

HUFFMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL
CHEERLEADING
CONSTITUTION



2025-26

The Huffman Middle School Cheerleading Constitution will be used to govern cheerleaders and mascots. Elected cheerleaders/mascots will be expected to follow all expectations, rules, and regulations in this constitution. The rules and procedures outlined in this constitution are in effect from the time a student is selected as a cheerleader or mascot through the end of the following school year.

PHILOSOPHY

Being a cheerleader or mascot is an honor and special privilege. Cheerleaders and mascots selected are to promote good sportsmanship, good citizenship, and whole-hearted school spirit. Cheerleaders and mascots are first and foremost representatives of Huffman Middle School. Cheerleaders and mascots should exemplify both individual and group behavior suitable to their position in accordance with this constitution and the rules stated in the Huffman ISD Student Code of Conduct. Cheerleaders and mascots have a fundamental responsibility to play a leadership role in building teamwork and helping the school achieve its goals and objectives. Due to these responsibilities, cheerleaders and mascots will be expected to maintain a higher standard of behavior both on and off campus, as well as a higher academic achievement than their peers.

EXPECTATIONS

1

Cheerleaders/Mascots must be **RESPECTFUL** towards cheer coach, coaches, teachers, administrators, cheer squad, students, and guests. Respect includes:

- Being courteous to all people at all times
- Having a cooperative attitude towards the cheer coach and squad
- Maintaining undivided attention during all cheer classes, practices, games, and events; especially when being addressed/instructed
- Observing and following all Huffman ISD rules and regulations of conduct
- Being honest and straightforward in all circumstances
- Showing good sportsmanship in classes, at practice, games, and events
- Refraining from any activity that disrupts/distracts teams, practices, or performances

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Cheerleaders/Mascots must be **RESPONSIBLE** for the following things:

- **Uniforms** - to wear all required elements assigned for classes, games, and events (pg. 6-7)
- **Grades** - to meet UIL Eligibility to participate in all activities in cheer (pg. 4)
- **School Classes** - to demonstrate proper behavior, consistent attendance, and be on time
- **Cheer Class** – attend enrolled cheer class throughout the school year
- **Cheer Events** - to participate in all scheduled cheer related activities (pg. 5)
- **Attitude** - be enthusiastic and encouraging towards their teammates and event attendees
- **Absences** - report to the cheer coach all absences at least 48 hours in advance, including previously scheduled engagements and other school/personal obligations (pg. 5 & 8)
- **Environment** - to set up and clean up daily class equipment, to clean up litter and personal belongings at all games and cheer related events

All cheerleaders/mascots are required to attend summer cheer camp.

Dates to be finalized and announced after tryouts at the initial parent meeting.

EXPECTATIONS

3

Cheerleaders/Mascots must meet all **UIL ELIGIBILITY** requirements.

- Cheerleaders/mascots must maintain their grades according to UIL eligibility. All grades must be passing (70 or higher) at the end of a nine-week grading period in order to participate in performance-based activities.
- If a cheerleader/mascot fails to meet the expectation for a grading period, they will be placed on probation at which time grades will be monitored every week to determine required eligibility for continued participation.
- If a cheerleader/mascot becomes ineligible:
 - They may:
 - participate in practices and rehearsals for cheer related events
 - participate in photos and banquets
 - participate in scrimmages
 - They may NOT:
 - travel to competitive events with the school group
 - perform in pep rallies, games or other school related activities until eligibility is regained

See full details of UIL eligibility here: <https://www.uil texas.org/policy>

EXPECTATIONS

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Cheerleaders/Mascots must meet all **PEP RALLY/GAME** requirements

- **PARTICIPATION:**

- All cheerleaders/mascots shall perform at all sports games, pep rallies and other school activities as assigned.
- All cheerleaders/mascots will stay after school for all scheduled sporting events to prepare signs, practice cheers/stunts, or work on schoolwork.
- Cheerleaders/mascots should be fully dressed and ready to cheer/perform at least 10 minutes prior to the designated time of the scheduled event.
- Cheerleaders/mascots will follow the set agenda for games/pep rallies.
Only cheers, chants and stunts that have been approved, practiced, and perfected will be used.

- **ATTENDANCE:**

- All cheerleaders/mascots must attend school to participate in activities, unless approved by the cheer coach, on the day of a game to participate that day/night.
- Attendance and practice are crucial for success of the squad's performance at games and pep rallies. Multiple absences during the week could result in sitting out of the activity due to safety reasons.
- Participation in other activities might conflict with cheerleader/mascot responsibilities. It is the responsibility of each cheerleader/mascot to make sure that the cheer coach is notified 48 hours in advance of the previously scheduled engagements and other school/personal obligations. **An absence will be considered unexcused if this procedure is not followed.** Sudden illness or family emergencies are exceptions, however a phone call or text from the parent to the cheer coach is required.
- Cheerleaders/mascots will not leave an event early without prior approval. Parental contact with an explanation to cheer coach is required.
- All cheerleaders/mascots must be picked up from cheer events (after school practices, games, and events) within 15 minutes of the end of the event.

EXPECTATIONS

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Cheerleaders/Mascots must meet all **UNIFORMS AND APPEARANCE** requirements:

- **UNIFORMS:**

- Cheerleaders/mascots must assume the cost of all uniforms. *(The approximate cost of the 2024-2025 cheerleading camp, uniform and equipment was \$1,000-\$2,200 for mandatory items.)*
- Items ordered will not be handed out to any team member until the full account balance is paid to the school by May 29th, 2025. Failure to pay invoices in full could result in removal from the squad and disqualification from the subsequent cheer tryouts.**
- The uniforms **MUST** always be clean and neat.
- The cheerleading uniform will always consist of:**

HMS cheerleading shell/shirt - HMS cheerleading skirt/shorts

Specified spanx - Specified sports bra - Specified bow

White crew socks - White cheer shoes

**Other items can be added throughout the school year
(examples include pink out shirt, camp props, pink bows etc.)*

- Equipment and uniforms damaged or lost must be replaced at full cost by the cheerleader/mascot.
- Uniforms should only be worn by cheerleaders/mascots during school-approved functions. Cheerleaders/mascots are not allowed to loan HMS cheerleader/mascot apparel to anyone not on the squad. This includes, but is not limited to uniforms, spirit shirts, camp clothes, jackets, etc.
- Cheerleaders/mascots will wear designated uniforms to pep rallies and games. If missing any item, they must contact the cheer coach to determine if they will be permitted to cheer or dance. UIL rules state the cheerleader/mascot must be in uniform to participate.

- **APPEARANCE:**

- i. No jewelry of any kind is allowed for safety purposes. If a new piercing is obtained during the school year, the cheerleader/mascot will not be allowed to participate in any stunting until the jewelry can be removed.
- ii. Make-up must be kept natural and clean. Glitter will be allowed occasionally as permitted by the cheer coach.
- iii. Red lipstick is permitted, but not required.
- iv. No long artificial nails are to be worn at any time and natural nails are to be trimmed for safety purposes. Nails cannot be longer than the tops of a cheerleader/mascot's fingers.
- v. Pink - socks, bow, nails, and lipstick are allowed in October when HMS cheer honors Breast Cancer Awareness month. Specific socks and bow will be purchased by each cheerleader.

Labeled pom-poms are required at every function, including daily classes.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Cheerleaders/Mascots must assume all **FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**:

- DEPOSIT: \$350
 - Due at the uniform fitting date
 - Amount will be applied to Uniform order with NFinity.
- UNIFORMS/EQUIPMENT: \$1,000-\$2,200
 - Items will be ordered through NFinity (a cheer/dance clothing company).
Invoices can range depending on optional items added.
- CAMP: \$482
 - The cost includes travel to camp location, lodging and food
- FOOTBALL GAME MEALS: \$80
 - Chick-Fil-A meals are purchased for all home football games
- MISCELLANEOUS: TBD
 - Other purchases made throughout the school year include homecoming parade mums, pink out shirts, pep rally shirts/props, 8th grade bash shirts, and banquet items.

PAY IN FULL OR PAYMENT PLAN:

Cheer invoices can be paid in full upon receipt OR split into scheduled payments through the payment plan listed below:

- Payment 1: Deposit of \$350 due April 8th
- Payment 2: 25% of Remaining Balance due April 22nd
- Payment 3: 25% of Remaining Balance due May 6th
- Payment 4: 25% of Remaining Balance due May 20th
- **Final payment: Any Remaining Balance due Last Day of School May 29th, 2025**

All monies are due by May 29th, 2025.

*****Failure to pay invoices in full could result in removal from the squad and disqualification from the subsequent cheer tryouts.***

DISCIPLINE

1. GRADES:

A cheerleader or mascot who fails one subject in a nine-week period will:

1st failure during any nine weeks: be placed on probation for 3 weeks per UIL rules

Probation means the cheerleader or mascot cannot perform at games/pep-rallies or school events. They still must be in attendance and participate during class and practices.

At the end of the 3-week grading period, a grade check will be performed, and a cheerleader/mascot must be passing all classes to regain eligibility.

2nd failure during any nine weeks: Dismissal from the squad

2. ABSENCES:

An unexcused absence from a game/pep rally will result in:

1st Offense – One-week suspension from squad

2nd Offense – Disciplinary measure as determined by the cheer coach and administration

3rd Offense – Automatic dismissal from the squad

An unexcused absence is defined as failing to be present for a scheduled event and not notifying the cheer coach 48 hours in advance.

Notify the coach as soon as possible of any absences.

3. SCHOOL DISCIPLINES:

OSS (Out-of-School Suspension) and ISS (In School Suspension): Cheerleaders/mascots placed in OSS/ISS are not permitted to participate in class or in a scheduled event until the day they are released from OSS/ISS.

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PLACEMENT: Cheerleaders/mascots placed in DAEP (Disciplinary Alternative Education Program) or JJAEP (Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program) are grounds for removal from the cheer squad as determined by Huffman ISD Rules and Regulations Code of Conduct and/or Administration.

DEMERITS

Demerits will be given by the cheer coach in increments of 1, 2, or 3 according to the offenses below.

Accumulation of 5 or more demerits:	one week off squad
Accumulation of 10 or more demerits:	three weeks off squad
Accumulation of 15 or more demerits:	removal from the squad

1 Demerit:

- Not dressed in the required uniform at class, games or events including: *
game days, pep rally days, red ribbon week, & other school sponsored days
- Wearing jewelry or fake nails at practice/class or at a game/event*
- Failure to participate in classes and practices
- Receiving detention for tardies or not wearing your ID

2 Demerits:

- Use of cell phones at games, class, or practices at an undesignated time or without permission
- Consistent talking to other squad members when in squad formation at any practice/event
- Breaking formation to talk to friends/family during performances without permission
- Not participating while at football games, basketball games, pep rallies, etc.
- Arriving late to any class, practice, game, or other HMS cheer function, without communicating with the cheer coach

3 Demerits:

- Disrespecting members of the squad at any time, including on any type of social media
- Talking, laughing, or horse playing during stunts
- Insubordination to the cheer coach
- Receiving detention/ISS for a reason other than tardies/ID's
- Leaving early from a game or event, without prior permission
- Inappropriate behavior while in uniform (according to HMS Student Code of Conduct)
- Inappropriate use of social media (Pg. 10)
- Loaning HMS cheerleading/mascot apparel to someone not on the cheerleading squad

Any other disciplinary items reported by any HMS staff member to the cheer coach, not addressed above, will be evaluated for discipline by both the cheer coach and administration.

**Denotes demerits that can be canceled out by merits*

MERITS

Merits are given, at the cheer coach's discretion, for conduct above and beyond the expectations of a cheerleader/mascot. Certain demerits (those denoted with an asterisk) may be canceled out by acquiring 5 merits for every 1 demerit earned.

Merits may be awarded in the following ways:

- 5 merits for A/B honor roll or above for a nine-week period
- 3 merits for perfect attendance at all cheer practices/performances for a nine-week period
- 2 merits for volunteering/community service
- 1 merit for conditioning at the cheer coach's discretion

If a cheerleader wishes to be awarded an earned merit, all qualifying actions for a merit must be reported with verifying evidence or documentation.

Note: Merits may only cancel out a demerit once. If a demerit(s) is issued a second time for a repeat offense, the demerit(s) cannot be canceled out.

SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

Cheerleaders and mascots are expected to handle social media accounts with respect, as defined in this constitution, and the HMS Student Code of Conduct. **No negative comments, videos or posts will be allowed regarding our squad, students, or teachers/staff in our school, as well as visiting teams and coaches.** Inappropriate pictures/videos of the cheerleader/mascot or others are not tolerated. Posts regarding tests or other schoolwork is not permitted, as it will be considered cheating.

Huffman ISD or the cheer coach cannot say whether a cheerleader/mascot should or should not have a social media account. However, if a social media account is used inappropriately, as stated above, by a current cheerleader/mascot:

- Demerits will be issued
- Parents and administration will be contacted
- The cheerleader/mascot will be removed from the squad for at least a week depending on the severity
- During class, the cheerleader/mascot will be given an alternative assignment for the week they are removed

POSSIBLE REMOVAL FROM THE SQUAD

In School

- Failing 2 times (same subject or different subject/same 9 weeks or different – Pg. 4)
- Having 3 unexcused absences from HMS cheer events (i.e., games, pep rallies, etc.)
- Accumulation of 15 demerits
- Failure to pay costs required by HMS cheer by the set date
- Reoccurring social media issues
- Repeated ISS (In School Suspension) or OSS (Out-of-School Suspension) placement
- DAEP (Disciplinary Alternative Education Program) or JJAEP (Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program) placement
- Any other inappropriate actions that are grounds for removal as determined by Huffman ISD Rules and Regulations Code of Conduct and/or Administration

Outside of School

Any act which constitutes a felony or is punishable as a Class A or B misdemeanor as defined by the provisions of the Texas Penal Code relating to felonies and misdemeanors:

- Selling, giving, or delivering to another person marijuana, controlled substances, dangerous controlled substances, or dangerous drugs in violation of the Health and Safety Code
- The unlawful possession or use of marijuana, other controlled substances, or dangerous drug (as defined by the Health and Safety Code)
- Aggressive, disruptive action or group demonstration that substantially disrupts or materially interferes with school activities
- Possession or use of alcohol
- Fighting or assault which constitutes a felony

Final discipline decisions are made by Huffman Middle School administration.

TRYOUTS

This is an overview of the expectations for tryouts. Full details can be found in the tryout packet.

ELIGIBILITY:

1. Tryouts are open to students going into 7th or 8th grade in the 2025-26 school year and are enrolled at Huffman Middle School.
2. At the time of tryouts, each candidate must have passed ALL CLASSES for the MP2 grading period, according to UIL Eligibility. If the candidate failed a class or classes for the MP2 grading period, they must be passing ALL CLASSES at the most recent progress report at the time of tryouts.
3. No more than 4 referrals that resulted in displacement of the student's learning environment (ISS – In School Suspension, OSS – Out-of-School Suspension, DAEP (Disciplinary Alternative Education Program) or JJAEP (Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program))
4. Completed packets and paperwork must be submitted to the cheer coach or the front office by **MONDAY, March 10th at 3:30pm**. *No late packets will be accepted.*

EXPECTATIONS:

- All candidates (cheerleader and mascot) must attend the following days:
 - o Practice Clinic: March 17th, 18th, and 19th 3pm-5pm
**Students in a school related event may be excused any of these days but MUST submit documentation to cheer coach by March 10th at 3:30pm.*
 - o MOCK Tryouts: March 20th 3pm-6:30pm
 - o OFFICIAL TRYOUTS: March 21st 3:30pm- until finished (estimated 7:00pm) *
**No candidate will be allowed to leave early this day.*
- **Any unexcused absences or more than one tardy will disqualify a candidate. Students MUST BE PRESENT at the tryouts to be considered for the squad.**
- All candidates must follow dress code for practice and tryouts (see tryout packet for details.)
- Order of tryout placement will be determined by a random drawing on the 3rd day of tryouts. Candidates will be judged according to their number selected for both mock and official tryouts.
- Cheerleader candidates will try out individually (cheer and 2 jumps) and in groups of three (a dance.)
- Mascot candidates will be required to perform one skit of their own creation choosing from a selection of props and music. Music must be submitted to the cheer coach the day packets are due – Monday March 10th at 3:30pm.

RESULTS:

CHEERLEADERS: Cheerleaders will be selected based on their combined total scores from the tryout evaluation sheet and teacher recommendation forms. Candidates who score above a natural break in the final total scores will qualify for the squad.

MASCOTS: Mascots will be selected based on their combined total scores from the tryout evaluation sheet and teacher recommendation forms.

Parent/Student Agreement

We, the undersigned parents, and children, acknowledge and agree to abide by the guidelines listed in this cheerleading constitution. We understand that the purpose of these guidelines is to ensure the safety and well-being of all participants, as well as to promote teamwork, fairness, and good sportsmanship.

We agree to follow all rules and regulations set forth in the cheerleading constitution, including but not limited to the guidelines for practices, school events, behavior, and discipline. We understand that failure to comply with these guidelines may result in disciplinary action, up to and including suspension or expulsion from the cheerleading program.

We agree to support and encourage our children, as well as all other members of the cheerleading program, to follow these guidelines and to act in accordance with the principles of good sportsmanship at all times.

We understand that participating in cheerleading involves physical activity and that there are inherent risks involved. We assume full responsibility for any injury or harm that may result from our children's participation in the cheerleading program.

We acknowledge that the cheerleading constitution is subject to change and that any revisions will be communicated to us in a timely manner.

We, the undersigned parents, assume all financial responsibility and agree to meet the payment deadlines.

By signing this agreement, we confirm our understanding and agreement to the terms set forth in the cheerleading constitution and our commitment to promoting a safe and positive environment for all participants in the cheerleading program.

Printed Name of Student

Student Signature

Date

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date