

Goose Creek CISD High School Cheerleading Guidelines

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide a framework for the high school cheerleading programs in the Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District. The intent is to help students grow in the program through a positive, athletic-based experience. These guidelines are not all-inclusive. Individual campuses may have additional guidelines and procedures for addressing specific cheerleader infractions.

ARTICLE I: PURPOSE OF CHEERLEADER SQUADS

- A. To promote and uphold school spirit throughout the year;
- B. To encourage good sportsmanship among the students;
- C. To improve relationships between schools during all athletic events;
- D. To represent the school district as a positive role model and leader; and
- E. To represent the school in sanctioned cheerleader competition.

ARTICLE II: VARSITY AND JUNIOR VARSITY SQUADS

A. The Varsity Squad

The Varsity Squad at each high school will have a maximum of 20 cheerleaders. No quotas pertaining to grade level, race, or gender will apply.

The Varsity Squad will be made up of seniors, juniors, sophomores, and freshmen. The Varsity Squad will be selected using judges' scores only, ranking scores highest to lowest. A minimum total judges' score of 55 out of a possible 90 points will be required for a candidate to be considered to be named to the Varsity Squad; however, a score of 55 or more **does not guarantee** a spot on the Varsity Squad.

B. The Junior Varsity Squad

The Junior Varsity Squad at each high school will have a maximum of 12 cheerleaders. **There must be at least 5 qualified candidates to make a Junior Varsity Squad.**

The Junior Varsity Squad will be made up of freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors who remain in the candidate pool after the varsity squad has been determined. No quotas pertaining to grade level, race, or gender will apply.

The Junior Varsity Squad will be selected using judges' scores only. A minimum total judges' score of 45 out of a possible 90 points will be required for a candidate to be considered to be named to the Junior Varsity Squad; however, a score of 45 or more **does not guarantee** a spot on the Junior Varsity Squad.

After the Varsity Squad has been determined, all remaining candidates who meet the minimum judges' score of 45 out of a possible 90 points will be ranked based on judges' scores from highest to lowest.

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If a cheerleader moves, quits or is removed before uniform orders are processed, the next cheerleader/candidate who meets all minimum criteria for the position may be moved into that position *if* the sponsor and campus administrator determine it to be necessary. The Cheerleader Coordinator is not required to fill a vacancy created on either squad.

C. Rebuild Clause

The Varsity Squad at each high school will have a minimum of 12 cheerleaders. The minimum standards will be used only when an insufficient number of candidates earn the required minimum judges' score during the tryout process. The candidates will be ranked according to their total tryout score until the minimum squad has been fulfilled.

If there are 16 or less total candidates who are named cheerleader to the Varsity and Junior Varsity squads, the squads will combine to make a Varsity squad only regardless of varsity minimum score, term of service, or grade level.

The varsity squad at each high school will have a minimum of 12 cheerleaders. The minimum standards will be used only when an insufficient number of candidates earn the required minimum judges' score during the tryout process. The candidates will be ranked according to their total tryout score until the minimum squad has been fulfilled.

If there are 16 or less total candidates who are named cheerleader to the Varsity and Junior Varsity squads, the squads will combine to make a Varsity squad only regardless of varsity minimum score, term of service, or grade level.

ARTICLE III: TRYOUT QUALIFICATIONS

Cheerleading tryouts for high schools in Goose Creek CISD will be held during the second nine weeks of the school year after the first nine week's report cards have been distributed. Students who do not have a first nine week's report card may obtain a verified copy from the appropriate school office. Dates for the tryout clinic and judging portion of the tryouts will be set by the district cheerleading coordinator in conjunction with the sponsor and principal of each school.

A cheerleading candidate must meet the following criteria before he/she will be allowed to participate in any portion of the tryout procedure:

A. Grade Eligibility:

1. Candidates must have an overall **70 average** for the fall semester of the current school year. The average will not be rounded up.
2. Candidates must have a **70 overall average** for the **second nine weeks** grading period of the current school year with **no grade below 70 in any class**. The average will not be rounded up. Waivers granted to students who do not meet this standard in an honors or advanced level course may be applied for the purpose of trying out for cheerleader.
3. Grades will be verified by the cheerleading sponsor using the second nine

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weeks report card and/or eligibility verification with the Dual Credit course instructor.

4. This overall average includes core and elective classes.

B. Conduct Eligibility:

1. Candidates must have no more than one mark below "S" (i.e., "N" or "U") in citizenship for **the first and second nine weeks** of the current school year.
2. Candidates will be ineligible to try out for the upcoming school year if assigned out of school suspension (OSS), assigned DAEP, or was removed from the squad during the current school year.
3. Conduct eligibility will be verified by the cheerleading sponsor using the fourth six weeks' progress report and principal's discipline files.
4. A candidate who is removed from any junior high or high school cheer squad for disciplinary reasons or for the accumulation of 15 or more demerits shall be ineligible to try out for the high school squad for the following year
5. Any student with a question concerning his or her eligibility to try out following a disciplinary offense should consult with the sponsor and campus principal prior to signing up for tryouts.

C. Term of Service Eligibility:

1. Students are encouraged to carefully consider the decision to relinquish their spot on the cheerleading squad. Voluntary relinquishment of a student's spot on the cheerleading squad is non-revocable, and a student who quits cheerleading may not rejoin the squad during the term of service except where the student's relinquishment was due to extenuating circumstances. Furthermore, absent extenuating circumstances outside of the student's control, a student who voluntarily relinquishes the student's spot on the cheerleading squad will not be eligible to try out for cheerleading the following year. Extenuating circumstances do not include conflict with peers or the sponsor or general dissatisfaction with the squad or the program.

D. Attendance at Informational Meeting Eligibility:

1. Candidates and one parent/guardian **MUST** attend an informational meeting prior to tryouts. The meeting will be held after distribution of the fourth six weeks' progress reports. Dates and times of the meeting and clinic will be determined by the cheerleading director and principal.
2. Failure to attend the meeting and turn in all forms may result in the candidate being disqualified from the tryout process. Any absence from these mandatory events must be approved by the cheerleading sponsor **prior to missing the session.**

E. Return of Forms Eligibility:

1. Candidates will return the Cheerleader Candidate Application, Medical Release

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Form, and any other applicable forms to the cheerleading sponsor on or before the first day of the tryout clinic.

F. School Zone Eligibility:

1. Candidates for cheer tryouts be a current student at Goose Creek CISD, an approved out-of-district transfer, and/or live in the Goose Creek CISD attendance zone.

ARTICLE IV: TRYOUT PROCEDURES

After a student has successfully fulfilled all criteria set forth in **Article III: Tryout Qualifications**, he/she will be allowed to participate in the following tryout procedures:

A. The Cheerleader Training Clinic and Mock Try-Outs:

1. The clinic will be held after school hours, within practice time limits set by state guidelines.
2. The training clinic will be open to candidates, current senior cheerleaders, cheerleading sponsors, clinicians, and school administrators. The training clinic will be closed to all others, unless approved by the principal or his or her designee.
3. No video cameras will be allowed in the training clinic.
4. Candidates must be present in all classes in which they are enrolled to attend each day of the training clinic unless excused in advance by a campus administrator or cheerleader sponsor.
5. The day before tryouts, there will be an after school, closed cheerleader mock-tryout to practice the tryout procedures. The mock-tryout will be open to candidates, current senior cheerleaders, cheerleading sponsors, clinicians, and school administrators. The mock-tryout will be closed to the public.
6. All tumbling and jump skills **MUST** be demonstrated at the mock-tryouts. Candidates may **NOT** perform a skill of a higher level at tryouts than what they demonstrated at the mock-tryout. Candidates may perform a skill of a lower level at tryouts than what they demonstrated at the mock-tryout.

B. Tryout Procedures:

1. Candidates must be present in all classes in which they are enrolled on the day of judging unless excused in advance by a campus administrator or cheerleader sponsor.
2. Tryout order will be determined by a random drawing of numbers by the candidates.
3. A designated person will make a videotape of the tryouts only to serve as a record. Videotapes may not be used to appeal or challenge any candidate's score during tryouts and no candidate or parent/guardian of a candidate will be permitted to view another candidate's tryout video at any time.
4. Candidates will wear all white attire or attire approved by the cheerleader sponsor. The cheerleading sponsor will have final approval of tryout apparel.

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5. If any candidate planning to try out for cheerleader is physically unable to perform a tumbling pass or jumps because of a **temporary** physical injury (such as a broken wrist or ankle), then they may be allowed to use video footage that is date and time stamped within the calendar year preceding tryouts that shows the candidate performing the required skills for the specified stations, if the following requirements are met:
 - a. Must be approved by the sponsor and administrator.
 - b. A doctor's note will also be required, and in this note should be an explanation of his/her physical impairment and an expected return date for him/her. An expected return date may not exceed the end of the current school year and the candidate will be expected to demonstrate the skills shown by video by that time.
 - c. The candidate is responsible for providing proper documentation by the pre-tryout meeting or proof that the injury occurred between the date of the pre-tryout meeting and the day of tryouts.
 - d. The candidate will still be judged on all other skills required during tryouts to the best of his/her ability.
6. District video of cheerleading students for try-out purposes will be retained for one (1) term of service.

C. Judging of Candidates

Judging will be administered in the following manner:

1. The judging portion of the tryouts will be closed. Only current senior cheerleaders, candidates, sponsors, administrative personnel, and score tabulators will be allowed in the judging portion of tryouts.
2. Judging will be done on an individual basis for each candidate.
3. Candidates will be judged at each station by two professional judges. Judges will not be related to any cheerleading candidate. Qualified judges include, but are not limited to, NCA or UCA-trained instructors and college cheerleaders. The scores of the two judges at each station will be averaged to determine the final station score for each candidate.
4. Candidates will be scored by two judges at each station. These two scores will be averaged to determine the candidates' score for each station. Senior cheerleaders will perform the required elements at each station for the judges prior to any candidate trying out at that station. This will allow judges to set a standard of quality for each station.
5. When all candidates have completed all stations, individual scores will be tallied.
6. If a tie exists in the total judges' scores and the tie must be broken, the following steps are to be used.
 - a. If the total of the three judging stations is the same, judge station #1 scores will be used as the tiebreaker.
 - b. If a tie still exists, judge station #2 scores will be used to break the tie.
 - c. If a tie still exists, judge station #3 scores will be used to break the tie.
 - d. If a tie still exists, candidates will be re-judged by all judges on a cheer and

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- jumps for the tiebreaker.
7. All scores will be calculated by a panel of score keepers who are employees of the school district and approved by the principal or his designee. No score keeper may be related to any cheerleader candidate.
 8. Scores will be double-checked and verified by the cheerleading coordinator, campus administrator on duty, and the cheerleading sponsor.
 9. Results of tryouts will be shared electronically. Sponsors will notify candidates and parents of the date, time, and location for results to be posted.
 10. Score sheets will be taken directly to the office vault by a school administrator after judging is completed.
 11. All score sheets are kept on campus and are available for personal viewing. Parents/guardians may view their child's final tabulation sheet by scheduling an appointment beginning the first Monday on which school is in session following tryouts. Under no circumstances shall a parent be permitted to view tryout materials for a student other than the parent/guardian's own child.

D. Judging Criteria and Point System:

Station #1-Jumps and Cheer

Jumps = 1-15 points

- a. height/landing
- b. technique
- c. variety

Cheer = 1-25 points

- a. arm levels
- b. sharpness
- c. timing
- d. eye contact
- e. voice
- f. enthusiasm
- g. facial expression

Station #2-Tumbling and Chant

Tumbling = 1-10 points

- a. form
- b. difficulty level
- c. visual impression

Chant = 1-20 points

- a. arm levels
- b. sharpness
- c. timing
- d. eye contact
- e. voice
- f. enthusiasm
- g. facial expression

Station #3-Dance

Dance = 1-20 points

- a. timing
- b. form
- c. facial expression
- d. visual impression

THE MAXIMUM OVERALL JUDGES SCORE IS 90 POINTS.

ARTICLE V: MAINTAINING MEMBERSHIP ON CHEERLEADING SQUAD

The term of service for a cheerleader shall be officially recognized as the time immediately following cheerleader tryouts through the day of cheerleader tryouts for the next school year. Upon selection to the cheerleading squad, the following criteria for maintaining membership on the squad will hold:

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A. Grades:

Eligibility to participate in cheerleading activities will be governed by guidelines set forth in Texas Education Code 33.081 (commonly referred to as "No Pass, No Play"), with the following added guidelines:

1. Beginning with the first nine weeks of the fall semester following selection to the cheerleading squad, any cheerleader ruled ineligible as a result of receiving a grade below 70 in any class will be placed on **warned status for grades** for the remainder of the cheerleader term of service. Waivers granted in accordance with TEC 33.081 and Goose Creek CISD guidelines for receiving a grade below 70 in an honors level or advanced placements class will allow a cheerleader to continue participation in cheerleading activities. However, such waivers will not prevent a cheerleader from being placed on warned status for grades.
2. If a cheerleader is to be placed on warned status for grades, a conference with the cheerleading sponsor, parent, student, and an administrator will be required.
3. Any cheerleader on warned status for grades as a result of Article V, Section A, Part 1, who receives a second nine weeks' grade below 70 in any class will be **dismissed from the cheerleader squad** for the remainder of the term of service. Waivers granted in accordance with TEC 33.081 and GCCISD guidelines for participation after a student fails an honors level or advanced placement class may not be used to prevent dismissal from the cheerleading squad.

B. Conduct:

1. Conduct eligibility will be verified by the cheerleading director using nine weeks' report cards and principal's discipline records.
2. If a cheerleader receives an N or U in citizenship, the cheerleader will be placed on **warned status for citizenship** and a conference with the director, parent, student, and an administrator will be held.
3. **Dismissal from the squad** for the remainder of the term of service will result if a cheerleader on warned status for citizenship receives an N or U on a subsequent report card (this N or U does not have to be in the same class that resulted in the cheerleader being placed on warned status).
4. Students who hold the position of cheerleader and receive a Conduct Report at any time after selection will be placed on **warned status for citizenship** for the remainder of the term of service.
5. **Dismissal from the squad** for the remainder of the term of service will result if a cheerleader receives a Conduct Report while on warned status for citizenship.

C. Character Standards:

A cheerleader:

1. will not skip or be truant for any part of the school day;

2. will not leave class and/or campus without school authorized permission;
3. will not smoke and/or possess tobacco during school hours, during school functions, or in any public place;
4. will not drink and/or possess and/or be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs at any time;
5. will not misbehave or be insubordinate during school hours, during school functions, or in any public place;
6. will maintain a desirable attitude and a spirit of cooperation in all classes;
7. will not participate in and will endeavor to control any unsportsmanlike conduct;
8. will be willing to cooperate fully with the other cheerleaders and with the sponsor;
9. will not participate in bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, or threats to students or teacher when utilizing social media;

D. Dismissal from the Squad:

1. A cheerleader may be removed from the squad for accumulating fifteen (15) demerits during the term of the service or for any serious disciplinary infraction, as determined by the sponsor and the campus principal.
2. A cheerleader may be removed from the squad for any other reason stated in this Constitution or any other reason deemed inconsistent with the student's role as a cheerleader by the sponsor and the campus principal.
3. A cheerleader who is removed from the squad may not wear official cheer apparel to school.
4. A cheerleader who is removed from the squad shall be ineligible to try out for the squad for the following year.

E. Health and Well Being:

1. All cheerleaders will be required to have an athletic physical as required by GCCISD and the UIL before participating in any cheerleader activity.
2. The cheerleading sponsor will require a medical release for any condition that may be affected by the cheerleader's participation in cheerleading activities. The referral must be signed by a physician and returned to the sponsor. The student will not be allowed to participate in practices or any cheerleading events until the release is returned.
3. Student safety is GCCISD's primary concern.

F. Lettering:

1. Varsity cheerleaders who successfully complete a cheerleader term of service will be eligible to receive a varsity letter award in accordance with school and district guidelines for such awards.
2. Dismissal from the squad or voluntary resignation from the squad prior to the end of the cheerleader term of service will result in forfeiture of the lettering privilege and participation by the student in any other cheerleader activities for

the remainder of the current school year.

G. In-District Transfers:

If a cheerleader who met the minimum total tryout judges score moves to another high school that is In-District, and the corresponding squad is below the maximum total number of students allowed, that cheerleader will have the opportunity to join that school's matching cheerleading squad.

1. Eligibility will be verified by the receiving school through the campus sponsor and administrator.
2. All demerits received at the previous school will be transferred to the new campus.
3. The cheerleader will be responsible for paying for any uniform-type/matching apparel related to each cheer program as determined by the sponsors and administrators at each school affected by the transfer. The cheerleader will not be refunded and will be held responsible for any balance remaining on any previously ordered uniform-type apparel that is not refundable to the school from which he/she is transferring (including, but not limited to; used, custom, and/or personalized items). In addition, the cheerleader will be responsible for purchasing all uniform-type/matching apparel at the school to which he/she is transferring.
4. The cheerleader will be on probationary status until all uniform-type/matching apparel for the school to which he/she is transferring is received. He/she will not be allowed to participate in any cheer activities that require uniform-type/matching attire until these items are received. The cheerleader will be required to attend these events and sit with the coach/sponsor for the duration of the event. The sponsor has the right to require the cheerleader to wear school colors at these events. The cheerleader will be required to participate in cheer class, cheer practices, and cheer meetings that do not require matching attire.
5. All fundraising monies will be forfeited at the school from which the cheerleader transfers.
6. The Superintendent has final review of this procedure.

ARTICLE VI: RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES

Cheerleaders must realize the commitment involved as a representative and leader when selected. A cheerleader who is a participant in other extracurricular activities will be expected to fulfill his/her cheerleading requirements before fulfilling other extracurricular requirements. Conflicts between other extracurricular activities and a cheerleading activity may not be a sufficient reason to be excused from the cheerleading activity.

A. Cheerleading Camp:

1. Each cheerleader is required to attend a training camp held during the summer.
2. Camp expenses are the responsibility of the cheerleader.
3. There will be required practices before camp and before school starts.

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B. Games:

1. Cheerleaders will attend all assigned games and school functions unless prior approval for excused absence is granted by the sponsor.
2. Cheerleaders may be required to attend all championship playoff games.
3. Cheerleaders attend away games as specified by the sponsor.
4. Cheerleaders will be required to travel to and from all away games on district provided transportation.
 - a. Cheerleaders with extenuating circumstances may ride home with their parents. A note stating the extenuating circumstances signed by the parent must be turned in for principal approval in a timely manner prior to the trip.
5. Cheerleaders are to be at the stadium or gym for games at the time set by the sponsor.
6. The manner of presentation and choice of yells will be planned in advance. This includes the style and techniques to be used throughout the year.
7. Individual cheerleaders may not take part in the following:
 - a. Conspicuous actions that draw the crowd's attention to any individual cheerleader.
 - b. Anything that would reflect negatively on the school and group.
8. All policies (disciplinary) of the school will be upheld and all actions and statements made before the student body are to be for the purpose of promoting school spirit.
9. Cheerleaders will be required to master all required cheerleading material before cheering at each game. Cheerleaders who fail to demonstrate mastery of all required material may be required to attend the game but not perform, per Cheerleading sponsor's discretion.

C. Uniforms:

1. The uniform includes all matching cheer attire.
2. All uniforms must be approved by the sponsor and/or administrator.
3. Uniforms are to be worn only at assigned activities.
4. All parts of the uniform are to be worn.
5. Permission from the sponsor is required if anyone other than a cheerleader is to be allowed to wear any part of a uniform.
6. Each cheerleader will be responsible for caring for his/her uniforms.

D. Practice:

1. The cheerleaders will practice during their assigned class period and at other times as deemed necessary by the sponsor. Unexcused absences from practice may result in suspension from participation.

E. Pep Rallies:

1. Cheerleaders will coordinate with the Cheer Director to plan all school pep rallies.
2. Cheerleaders will attend all assigned pep rallies.
3. A copy of the program will be given to the Drum Major, Band Director, and school administration.

F. Cheerleader Class:

1. All cheerleaders will be required to take the cheerleader class each semester with the exception of the spring semester of their senior year.
2. Cheerleaders will earn a grade for each nine weeks and the semester. The grade will be based on the following:
 - a. Participation
 - b. Positive attitude
 - c. Prompt attendance at events
 - d. Proper uniform and attire
 - e. Fulfilling class assignments

G. Personal Responsibility:

1. Cheerleaders are responsible for notifying their parents of all activities.
2. Cheerleaders are responsible for turning in all forms, money, etc., on time.
 - a. If a personal check for cheerleading expenses is deemed insufficient, the cheerleader will be placed on a financial hold immediately. All future payments will be required to be made in cash, money order, or cashier's check.

H. While In Uniform or At Practice:

1. No heavy make-up
2. No jewelry
3. No gum chewing
4. No obvious display of affection
5. No false or long fingernails
6. No colored nail polish (excluding regular practices)
7. No visible tattoos
8. Hair must be pulled back in a secure ponytail (off of cheeks, ears and forehead, clear of face)
9. Hair must not distract from the cheer environment or be dyed an unnatural color (according to the GCCISD Student Handbook)
10. Uniform team hair style may be altered for special events with sponsor approval

I. Demerit Procedure:

1. All cheerleader rules must be followed. All guideline violations will be documented through the demerit system and kept in the sponsor's cheerleader file. Repeated violations and/or accumulation of demerits will result in suspension from cheerleading activities and/or a hearing involving the

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cheerleader, parent, sponsor, and principal or designee. Suspension or dismissal will result on the accumulation of 15 demerits during the cheerleader term of service. Demerits will accrue for the cheerleader term of service and will reset with each new term of service.

2. When a cheerleader reaches a total of five demerits, a letter from the sponsor will be sent to the cheerleader and his/his parent/guardian. Any appeal of the demerits documented in the “five- demerit letter” must be initiated within 10 school days of the issuance of the letter (or 10 District business days if the letter is issued during June, July, or August).
3. When a cheerleader reaches a total of 10 demerits, a conference with the cheerleader, parent, sponsor, and administrator will be held. Any appeal of the demerits documented between the time of the “five-demerit letter” and the “10-demerit conference” must be initiated within 10 school days of the conference (or 10 District business days if the conference is scheduled during June, July, or August).
4. When a cheerleader reaches fifteen (15) demerits, he/she will be suspended or dismissed. Any appeal of the demerits documented between the time of the “10-demerit conference” and the dismissal from cheerleading must be initiated within 10 school days of the dismissal (or 10 District business days if the dismissal occurs during June, July, or August).

J. Demerit System:

1. Demerits will be issued, but will not be limited to, the following:

Tardy to a required activity	1-3 Demerits* Based on lateness
Inappropriate attire for practice	3 Demerits
Unauthorized use of a personal cell phone during games/practice	3 Demerits
Untidy or incomplete uniform	3 Demerits
Failure to turn in funds, paperwork, or meet deadlines	3 Demerits
Assignment to a 45-minute afternoon detention	3 Demerits
Assignment to a 90-minute afternoon detention	3 Demerits
Truancy per class (not to exceed 10 demerits in one school day)	3 Demerits
Assignment to ISS (per day/partial day served)	3 Demerits
Insufficient knowledge of cheers	5 Demerits
Making decisions regarding the cheerleading team without prior consultation with director	5 Demerits
Unsportsmanlike behavior	5 Demerits
Unexcused absence from required cheerleading activity	5 Demerits
Leaving a required cheerleader activity without permission	5 Demerits
Receiving a Conduct Report or in-class incident report	5 Demerits
Inappropriate language, lying, cheating	10 Demerits
Insubordination, disrespect, disobedience	10 Demerits
Use or possession of any tobacco product	10 Demerits
Illegal smoking/vaping/alcohol or drug use or possession	15 Demerits
Participation in the illegal activities	15 Demerits

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The sponsor will obtain approval from the principal before issuing five or more demerits for any one incident.

ARTICLE VII: COMPETITION SQUAD

A. Squad Selection:

1. The Varsity Squad members will make up the Competition Squad. If additional members or alternates are needed, these will be selected from the Junior Varsity Squad members who try out. The number of cheerleaders on the competition squad will be based on the rules/guidelines set forth by the sponsoring organization of the competition.
2. The sponsor and principal will set the tryout date for selection of additional competition squad members and alternates.
3. Alternates and additional competition squad members will be chosen based on scores received on a skills test.
4. The skills test will be administered by the sponsor and/or clinician.

B. Approved Competitions / Location

1. All competitions entered by the competition squad and all squad travel must be in accordance with GCCISD Administrative Guideline 6.25 (Trips – Students)
2. Attendance at any cheerleading competition requiring implementation of Administrative Guideline 6.25 (Extended Overnight Field Trips) will be considered if the competition squad has not participated in an extended overnight field trip during the previous three academic years.
3. Competing squad members will be the only students approved to attend competition field trips.

C. Maintaining Membership on the Competition Squad / Competition Squad Requirements

1. Membership on the competition squad will be voluntary; no cheerleader will be required to participate on the competition squad. The sponsor will inform all varsity cheerleaders of the deadline to declare his/her intentions for participation on the competition squad.
2. All competition squad activities will take place after school hours at a time outside of regular cheerleading squad activities.
3. Cheerleaders who participate on the competition squad will maintain membership on the competition squad in the same manner as maintaining membership on the regular cheerleading squad. Violation of cheerleader rules and regulations during competition squad activities and/or regular school activities (Student Code of Conduct violations) will result in implementation of the demerit system outlined in Article VI, Section I of these guidelines.

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4. Any member of the competition squad who accumulates ten (10) competition squad demerits during the school year will be removed from the competition squad.
5. Demerits issued for violations of the Student Code of Conduct will apply to a cheerleader's allotment on the regular cheerleading squad and the competition squad.
6. All fund-raising activities associated with the competition squad will be conducted outside of regular cheerleading squad fund raising activities.

ARTICLE VIII: CHEER CAPTAIN GUIDELINES

A. Varsity Cheer Captain

1. Up to two captain(s) will be chosen to lead the Varsity and Junior Varsity squads. The captain(s) must have served a minimum of one year on Varsity in order to be eligible.
2. In the case that there are no seniors for the upcoming season, coaches have the option to not appoint a captain or may choose to allow juniors to apply for the position providing they have served a minimum of one year on the varsity squad.
3. Captain(s) will be selected by returning Varsity Squad members who have served a minimum of 1 year on the Varsity Squad, head coach and assistant (if applicable), and an interview panel consisting of a mixture of faculty from the campus.
4. Captain candidates will be judged on a presentation decided on by the campus head coach and will be selected by majority vote of the panel and returning squad.
5. If a squad no longer has a Captain after the selected Captain(s) was removed, the sponsor and principal may select one if deemed necessary.

B. Captain Responsibilities:

1. Captains will develop a game plan for regular season and playoff season games, including cheers to call.
2. Coaches and Captains will collaborate on cheerleader appearance for events. All changes must go through the coach.
3. Captains will be spokesperson for team.
4. Captains will encourage teammates to be their best.
5. Captains will arrive 10 minutes early to practices and required events and are expected to meet with the coach after practice and events.
6. Captains will follow the chain of command.

C. Captains cannot:

1. Discipline or attempt to assume the role of the coach.
2. Intentionally search for wrongdoing on teammates.
3. Make decisions for the team without prior consultation with a coach.

ARTICLE IX: MASCOTS

1. Each high school in GCCISD may have 0-2 student mascots. The mascot position will be open to all eligible candidates. Tryout qualifications for the position of mascot will be the same as for the position of cheerleader (see Article II).
2. Tryout for mascot will be held on the same day as cheerleader tryouts. Mascot tryouts will be judging of candidates on a 90-point scale.
3. Each mascot tryout will be required to perform an original routine (two minutes' maximum in length) for the judges using music and/or props supplied or approved by the cheerleadersponsor. This original routine will count 50 points of the total score.
4. Each mascot tryout will be required to perform a "mocking" of the tryout cheer taught during the cheerleading training clinic the week of the tryouts. This "mock" cheer will count 40 points of the total score.
5. Mascot candidates will be judged on the following categories:
 - a. Originality of performance
 - b. Spirit and enthusiasm
 - c. Showmanship and crowd appeal
 - d. Use of props
6. If no qualified candidate applies to try out for the mascot position, the principal may appoint a mascot after the tryout date. Once appointed, the mascot will be bound to all rules and regulations of the cheerleading squad.

ARTICLE X: HONORS AND ADVANCED COURSES

Students in advanced courses shall be ineligible from participation in extracurricular activities when:

1. Their average in an advanced course is lower than 60 in a six-week grading period; or
2. They fail two or more advanced courses in a grading period; or
3. They fail two or more advanced courses in a semester.

Reference: Board Policy FM (Local)

ARTICLE XI: ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW OF GUIDELINES

An annual review of these Cheerleader Guidelines will be made by an administrative committee consisting of the district's Cheerleader Coordinator, all secondary school principals, and the Deputy Superintendent for Personnel and Student Services. This administrative review will occur during the fall semester.

If the administrative review concludes that there are legitimate reasons for considering a change to the Guidelines, the Cheerleader Coordinator will be authorized to appoint a new committee consisting of appropriate representation from each school to consider the proposed changes and to make recommendations to the superintendent's office for appropriate changes in the

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Administrative Guidelines. Any changes recommended and approved will take effect on February 1st.

ARTICLE XI: HONORS AND ADVANCED COURSES

Students in advanced courses shall be ineligible from participation in extracurricular activities when:

4. Their average in an advanced course is lower than 60 in a six-week grading period; or
5. They fail two or more advanced courses in a grading period; or
6. They fail two or more advanced courses in a semester.

Reference: Board Policy FM (Local)