

**Crane High School  
Cheerleader/Mascot Constitution**

**I. PURPOSE & VALUES OF CHEERLEADING**

- A. To promote and uphold spirit, good sportsmanship, and crowd involvement.
- B. To strive to uphold personal as well as cheerleading standards that include: Leadership, physical fitness, courtesy, tolerance, self-control, patience, responsibility, respect, character, citizenship, and moral development.

**II. CHEERLEADING CONDUCT AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. Will promote school spirit through cooperation with administrators, cheer coaches, officials, squad members, teachers, and students.
- B. Will follow instructions of the cheer coach including the planning of pep rallies, creation of signs, assisting with homecoming ceremonies, and any other duties assigned.
- C. Will assist with fund-raisers as directed.
- D. Will attend summer camp, all practices, games, and events.
- E. Behavior which reflects poorly on the rest of the squad or student body will not be tolerated. (Example: smoking, drinking of alcoholic beverages, use of drugs, fighting, public display of affection, name calling, profanity by person or electronics, sexting in any media format, etc.).

**III. MEMBERSHIP**

- A. Open to all students entering 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades.
- B. There will be a minimum of thirteen varsity cheerleaders and one mascot. Depending on the number of candidates that try out we would like to form a JV squad. The JV squad will be determined by the natural break in the scores. We will not have more than 6 on the JV. If for some reason a cheerleader were to leave the squad, the first alternate would be moved up from JV to Varsity. Scores will be tabulated and a natural break in scores will occur and that will determine the Varsity squad and JV squad. (See sample score sheet)
- C. Membership is from date results are posted until the end of the subsequent year.

**IV. TRYOUTS**

- A. Try-outs will be held in the spring of the preceding school year.
- B. Candidates are required to participate.
- C. Eligibility:
  - a. Candidates who are ineligible at the time of try-outs will be allowed to try-out. However, they cannot attend any after school practices. It will be their responsibility to learn the material on their own.
  - b. A candidate must have his/her parent's consent before he/she will be allowed to try out.
  - c. After the candidate signs up to try out for cheerleader or mascot, they and a parent/guardian **MUST** attend a mandatory meeting where rules and try out information are given. Any parental substitutions must be cleared through the sponsor prior to the meeting. Notification must come from the parent or guardian.
  - d. Candidates must have not failed more than one time the prior school year to be able to try out.
- D. Judging Criteria
  - a. Group cheer/ stunt
  - b. Group dance

- c. Individual cheer/ sideline
- d. Individual Teacher/Coaches Evaluations
- e. Mascot- 2-3-minute skit
- E. Scoring
  - a. Out-of-town judges will be used in judging the candidates on their cheers and dance routine and the mascots on their skits for 70% of tryout totals.
  - b. Individual Teacher Evaluations will make up the remaining 30%. (*The lowest teacher score will be dropped.*)
  - c. Tryouts will be held in the Big gym without spectators.

## V. PRACTICE

A. All cheerleaders and mascots must attend scheduled practice sessions. Practice sessions will not exceed the eight-hour per week limit as set forth by UIL.

Football Season: There will be a minimum of 2 practices each week of the football season with additional practices scheduled as needed.

Competition Season: There will be several practices a week but will not exceed the 8-hour rule.

Basketball Season: Practices will be scheduled on an as needed basis.

B. Cheerleaders and mascots **must attend summer practice sessions as scheduled by the coach**. Cheerleaders or mascots must let the coach know when they will be out-of-town for other summer camps, vacations, etc. prior to their departure.

C. Absences or early dismissals are not excused unless validated by the parent/guardian in written form or by phone and approved by the coach, but make-up projects will be assigned for ANY missed practice.

D. Cheerleading is considered an athletic sport. Therefore, any cheerleader or mascot that has an injury preventing them from participating in athletics will also extend into cheerleading activities. **The cheerleader or mascot must still attend all practices and events but will not be allowed to perform until released from the doctor or trainer. This is for safety reasons.**

## VI. ABSENCES

A. Excused absences must be approved **IN ADVANCE** by the coach. This includes illness of the cheerleader, funerals, other school sponsored activities, family emergencies or other reasons approved by the sponsor, but the cheerleader/mascot will make-up any missed activity with an assigned project.

B. ANY absence not reported in advance shall be unexcused.

C. If any cheerleader or mascot receives an **unexcused absence** at school the day of a game, pep rally, or event, **they must attend, but will not be allowed to wear their uniform or participate.**

## VII. UNIFORMS

A. Each cheerleader or mascot will be responsible for the care of their uniforms and equipment. The loss of uniforms or equipment must be replaced by the cheerleader or mascot at their expense.

a. The school will furnish game and pep rally uniforms, travel suits, poms, megaphones, bags and other accessories. These items are property of Crane ISD and must be returned to the coach when the member leaves the squad. Items not returned will be billed to the cheerleader or mascot at current replacement cost. **Any repairs or alterations to uniforms after the initial fitting will be the responsibility of the cheerleader and at their expense. You have to take the uniform to the lady that the coach suggests. No one else can alter the uniform.**

b. The cost of camp clothes, shoes, briefs, socks, competition uniform, and other accessories will be the responsibility of the cheerleader or mascot.

c. Camp clothes and other required attire will need to be paid **in full before the first pep rally** or

you will forfeit your position on the squad.

d. Any extra items that the squad and parents agree upon must be paid up front before the item will be ordered such as; costumes, t-shirts, socks, backpack, custom uniform etc.

e. Cheerleaders and mascot will travel in a designated travel outfit with a CHS shirt and shoes. **If she/he does not wear designated travel outfit on game day, they will not be allowed to cheer at the game that night.**

B. Required Attire:

a. Camp Items: 3 shorts, 3 t-shirts/tank tops, 3 bows, shoes, pink-out outfit, travel shirt, competition uniform, and backpack.

b. Other required items: purple bloomers, gold bloomers, purple, gold, black, white bows, no show white socks and traveling shirts.

c. School Provides: game day uniforms, traveling wind suit, poms, megaphone, headband and gloves, leggings, sweater, etc.

## VIII. GAMES

A. Cheerleaders and mascot will attend the following games:

### Football

a. All *Varsity cheerleaders* will attend.... Home, Away, and Play-off games.

b. All *JV cheerleaders* will attend home JV games only. JV cheerleaders will cheer at the Varsity homecoming game.

c. For football games, cheerleaders and mascots will arrive on the football field 45 minutes before the game starts and participate in sports booster activities as assigned. They will be back in place **three minutes** before half-time is over with the exception of band students who will return when their performance is complete.

### Basketball

a. All Varsity district home games, non-district home games when both girls and boys are playing, and all Play-off games.

b. Cheerleaders and mascot will be on the court 15 minutes prior to the game starting and return 2 minutes prior to the buzzer sound to start the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.

### Volleyball

a. All district home games and playoff games.

b. Cheerleaders and mascot will be on the court 15 minutes prior to the game Starting.

## IX. PEP RALLIES

A. Varsity, JV Cheerleaders, and mascot must attend and participate in all pep rallies and send offs.

## X. TRANSPORTATION

A. Cheerleaders and mascot are encouraged to ride in transportation provided by the school to and from the game or event.

B. Under certain circumstances, cheerleaders and mascot will be allowed to return from an event with their parent/guardian. **THE PARENT/GUARDIAN MUST PROVIDE THE COACH WITH WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION DETAILING: DATE, STUDENT NAME, WITH WHOM THEY ARE RIDING HOME ETC. BEFORE THE STUDENT MAY LEAVE.** The form will be on sports you.

C. All cheerleaders and mascot will remain with the squad until the event or game is over **AND THE COACH HAS GIVEN PERMISSION TO LEAVE.**

## **XI. SUMMER CHEERLEADING CAMP**

- A. Cheerleaders and the mascot **MUST ATTEND** a summer cheerleading camp chosen by Crane ISD. Only in the case of emergencies will only excuse a cheerleader or mascot from camp.
- B. The school will be financially responsible for transportation to and from the camp, camp registration fees, dorm rooms, and meals during the scheduled camp.
- C. **Students will bring uniforms and accessories, snack food, a dorm key deposit, linens, and personal items.**
- D. Cheerleaders and mascot will conduct a summer Cheer Chicks/middle school cheerleader camp. Only in the case of emergencies will only excuse a cheerleader or mascot from camp.

## **XII. DISCIPLINARY DEDUCTION SYSTEM**

- A. Disciplinary Actions
  - a. **5 Deductions:** Benched for 1 pep rally and 1 game.
  - b. **10 Deductions:** Benched for 2 pep rallies and 2 games.
  - c. **15 Deductions:** Benched for 3 pep rallies and 3 games.
  - d. **20 Deductions: Dismissal from squad permanently.**

### B. Deductions

10 – ISS/AEP placement or equivalent disciplinary action

10 – Suspension from school

10 – Any behavior not listed that reflects negatively toward the squad. For example:

Cursing and using foul language at a game and on social media such as Twitter, Instagram, Vine, Snapchat, Facebook, etc. Sharing inappropriate content on any social media. (vaping, drinking, ect)

5 – Failure to complete/participate in group fundraiser as assigned/determined by the sponsor. (cheer chicks, fundraisers, etc)

5 – Each unexcused absence from a game, practice, and/or meeting.

5 – Leaving squad or event without the sponsor's permission.

5 – Disrespectful to administrators, sponsors, and/or teachers.

3 – Texting or talking on cell phone during any activities.

3 – Negative comments or inappropriate gestures made against any cheerleader, school team, sponsor, or individual.

3 – Failure to participate in fundraisers and/or turning material in on time.

3 – Failure to complete appointed duties and/or turn in assigned paperwork on time.

3 – Failure to clean gym after pep rally, side-line after football game, court after basketball game, or bus upon return from an event.

2 – Arguing with sponsor or squad member.

2 – Failure to pay attention, cooperate, work, or yell at any activities.

2 – Public display of affection while in uniform.

2 – Failure to be on time to practice or games; 15 minutes = an absence.

2 – Wearing jewelry of any kind.

2 – Failure to have complete uniform for travel and/or cheering (correct uniform, shoes, socks, tights, hair accessory, megaphone, pompons, no bra straps showing, or colored bra).

2 – Failure to return from halftime no later than 3 minutes before the 2<sup>nd</sup> half for football  
And 2 minutes before the buzzer for basketball.

2- Failure to wear the assigned uniform to school

As a cheerleader accumulates deductions, the following will occur:

- 3 Deductions - Written warning from cheer sponsor.
- 5 Deductions - Parent notification.
- 10 Deductions - Parent meeting with sponsor.
- 15 Deductions - Parent meeting with sponsor and administration and removal from the squad.

### **XIII. Fundraising**

A. Fundraisers include but are not limited to: Top of Texas, Concessions, Bake Sales, Cheer Chicks, Rah Rah Ribbons, and Various Spirit Items etc.

### **XIII. MAKE-UP PROJECTS**

A. A member may perform any of the following duties to make-up for any missed excused activity.

**Projects include but are not limited to:**

- a. Roll T-shirts
- b. Make signs beyond those assigned
- c. Clean cheerleading closet
- d. Help middle school cheerleaders
- e. Any other duties approved by the sponsor

**Notice:**

This document is intended to set out basic rules and regulations for this organization. It must be understood that any situation not specifically covered by this document will come under the authority of the organizational coach and or athletic director. This document shall not supersede the Crane I.S.D. Student Code of Conduct. Students who are on a school sponsored activity, or are representing Crane I.S.D. in any manner are subject to these policies.

**This document and all of its rules and regulations will become effective once the cheerleader/mascot has been elected and will remain in effect until the following year's tryouts.**