

GREENVILLE HIGH SCHOOL FLAMING FLASHES CONSTITUTION 2022-2023

- ADOPTED JULY 7, 2022 -

The Greenville High School Flaming Flashes was established in 1928 by the legendary Gussie Nell Davis. Facts and conditions included in this constitution should explain the Drill Team operation. The high school, GISD, nor the Director of the Flashes, shall be held responsible for any injuries which occur to any team member. The District strongly advises all participants to obtain accident insurance. Being a member of the Flashes can be the most valuable and exciting growth opportunity for students. Members will learn to work for team goals, learn self-discipline, learn to budget time, and learn to set priorities. Members experience many things that will help develop self-confidence; learn to handle responsibility, success, and failure; as well as learn to set personal goals and strive to reach them. The components of exercise, dance, and friendship make members more active in high school life and a part of the school spirit and begin the lifelong process of learning to give back to the community through coordinated community service projects. Being a member of the Flaming Flashes demands a commitment of time and energy; therefore, participation in other activities should be carefully scheduled. Flashes' activities take priority over other non-athletic extracurricular activities, but not other curricular activities (those that affect the class grade). Jobs and summer vacations must not conflict with scheduled practices and camp.

In alignment with the GISD's Capturing Kids Hearts Initiative (CKH), the Flashes will utilize the Social Contract to model positive drill team behavior. Upon the selection of the new line, the team and Director will create a social contract under the facilitation of a district employee who has completed the CKH training. Upon completion of the Social Contract all team members will sign the contract.

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Flaming Flashes shall be to promote and maintain school spirit and sportsmanship; perform entertainment when scheduled in cooperation with school and civic activities; develop character, leadership, and individual responsibility while maintaining high moral standards and encouraging scholarship.

II. MEMBERSHIP

1. The Flashes' Line may consist of sophomores, juniors, or seniors.
2. There shall be as many student managers as deemed necessary by the Director. Managers must meet the same academic, attendance, and behavioral expectations as line members. The Director will determine the requirements to be a student manager.

3. The members must attend all practices, summer camp, performances, events, and appearances so called by the Director and Administration.
4. A parent, or guardian, and candidate must attend an annual mandatory parent meeting. Mandatory parent meetings will be kept to a minimum, however, there may be additional called meetings if/when necessary.

III. QUALIFICATIONS FOR LINE TRYOUTS

A. Prior to tryouts, candidates must turn in the following:

1. Drill Team member and parent contract form
2. Application
3. Grade and discipline record (No more than one failing grade per grading period and no more than one discipline referral. In this instance, "Risk Factor" will be noted on judge sheets. Refer to the UIL Academic Grading Calendar.)
4. Attendance report (No more than three absences during the semester prior to tryouts will be accepted unless an administrative waiver is obtained as an explanation for excessive absences.)
5. Any additional forms and paperwork requested by the Director

B. A parent, or guardian, AND the candidate must attend a mandatory drill team try out information meeting prior to the tryout.

C. All members are required to try out every year.

D. Candidates will perform specified routines at tryouts in front of a panel of qualified judges. The team will be determined by the natural break in score. The natural break is defined as the obvious place in the scores where a numerical difference occurs. This break will be agreed upon by the judges, the campus principal or principal's designee, and the drill team Director. The judges' decision is final.

E. Candidates must attend all tryout practices. Failure to comply may disqualify the candidate. An excused absence from tryout practice must be cleared with the Director within 24 hours of the missed practice. Proper documentation for the absence must be presented. An excused absence consists of: death in the family (funeral program provided), accident, or illness with documentation from a medical professional, or mandatory attendance for a grade for another school organization or school function.

F. The term of service shall be officially recognized as the beginning of tryouts through the end of the next school year. The time between tryout and the end of the school year shall be

considered a transition time from old team to new team. All members remain in elected and/or selected positions until the end of the school year. All team rules and regulations will be followed during tryouts.

G. Costs, including camp, cannot exceed \$1200.00 for a new line member, \$800 for a returning line member of the line or \$1500.00 for an officer.

H. A non-refundable down payment will be made by the first payment deadline set by the Director. If the total non-refundable payment is not made at this time, the student will forfeit his/her position on the team. Installment due dates will be set by the Director. Account balances must be cleared according to the payment schedule established by the Director. Failure to do so results in removal from participation until the balance is cleared. A document of all financial obligations will be provided at the mandatory parent (guardian) candidate meeting prior to tryouts. Payment installment schedules will be determined by the Director. The full balance must be paid by the deadline, or the student will be removed without refund, and will forfeit all items. Extenuating circumstances will be determined on a case-by-case basis and will require a written contract with the campus principal.

I. Summer practice and summer camp are required of all members. A schedule of summer practices will be given to members before the end of the last day of school. Failure to attend camp will result in removal from the team.

J. If a student quits or is removed from the team during the current school year, the student may not try out for the next immediate year, which runs tryout to tryout. The student will be eligible to try out for the following year provided all eligibility requirements have been met. NO REFUNDS will be awarded.

K. Property purchased by the district remains property of the district. Any lost or destroyed item will be the responsibility of the student/parent to pay for the cost of the item. All costs incurred must be paid by the end of the academic year or will be added to the campus fine list.

IV. LINE MEMBER DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Participation in the Flashes will be contingent upon successfully completing requirements of "No Pass No Play". Academically ineligible members must practice but are not allowed to perform during the suspension time.

B. Members must participate in all campus sponsored fundraising activities as approved by the Director. Members are responsible for all tickets, products, anything being sold, or functions being worked. Once a Booster club is established, the club's fundraising activities are a separate entity. While participation is voluntary, we strongly encourage Booster club participation.

C. The Director must be aware of any absence PRIOR to practice time. The member is required to notify the Director via Remind AND his/her Officer of the situation. If the member does not notify both the Director and his/her Officer before practice, the member will receive an unexcused absence and will miss a performance. The missed performance will be decided by the Director.

1. Personal illness and death in the family are the only excused absences.
2. Work, doctor's appointments, trips, etc. should not be scheduled during practice times.
3. Work will not be a reason for missing a performance or practice, or leaving early from a performance or practice.

D. If a member is more than 20 minutes late to a practice or a function, it will count as an unexcused absence. All practices are mandatory for all members. Practices will be conducted by the Director and the Flash Officers. Members will arrive on time and stay until dismissed by the Director. Designated practice attire will be worn at all times.

E. Performance evaluations will be held prior to every performance. The members will be aware of the evaluation days. The Director will determine whether the student will perform by evaluating the student for knowledge of the routine, dance technique, showmanship, conduct, and attitude. The previous week's performance will also be taken into consideration. Seniority nor Officer status will be taken into account for performance evaluations. If a member is absent for performance evaluations, he/she is automatically eliminated from that performance. Any member that is not in a performance must dress out and continue to work out and uphold all responsibilities as an alternate.

F. All members will attend all activities in which the group is involved.

G. If a member is unable to participate for longer than three days due to illness or injury, the member must furnish the Director with a note from a doctor explaining the problem.

H. Members must attend school one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) day in order to be eligible to attend practice or perform. This includes attending Flash practice on performance day.

I. Members are expected to have, and continue to display, the characteristics listed below. Members who do not display these characteristics will be subject to consequences consistent with the Flaming Flashes Constitution, the GISD Student Code of Conduct, and the GISD Extracurricular Code of Student Conduct.

The member will:

1. abstain from smoking, alcohol, drugs, and participating in any illegal activity
2. display school and drill team spirit

3. show a positive attitude
4. always cooperate with and show respect to the Director
5. always follow the instructions given by the Director
6. understand and respect that any decision made by the Director is in the best interest of the team and individual members
7. recognize that the Director has the final say
8. exhibit good taste in appearance and social behavior
9. exert 100% during practices and performances
10. maintain pride in yourself, your school, and the Flashes
11. be honest and exhibit high moral standards
10. respect, know, and follow the guidelines outlined in the Constitution, the GISD Student Code of Conduct, and the GISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct for Students

J. Practice is required during a specified class period and outside practice times. Flashes can fulfill a physical education or elective credit. Extra practices required outside of the class period are held in accordance with the UIL 8 hour practice rule.

K. Members must dress in the designated workout attire for practice.

L. No jewelry, visible piercings, or tattoos are allowed. Single stud earrings may be allowed at the Director's discretion.

M. Students who participate in school-sponsored trips shall be required to ride in transportation provided by the District. Exceptions must be approved by the principal or his/her designee. Students may ride back from the event with their parent, or legal guardian, if a written request has been submitted to the principal or designee the day before the scheduled trip. In the event of extenuating circumstances, a student may ride to an event with a parent or legal guardian. The parent, or legal guardian, may submit a written request to the principal, or designee, the day before the scheduled trip authorizing the student to ride with a designated adult (subject to administrator approval). The District shall not be liable for any injuries that occur to students riding in vehicles that are not provided by the District. Students must be on time for the bus in order to meet time constraints determined prior to the activity by the bus driver, Director, and coach. Students may not ride with other student drivers. Misbehavior of any kind while on the bus will not be tolerated. Appropriate discipline may be imposed for such misconduct according to the discretion of the coach, sponsor, Director, or administrator. The cost of meals, if any, will be paid by the members themselves. If a member misses the provided transportation, the member may not attend the event planned. The member will also be placed on automatic probation.

N. Any Flash member caught with, or found to have been using, alcohol, drugs or tobacco products on or off school property in or out of school uniform will be dismissed from the team.

O. Hazing and bullying will not be tolerated. Any incidents of hazing and/or bullying will be dealt with in accordance with the GISD Student Code of Conduct.

V. DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Maintaining a higher standard of conduct will also include ensuring that drill team member websites/social media accounts are appropriate. The internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible form of communication. Any communication appearing on the internet is public domain, even if it is marked private. Members are responsible for their personal websites, social platforms, and posting, as well as posting from or on other students' websites or endorsing an inappropriate post. Examples of endorsing include but are not limited to "liking", "forwarding", "sharing", "screen recording", and "re-tweeting". The areas of appropriateness will include, but are not limited to, profane, foul, or disrespectful language (abbreviated or alluding to), pictures, suggestive poses, clothing, references to alcohol, drugs, and/or tobacco, and posting (either verbal or photos) that could be interpreted as being negative or threatening towards Greenville Independent School District, other GISD teaching staff or Flash members, or that demonstrate poor sportsmanship or a disrespectful attitude towards other teams. Any such incident will result in review by the principal (or designee) and may lead to probation or dismissal from the drill team.

VI. DISCIPLINE

A member of the Flashes receiving more than one discipline referral in one grading period will be placed on automatic probation. Drill team members are expected to exhibit proper conduct at all times; they are the leaders of the school and should set examples for all to follow. Students receiving 2 discipline referrals in any class for two grading periods may be dismissed from the Flashes. All cases can be reviewed by an administrator and the Director.

VII. GRADES – DRILL TEAM & ELIGIBILITY

A. Academic grades for Flashes will be assigned based on selected dance and physical education requirements outlined by the state as well as the demerit system.

B. Having a negative balance of demerits at the end of the fall and spring semester may result in points off a member's semester grade. (Example: If a drill team member earned 5 demerits and 3 merits during the fall semester, they would get -2 point of their final grade, or a 98 instead of a 100.)

C. In order to be eligible to participate in an extracurricular activity, a student must not have a recorded grade average below passing in any course the previous nine weeks ("No Pass, No Play" law). Should a drill team member become ineligible due to grades, the member must practice but may not participate at performances/events until eligibility is regained. Exception: An administrator may waive a single,

failing grade in one AP, pre-AP, or advanced class per semester but only if the grade is 60 or higher. It is the sole responsibility of the team member to get the waiver form from the Director and turn it in to the administrator's office by 3:30 p.m. on Friday of the grace week. Should the drill team member become ineligible twice, the student will be removed from the Flashes.

VIII. OFFICERS

A. The Flashes will have Officers whose duties shall reach above and beyond those of a line member. Their specific duties will be outlined and discussed with them following tryouts. All rules and regulations apply to the Officers. If an officer, at any time, is not fulfilling their duties as requested by the Director or is discrediting the Flashes in any way, that Officer may be removed from their Officer position.

B. Requirements for Officers

1. Specific rules, responsibilities, tryout procedures, etc. will be given to each candidate before tryouts.
2. Candidates must have been a member of the Line for at least one year.
3. Must have an overall 70 or above GPA.
4. Officers will be determined by an average of the outside judges' score, the team score, the interview score, and the Director's score.
5. The number of officers will be determined by a natural break in the scores.
6. The junior or senior candidate receiving the highest total score will be the Colonel.

C. Officers are required to attend an officer camp in addition to line camp. Anyone who cannot make this commitment should not try out for officer.

D. Officer Duties and Responsibilities

1. support the Director
2. help teach and choreograph routines
3. help run practice
4. serve as squad leaders to the Line
5. arrange for team gifts
6. provide spirit
7. motivate the team

8. assist with correspondence

9. other duties may be assigned by the Director and assist the Director as the director sees fit

IX. DEMERITS & MERITS

A. Because the Flaming Flash members are leaders of the school, Drill Team behavior standards are greater than those of the general student body. Drill team members earn demerits based upon their behavior. The Director will decide upon the demerits.

B. Demerits shall accumulate from the first practice day of the summer through the last day of the following school year. Demerits affect the status of the drill team member, as well as the grades given to each member for the drill team class.

C. The Director and/or their adult designee will be responsible for issuing demerits. While demerits will not be given to members by the Officers or other line members, the Director will look to the Colonel and Officers for assistance in monitoring the behavior of the line members.

D. Any member who receives 5 or more demerits in one week will be ineligible for the next performance.

E. A total of 10 accrued demerits will result in a member being benched from performances.

F. A total of 20 demerits or more will place a member on probation for nine weeks.

G. A total of 30 demerits will terminate membership.

H. A record of each member's demerits will be kept by the Director, their Officer squad leader and/or their designee.

I. It is also the member's responsibility to keep track of their demerits. Each time a member receives a demerit, they will sign their name to acknowledge that they know of the demerit.

J. In addition to demerits, members may face additional consequences in accordance to the infraction. Examples include, but are not limited to:

1. cleaning up as assigned
2. losing certain privileges
3. writing an apology letter
4. assigned number of jumping jacks (replacing the practice of "building houses")

J. Demerit System Breakdown

- Minor infractions generally arise from a lack of preparation or lack of attention. These infractions are 1 point each and include, but are not limited to:

1. incorrect practice uniform
2. tardy to practice/performance/event
3. failure to bring all required items to practice (poms, jazz shoes, etc..)
4. chewing gum at practice/performance/event
5. excessive talking and/or talking at inappropriate times
6. out of place after allotted break times during practice/performance/event
8. not giving 100% during practices/performances – includes, but is not limited to following all directions, accepting constructive criticism humbly, showing expression (smiling, appropriate facial features, personality, etc...); points can accumulate at individual practices/performances
9. incorrect performance uniform or costume at time of inspection – 1 point per incorrect item
 - Inspections will be conducted 30 minutes prior to a performance either by the Colonel, Officers/squad leaders, Director, Director’s designee or a combination of all. If 5 or more items are incorrect, this could result in being benched from the performance/event. The Director will make the final decision.
10. wearing undesignated jewelry, visible piercing or tattoo at performance/event
11. wearing undesignated nail polish at a scheduled performance
12. hair incorrect
13. eating or drinking without permission in uniform
14. not having on performance makeup
15. not obeying stand or formation rules at performance/event
16. Failure to communicate and respond accordingly in a clear and timely manner with the Director, Director’s designee, and/or Officers/squad leaders when communicating digitally. This includes messages on Remind, text, email, Google Classroom, or any other means of communication utilized by the Flashes. This includes a simple acknowledgement of receiving the message(s) or any required response. The Director will relay the response time expectation of all communications. Some messages may be more urgent than others, depending on the time of year, topic of the message, etc....
16. not returning uniforms, or other school issued items clean & performance ready
17. not meeting deadlines given by the Director (returning school issued items, report card/progress report submissions, fundraising money, etc...) - 1 demerit per day overdue or other designated timeframe as assigned

18. any infraction not listed above, but within a similar spirit of those listed

- Medium infractions generally arise from a lack of communication or by breaking the specifically outlined rules. These actions are more serious infractions and generally have a negative impact on the team as well as the individual member. These infractions are 5 points each. A member who receives any medium infractions becomes ineligible for the next performance.
 1. not notifying the Director via Remind, or other communication apps used by the Flashes, and Colonel or Lieutenant Colonel (for Officers)/squad leader ahead of time when going to be absent from practice
 2. failure to dress out for practice
 3. failure to attend and observe practices when injured, but still able to attend school
 4. not notifying the Director via Remind, or other communication apps used by the Flashes, and Colonel or Lieutenant Colonel (for Officers)/squad leader ahead of time when going to be absent from performance/event
 5. unauthorized cell phone usage during practice/performance/event
 6. unexcused absence from practice/performance/event
 7. leaving a mess in the gym, performance space, locker room or any area the team has occupied
 8. disrespecting an Officer, fellow line member, or Manager
 9. any infraction not listed above, but within a similar spirit of those listed

- Major infractions generally arise from disregarding the rules and regulations of the Flashes. These are major offenses and may result in other consequences in addition to demerits. Major infractions are 10+ points each (amount to be determined by the Director, depending on infraction) and include, but are not limited to:
 1. conduct unbecoming of a member of the Flaming Flashes (public displays of inappropriate conduct or affection, cursing, etc....) while at school or in uniform
 2. leaving early from any team activity without the Director's permission
 3. excessive absences; excused or unexcused
 4. disrespect to the Director, any other GISD employee or administrator, or adult volunteer - this includes other teachers, chaperones, parents, bus drivers, etc...

5. office referral

6. undesirable behavior, at any time, while a member of the Flaming Flashes, not outlined by the GISD Student Code of Conduct or the GISD Extracurricular Code of Student Conduct will not be tolerated

7. any infraction not listed above, but within a similar spirit to those listed

- Unacceptable infractions are behaviors that warrant immediate review by the Director and Administration, will result in automatic disciplinary probation and possible automatic dismissal from the team. These infractions are 20+ points each and include, but are not limited to:

1. In School Suspension (ISS)

2. inappropriate postings on social media

3. behavior that discredits the dance team

4. possessing OR using illegal drugs either in our outside of school. This includes cigarettes, e-cigs, vapes, marijuana, alcohol, and ANY other illicit drugs not listed.

5. failure to meet necessary requirements to be removed from disciplinary probation

6. after 2 disciplinary probations

7. 3rd academic probation

8. suspension from school or GAEP placement

9. excessive absences from Flashes' practices/performances/events - review for dismissal will be determined by the Director and campus Admin

10. violating the GISD Student Code of Conduct or GISD Student Acceptable Use Policy

11. any infraction not listed above, but within a similar spirit of those listed.

K. The Director may choose to offer merits for services deemed appropriate. The rewards for such earned merits are also at the director's discretion. Subject to the Director's approval, the Officer Line is allowed to issue merits to the line members. The Flash Officers may also recommend merits for Line members to the Director. Merits are the only way to remove demerits. Merits remove demerits on a two to one basis – meaning, for each demerit a member receives, it will take two merits to remove the one.

- Examples of merits include, but are not limited to:

1. community service

2. assisting other faculty members

3. assignments from the Director
4. participating in a spirit activity outside of drill team (example: spirit week, dress up days, etc....)
5. bringing items that benefit the team
6. Anything "above and beyond" the call of duty – it does not necessarily have to be directly related to Flashes

X. Probation

1. During probation, the member will not perform and will not attend official drill team events but will attend and participate in all practices. The duration of probation is nine (9) weeks. Grounds for probation include, but are not limited to, receiving twenty (20) demerits.
2. All probation will be reviewed by the Director and campus administrator.

XI. Dismissal from the Flashes

1. Dismissal from the Flashes will last throughout the remainder of the school year in which the offense occurs. If a member is permanently dismissed from the drill team and wishes to be a member the following year, they must try out. The final decision will be determined by the Director and the campus principal or principal's designee.
2. Reasons for Dismissal from the Drill Team:
 - a. receiving thirty (30) demerits
 - b. failing any two grading periods per the UIL Grade Check calendar
 - c. a second offense where probation has already been used
 - d. assignment to GAEP

XII. Parents, Legal Guardians, Family Members and Friends

Parents, legal guardians, family members, and friends must remember that the rules set forth in this constitution are expected to be followed. Verbal threats or any type of abuse of the Director, or any other member of the Flashes, will not be tolerated. In the event that such behavior occurs at any practice, performance, or drill team activity, they will be asked to leave the function immediately.

XII. Rules and Regulations

The interpretation of this constitution is the sole right of the GISD, the Director of the Flaming Flashes, and the campus principal. GISD and/ the Director has the right to petition to add or change those things which they feel must be changed to benefit the Flash organization and its members. These rules will be observed by all drill team members at all times. This constitution will be the basis on which all decisions are made.

FLAMING FLASH MEMBER AND PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN CONTRACT

I AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING:

1. The member will show courtesy and respect to the Director, the Officers, as well as to fellow team members at all times.
2. The member will be present at all summer practices and camp.
3. The member will participate in all fundraising activities of the Flashes and will be responsible for raising money, selling merchandise, and participating in all work functions.
4. The member will participate in Flash activities including parties, in or out of town athletic events, meetings, practices before and after school, parades, summer practices, special dance clinics, and all events where Flash attendance is required.
5. It is understood that the member may not perform in every activity due to either discipline problems, school grades, or not mastering the routine for that week.
6. It is the responsibility of the team member and parent to secure transportation to and from the campus for all activities of the Flashes and ensure arrival and departure is on time. (Usually meaning to and from the school to meet the bus!)
7. The Flaming Flashes Constitution, has been read by both the member and the parent, and each agree to abide by them fully as well as the Extracurricular Baseline Guidelines, and/or the GISD Student Code of Conduct.
8. I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the Flaming Flashes Constitution.

Member Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

TRYOUT APPLICATION PLEDGE

I understand that I am to abide by all regulations set forth for candidates for membership in the GHS Flaming Flashes. If selected as a drill team member, I promise to maintain the expectations and follow the rules set forth in the Constitution to the best of my ability. I understand that the school will not be responsible for any injury that I might receive while I am trying out for the Flashes or after I am selected to the position of a Flashes Line member. I am aware of the responsibilities involved in drill team membership.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Student Signature: _____

I have also read the Constitution and understand the expectations for the GHS Flaming Flashes program.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

***** Application Due: 1st day of practices*****

Director Checklist

_____ Member/parent contact form

_____ Tryout application

_____ Travel release

_____ Grade and discipline record

_____ Attendance report

_____ Other _____