

Diamondback Cheerleader & Drill Team Guidelines



Sharyland ISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, 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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The Diamondback Cheerleader and Drill Team Guidelines outlines standards of eligibility and procedure for all Diamondback Cheerleader and Drill Team candidates and standards of conduct and behavior to which all Diamondback Cheerleader and Drill Team members are expected to adhere as representatives of their student body and of the Sharyland ISD. Acceptance of a candidate to the Diamondback cheerleading or drill team programs or removal therefrom, shall be in accordance with these guidelines 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, gender, or disability.

Preamble

The following articles have been developed 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 Diamondback Cheerleader and Drill Team members are expected to adhere as a condition of participation in cheerleading or drill team activities. Participation in extracurricular activities, including cheerleading and drill team 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 the Cheerleader and Drill Team Guidelines 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 Sharyland ISD Student Code of Conduct or Sharyland ISD Extracurricular 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.**

Article I—Mission Statement

The purpose of the Diamondback cheerleading and drill team programs 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 demonstrate 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 of the Sharyland ISD.

Article II—Candidate Eligibility

2.1 A cheerleader or drill team candidate must reside in the Sharyland School District and be enrolled or registered as a student at Sharyland ISD in order to be eligible to try-out. However, candidates who are enrolled in a Sharyland ISD school under an approved interdistrict (i.e. out-of-district) transfer will be eligible for try-outs if they meet all other eligibility requirements. Candidates are required to reside within the attendance zone of the school for whose squad they are trying out, unless they are otherwise entitled to attend the try-out school under an approved inter- or intradistrict transfer in accordance with District policy.

- 2.2** A cheerleader or drill team candidate who has resigned or been removed from his or her squad may not try-out in subsequent years, unless permission to do so has been granted by sponsor and/or administration overseeing tryouts.
- 2.3** All candidates must demonstrate exemplary attendance, behavior, and citizenship habits. Candidates must not have lost permanent credit in any class due to absences 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.
- 2.4** All candidates must be medically fit to participate in cheerleading or drill team activities, using approved district physical form.
- 2.5** 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, except in extenuating circumstances as determined and approved by the sponsor and principal.
- 2.6** 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 may designate another responsible adult as a proxy to attend the meeting in his or her place. Failure of the parent, candidate, guardian, or proxy to attend the mandatory orientation meeting(s) will result in the candidate being ineligible for try-outs with the exception of students participating in a school-sponsored event.

Article III—Candidate and Member Expectations

- 3.1** Candidates should understand that acceptance into the Diamondback Cheerleading or Drill Team program is a privilege. Cheerleading and drill team members represent to the community and the public not only themselves, but their student body and the Sharyland ISD and should uphold the highest moral standards.
- 3.2** Candidates who are accepted for membership should understand that the schedule of a cheerleader or drill team member will require a large time commitment and that members will be expected to put cheerleading or drill team, as a priority, in conjunction with participation in all other sports, organizations or other nonacademic activities, including after-school or weekend jobs.
- 3.3** 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 will not be allowed to perform at the next game, performance or event unless the missed practice or performance is due to a school sponsored activity or a medical excuse.
- 3.4** Members shall maintain their eligibility status under No-Pass, No-Play Rules. Members must maintain a grade of 70 or above in all classes or be eligible for a waiver for honors or advanced classes in high school, to be eligible to participate.

Members with disabilities must meet the standards in their IEP to be eligible to participate.

3.5 Members shall maintain at least a 90% attendance rate throughout the school year.

3.6 Members shall comply with all rules and regulations outlined in this document and any other document issued by sponsor/administration for the membership year, including all TEA-UIL Side by Side Guidelines.

3.7 Members will be obligated to pay vendors directly for all required items. They shall comply with all **financial obligations (uniform and other)** by given deadline approved by the sponsor(s) and principal. If all financial obligations (uniform and other) are not fulfilled by the given deadline, members will be asked to forfeit their positions.

3.8 Members who do not meet expectations will be issued demerits at the sponsor's discretion. Any candidate receiving 12 or more demerits may be removed from the squad.

Candidate Membership

The Varsity cheerleading squad shall be comprised of freshmen, sophomore, junior, or senior members. The number of candidates who participate in the tryout process will affect the total numbers of members selected for each team, and a gap score may be used. The number of members chosen as cheer captain(s) will be determined by the sponsor based on team size. Candidates will be chosen as cheer captain or co-captains(s) according to the sponsor recommendation and interview and candidates must have at least one year of varsity experience. Final decisions regarding the selection will be made by the sponsor.

The Junior Varsity cheerleading squad shall be comprised of freshmen, sophomore, junior, or senior members. The number of candidates who participate in the tryout process will affect the total numbers of members selected for each team, not to exceed 20. A gap score may be used. Of these members, one captain, or two co-captains shall be chosen according to interview and rank.

Varsity and Junior Varsity Yell Leaders shall be comprised of freshmen, sophomore, junior, or senior male members. The number of candidates who participate in the tryout process will affect the total number of members selected for each team. Scoring criteria have been established for the yell leaders and selection will be based on comparable scores to the cheerleaders being selected.

The Drill Team shall be comprised of freshmen, sophomore, junior or senior members. The number of officers shall depend upon the size of the team and the recommendations of the judges. Candidates for officer, including major, must have served on the team for at least one year and shall be chosen according to the judges' scores, sponsor interview, and choreographed solo. Total membership of the team, as well as the number of officers, shall be at the final discretion of the sponsors and the designated individuals. A gap score may be used. Final decisions regarding selection and/or removal of officers will be made by the sponsor(s).

The Junior High Cheerleading Squad shall consist of eligible incoming 7th grade and 8th grade students. There will be no designated number of slots; however, there will be a minimum score to be selected for membership, not to exceed 24 members.

Junior High Drill team shall consist of eligible incoming 7th grade and 8th grade students. There will be no designated number of slots; however, there will be a minimum score to be selected for membership.

Article IV—Standards for Member Removal

Due to the high level of visibility of campus cheerleader and drill team members, members are expected to demonstrate leadership, honor, and integrity both in and out of uniform. Because acceptance into the Diamondback Cheerleader or Drill Team programs is a privilege, not a right and 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 Sharyland 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.**

4.1 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.

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

4.3 Members may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including removal from the squad, for any other behavior which the sponsor/administrator deems inappropriate, including but not limited to unsportsmanlike conduct, insubordination, or inappropriate internet behavior. [Refer to Sharyland ISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct]

*All disciplinary actions and consequences are at the discretion of the sponsor and the appropriate administrator.