

Cheerleading Constitution for Culberson **County Allamoore ISD**

Preamble

The participation by a student as a Van Horn High or Van Horn Junior High cheerleader is a privilege and not a right. Accordingly, those who do participate are expected to adhere to a higher standard of conduct than may be required of other students or activities. Those who do participate acknowledge that their failure to adhere to these higher standards, as determined in the sole and absolute discretion of the coach/principal will result in his/her discipline, up to and including permanent removal as a Van Horn High or Van Horn Junior High cheerleader.

Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be to promote and maintain loyal school spirit and sportsmanship and to develop character, self-discipline, leadership, technique, and individual responsibility, while maintaining high moral standards.

Article I – Code of Ethics

“As a cheerleader, I will always conduct myself in a lady-like / gentlemen-like manner and I will maintain the highest moral standards at all times. I will not engage in any behavior that discredits or jeopardizes the integrity and moral standards of the team. I will always take pride in myself and in the cheerleading organization.”

Qualifications

- A. Candidates for tryouts at Van Horn Junior High must be a current member of the 6th and 7th grade. Candidates for tryouts at Van Horn High must be a current member of the 8th, freshmen, sophomore, or junior class.
- B. The candidate and parent/guardian must attend the mandatory orientation meeting. If a parent can't attend PRIOR to the meeting the parent must contact the school and make arrangements.
- C. Cheerleaders will maintain grade standards in accordance with U.I.L. regulations. To be eligible to try out, a candidate's report card grades immediately preceding tryouts must have met or exceeded U.I.L. regulation standards.
- D. Candidates must not have received a disciplinary infraction that assigns discipline alternative education placement, or an expulsion within the school year that the tryouts are conducted.

*The district assumes no responsibility for medical expenses of injuries.

The Selection Process

- A. Seventy percent (70%) of the evaluation will be based on the judge's evaluation, twenty percent (20%) from teacher's recommendation and (10%) from administrative recommendations.
- B. Van Horn High School team will consist of 10 cheerleaders and 1 mascot from any grade. Van Horn Junior High will consist of 8 cheerleaders, 4 future 8th graders and 4 future 7th graders. If 4 from a grade level do not try out the other grade level will make the difference.
- C. Candidates must complete the following forms and return to the coach by the given deadline:
 - a. Cheerleading Application
 - b. Permission Slip
 - c. Constitution Contract
 - d. CCAISD Travel Release Form
- D. The coach will be responsible for securing the judges. Tryout dates will be chosen by the coach.
- E. Minimum of 3 judges
- F. Candidates will be judged on voice, motion technique, jumps, energy, appearance, tumbling (bonus), dance, and overall cheer. The dance and cheer will be taught at the tryout clinic. Candidates will tryout individually and in a group.
- G. Apparel must consist of a plain white t-shirt, red shorts, and athletic shoes.
- H. All deadlines must be observed and met for the above-mentioned forms in order to tryout. Forms will be due March 5th at 5:30 p.m.
- H. The determination of members shall be final.

Membership

- A. The term of service for CCAISD cheerleaders will follow:
 - Current cheerleader will remain through the end of the 2013 school year
 - New Cheerleaders will be required to follow all part of the constitution immediately following posting of the new squad and will run through the end of the 2014 school year.
- B. Members are expected to remain in cheerleading for the entire school year. A letter of resignation stating the reason(s) for leaving the team must be submitted to the coach. Once a student totally drops from the team, only the coach may reinstate him/her.
- C. Members must be able to give freely of his/her time for any cheerleading activity throughout the year: before, during, or after school.
- D. Members must be willing to participate fully in all fundraising activities and the parents must be willing for him/her to do so. This means money must be turned in, not the product.
- E. Since the cheerleading squad is a voluntary group, members are responsible for all expenses except the following provided by the schools:
 - a. The mascot suit
 - b. Transportation for all out-of-town games

- F. Uniform attire is designated by the coach and is to be strictly followed by each member at any game or appearance. Absolutely no jewelry is allowed.

Transportation

For school safety, all athletes will ride a school furnished vehicle to/from the following functions:

- a. All required out-of-town games
- b. Any other special function or activity as designated by the coach

Grades

U.I.L. eligibility rules are strictly followed.

Conduct

- A. Cheerleaders are representatives of the organization year round, even at those times that they may not be at school or participating in a school activity. A student's activity year round reflects upon the organization. Accordingly, a cheerleader is expected to abide by this constitution at all times and in all places and may be disciplined for any failure to do so, without regard to when or where such misconduct may have occurred.
- a. All cheerleaders are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful manner both in school and outside of school.
 - b. Athletes are required to attend their classes every day. Any UNEXCUSED absence will result in suspension from that week's activities.
 - c. Good attendance to cheerleading practice is mandatory for a successful squad. Moreover, regular school attendance is of utmost importance. Absences to practice must be reported as soon as practical under the circumstances in advance to the coach. For all unexcused absences the student will miss one quarter of the next cherring contest. In order to participate in the night activity, the member must be present at school for two (2) full periods the day of an activity and at the practice prior to the activity.
 - d. Certain standards are necessary for the integrity and reputation of any organization. Each athlete should be a leader within the school and should set an example at all times, within the school and outside the school.
 - e. Students are at all times and in all places expected to abide by all laws, the CCAISD Student Code of Conduct, policies, regulations, and rules as may be established from time to time by the cheerleader coach.
 - f. If an incident should occur during school or while on a team trip or during competition, a member should expect disciplinary action from the school, as well as the coach.
 - g. A member of the squad is obligated to practice behavior which will bring credit to him/her, the school, and the organization. In addition, it is understood that a member of the squad is first and foremost a student at Van Horn High School and/or Van Horn Junior High. The regulations and guidelines identified herein are intended to serve the cheerleader organization and are independent of any other disciplinary action taken by the school.

- h. A student may be disciplined for the violation of any provision of this constitution, up to and including dismissal from the team. If dismissed from the team occurs, dismissal will be EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY. Dismissal from the squad will be at the direction of the principal and upon the recommendation of the cheerleader coach. Before a student may be considered for dismissal from the squad, the student will be given an opportunity to explain his/her side of any alleged misconduct.
- i. A student may be disciplined even though the conduct may not have resulted in an arrest, ticket issued, conviction, or other disciplinary action. The organization expects more of its participants and, therefore, reserves the right to enforce this constitution independently of any action taken or not taken by other parties.
- j. For misconduct not deemed severe enough for dismissal, a demerit system is used. When any demerit is issued, the coach will contact the students and parent/guardian. Upon receiving three (3) demerits, the squad member will be restricted from cheerleading activities for one week. Upon receiving for (4) demerits, the cheerleader will be DISMISSED FROM THE SQUAD.

B. Members will receive one (1) demerit for each of the following.

- a. Unexcused absence
- b. Profanity.
- c. Out of uniform or not wearing proper uniform.
- d. Wearing uniform to unauthorized activity.
- e. Failure to ride the designated travel vehicle.
- f. Leaving a function without notifying the coach.
- g. Unexcused absence or tardy from practice.
- h. Disciplinary action from administration of CCAISD (This includes In-School Suspension).
- i. Fraternalizing with crowd during performance of function.
- j. Any behavior judged by the coach to be inappropriate.

C. Members will receive two (2) demerits for each of the following:

- a. Any display of poor sportsmanship. This includes rudeness to opposing team's cheerleaders or fans.
- b. Any behavior judged by the coach to be inappropriate.

Finances

- A. The candidates and his/her parents or guardians must be fully aware of the expenses involvement, as explained in the financial packet. They must be willing to meet all financial obligations.
- B. ALL MONIES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE.

Uniforms

- A. All uniforms will be purchased by each individual athlete at the start of the season.
- B. No uniforms are to be cut for alteration purposes without prior approval by the sponsor.

- D. It will be the sole responsibility of each member to turn in all uniforms that are property of CCAISD. For any uniform not turned in, the member will be required to pay for the lost/damaged uniform.
- E. Failure to wear the proper uniform will result in a demerit.
- F. Uniforms will be clean and neat and will be worn only on game days, to pep rallies, and other events attended by the squad.
- G. Uniforms worn during the school day must comply with CCAISD dress code.

Required Functions

All members must attend the following functions at the coach's designation.

- a. All District, non – district and playoff football games.
- b. All district home basketball games (boys and girls).
- c. All district home volleyball games.
- d. All pep rallies.
- e. All practices.
- f. Track Meets (designated by coach).
- g. Any district tournaments (designated by coach).
- g. Summer Cheerleading Camp (designated by the coach).

Pep Rallies and Signs

The squad will be responsible for planning all pep rallies during football season and special rallies during the year. The squad will be responsible for providing signs for all home games and designated out-of-town games. These signs will be drawn and painted at a time designated by the coach during the weekend before the game. Attendance is mandatory.

Mascot

- A. Mascot selection will be held under the same conditions as cheerleading

- B. Mascot candidates must perform a 2-3 minute skit in costume. The skit will be timed and will result in disqualification if the participant exceeds the time limit.
- C. Candidates must be a current member of the 8th grade, freshmen, sophomore, or junior class.
- D. The Mascot Uniform is the property of CCAISD and is to be returned at the conclusion of the year in the same condition it was checked out in.
- E. The Mascot is expected to adhere to the same standards as cheerleaders and is subject to the all of the same rules, regulations, and disciplinary actions.
- G. Athlete may try out for both cheerleader and mascot. If the athlete qualifies for the cheerleading squad he/she will not be eligible for mascot.

Responsibilities and Duties of the Coach

- A. The coach will supervise and coordinate all cheerleading activities in accordance with the Cheerleading Constitution, Board Policy, and U.I.L. Regulations.
- B. The coach will be responsible for determining whether or not alleged misconduct has occurred, and what the appropriate disciplinary action will be. The coach's decision in these matters shall be final. A student may be dismissed from the squad only upon the recommendation of the campus principal and the coach.