

2019-2020 Bellville High School Cheerleader Constitution

This constitution is prepared to make students and parents fully aware of what is required of a Bellville High School Cheerleader. Any successful program must have the understanding and support of the parents and students involved. Please read this Constitution and retain this copy for your records. An acknowledgement of these guidelines will be signed by the student and parent and will be kept on file by the coach. The, Coach, Principal, and/or Administration have the right to decide any matter not covered in the intent of this document.

Mission Statement:

Bellville Independent School District cheerleaders will serve as the primary support group to lead and direct spirit for athletics, special events, and activities. Cheerleaders will encourage school pride, good sportsmanship and a positive image in school activities. Education is foremost in cheerleading and good personal conduct is not limited to the sidelines. Cheerleaders will project an image of high standards, morals, and goals for others to follow. Participation in the BISD Cheer Program is a privilege and not a right.

Objectives:

- A. The primary function of the Bellville High School Cheerleading program is to support all interscholastic the athletic programs and events by building school spirit, and encouraging and directing crowd participation.
- B. Cheerleaders must be more than good athletes and performers; they must be leaders, role models, and ambassadors for the school and community.
- C. Participation in cheerleading strengthens and develops character, scholarship, leadership, and individual responsibility.
- D. Cheerleaders/Mascot will exhibit moral leadership among their peers, **both in and out of school**. Whether at school, school related activities, or in non-school settings where students may be observed and recognized by others in the community, Cheerleaders/Mascot are expected to exhibit good manners.
- E. Cheerleaders/Mascot are expected to maintain strict adherence to the BISD Student Code of Conduct and the Bellville High School Code of Conduct.

Tryout Requirements and procedures:

- A. Tryouts will be held once a year in the spring.
- B. Students trying out for cheerleader/mascot must be passing all subjects. Any cheerleader who fails to maintain a passing average in each subject will abide by the Extracurricular No Pass-No Play Rule. In order to be eligible to try out for cheerleader/mascot the overall grade average in each subject must be a 70 or above.
- C. Student must not be a discipline problem. A candidate cannot have served more than 3 days of IBS, no excessive office referrals, and no suspensions in the current school year to be eligible to tryout.
- D. Cheerleaders/mascot will be selected by 70% judges and 30% student body vote. There will be 12 Varsity Cheerleaders, 12 JV Cheerleaders and 1 mascot. Students who are in the present grades 10th and 11th are eligible for Varsity. Students who are presently 8th and 9th grades are eligible for JV. Students who are presently in 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th are eligible for mascot.
- E. Professional cheer judges from either NCA or UCA will be judging.
- F. A parent must attend the mandatory parent meeting to be eligible to tryout.
- G. Candidates must attend practice days the week of tryouts to be eligible to tryout.
- H. Candidates must sign along with their parents this constitution and return before tryouts

- I. Camp fee of \$450 must be paid by April 11 before tryouts.
- J. Candidates must accept the responsibility of all that is involved with being a cheerleader.

Captain Responsibilities:

- A. Any candidate wishing to try out for captain/co-captain must be willing to accept all responsibilities that go along with captain/co-captain. Any candidate wishing to try out for varsity captain/co captain must have been on varsity for one full year. Any candidate wishing to try out for JV captain must have been on JV for one full year. In the event that there is not an eligible candidate, any candidate can try out for captain. Captain/Co-Captain will be selected by 50% judges and 50% cheerleader vote.
 - 1. Must be at every game, every practice, every event!
 - 2. Must know every cheer, chant, dances, and cadences and be able to help teach them.
 - 3. Start all cheers
 - 4. Text girls every week for updates, questions, etc.
 - 5. Have extra accessories for girls if forgotten
 - 6. Paint signs for run thru, games, pep rallies or assign cheerleaders to help
 - 7. Help with choreography: formation, dances, etc.
 - 8. Be able to take control
 - 9. Help cheer coach lead all practices
 - 10. Help coach plan and execute pep rallies
 - 11. Organizing schedules of duties for the squad: hall signs, locker room signs, decoration, etc.
 - 12. Make sure all equipment is loaded on bus and put back when returned, and bus is clean
 - 13. Time spent on cheer outside of designated practice times.
 - 14. Be available whenever coach needs you

Financial Responsibilities:

- A. Cheerleaders will receive an approximate cost list for uniforms, camp clothes, and equipment at the parent meeting. Prices are an approximate before taxes and shipping. Expenses are the responsibility of the squad member.
- B. Camp fees are the responsibility of the squad member and must be paid on April 11 before tryouts, for those that do not make it your check will be returned to you. The cost is \$450.
- C. The expenses will be divided into 3 payments: The first one before tryouts for camp cost, the second payment on May 24, and the third and final on June 27.
- D. All payments must be given directly to Mrs. Owen, Bellville High School secretary, and must be made on time. If there are circumstances where you need to discuss payment, Mrs. Owen can arrange a meeting with the principal. The HS principal is the only person who can arrange a payment plan. Payments will not be handled by the Cheer Coach.

Summer Responsibilities and Camp:

- A. All Cheerleaders must attend a Mandatory Summer Camp. *Extenuating circumstances will be handled on a case-by-case basis by the coaching staff. The Camp is July 21-24 at Moody Gardens in Galveston. The Mascot does not attend summer camp. Summer jobs and vacations must be arranged so that everyone can attend summer camp. Parents are welcome to come and watch the competition part of camp and awards on the final day, July 24 at approximately 11am.
- B. In August, Cheerleaders/Mascot will attend: Midnight Madness, Meet the Brahmas/Brahmanettes, and cheer pictures for football program.

School year responsibilities:

- A. Practices are on Mondays from 5:45-8:00 and Wednesdays from 5:45-8:00. An additional practice may be added to the week to prepare for an game or event (this is usually the case during playoffs since there will be community pep rallies and schedules can not be predicted.) Each squad member should

arrive on time with the right attire on and ready to practice.

- B. Communication between cheer coach and parents will be through Groupme.
- C. Varsity Cheerleaders will cheer at all varsity football games, district home athletic events that require cheer squads, playoff games that require cheer squads, pep rallies at high school and other campuses, STAAR pep rally at elementary in the spring, and any other activities designated by the cheer coach.
- D. JV Cheerleaders will cheer at all home Freshman/JV football games, Playoff Football games, pep rallies at high school and playoff pep rallies, and any other activities designated by the cheer coach. During the season if a cheerleader is removed from the varsity squad for any reason, misses a game due to illness, misses due to other school activities, or misses for any other reason the cheer coach may move up a JV cheerleader to fill in where needed.
- E. Cheerleaders/Mascot will travel on BISD transportation. Cheerleaders/Mascot must travel as a team to the event. A parent can check the Cheerleader/Mascot out after the game with the coach to ride home with them, but must ride to the game on BISD transportation.
- F. All Cheerleaders will be responsible for securing, storing, and maintaining all equipment before, during, and after all performances and practices, and clean up after all activities.
- G. All activities must be approved by the coach when you are in uniform. This includes activities outside of school.
- H. Parents are not allowed on field or track before and during games.

Safety:

- A. All Cheerleaders must follow A.A.C.C.A. rules for safety
- B. No jewelry may be worn this includes all body piercing
- C. Hair must be pulled out of face
- D. All squads will qualify builds, pyramids and tumbling by coach.

Absences:

- A. If a Cheerleader/Mascot is absent from school and will miss a game, practice or any activity, the coach needs to be notified.
- B. All absences must be given to coach ahead of time, the earlier the better.
- C. Cheerleaders need to be responsible for knowing their own schedules and inform the coach of other BHS activities that they may be involved in.
- D. An absence for any reason is still an absence and will result in demerits that will need to be worked off. An excused absence that will not result in demerits are for an illness, emergency, death.
- E. When the candidate decides to tryout and signs the Cheer Constitution, they are making a commitment to this squad, and therefore must put this squad ahead of other activities. Excessive absences will not be tolerated. When you receive demerits for being absent, you must work them off within one week to be eligible to attend the next scheduled event.

Discipline and Eligibility:

- A. A Cheerleader/Mascot represents BHS. They should not be a discipline problem at school. If a problem occurs, it will be left to the discretion of the Principal and Coach as to what action will be taken. They must not have excessive discipline problems including detention or office referrals. (Records of excessive discipline problems will be reviewed by the Principal and Coach.) Cheerleaders who serve more than 3 days of IBS will be removed from the squad.
- B. The cheerleading program follows UIL eligibility requirements regarding six weeks grades. No Pass, No Play.
- C. Violations of the Bellville High School Code of Conduct resulting in suspension/expulsion will result in dismissal from the squad.
- D. Cheerleaders/Mascot will follow a discipline plan from tryout to tryout.
- E. Disrespect to the coach or squad will not be tolerated at all.

- F. Cheerleaders/Mascot dismissed from the squad will not be eligible to tryout out the following year. If Cheerleader/Mascot is dismissed, they cannot wear any part of their Bellville cheer uniform to school or any school related activity.

Social Media:

- A. Cheerleaders and Mascots shall ensure that any posts, comments and videos on their social media accounts are appropriate. The Internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible form of communication. Any communication such as SnapChat, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or photo sharing, etc. appearing on the Internet is public domain even if it is marked private. Cheerleaders are responsible for their personal social media accounts and postings as well as postings on others' social media accounts.
- B. Five demerits will be issued for each inappropriate post, video, and comment more specifically defined in section C below. Cheerleaders may also be disciplined for the failure to timely remove from their account an inappropriate post by third parties of which they have knowledge.
- C. Cheerleaders and Mascots will be issued demerits for comments and behavior online which are disrespectful, threatening, harassing or intimidating to BISD students, BISD employees, and/or the school community. Examples include, but are not limited to, the following:
1. Derogatory language or photos that harm, offend, or insult other cheerleaders or coaches; members of the Drill Team; BISD teachers; or representatives of others schools, including comments that may disrespect opponents.
 2. Cyberbullying, as that term is defined in the Student Code of Conduct and Board Policy (available online).
 3. Explicit, vulgar, or profane material/ language (abbreviated or alluding to) which is reasonably forecasted to cause a disruption or material interference with school activities.
- D. Although Cheerleaders/Mascot are strongly discouraged from clicking on any reaction (e.g., "like", "haha", a thumbs up or down, etc.) to an inappropriate post (as more fully defined in C above), Cheerleaders/Mascot will not be disciplined solely for clicking on such a reaction.
- E. Cheerleaders/Mascot are responsible for not only their page, but also all things in which they are "tagged." Inappropriate posts/comments by third parties to the social media account of any Cheerleaders shall be removed immediately upon their knowledge of same. Cheerleaders/Mascot are presumed to have knowledge of such inappropriate post(s) if it is evident that they have accessed their account since the posting through either a new post or comment.
- F. Any question of appropriateness will be decided by the cheer coaches in consultation with the administration.

Merits and Demerits:

- A. In order to maintain discipline, a merit/demerit system is set up for all Cheerleaders and Mascot to follow.
- B. Violations are *cumulative* from the time the cheerleader is elected to the following tryout. However, if a cheerleader is not trying out, demerits are cumulative to the end of the school year.
- C. This system sets high standards for its Cheerleaders/Mascot, striving for consistency and responsibility of each Cheerleader/Mascot.
- D. Cheerleaders/Mascot is expected to show appropriate behavior at all times to be a positive example for students and community.
- E. The coach is the authority regarding merits and demerits. The authority and decision to dismiss a cheerleader from the squad rests with the administration and cheer coaches.

Merits:

Merits are the only means of removing demerits. Cheerleaders will have the opportunity to earn merits at the discretion of the coach.

Demerit System:

The following scale of demerits will apply to all cheerleaders and mascots:

	CONSEQUENCE
Wearing jewelry	1 demerit
Failure to meet deadlines-Posters, signs, etc.	1 demerit
Failure to call coach if you will be late or absent	1 demerit
Arriving late or leaving early from practice	3 demerits
Failing to set up or put away assigned equipment before or after practices, games, events	3 demerits
Failing to set up or put away assigned equipment before or after practices, games, events	3 demerits
Bringing food or drinks into gym (only water allowed)	3 demerits
Not bringing appropriate items to a pep rally, game or performance: megaphone, poms, uniform, shoes, bow, white socks, jacket, or any designated part of the uniform for that event	3 demerits
Absence at practice unless it is excused for illness, death, or emergency that has been approved by cheer coach	3 demerits
Arriving late or leaving early from game, pep rally, any event	5 demerits
Receiving IBS	5 demerits
Performing high risk activity, such as stunting, tumbling without coach present	5 demerits
Proof of inappropriate social media posts (defined more fully above)	5 demerits
Absence at game or performance unless it is excused for illness, death, or emergency that has been approved by cheer coach	10 demerits
Profanity/cursing, bad language, etc. or confrontation to squad member	15 demerits
Profanity/cursing, bad language, etc. or confrontation to coach	15 demerits/ immediate dismissal
Assigned to alternative campus	15 demerits/ immediate dismissal
Violating the district's alcohol and drug policies <i>as referenced in the Student Code of Conduct.</i>	15 demerits/ immediate dismissal
When a cheerleader organizes or is involved in a hazing incident. The term hazing involves any knowing, intentional, or reckless act, occurring on or off campus, by one person alone or action with others, directed against a student, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purposes of pledging, initiation into, affiliation with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in an organization.	15 demerits/ immediate dismissal

Any Cheerleader/Mascot receiving 15 or more demerits during the year will be dismissed from cheer squad for the remainder of year. A Cheerleader/Mascot that is dismissed are not allowed to try out for the following year.

The Coach is directly responsible to the Principal for the welfare of the cheerleading program; therefore, they shall have the authority to make any decisions necessary for the welfare of the organization. Any action that needs to be taken concerning a situation not addressed by this constitution or extreme cases of opposition to stated policies will be the responsibility of the coach/principal with the consultation of the administration. Any disciplinary action taken may be appealed pursuant to Board Policy FNG (Local).

Disclaimer: Unfortunately, not all situations that arise can be anticipated or accounted for in the Bellville High School Cheer Constitution. Should events occur that are not covered in the Bellville High School Cheer Constitution, they will be reviewed on a case by case basis by the principal and program directors and will be dealt with according to what is fair and just. Furthermore, Bellville ISD reserves the right to alter the rules according to the situation, at any time.

