

## MISD Drill Team Constitution 2020-2021

### Purpose

The purpose of the Midlothian ISD drill team is to provide young dancers with the opportunity to develop and promote school spirit as a group, throughout the entire school year. The focus of the program is an appreciation of fine arts through dance activities, while recognizing the inherent benefits of group participation and individual development. Some areas of development include character, leadership, self-discipline, sportsmanship and individual responsibility in each member. All requirements of this constitution apply to both middle school and high school programs.

### Drill Team Season

Drill team season is defined as running from banquet to banquet.

### Line Member Selection and Retention

1. Drill team hopefuls may tryout at the conclusion of their eighth grade, freshman, sophomore, or junior year for the drill team. All new hopefuls and returning veterans, will go through the audition process. If the campus has a varsity drill team only, hopefuls who audition will receive a “Yes” or “No” from the judges; dancers that receive a majority of “Yes” votes will become a drill team member. If the campus has a varsity and junior varsity drill team, hopefuls who audition will receive a “Varsity,” “Junior Varsity,” or “No” from the judges. Dancers who receive a majority of “Varsity” votes, will be a varsity drill team member; dancers who receive a majority of “Junior Varsity” votes, will be a junior varsity member; dancers that receive a majority of “No” votes, will not be a drill team member. A panel of experienced adults who are brought in from outside the MISD school district will judge tryouts. Judges are experienced dance/drill team officials, who have been a part of a collegiate dance/drill team, have had numerous years training in dance/drill, or are dance/drill instructors in a studio or school setting.
2. Candidates that are removed from any school dance team for disciplinary reasons, or quit the team for any reason, may not tryout the following school year.
3. Candidates must reside in the zone of the school they are trying out for, and the candidate must currently be an MISD student. Candidates enrolled in MISD schools must tryout on designated tryout date. No late tryouts will be accepted.
4. An individual wishing to be a member of the drill team at a particular school who did not meet the residency requirements at the time of tryouts may still audition for the team under the following conditions.
  - A. Proof of residency or approved transfer must be provided prior to the individual’s tryout date.
  - B. The individual must have been a drill team member in good standing at the previous school. A letter of recommendation from previous director must be provided.
  - C. This tryout process must be completed by August 1st of the upcoming school year.
  - D. Auditions process will include:
    - i. Trying out in front of the director and officer line
    - ii. Performing a choreographed routine lasting no longer than 2 minutes.
    - iii. Display of high kicks, leaps, turns, splits and other various dance techniques.
    - iv. If the candidate makes the team, he or she will be considered a first year drill team member.
5. Failing three classes\* in a school year will constitute dismissal from a high school team. Line members that are removed due to failing grades, prior to tryouts, may participate in line member tryouts for the following drill team season. This does not pertain to middle school teams.

6. A three year High School VARSITY member in good standing with the team can be “grandfathered onto the team” for their senior year. Good standing is defined as a member who has passed all classes the current school year, and received less than 10 demerits. Those grandfathered in are obligated to participate in tryouts at the discretion of the director.

### **High School Officer Selection & Retention**

1. Drill team will have officers and the number of officers will be based on the scores and the needs of the team. Individuals who want to try out for an officer position must have been a drill team member for a minimum of one year at the campus for which they are auditioning. Officer tryouts are held after line tryouts, and can be held in conjunction with line tryouts, with the discretion of the director. The officer candidate with the highest score in the tryout process shall become Captain. The officer candidate with the second highest score will become 1st Lieutenant. All other officers will be named Lieutenants.
2. Candidates trying out for drill team officer must have passed all classes\* for each grading period of the current school year.
3. All selected officers become “officers in waiting” immediately after officer results are announced. “Officers in waiting” become “active officers” immediately following the banquet. An “active officer’s” timeline runs banquet to banquet. Members can be an “active officer” and an “officer in waiting” simultaneously.
4. All active officers who fail any class\* will be immediately demoted to a line member for the remainder of that drill team season.
5. All officers in waiting who fail any class\* will not become an active officer for the next drill team season.
6. Any payments made after demotion, that cannot be refunded from a vendor, will be lost.
7. Officer vacancies will be filled at the discretion of the director and will be based on the next highest score from the most previous officer tryout.

### **Middle School Squad Leader Selection & Retention**

1. The dance team will have squad leaders and the number of squad leaders will be based on the scores and the needs of the team. Individuals who wish to try out for a squad leader position must have been a member of the varsity dance team for one year at the campus in which they are auditioning. Squad Leader tryouts are held after tryouts, and can be held in conjunction with team tryouts, with the discretion of the director.
2. All selected squad leaders will become active squad leaders immediately following the banquet.
3. Squad leaders must be in good standing at tryouts and are to remain in good standing throughout the entirety of the school year.

### **High School Council Elections & Retention**

1. The council is an elected group of team members whose purpose is to represent, support, and promote spirit within the organization. The number of council members will be based on team votes and the needs of the team as defined by the director.
2. All Council members who fail any class\* will be immediately demoted to a line member for the remainder of that drill team season.

3. Any payments made after demotion, that cannot be refunded from a vendor, will be lost.

### **General Rules**

1. Members must be free to spend the necessary time, as decided by the director, both during the summer and during the entire school year. Members are required to attend summer camp at their own expense. High School Officers and Middle School Squad leaders will be required to attend more than one camp.
2. Members may not hold jobs, which in any way interfere with practices, performances, or other scheduled activities of the drill team. If a drill team member chooses to participate in other school activities that may conflict with drill team requirements, they must be in constant communication with the drill team director and get prior approval for missing any required activities. They must still fulfill all drill team requirements to perform.
3. Compliance with all school rules is required at all times. The student handbook is available on the MISD website.
4. Members must ride the bus to and from games, contests, and other performances. Students will be released to their parents for emergencies at the discretion of the director with written documentation.
5. All fundraising must be for the drill team as a whole and approved by the director and administration. No drill team member can participate in any fundraising on his/her own. Each drill team member and parents are expected to participate in all fundraising events.
6. Any concerns from drill team members or parents should be initially addressed with the director in an attempt to resolve the issue. If a resolution cannot be meant, campus administrators will be brought into the discussion for a resolution.

### **Tardies & Absences**

1. If a member is tardy to practice/class, they need to notify the director as soon as possible. The director has the option of excusing the tardy and reserves the right to insure the excuse is valid. The director's decision, if the tardy is excused or not, is final.
2. Reasonable efforts should be made in scheduling any and all appointments so they do not conflict with drill team activities. Excused absences from practice include verified and documented personal illness or death in the family. If you anticipate needing to miss practice, it must be reported one week in advance. The director will determine if the absence will be excused. When a member is going to be absent the director must be notified. In addition, when a member is too ill to attend school, and will miss practice, the director must be phoned or emailed before practice/class. Failure to comply with these attendance rules may trigger disciplinary response.
3. Only in extreme circumstances should a member miss practice, or not participate, while preparing for performances. Any member who is absent, or does not participate, during any performance practice is not eligible to perform at the game, pep-rally, or any other performance of the week unless approved by the director.
4. Absence from a performance, unless approved by the director, may constitute immediate dismissal from drill team or a probationary period issued by the director. If a drill team member knows in advance of a conflict that exists that may prevent them from participating in a performance they must ask for permission to be excused from the performance as soon as the conflict arises. Excusal is at the discretion of the director.
5. If a member is absent from school on the day of a performance, the member will not participate in the performance unless approved by the director.

## **Practices**

1. Practice begins and ends at the time designated by the director. Set practice times will be established and will be common knowledge to all drill team members.
2. Weekend practices will occur on a limited basis during contest and spring show seasons.
3. Members must be on time. This means in place, wearing designated attire, and ready for warm-up when practice time is set.
4. Members must wear the designated attire. No gum chewing, eating, or wearing jewelry during practice. Only water is allowed during practice. Hair must be out of the face.
5. Members who are unable to dance due to injury or recurring illness must still attend all team practices, dress out and follow drill team rules. Any officer unable to dance due to injury or recurring illness must continue to fulfill their officer duties and attend all officer practices and events.
6. Members present at school are expected to attend practice, even if excused from participating by the director.
7. No outside visitors are allowed to attend practice sessions, unless approved by the director.

## **Performance Participation**

1. All members must participate in all scheduled drill team activities. Appropriate dress and punctuality are required.
2. Some uniforms and props will be provided by the district. Any district property damaged or lost must be replaced by the member. Members will be asked to purchase required items. Payment in full must be rendered prior to initial use. Payment plans may be discussed individually with the director.
3. Auditions will be held for every performance. **High School members must be** present on audition day to be eligible for performance. Any member who does not perform satisfactorily at the audition will not participate in that designated performance as determined by the director. Middle school dancers will be able to make up their missed audition at a time agreed on by the director. All decisions are final.
4. During the football game, and at all times, team members are to conduct themselves in a responsible, respectable manner. Non-members are not allowed to sit in the drill team section of the stands at any time. Members will have the beginning of the third quarter at home games to visit with family and friends away from the drill team section of the stands. Drill team members cannot leave the designated third quarter gathering area unless given permission by the director. All drill team members must return to their specified seating in the stands at the end of the third quarter. Failure to do so will constitute disciplinary action.
5. All members are required to participate in stand routines, spirit line drills, and cheerleaders' yells as instructed by the director, captain, and next officer or designated line member in charge.
6. Members are to remain in squad formation in the stands, as well as going to, and exiting performances.

7. High School members who are not performing (Example: did not make the performance line, excess absences, injured, etc.) must still attend the performances, sit with the team in uniform, and follow drill team rules. High School and Middle School members who are on suspension, or grade eligibility suspension, cannot travel with the team, wear the uniform or sit with the team.

8. Drill team members are required to abide by Texas No Pass No Play. These are the rules:

- *Students must be eligible under no-pass, no-play. Extracurricular activities include public performances, contests, demonstrations, displays and club activities. An activity would be considered extracurricular if:*
  - *the activity is competitive;*
  - *the activity is held in conjunction with another activity that is considered extracurricular;*
  - *the activity is held off campus, except in a case in which adequate facilities do not exist on campus;*
  - *the general public is invited;*
  - *an admission price is charged.*
- *Exception: If a student is enrolled in a state-approved course in which he or she must demonstrate mastery of the essential knowledge and skills in a public performance, then he or she may participate so long as the activity is not competitive, it is not held in conjunction with another activity that is competitive, and an admission price is not charged.*

*For example, a theatre student may participate in a non-competitive, free presentation of a one-act play in which the public is invited to attend.*

### *Basics of No Pass, No Play*

- ***Must be passing all courses*** (except identified advanced classes).
- *Students lose eligibility for a three-week period, which is defined as 15 class days. Exception: one but only one of the three school weeks may consist of only three or four class days, provided the school has been dismissed for a scheduled holiday period. Two class days does not constitute a school week. Exception: Thanksgiving if schools are on holiday Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.*
- *School week begins at 12:01 a.m. on the first instructional day of the calendar week and ends at the close of instruction on the last instructional day of the calendar week (excluding holidays).*
- *Ineligible students must wait seven (7) calendar days after a three-week evaluation period and the grading period to regain eligibility.*
- *Students may regain eligibility an unlimited number of times throughout the school year. Passing means a minimum grade of 70 on all courses (except identified advanced classes).*
- ***Note: Spring break can't be part of the 3-week evaluation process. All students are eligible during spring break.***

9. All ineligible members must attend and participate in all practices.

## **Conduct**

1. Upon making the team, members will be required to sign and adhere to the *District Substance Abuse Policy*, *Student Handbook*, and the Drill Team Social Media Contract. Officer and Council leaders will be required to sign and adhere to a contract listing expectations for leadership on the team.

2. Members are expected to respect one another at all times. Line members are expected to cooperate with their officers at all times. They are expected to report any problems immediately to an officer or the director.

3. A drill team member will be loyal to fellow team members. The member will also support and work pleasantly with all school organizations.

4. Members will be conscious of all actions knowing that drill team members should always conduct themselves in a respectable manner in and out of drill team attire. Members are representing MISD at all times.

5. If a member is assigned to ISS/CHOICES, the member will be suspended from the drill team.

6. A team member that is assigned to DAEP will be removed from the team immediately. If tryouts have already occurred, and the student made the squad, the member will lose their eligibility for the following drill team season.

## **Appearance**

1. All uniforms/costumes must be approved by the director.
2. Gum chewing, eating and drinking are prohibited while members are in uniform, with the exception of water. Members should not wear jewelry, colored nail polish, or hair accessories while performing, unless they are a part of the uniform.
3. It is recommended that students do not wear eyewear that is distracting during performances.
4. A complete uniform check will be made by the director and/or officers prior to game time or performance. Makeup and hairstyle are part of the uniform and may be subject to correction. Those not passing final inspection will not perform.
5. Pride in appearance and the wearing of proper and complete uniform is mandatory. The wearing of a support bra is mandatory.
6. The uniform and poms will be kept clean and in good repair at all times and ready for a performance.
7. When wearing any drill team attire, including t-shirts, a member will look presentable and will not partake in any form of PDA.
8. Drill team members will keep their hair a natural color. Any unnatural coloring could result in the loss of a performance.

## **Awards**

A high school drill team member is eligible to letter if the member has successfully completed one Varsity year in good standing. The drill team member is responsible for all costs associated with the jacket. Minimally, the jacket will have a sailor collar and school emblem.

## **Officers**

Officers will be expected to:

- A. Accept the decisions of the director
- B. Be a servant leader and role model for the team
- C. Accept the Captain as head officer
- D. Accept the First Lieutenant as second commanding officer
- E. Know the rules and advise members accordingly
- F. Aid, when asked, in handling uniform, jacket, and prop distribution
- G. Report any problems to the director
- H. Assist in any teaching or workshop sessions
- I. Submit to the director a weekly report of their squad, including absences and demerits
- J. Assist the director in choreographing dance routines
- K. Attend additional practices called by the director

## **Squad Leaders**

Squad Leaders will be expected to:

- A. Accept the decisions of the director
- B. Be a servant leader and role model for the team
- C. Know the rules and advise members accordingly
- D. Aid, when asked, in handling uniform, jacket, and prop distribution
- E. Report any problems to the director

- F. Assist in any teaching or leading additional practices
- G. Submit to the director a weekly report of their squad, including absences and demerits
- H. Assist the director in choreographing dance routines
- I. Attend additional practices called by the director

## Demerits

1. All of the below listed actions/behaviors will result in the drill team member receiving demerit(s) each time the action/behavior occurs.

### One Demerit:

- Late to practice, performance, the bus, or to any other event
- Wearing wrong practice attire
- Wearing jewelry during practice
- Forgetting a designated item for practice (one demerit for each item)
- Not returning required paperwork or money on due date
- Not returning football uniform pieces on the required day
- Wearing jewelry or finger/toenail polish during a performance (unless part of uniform)
- A piece of uniform/leather/costume falling off during a performance
- Drill team bag not properly packed for football games or contest (one for each item missing)
- Leaving a costume out in the dressing room
- Leaving a designated area at football games without director approval and a parent escort
- Being late after free time during 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter
- Forgetting a performance item (may result in loss of performance)
- Not having costume properly pinned for a performance
- Officers/council not following through on assigned duties
- Talking during spirit lines and/or during a performance
- Tardy from school/practice/performance without contacting the director, or your officer

### Five Demerits:

- Absence from service shift/school/practice/performance without director approval
- PDA (public display of affection) during performance activities or while wearing ANY drill team attire (this includes uniform, t-shirts, costumes, etc.)
- Disrespectful verbal and/or nonverbal actions towards the director and/or team members.
- Office referral or teacher feedback of poor classroom behavior
- Assigned to out of school detention for any reason.

### Fifteen Demerits:

- Assigned to Choices
- Serious behavior breach such as an obscene posting on social media

Fifteen demerits will result in automatic suspension.

2. Under the director's discretion, 100 high kicks may be completed within three school days to offset a demerit.
3. Failure to complete the physical activity associated with the demerit will result in double the number of demerits.
4. Demerits are continually added, and as they accumulate additional discipline will be assigned.
5. If a member accumulates five demerits they will not participate in one performance at the director's discretion.
6. If a member accumulates ten demerits they will not participate in one performance at the director's discretion.
7. If a member accumulates fifteen demerits they will be suspended.

8. If a member accumulates twenty demerits, the member will be removed from the drill team and prohibited from trying out for the following drill team season.

**All disciplinary action is determined and finalized by the director and campus principal. This is not an exhaustive list; there may be demerits assigned for actions not listed above.**

### **Suspension**

Suspension will occur if the member receives 15 demerits, a CHOICES placement, or has a serious behavior breach such as an obscene posting on social media. Suspension begins immediately and will last four calendar weeks. While suspended, the member does not participate in any public performances, contests, demonstrations, displays, team social activities, trips, and/or club activities but is still required to participate in all drill team practices. Any payments made for activities the member can no longer participate in due to the suspension, that cannot be refunded from a vendor, will be lost. Suspension is an automatic 15 demerits.

### **Dismissal**

Dismissal is defined as being removed from the drill team immediately without the opportunity to try-out the following drill team season. Dismissal will occur for the following reasons:

- Failing three classes\* in a school year (Students can try-out for the following drill team season.)
- Assignment to DAEP
- Failing to comply with the District Substance Abuse Policy
- Suspension and five additional demerits
- Any severe action that the director, and administrators, feel does not represent the drill team organization in a positive way

*\*Exceptions are the list of classes exempt from NO PASS, NO PLAY regulations.*

### **Director's Note:**

In order to establish a well-maintained and elite organization all rules and procedures must be followed. In doing so, members will not only be properly prepared for outstanding performances, but they will receive a very exciting and rewarding experience as a drill team member.

The director reserves the right to add or delete with administrative approval any rules during the year that are felt to be necessary for the good of the drill team.

The decisions of the director, and administrators, will be accepted as final in the interpretation of the rules within this constitution.



## **Drill Team Constitution Signed Contract**

Please sign stating that you understand and will abide by all information within the drill team constitution.

Drill Team Member Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Drill Team Member Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Revised 1/21/2020