



BOERNE HIGH SCHOOL



CHAMPION HIGH SCHOOL

# 2024-25 HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADER TRYOUT GUIDELINES

## PURPOSE AND MISSION

The purpose of cheerleading is

- To promote and uphold school spirit, to support and encourage all school teams,
- To develop a sense of good sportsmanship among students,
- To improve the student morale,
- To build better relationships between competing schools,
- To be ambassadors to the community and
- To establish the high personal ideals and good character expected of a high school cheerleader in order to be a role model for peers and younger children in the Boerne Independent School District community.

The mission is to promote pride and spirit in accordance with BISD rules and code of conduct.

Membership and participation provide opportunities for successful personal growth, physical fitness, citizenship, leadership, life-long learning, and performance experience.

The Boerne ISD Cheerleader Guidelines have been developed to provide procedures and standards that govern high school cheer programs. The information provided explains the qualifications and responsibilities of high school cheerleaders. Additional campus cheerleading guidelines, as noted in this document, are created, and published by each campus. All students and parents are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the contents of this document as well as campus documents and must complete and return the required forms according to the deadlines communicated by each campus.

## TRYOUT QUALIFICATIONS

### Residency

Candidates must reside within the attendance boundaries of the campus for which they are trying out. Residency and student transfer information will be confirmed at the campus prior to tryouts to determine eligibility.

### Grade Level

- Tryouts are open to current 8th – 11th grade students
- Team Levels
  - Varsity (10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> only)
  - Junior Varsity (9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> only)
- UIL maximum age requirements are in effect

### Academic Standing

- Must meet UIL Academic Eligibility Requirements (No Pass, No Play).

### School Behavior

For the current school year, candidates may not have a conduct record that includes disciplinary infractions or consequences with DAEP, alternative hearing, suspension, or expulsion. Additionally, certain disciplinary infractions that result in an in-school suspension consequence will disqualify a candidate. **NOTE:** For purposes of these first two criteria only, the designated campus administrator in collaboration with the cheer coach may identify specific behaviors which will be considered on a case-by-case for determining eligibility for tryouts. Candidates must have not quit the team if cheerleader/mascot the previous year. Candidates must attend all classes on the day of tryouts.

### **Physical Examination and Injured Athletes**

Candidates must submit a "Preparticipation Physical Evaluation" signed by a licensed physician. The due date for this form will be established by the campus and must be turned in by that date to tryout. Preparticipation forms turned in during the current school year for other activities will fulfill this requirement. Athletes must be physically able to participate in the tryout. Athletes may participate in only some elements of the tryout if they are physically unable to complete all elements. Athletes will receive a score of zero for any element they are unable to complete at the tryout.

### **Participation in Tryout Clinic Sessions**

Candidates are required to attend each day of the tryout clinic sessions to help prepare for tryouts. Clinic details will be established by each campus.

### **Parent Meeting**

In order to be eligible to try out, each candidate and a parent/guardian or adult representative must attend the mandatory orientation meeting to discuss the selection process and cheerleader responsibilities. Any parent/guardian who is unable to attend this meeting must contact the cheer coach prior to the date of the meeting to receive the information for his/her student to be able to participate in the tryouts.

### **Forms**

Students who participate in cheerleader tryouts are required to submit participation and commitment forms. The forms will be included in the Tryout Packet from the campus. Those forms include, but are not limited to: Application, Permission to Participate, Commitment Agreement, Discipline Record, Social Media Contract, Cheerleading Contract, etc.

Boerne ISD requires that students who participate in Extracurricular activities to read the district Extra-Curricular Activities Handbook and complete all required forms. Required forms include, but are not limited to: Code of Conduct form, Rank One Participation forms, Consent to Leave School-Sponsored Trip form, etc. The Extra-Curricular Handbook and required forms are available at the Boerne ISD Athletics webpage: [www.boerneisd.net/departments/athletics/cheer](http://www.boerneisd.net/departments/athletics/cheer)

---

## **TRYOUT PROCEDURES**

High school cheerleader/mascot selection is by impartial professional adjudicators (judges) who observe the candidates in a series of activities and skills performed in a single session. Students must be physically present at cheer tryouts in order to be eligible for selection.

### **Tryout Format**

- The tryout process is organized and facilitated by the cheer coaches; however, the coaches will not be present during the tryouts.
- Cheer tryouts are closed to all spectators.
- Members of the current-year cheer team who are seniors may not be present during the tryouts.
- A minimum of three qualified judges will be utilized.
- Judges may not be relatives or private coaches of candidates.
- The judging panel cannot include more than one Boerne ISD employee.
- At least one campus administrator must be present to observe the entire duration of the selection process.
- Candidate order will be determined through randomization prior to tryouts. Mascot tryouts will occur first, followed by cheerleader tryouts.
- The required uniform for tryouts will be specified by the campus and published in advance. No item with cheerleader identification may be worn or displayed.
- Candidates and/or any person acting as a representative on their behalf are prohibited from having any form of communication or personal contact with any judges before, during, or after the tryouts regarding the process.
- Coaches and/ or judges are instructed to report any questionable incidents to the campus administrator.

## **SCORING**

### **Cheerleaders:**

The Boerne ISD High School Cheerleader Tryout Score Sheet will be utilized as follows:

- During the judging and tabulation of scores, students are referred to by number only.
- Candidates will perform one cheer, one chant, one cheer dance and the fight song routine.
- Candidates will also be judged on their spirit/energy, a variety of jumps and standing tumbling skills and running tumbling skills.
- During the tryouts, each judge will assign points based on the judging rubric and the candidate's demonstration of cheerleader skills and routines.
- Juniors trying out for their senior year will be awarded 1 additional point above the 100 total possible points for each year they previously served on the varsity squad at a BISS campus.
- The judges must initial any change to scoring.
- The scoring rubric and score sheet will be distributed to candidates prior to tryouts.

### **Mascots:**

The Boerne ISD High School Mascot Tryout Score Sheet will be utilized as follows:

- During the judging and tabulation of scores, students are referred to by number only.
- Candidates will perform a routine/skit.
- Candidates will also be judged on their creativity, use of props, crowd appeal, music, and energy.
- During the tryouts, each judge will assign points based on the judging rubric and the candidate's demonstration skills.
- The judges must initial any change to scoring.
- The scoring rubric and score sheet will be distributed to candidates prior to tryouts.

### **Tabulation / Results for Mascot**

- The judges will add their scores and place the total on the score sheet and an administrator will recalculate the scores to verify accuracy and sign off on the judges score sheet.
- Candidates' total of all judges' scores will be ranked in numerical order.
- The candidate(s) with the highest numerical totals are selected.
- There is no tie-breaker system for mascot.

### **Tabulation / Results for Cheerleaders**

- The judges will add their scores and place the total on the score sheet and an administrator will recalculate the scores to verify accuracy and sign off on the judges score sheet.
- Candidates' total of all judges' scores will be ranked in numerical order.
- Candidates with the highest numerical totals are selected based on the numbers for each squad.
- In the event a tie needs to be broken to determine the final position on the squad, the established Tie-Breaker System will be implemented (see below).
- The decision of the judges is final.
- After the final results have been tabulated and verified, tryout results will be posted by assigned candidate number using the campus Cheer Google Classroom.

### **Tie-Breaker System Procedures for Cheerleaders**

The following Tiebreaker System will be utilized when necessary to break ties when it involves making the Junior Varsity or Varsity team. The tiebreaker will consist of taking the following scores from the candidate's first tryout: Jumps, Standing Tumbling, Chant, and Overall Impression/Spirit/Leadership. After tabulating the scores, the candidate with the highest score will receive an additional .5 points to break the tie. If after the tiebreaker, scores are still tied, the candidates will then be brought back out to perform for the judges again and will be scored on Jumps, Standing Tumbling, Chant, and Overall Impression/Spirit/Leadership.

## **APPEALS**

- Any athlete wishing to appeal their tryout results must first meet with the cheer coach to review their tryout results.
- Grounds for appeal may be made in reference to mathematical calculations or procedural impropriety only.
- The appeal process will follow the district process for parent concerns in BISD Board policy FNG. Formal appeal requests must be made in writing using the district form for parent concerns.
- Appeal forms must be received within 15 days of the date the student or parent first knew, or with reasonable diligence should have known, of the decision or action giving rise to the complaint.
- Appeal forms should be filed by hand delivery, fax, or email with the lowest level administrator who has the authority to remedy the alleged concern. In most cases this will be the campus assistant principal that oversees cheer.
- Complaints pertaining to Extracurricular activities that do not involve a violation of Texas Education Code Chapter 26, will end at Level 2.

## **TEAM COMPOSITION**

Campuses with an enrollment equal to or greater than 2,000 students will have the following team composition:

- The Varsity Team – 28 Cheerleaders, plus mascot(s)
- The Junior Varsity Team – 12 Cheerleaders, plus mascot(s)

Campuses with an enrollment less than 2,000 students will have the following team composition:

- The Varsity Team – 24 Cheerleaders, plus mascot(s)
- The Junior Varsity Team – 12 Cheerleaders, plus mascot(s)

---

## **CHEERLEADING EXPECTATIONS**

All cheerleader candidates are expected to follow all the rules of conduct as outlined in the Boerne ISD Student Handbook, Code of Conduct, and other rules that may be developed by campus sponsor/cheer coach with approval of the principal.

Sponsor/Cheer coaches are responsible for enforcing the cheerleader discipline policy fairly to all cheerleaders.

These following rules of conduct for participants in BISD school-sponsored extracurricular activities apply 24 hours a day, seven days per week, and 52 weeks per year during their elected term. All cheerleaders will be expected to:

- Display positive leadership qualities in attitude, behavior, sportsmanship and school spirit;
- Show respect for BISD officials and staff;
- Participate in every practice, competition/performance and event required by the coach or sponsor, unless the coach has granted an excused absence;
- Arrive promptly, properly attired, for every practice, competition, etc., unless the coach or sponsor has granted an excused absence;
- Adhere to the uniform, dress and grooming standards;
- Demonstrate sportsmanlike behavior;
- Demonstrate a positive attitude; and
- Be courteous and polite to others.

Additional Expectations for attendance and participation are as follows:

- Cheerleaders must meet all financial commitments.
- An unexcused absence is defined as the failure to attend any scheduled cheerleading activity (sample listing below) as determined by sponsor/cheer coach without prior and proper permission from sponsor/cheer coach. Any outside activity, including a job and/or participating on another cheer squad, is an invalid reason for missing a scheduled cheerleading activity.
- Cheerleaders are expected to fulfill all responsibilities and meet all deadlines as established by the cheer coach/sponsor.

---

## **SAFETY GUIDELINES**

### **Coaches**

All cheer coaches should be knowledgeable of cheerleading safety rules and guidelines. Coaches should monitor all activities for compliance with the National Federation Spirit Handbook and the AACCA Safety Certification guidelines and organize and practice an emergency plan.

The coach is responsible for maintaining appropriate safety equipment.

### **Cheerleader Candidates**

Cheerleader candidates should have received proper training before attempting any form of cheerleading gymnastics, i.e., tumbling, partner stunts, pyramids, and jumps.

All elected cheerleaders and the mascot will be required to attend a professional cheerleading camp.

For safety purposes, all stunting must be approved in advance by the sponsor/coach. No stunting is permitted without a sponsor/coach in attendance.