

Fort Stockton ISD

Cheerleader Constitution



Fort Stockton ISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, or disability in providing educational services, activities, and programs, including athletic programs in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

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Fort Stockton Independent School District CHEERLEADER CONSTITUTION

This Fort Stockton ISD Cheerleader Constitution outlines standards of eligibility and procedure for all Fort Stockton ISD Cheerleader candidates and standards of conduct and behavior to which all Fort Stockton ISD Cheerleaders are expected to adhere as representatives of their student body and of Fort Stockton ISD. Acceptance of a candidate to the Fort Stockton ISD cheerleading programs or removal there from, shall be in accordance with this Constitution on the basis of ability, skill, presentation, or any other basis set forth, but shall not be on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, or pregnancy.

Preamble

The following articles have been developed with the advice and consent of the campus cheerleader sponsor(s) for the purpose of communicating the standards of eligibility and procedure which all candidates must meet to be eligible for try-outs and for the purpose of articulating the standards of conduct and behavior to which all Fort Stockton ISD Cheerleaders are expected to adhere as a condition of participation in cheerleading activities. Participation in extracurricular activities, including cheerleading activities, 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 Cheerleader 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 Fort Stockton ISD Student Code of Conduct.

Article I—Mission Statement

The purpose of the Fort Stockton ISD cheerleading program shall be to promote and encourage team spirit, to foster good fellowship and sportsmanship by example, and to engender enthusiasm and loyalty to team and school. Members shall lead by example; shall exemplify exemplary qualities of character; and shall uphold the highest moral standards in their service to the school and the community as representatives of their student body and Fort Stockton ISD.

Article II—Candidate Eligibility

- 2.1** A cheerleader candidate must be a resident of and currently enrolled in the Fort Stockton ISD. Candidates may be male or female.
- 2.2** A cheerleader candidate must not have been academically ineligible, as defined by No Pass No Play rules, for two or more six weeks during the current school year and must be passing all courses with a grade of 70 or above at the time of try-outs to be eligible. However, for purposes of academic eligibility for try-outs, a student will

be allowed one waiver per semester in an advanced or honors class, as identified by the State Board of Education or by local District policy. In the case of honors or advanced classes a member may be eligible for one (1) waiver per year by following campus policy and procedures. The advanced waiver is not transferable from the first semester to the second semester. A student with disabilities must be meeting the standards in his or her IEP at the time of try-outs for purposes of academic eligibility for try-outs.

- 2.3** A cheerleader candidate who has resigned or been removed from his or her squad may not try-out in subsequent years.
- 2.4** All candidates must demonstrate exemplary attendance, behavior, and citizenship habits. Candidates must have had at least a 95% attendance rate for the current school year and must not have been suspended (excluding in-school suspension), assigned to D.A.E.P., or expelled at any time during the current school year to be eligible for try-outs. The campus principal or designee will make the final determination regarding a candidate's citizenship eligibility for try-outs.
- 2.5** All candidates must be in good financial standing with the Fort Stockton ISD. Candidates who have outstanding balances, including but not limited to fines for lost or damaged textbooks, library fees, late fees, or other extracurricular fees, will not be eligible for try-outs.
- 2.6** All candidates must be medically fit to participate in cheerleading or drill team activities, as certified by a medical doctor.
- 2.7** Candidates must complete all requirements for try-out **prior** to try-outs, including but not limited to timely submission of application, timely submission of all required forms, and attendance of all required meetings, practice sessions or clinics. Any candidate failing to complete all try-out requirements who is otherwise eligible for try-outs will **not** be allowed to try-out, absent extenuating circumstances as determined by the sponsor.
- 2.8** All candidates and their parent or guardian must attend the mandatory orientation meeting(s) for their program to be eligible for try-outs. However, if unable to attend, a parent or guardian, with **prior** written approval from the sponsor, may designate another responsible adult as a proxy to attend the meeting in his or her place. Failure of the parent, guardian, or proxy to attend the mandatory orientation meeting(s) will result in the candidate being ineligible for try-outs.

Article III—Candidate Membership and Expectations

Candidate Expectations

- 3.1** Candidates should understand that acceptance into the Fort Stockton ISD Cheerleading program is a privilege. Cheerleading members represent to the community and the public not only themselves, but their student body, and the Fort Stockton ISD and should uphold the highest moral standards.
- 3.2** Candidates should exemplify exemplary qualities of character. Candidates should be responsible, honest, reliable, dependable, cooperative, dedicated, and loyal.
- 3.3** Candidates should be enthusiastic, self-disciplined, willing to learn, and prepared to practice to improve their performance and the performance of the squad.

3.4 Candidates who are accepted for membership should understand that the schedule of a cheerleader will require a large time commitment and that members will be expected to put cheerleading above participation in all other sports, organizations or other nonacademic activities, including after-school or weekend jobs.

Candidate Membership

Membership in the Fort Stockton ISD Cheerleading program is from the date of try-outs to the last day of school the following school year. Membership numbers are subject to change based upon drastic drop-off rates or gaps between the resulting high, middle, and low scores, provided that any such change in numbers shall be approved by the sponsor and the assigned administrator. Membership may be terminated at any time for failure to comply with the standards of conduct and procedure outlined herein.

Grade classifications named below are for the year following try-outs and shall be determined according to official school records.

Participants must be enrolled at Fort Stockton ISD and be scheduled to be a student at Fort Stockton ISD the following year in order to tryout.

The Varsity cheerleading squad shall be comprised of junior or senior members, which membership shall consist of up to 12 members. Of these members, two head cheerleaders shall be chosen according to sponsor recommendation and popular vote of the squad. *

The Junior Varsity cheerleading squad shall be comprised of freshman or sophomore members, which membership shall consist of up to 10. Of these members, two head cheerleaders shall be chosen according to sponsor recommendation and popular vote of the squad. *

*Final decisions regarding head cheerleader for all squads will be made by the sponsor(s).

Article IV—Expectations for Members

4.1 Members shall be on time and prepared for all cheerleading activities. Members should be dressed in the required uniform prior to the start of the activity.

4.2 Members shall be neatly presented in appearance, with hair neatly groomed and pulled back from face.

4.3 Members shall attend and perform 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 not be allowed to perform at the next game, event, or function.

4.4 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. In the case of honors or advanced classes a member may be eligible for one (1) waiver per year

by following campus policy and procedures. Members with disabilities must meet the standards in their IEP to be eligible to participate.

4.5 Members shall maintain at least a 95% attendance rate throughout the school year.

4.6 Members shall comply with all TEA-UIL Side by Side Guidelines for Cheerleading and Drill Teams.

4.7 Members shall comply with all rules and regulations outlined in their program Handbook.

Article V—Standards for Member Removal

Due to the high level of visibility of campus cheerleaders, members are expected to demonstrate leadership, honor, and integrity both in and out of uniform. Because acceptance into the Fort Stockton ISD Cheerleader program is a privilege, not a right, members will be held to higher standards than those imposed on the general student body. Members may incur disciplinary consequences for behavior that does not constitute a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, and may also incur disciplinary consequences from both the appropriate administrator and his or her sponsor for conduct that does constitute a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

Members must comply with all standards of conduct outlined below, in addition to the standards of conduct and behavior outlined in the Fort Stockton ISD Student Code of Conduct. Members will be subject to the standards of conduct outlined herein **at all times** regardless of when or where the conduct occurs, whether on or off school property and whether or not school is in session. Failure to comply with the standards of conduct may result in disciplinary action against the member, **up to and including removal from the squad.**

5.1 Members shall not engage in inappropriate behavior, including but not limited to inappropriate sexual contact, fighting, public intoxication, possession or consumption of alcohol or illegal drugs, or other criminal activity excluding minor traffic offenses.

5.2 Members shall not engage in behavior that warrants suspension from school, removal to DAEP, or expulsion from school. Members who have been suspended from school at least two times, removed to DAEP, or expelled from school shall be removed from the squad for the remainder of the year.

5.3 Members may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including removal from the squad, for any other behavior which the sponsor deems inappropriate, including but not limited to unsportsmanlike conduct, insubordination, or lewd or profane internet behavior.