

Sunray High School/Sunray Junior High School

Cheerleader & Mascot Member Constitution

I. Purpose:

- A. To promote and uphold school spirit.
- B. Develop a sense of good sportsmanship among students and adults.
- C. Promote unification of crowd involvement during athletic events.
- D. Maintain a higher standard of behavior both on and off campus.

II. Membership:

- A. Freshman, sophomore, junior and senior students are eligible for membership on the Varsity or Junior Varsity cheer squad.
- B. Varsity cheerleaders must be in good standing following the UIL Eligibility standards. (6 squad members)
- C. The mascot is considered a member of the Varsity cheer squad. (1 Mascot)
- D. Junior Varsity cheer squad members must be in good standing following the UIL Eligibility standards. (6 squad members)
- E. Junior High cheerleaders will consist of the top 8 Middle school students by voting of judges.
- F. A squad member who becomes ineligible due to failure of a class will follow the UIL eligibility standards to regain eligibility.
- G. There will be no alternate placed on a squad after the squad has attended Cheer Camp

III. Tryouts

- A. A squad member will follow all rules in the Tryout packet.
 - 1. A candidate must be passing all classes with a cumulative 70 average or better in order to try-out. The first 4 six weeks will be used to tabulate the cumulative score. Dual credit and AP courses will be tabulated utilizing the eligibility standards.
 - 2. If a cheerleader or mascot should quit or be removed from the squad, he/she will not be eligible for the next year tryouts.
 - 3. A candidate must have attended Sunray school during the semester prior to the semester in which tryouts are being held. However, if a student moves into the district and enrolls into his/her respective grade level within 5 school days after the start of the 2nd semester, he/she is deemed eligible to tryout. This will eliminate students having to move prior to exams just to be eligible for cheerleading.
 - 4. All cheer candidates will be instructed on the cheers and jumps that will be used at try-outs. There will be a DVD provided to each candidate. It is the candidate's responsibility to learn these cheers and jumps.
 - 5. Cheerleading candidates will be required to wear white shirts, black shorts (school appropriate length), and tennis shoes to try-out. The shirts and shorts must have no writing on them. Try-outs clothes MUST be approved by the sponsor prior to try-outs. If

candidate shows up to tryouts in clothes other than the clothes approved by the sponsor, they cannot tryout.

6. All candidates will try out in front of a panel of 3 or more judges. All candidates will be required to do the same two cheers and the same two jumps in front of the panel. Each candidate will also answer an interview question. The question will be drawn randomly out of a group of questions by the candidate.
7. Mascot candidates will create and perform a skit that is 2 ½ minutes maximum. In the skit, the Mascot candidate can use props and music. However, the music must be school appropriate. Mascot candidates will perform their skits "in uniform". No extra people can be used in the skits. All skits must be approved by the respective campus cheer sponsor prior to being performed in front of the judges.
8. Cheerleaders and mascots will be chosen solely on the judges' scores. If there is a tie for a position, the candidates who are involved in the tie will be called back individually to do the same cheers and jump in front of the judges again.
9. During tryouts, the ONLY people that will be allowed in the gym will be the judges and administrator(s). All parents and other candidates will wait in the auditorium.
10. The judges will tabulate the scores and rank the candidates. The cheerleading squad for the following school year will be posted on the school website and on the front doors of the Junior High and High School Buildings by 10:00 PM on the day of try-outs. There will be no alternate announced.
11. Each Cheer Candidate and Mascot Candidate will receive a "suggestion" sheet from the judges.

IV. Squad Member Responsibilities:

- A. Being selected as a Sunray High School or Junior High School Squad Member is a great honor, but it is also a great responsibility. You will be representing your classmates, your school, and your community. You will be under very close and constant scrutiny and will need to do your best to be a good example at all times. To live up to the high standards required you will need to work hard, practice long hours, and follow the rules below:
 1. Cooperate with sponsor, officials, and other squad members.
 2. Be up-beat, well groomed, and in command of the situation.
 3. Do not eat, drink soft drinks, or chew gum while on the field or court.
 4. Do not sit in the stands or leave the squad until the end of the game.
 5. Do not smoke, drink alcohol, use drugs, or participate in any behavior that would reflect poorly on the rest of the squad or student body. (disciplinary action by the sponsor and administration)
 6. Promote school spirit through cooperation with students, teachers, and administration.
 7. Plan pep rallies, design and make posters, contribute ideas, help control a positive attitude of the crowd.

8. Be responsible for the care of her/his own uniforms and equipment. All losses, repairs and alterations are the sole responsibility of the squad member but must be approved by the sponsor.
9. Support and participate in all fundraising activities.
10. Follow all rules and directives provided by the sponsor. Each squad member is required to sign the constitution from the day he/she is elected to the end of his/her term as a squad member, summer months included. (Disciplinary action by the sponsor and campus administration).
11. Carry out his/her duties until the end of the school year in which he/she is elected. If a squad member quits his/her position, is dismissed from his/her position or is asked to resign his/her position, he/she will NOT be honored or recognized at the Sports Banquet or any other function with the Cheerleaders. However, he/she is STILL responsible for ALL costs incurred involving cheerleading.
12. Obtain and turn in to the sponsor, a physical (due before camp). If injured, sick, etc., a doctor's note may be required before returning to the squad.
13. Attend summer camp as a squad. (If a squad member is assigned summer school and camp is the same week, the squad member will be required to attend summer school).
14. To sign, agree to and uphold this Cheerleader Constitution and the Discipline Procedure document.
15. The mascot will be required to wear the uniform during the entire game and pep rallies.

V. Purchase Responsibilities:

- A. Each High school and Junior High school squad member will be required to purchase his or her own shoes, socks, tights, camp clothes and pay for cheer camp. Arrangements to pay for any incurred cheer expenses such as camp clothes, jackets, warm-ups etc. must be made or paid before the first football game/pep rally that the cheerleader is to participate. If a balance exists, the Cheerleader will not be able to cheer at a football game or pep rally until the balance is paid in full. Demerit points will be given for games/pep rallies missed by the Cheerleader. This will give parents time to begin to pay-off those uniforms. Camp fees must be paid prior to camp date.
- B. If there is a cheer balance due at the time of tryouts, a candidate will not be eligible to try-out.
- C. Uniforms (shells & skirts) will be paid for by the district. However, any alteration of the uniform is to be paid by the Cheerleader AND any alterations must be APPROVED by the sponsor prior to the alteration being made.
- D. Camp clothes and Camp cost are the responsibility of the Cheerleader.
- E. Funds for pep rally supplies, paints, paper, etc. will come for fundraisers.

VI. Games and Pep Rallies:

- A. Squad members must attend and perform at all pep rallies and games.
- B. All squad members will arrive at the designated time set by the cheer sponsor.
- C. Squad members will attend sporting events as directed by the sponsor.
- D. All squad members, before dismissal, will clean the field, court, or gym.

VII. Practice and Camp Sessions:

- A. Squad members will practice in the evening during football season and basketball season as designated by the sponsor.
- B. Any clinic held in the summer or any other time as scheduled by the sponsor is mandatory.
- C. Attendance at all practice and meetings are mandatory.
- D. Summer Camp is mandatory.

VIII. Transportation:

- A. Squad members are required to ride to and from events in transportation provided by the district.
- B. In an emergency, the sponsor may approve other safe and effective means of transportation or medical care.
- C. Squad members must have a permission form on file in order to travel.
- D. All members will remain with the squad until the performance is finished, and the sponsor grants permission to leave.

IX. Absences:

- A. Excused absences from either a practice or a game must be approved in advance by the sponsor. These absences include, but are not limited to, funerals, other school sponsored activities, doctor's visits, or other reasons that would be approved by the sponsor.
- B. A squad member receiving an unexcused absence at school the same day of a game will not be able to participate in a pep rally or game.
- C. UIL rules will be followed for excused absences on contest and game days.

X. Uniforms:

- A. Any uniforms purchased by the school district must be returned in good condition at the end of the school year. They should 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 will be charged for any damaged or unreturned school owned uniform.
- B. Any alterations made to a uniform must be FIRST approved by the sponsor. Also, costs of these alterations are to be paid by the Cheerleader.
- C. Hair will always be worn off the shoulders and off the face.

XI. Mascot Duties:

- A. It is the responsibility of the mascot to engross the crowd in as many activities and cheers as possible. The Mascot is required to perform on an individual basis as well as on several performances with the squad.

XII. Alternative Education Program:

- A. Any squad member assigned to ISS will lose cheerleading privileges for the length of the ISS placement.
- B. Any squad member assigned to DAEP will lose cheerleading privileges for the duration of that season (football season, basketball season, etc.).

XIII. Disciplinary Procedures:

- A. All cheerleaders will adhere to the rules set forth by the attached Merit/Demerit System.

All discipline issues will be handled by the cheerleading sponsor and campus administration. This document is intended as a guide and campus administration will make final determinations in all matters.