

CONSTITUTION

NUECES CANYON JUNIOR HIGH/HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADERS AND MASCOT

ARTICLE I. Purpose:

The purpose shall be to promote and uphold school spirit, to develop a sense of good sportsmanship among the students and to improve relationships between competing schools during all athletic events.

ARTICLE II. Objectives:

1. To promote the type of sportsmanship that will help students acquire the basic attributes of good citizenship;
2. To develop a wholesome school spirit;
3. To develop loyalty to your school and team, regardless of the outcome;
4. To promote a cooperative spirit among the student body, the faculty and the administration;
5. To help your school achieve the objectives of its interscholastic athletics activities;
6. To promote all competitions in which the school participates.

ARTICLE III. Guidelines for Cheerleading:

Your appearance and your conduct will reflect upon your school. The students who chose you for this position did so because they think you will make a favorable impression. You should try to fulfill their expectations.

A Cheerleader's role is to improve the student morale, to boost team spirit and to help Nueces Canyon Schools achieve the objectives of its supporting interscholastic league and other programs. You are to direct the student body in its support of your school's teams. This role makes you a strong influence in guiding student conduct at games and you should maintain the proper dignity in this leadership.

ARTICLE IV. Junior High/High School Membership:

- A. One varsity squad consisting of a maximum of eight (8) freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior students. If there are eight or less qualified for tryouts, the squad will be made up of those eligible and tryouts will not be held;
- B. One junior high squad consisting of six (6) members selected from the seventh and eighth grade. If there are six or less qualified for tryouts, the squad will be made up of those eligible and tryouts will not be held;
- C. One varsity panther mascot- either a freshman, sophomore, junior or senior student;
- D. All Cheerleading squad members and mascot will be selected through an equitable election process consisting of the following specific weighted voting: an unbiased professional judge (50%); teacher votes (30%); and

student votes (20%). The weighted voting will take place during the tryout process in the Spring Semester of the school year previous to that of the squad member's service.

- E. One head cheerleader for the varsity squad chosen from the eight (8) squad and mascot individuals. **The sponsor will designate head cheerleader.**
- F. Additional members may be admitted and allowed to fill regular squad positions as they reach performing proficiency, vacancies occur, or temporary positions in the event a regular cheerleader is unable to perform his/her cheerleader duties. The addition of members will be at the sole discretion of the Cheerleader Review Board.

ARTICLE V. Tryout Qualifications:

- A. Any candidate who has been ineligible two six-weeks of the school year will be disqualified from cheerleader try-outs;
- B. Beginning September 1, 2006, any candidate who has failed one semester in any course of the school year will be disqualified from cheerleader try-outs.
- C. Students must have attended NCCISD one full semester prior to try-outs;
- D. Have written permission from parents to compete in tryouts and to perform the duties of Cheerleader/Mascot, if elected;
- E. Cheerleader/Mascot candidates must attend all workshops, practices, etc. unless excused in advance by the sponsor;
- F. Cheerleader/Mascot candidates must commit to attend cheerleader summer camp or similar type facility as designated by the Cheer Sponsor;
- G. Cheerleader/Mascot candidates ~~Students~~ with excessive absences, as deemed by Attendance Committee, may be disqualified;
- H. Any or all financial responsibilities with NCCISD shall be paid in full prior to try-outs.
- I. Cheerleader/Mascot candidates must maintain passing grades as required by U.I.L. eligibility rules in order to perform or participate in Cheerleading activities.
- J. Beginning September 1, 2006, any student who has been selected or elected previously as Cheerleader/Mascot, but has either voluntarily resigned or been dismissed from the squad will be ineligible for tryouts unless the resignation was due to circumstances beyond the candidate's control.

ARTICLE VI. Cheerleader Qualifications:

- A. Cheerleaders/Mascot must maintain passing grades as required by U.I.L. eligibility rules in order to perform or participate in Cheerleading activities.
- B. Elected Cheerleaders/Mascot must attend cheerleader summer camp with their squad as designated by the Cheer Sponsor. Any elected squad member failing to meet this requirement will be permanently dismissed from the squad.
- C. Cheerleaders/Mascot must abide by all rules and guidelines in this document.

ARTICLE VII. Head Cheerleader's Duties

- A. To ensure that the agenda and theme of each pep rally is given to the sponsor Tuesday before the pep rally;
- B. To coordinate outfits, props, etc. that are needed for pep rallies and/or games;
- C. To be sure of game times and to ensure that all cheerleaders are present and on time;
- D. To call a meeting of the cheerleaders, with sponsor approval, when necessary;
- E. To see that all areas, supplies, etc. are in order after practices, sign painting, or any other group activities;
- F. To arrange necessary hospitality to all visiting teams.

ARTICLE VIII. Uniform and Equipment Regulations:

- A. Uniforms are to be purchased by the individual cheerleader with the approval of the sponsor;
- B. Uniforms should receive excellent care for satisfactory public appearance;
- C. Cheerleader/Mascot should arrive at games dressed in complete and proper uniform;
- D. Each Cheerleader/Mascot is responsible for the uniform that is worn on game days and other authorized occasions. If the cheerleader is dismissed, he/she is not allowed to wear the uniforms to school at any time. Also, if the cheerleader/mascot is dismissed, he/she will not be allowed to take pictures in any cheerleading/mascot uniform. Dismissed cheerleader/mascot will not appear in any group pictures in the current school yearbook;
- E. Expenses for uniforms, camp and other incidentals may exceed \$700.

ARTICLE IX. Cheerleader Duties

- A. Cheerleader will be required to attend the various sport activities as designated by the squad sponsor;
- B. Members must contact the sponsor to inform her of the absence before the performance takes place;
- C. When transportation is provided by the school, members are expected to travel as a unit;
- D. Members are expected to support all financial projects sponsored by the cheerleader;
- E. Cheerleaders are expected to learn and stay current with any or all material that is presented to them (i.e. dances, cheers, etc.)

ILLNESS, DEATH IN THE IMMEDIATELY FAMILY AND PRE-ARRANGED ABSENCE THROUGH THE SPONSOR SHALL BE THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE EXCUSES FOR ABSENCE!

ARTICLE X. Practices:

- A. After School Practices
Cheerleader practices will be called for, as deemed necessary, by the cheerleader sponsor, and the head cheerleader. Ample notice will be given so that the cheerleaders can make the necessary arrangements.

B. Summer Practices

The sponsor and the head cheerleader, prior to the dismissal of school, will set up specific dates for summer practices. This summer practice schedule will entail the cheerleader spending part of the summer involved in various cheerleader activities.

Absences during the practices will be excused for the following reasons:

- A. Death in the family
- B. Illness

If the squad member fails to notify the cheer sponsor prior to their absence, it will automatically be counted as an unexcused absence, unless there are circumstances beyond the control of the cheerleader/mascot. If a cheerleader has two or more unexcused absences from practice, he/she will not cheer during the game or take part in any pre-game preparations (pep rallies, skits. Etc.)

ARTICLE XI. Conduct Code:

A. Expectations

1. Conduct themselves as good citizens at all times;
2. Show continual support and respect in all manners for other squad members and squad sponsor;
3. Demonstrate leadership qualities and use mature, sound judgment
4. Demonstrate excellent conduct in the classroom as well as during cheerleading activities;
5. No inappropriate public display of affection, such as romantic or passionate kissing or petting, AT ANY TIME.

B. Penalties

The sponsor will print out an explanation about a demerit given. The explanation must be signed by the sponsor, cheerleader, and parent and will be kept on file for the year. The consequences of receiving demerits are:

- 1 demerit: Demerit and consequence are recorded
- 2 demerits: Suspension from cheering at the next pep rally **or** game (at the sponsor's discretion)
- 3 demerits: Suspension from cheering at all of the next weeks' performances

Receiving a 4th demerit: permanent suspension from the squad

Infractions include:

- a) not prepared for practice/game
- b) uncooperative behavior in school and/or during school activities
- c) late to practice/game/meeting
- d) leaving practice/game early
- e) cell phone use during practice or games
- f) unexcused absence from game/practice
- g) sent to office for any disciplinary reason(s)
- h) sent to ISS for any disciplinary reason(s) = 1 demerit and suspension from game

C. Dismissal:

This will occur if the cheerleader is:

1. determined by the Review Board following an investigation to have been drinking, smoking or taking illegal drugs at any time;

2. failure to notify the cheer sponsor of an absence prior to a performance;
3. academically ineligible after failing to bring up his/her grades after two (2) six-week periods;
4. inappropriate behavior and/or public display of affection;
5. failure to meet financial responsibilities within the specified time lines.
6. failure to show continual verbal and emotional support and respect for other squad members;
7. deliberate failure to provide appropriate physical support for other squad members during stunting.

The Nueces Canyon CISD Student Code of Conduct applies to all athletes and their behavior during practice and competition since these are school-related activities. The consequences for any violation of the Student Code of Conduct are listed in that document, and the students will receive those consequences for misconduct as an athlete. In addition, in accordance with Board Policy FO (Local), "sponsors and coaches of extracurricular activities, including interscholastic athletics and marching band, may develop and enforce standards of behavior that are higher than the Nueces Canyon CISD Student Code of Conduct" with the approval of the Principal and Superintendent. In addition, "the sponsors and coaches may condition membership or participation in the activity on adherence to those standards. Extracurricular standards of behavior may take into consideration conduct that occurs at any time, on or off school property."

ARTICLE XII. Review Board:

Any cheerleader who fails to maintain the standards of conduct and character required of the organization must appear before the review board. This could entail behavior or conduct which reflects unfavorably upon the school and/or the cheerleaders or a violation of the constitution or failure to meet other requirements.

A. Membership

The Review board will consist of the following voting members:

1. Junior High/High School Principal
2. High School Squad Sponsor
3. Junior High School Squad Sponsor

B. Actions

The review board may decide upon the following actions:

1. The cheerleader may be placed on probation;
2. The cheerleader may be suspended from cheerleading activities for a designated period of time;
3. The cheerleader may be dismissed from the squad.

