

## 2023-2024 LEHS Cheer Program Social Media Contract

Dear LEHS Cheerleaders and Mascots,

As you begin participation in this new cheer season, the Athletic Department of Little Elm High School wants to make sure you are aware of the social networking guidelines. The Little Elm Independent School District and the Athletic Department recognize and support the students' rights to freedom of speech, expression, and association, including the use of social networks. In this context, however, each member must remember that cheering and competing for Little Elm High School is a privilege. As a member of the LEHS Cheer Program, you represent our school and our community. Your teachers, coaches, and parents are expecting you to portray yourself, your team, and the School District in a positive manner at all times.

Attached you will find social networking guidelines:

- Everything you post is public information – any text or photo placed online is completely out of your control the moment it is placed online – even if you limit access to your site. Information (including pictures, videos, and comments) may be accessible even after you remove it. Once you post a photo or comment on a social networking site, that photo or comment becomes the property of the site and may be searchable even after you remove it.
- What you post may affect your future. Many employers and college admissions officers review social networking sites as part of their overall evaluation of an applicant. Carefully consider how you want people to perceive you before you give them a chance to misinterpret your information (including pictures, videos, comments, and posters).
- It is still considered a violation of the social media contract if pictures that violate the contract are posted of you by another person on their social media. Even if the person that posts them is not a part of the cheer program.
- Similar to comments made in person, the LEHS Cheer Program will not tolerate disrespectful comments and behavior online, such as:
  - Derogatory language or remarks that may harm my teammates or coaches; other Little Elm student-athletes, teachers, or coaches; and student-athletes, coaches, or representatives of other schools, including comments that may disrespect my opponents.
  - Incriminating photos or statements depicting violence; hazing; sexual harassment; full or partial nudity; inappropriate gestures; vandalism, stalking; underage drinking, smoking, selling, possessing, or using controlled substances; or any other inappropriate behaviors.
  - Creating a serious danger to the safety of another person or making a credible threat of serious physical or emotional injury to another person.
  - Indicating knowledge of an unreported school or team violation—regardless if the violation was unintentional or intentional

In short, do not have a false sense of security about your rights to freedom of speech. Understand that freedom of speech is not unlimited. Online social network sites are NOT a place where you can say and do whatever you want without repercussions. The information you post on a social networking site is considered public information. Protect yourself by maintaining a self-image of which you can be proud for years to come.

**2023-2024 LEHS Cheer Program Social Media Contract**

As a Little Elm High School cheerleader or mascot, the coaches, principals, teachers, and community hold you to a high standard of behavior. This high standard of behavior includes the use of social media such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Tumblr, etc. If you use social media and post pictures and/or printed material on your account, including but not limited to the use of drugs, alcohol, sexual conduct, and bullying can and will result in immediate suspension and/or removal from the team. The discipline will be decided by the coach and principal.

As per the constitution, the first offense of this contract will earn 1 major infraction & at least 1 game benching. The second offense, or in some cases, if the first offense is severe, will result in immediate removal from the program. This will be up to the discretion of the coaches and principals.

As per the constitution, “the possession and/or use of alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs are expressly forbidden and will not be tolerated. Any infraction, on or off-campus, may result in immediate removal from the program. This will be up to the discretion of the coaches and principals.

I have read the above document and understand that violation of the social media contract could result in immediate dismissal from the team.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Today’s Date: \_\_\_\_\_