

TLCA

Cheerleading



"The spirit to win and the will to succeed are measured one stunt at a time."

Table of Contents

| | |
|------------|---------------------------------|
| 3..... | Cheerleading Constitution |
| 4..... | Qualifications & Tryouts |
| 5..... | Election of Mascot |
| 5-9..... | Responsibility & Conduct |
| 10-12..... | Responsibilities & Expectations |
| 13..... | Mascot Responsibility |
| 14..... | Warning and Demerit System |
| 15..... | Important Dates |
| 16..... | Financial Agreement |
| 17..... | Constitution Agreement |

Texas Leadership Charter Academy

Cheerleading Constitution

Purpose:

Being a cheerleader or mascot is an honor and special privilege. Cheerleaders, mascots, and spirit groups exist to promote good sportsmanship, good citizenship, wholesome and enthusiastic school spirit, and are first and foremost representatives of their school. Cheerleaders should exemplify both individual and group behavior suitable to their position and in accordance with the rules as stated in the TLCA Student Code of Conduct. Members of these groups have a fundamental responsibility to play a leadership role in building teamwork and helping the school achieve its goals and objectives. Because of these responsibilities, members of the cheerleading squad will be expected to maintain a higher standard of behavior both on and off campus and a higher level of academic achievement than that of their peers.

Expectations & Objectives:

Cheerleaders and mascots must be enthusiastic spirit leaders, ambassadors for TLCA, and diversely skilled athletes. Cheerleaders and mascots are expected to be physically and mentally skilled in learning and remembering cheers, chants and dance routines. They are also expected to be able to publicly demonstrate a skill level suitable for the team position and the timing necessary for group performance. Their role will include involvement in community events and public relations. Off the field, they are to enthusiastically support all athletic teams through advertisement, personal attitude, and attendance at events chosen by the sponsor and approved by the principal. First and foremost, the responsibility of a TLCA cheerleader or mascot is to their academic program. **Passing grades and good conduct are a must to participate in the cheerleading program.** The next responsibility of the squad is to help conduct an atmosphere of spirit and support throughout the squad, school and community.

Definition of Cheerleading Year & Commitment:

Cheerleading year: The rules and procedures outlined in this constitution are in effect from the time the student/candidate is selected to the cheerleading squad until the next tryout date. Candidates selected to be a member of the cheerleading squad are expected to make a commitment to the activity for the full cheerleading year.

Qualifications & Tryouts

Eligibility for Candidates:

- Cheerleaders must have an average of 70 or above in each subject at the conclusion of the grading period immediately preceding tryout clinics and maintain an average of 70 or above in each subject to remain eligible throughout the tryout period. If a student is academically ineligible for any two six week grading periods prior to cheerleading tryouts, that student is not eligible for cheerleading tryouts without approval from the principal and sponsor. A cheerleader who is removed from the squad due to grades will not be eligible for tryouts the following year without approval from the principal and sponsors.
- Candidates must not have been suspended or assigned ISS during the present school year for disciplinary reasons. Any student, who has received any disciplinary referrals, will not be eligible to participate in tryouts without approval from the principal and sponsor.
- Parents or legal guardians of candidates must attend all cheerleading tryout meetings. Parents or legal guardians must sign a parent permission form stating that they have read the constitution and will abide by the regulations of the constitution if the candidate is selected.
- Candidates must have all required paper work completed and returned by the designated date and time. Required paper work includes a tryout application, recommendations from each teacher which will be handled by the sponsor, financial responsibility contract, essay and current grade sheet. Late forms will not be accepted. No Exceptions.

Tryout Procedures:

- Candidates must participate in cheerleading clinics prior to tryouts. Candidates who are participating in TLCA athletic sports during scheduled clinics must participate in the required number of clinics as defined by the sponsor and maintain communication with cheerleading sponsors and TLCA coaches. Failure to attend the required clinics and meetings will eliminate the candidate from cheerleader tryouts. It is the candidate's responsibility to learn the material at the clinic.
- Each candidate will try out individually in front of a qualified panel of judges. Professional judges with outstanding credentials and references will be hired for a closed tryout. Candidates will do a cheer and two jumps. They will then perform a dance routine with a group. Tryouts in front of judges will be closed. Only sponsors, principals and judges will be allowed in the gym during this time.
- Each candidate will try out in front of the student body. Individually they will do a cheer and two jumps. They will then perform a dance routine with a group.
- Every teacher of each candidate will be given a recommendation form to be factored into the candidate's overall score. Since a cheerleader is a school leader, the way one conducts themselves in a classroom directly reflects on the squad. Teacher responses will not be released; therefore they should feel comfortable giving an honest response.

- Tryout attire will consist of a white shirt, no-show white socks, white tennis shoes and black shorts. Hair must be worn in a high-ponytail. Absolutely no jewelry is to be worn during any cheerleading tryouts or events.
- All cheerleaders shall be selected by a scoring method that divides a weight of 100% to the ratings assigned by judges, teachers, student body and cheerleading sponsors; judges 50%, teachers 25%, students 15%, and sponsors 10%. The TLCA High School cheerleading program will consist of a varsity squad composed of the number of members set forth by the principal. The top ranked scores, in order up to the determined squad count, will comprise the varsity squad.
- The possibility of a junior varsity squad exists for the next six candidates in the ranking. However, a senior is not eligible for the junior varsity squad.
- The decision to have a junior varsity squad will be made once the varsity squad is determined and will depend upon many factors, including: the number of candidates not qualifying for the varsity squad, the interest of those eligible for the junior varsity squad, the availability of a junior varsity squad sponsor, etc...
- In the event of a tie, the essays of the two candidates with the tied score will be evaluated by a principal's committee. The candidate with the highest essay score will earn a spot on the squad.
- If a member of the cheerleading squad moves (or there is an opening for any reason on any squad), the principal and sponsor may fill the opening based on the tryout scores. Any replacement will take place on or before the first day of the first school term and is at the principal's and sponsor's discretion.

Election of Mascot:

- A. Candidates shall attend the same preparation clinic as the cheerleader candidates.
- B. Candidates follow the same eligibility procedures as cheerleading candidates.
- C. Candidate's tryout will include a skit. All skits or performances must be sponsor approved prior to tryouts. Any skits not approved will result in disqualification of the candidate.
- D. Scoring of mascot candidates will be the same as with cheerleaders.

Responsibility & Conduct

Financial Responsibility:

- **TLCA cheerleaders and mascots will be responsible for complete uniform cost and all camp fees. An estimate of these fees is between \$850 and \$1000.**
- Each cheerleader and mascot will be required to participate in group fundraisers and individual fundraisers throughout the cheerleading year.
- Each cheerleader will be responsible for selling booster cards, program ads and attending all mini-cheer camps, as well as any other fundraising events and activities.
- **It is imperative that every cheerleader and mascot participate in the raising of funds for the program.** If a member does not sell their designated amount in the given time they will receive demerits accordingly.

Cheerleading Uniforms & Gear:

- TLCA cheerleaders are responsible for purchasing complete uniforms (this includes; game uniforms, camp uniforms, jacket, wind suit, tights, midriff, bloomers, shoes, socks and hair bows). Payments may be made in installments that will be set according to dates determined by the sponsor. Personal fundraising opportunities will be made available to cheerleaders to help accommodate these costs. During the school year there may also be additional costs or fees asked for the cheerleader to undertake such as cheer shirts, pink out gear, etc...***Do not tryout if you cannot commit to the following financial responsibilities.***
 - A. Cheerleading uniforms, camp uniforms, jacket, tights, midriff, bloomers, shoes, socks and hair bows will remain with cheerleaders at the end of the cheerleading year.
 - B. All uniform decisions will be approved by the cheerleading sponsor. Nothing can or will be ordered without prior sponsor approval.
 - C. **The day uniforms are ordered, each cheerleader will be required to pay a deposit of \$250 toward the financial obligation. The remaining balance must be paid before any portion of the uniform is distributed. NO EXCEPTIONS**
 - D. If an item has been ordered that is non- refundable, the cheerleader for which the item was purchased for will be responsible for payment of this item, even if they are no longer part of the TLCA cheerleading squad. Any remaining balance must be paid in full prior to the first game of the football season. Failure to comply with this financial policy will result ineligibility for future tryouts. Failure to pay remaining balances will result in diplomas and/or report cards being held until balances are paid in full.
 - E. Should alterations be necessary, the sponsor must approve before the alterations are done.
 - F. If a cheerleader loses or is unable to wear a piece of their uniform, they will be responsible for payment and the ordering of the replacement piece. Replacement orders will be done by the cheerleading sponsor. All replacements must be done in a timely manner to ensure that the squad maintains an identical uniform look.
- Any and all TLCA cheerleading gear purchased through group fundraising will remain with the cheerleading program. The cheerleader sponsor will coordinate these fundraising events and along with what is expected of each cheerleader, according to the cost of the gear that is being ordered for the squad.
 - A. Cheerleading gear purchased through group fundraisers by the squad are to be cleaned and in top condition when returned at the end of the cheerleading year. If items are returned in a lesser condition the cheerleader will be responsible to pay for these items.
 - B. These items will be purchased based on the needs of the squads and the decision of the cheerleading sponsor.
 - C. If a cheerleader would like to personally purchase an item that is to remain with the squad they may do so for an additional cost. This purchase is to be

paid for by the cheerleader after they have met the group fundraising expectations.

- D. If a cheerleader fails to return any cheerleading gear or warm-ups they will be responsible for the cost of these items. All balances are to be paid in full by the end of the school year. Report cards and/or diplomas will be held until the items are returned and/or balances are paid.**
- All squads must have a uniform look from head to toe. Cheerleaders will not loan out any piece of their uniform to non-squad member. Failure to wear the designated uniform or outfit to any cheerleading activity will result in a warning. Cheerleaders not in uniform at an official uniformed event will be benched.
 - A. Practice Attire – Cheerleaders and mascots will wear appropriate clothing; such as workout shorts and a t-shirt. Cheerleading shoes must be worn to practice. No jewelry is to be worn during practice. All female cheerleaders must wear a sports bra under their practice attire. All hair must be pulled back out of the face.
 - B. Game Attire – Cheerleaders and mascots will wear designated uniform. Female cheerleaders must wear a black sports bra under their uniform. All hair is to be worn in a ponytail with a bow and bangs need to be pinned away from the face. All socks must be solid white no-show socks. No jewelry is to be worn to any cheerleading activities. All uniform pieces should be brought to every game in case of weather changes. What one wears, must be worn by all – jackets, midriiffs, rain/sweat suits etc...
 - C. Camp Attire – Camp attire will be uniform and will be worn by all cheerleaders and mascots.
 - D. TLCA Cheerleaders will wear designated uniform to school on game days. Cheerleaders who are ineligible to cheer will not wear their uniform to school and will not travel with the squad to out of town games.
 - E. The cheerleading sponsor will announce prior to all fundraising and cheerleading events what the appropriate attire will be and how hair should be worn. Any cheerleader or mascot who does not wear the required attire will be given warnings or demerits accordingly.
 - F. When a cheerleader is cheering or performing they will not wear any other articles of clothing with their uniform, unless permission has been given by the cheerleading sponsor.
 - G. Appearance is important. The goal is for all to look as identical and nicely groomed as possible. Hair should be worn neatly; makeup should be non-offensive and no jewelry ever. Uniforms should be kept clean and pressed. Shoes should be kept clean as well.
 - Mascot Uniforms: Mascots will purchase camp clothes, cheerleading sprit shirt, yellow socks and provide shoes approved by the sponsor. They will also be responsible for the purchase of a mouth piece for the water pack. They will follow all cheerleading uniform guidelines.
 - Varsity Lettering: Varsity cheerleaders/mascot who are in good standing throughout the season and participate in 90 percent of the varsity activities will qualify for a varsity letter. Letters will be provided by the cheerleader activity fund.

Conduct:

- Cheerleaders and mascots are leaders and positive role models. TLCA cheerleaders and mascots are expected to take pride in the position and **maintain high standards in their personal lives**. They must demonstrate leadership qualities on and off the field, as well as in the classroom and outside of the classroom. TLCA cheerleaders and mascots are ambassadors of the TLCA and are required **to represent the school in a positive way at all times**. If a cheerleader or mascot uses social networking websites (such as facebook and instagram) and identifies themselves as a TLCA cheerleader or mascot; photos, blogs and pages must reflect a positive image. **Inappropriate communication or photos on social networking sites may result in a member being removed from the squad.**
- Current UIL and State Law mandates regarding eligibility must be maintained at all times. Grades will be checked every three weeks by the sponsor. Failure to meet UIL or State Law mandates for a grading period will result in the cheerleader or mascot being benched from games and performances for three weeks. Attendance at practices or fundraising activities during this time will still be required. If the cheerleader or mascot becomes eligible at the end of the three weeks following the six week grading period they will resume with their cheerleading responsibilities for games and performances. If they are not eligible at this time they will be benched for the remaining grading period. Failure to maintain eligibility for two or more six weeks will result in removal from the TLCA Cheerleading Program. **A cheerleader or mascot who is removed from the squad due to grades will not be eligible for tryouts the following year without approval from the principal and sponsors.**
- Cheerleaders or mascots who become ineligible due to grades are required to attend all practices and in-town cheerleading events and performances/games. They will wear a spirit shirt and blue jeans. During the event or performance the ineligible cheerleader or mascot will sit with the cheerleading sponsor. They will not wear their uniform to school or events. They will not travel with the squad to any out- of- town performances or games. If an ineligible cheerleader travels to an out-of-town game on their own, seating requirements will still be upheld.
- Cheerleaders and mascots will be issued a monthly calendar with scheduled events, games and practices. Being present and on time is a must for all members.
 - A. Tardiness - If a cheerleader is tardy they will be given a warning. After two warnings they will be issued a demerit. If a member is going to be late, they must contact the sponsor prior.
 - B. Absences - A cheerleader or mascot will be excused from a practice, performance or a game due to a documented illness, documented doctor visit, family emergencies, or funerals. Any other reasons will result in an unexcused absence and the cheerleader will not perform that week. **THIS INCLUDES DRIVER'S EDUCATION.** The sponsor must be notified by a parent prior to the event if a member is going to be absent. A member who misses a pep rally practice, whether excused or unexcused will not perform in the pep rally. A member who misses performances or games will be issued a demerit.

- C. If a member misses more than a half day of school on a game day they will not be allowed to perform at the game.
- Remember that the definitive word in cheerleader is “leader”. **You are always in the public eye (in uniform or not) as a representative of TLCA.**
- A. Disrespect and rudeness to the sponsor, other squad members or just in general, will not be tolerated and will be dealt with immediately.
 - B. Each member will work as a team member with all squads, as well as other school organizations.
 - C. TLCA cheerleaders and mascots will do what is asked of them and then anything else that needs to be done while they are participating in cheerleading events. This includes cleanup of sidelines, cleaning van after an away game, picking up after a pep rally, assisting sponsor with supplies after a game, or assisting sponsor and/or faculty with student responsibilities.
- Proper behavior will be displayed at all times. No PDA. **Inappropriate behavior is as defined in the student handbook and code of conduct.**
- A. Minor violations will result in warnings or demerits depending on the infraction, unless otherwise stated in the constitution or student handbook and code of conduct. After two warnings a demerit will be issued. If a member receives two demerits they will be benched from all cheerleading activities for **two weeks**. Five demerits will result in a review committee meeting to discuss discipline or possible removal from the squad. This committee will be comprised of the sponsors, principal and/or assistant principal, and two teachers.
 - B. **Major violations will follow the procedures outlined in the student handbook and or code of conduct, as well as removal from the program.**
 - C. Cheerleaders and mascots **will be removed** from the TLCA cheerleading program **for any of the following reasons:**
 - Excessive discipline problems
 - Major violations as defined in the student handbook and or Code of Conduct
 - Criminal charges or citations (excluding moving violations)
 - Use of alcohol, tobacco or drugs
 - Pregnancy
 - Excessive unexcused absences
 - Not participating in summer camp
 - Not meeting all financial requirements
 - Inappropriate communication or photos on social networking sites
 - Disrespectful and insubordinate behavior while attending camps, clinics or competitions

***Removal from the TLCA cheerleading program will result in ineligibility as a candidate for tryouts for the remaining time that the student is enrolled at TLCA.**
 - D. If a TLCA cheerleader or mascot receives in-school or off-campus suspension for a violation or infraction, it will be at the principal’s discretion to determine whether the cheerleader or mascot will be removed from the TLCA cheerleading program. If the member is not removed from the program, demerits will be given

- accordingly and the cheerleader/mascot will be benched from all activities until further notice is given by the principal or assistant principal.
- Each member is responsible for communicating with coaches and sponsors if they are involved in athletics or other programs.
 - A. Practice vs. Practice – member goes to athletics
 - B. Game vs. Practice – member goes to the game
 - C. Game vs. Game – it is the student’s choice and other arrangements may be worked out between the coach or teacher and the sponsor.
 - D. Female cheerleaders or mascots who play basketball must be ready to cheer by the 2nd quarter of the boys’ basketball game.

Responsibilities and Expectations:

- Camps, Clinics and Competitions: **All cheerleaders and mascots are required to attend summer cheerleading camps, clinics and competitions, no exceptions.** If a member does not attend summer cheerleading camp they will be removed from the program. Camp dates will be issued as soon as the sponsor schedules camp. So please do not tryout if you cannot attend summer camp. Family events or vacations do not supersede cheerleading camp.
 - A. **Each member will be responsible for paying camp fees and purchasing camp uniforms.** Payments may be made in installments that will be approved by the sponsor. Personal fundraising opportunities will be made available to cheerleaders to help accommodate these costs. **If camp fees are not paid in full by the last day of school, then the member will not attend camp and will lose their position as a TLCA cheerleader or mascot. Do not try out if you cannot attend camp or pay for camp.**
 - B. **All squads will compete at camp, so all members will be required to attend practices that are designated camp practices.**
 - C. Camp uniforms will be announced by the sponsor. Squad members will wear required camp uniforms.
 - E. When a cheerleader or mascot attends camps, clinics or competitions they are representing TLCA. They will exhibit ethical conduct at all times. If a member is disrespectful, insubordinate or demonstrates unacceptable behavior, it will be considered a major violation. Any of the aforementioned infractions will follow the procedure outlined in the student handbook and code of conduct, as well as removal from the program. Parents will be notified and the member will be made to leave camp immediately.
- Practices: Cheerleading practices will be weekly during football and basketball season. Two practices per week is standard during pep rally and football season. **All members are expected to attend practices, even throughout the summer.**
 - *Summer practices that are not designated camp practices will give allowance for family events and vacations, as long as prior notice is given to the sponsor. Practices will be held at the sponsor’s discretion, especially in the weeks preceding cheer camp. Cheerleaders must be completely available once two-a-days begins on August 3. Cheerleaders will be expected to attend Meet the Eagles. They will be expected to practice all routines on their own as well as:

- A. Review attendance policies regarding tardiness and absences. Absences for summer practices will only be excused for the reasons listed previously, or if the sponsor is given prior notice of a scheduled vacation. Summer camp practice will be held once a day of the week prior to summer camp. This is mandatory since it is dedicated to preparing for camp competitions.
- B. Review uniform policies regarding practice attire.
- C. Members are expected to be in top condition in order to perform to the best of their ability; therefore practices will include stretching and various exercises/workouts.
- D. No cell phone usage will be allowed during practice.
- E. All members must sign into practice.
- All cheerleaders and mascots are expected to motivate the crowd to be involved and create an atmosphere of enthusiasm and energy when performing.
 - A. All eligible members will participate in all performances.
 - B. Review uniform policies for performance attire rules.
 - C. Transportation to and from out-of-town performances will be provided by the school for each squad. Members will travel as a squad to and from events. Any exceptions to this will require prior approval from sponsor or principal and a written permission from a parent or guardian who is present at the game or performance. Any exceptions to a student leaving a game or performance with the squad or a parent must be approved by the principal.
 - D. Absolutely no cell phone usage during any performances.
 - E. All cheerleaders and mascots will arrive 30 minutes prior to all performances and special events. At home varsity games, all Jr. High squad members will assist in selling spirit items and programs. These games will be announced by the sponsor.
 - F. Cheerleaders and mascots will keep assigned formation throughout the entire performance. Absolutely no huddling will be allowed. Cheerleaders will not socialize with friends, family or players while they are performing.
 - G. Breaks will be given during halftime for cheerleaders to get food and drinks, as well as use the restroom. Cheerleaders must return and be ready to perform by the designated time given. Failure to do so will result in a warning. Two warnings will result in a benching at the sponsor's discretion.
 - H. Cheerleaders will not eat food or chew gum during performances.
 - I. Each squad will be under the direction of the captain or co-captain, as well as the sponsor. Members who show unsportsmanlike conduct will be benched for the remainder of the performance and will receive a demerit. Positive attitude, character and team work will be exhibited at every performance. Disrespect to sponsors or squad members will result in being benched for the remainder of the performance and a demerit.
 - J. During performances, only cheers, chants and dances that have been practiced will be performed. If a member has not mastered the movements to a cheer, chant or dance they will be given a megaphone and will still participate. When a song or the band is playing cheerleaders will perform a coordinated dance routine (no free styling).

- K. When performing, cheerleaders and mascots need to be aware of what is going on. If they are in a pep rally they need to know the pep rally agenda ahead of time. If they are cheering at a game, they need to beware of what is happening in the game, so they can motivate the fans. All members should be familiar with football and basketball, as well as offense and defense.
 - L. All members will help unload gear and set up for performances. All members will be responsible for decorating and setting up for pep rallies, as well as clean up. Cheerleaders and mascots will be released from class 30 minutes prior to pep rallies to set up. They will report straight to the gym, anyone who is late will receive a warning. After two warnings a demerit will be issued. The same policy will be applied to those who do not help with clean up.
 - M. Cheerleaders will rotate each performance to assist the mascot. They will help carry equipment, assist with getting dressed & undressed in mascot suit and they will be responsible for assisting mascot through the stands. A schedule will be provided by the sponsor.
 - N. If a parent needs to contact their student during a performance, they must call the sponsor.
- TLCA cheerleaders will conduct at least one cheer camp per year. All cheerleaders and mascots will be required to attend and facilitate the camp, no exceptions. Because this is one of the largest fundraising events, it requires everyone's participation to be successful.
 - At the end of the cheerleading year, cheerleaders will be recognized during the annual TLCA Booster Club Sports Banquet. Individual awards will be given.
 - Each squad will have a captain. The captain must demonstrate exceptional leadership and outstanding character. The captain will assume the following responsibilities listed below and follow the direction of the sponsor. In the event the captain is unavailable, the sponsor will appoint a temporary captain. Should the captain fail to fulfill her duties, the sponsor may appoint a new captain.
 - A. Captain responsibilities include assisting the sponsors with organizing events, pep rallies and mini camps. They will help facilitate practices and tryout clinics. They will be in charge of sending weekly reminders and oversee in-school fundraisers. The captains will continually communicate with the sponsor. The captain will strive to create camaraderie and teamwork among the squad.
 - B. The captain will be selected using the following formula: 50% judge's score, 25% squad vote, and 25% sponsor ranking. Sponsor ranking will include essay score (graded by ELA teacher), teacher recommendations, and sponsor's belief in the leadership abilities of the candidates. Eligible candidates must have prior TLCA varsity cheerleading experience and no record of academic, attendance, or disciplinary ineligibility for any part of their high school years. Captain candidates must submit a two page essay to the sponsor to be ranked by an ELA teacher. The essay should explain why they are qualified to be captain. After tryouts, each captain candidate will be ranked (1, 2, 3...) according to their individual judge's scores, essays, and sponsor recommendation. The candidate with the lowest composite score will assume the role of the squad captain.

- C. Captains must demonstrate leadership and maintain outstanding character throughout the entire cheerleading year. If they receive three demerits, an infraction for misbehavior or team etiquette, or have more than three absences (excused or unexcused) they will be removed from the position of captain and the sponsor will name a new captain.
- D. In the event there is no eligible captain candidate, the squad member with the highest teacher and sponsor rankings will be named captain.

Mascot Responsibilities and Expectations:

- **The mascot will follow all of the guidelines of the cheerleading constitution.**
- They will promote positive energy, spirit and enthusiasm during all events.
- They will attend all practices and will learn all dance routines, cheers and chants.
- To ensure top health, the mascot should drink plenty of fluids before, during and after every performance.
- The mascot will wear the mascot uniform for no longer than 45 minutes at a time, unless cooler weather permits for a longer period of time. After 45 minutes of being in the suit, a 15-20 minute break will be given to hydrate and rest.
- Before, during and following games the mascot will interact with fans. They will spend at least a quarter in the stands interacting with the fans. He or she must be creative and energetic. They are responsible for giving Auggie, the eagle, personality and character.
- The mascot will be expected to perform a skit/routine at some of the pep rallies.

Chain of Command:

- The sponsor is directly responsible to the principal for the welfare of the program, it is expressly understood that all student powers herein set forth are delegated by the sponsor and may be revoked at any time.
- All decisions for the squad are made by the sponsor and approved by the principal.
- In the event of a disagreement with a sponsor's decision or action the following procures must be followed.
 1. A meeting will be held with the sponsors, cheerleader or mascot and parent.
 2. If there is no resolution, then a meeting will be held with the principal.
 3. The principal may confer with the superintendent, but his or her decision is final, provided that it falls in line with the school policy and the TLCA cheerleading constitution.
 4. All issues must follow the chain of command; therefore parents or guardians should not try to resolve issues by addressing the sponsor and then campus administrators.

Warning and Demerit System

A warning and demerit system is used to help hold each member of the squad accountable to themselves, each other and the program. If a cheerleader receives a demerit or warning it will be written down and the cheerleader or mascot will be asked to sign. Excessive demerits will result in the loss of privileges to perform or removal from the squad.

Warnings: Warning will be issued for the following infractions. Two warnings will result in a demerit.

- Late for practice or performance.
- Not in uniform or having all cheerleading or mascot gear. (This includes having the correct color sports bra.)
- Wearing jewelry.
- Hair not worn correctly.
- Use of cell phone during practice or events.
- Not turning in fundraiser or paper work on time.
- Insubordination.

Demerits: Demerits will be issued for the following infractions. Two demerits will result in a two-week suspension from all cheerleading responsibilities. Five demerits will result in a review committee meeting to discuss discipline or possible removal from the program. This committee will be comprised of sponsors, principal and/or assistant principal and two teachers.

- Two warnings. 1 demerit
- Absences from two or more performances. 1 demerit
- Unexcused absence from an event or practice. 1 demerit & loss of performance privileges for that week.
- Disrespect to sponsors, squad member or authority. 1 demerit
- Insubordination or misbehavior during a performance. 2 demerits & benched for the remainder of the performance and the following week
- Office referral. 2 demerits
- Unexcused absence from a fundraising event or the lack of participation in a fundraising event. 2 demerits

I have read the information above and fully understand what the consequences are for each infraction listed.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent or Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

2016 – 2017 TLCA Cheerleading Important Financial & Summer Dates

Cheerleading Clinic Dates: March 31st, April 4th, 5th and a “mock tryout” on the 6th.

All clinics will be held at the Melrose campus from 4:00 – 6:00.
Tryout DVD will be available during clinics.

March 28th – Mandatory Parent and Candidate Meeting

March 30th – All paper work must be completed and turned in

April 7th – Judges Tryouts after school (Closed Tryouts)

April 8th – Student Body Tryouts – 1st period (Open Tryouts)

April 8th – TLCA 2016-2017 Cheerleaders Announced

****April– Uniforms Ordered (25% of total camp and uniform deposit required)**

****1st Installment of \$250 – Due April 26, 2016****

****2nd Installment of \$250 – Date announced later****

****All Remaining Funds Are Due Before Uniforms Issued****

Camp will be held toward the end of July. Exact dates will be discussed with the new squad

More dates will be announced as the school year winds down, summer approaches and fall game schedules are released.

TLCA Cheerleading Financial Agreement

I have read the TLCA cheerleading constitution and fully understand the guidelines concerning uniform cost and camp fees.

I understand that if my child is elected as a TLCA cheerleader or mascot, I am responsible for purchasing the complete uniform (this includes; game uniforms, camp uniforms, jacket or pullover, wind suit, tights, midriff, bloomers, shoes, socks and hair bows) and that a deposit of 50% of the total cost is due at the time the uniform order is placed and I agree to do so. **I also understand that my child will not receive any uniform pieces until all balances have been paid in full. I understand that payments may be made in installments, as long as payment deadlines are met. I am responsible for purchasing any items that are non-returnable and are ordered for my child whether they remain in the program or not.** Uniforms will be ordered mid-April.

I understand that as a TLCA cheerleader or mascot my child must attend summer camp and I am responsible for all camp fees and will pay this amount in full by the last day of school. I also understand that failure to pay this amount in full by the last day of school will result in my child not attending cheerleading camp and removal from the program. TLCA cheerleaders will attend UCA summer camp in July. Camp fee may be offset by a spring fundraiser but funds that are not raised, I am responsible to pay the remaining balance in full before the last day of school.

Individual fundraising opportunities will be made available to each member, for which they may raise funds that will go towards their uniform costs and camp fees. I understand that if my child is unable to raise enough money through individual fundraising, I will be responsible to for the remaining balance.

I hereby agree to the terms listed above.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent or Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

TLCA Cheerleading Constitution Agreement

I have thoroughly read the TLCA cheerleading constitution and fully understand all the responsibilities, procedures and guidelines. As a cheerleader or mascot, or parent/ guardian of a cheerleader or mascot, I will abide by the following rules and regulations. I will perform all required duties and meet all expectations or I will assist my child in doing so. I understand that a cheerleader or mascot is an ambassador and leader of Texas Leadership Charter Academy at all times. I will honor and respect the position I have earned or that my child has earned. I will be committed and dedicated to the program for the entire cheerleading year or I will support my child in doing so.

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____