



MISSION JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADER CONSTITUTION

We, the cheerleaders of Mission Junior High School, do hereby establish this organization to provide spirit and support all school activities.

I. MEMBERSHIP

- A. Members must comply with all standards of conduct outlined below in addition to those in the Mission CISD Student Code of Conduct handbook. Failure to comply with these standards may result in disciplinary action up to and including removal from the squad.

II. ELIGIBILITY

- A. All members must maintain a grade of 70 or higher on every subject for every six weeks grading period. (see No Pass No Play section on page 3 of 15'-16' UIL Side by Side)
- B. All members must maintain excellent or perfect school attendance throughout the school year.
- C. All members must be RESPONSIBLE, HONEST, RELIABLE, DEPENDABLE, COOPERATIVE, DEDICATED, LOYAL, RESPECTFUL, APPRECIATIVE AND WITH A GOOD ATTITUDE.
- D. All members must follow school rules and regulations per the MCISD Student Code of Conduct, and must practice policies and procedures at all times.

III. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Cheerleaders will be required to cheer at assigned games and functions. (see page 14 of 15'-16' UIL Side by Side for limitations)
- B. Must meet attendance criteria on the day they are to participate in a game or function. (may not participate if absent over 50% of the school day)
- C. Promote and create "fun activities" for student body participation such as in pep rallies and assemblies.
- D. **MUST** be picked up on time after practices, games and any other events.
- E. **MUST** participate in **all** fundraising activities.

A. Cheerleader's Role

1. Represent MJHS as spirit ambassadors.
2. Create and put up posters throughout the campus.
3. Provide entertainment and cheer for all attendees during games and events.
4. Provide half-time snacks for the squad on assigned days.
5. Sit and cheer at designated areas.
6. Cheerleaders must put their school squad before any other organization.
(if participating in other extra-curricular activities, member must attend cheer practice first)

IV. **EXPENSES**

- A. Cost to be a cheerleader will range around \$1,000-\$1,500.
 - a. This cost includes: uniform, camp wear, poms, bows, shoes, bag, etc.
- B. Other possible costs include: team bonding activities, extra accessories for events, choreography fees, etc.
- C. Competitive Cheer: we will try to participate in one local competitive cheer event, fees will include: choreography, tumbling classes, registration fees, transportation, food/snacks, drinks, etc.

V. **TRYOUTS**

- A. The squad will be selected by a panel of qualified judges.
- B. Tryouts will be held annually in the spring for the next school year (closed to the public).
- C. Sixth graders in good academic standing will be allowed to try out for any of the 12 available 7th grade cheer positions.
- D. Seventh graders in good academic standing will be allowed to try out for any of the 12 available 8th grade cheer positions.
- E. Attend and wear proper attire at **all** practice sessions.

VI. **CONDUCT / DEMERITS**

- A. **CONDUCT: Cheerleaders must set a good example for Mission Junior High School students and the community by following the behavioral expectations as outlined in the Mission CISD Student Code of Conduct.**

B. DEMERITS: Will be documented for failing to fulfill cheerleading duties and regulations. Suspension and/or dismissal from squad may occur after the accumulation of 12 demerits.

- **1 Demerit:**

- Failure to be picked up on time (after 3rd time)
- Tardiness to practice/game/event without proper approval/excuse.
- Leaving early from practice/game/event without proper approval/dismissal.
- Chewing gum at practice/game/event.
- Using electronic devices at practice/game/event.
- Wearing jewelry unless for religious/medical reasons.
- Failure to wear proper practice attire as required.
- Leaving personal property and/or trash after dismissal from practice/game/event.
- Eating in public while in uniform unless district approved (i.e. must change out of uniform if going out with family/friends).
- Distractive behavior (i.e. making contact with the audience, chatting or leaving formation during practice/game/event).
- Lack of spirit or enthusiasm.

- **2 Demerits:**

- Failure to follow chain of command (7th graders → co-captain; 8th graders → captain; co-captain → captain; captain → sponsor)
- Failure to wear required uniform including accessories: hair (styled as team unit), nails (filed short w/ only clear/natural polish), bow, socks (white no-show), clean shoes, blue briefs, blue sports bra, poms, etc.
- Failure to attend a practice/game/event without proper approval/excuse (see leaves and absences section below).

- **3 Demerits:**

- Failure to follow school rules.
- Detention or I.S.S. (documented)
- Inappropriate conduct in class, campus, or school events; brought to the sponsor's attention.

- **5 Demerits:**
 - Insubordination/lack of respect to sponsor, choreographer, teachers, principal or any other school affiliated member.
 - Abuse of authority by captain/co-captain.
 - Posting inappropriate photographs in or out of school uniform or cheer attire on ANY social media network.

VII. LEAVES and ABSENSES

- A. **Any Practice Absences** will result on a member being benched from next game, performance, or event **unless** appropriate knowledge of material and skills are displayed at least one day prior to event.
- B. **Leaving a Practice or Game early** will only be excused for school sponsored practices/games/events.
- C. Valid excuses for absences includes but are not limited to the following:
 - i. A verified medical absence (max. 3) on a school day due to a personal illness with immediate and proper medical documentation and timely notification to sponsor.
 - ii. Emergency personal illness (max. 2) after the school day, parent must notify sponsor in a timely manner.
 - iii. Family emergency (natural disasters or life-threatening situations), sponsor must be notified by parent in a timely manner.
 - iv. Death in the immediate family (parent, sibling, grandparent), sponsor must be notified by parent in a timely manner.
 - v. Parent request school days are considered **unexcused** from an assigned cheer activity. (i.e. going out of town)

VIII. SUSPENSION & REMOVAL FROM SQUAD

- A. The principal and sponsor will determine the length of suspension for the accumulation of 6+ demerits or other serious violation(s).
- B. The accumulation of 12+ demerits will result in immediate suspension from squad and may result on expulsion upon review of demerit referrals by sponsor, principal, member and parent(s).
- C. A cheerleader placed in OSS/AEP will be permanently removed from the squad.

- D. Immediate suspension/dismissal may also result from any of the following:
- a. Absence from summer camp (even if excused)
 - b. Fighting/Bullying.
 - c. Smoking, drinking or having illegal substances on/off school property.

IX. **APPEALS**

- A. A written excuse/reason signed by a parent or guardian may be submitted to the sponsor and principal by the last school day of the week that the violation/demerit occurred.