

Robinson Middle School

2017/18 Cheer Team Constitution

We, the cheer team members of Robinson Middle School, adopt the following constitution in the promotion of better school spirit and sportsmanship, to maintain team spirit and cooperation, to train ourselves in self-discipline, and to represent our school with dignity.

As cheerleaders of Robinson Middle School, we are ambassadors for our school and the Kingsport City School District.

Article 1: Identification of Cheer Team Members

In the spring of each year, we begin the process of developing a cheer team for the next school year. Students who meet the following qualifications may participate in tryouts.

The students must:

- Currently be passing with an overall GPA of 2.0 or higher (at least a C average)
- Have no record of serving ISS or OSS
- Be highly recommended by Robinson Teachers
- Safely perform all cheer team activities
- Demonstration coordination and consistency while performing
- Demonstration the skills for cheer demands

Article 2: Uniforms

RNR will furnish uniforms for each cheerleader. These are purchased by the school. Each cheerleader is responsible for taking care of her uniform. Each cheerleader will be responsible for purchasing poms, shoes, briefs and bows. (These will be discussed later in detail.) These items will be ordered hopefully before the end of the school year. If not they will be ordered before cheer camp. All orders must be paid in full before the items will be issued to the cheerleader.

Uniforms, shoes and poms may only be used during football games, basketball games, and pep rallies. Cheerleaders may not allow friends to wear any cheer apparel. Cheerleaders will be notified of the proper dress and hair for each game/pep rally. It is expected that each cheerleader will arrive at each event dressed appropriately and ready to perform. Any cheerleader who arrives unprepared will not perform during the event.

Uniforms **MUST** be returned at the end of the cheer season. (March 2018) All cheerleaders will replace lost, stolen, or damaged uniforms.

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Article 3: Cheer Camp

All cheer team members are **REQUIRED** to attend cheer camp in the summer. The dates for camp will be July 24th – 28th. Without an agreed upon excuse, cheerleaders who do not participate in camp may have to forfeit their position on the cheer team. All agreed upon excuses must be discussed with the coach one month prior to camp.

Article 4: Practice

All cheer team members will attend weekly practices after school. Extra practices may be scheduled in preparation for special performances. All cheerleaders who are present at school are expected to participate in practice. Parents **MUST** provide written excuses for all missed practices. Unexcused absences will result in the cheerleader being benched for the following game/routine. Practice will take precedence over ALL other activities and/or meetings, even All Star Cheer. If a cheerleader misses the practice directly before a game or performance, the cheerleader will not be participating in the routine, even if they are present the day of the game/performance. They may however still participate in all sideline activities. This is strictly for safety reasons. This also gives the squad time to practice the revised/modified routine before the game/performance.

Mandatory practices will begin right after try-outs in the spring/summer. Each cheerleader must be at practice on time. The coach must know prior to practice, in writing, any reason for a cheerleader being tardy. Cheerleaders who are tardy to practice three times will not participate in the next game/routine. Early dismissal from practice must be pre-approved by the coach.

Article 5: Games

All cheerleaders must arrive to the games on time and in full uniform. Transportation to and from games/events is the responsibility of the parent or guardian. Cheerleaders will sit with the cheer team members and coaches and perform on the sidelines at games and perform at half-time. The coaches will not chaperone or be responsible for cheerleaders before and after games.

The cheerleader will not be allowed to participate on game day if absent from school on that day – for any reason. Cheerleaders who are benched for a game are still required to attend the game in full uniform and sit with the coaches until the performance is completed or the game is over.

We cheer at **ALL** home Varsity football games and home Junior Varsity and Varsity basketball games. (An exception may be away tournaments that are held at Sevier Middle School.)

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Article 6: Conduct

Being a member of the cheer team is an honor and highly respected position. A cheerleader's conduct in and out of uniform reflects on the team as a whole, as well as the school. Evidence of participation in any objectionable behavior may result in dismissal from the squad.

Cheerleaders must:

- Maintain an overall C average. The cheerleading coach must see each cheerleader's progress reports and report cards. Cheerleaders who receive an F or a D will not be allowed to participate for the following three weeks until the grade has been brought up to a C. It is the responsibility of the student to keep coaches informed of their progress.
- Any cheerleader who receives an N (needs improvement) or a U (unacceptable) for a citizenship grade will not be allowed to participate for the next three weeks until her behavior has improved.
- Show respect for others and their possessions.
- Use acceptable language at all times.
- Follow coaches instructions at all times.
- Not prevent other cheerleaders from learning the routines or coaches from instructing.
- Come to practices/games on time and prepared for the performance.
- Exemplify outstanding behavior during practices and games and at school.

Failure to follow the code of conduct will result in:

- A formal warning and notification of parents.
- Being benched from the next game.
- Once the cheerleader has received two benched interventions, the cheerleader will be dismissed from the team.
- If the student receives ISS or OSS, she will be immediately removed from the team.

Article 7: Parent/Guardian Involvement & Responsibility

- Parent/guardian involvement is welcome and appreciated. If you would like to help plan events such as a beginning/end of season celebration, community involvement project(s), parade appearance, etc. please involve the cheer coaches in the planning process to ensure all team members are included and informed. We have had wonderful experiences with parents/guardians providing snacks before and after game performances and treat bags for the cheerleaders on special occasions.

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- All communication with the coaches will be made by Planet High School or school email. Facebook/Instagram messages from parents are not acceptable and will not be responded to.
- Your cheerleader's formation positions, performance time, dress, etc. are not negotiable. Every decision made by the coach will be made to ensure the success of the individual cheerleader, the team, and Robinson Middle School.
- Causing disharmony among the team and/or with the coach will result in your child's dismissal from the team.
- Practices are **NOT** open to family or friends.
- Please be on time for pick up after practice and events. If there is an emergency and you will be late, please notify the coaches.
- Please try to pay all fees in a timely manner.

Article 8: Apparel

Apparel items will be mandatory for cheerleaders to buy.

The items consist of:

- Poms
- Cheer Shoes
- Cheer Bra
- 2 Bows – Practice and Game
- Briefs
- Rain Jacket
- Cheer Backpack
- 2 Practice Outfits
- Additional Shirts

Article 9: Gym Information

This year we will be using the facilities at East Tennessee Cheer and Gymnastics for one practice a week. This is mainly for safe precautions, in a stabilized environment for certain skill sets of cheer. While there, the cheerleaders will be receiving 45 minutes of tumbling instruction from an ETC tumbling coach, and 45 minutes of stunting practice by Coach Wishon and Coach Lawson.

Each cheerleader will be required to pay \$175.00 as a one-time price for utilizing the gym space and receiving tumbling instruction for 5 months total.

This needs to be paid to RNR Cheer by June 1st and no later. This will take place every single Friday from 3:30 – 5:00 PM. Parents/Guardians will be responsible for transportation.

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We, _____ and _____ agree to uphold this constitutional agreement with the Robinson Middle School Cheer Squad.

I have read the Robinson Middle School Cheer Team Constitution and I understand what is required to be a cheerleader for this school. I understand that I or my child could be dismissed from the team if any above rule is disregarded. I also understand that I or my child can be dismissed from the team due to any disruption or negative behavior that is displayed.

Cheerleaders Signature & Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature & Date: _____