

Moore Public Schools Cheer and Pom Bylaws, 2024-2025

The purpose of Moore Public Schools (MPS) cheer and pom squads are to provide competitive athletes with an avenue to learn and grow in their sport, the ability to promote school spirit, and the opportunity to support various organized activities. Members of the cheer and pom squads serve as student leaders within their schools and represent both the school and district throughout the year. Candidates wishing to try out for cheer or pom and his/her parents must read 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 cheer and pom programs.

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TRYOUTS

- A. Students trying out for the 2024-2025 squads must meet the residency requirements established by the Moore School District along with 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 or pom 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. See Transfer Policy #7075.

4. Any student who has resigned or has been dismissed from a cheer or pom squad is eligible to try out the following year after scheduling and completing a meeting with the school coach and athletic facilitator at the location of the resignation/ dismissal, and the MPS spirit coordinator. This final decision must be approved by all parties before permission to try out is granted.
5. Candidates trying out for a position for any squad must do so in person except in the case of medical hardship.
6. 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.
7. 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/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 can complete the cheer or dance during the tryout, the doctor must state that in the note.** THE FULL 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 site athletic facilitator 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 for final approval.**

If it is determined that the injured athlete does not meet part or all 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 high school will be placed on the JV practice squad, if applicable.

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.

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 the 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 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.
Students considering an in-district academic transfer and wishing to try out at the school for which they are seeking one must have the transfer paperwork approved for the upcoming year before 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, including emergencies, must be agreed on by the site school 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 the first 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. The candidate is responsible for learning 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 and the school head coach will score the contestants during tryouts. 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. Outside judges must not have a financial interest in any district cheer and pom 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 varsity high

- school cheer or pom squad. There are no minimum scores for junior varsity or junior high cheer and pom squads.
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.
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12. All cheer and pom candidates must adhere to the following dress codes for clinic and tryouts:
Clinic – T-shirt, shorts or leggings and tennis shoes or jazz shoes. **Tryouts** – district provided tryout shirt, black shorts and tennis shoes or jazz shoes. Hair should be neatly pulled back and out of the face.

ELIGIBILITY/GRADES

The cheer and pom squads in the MPS school district 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 first semester's third week and each succeeding week after. In addition to the scholastic requirements outlined by OSSAA, the following regulations will be followed:

1. Cheer and pom athletes 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 lost eligibility under this provision must pass all subjects 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 concurrently enrolled in high school and will collect six equivalent high school units 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 (JH) or a zero (HS) being given.
9. Any cheer or pom athlete, 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 or pom athlete, 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 or travel with the squad during the ineligibility period. However, an ineligible student must attend home games and 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 or pom athlete until there is, on file with the school coach, site athletic facilitator and site athletic trainer, 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 an athlete 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 cheer and pom squads will have up to 20 members on each squad. The top scorers, grades 7 and 8 will comprise each squad. Identification numbers of those making a squad will be posted on the district's website <https://www.mooreschools.com/departments/athletics/mps-pom-and-cheer>
2. The high school varsity cheer and pom squads will have up to 20 members on each squad. The top scorers, grades 9-12 will comprise each squad. The school coach can have two alternates if the school program does not have a JV. 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 for competition only as needed throughout the year.
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 <https://www.mooreschools.com/departments/athletics/mps-pom-and-cheer>
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 varsity school coach can have two alternates in this situation.
5. A committee comprised of the school coach and district spirit coordinator 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 the final decision on squad numbers.
6. Squads will be coached by an MPS employee appointed by the site principal, site athletic facilitator and district spirit coordinator.
7. The school coach or certified employee designated by the site principal and site athletic facilitator will accompany squad members on all school-sanctioned trips.
8. If captain/captains is/are selected, the selection/s will be made by the school coach and all decisions are final.

9. High school team 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.
10. Any cheer or pom squad member who violates school regulations is subject to punishment ranging from sitting out an event to being dismissed from the squad.
11. Fundraisers for squads will be determined by board policy governing such items.
12. If a member commits a felony or misdemeanor, he/she will be dismissed from the squad.
13. The school coach, site athletic facilitator, and district spirit coordinator will determine appropriate disciplinary action on issues not addressed in this document. Disciplinary action may include a demerit (JH) or a zero (HS) 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).
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 or 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 the 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, the site athletic facilitator, and the district spirit coordinator.
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 leave only with the school coach's permission.
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 with time 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 site athletic facilitator, site principal, and/or district spirit coordinator will designate a certified employee to accompany and supervise the squad at summer camp or scheduled 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 could be dismissed from the squad.

PRACTICES

1. The calendar for practice dates and times will be decided by the school coach. The school coach must be present at all practices. Athletes and parents 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 (HS) or toward demerits (JH).
 3. Cheer and pom members must attend, be on time for, and stay the entire practice time unless excused by the school coach.
 4. Some late or weekend practices may be required.
 5. 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 school coach's discretion, and each squad will be given two (2) to four (4) consecutive weeks 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 made outside these weeks could reflect on the competitive status of an athlete for all 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, site principal, site athletic facilitator and district spirit coordinator.
 9. Proper practice attire (shorts/leggings and T-shirts) and tennis shoes or jazz shoes are required.
 10. Athletes must know the routine to perfection before a performance or game or they will sit out. 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 school 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. \$3500 for each high school cheer or pom varsity squad,
 - ii. \$2000 for each high school cheer or pom junior varsity squad, and
 - iii. \$2000 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 or choreographers for consideration to the

school coach. The school coach (head of program) will determine the 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, School 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, will pass background check and fingerprinting, and will serve under the direction and supervision of the school coach.
 - e. There must be an MPS Skill Coach/Choreographer contract (per each skill coach/choreographer) on file with the MPS district spirit coordinator prior to parents/legal guardians required to fulfill first payment for the skill coach's/choreographer's services. The school coach will consider the cost of the outside coach, if applicable, when determining season length.
3. High school cheer and pom squads must attend Performance Regionals and/or State to register for and attend a National Competition.
 4. The OSSAA and OSDTDA regional and state competition entry fee will be paid by the district.
 5. **For HS squads:** The use of JV squad members at any competitions will be the school coach's decision.
 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 meetings. All school coaches 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 is 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. The squad member is responsible for presenting 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, site athletic facilitator, and principal. JH squads cheering at football and basketball games will be limited to home and intradistrict events, the Football City Championships and Moore Basketball Tournament. All other activities will be limited to home events.
 9. High school junior varsity pom and cheer squad members will cheer at **non-varsity** games only. 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, site athletic facilitator, and principal.
 10. High school varsity squads will cheer at varsity games. 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 school coach will have the final decision on individuals that are in any performances. The selection will be based on the squad members' skills, technique, and performance throughout

the year. Varsity squads attending competitions may consist of varsity and junior varsity squad members. This item pertains to all performances.

CONDUCT AND EXPECTATIONS

1. The school coach will set squad expectations and use rules and regulations of Moore Public Schools and OSSAA concerning behavior during games, practices, assemblies, school functions and/or any other time in school uniform. All athletes and parents will be provided with a copy of the coach's expectations for the year.

INVOLVEMENT IN OTHER EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

1. The selection of cheer and pom squads 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 may have conflicts 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 and pom coach and school activity coach shall get together to work this out.
 - b. If there is a conflict in the above policy, the site athletic facilitator, principal and athlete will try to come to an agreement that would be in the best interest of the athlete and acceptable to all. If an agreement cannot be reached, the athlete must take the MPS bylaws into consideration and make the decision.

UNIFORMS

1. All uniforms are owned by Moore Public Schools. Uniforms will be purchased by the school coach and site financial department using the rental fee.
2. 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 new uniform purchased each year with the rental fee. The uniform must be approved by the Moore Public Schools district spirit coordinator prior to purchase each year. HS coaches will try 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 yearly.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. Uniforms must be worn all day on game days, to pep assemblies, and at other designated times during the school year.
6. It is each athlete's responsibility to care for his/her uniforms.
7. Each member is responsible for replacing lost or damaged uniforms, and any other school-owned equipment.
8. Each squad's school coach will determine which uniform is to be worn for a particular performance.
9. A uniform is defined as being one (1) top and one (1) bottom of outside wearing apparel.
10. All other items such as shoes, jackets, socks, undergarments, sleeves, etc. must be purchased by the member.

11. 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.
12. All uniforms must be returned by all squad members clean, dry, and in good condition. The school coach will be responsible for determining if replacement or repairs must be made.
13. When ineligible, a squad member will not wear the uniform to school or to the event for which he/she is ineligible.
14. Apart from 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.
15. 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.
16. Uniforms will not be issued until all financial obligations have been met.
17. Once uniforms are ordered, no money will be refunded for any reason.

FINANCES

1. Students who have any outstanding cheer or 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. The final decision must be determined by the school coach, site athletic facilitator and MPS district spirit coordinator.
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 will 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.**

TRANSPORTATION

1. Athletes will go to out-of-town events on school transportation. Athletes 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 school coach and district spirit coordinator before the request for travel is submitted to the MPS School Board for approval.

MERITS/DEMERITS (JH) and GRADES (HS)

School coaches will develop standards and expectations for their program and will communicate that information to the squad and each parent/parent representative at the first meeting. All JH teams will be using the merit/demerit system, and all HS teams will be using a grading system. Standards and expectations may vary from site to site.

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

High school athletes will be provided with a syllabus with the expected 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 (3) unexcused absences from games and/or required events. The (4) absence may result in dismissal from the high school squad, unless excused by the school coach PRIOR to the event.

Demerits

Once a JH athlete reaches negative three (-3) demerits he/she will be dismissed from the squad.

Unexcused Tardies

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

Games/Events/Bus: ¼ demerit or grade deduction and disciplinary action

Quarter/Halftime: ¼ demerit or grade deduction and disciplinary action

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

**Tardies more than 15 minutes will be counted as an absence

Unexcused Absences

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

Games/Events: 1 demerit or a zero

***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 or grade deduction for all infractions during practices/events/games or when in school uniforms.

Required Items

¼ demerit or grade deduction for all infractions. Includes failure to bring or leave items at practices, meetings, games, competitions, or other required activities.

Fundraising

½ demerit or grade deduction for failure to participate in any mandatory team fundraising activities/events.

Posters

¼ demerit or grade deduction for failure to make and put up required posters.

National Anthem

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

Behavior

½ demerit or higher and a deducted grade or zero (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 in front of a crowd, not putting forth full effort, not standing properly on sidelines, not giving full attention to the activity, 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 or grade deduction per school suspension for failure to wear the designated ID to school. Athletes cannot 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 school coach can assign demerits/merits or give any grade deductions. Any infraction reported by a teammate or outside individual must be observed by the school coach before demerits are given or grades are deducted.

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. Athletes must be dropped off and picked up at the designated places at the designated times.

In accordance with Board Policy #7055, Eligibility for Participation in Activities, an athlete must be in school all day on the day of the activity to be eligible for participation. If an athlete is not at school, he/she cannot participate in an activity that day. If an activity falls on a non-school day, the athlete 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 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. A religious holiday or activity. 6. Bereavement. The school coach, principal and site athletic facilitator 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 possible. All other work schedules, appointments, etc., unless classified as an emergency, must be scheduled around required practice times, games, and events.

A squad member will be notified when grades are deducted (HS) or when demerits are given (at which time he/she will initial his/her tally sheet – JH). The school coach should notify a JH athletes' 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 athletes' 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 or (2) zeros will be given if an athlete 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 (JH only)

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

Athletes will be given at least two opportunities to earn two full merits per semester. The second semester's opportunity must be afforded prior to 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 cheer 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 and pom 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 district spirit coordinator and consists of at least one principal, one site athletic facilitator, and the MPS district athletic director. All items will be discussed, and 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 district 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 fiscal impact on the district, and potential impact on other 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 and pom squads are trained and managed according to rules and regulations decided upon by the school coaches, MPS district 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 and pom programs.