

# Willis High School Sweethearts



## Constitution

## **ARTICLE 1 - NAME**

The name of this organization shall be as follows:

### **WILLIS HIGH SCHOOL SWEETHEART DRILL TEAM**

## **ARTICLE 2 - PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Sweethearts will be to give the students of Willis High School an opportunity to:

1. Render service to the school by participating as a spirit and entertainment organization at various athletic, school and community functions.
2. Develop competitive dance skills and demonstrate these skills at contests.
3. Foster good fellowship.
4. Build school loyalty and pride.
5. Encourage high morals and standards among its members.
6. Develop the ability to work as a team in achieving common goals.
7. Function as school leaders by serving as an example of proper attitude and behavior in the classroom.
8. Promote community relations and develop a strong sense of community within Willis.

## **ARTICLE 3 - SPONSORSHIP**

The Sweetheart organization shall be under the direction and supervision of a Director, who is certified and degreed in Dance. The Director shall be appointed by the Principal and approved by the WISD School Board.

## **ARTICLE 4 - MEMBERSHIP**

All full-time students of WISD (8<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> grades) shall be eligible for membership on the Drill Team upon completion of the established requirements for entrance. Any student living within the Willis attendance zone transferring from a private school is also eligible to try-out. Students coming from a private school must fill out a pre-registration packet prior to try-outs. Approved membership for transfer students during the school year from other districts will be at the discretion of the director.

1. The member must go through the full try-out process in order to make the team.
2. The member **MUST HAVE A PHYSICAL FORM ON FILE** in order to participate in drill team.
3. The member **MUST HAVE A PARENT PERMISSION SLIP AND SIGNED CONSTITUTION FORM ON FILE.**
4. The word "grading period" shall be defined as any report card given at the end of a 6 week grading period and any progress report that determines eligibility in accordance to UIL rules.
5. In the event a member quits the Drill Team, she must petition to try out again for the following year. The following procedure must be followed when petitioning to return to the drill team.
  - A. Petition to the Director the desire to become a Sweetheart again.
  - B. Place in writing the reasons for wanting to return.
  - C. This written composition will be read by the Director and the Principal.
  - D. An interview with the drill team member and parent(s) will take place with the Director and Principal.
  - E. A decision will be rendered as a result of that interview.
  - F. This can occur **ONCE** during a member's four-year tenure at Willis High School.

## **ARTICLE 5 - MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS**

In order for a student to become a Sweetheart, and maintain membership as a Sweetheart, the student MUST:

1. Attend the mandatory try-out clinic and be selected for the team by a panel of judges on the day of try-outs.
2. Attend all mandatory summer camp(s).
3. Attend all scheduled summer practices.
4. Enroll in the drill team class as part of school curriculum.
5. Be willing to serve in any capacity in the drill team class.
6. Sponsor money must be turned in by the due date designated by the Director. If all money is not in by the tryout for the first football game, a member will not be allowed to try out for that routine. Subsequently, a member will not be allowed to try out for future performances until all sponsor money is turned in. See Article 16 for more on Sponsor money.
7. Meet all minimum fundraiser requirements set for the team and Booster Club and turn in all monies in a timely manner. Failure to turn in fundraisers on time may result in a member being placed on non-performance status.
8. Attend all meetings, practices, and performances and must be able to provide transportation to and from these events.
9. In the event that a Sweetheart has a serious illness or is hospitalized for an extended period of time, she will be eligible to return as a member of the team upon returning to school providing that she meets all UIL regulations regarding eligibility and has been cleared to practice/perform by the attending physician. She will resume any office she previously held for the remainder of the year, provided that the Director so sees fit. She will be eligible for any tryout in the spring provided that the Director so sees fit. Placement in current routines will be at the discretion of the Director.
10. Any person desiring to try out for the Sweethearts must have made arrangements in writing with any organization or group at WHS that she has a financial debt with. The statement must include a payment plan and must be signed and dated by the parents of the child as well as the sponsor/director for the group. Any person who has not turned in all school property belonging to any group or organization at WISD will not be allowed to try out for the Sweethearts.
11. Follow all rules as outlined in the Sweetheart Constitution, Demerit Policy, and Drill Team 101 Contract.
12. Follow all W.I.S.D. and Willis H.S. School Rules.

## **ARTICLE 6 - SELECTION**

Drill Team members will be selected by an impartial panel of judges and must audition each year. Any candidate wanting to gain membership to the organization must first meet the eligibility requirements and attend the series of practices prior to the scheduled tryout day. Each candidate will be judged on criteria such as technique, poise, kicks, dance ability, and showmanship. A copy of the score-sheet will be included in the candidate packet. The decision of the Judges will be final. Final score-sheets will not be distributed and all tallies will be kept confidentially on file in the school.

Selection onto the Drill Team is only recognition of potential. It is not a guarantee of performing with the team at each performance. All members will try out for each performance, unless otherwise decided by the Director.

**\*There is a strong possibility that a new member will NOT perform in any/some contest routines her first year on the team. This may hold true for football season as well depending on the ability level of the new member.**

#### **ARTICLE 7 - LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP**

1. FAILS TO MAINTAIN THE REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP.
2. Shows continual misconduct, lack of cooperation, or poor attitude towards the Director, officers, or other team members.
3. Improper care of equipment or uniforms.
4. If a girl becomes pregnant during her term of membership she will lose membership during her pregnancy and will be reinstated after she is no longer pregnant. During her loss of membership she will forfeit all rights as a Sweetheart, she will not perform, practice, travel, sit with, or wear Sweetheart clothing either belonging to the school or purchased on her own. Upon being reinstated as a Sweetheart, she will not be able to try out for officer until she has served a full year on the team from being reinstated.
5. Misconduct outside of school, which may draw the attention of law-enforcement agencies (determined by the Director and Principal).
6. Suspension from school.
7. Smokes, drinks, or uses profanity (judged by the Director and Principal) while representing the drill team in practice, travel, or while in uniform anywhere.
8. Misses a performance (regardless of performance status) for any reason other than death of a family member, a school sponsored activity, or verified medical emergency. (A doctor's appointment will not be excused.) This excludes members who are injured and cannot perform for medical reasons that have been documented and approved by the Director.
9. Misses the contest season dress rehearsal.
10. Misses more than two Saturday practices.
11. Is ineligible for a 3-week span more than twice.
12. Has more than 2 unexcused absences or 5 excused per semester, with the exception of serious illnesses documented by a physician and approved by the Director.
13. Receives in-school suspension for a second time.
14. A member will be removed from the team if it is proven by the Director and/or principal that she has stolen any item from any member of the team, or the Sweetheart organization.
15. Vandalism of school, community, or public property.
16. Receives 15 or more demerits and refusal to work off all demerits. Accumulation of more than 5 demerits at any given will also result in dismissal from the team.
17. Actions that are unbecoming to a member or the team through the use of social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

If membership is revoked during the year, said member forfeits all rights as a Sweetheart. She will be removed from the drill team class, must turn over all drill team property, and will also still be accountable for any outstanding fees. No money will be refunded for any reason to a member who is removed from the team due to any of the above loss of membership rules.

#### **ARTICLE 8 - OFFICERS**

There will be no set number of officers. Decisions are made based on the natural break in scores. In the situation where an officer position becomes vacant during the school year, the Director MAY or MAY NOT promote the candidate with the next highest score.

1. Possible officer positions include Captain, Lt. Captain, 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant, and Lieutenants following in no rank, or order.
2. All officers will be selected through a try out process in the spring of each year.
3. The drill team officers shall be in charge of the drill team during all practices and performances, when designated by the Director and in the absence of the Director.
4. An officer must be enrolled in the Dance Composition class.
5. The officers must fulfill the highest standard of leadership, citizenship, academics, and character.
6. An officer will lose her rank if she shows continual misconduct at the discretion of the Director.
7. An officer who is ineligible more than once will lose her rank and be demoted to line member for the remainder of the year at the discretion of the Director.
8. Any officer, who misses a practice unexcused, will not perform in the next performance.
9. Any officer, who is absent on Senior Skip day without a written doctor's excuse, verified medical emergency, or death of a family member will be dismissed from her officer position.
10. An officer must have been a member of the Sweethearts the full year prior to her year of office.
11. An officer must not have had any major disciplinary problems within the school or team in order to try out for an officer position.
12. Being on the team and especially being an officer is a privilege, not a right. The privilege of being an officer may be revoked for failure to set the example, continual misconduct, or behavior unbecoming of an officer and leader of the team as determined by the Director and school Principal.

#### Specialized Responsibilities for Officers

1. Aid the Director in any manner requested.
2. Help maintain order during the course of any rehearsal, performance, or public appearance.
3. Attend officer camps and leadership workshops as required during the summer.
4. Attend all games, rehearsals, and required functions.
5. Report early to all functions. Remain late after all practices (15 minutes).
6. Assist in preparing the performances for football season, contest season, and Spring Show.
7. Be responsible for a squad of line members.
8. Remain at the conclusion of rehearsals to assist the Director in cleanup, music equipment, and any other duties assigned by the Director.
9. Keeps a notebook of information concerning the team, drill team class, and squad.
10. Responsible for helping Director to determine "Dancer of the Week."
11. Be an outstanding role model in drill team, school, and the community.
12. Maintain an exemplary relationship with the Director, teachers and administrators of Willis High School.
13. Additional duties are outlined under Officer Responsibilities within the Officer Try-out packet.

#### ARTICLE 9 - SOCIAL COMMITTEE

1. Within the team, there will be an appointed Social Committee who will be responsible for activities such as candy grams, cookies, birthdays, parties, photos, scrap-book, motivational games, teacher appreciation, and the overall spirit of the team.
2. Social Committee members will try-out for this position on a day designated by the Director. The try-out process for Social Committee shall be outlined in the try-out packet and will include preparing a notebook, planning a social event, undergoing an interview, and giving a motivational speech. These criteria will be part of a point system that will also include points for teacher recommendations, grades, absences, team vote, and director vote. The positions for Social Committee may or may not include

President, Vice President, Secretary, Historian, Spirit Leader, and School Relations. Instead of positions there may be a general committee appointed.

3. After Social Committee members are chosen based on the point system, each one will be assigned by the Director a specific list of duties to fulfill during the year.
4. The Director may relieve a social officer of her position at any time due to lack of cooperation, attitude, and/or lack of fulfilling her assigned duties.
5. Only returning members of the drill team will be allowed to run for the social committee.

#### Specialized Responsibilities for Social Committee

1. All social officers must attend a leadership workshop and/or camp during the summer at their expense.
2. Provide motivational activities throughout the year.
3. Assist with the planning of parties and Spring Banquet.
4. Provide assistance to the Director, Officers, and Team when requested.
5. Assist the Director in selecting "Spirit Girl of the Week."
6. Assist the Director in any other capacity that she may deem necessary.

### ARTICLE 10 - DANCE COMPANY

Dance Company shall be an elite group of dancers who will try-out for this position before a panel of judges. Dance Company members should exhibit the highest standards of dance ability, responsibility, and leadership. Dance Company will perform at additional events, such as pep rallies, basketball games, Christmas shows, and will also participate in 1 or 2 ensembles during contest season. There may be 8-20 candidates selected for Dance Company depending on the size of the team and based on the natural break in scores at try-outs. The Director will have a vote in the point system used to determine Dance Company members. Dance Company members must enroll in the Dance Composition class. Company members may be removed at any time for failure to represent Dance Company properly or failure to follow through on responsibilities. Dance Company members must maintain the highest standard of dance ability in order to remain on the company.

### ARTICLE 11 - MANAGERS

Managers are girls who are non-performing members of the Sweethearts. Candidates who have tried out for Sweethearts and were not selected for the team will be given the opportunity to apply for the position(s) of Manager. There is no set number of managers; however it is anticipated 2-3 managers will be selected per year. Managers will be subject to all the same rules, regulations, and privileges as any member of the team. Managers are expected to arrive early and stay late after rehearsals to ensure that all equipment has been taken care of. The number of Managers selected will be determined by the Director. Managers will be expected to maintain a 2.5 GPA. The Director may dismiss a manager if they fail to fulfill their duties. Managers are required to enroll in the Drill Team class. Managers will receive demerits for failure to handle their responsibilities, as well as abide by the merit/demerit rules governing the Sweethearts. Managers are required to raise sponsor money as well as meet all required fundraiser minimums.

#### Specialized Responsibilities for Managers

1. Aid and report to the Director at all times.
2. Be available to the officers at all times.
3. Be responsible for all equipment and their set up/storage. They must ride the bus with the team both ways and make sure everything is taken care of.

4. Assist Director, officers, and team at all games and contest events.
5. Be responsible for all props and costumes and their maintenance and storage.
6. Keep storage room in order and assist with maintaining the inventory record, as well as the check-in/check-out of team costumes, props and accessories.
7. Arrive 15 minutes early to all events to assist the Director and team, and return to the school after all events to help take care of costumes and props.

## **ARTICLE 12 - MANDATORY MEETINGS AND PRACTICES**

1. Each month the Sweethearts will receive a calendar of scheduled events and practices. Each member will be expected to attend all events and practices and be on time to these events and practices. In the event of any activity/practice not being on the calendar, the Sweethearts will receive at least a 2-day notice and then be expected to attend the activity/practice. This situation may occur due to unforeseen circumstances by the Director.
2. There will be daily before or after school practices throughout the year (Aug-May), as well as some Saturday rehearsals scheduled by the Director. Practices are mandatory.
3. Members must make all appointments including doctor and dentist at times other than drill team practices. Medical appointments are not excused absences unless cleared with the Director first.
4. If a member needs to leave practice early due to an emergency, she must have the consent of the Director and parent contact giving his/her consent.
5. In the event of bad weather days, members should expect a phone call from their officer regarding practice/performance status. Practices missed due to bad weather days may or may not be made up. If made up, they will be done by either extending normal practice hours, calling a Saturday practice, or both.
6. Depending on the school calendar, practice on some holidays is possible. These practices will be noted on the monthly calendar. SOME possible holiday practices are Labor Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, President's Day, Christmas break and Memorial Day.
7. \*\*Please note that Drill Team is not a U.I.L. sanctioned organization and therefore does not always follow U.I.L. practice guidelines. We will abide to the best of our ability all U.I.L. rules.

### **Potential Sweetheart Activities**

1. Football Games
2. Competitions
3. Basketball Games
4. Spring Show
5. Officer and Social Committee leadership workshops
6. Officer and Member camps
7. Open Gym
8. Parades
9. Pep Rallies
10. Community Service Events
11. Other Director designated activities

### **Attendance Policy for Contest Rehearsals (beginning after Thanksgiving break each school year):**

**A Sweetheart will be cut from one or more contest routines for any of the following reasons:**

1. The member receives more than 1 unexcused absence from practice.
  - Detention is an unexcused absence
  - Tutorials MUST be arranged around practice times unless approved by the Director.

- Doctor's appointments **MUST** be made outside of practice time
2. The member does not meet the expectations of the Director during practices.
  3. Upon returning to school after being sick or for a family emergency, the member is unable to "catch up" or learn the necessary skills in the opinion of the Director.
  4. Failing grades on a progress report or report card leading up to contest.

### **ARTICLE 13 - ABSENCES AND TARDIES**

1. Any member late to a Sweetheart activity will receive demerits. The member will also stay after practice to kick for being late.
2. Excused absences include: death of a family member, illness with a doctor's excuse that has been cleared with the Director, verified family emergency, tutorials (arranged with and approved by the Director), approved school related activities, approved college visitation days and make-up tests.
3. Unexcused absences include: Doctor's and Dentist appointments made without approval of the Director, detention, work, family "get togethers", birthdays, dates, skipping, lack of transportation, and missed meetings/rehearsals/performances without prior consent of the Director.
4. All drill team members MUST call the drill team office to report an absence from school for that day. You must also call your Grade Level Office to report the absence to the school. The Drill Team office is 936-856-1325. You may also send an e-mail that morning before school begins to the Director. Failure to notify the Director will result in an automatic unexcused absence
5. All other absences will be judged by the Director and determined whether to be excused or unexcused.
6. If a member leaves school without permission, she will not perform in any performance that day or evening.
7. If a member has in school suspension, she will not perform in any performance that day or evening.
8. If a member misses a performance unexcused, she will be dismissed from the team regardless of performance status.
9. If a member accumulates more than 10 excused absences during the year she will be subject to disciplinary action or removal from the team at the discretion of the Director.
10. If a member has more than 2 unexcused absences in a semester, she will be subject to disciplinary action at the discretion of the Director.
11. A member who is absent, excused or unexcused, on the day of a routine try-out, will not be eligible to re-tryout or perform in that week's routine.
12. Any member with an excused or unexcused absence from field practice with the band will not perform.

### **ARTICLE 15 - EXPENSES**

1. Each member must purchase the required practice clothing, shoes, tights, undergarments, make-up, accessories, garment bag, tote bag and meet all Sponsor and Fundraiser minimums. Sweethearts are also required to participate in motivational gifts, and Big Sis/Lil Sis gift exchanges. Officers are required to provide squad gifts. An estimate of expenses shall be provided in the try-out packet during the try-out process. WISD will provide the member's field uniforms.
2. On overnight trips, fees may be assessed for travel expenses if not within the budget and fundraiser minimums set by the Director and Booster Club are not met.
3. Contest Fees will be assessed on a year to year basis. Solo and Ensembles are optional. Officers are required to compete with a solo.



## **ARTICLE 16 - SPONSOR MONEY / MEMBER ACCOUNTS**

All Sweethearts are required to raise the following minimum in sponsor money:

\$600.00 for Officers

\$500.00 for Line Members

\$400.00 for Managers

All sponsor money is due on the first day of school for the current school year, **or as determined by the Director** - and all money must be turned in by the specified deadline in order for the member to dance at the first football game of the season, and for their sponsor's names to appear in the high school football program. Sweethearts who have not turned in the required minimum of sponsor money will NOT be allowed to try-out, perform, or participate in any football game routines or perform at any school or contest events until all sponsor money is paid in full, unless prior arrangements have been made and are on file with the Director and Treasurer. If Sponsor money balances are not paid before Christmas Break, or 45 days prior the date of first contest/ competition (whichever comes first), member or manager may not participate in school events, travel, or attend contest events (local, state, or national contests). All outstanding balances will be reported to the school at the end of the year and report cards, transcripts, and graduation ceremonies will be "held" until accounts are paid in full. Members and Managers will not be allowed to attend Spring Banquet until all account balances are paid in full.

Sweethearts and/or the Booster Club are not responsible for sponsor names not appearing in the football program where such information was NOT turned in by the specified deadline.

Sponsor money will NOT be refunded if a member quits or loses membership with the team.

For those members who are eager to raise over the minimum sponsor amount, the following guidelines will apply:

1. Funds raised over the minimum will be accounted for in said member's individual account with the Treasurer.
2. Treasurer will not report these funds as a part of the Booster Club's general financial balances since the funds are part of the individual member accounts.
3. All sponsor money over the minimum, **MUST** be used by the member before Spring Banquet. Any member funds left over after said date will become part of the Booster Club General Fund, and will at that time be reported by the Treasurer on the May or year-end financial statement for the Booster Club.
4. Sponsor money over the minimum is NOT transferable between Team Members; however it can be transferred between siblings on the team.
5. Sponsor money over the minimum cannot be "carried over" by member to a new school year. Special allowances may be made to this policy during out-of-state travel years.
6. Sponsor money raised over the minimum may be used to cover a member's drill team fees and/or fundraiser buy-outs for that membership year only.

## **ARTICLE 17 - SWEETHEART CLOTHING:**

If a Sweetheart member quits the team OR loses her membership, at any time, during her tenure at Willis High School, said former member will NOT be allowed to wear Sweetheart clothing or carry Sweetheart bags/luggage which bear the Sweetheart Logo or the name of Willis Sweethearts in public or on school property. Clothing and bags includes, but is not limited to: t-shirts, sweatshirts, polo shirts, leotards, warm-up jackets, skirts, or any other form of clothing or bags/luggage, which bears the Sweetheart name or logo.

Letter Jackets are excluded from this policy. Should a former member who has quit the team and who is still a student at Willis High School be found with clothing on, or carrying bags/luggage with the Sweetheart name or logo, whether in school or a public place, they will be reported, and will be subject to disciplinary action by the school, school administrators and/or their personnel. Members who have graduated from Willis High School as a member of the Sweethearts in good standing at the time of graduation are excluded from this policy.

## **ARTICLE 18 - FUND RAISING**

All Sweethearts and their parents are expected to participate in fund raising, meet all minimum fund raising requirements, and turn in all required minimum fundraiser monies by their specified due dates. Fund raising is a part of the membership requirements and maintaining membership in the Sweethearts and is addressed in Article 5 and Article 7 above.

The Sweetheart fundraisers are used for, but are not limited to the following items: music, dance/instructional/performance/custom choreography, yearbook and football pages, contest entry fees, costumes, travel, motivational gifts, banquet, activities, spring show, equipment and any other miscellaneous expenses not covered by the WISD budget.

Members and Managers may NOT participate in any football game routines or perform at any school or contest events until required minimum fundraiser monies are paid in full. Member accounts must be paid within 30 days of their required due date, or delinquent balances will be reported to the school office. If balances are not paid before Christmas Break, or 45 days prior to the date of first contest/competition (whichever comes first), member or manager may not participate in school events, travel or attend contest events away from school (local, state, or national contests). At year-end, outstanding fundraiser balances will be reported to the school and report cards, transcripts, and graduation ceremonies will be "held" until accounts are paid in full. Members and Managers will not be allowed to attend Spring Banquet until account balances are paid in full.

## **ARTICLE 19 - MERIT/DEMERIT POLICY**

Purpose: The Willis High School Sweethearts will be governed by a merit/demerit system. This system is intended to maintain team discipline and ensure that all team members have a successful year. The system will begin on a start date designated by the Director following try-outs and will last throughout the year to the end of the school year.

### **I. Merit/Demerit Guidelines**

1. Demerits can be issued by the: Director, Assistant Director, or Officers.
2. Demerits/merits do not carry over from year to year and will only affect a member's standing during the current year.
3. At the time a merit or demerit is issued, the line member and officer will sign the demerit form to ensure that all involved are aware of the infraction. Demerits and merits will only be issued with the approval of the Director.
4. Demerits and merits may be assigned at any school or drill team function on or off campus. Sweethearts are always Sweethearts. This means each girl must conduct herself as one at ALL TIMES: 24 hours a day, weekdays, evenings, weekends, summer, and on vacations.
5. A member who receives three or more demerits in a one-week period will not be able to perform in her next performance even if she has tried out and made the routine. This will be at the discretion of the Director during the weeks of contest season.
6. If a member receives 15 demerits, she will be placed on probation (non-performance status) for a period of time determined by the Director. She must also work off all 15 demerits before she is let off of probation. Refusal to work off demerits will result in dismissal from the team. Accumulation of more than 5 demerits at any given time after the initial probation will also result in dismissal from the team.

7. An officer or SoCo member who exceeds 15 or more demerits will be placed on probation and demoted to the line.

**II. Merits** are issued when a member performs above and beyond the call of duty, for extraordinary performances, and for excellent behavior. The following actions will result in merits:

♥ Helping the Director with odd jobs that are school/drill team related	1 merit
♥ Attending additional athletic events	1 merit
♥ Decorating or cleaning up for parties (non SoCo members)	1 merit
♥ Working extra hard or going above and beyond at practice/events	1 merit
♥ Taking outside dance classes	5 merits per class
♥ Attending a dance performance and writing a critique on the performance	5 merits
♥ Parent attends Booster Club meeting	5 merits
♥ Receiving Spirit Girl or Dancer of the week	10 merits
♥ Making A/B honor roll at the end of a 6 week grading period	10 merits
<b>Officers only:</b>	
♥ Squad wins a weekly squad competition	5 merits

\*Merits may also be issued for other reasons, which will be determined by the Director

**III. Demerits** will be issued for the following actions:

♥ Not standing at attention after the command is given	1 demerit
♥ Talking without permission at practice or performance	1 demerit
♥ Not wearing the required make-up	1 demerit
♥ Not wearing the proper undergarments	1 demerit
♥ Hair is not securely back or jewelry is worn to practice or performance	1 demerit
♥ Unexcused tardy to practice or performance	1 demerit
♥ Incorrect attire is worn at practice	1 demerit
♥ Incorrect attire is worn to a performance or uniform is incomplete (will not perform +)	2 demerits
♥ Use of a cell phone at practice, performance or in the locker room during practice time	2 demerits
♥ Affection displayed in public (PDA)	2 demerits
♥ Assigned to ASD (after school detention)	2 demerits
♥ Acting unladylike at school or any school/drill team function	2 demerits
♥ Profanity is used	2 demerits
♥ For each failing grade on any progress report or report card	2 demerits
♥ Officers are disrespected in ANY way or disrespect towards fellow line members	3 demerits
♥ Practice is missed without an excuse or prior notification	5 demerits
♥ Insubordination or disrespect towards the Director(s)	5 demerits
♥ Insubordination or disrespect towards any faculty member	5 demerits
<b>Officers only:</b>	
♥ Failure to issue demerits when demerits are earned	2 demerits
♥ Failure to set a good example for other drill team members	2 demerits
♥ Failure to take care of officer responsibilities	2 demerits
♥ Failure to contact squad by phone when asked by the Director or Captain	2 demerits
♥ Abuse of power	2 demerits

All other rules apply to officers. Remember that you are the EXAMPLES, not the exceptions!!

**An officer or the Director may also assign kicks, push-ups, sit-ups, ribbits, or up-downs in addition to demerits. \*\*For example, tardiness and wearing the incorrect practice attire will always result in the member being detained at the end of practice to complete a series of 50 kicks.\*\***

\*Demerits may also be issued for other infractions, which will be determined by the Director

#### IV. Absences and Tardies

1. Every member must be present for all practice sessions, performances, games, pep rallies, contests, and other drill team functions unless the event is made optional by the Director.
2. Work is not a legitimate excuse for missing or being late to practice or a performance.
3. Three unexcused tardies constitute one unexcused absence.
4. Two excused absence in a week, one unexcused, or missing weekly tryouts will eliminate a member from the upcoming performance that week.
5. Any member who is absent from practice on the day prior to and/or the day of the performance will not perform. During contest season, missing 2 days prior to the contest will remove the member from the routine(s).
6. The only reasons accepted for absences are serious illness (must be accompanied by a doctor's note) or death in the immediate family. Doctor's and Dentist appointments should be made outside of drill team practice time and are not excused absences unless cleared in advance with the Director. The Director will decide in unusual cases; however leaving town or not feeling well do NOT constitute as a valid excuses. Performances, events and appearances are mandatory functions for all members.
7. When a member is unable to attend a practice or performance, she must contact the Director immediately by calling the drill team office phone number @ 936-856-1325.

#### V. Probation/Suspension/Loss of Membership/Academic Eligibility

1. **Probation** - A member who becomes ineligible due to grades will be placed on academic probation until the Member regains academic eligibility. During this period of probation, the member is not allowed to perform/sit with/or dress with the team, but is still required to attend all practices. Probation can also be given for other reasons that will be determined by the Director and may include behavior referrals. Probation will also be assigned when a member reaches her 15<sup>th</sup> demerit. An officer or SoCo member will be placed on probation and demoted to the line after receiving her 15<sup>th</sup> demerit.
2. **Suspension**-Defined as NO participation in any drill team activities beyond regular school hours. The member will still be required to participate fully in classroom activities. Suspension will occur when a member becomes ineligible due to conduct, surpasses 5 demerits after probation, or for any other behavioral problems.
3. **Loss of membership** can occur for violations of any rules or district policies, including those in this constitution. The director and/or principal may determine appropriate disciplinary action for any conduct deemed inappropriate for a member of this organization while on campus or off campus throughout the calendar year. An expelled member will lose all membership rights and will not be eligible to try-out for the team the following year without going through the petitioning process. Please see Article 4 for the petitioning process. The expelled member will still be required to clear all unpaid balances and turn in all clothing/equipment. No money will be refunded for any reason to a member is expelled.

##### Members should keep in mind that:

1. Immediate dismissal will occur if a member falsifies an excuse or uses the Director's name to enter or leave a class.
2. Smoking, use of alcoholic beverages, or any controlled substance, whether on or off campus, is grounds for immediate dismissal.
3. Dismissal will occur if a member becomes ineligible more than twice.
4. Vandalism of school, community, or public property is immediate grounds for dismissal.
5. Immediate dismissal may occur for any behavior that is unladylike or unbecoming to the Sweethearts organization.

6. The director and/or principal may revoke membership for continued misconduct or poor attitude (i.e. recurring behavioral problems, excessive demerits, poor attendance, etc.)
7. Any communication that is unbecoming to the individual and Sweetheart organization including electronic correspondence and personal web pages will result in dismissal from the team.
8. Immediate dismissal will occur for any behavior which draws the attention of law enforcement.

A Sweetheart will be held accountable for her behavior at all times. Her behavior outside of Sweethearts is as important as her behavior while she is participating. She is to be a responsible member through the summer months, the weekends, weekdays, and any vacation time. The Director does not and will not have to tolerate inappropriate behavior from any member.

4. **Academic eligibility** - When a member becomes academically ineligible for a three-week span more than twice, they will be expelled from the team and lose all membership rights. Sponsor and fundraising monies in a member's account will not be refunded. Officers are expected to always maintain academic eligibility and will face the possibility of being demoted to the line if eligibility becomes an issue.

#### **VI. Working off Demerits**

1. 10 merits remove one demerit
2. A member may work off one demerit by completing a series of 50 up-downs, 50 kicks or running laps. This may be performed for an officer who will report back to the Director.

\*\*\*All decisions made are at the discretion of the Director and may be subject to change\*\*\*

#### **ARTICLE 20 - SCHOLARSHIPS - "Alicia Williams Memorial Sweetheart Dance Scholarship"**

Senior Sweethearts are eligible to apply for the Alicia Williams Memorial Sweetheart Dance Scholarship as provided by the Sweetheart Booster Club. Booster Club and members are solely responsible for the fundraising of this scholarship, which is through advertising for the Sweetheart Annual Spring Show Program. Senior Sweethearts who apply for this scholarship must meet the standards and criteria set forth by the Scholarship program in order to qualify. All years of an applicant's participation, service, and behavior are taken into consideration. A committee of Booster Club parents (not including senior parents), plus one community member, and the Director will make up the selection committee. The committee decides upon the number and monetary amounts of the scholarships. Documentation, rules, guidelines, and applications will be provided to all qualifying Senior Sweethearts in the spring of each year. Seniors with outstanding balances at the time of application will not be eligible to apply for the scholarship.

#### **ARTICLE 21 - PERFORMANCES**

Performances are a time when the community directly observes the Sweetheart Organization. Each girl is expected to be an exemplary representative of the group. All performances are mandatory unless otherwise specified. The following are guidelines that must be followed during football season:

1. Obey all officer and Director requests.
2. Abide by all constitution and demerit rules.
3. Follow the format of stand routines. No "freestyle" dancing.
4. One restroom break will be taken. Members will travel to and from the restroom with their assigned squad.
5. Do not socialize under the stands, in the rest room, or while walking to and from the rest room.
6. Do not eat, chew gum, or drink anything during the game. Water will be available after half-time. Eat BEFORE a game because you will be hungry. No gum or candy at anytime. Do not have parents

bring you food from the concession stand. Do not try to sneak candy, gum or food into your bag and bring it to the game.

7. Do not talk or laugh, or move around while on the field, or in line to go on the field.
8. Do not wipe mud or water off of your legs while on the field.
9. Do not allow anyone (mother, father, sister, aunt, friend, etc.) to sit in the stands with you at anytime for any reason.
10. Do not carry on conversation with friends or family in the adjoining stands, or in the aisles, at any time.
11. Please inform parents that they are not allowed to stand in front of the drill team section, take pictures or videos without permission from the director.
12. Cheer with the Cheerleaders and on your own at all times.
13. Do not ask the band to play a certain song.
14. Pay attention to the game. Be supportive of the players. You are there to support the football team!
15. All members **MUST** ride the bus to and from all away games. In the case of a very special circumstance (only 1 per year), approval must be sought by a guardian in writing 2-3 days prior to the game, signed and approved by the Principal of WHS, and Mrs. Cade must receive a signed, approved copy prior to the game. Do **NOT** ask for permission at the game.
16. You must attend all football games regardless of your performance status unless ineligible. Failure to do so may result in suspension from the team. Do **NOT** schedule a doctor's appointment on a Friday evening!!!
17. NO part of your uniform may be taken off until given permission by the Director or you are riding home in your car or you are on the bus. Your hat may be loosened but not off of your head. No hats should be on the floor of the bus. Members may not go out to eat after a game in uniform!
18. Officers and Spirit/Dancer of the week will be given a time limit when going across to greet the other drill team. Failure to return on time, will result in a demerit for each late member. Officers and others must walk in an orderly fashion at all times when going to and from the other side. Officers and others will show the highest respect and be on their best behavior when visiting with other teams.
19. When the officers are not in the stands, the appointed SoCo member will be in charge.
20. If any part of your uniform falls off on the field, or you drop a prop you will receive a demerit.
21. If you forget any part of your uniform required for the evening's performance (gloves, overlay, gauntlets, sleeves, hat, tights, etc.) you will not be allowed to perform that evening, and member will receive demerit(s).

## **ARTICLE 22 - TRAVEL**

1. Sweetheart members are required to ride the bus to-and-from the school for *ALL* away games, as well as all other events where bus transportation is provided by WISD or charter service. If member's parent is also attending an away game or event, and wishes the member to ride home with them, the parent will need to provide a written request to the Director at least 2 days prior to the date of the event. Do not assume the request is approved until the Director has informed the member! This privilege will only be allowed only **ONE** time per year and only for a **VERY** special circumstance which should be stated in your written request. At the school event, a parent or legal guardian will need to personally appear and sign out their daughter with the Director. The Member will only be allowed to leave with a parent or legal guardian. Once the member has been signed out, the school, and the Sweetheart organization is no longer responsible! \*\*Special permission to ride is at the sole discretion of the director and/or school principal and this policy may be revoked at any time.
2. Food and drinks on the buses will be at the sole discretion of the Director, and may be revoked at any time.

3. Group behavior on buses will follow current bus rules and regulations as stated in the WISD student handbook.
4. Out of town, or overnight trips will be addressed by the director preceding the trip. Rules and regulations pertaining to those trips will be given out to each member preceding the trip. Noncompliance with those rules and regulations may result in loss of membership, and/or disciplinary action by the director or the school.
5. When traveling, the girls are not permitted to give out their hotel phone number or hotel information to persons who are not with the team. Violation can result in removal from the team, and member being sent home immediately. In such an event, the parent is responsible for the cost of transportation.
6. Shoplifting will absolutely NOT be tolerated! This violation can result in criminal charges by the local police department, jail time, prosecution, removal from the team and being sent home immediately. The parent will be responsible for the cost of transportation-not to mention all other legal costs when a member must be sent home.
7. Hotel rooms will be checked prior to departing! Girls who have been found to be destructive and/or have abused their room will be punished severely by the Director. In addition, the member and/or their parents will be responsible for all damages prior to departing a hotel.
8. The school district, and law enforcement has the right to search all bags and luggage prior to departure on a bus for any school sponsored event!

### **ARTICLE 23 - AWARDS**

The following awards may be given during the course of the school year:

1. Dancer of the Week - Dancer that exemplifies the most energy and best discipline throughout rehearsals.
2. Spirit Girl of the Week - Dancer that exudes the most positive spirit and motivates the team throughout rehearsals.
3. Outstanding Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, and Senior
4. Sweetheart of the Year
5. Officer of the Year
6. Squad of the Year
7. Academic Excellence - Member with all A report card, or A/B report cards
8. Least Demerits
9. Most Merits
10. And any other awards deemed appropriate for that year by the Director

### **ARTICLE 24 - BOOSTER CLUB**

Parents of Sweethearts are expected to be active members of the Sweetheart Booster Club. Meetings are typically held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of assigned months, unless notified otherwise. Notices regarding meetings are published via e-mail to all members in advance of meetings, as well as being listed on monthly calendars and website.

The Booster Club provides funding and support for the Sweethearts Organization through fund raising activities. Each family will be asked to participate in fund raising activities and raise their share of the budget during the year. Monies raised by the Sweetheart Booster Club are the responsibility of the parents and not the Sweethearts. Fundraiser money will not be refunded in the event that a member quits the team or loses her membership.

It is mandatory that at least one parent or relative volunteer to work at the annual contest to be held at Willis High School and hosted by the Sweethearts. Again, this is **absolutely mandatory** to ensure our success and the successful outcome of our contest! The contest is held during February and each parent/volunteer will be given specific job descriptions to fulfill. Members who do not provide a parent or family volunteer will be penalized.

Please refer to the separate Sweethearts Booster Club By-laws for additional information pertaining to the Booster Club.

#### **ARTICLE 25 - MISCELLANEOUS**

1. All practices are closed unless otherwise specified by the director. (i.e. Special practices or the need of a volunteer parent to video or do other jobs for the director.)
2. All members are to refrain from ANY type of public display of affection with a male at all DRILL team and school events and locations. Including school and stadium parking lots as well as outside of any function. Members who cannot abide by this rule will face disciplinary action.
3. No family members or spectators will be allowed to sit or visit with the team when they are gathered for a performance or meeting with the director. This includes pep-rallies, football games, contests and pre-performance/post performance speeches given by the director.

#### **ARTICLE 26 - AMENDMENTS**

1. IN THE EVENT A SITUATION IS NOT COVERED BY THIS CONSTITUTION, THE DIRECTOR WILL MAKE THE FINAL DECISION, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE WHS PRINCIPAL.
2. The Director and or WHS Principal have final say in any interpretation of this constitution.
3. Addition or subtraction to this constitution may be made by the Director at any time with the approval of the WHS Principal. If any changes are made, members will be given written notice.

#### **ARTICLE 27 - ACKNOWLEDGEMENT PAGE**

Parents and members are required to sign the attached Acknowledgment page that states they have read, understand, will uphold the rules and guidelines set forth in the Willis Sweetheart Constitution. Sweethearts without a signed Acknowledgment page on file with the Director, or with an incomplete Acknowledgment page on file, will not be allowed to participate in Sweetheart functions.



**SWEETHEART CONSTITUTION ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**Detach and return this page:**

**I HAVE RECEIVED, READ, AND FULLY UNDERSTAND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE WILLIS HIGH SCHOOL SWEETHEART DRILL TEAM. I AGREE THAT I AM SUBJECT TO, AND WILL ABIDE BY THIS CONSTITUTION. I FURTHER AGREE THAT I AM GOVERNED BY, AND WILL FOLLOW ALL OF THE ARTICLES, RULES, GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES SET FORTH IN THE CONSTITUTION AND ANY AMENDMENTS THEREOF.**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Sweetheart Member**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature**