removed from the cheer program. Failure to attend competition practices and/or fulfilling their commitment to the competition team may also result in the athlete being removed from the cheer program.

Section 5. All tryout requirements are expected to be consistently executed at all times during the cheer season. If the skills of a team member fall below the tryout requirement for that team, the coach may adjust team placement until the skill is consistently executed. Individual athletes can be moved to other teams, at any time during the season, at the coach's discretion.

Section 6. **Expected Attendance:**

- A. Summer camp
- B. Football games
- C. Pep Rallies
- D. Cheerleading and/ or sports schedules for baseball, basketball, cross country, golf, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, track, volleyball, and wrestling events, as determined by the cheer coach.
- E. Playoff games (schedules determined by UIL)
- F. Choreography
- G. Competitions and competition practices
- H. Cheer class- If applicable
- I. Special events (e.g., fundraisers), and performances as designated by the coach

Section 7. The coaches may bench a cheerleader at any time they deem necessary for safety and/or disciplinary reasons.

ARTICLE V GRADES

Section 1. **Academic Eligibility:** Cheer coaches will conduct grade checks at the times designated by the official BISD Eligibility Calendar and Guidelines as set forth by University Interscholastic League. Any athlete whose recorded grade in any course at the time of an eligibility grade check is less than 70 will become ineligible to participate in any team event as set forth by the UIL eligibility calendar. Ineligible students must continue to fulfill fundraising requirements. If the academically ineligible athlete attends a designated activity, they are not allowed to wear any part of the chosen team uniform to school or activities during the period of ineligibility.

Section 2. **Cheer Class:** All High School cheerleaders must enroll in the cheer class unless otherwise directed by the coach.

ARTICLE VI ATTENDANCE

- Section 1.** Excused Absences: The status of an absence or tardy will be determined by the coach. Cheerleaders must limit their number of excused absences, as performance privileges may be revoked for excessive absences. Absences or tardies from any cheerleading activity or event should only be excused for the circumstances listed below.
- A. Personal illness, injury, or accident
 - B. Death in the family
 - C. Other major life events
 - D. Religious events
 - E. Special school activities with prior approval from the cheer coach.
- Section 2.** Unexcused Absences: Absences for reasons other than those listed above will be unexcused. Work, doctor/dental appointments, non-school activities (including competitive cheer) must not interfere with practices or performances and will be considered unexcused. Any unexcused absence could affect performance eligibility.
- Section 3.** Unexpected Absence Procedures: in the event of an illness, accident, or death in the family, a parent must contact the coach prior to class/practice. Leaving a message with an officer or secretary will not be sufficient. A parent note and/ or doctor's note must be submitted to the coach upon the cheerleader's return to school or practice. Two consecutive absences will require a written notice.
- Section 4.** Expected Absence Procedures: At least two weeks prior to an event and/or practice, athletes must submit a written request for an expected absence.
- Section 5.** Excused academic absences do not necessarily equate to an excused cheer absence.
- Section 6.** Athletes are expected to attend school all day in order to maintain eligibility for participation in an organizational activity with coaches' discretion.
- Section 7.** Athletes who suffer injuries or illness must consult a doctor or trainer within 24 hours. If an injury or illness hinders or limits an athlete: performance and/or practice capabilities, that athlete will be required to provide a doctor's note outlining the specific limitations. Injured athletes are still expected to attend all events and practices in accordance with their doctor's notes. An athlete with a concussion must follow the BISD concussion policy until the athlete is cleared to participate under the standards set forth by the BISD concussion policy and state law.

ARTICLE VII UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

- Section 1.** Athletes are responsible for purchasing uniforms, shoes, camp/workout clothing, and other required clothing and accessories. All personal items must be labeled with the athlete's name. If a uniform piece is lost or damaged, the athlete is responsible for ordering and paying for a replacement.
- Section 2.** Any uniforms purchased by the school district or booster club must be returned in good

condition at the end of the season. The return deadline will be determined by the coach. Uniforms must be clean, repaired, and ready for someone else to wear. Replacement cost will be determined based on the actual cost of the uniform set, and the athlete will be charged for any damaged or unreturned school-owned uniform pieces. Failure to return all items in good condition or failure to pay for a replacement may result in ineligibility to try out and/or attend the banquet.

Section 3. Uniforms will not be worn anywhere other than scheduled events. The use of any part of the BISD cheerleading uniforms, clothing, and supplies other than at scheduled events must be approved by the cheer coach.

Section 4. All cheerleader clothing, uniforms, jackets, etc. are to be worn by current BISD cheerleaders only. Athletes of the cheer program may not loan out any BISD cheerleading apparel to any non-cheerleaders except for Powder Puff or as approved by the coaching staff.

ARTICLE VIII FINANCES AND FUNDRAISING

Section 1. **Financial Obligations:** Financial obligations are under the supervision of the head coach. Policies and expectations shall be made known at the Tryout Meeting. Failure to make timely payments may result in probationary status or suspension and could lead to dismissal.

Section 2. **Fundraising:** The coaching staff and/or the cheerleading booster club will organize fundraisers to help with team expenses. Athletes will be required, and their parents strongly encouraged, to participate in team fundraisers.

Section 3. **Activity Account:** Monies profited from team fundraisers will be held in the school cheerleading activity account or cheerleading booster club account (if applicable) to offset the expenses incurred by the teams during the school year. The dispensing of these monies is at the discretion of the cheer coach

Section 4. If an athlete resigns, is dismissed, or graduates prior to the utilization of funds earned through fundraising by the athlete, the funds are forfeited and become a part of the cheerleading activity account or cheerleading booster club account.

Section 5. **Insufficient Funds:** If a check is returned insufficiently, it will be the athlete's responsibility to pay any necessary bank charges immediately by cash or money order. Receipt of a second insufficient check requires that all future payments be made by cashier's check or money order. Where checks collected in a fund-raising event are returned for insufficient funds, it is the athlete's responsibility to collect the funds due, or such amount due will be deducted from his/her personal profits.

ARTICLE IX GENERAL CONDUCT

Section 1. Certain standards are necessary for the integrity and reputation of any organization. Each athlete should be a leader within the school and should always set a good example. Athletes in the cheer program are expected to have and maintain a character above reproach. Cheerleaders are required to maintain appropriate personal appearance, habits, and actions. Each athlete must be aware that his/her conduct reflects on the image of the

team, the entire cheer program, your high school, and ultimately BISD.

- Section 2.** All cheerleaders, mascots, and managers will abide by the BURLESON ISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct, in addition to the High School Student Handbook, AACCA safety regulations, and this BISD Cheerleading Constitution. Athletes must also follow the written and oral directives of all BISD employees.
- Section 3.** BISD rules will be strictly applied at any time that the cheerleaders, mascots, and managers are officially representing BISD. This includes all school-sponsored activities or while on a school-sponsored trip.
- Section 4.** Any inappropriate actions, including representation on social media, that do not uphold the standards and expectations of the BISD cheer program, may be subject to disciplinary actions by the coach. Any inappropriate behavior, including representation on social media, that is disrespectful to the district, school, cheer program, or coaching staff may result in immediate removal from the program as per the athletic director.
- Section 5.** The interpretation of all rules is the sole right of the coach, the principal, and the athletic director. They have wide discretion to amend these rules and add expectations when doing so benefits the cheer program.
- In the event, a student's behavior creates a substantial disruption to the program, school, or district the athletics director may take immediate action relating to that behavior outside of the defined level-discipline of the Cheer Constitution and/or the Extra-Curricular/Athletic Code of the Conduct process.

ARTICLE X

BENCHING, PROBATION, SUSPENSION, DISMISSAL AND RESIGNATION

- Section 1.** **Benching:** Benching is the temporary removal from performing or participating at a game or performance. Benching takes place at the coach's discretion.
- Section 2.** **Probation:** Probation is a designated period in which the athlete may participate in limited organizational activities as determined by the cheer coaches. A probation contract may be written for the athlete with notification of his/her probationary regulations.
- Section 3.** **Suspension:** Suspension eliminates the athlete from participation at cheerleading functions and excludes participation in performances and special events. However, the athlete is required to participate in practice sessions. If the suspended athlete attends a designated activity, no part of the chosen team uniform may be worn to school or activities during the period of suspension.
- Section 4.** **Dismissal:** Dismissal involves the loss of membership from the cheerleading organization. All school-issued equipment and uniforms must be returned, and all financial obligations must be cleared within one week of dismissal. Once an athlete has been dismissed, they will lose all privileges of the cheer program. Dismissed athletes may not wear any part of the cheerleading uniform.
- Section 5.** **Resignation:** Resignation shall be defined as a choice made by the individual athlete to no longer participate in the cheer program. Resignation procedures include a conference with the cheer coach and a letter of resignation from the resigning athlete, signed and dated with a signature of a parent/guardian if the student is under the age of 18. All uniforms, clothing, and

equipment must be turned in and financial obligations must be cleared at the time of resignation. No part of the school cheerleading uniform may be worn after resignation from the cheer program. The cheerleader will be held financially responsible for any balance due. No refunds will be made.

Section 6. In the event of dismissal or resignation mid-semester, the student will be removed from the cheer class.

Section 7. Once resignation or dismissal from the cheer program occurs, for reasons other than academic ineligibility, reinstatement will not be allowed during the school year of the resignation or dismissal. Upon resignation or dismissal, the former member loses all privileges of a cheerleader and may not be a guest at cheerleading functions. Tryout eligibility for the following year will be established only at the discretion of the cheer coach and administration and will bring with it the acceptance of strict guidelines and a probationary status. Before the tryout, the terms of probation are to be agreed upon by the student, the parent/guardian, the cheer coach, and the campus administrator.