Hamshire-Fannett High School

GOLDEN GIRLS DRILL TEAM

Bi-Laws/Constitution

(Revised 2020)

In order to maintain high standards, good discipline, and unity, every member of the Golden Girls Drill Team will be expected to comply with the following regulations and statements.

REQUIREMENTS FOR DRILL TEAM TRYOUTS

- Hamshire-Fannett students in grades 8 through 11 are eligible to tryout if other eligibility requirements are met.
- Mandatory attendance at parent meeting prior to tryouts.
- The following completed forms must be turned in by the deadline set by the director:
    - Permission from a parent or guardian indicating agreement and understanding of the financial obligations involved in being a drill team member as well as the guidelines of the constitution.
    - Medical release form.
    - A physical dated in the year of tryouts.
    - Printed copy of 1st semester grades
- The above report forms should give evidence of the following:
    - At least a 70 average in each class for the 1st semester.
    - Agreement with and understanding of willingness to abide by all the responsibilities reflected in the constitution.
- All UIL rules will be followed.
- Must participate in all practice sessions prior to tryout before judges.
- Must not have been dismissed or resigned from the team in previous years except for the reasons of illness or moving out of the district. Exception to the resignation part of this rule may be granted at the discretion of the principal, in conjunction with the sponsor.
- Any student absent from campus for any reason other than school-related activities must have sponsor(s) permission to try out.
- Tryout attire must be a black leotard, black jazz pants, and black jazz shoes, hair up and out of eyes.

PROCEDURES FOR SELECTION OF MEMBERS

- Candidates must attend all scheduled practices as required by the director. (Excused only for Spring UIL Contests).
- During practice sessions, each candidate will learn the following:
    - A dance routine composed of jazz steps, high kicks, and other dance steps.
    - Marching and standing commands.
    - Stretching, kicking and split techniques.
    - Other skills as needed relating to drill team.
- Candidates will be assigned tryout groups for judging according to instructions of the director.
- Judging will be conducted by an impartial judge or panel of judges.
- Candidates will be judged according to the following criteria in front of a judge or panel of judges. (75%)
    - Dance routine - knowledge, coordination and rhythm.
    - Standing command performance.
    - High kick and split ability.
    - Personal appearance with emphasis on cleanliness and modesty.
    - Marching ability.
- **ALL** candidates will be evaluated by a rubric on **ATTENDANCE, DISCIPLINE, AND GRADES. (25%)**
- The number of team members selected is determined by a specific score total, not a specific total number of members.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF DRILL TEAM MEMBERS

All drill team members must:

- Maintain a record of school perseverance, school pride, high moral character and have the ability to get along with teachers, students and other team members.
- Maintain eligibility standards according to state UIL policy and Senate Bill 1.
- Uphold good physical characteristics such as good posture and good grooming.
- Abide by the rules set forth in the school handbook and this constitution.
- Support and abide by any class rules set forth by the director.
- Be enrolled in drill team class during the school year. Members may be able to play sports if sports practices and competitions do not conflict with drill team practices or performances. Drill team must take priority.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- A deposit of $200 is due the first Monday following tryouts. (This deposit will pay $100 deposit for summer camp and a $100 deposit toward camp attire.)
- If account is not paid on time, member will not be issued uniform items, and will not be allowed to perform, resulting in demerit accumulation which can lead to dismissal from the team.
- Each member is responsible for body suits, practice clothes, pep rally uniforms, dance shoes, and costumes for Follies and other performances as designated by the director.
- Each girl is required to attend summer camp at her own expense.
- A banquet fee will be paid by all team members who attend the banquet at the end of the year.
- Girls may also be assigned locker boys throughout the year and will also be assigned a big/little sis.

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Drill team members must abide by the rules of the constitution and school handbook. Members who violate these rules will be subject to demerits or dismissal.
- Members are not excused to leave practices and performances to go to work to other activities. (Special permission may be granted by the director if prior notice is given.)
- All team members are required to travel to and from events with the team, except in cases of emergencies or prior parental permission which must be in writing to director for approval 24 hours in advance. Failure to give director written parental request 24 hours ahead of departure will result in request being denied by the director.

Each member's parent or guardian must sign out their member when taking them home from events away from home. Failure to do so results in demerit accumulation.

TARDIES

- Members will be allowed three (3) excused tardies. After three (3) excused tardies are used, all tardies are considered unexcused.
- Excused tardy:
    - Unavoidable car trouble (flat tire, etc.)
    - Emergency situations (illness in family, personal illness, etc.)
    - Arriving late from doctor's appointments, drivers test, or other UNAVOIDABLE situations.

- For a tardy to be excused, a written note by the parents must be presented to the director at the next practice member attends. Otherwise, tardy will be considered unexcused.
- Unless impossible to do so, director should be notified prior to tardiness.
- If member comes in tardy later than 50% of the practice period, her tardiness will be considered an absence. This includes all practices.
- Drill team class period tardies will fall under school policy.

ATTENDANCE

- Attendance is required at all rehearsals, performances and meetings scheduled by the director unless an excused absence is granted. Listed below are **REQUIRED** activities of members.
    - Football games.
    - Pep Rallies.
    - Drill team follies rehearsals and performance.
    - Competitions designated by the director.
    - Workshops and clinics designated by the director.
    - Practice sessions before summer camp.
    - Summer camp.
    - Practice sessions before school begins in the fall.
    - Called meetings before, during, after school to discuss fund raising, camp, uniforms, etc.
    - Band contest and contest practices.
    - Rice Festival performances, rehearsals and parades.
    - Charity fundraising events designated by the director.
    - Any other event required by the director.
- Excused absences are granted for the following reasons only. Parents should contact the director prior to absence except in case of emergency. A written excuse from the parent or guardian must be presented to the director at the next event or practice.
    - Illness of member.
    - Death or serious illness in family.
    - Participation in a special activity related to school or community (must have permission from the drill team director prior to absence.)
    - School-acknowledged excused absences (i.e. religious holidays, medical appointment that cannot be scheduled for any other time. See IV A&F regarding mandatory attendance).
    - Extenuating circumstances approved by the director and the principal.
- The number of excused absences allowed is limited to five (5) and do not apply

to drill team class during the school day. After five (5) excused absences, special consideration will be taken by the director, such as doctor's note, etc. After five (5) excused absences are taken, demerits will be given unless other considerations are noted.

- If any absences are determined by the director to be unexcused, the drill team member will be given demerits with the second unexcused absence resulting in the member being DISMISSED FROM THE TEAM:
- Since absences cause problems in teamwork, a member will not perform during a football game or pep rally if any absences occur and performance is not perfected by the designated cut date.
- Drill team members who are involved in Spring UIL activities will be excused from drill team practices and/or performances if prior permission is obtained from the director. Otherwise, unexcused absence demerits will be given.

REHEARSALS

- Summer rehearsals will be held two weeks before school begins in August.
- Other summer rehearsals will be held at the discretion of the director.
- A member MUST ATTEND all summer practices.
- Make all appointments before or after rehearsal.
- Rehearsal times will be set by the director. Advance notice will be given if extra rehearsals are needed.
- Roll call will be taken at the start of each rehearsal.
- Rehearsals are closed to all non-members.
- Attire for rehearsals:
    - The Colonel will announce the practice uniform at least one day ahead of time.
    - A team practice shirt will be worn at all times.

ELIMINATIONS

- If a member does not perform up to standards during weekly eliminations, then she will become an extra for the week. If a member misses elimination or leaves practice before eliminations are completed, then she will also become an extra for the week unless the director will allow her to try out later. This will be at the director's discretion.
- Director will give at least one-day's notice for eliminations.
- Extras will attend all functions, pass inspections, and be in their designated places, except during the performance.
- Failure to attend practice on Thursday or two absences will result in a member becoming an extra for that week.

PERFORMANCES

- The drill team will perform as designated by the director.
- Drill Team members are expected to adhere to all regulations.
- Inspection will be held before every performance:
    - The uniform must be cleaned, pressed, and free from lint.
    - Drill Team boots must be cleaned.
    - Gloves and overlay must be cleaned (if applicable).
    - All equipment must be in good condition.
    - No nail polish may be worn.
    - No rings or jewelry may be worn.
    - No visible bra straps.
    - Member must wear make-up as directed by director/officers.
    - Hair must be clean and neat. It will be worn as directed by the director/officers.
    - No gum.
    - Talking in rank is prohibited.
    - Member must maintain proper hygiene, including shaved underarms and legs.

DEMERIT SYSTEM

- Demerits are given by the director or by an officer with the approval of the director.
- The director maintains a record of demerits.
- Demerits are given for the following infractions:

* Chewing gum in gym, during practice or performance	1 strike
* Improper uniform during practice	1 strike
* Lack of neatness (uniform wrinkled, dirty, etc.)	1 strike
* Drinking or eating except during designated time and place	1 strike
* Improper makeup or hair incorrect	1 strike
* Failure to meet deadlines	1 strike
* Failure to bring prop or uniform to practice	1 strike

Failure to bring prop or uniform to performance	1
Improper uniform for performance	1
Tardiness	1
Failure to have a ride home after practices, games, or other functions or ride is more than 20 minutes late (except in emergency situations)	1
Visiting with persons outside of drill team without permission before, during, or after games	1
Failure to stay in squads during ball games	1
Leaving performances or practice early before dismissal unless given permission by director	1
Failure to have parent sign member out when leaving ball games or other such events	1
Failure to turn in fund-raising money on time	1/day
Not following rules or instruction given by director	2
Inappropriate behavior during practice or performance	2
Show of disrespect to director, officer, or other members	2
Public display of affection any time at school, while in uniform, or while representing the team	2
Assigned in-school suspension	3
Unexcused absences	6
Smoking, drinking, immoral conduct or behavior unbecoming a Golden Girl as determined by the director or school official	6
Blatant violation of school rules, drill team constitution, or regulation given by director	6
Inappropriate social media posts (Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, etc.)	6 or possible Dismissal

Found guilty of law violation, (EX: minor in possession of alcohol, drug possession, theft, obscene phone calls, etc.)	Dismissal

* Denotes “minor infractions”.

DEMERIT SYSTEM

- All infractions with * notation are considered “minor infractions” and will be considered under the “**strike system”:** These designated “minor infractions” will each receive one strike. Every 3 strikes received will result in one demerit.
- After three (3), six (6), or nine (9) demerits are received, the member will not be allowed to perform at the next pep rally or football game **.**
- If five (5) demerits are received following football season, member will not perform opening number of Follies and/or next activity.
- If any team member receives twelve (12) demerits, a meeting will be held with the member, parent/guardian, director and the principal. The director and principal will determine the course of discipline. Possible consequences will range from missing an activity to dismissal from the team.
- A member will not be allowed to try out for line officer if she accumulates more than six (6) demerits in one year.
- Although a member will not perform due to demerit violations, she will be required to attend all practices and performances. Whether or not in uniform to the event will be determined by the director according to the nature of the violation.
- **Demerits are given continuously starting after tryouts are held in the spring until the beginning of the tryout period of the next school year or as long as a member is enrolled in drill team class.**
- If a member was dismissed from the squad, she may not try out for drill team in future years.
- Merits can be earned to remove demerits as follows:
    - A Honor Roll for 6 weeks report card - 2 merits.
    - AB Honor Roll for 6 weeks report card - 1 merit.
    - Assisting a HFHS teacher for 1 hour before or after school - 1 merit.
- In the event a member acts in an inappropriate manner not covered in the demerit system, the director and/or administrator has the authority to render appropriate punishment for misconduct.

DISMISSAL

- Any team member who fails two (2) consecutive six week grading periods will be dismissed from the drill team.

- Any student who is dismissed from the drill team for disciplinary reasons may not try out again.

RESIGNATION

- Any member may resign from the Drill Team at any time.
- Member will be taken out of drill team class and enrolled in regular P.E. class.
- After resignation, the former member is not to attend any function of the Drill Team.
- Resignation is final and may not be revoked for any reason.
- The director may dismiss any member at any time that she feels that a member's behavior is detrimental to the team as a whole.

CONSTITUTION CONTRACT

- In order to participate on the drill team, the member and her parent must sign the agreement abiding by the constitutional guidelines.

LINE OFFICER TRYOUTS

- Officer requirements:
    - Must have been in drill team at least one full school year prior to tryouts.
    - Must not have accumulated more than six (6) demerits in the year prior to tryouts.
    - Must have an average of 75 in each class for the 1st semester.
    - To become eligible for colonel, must have served as a line officer or social officer the previous school year.
- Tryout procedure
    - Candidates will be taught a routine and an impartial judge or panel of judges will score candidates according to dance technique, self-choreographed routine and ability to teach, and overall performance. This score accounts for fifty percent (50%) of the total.
    - Candidates will be interviewed by
    - an impartial judge or panel of judges about goals and ideas for next year. Scores will be based on the content of the response as well as communication skills during the interview. This score accounts for twenty-five percent (25%) of the total.
    - Total score during line tryouts will be used. This score accounts for twenty-five percent (25%) of the total.
- Officer Positions:
    - Colonel - top score of officer candidates eligible for colonel
    - Lt. Colonel - 2nd highest score

    - Major - 3rd highest score
    - If needed based on number of members chosen & range of scores
        - 1st Sergeant - 4th highest score
        - 2nd Sergeant - 5th highest score

LINE OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Must attend officer practice and/or camp.
- Must pay for balance of officer camp, as well as costs of line camp. Also, must be willing to purchase items, blank CDs, knick knacks for squad, etc. Mandatory items are bought out of the activity fund.
- Choreograph and instruct various routines throughout the school year.
- Help and encourage all line members and other officers to perform routines well.
- Set a good example for the team at all times –member is expected to be an exemplary drill team member, student, and community member.
- Must make every effort to make drill team their number one extra-curricular activity—an officer is required to be at all practices and performances unless excused by the director.
- Report problems occurring within the line to the sponsor. Must arrive and leave at least five (5) minutes earlier and later than line members to all practices and performances.

SOCIAL OFFICER TRYOUTS

- Officer requirements
    - Must have an average of 70 in each class for the 1st semester.
    - Must be willing to plan events and activities for the drill team throughout the year.
- Tryout Procedure
    - Candidates will create a notebook that must contain ideas for the next school year. Candidates will present their ideas and goals to the line members. Line members will sore using a rubric; this score accounts for thirty percent (30%) of score.
    - Candidates will choreograph and present a stand routine. Line members will sore using a rubric; this score accounts for thirty percent (30%) of score.
    - Director evaluation on attitude, school representation, leadership skills, and presentation of ideas and choreographed stand routine. The director will score according to a rubric; this score accounts for forty percent (40%) of score.
- Amount of Social Officers

- The number of social officers will vary due to the size of the team.

SOCIAL OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Must attend social officer practice and/or camp.
- Must pay for balance of social officer camp, as well as costs of line camp. Also, must be willing to purchase items, blank CDs, knick knacks for the line, etc.
- Keep a positive attitude and strive to boost morale by planning team bonding and social events.
- Plan events for the line members for holidays, birthdays, etc.
- Choreograph and instruct various routines throughout the school year as designated by director(s).
- Support the line officers and help encourage fellow line members.
- Set a good example for the team at all times –member is expected to be an exemplary drill team member, student, and community member.
- Must make every effort to make drill team their number one extra-curricular activity—an officer is required to be at all practices and performances unless excused by the director.
- Report problems occurring within the line to the sponsor. Must arrive and leave at least five (5) minutes earlier and later than line members to all practices and performances.

OFFICER DEMERITS

- Additional demerits can be awarded to officers for the following:

Failure to have music for practice or instruction of a routine	1
Failure to have routine ready to instruct	1
Failure to support other officer(s)	1
Failure to support director	1
Failure to meet deadlines/bring supplies for planned events	1
Inappropriate behavior at practice, summer camp, during school, or performance	2