

# MPS CHEER, POM & MASCOT BYLAWS, 2023-2024

The purpose of Moore Public Schools (MPS) mascot, cheer squads and pom are to provide competitive athletes an avenue to learn/grow in their sport, opportunity to promote school spirit and support various organized activities. Members of the Cheer and Pom squads serve as student leaders within their schools and represent the school/district throughout the year. Candidates wishing to try out for mascot, cheer or pom, and his/her parents must read all of the following rules and regulations. After reading and being in full agreement, both student-athlete and parent signatures are required indicating that, if selected, all agree to abide by the rules and regulations governing the mascot, cheer and pom programs/squads.

TRYOUTS (Hardship, page 2   Transfer, page 3)	Page 1
ELIGIBILITY/GRADES	Page 4
PHYSICAL/MEDICAL ELIGIBILITY	Page 5
MEMBERSHIP	Page 5
ATTENDANCE	Page 6
PRACTICES	Page 6
COMPETITIONS	Page 7
CONDUCT AND EXPECTATIONS	Page 8
INVOLVEMENT IN OTHER EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES	Page 9
UNIFORMS	Page 9
FINANCES	Page 10
DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE POLICY	Page 10
MASCOT	Page 11
TRANSPORTATION	Page 11
GRADED COURSE: HIGH SCHOOL	Page 11
MERITS/DEMERITS: JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL	Page 12
CHANGES TO BYLAWS	Page 14
DISCLAIMER	Page 14

## TRYOUTS

- A. Students trying out for the 2023-2024 squads must meet the following criteria:
1. High school students must have passed five (5) classes the previous semester that the Moore School District offers for graduation credit. Junior high students must have passed any (5) classes the previous semester.
  2. Students entering grades 8-12 wishing to try out for a cheer/pom/mascot position must have a cumulative grade point average of a 2.0 to include the first semester preceding tryouts. The grade point average is rounded to the nearest hundredth. Sixth grade students wishing to try out for a junior high cheer squad must have a 2.0 grade point average based on the combined average of the first and second nine weeks of the 6th grade year.
  3. Students new to the school where they wish to try out must comply with the same requirements as students that are currently enrolled. The passing grades required for the preceding semester should be obtained from the records at the school attended.
  4. All scores are “official” after the judges’ decisions have been sent to tabulations.

5. Any student who has resigned or has been dismissed (except for medical reasons documented by a physician's statement) from any previous cheer/pom/ mascot squad **will not** be eligible to try out for any of the following year's cheer/pom/mascot squads in the Moore District. In this case, if the athlete believes they should receive an exception due to extenuating circumstances, they must schedule a meeting with the School Coach, MPS Spirit Coordinator and Athletic Facilitator of the location of the resignation/ dismissal in order to receive permission for try-outs. This final decision must be approved by the School Coach, Athletic Facilitator of the location the athlete is trying out and the MPS Spirit Coordinator.
6. Candidates trying out for a position for any squad must do so in person except in the case of a medical hardship.
7. Any injuries that occur after the physical obtained for try outs has been turned in must be reported to the School Coach and the participant must supply a new written release form from his/her doctor 24 hours prior to tryouts.
8. A student who has been a member of his/her current Moore Public School's squad but has sustained an injury that prevents him/her from trying out to be a member of the junior high or high school squad may be considered for placement on a squad as an injured member if he or she meets the following criteria:
  - a. The hardship athlete must have been a member in good standing on the previous squad.
  - b. The hardship athlete must maintain treatment and therapy with the training staff until released to work out with the team.
  - c. The hardship athlete must meet all other eligibility requirements as outlined for those trying out to be a member of a squad.
  - d. The hardship athlete must provide the school coach, at the time all packets are due to be turned in, a physician's letter in which the physician specifically states the injured athlete is physically unable to participate in tryouts due to the injury. In addition, the physician's letter must state, **in detail, the date of the injury, the medical diagnosis, the treatment being administered, and the prognosis for recovery. The letter must also state whether the injury is acute or a condition that is chronic, and the doctor must provide the anticipated release date with no restrictions. If the athlete is able to complete the cheer or dance during the tryout, the doctor must state that in the note.** THE RELEASE DATE MUST NOT BE LATER THAN AUGUST 1st OF THE UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR!
  - e. The hardship athlete must complete the form entitled, Request for Cheer and Pom Medical Hardship, which may be obtained from the MPS Spirit Coordinator. Both the school coach and the building principal will review the physician's letter **AND** completed form for content and compliance with the criteria necessary to meet the requirements for medical hardship placement. **The completed Request for Cheer and Pom Medical Hardship form and detailed physician's letter will then be forwarded by the school coach to the District Spirit Coordinator and Principal for final approval.**

If it is determined that the injured athlete does not meet part or all of the criteria for consideration of placement on the squad due to an injury which precludes him/her from participating in tryouts, the injured athlete will be notified both verbally and in writing and given the reasons for denial.

If it is determined that the hardship athlete meets all the requirements for placement on the squad as outlined above, he or she may then be placed on a school practice squad and allowed to complete tryout for placement once he or she is released, in writing, by his or her attending physician. Any junior high athlete with a hardship trying out for the high school will be placed on the JV practice squad.

If by August 1, the hardship athlete has not submitted a physician's letter stating that the athlete is released with no restrictions from the injury which precluded him/her from trying out, he/she will forfeit his/her membership on the squad.

Hardship athletes are required to pay the required \$275 uniform rental fee. If the athlete is not released by August 1, they will not receive a refund for the uniform rental fee. Uniforms will not be passed out until the athlete is released to participate.

The position(s) filled by the hardship athlete(s) will not subtract from the number of squad members, including alternates at the junior high level.

*In addition to the above criteria, the candidate must meet the residency requirements established by the Moore School District before trying out.*

B. Tryout related information:

1. A student who is currently enrolled and lives in the Moore School District may try out for cheer/pom at ONLY ONE school, and only either Cheer or Pom program. This school must be the one in whose district and within whose boundaries the student legally and physically attends on the day of the tryouts. If the student moves into another school's area within the Moore School District before the tryout date occurs, he/she must try out for the NEW school's squad. Prior to tryouts, proof of residency may be required. Students moving into a different school's boundaries but still within the Moore School District after being selected a cheer/pom must apply to the superintendent's office for a transfer. Students not in compliance with the residency ruling will not be allowed to continue on the squad. If a senior cheer/pom member who has attended Moore schools for three consecutive years moves outside the district in the summer, he/she may finish his/her senior year in the district provided he/she has enrolled in and attends class from the first day onward in the Moore District. An underclassman moving outside the district may finish only the current semester before resigning the cheer/pom position to attend the new school in the new district. **Transferred students who have been in attendance at a Moore school for one (1) year are eligible to try out for that school's squad. Students who are considering an in-district academic transfer and wish to try out at the school for which they are seeking a transfer must have the transfer paperwork approved for the upcoming year prior to the date the tryout packets are due. Participation on a squad will be in accordance with the eligibility provisions contained in Board Policy #7075, In-District Student Transfers.**

***Note: A student-athlete wanting to try out for MPS Cheer or Pom must be enrolled in MPS prior to the deadline when tryout packets are due.***

2. Additions for any reason and for all emergency situations must be agreed on by the site coach, site Athletic Facilitator, District Spirit Coordinator, and District Athletic Director.
3. Students trying out for a squad must attend the mandatory clinic held prior to the tryout date unless prior arrangements have been approved by the School Coach and District Spirit Coordinator. These arrangements must be in writing and approved prior to clinic day.
4. Clinics will be directed by the MPS Spirit Coordinator, MPS Assistant Spirit Coordinator, and assisted by the senior cheers/poms from all three high schools.
5. It is the responsibility of the candidate to learn the required material.
6. Absolutely NO VIDEOTAPING DEVICES OTHER THAN THOSE USED BY SCHOOL PERSONNEL ARE ALLOWED DURING CLINICS, AT THE CLINIC SITE, OR DURING TRYOUTS. CHEER/POM CLINICS ARE OPENED TO TRY OUT PARTICIPANTS ONLY.
7. Tryouts will be held in a school gymnasium. Tryouts are closed and only athletes trying out, coaches, graduating senior Cheer and Pom school team members, and school staff may be admitted into the gym.
8. Two qualified outside judges will be scoring the contestants, along with the third judge being the head school coach of the program. The two outside judges will be selected by the Spirit Coordinator and they must not be knowingly related to any tryout participant or to any employee associated with any district athletic program. The three judges' scores will be averaged. Judges must not have a financial interest in any district cheer/pom/mascot program other than the district-paid fee for their judging services. In the case of a tie, the

Spirit Coordinator will determine the athletes' team selection. A minimum score of 160 must be obtained to be placed on a high school cheer/pom squad. This applies to Varsity teams. There are no minimum scores for Junior Varsity and Junior High Cheer and Pom teams.

9. Students must try out each year for a position on the squad.
10. Starting over or pausing will be reflected in the judging component entitled "Memory."
11. JUDGES' DECISIONS ARE FINAL.
12. All cheer/pom candidates must adhere to the following dress codes for tryouts:
13. All candidates will wear the district provided t-shirt with black shorts. Shorts may have a logo on it provided it is small and does not distract from the tryout process. Candidates trying out for cheer must wear appropriate tennis shoes. Candidates trying out for pom must wear jazz shoes or appropriate tennis shoes. No logos should be visible on anything other than shorts. Logos visible on the shorts must be approved by the school coach prior to tryouts. Wear solid white socks. No ribbons or bows in the hair. Use clips and pins to secure hair. Failure to adhere to the dress code will result in disqualification. Wear shorts and t-shirts to Clinic.

### **ELIGIBILITY/GRADES**

The Mascot and Cheer/Pom squads in the MPS are governed by the rules and regulations of the OSSAA's minimum criteria and may exceed these criteria. Scholastic eligibility for students will be checked at the end of the third week of the first semester and each succeeding week thereafter. In addition to the scholastic requirements outlined by OSSAA, the following regulations will be followed:

1. Cheers/poms/mascots in grades 7-12 must pass an eligibility check each week. Squad members cannot participate the next week if they have received an "F" for two consecutive weeks. The school will run eligibility checks on Wednesday of each week. The period of ineligibility will always begin the Monday following the day eligibility is checked.
2. A student who has lost eligibility under this provision must be passing all subjects in order to regain eligibility. A student regains eligibility under Rule 3, Section 1 (c) of the OSSAA handbook with the first class of the new one-week period (Monday through Sunday).
3. If a student does not meet the minimum semester scholastic standard, according to OSSAA rules, he/she will not be eligible to participate during the first 6 weeks of the next semester attended. One credit may be made up during summer school.
4. "Passing grade" means work of such character that credit would be entered on the records were the semester to close at that time.
5. A 12th grade student may maintain eligibility if he/she is passing the classes required for graduation. The number of classes can be no less than six. This includes a 12th grade student who is concurrently enrolled in high school and will collect six equivalent high school units that are accepted by the Oklahoma State Department of Education.
6. No credit or incomplete grades will be considered the same as failing grades in determining scholastic eligibility. School administrators are authorized to make an exception to this provision (Rule 3, Section 3 (c)—OSSAA Handbook) if the incomplete grade was caused by an unavoidable hardship. Examples of such hardships would be illness, injury, death in family, or natural disaster. Board policy allows a maximum of two weeks to apply for this exception.
7. One summer school credit earned in an Oklahoma State Department of Education accredited program may be used to meet the requirements of Rule 3, Section 1 (a) of the OSSAA Handbook for the end of the spring semester.
8. Ineligible students or students on probation will report to the appropriate school coach each day of ineligibility. Failure to report may result in demerits being given.
9. Any cheer/pom/mascot member, grades 7-8, who has been ineligible because of grades for four (4) consecutive weeks or five (5) non-consecutive weeks will be dismissed from the squad for the remainder of the school year. Any cheer/pom/mascot member, grades 9-12, who has been ineligible because of grades for three (3) consecutive weeks or four (4) non-consecutive weeks will be dismissed from the squad for the remainder of the school year.
10. A squad member who has been suspended from school may be dismissed from the squad.
11. At the high school level, a grade will be given for each semester that the coach can document 60 hours of participation.

12. **Academically ineligible students cannot wear their uniform** but may travel with the squad during the period of ineligibility. An ineligible student must attend games/functions but he/she must sit with the School Coach.

### PHYSICAL/MEDICAL ELIGIBILITY

1. No student shall be eligible to tryout or represent his/her school as a cheer/pom/mascot until there is, on file with the principal, a physical examination and parental consent certificate on a form prescribed by the OSSAA, on which the examining physician shall certify that the student is physically fit at the time to participate in the various athletic sports for the current school year. After May 1 and prior to the beginning of camp, each member must have a current physical on file. (Physicals are valid from May 1 through April 30).
2. If a member is unable to practice the week of an event, then he/she may not be eligible to participate and must sit out with the coach during the event in attire that conforms to the district's student dress code policy.
3. Any injuries that occur after the physical has been turned in must be reported to the School Coach. The participant must supply a new written release form from their doctor 24 hours prior to tryouts.

### MEMBERSHIP

1. The junior high cheerleading squads will consist of up to 20 members from grades 7 and 8. All members will be selected and placed based on the highest overall totals per squad. Identification numbers of those making a squad will be posted on the district's website <http://www.mooreschools.com/Page/40539>
2. The high school varsity cheer and pom squads will consist of up to 20 members on each squad. The top scorers, grades 9-12 will comprise each squad. The site coach has the option to have two alternates if the school program does not have a JV. In order to be an alternate, the participant must score the minimum score on the score sheet at tryouts. The School Coach may pull up junior varsity members as needed throughout the year. Alternates will not perform or compete unless they are pulled up.
3. The high school junior varsity cheer and pom squads will consist of no more than 20 members on each squad. After the varsity squads are chosen, the next highest scores from those trying out will complete the junior varsity squad. The JV squad will only consist of members in grades 9-11. Seniors will not be eligible to be on the JV squad. Identification numbers of those making the varsity squads and junior varsity squads will be posted on the district's website <http://www.mooreschools.com/Page/40539>
4. The junior varsity squad must have five (5) members who meet the minimum scoring criteria at tryouts to form a JV squad. If five (5) members do not meet this standard or if numbers do not allow for the minimum to be reached, a junior varsity squad will not be formed for the upcoming year. *The coach has the option to have two alternates in this situation.*
5. A committee comprised of the Principal or high school Athletic Director, MPS Spirit Coordinator, and School Coach will look at the number of members for the high school cheer squad and the number of members for the high school pom squad for the following school year. The District Spirit Coordinator will have final decision on squad numbers.
6. The mascots are under the direction of the Cheer or Pom School Coach at junior high schools and under the direction of the Cheer or Pom School Coach at high schools.
7. Squads will be coached by an MPS employee appointed by the Principal and MPS Spirit Coordinator.
8. The School Coach or certified employee designated by Principal will accompany squad members on all school-sanctioned trips.
9. If a captain/captains is/are selected, the selection/s will be made by the School Coach and all decisions are final.
10. High school junior varsity or varsity vacancies occurring before summer camp may be filled by the contestant/contestants who made the next highest score/s in the preceding spring tryouts. The School Coach will have the discretion of offering the vacancy/vacancies

occurring after summer camp to the contestant/contestants who made the next highest score/s in the preceding spring tryouts.

11. Any cheer/pom squad member who repeatedly violates school regulations is subject to punishment ranging from sitting out an event to being dismissed from the squad.
12. Fundraisers for squads will be determined by board policy governing such items.
13. If a member commits a felony or misdemeanor, he/she will be dismissed from the squad.
14. The Principal, MPS Spirit Coordinator, and School Coach will determine appropriate disciplinary action on issues that are not specifically addressed in this document. The disciplinary action may include demerit or if deemed appropriate, removal from the squad.

## **ATTENDANCE**

1. Members will attend all regularly scheduled practices, required camps and clinics, and local and national competitions as designated by the school coach (Exception: See Section XIII). The school coach will give consideration to the cost of the outside coach, if applicable, when determining season length.
2. Should a squad member choose not to attend or to just partially attend summer camp practices, competition practices, competitions or performances, unless excused by the school coach prior to the event, that member shall forfeit his/her position on the squad for the remainder of the year.
3. Each pom/cheer member is required to perform at all required activities and events unless excused by the school coach PRIOR TO THE EVENT.
4. Attendance is MANDATORY at all school practices, performances, competitions, and events. Everything must be approved by the School Coach and time missed must be made up. It is always preferred that you attend and watch a practice even if you are not able to participate. If absences are abused and documentation is continuously not provided prior to the absences, the squad member will forfeit their spot on the team. Dismissal will be determined by the School Coach, District Spirit Coordinator, and site Athletic Facilitator.
5. Squad members must travel to and from out of district activities and away games together as a squad (See XVI Transportation for further explanation).
6. Squad members are expected to stay together and to leave only with the express permission of the School Coach.
7. When a squad member is absent from practice, it is his/her responsibility to learn what was missed prior to the next scheduled practice.
8. Squad members will be on time for all events. Times will be set by the School Coach.
9. All squad members are required to attend required camps and competitions as determined by the School Coach (exception, see XIII). If a school coach resigns prior to summer camp/competition, the Principal and/or Spirit Coordinator may designate a certified employee to accompany and supervise the squad at summer camp/competition. Squad members who are faced with conflicts relative to attendance at a camp or a competition are responsible for attempting to work out arrangements with the school coach prior to missing the event by submitting a written request to the school coach well in advance of the required event. The School Coach shall respond to the request in writing, as soon as possible, before the camp or competition date. In no instance should the Coach's written response be later than one month from the date of the member's written request to miss the camp or competition. Members that do not work out arrangements prior to missing an event or do not comply with the School Coach's decision will be penalized and possibly dismissed from the squad.

## **PRACTICES**

1. Practice dates will be decided by the School Coach. The School Coach must be present at all practices. School Coaches will determine the practice calendar. Members will be given a monthly calendar at least two weeks before the beginning of a new month, to permit scheduling for work, clubs, or other activities. *Playoff games and other events that do not allow for two-week notice are mandatory participation, as directed by the School Coach.*

2. Practices are scheduled after school for junior high squads. Practices for the high school squads will be during school hours and before and/or after the school day. School Coaches will maintain an attendance record of those present. FOR HIGH SCHOOL ONLY: A total of 60 hours is required for a grade; only one (1) hour per day may count towards the 60 hours; and ONLY one event a day may be counted for the one hour. Practices that occur before school starts and summer camp DO NOT count toward the 60 hours.
3. Cheer/Pom members are required to attend, be on time for, and to stay the entire length of the designated practice time unless excused by the School Coach.
4. Some late or weekend practices may be required.
5. In order to prepare for summer camp and for the new school year, practices will be scheduled in April and May. Summer practices will be scheduled by the School Coach. Attendance at these practices is mandatory. Only the School Coach may excuse absences from these practices.
6. Summer practices are at the discretion of the School Coach. Each squad will be given two (2) to four (4) week break during the summer. These weeks will be decided by the School Coach depending on the camp the School Coach chooses to attend. Camp dates will be announced as soon as possible. School Coaches will make every effort to select camp dates that will not conflict with the consecutive weeks off during the summer. All additional absences that are used outside these weeks are subject to being demerited at the JH level and could reflect on the competition status for an athlete for HS teams. **The 2-4 week break must include the Summertime Dead Period, under the OSSAA guidelines:**
  - i. SUMMERTIME DEAD PERIOD per OSSAA: The dead period will occur during the week in July that includes the 4th of July each year. The dead period will be nine (9) days in length and begin the weekend preceding or including the 4th of July and the weekend following the 4th of July.
7. No friends/parents/significant others may attend practices, unless it is an exhibition practice and set by the School Coach (which must not occur more than one time each month).
8. All music, chants, cheers, or routines are subject to the approval of the School Coach and MPS Spirit Coordinator.
9. Proper practice dress (shorts and T-shirts) and tennis shoes are required.
10. Athletes are expected to know the routine to perfection before a performance or game or they will sit out that performance or game. Athletes must know band chants and chants to perfection and must pass chant checks as given by the School Coach to participate in games and events where they will be performed. Performance decisions will be made by the School Coaches.

## COMPETITIONS

1. All school sponsored out-of-state trips must have board approval.
2. Skill Coaches (Cheer) and Choreographers (Pom) hired for the squad or for a squad competition (including summer camp) will be compensated/paid by the athletes' parents/legal guardians.
  - a. Additional compensation provided by MPS to assist with compensation and/or other **expenses to benefit the team**, as follows:
    - i. \$2500 for each high school cheer or pom varsity squad,
    - ii. \$1500 for each high school cheer or pom junior varsity squad, and
    - iii. \$1500 for each junior high cheer or pom squad.
  - b. Additional services of the Skill Coach and Choreographer may be included in the Skill Coach/Choreographer contract.
  - c. Parents may submit resumes of Skill Coaches/Choreographers for consideration to the School Coach. The School Coach (Head of program) will determine final selection of the Skill Coach/Choreographer. The junior high Skill Coach/Choreographer will be selected by the feeder high school Head Coach and junior high School Coach. Due to the availability of Cheer and Pom Coaches, District Coaches must be timely in selecting a Skill Coach/Choreographer. It is suggested that a Skill Coach/Choreographer for the next

- school year be selected by the School Coach after national competitions are completed each year.
- d. The Skill Coach/Choreographer will fall under the requirements of Board Policy #1185 and will serve under the directions and supervision of the School Coach.
  - e. There must be a Skill Coach/Choreographer contract (per each Skill Coach/Choreographer) on file with the MPS Spirit Coordinator prior to parents/legal guardians required to fulfill first payment for the Skill Coach's/Choreographer's services. All Skill Coaches/Choreographers must use the MPS Skill Coach/Choreographer contract.
3. High school Cheer and Pom squads must attend Performance Regionals and/or State in order to register for and attend a National Competition.
  4. The OSSAA entry fee for Regional and State competition will be paid by the district.
  5. For All Squads: The use of alternates or JV squad members at any competitions will be the decision of the School Coach.
  6. School Coaches and Skill Coaches/Choreographers are required to keep all certifications valid. The "National Federation of State High School Associations and Official High School Spirit Rules Book" is the safety guide for MPS Cheer and Pom squads. It is also the guide for high school Regional and State Competitions. Each School Coach is required to read, understand, and follow these guidelines. Each School Cheer Coach is also required to attend one of the annual OSSAA cheer rules meeting. Each Coach must have completed the college course of "Care and prevention of athletic injuries." All coaches must complete the OSSAA cardiac, heat, & concussion training yearly. Additionally, all Cheer Coaches must be AACCA certified every 4 years to be eligible to coach.
  7. Although participation on all-star and competitive squads are beneficial for maintaining and developing new skills, squad members must give their school squads the highest priority when preparing and participating in any competition. Students who are members of an outside, independent, all-star Cheer/Pom squad may compete at an event in which their squad is participating ONLY IF such participation does not disrupt, infringe upon, interrupt, or deter from the school squad's practices, team meetings, team activities, curfews, timelines, competitions, and/or awards presentations. It is the responsibility of the squad member to present the all-star competition's itinerary to the School Coach for review and approval as soon as possible. If the all-star and school squad's itineraries conflict, it is the responsibility of the all-star organization to resolve the conflict.
  8. Junior High squads will alternate cheering between 7th and 8th grade sporting events or will Cheer from the 7th grade ½ time to 8th grade ½ time. The games and the final decision will be pre-determined by the School Coach, Athletic Facilitator, and Principal. Junior high cheering at football and basketball games will be limited to home and intradistrict events as well as the Football City Championships and Moore Basketball Tournament. All other activities will be limited to home events.
  9. High School Junior Varsity Pom/Cheer squad members will cheer at non-varsity games. These squads will alternate cheering between 9th grade and JV sporting events or will cheer from 9th grade ½ time to JV ½ time. The games and the final decision will be pre-determined by the School Coach, Athletic Facilitator, and Principal.
  10. High School Varsity squads will cheer at varsity games. In order to reduce overall time at events per student athlete, IF FEASIBLE, squads will be split to efficiently cover events throughout the school year.
  11. The Head School Coach will have the final decision on individuals that are in any performances. The selection will be based on the squad member' skills, technique, and performance throughout the year. Varsity squads attending competitions may consist of Varsity and Junior Varsity squad members. This item pertains to any and all performances.

### **CONDUCT AND EXPECTATIONS**

#### **GAMES, PRACTICES, PEP ASSEMBLIES, SCHOOL FUNCTIONS, AND/OR ANY TIME IN UNIFORM**

This is a list of general expectations. Each School Coach will provide their own site and team expectations for athletes. Disregard for the rules may result in the athlete being benched (having to attend



all practices and required meetings and sitting with the School Coach, but not performing) or the assignment of demerits.

1. Squad members must abide by rules and regulations of Moore Public Schools and OSSAA.
2. Squad members who become defiant or disrespectful to School Coaches will be dismissed from the squad as agreed upon by the Head Coach, Athletic Facilitator and MPS Spirit Coordinator.
3. Boyfriends/girlfriends will not be allowed to sit with squad members who are not performing. Squad members who are not performing due to ineligibility of any kind will be required to sit with the School Coach.
4. Boyfriends/girlfriends will not be allowed on school trips.
5. No profanity will be allowed.
6. Board policy #2170, Drug and Alcohol Abuse Policy, will be followed concerning the use, transmission, or sale of drugs and/or alcohol.
7. Do not use excessive make-up.
8. No gum chewing.
9. Hair is to be worn neatly and in uniform as directed by the School Coach.
10. No jewelry of any kind (watches, necklaces, rings, earrings, etc.) is allowed while performing or practicing. (OSSAA Regulation IV, Section H) Jewelry includes piercings.
11. Finger nails, including artificial nails, shall be kept at a length appropriate for safe participation. For cheer squads, the appropriate length means the nails are not visible beyond the end of the fingers when viewed from the palm side of the hands.
12. Focus attention on the game at all times.
13. Stand in your designated place during the event.
14. Be on time for all events. Time will be determined by the School Coach.
15. Be at the designated meeting place on time for all away games.
16. AVOID grooming in public.
17. No stretching in front of the crowd.
18. During the National Anthem, Cheer/Pom athletes must be in formation with no talking or disrespectful action.
19. No public display of affection.
20. All tattoos must be covered while in uniform and/or representing your Cheer or Pom program.

## **INVOLVEMENT IN OTHER EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

1. The selection of cheerleaders/poms/mascots is a voluntary, auditioned process; therefore, students selected must realize that being on a squad is a top priority extracurricular activity for them and must act accordingly. Occasionally a student may desire to participate in another activity. Students participating in two or more school-coached activities will have conflicts from time to time with contests scheduled at the same time. The following policies will be followed to settle those conflicts:
  - a. Conference, district or state contests that are OSSAA-coached events or School Coach-approved events will prevail in all conflicts and the school cheer/pom/mascot coach and school activity coach/coach shall get together to work this out.
  - b. If there is a conflict in the above policy, the Athletic Facilitator, Principal and student will try to come to an agreement (that would be in the best interest of the student involved) acceptable to all. If an agreement cannot be reached, the student must make the decision and the bylaws followed regarding that decision.

## **UNIFORMS**

2. All uniforms are owned by the Moore Public Schools. Uniforms will be purchased by the district athletic department using the rental fee.
3. Each squad member will be required to pay a RENTAL fee for ALL uniforms, which may include warm-ups. This fee may be adjusted from year to year to reflect rising uniform costs and will be assessed PRIOR to the tryout day as part of the application process. The School Coach will select the one new uniform that will be purchased each year with the rental fee.

The uniform must be approved by the Moore Public Schools Spirit Coordinator prior to purchase each year. High School Coaches will attempt to ensure that the new uniform selected will remain available for purchase over the next three years in case the number of squad members increases from year to year.

4. If uniforms are available, one (1) of the old uniforms of the Head Coach's choice will be retired with each squad member at the end of each school year who is in good standing (No mascot uniform will be retired).
5. Upon dismissal or resignation from a squad for any reason, the member must turn in ALL uniforms cleaned and in good condition within two (2) days of the dismissal or resignation.
6. Uniforms must be worn all day on game days, to pep assemblies, and at other designated times during the school year.
7. It is each athlete's responsibility to care for his/her uniforms.
8. Each member is responsible for replacing lost or damaged uniforms, and any other school-owned equipment.
9. The School Coach of each squad will determine which uniform is to be worn for a particular performance.
10. A uniform is defined as being one (1) top and one (1) bottom of outside wearing apparel.
11. All other items such as shoes, jackets, socks, tights, turtlenecks, etc. must be purchased by the member.
12. The Head Coach must approve all alterations. All alterations must be paid for by the squad member and must be taken to the approved site only! The School Coach will provide you with a list of approved alteration locations.
13. All uniforms must be returned by all squad members cleaned and in good condition. The School Coach will be responsible for determining if replacement or repairs must be made.
14. When ineligible, a squad member will not wear the uniform to school or to the event for which he/she is ineligible.
15. With the exception of Pom/Cheer squad jackets and official letter jackets, school uniforms may not be altered by wearing outer garments that cover the school emblem or the name of the school. *Example: No OU/OSU hoodie or sweat bottoms with the uniform.*
16. At no time should a member ever loan out uniforms, jackets, or anything related to MPS spirit programs to an outside member, friend, etc. If at any point a team member realizes they have misplaced an item or that it is missing, the School Coach must be notified immediately.
17. Uniforms will not be issued until all financial obligations have been met.
18. Once uniforms are ordered, no money will be refunded for any reason.

## **FINANCES**

1. Students who have any outstanding Cheer/Pom fees before, during, or after the current school year may be held out of competition performances and WILL NOT be allowed to participate on the current year's squad and or be able to try out for any of the next year's squads. This decision must be determined by the Head Coach, Athletic Facilitator and MPS Spirit Coordinator and it is final.
2. Any athlete that has unpaid balances for coaching and/or competition fees may be benched until all fees are paid. There will be a reminder/warning by the School Coach. If the balance goes unpaid for more than a month, the athlete may continue to be benched and excluded from practice and performances, or even dismissed from the team.

## **DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE POLICY**

*Reference: Board Policy #2170, Drug and Alcohol Abuse*

The Board of Education prohibits the possession, use, transmission, sale, or being under the influence of a narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, alcoholic beverage, counterfeit drugs, non-intoxicating beverages (as defined by state law), controlled dangerous substances, uncontrolled dangerous substance of any other material specified in, but not limited to, the above-mentioned laws of the State of Oklahoma by any student on school grounds, during, immediately after school hours, on school grounds at any other time when the school is being used by any school group, or

off the school grounds at any school-sanctioned activity, function, or event. **Squad members may be suspended from school and/or suspended or dismissed from a squad for violation of this policy while on school grounds, school buses, or at school activities.**

## **MASCOT**

Due to the specific nature of the mascot position on a cheerleading or pom squad, the following guidelines are given:

1. Mascot tryouts will be in the school site (usually held in the early fall)
2. Mascots will pay a uniform rental and cleaning fee of \$150 for Junior High and \$150 for High School the year. The mascot will make this payment to the site booster account and will receive practice clothes and cleanings with this fee.
3. Mascot will be evaluated on motions, memory, crowd involvement, props and overall effect. Examples of these are not limited to but include:
  - a. Motions: Execution of performance should be done with confidence and precision with arms, legs, and legs in position with sharp, defined moves. Will be asked to show what he/she would do if we scored, if the other team scored, etc.
  - b. Memory: Knows chants, knows correct motions, shows confidence
  - c. Crowd Involvement: Worked to get the crowd excited and involved
  - d. Props: Used signs, poms, or other props effectively and appropriately
  - e. Overall Effect: How well did the candidate perform from start to finish? Did he/she maintain confidence and poise during the performance?

The mascot does not have to attend all practices of the Cheer or Pom squad unless he/she is to receive a grade (HS Teams only). This decision must be made prior to the beginning of the new year. However, the mascot must adhere to ALL rules and regulations designated by the Head Coach for the program designated as responsible for the mascot at that schools.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

1. Squad members will go to out of town events on school transportation. Members may, at the School Coach's discretion, return home with his/her parents **ONLY** when the parent(s) personally asks the School Coach for permission. If granted, parents must sign out their students with the School Coach at the event.
2. Special arrangements will be made for travel to National Competitions. All members will be required to travel with the team unless special arrangements are made. Arrangements must be approved by the Head Coach and MPS Spirit Coordinator before the request for travel is submitted to the MPS School Board for approval.

## **GRADED COURSE: HIGH SCHOOL**

High School teams will not be using the merits/demerits system due to Cheer and Pom being 6<sup>th</sup> hour and is a graded class. The high school athletes will be given a syllabus with the requirements as in every other class. The details of the grading system for the Cheer or Pom program will be provided by the School Coach in the syllabus. A high school squad member may have three unexcused absences from games and/or required events. The fourth absence may result in dismissal from the high school squad, unless excused by the School Coach **PRIOR** to the event.

## **MERITS/DEMERITS: JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

School Coaches will develop merit/demerit standards for their program and will communicate that information to the squad and each parent/parent representative at the first meeting. All junior high teams will be using the merit/demerit system. Standards may vary from site to site.

A junior high squad member may have three (3) unexcused absences from games and/or required events. The fourth (4th) absence will result in dismissal from the junior high squad, unless excused by the school coach PRIOR to the event.

### **Demerits**

Once a squad member who reaches negative three (-3) demerits will be dismissed from the squad.

### **Unexcused Tardies**

Practice: ¼ demerit and disciplinary action by coach (laps, sit-ups, etc.)

Games/Events/Bus: ¼ demerit and disciplinary action

Quarter/Halftime: ¼ demerit and disciplinary action

Pickup from events/practices: every 15 minutes late will equal ¼ demerit

\*\*Tardies in excess of 15 minutes will be counted as an absence

### **Unexcused Absences**

Practice: ½ demerit and disciplinary action by coach (laps, sit-ups, etc.)

Games/Events: 1 demerit

**\*A doctor's note, with a return to activity date, or documentation of other extenuating circumstances that apply to the family that has been approved by the coach beforehand must accompany an excused absence such as: major family event (funeral, wedding, surgery, etc.).**

**\*\*The parent/guardian must call the school and coach IN ADVANCE to inform them of the absence.**

### **Dress Code**

¼ demerit for all infractions during practices/events/games or when in school uniforms. Examples: sweats under uniforms, jewelry, nail length, etc.

### **Required Items**

¼ demerit for all infractions. Includes failure to bring or leave items at practices, meetings, games, competitions, or other required activities. Examples: poms, notebooks, bags, money dues, etc.

### **Fundraising**

½ demerit for failure to participate in any mandatory team fundraising activities.

### **Posters**

¼ demerit for failure to make and put up required posters

### **National Anthem**

¼ demerit for failure to give full attention to the National Anthem.

### **Gum**

¼ demerit for chewing gum at any activity, practice, game, or location that School Coach deems inappropriate.

### **Cell Phones & Electronic Devices**

½ demerit for any cell phone and/or electronic device that is not turned off or on silent during any practice, game, or event. Cell phone and/or electronic device activity, including text messaging will not occur during any activity. The devices must be put away for the entire duration of a practice, event, game, or any activity.

**Behavior**

½ demerit and higher (possibly including dismissal) for any of the following infractions: defiance of authority, talking back to the coach, inappropriate language, public display of affection, arguing or fighting with coach or another squad member, talking excessively, not yelling at games, not smiling, not putting forth full effort, not standing properly, paying attention to individuals in the crowd instead of full attention on the activity, inappropriate use or involvement with social media, and any other conduct or behavior that does not promote school spirit, does not represent the school admirably, and does not exemplify loyalty, cooperation, and a positive attitude.

**Violation of School Policies and Rules & In School Suspension**

Any form of Suspension for ANY reason may be cause for dismissal from the squad.

**ID Policy**

½ demerit per school suspension for failure to wear the designated ID to school. Student will not be able to participate in practice or any event the day the suspension occurs. On the third (3rd) ID policy violation the student will be dismissed from the team.

**Additional Information**

Only the squad or mascot coach can assign demerits/merits. Any infraction reported by another squad member or individual must be observed by the sponsor before demerits are given.

All rides to and from a practice, game, or event should be arranged beforehand. Because junior high and some high school students cannot drive, they depend on the help of parents. Cheerleaders and/or poms must be dropped off and picked up at the designated places and designated times.

In accordance with Board Policy #7055, Eligibility for Participation in Activities, a student must be in school all day on the day of the activity to be eligible for participation. If a member is not at school, he/she cannot practice that afternoon. If an activity falls on a non-school day, a student must have been in school all day on the last school day prior to the activity. The only exceptions to this rule are as follows: 1. Attendance at any event that is approved as a school activity. 2. Any medical treatment that is substantiated by a physician's written statement. 3. Any day a student serves as a page for the State or National Legislature. 4. A court subpoena. 5. Religious holiday or activity. 6. Bereavement. The principal and athletic director will make the final decision concerning any unusual circumstances.

Should health permit, a squad member is required to attend the event in town and sit with the Coach (unless prohibited by a physician).

Dental and doctor appointments should be scheduled around required practice times if at all possible. All other work schedules, appointments, etc., unless classified as an emergency, must be scheduled around required practice times, games, and events.

A member may be benched and/or demerits issued by the Head Coach at any time or place if the squad member is in violation of the behavior guidelines, above, or in violation of the Cheer/Pom/Mascot Bylaws or school policies and procedures.

Squad members who become defiant or disrespectful to the Coaches will face disciplinary action which may include demerits, discipline referrals, suspension from cheer/pom/mascot duties, or dismissal from the squad.

A squad member will be notified when demerits are given, at which time he/she will initial his/her tally sheet. The School Coach should notify a participant's parent/guardian when he/she reaches -1½ demerits and keep them informed of any demerits given past that point; however, this does not relieve the student's responsibility of sharing demerit information with his/her parent or guardian.

If conflicts arise concerning competing on an all-star team and the school team, and they are not resolved, two (2) demerits will be given if a squad member participates on an all-star squad at the same competition where the school squad is competing, along with being benched at the next game.

### **Merits**

Merits will be given for the semester GPA (Unweighted) as follows:

4.0 and above = 1 merit

3.6-3.9 =  $\frac{3}{4}$  merit

3.0-3.5 =  $\frac{1}{2}$  merit

Squad members will be given at least two opportunities to earn two full merits per semester. The second semester's opportunity must be afforded prior to the next year's tryouts. The School Coach will determine opportunities to earn merits and the merit value of each opportunity. Merit opportunities must be school or community service related.

### **CHANGES TO BYLAWS**

1. To gain input relative to the Cheerleading and Pom programs at the junior high and high school levels, parents/guardians of current squad members will be provided the opportunity to propose suggestions for next year's bylaws relative to improving the cheer/pom/mascot program for Moore Public Schools. Suggested revisions must be submitted to the School Coach by the deadline provided.
2. All proposals for revisions will be presented to the Bylaws Committee. The committee will be led by the MPS Spirit Coordinator and consists of a School Coach representative from each program. All items will be discussed, suggested changes proposed with all final revisions approved by a majority vote by the committee. A majority vote would only be overridden by the MPS Spirit Coordinator as directed by the superintendent, legal counsel or other member of the MPS superintendent's administration. The committee will also review proposed revisions for compliance with board policy, potential financial impact on the district, and impact on other cheer/pom/mascot programs in the district. The entire process will be completed by February 15th.

### **DISCLAIMER**

ALL EXCEPTIONS MUST BE PRESENTED IN WRITING TO THE PRINCIPAL OF THE SCHOOL AND WILL BE HANDLED ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS. All cheer/pom squads and mascots are trained and managed according to rules and regulations decided upon by School Coaches, MPS Spirit Coordinator, Administration, OSSAA guidelines, and district policies and procedures. Board Policy #3010, Complaint Policy, will be followed to resolve written complaints relative to the district's cheer/pom/mascot program.