

CONSTITUTION OF THE POINT ISABEL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT CHEERLEADERS

Effective February 26, 2018

PREAMBLE

Participation in extracurricular activities, including cheerleading, is a privilege, not a right, and student participants will be held to higher standards than students who choose not to participate in extracurricular activities. Failure to comply with the standards of conduct and behavior outlined in this constitution may subject the member to disciplinary action, up to and including removal from the squad, in addition to any consequences imposed in accordance with the PIISD Student Code of Conduct and Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct.

This document may be amended at any time and does not limit a sponsor's ability to make decisions pertaining to his or her program, consistent with the guidelines set forth herein.

Should there be a need for the interpretation of any part of this constitution, the school principal and the cheerleader sponsor will have final authority in the determination of such interpretation.

I-MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose and mission of the PIISD Cheerleading program is to lead students, alumni, and fans in the community to create spirit, pride, and traditions, which support our Mighty Tarpons' athletic program.

II- CANDIDATE ELIGIBILITY/TRY-OUTS

2.1 A candidate (male or female) for the Junior High squad must be currently enrolled in 6th and 7th grade at Port Isabel Junior High School.

2.2 A candidate (male or female) for the High School Varsity squad must be currently enrolled in 8th grade at Port Isabel Junior High, and 9th, 10th, and 11th grade at Port Isabel High School.

2.2 Cheer tryouts' requirements, guidelines, and procedures will be addressed at the mandatory parent meeting.

2.3 All candidates must meet eligibility requirements to be invited to the mandatory parent meeting. Tryout eligibility requirements include:

- A. Passing the third 9-week grading period.
- B. 90% attendance in all classes as of the last tryout sign-up date.
- C. No more than two ISS placements during the current school year.
- D. No DAEP placements during the current school year.

2.4 A candidate who has resigned or removed from their squad is not allowed to tryout the following year.

III- CANDIDATE MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the PIISD Cheerleading program is from the date of tryouts to the next tryout date of the following year. Membership may be terminated at any time for failure to comply with the standards of conduct and procedures outlined herein.

The PIISD High School Varsity cheerleading squad shall be comprised of freshmen, sophomore, junior and senior members(male or female), and membership shall consist of up to 20 members. From these members, a captain and co-captain position will be assigned.

The PIISD Junior High cheerleading squad shall be comprised of 6th and 7th graders(male or female), and membership shall consist of 8-16 members, maximum of 16. From these members, a captain and co-captain position will be assigned.

3.1 Candidates who are accepted for membership should understand that the schedule of a cheerleader requires a large time commitment and expenses.

A) During the school year, members will be expected to take responsibility for dividing his/her time between other extra-curricular activities, still fulfill all assigned duties, and learn the routines for performances. The candidate must understand that they must attend ALL cheerleading events (i.e., practice, performances, other).

B) During the summer, members are not excused from practice and/or camp because of a job and/or vacation.

IV- EXPECTATIONS FOR MEMBERS

4.1 Members shall attend and perform at all required duties at all practices, games, events or functions, including any required camp or competition. Members who miss a required practice or fail to perform a required duty may result in demerits.

4.2 Members shall maintain their eligibility status under No Pass, No Play Rules. Members must maintain a grade of 70 or above in all classes, other than an identified honors or advanced class, to be eligible to participate.

4.3 Members shall meet attendance requirements as set forth by the PIISD student handbook.

4.4 Members shall comply with all TEA-UIL Side by Side Guidelines for Cheerleading and shall comply with all rules and regulations outlined in the PIISD student code of conduct and PIISD Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct.

4.5 Members will cooperate fully with the sponsor and all squad members at all times.

SQUAD MEMBER EXPENSES

All deposits or payments towards cheerleading expenses must be paid on time and in full based on a schedule that will be provided by the sponsor. There may be other expenses required throughout the school year; each member shall be responsible for providing his/her own required merchandise/funds. NO REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED. There will be fundraising opportunities as needed. Items will not be issued if account is not paid in full.

It is the responsibility of the member to:

- Purchase any personal items and pay fees such as: camp fee, personalized uniforms, cheer shoes, practice and camp wear, travel bag, warm-ups, and any other items asked throughout the season.
- Reimburse the organization for any non-returnable, fundraising items, which have not been sold after the designated period of sale time.
- Reimburse the school if any issued school items, including but not limited, to uniforms, pom poms, megaphones, etc. has been damaged or lost during the issued time frame.
- Purchase any personal item the team, as a whole elects to purchase, which will become personal items of the team member.
- Any member who drops out or is removed from the organization is financially obligated for all orders placed. No refunds will be issued from account balances and no cancellations on orders placed ahead of removal from the squad will be issued.

Team Fundraisers: All members are to participate in team fundraisers. Team funds raised are used to pay team costs such as summer camp and special supplies needed throughout the fall season. Allocation of these funds are based on individual participation and best interests of the team.

Nonparticipation in team fundraising activities will call for immediate disciplinary action by the sponsor. In team fundraisers, each member must reach quotas as set forth by the sponsor. Failing to do so will result in demerits and/or dismissal from the team.

PIJH Fundraisers-

- Concession Stands
- Sponsor posters
- Cheer clinic

PIHS Fundraisers-

- Football Program: All members will be required to sell a minimum of \$1,200 worth of advertisements in the program.
- Fancloth Items: Occasionally the team will sell Fancloth items, and the cheer sponsor will decide a minimum quantity that each member has to sell. All members regardless of classification will participate in these sales as well.

VI-DUTIES and RESPONSIBILITIES of the Captain and Co-Captain Cheerleaders

The Captains are the leaders of the High School and Junior High squads and will exemplify leadership & responsibility. The Captains will set an example by following rules and regulations. The Captains should be willing to do more than their share.

6.1 The Captains must respect and treat all members equally. The Captains are responsible for the overall conduct of the squad.

6.2 The Captains will begin all practice sessions promptly at the designated time, be responsible for the organization of practice schedule and attire that must be approved by the sponsor. Final decisions are made by the sponsor.

6.3 The Captains will help select cheers, chants, and routines to be used at games and pep rallies. The squad should make suggestions and the captains should consider their input, however the final decision is left up to the coaches and captains.

6.4 The Captains will submit a copy of music for approval prior to its use and will be responsible for making any required changes.

6.5 The Captains along with the sponsor's help will organize pep rallies with sponsors of other clubs/ organizations, coaches, and administration.

6.6 The Captains will keep cheerleaders in proper formation during games/pep rallies and any other functions. The Captains will keep games, pep rallies, and other functions running smoothly.

6.7 The Captains will be responsible for notifying the Sponsor of any misconduct or infractions of the rules. Captains, however, can discipline the entire squad including selves if they feel that team is not focused or inattentive. Final decisions regarding demerits as well as issuing of demerits will be solely done by the sponsor.

6.8 The Captains must follow rules and directives issued to them by the sponsor and must report 10 minutes before the designated time from the squads. Failure to do so will result in a demerit. Should the Captain or Co-Captain acquire 5 demerits, there will be an automatic demotion to line member. The sponsor may demote captains if he/she does not meet their responsibilities including, but not limited to, failure to attend games, meetings, or practices; chronic tardiness, abuse of power; disrespect towards self or others; violation of the constitution, etc. Failure to adhere to directives may result in a demotion or dismissal from the organization at any time during the year regardless of demerit statue or any pending disciplinary matter.

6.9 The cheer sponsor or principal can demote a Captain or Co-captain if there are concerns with attitude, behavior, grades, or attendance.

6.10 The Captain and Co-captain must work together in unity as they are constant role-models for their teams. The Captains will work closely with the sponsor and remember that the sponsor has the final say.

VII- DUTIES and RESPONSIBILITIES of Members

The members are leaders of the school, and will exemplify leadership & responsibility. Commitment to the organization is required for the entire school year.

7.1 All cheer members must cooperate fully with the Captains and sponsor at all times. Dismissal from the cheer team will result from deliberate disregard of a sponsor's directives.

7.2 All cheer members must attend all meetings, practices and cheer sponsored activities on time.

7.3 All High School cheer members must ride to and from scheduled away games and activities in school-sponsored transportation. A member may return from an away game with their family if a request from the parent/guardian has been emailed to the sponsor.

7.4 Demerit(s) may be issued for not following any responsibilities/duties/assignments without a warning to a member or captain(s).

7.5 All cheer members are responsible for uniforms and items issued to them. Should any items be lost or stolen, they must be replaced immediately. Should any school issued property (poms, uniforms, etc.) be lost or damaged, compensation must be made to the school. Because an accurate inventory needs to be done before tryouts, the sponsor will give the current cheerleaders a date and a list of the items that need to be returned. All items issued out throughout the year need to be returned at once, on that specific date or member will be fined a late fee of \$5 per item in addition to receiving demerits if member is still on the squad. All items must be clean or items will not be accepted. If item(s) are lost or missing, the member is immediately responsible for the cost of the missing item(s).

7.6 All cheer members are solely responsible for their own personal belongings. The sponsor will bear no responsibility for any lost or stolen personal items.

7.7 Attendance:

- All High School members must enroll if there is a cheer class for the entirety of the Fall Semester (Exceptions will be made in cases of scheduling conflicts, but only with administrative permission).
- Members must be present at all practices during class and after school in order to participate at any football games or events.
- Members must be punctual and remain within the designated areas at the required functions.
- At no time may members leave the site of the required function without permission from the sponsor.
- Vacations during practices and/or games or performances are unexcused absences.
- Absences due to other school-sponsored activities will be excused if member gives notice to sponsor. If no notice is received absence will be documented as a no call, no show and a demerit will be issued.
- All absences that accompany a doctor's excuse of the cheer member will be excused.
- Regardless of reason for absence, it is the members responsibility to let their captain and their sponsor know they will be absent from a practice and or activity either through a phone call or text prior to the beginning of the activity. If a member fails to do this, the absence will be counted as a no call; no show and a demerit will be issued.

7.8 GRADES

A. Members' grades will be reviewed by the sponsor.

B. Members having difficulties in any academic subjects will be encouraged to attend tutoring.

C. Ineligible members are required to attend required activities, however they are not allowed to be "in uniform".

VIII- the UNIFORM of OFFICE

When members are in uniform, they represent the school and the community. Members should maintain decorum and model exemplary behavior at all times. Members are not allowed to wear uniforms outside of official cheer activities prior to sponsor approval.

8.1 All uniforms must be approved by the sponsor(s).

8.2 Members are not allowed to let other students borrow their uniform, warm-up jacket, or any other cheer attire.

IX-DEMERITS

Demerits will be issued for violations of this constitution and the PIISD Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct. It is also possible that a cheerleader could violate the Constitution and be subject to discipline by the sponsor without having violated the PIISD Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct. Demerits will be issued at the discretion of the sponsor.

Demerits may be issued after or without a warning to a member or captain.

9.1 Any member that receives 4 demerits will be warned about suspension by the sponsor. The sponsor will then notify the parent.

9.2 A captain that receives 5 demerits will be demoted to line member.

9.3 Any member that receives 5 demerits will be suspended from all cheer activities for two academic weeks.

9.4 Any member that receives 10 demerits will be dismissed from the squad immediately.

9.5 Demerit documentation will be kept and updated through the duration of each individual's membership. Each member issued a demerit will sign a notification on a weekly basis, or as needed.

9.6 DEMERIT INFRACTIONS

- A member who is late to practice or a function.
- A member who is absent from a practice that is unexcused.
- Not wearing the proper uniform or practice attire (that includes hairstyle and jewelry).
- Socializing or on their cell phone without permission during practice or any cheer sponsored event.
- Eating, drinking, chewing gum at practices, games or any cheer sponsored event. (Drinks allowed at football games only)
- Not being prepared or in position for cheering during practice at games, pep rallies or performances
- Exhibition of lack of interest/spirit during any cheer event including practices.
- Late for ANY deadline: spirit posters, fundraisers, assignments, etc.
- Leaving trash in a bus, practice area, cheering area, etc.
- Leaving any possessions out that the sponsor picks up. (uniforms, practice clothes, shoes, bags, etc.)
- A member who is disrespectful to the sponsor or ANY member of the squad.
- Painting a poster using the cheer paint and supplies without permission.

9.7 THREE DEMERIT INFRACTIONS

- Receiving a referral that sentences member to In-School Suspension.
 - Member will also have to sit out for any game or function the week the referral was issued.
- If a member is absent from a game or function that is unexcused.
- Missing a game or performance without notifying the Sponsor.

9.8 IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL

- Failure to attend summer camp/summer practices.
- A member who is repeatedly referred to the sponsor(s) or an administrator for disciplinary reasons.
- A member engaged in a conduct resulting in arrest from law enforcement officers.
- Receiving a referral, resulting in DAEP.
- Fighting with the sponsor, a member, student, or staff.
- Accumulates 10 or more demerits.
- Any item which the Sponsor deems appropriate for dismissal.
- Any other behavior which the sponsor deems inappropriate including but not limited to: unsportsmanlike conduct, insubordination, or profane texting/internet behavior.
 - A. Social Networking Websites: Maintaining a higher standard on conduct will also include ensuring that cheerleader's personal websites/pages are appropriate. Any communication such as Twitter, Facebook, Snapchat, inappropriate texting, etc. Appearing on the internet is public domain, even if it is marked private. Cheerleaders are responsible for their personal websites and postings as well as posting on other students' websites.
 - B. The areas of inappropriateness will include but are not limited to language (abbreviated or alluding to negative comments about any individuals), pictures, suggestive poses, clothing and reference to alcohol, drugs and tobacco. Owning, creating/authoring or contributing to any type of journal or work that contains disparaging, demeaning or derogatory comments, inappropriate pictures, comments, or statuses on any social networks (i.e. electronic devices, verbal, written, Facebook, Snapchat, YouTube, Instagram, etc.) about others and one's self will result in immediate dismissal.
 - C. Deliberate disregard of a sponsor's directive that has already been discussed with the principal.
 - D. A member of the Cheerleading organization who has been permanently removed from the squad for any reason at any time during their term as a Cheerleader forfeits her eligibility to try out for the next school year.

X-RESIGNATION

10.1 Should a member choose to resign her/his position on the team, a written resignation, including a parent's signature, must be submitted to the sponsor. A copy of the resignation will be kept on file by the sponsor for review by the school administration.

10.2 Once a member has resigned, she/he no longer has a position on the team and will have to sit out a year from date of resignation before trying out.

10.3 Should a member resign or be dismissed from the team, there shall be no refund of any money. Refunds are not possible due to the fact that all uniforms and merchandise are ordered immediately after tryouts and must be paid in full.

10.4 Should a member resign or be dismissed from the team and still owe an outstanding balance of uniform, fundraiser or any sort of money, financial obligations, she/he will not be allowed to try out for any team, until all balances have been paid in full. Any items issued to be sold in a fundraiser must be paid. The sponsor will not accept any fundraising items, only payment for the items or sales.

10.5 Should a member withdraw from school to avoid a disciplinary action, she/he will be dismissed and shall not be allowed back on the team. There will be no exception to this provision.

10.6 Upon resignation or dismissal of a squad member, the next tryout participant will be moved up to fill in the position. This will be implemented ONLY if the resignation or dismissal occurs before summer camp.

XI-HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS-LETTERMAN JACKET

11.1 All cheer awards will be governed by current UIL rules.

11.2 Member must complete 2 years (attend 90% of the games) of cheerleading at Port Isabel High School at the Varsity level.

XII-MISCELLANEOUS SECTIONS

12.1 PERFORMANCE TRY OUTS-Occasionally members may have try-outs for pep rallies, games, and any public performances (Football, basketball, etc.) if the sponsor sees the need for the tryout. This will not impede the cheerleader from participating in the event/ activity; it will just impede them from performing in a particular dance, cheer, etc. performed at the event/ activity.

12.3 DECISION MAKING-All decision making for the PIISD Cheer organization shall be made by the sponsor(s) only. This is to include but shall not be limited to consequences for violations of the constitution , uniform violations, practice infractions, deciding upon camp dates and ties, staffing football and basketball games, scheduling photo shoots, deciding upon and scheduling competition, and any other activity organized or directed by the sponsor(s). Any decisions made by the sponsor(s) will be final.

12.4 ACCIDENTS AND INJURIES-The school district, administration, coaches and sponsor(s) are not responsible should a member become injured while participating in a cheer activity. Should an injury occur, the trainer and parents will be notified immediately and if necessary, emergency actions will be taken.

12.6 PARENTAL CONSENT AND SUPPORT- All team member's parent/guardians, and family members should be supportive of the overall benefit and representation of the team, and support the team members in complying with all rules and regulations of the school and the team. All financial responsibilities are to be supported by their parent/guardian, if the student fails to meet fundraising goals. Please bring forth any questions, comments, and, or concerns to your sponsor if clarification is needed at any time.

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