

BISD MS Cheer & Dance Team Constitution

Article I – Purpose

Middle School Cheerleaders and Dance Teams in Beaumont ISD will strive to make a positive impact on their members and the entire student body by promoting school spirit, a positive climate, and personal growth. Through dedication to leadership, creativity, and competitiveness, they will enhance school pride and community involvement while developing character, responsibility, and the fundamentals of their respective disciplines.

Article II – Audition Eligibility

Section 1

This constitution applies to all members of BISD middle school cheer and dance teams. Auditioning students must be enrolled at a Beaumont ISD middle school for the participation year. Non-enrolled students may audition if their primary residence falls within the school's attendance zone by the application deadline.

Cheer Teams

- 7th/8th Grade Team – Open to 7th and 8th grade students, limited to 16 members (excluding ties).
- Mascots – Open to 7th and 8th grade students, optional group, limited to 2 members.
- Pep Squad – Open to 6th grade students, optional group, limited to 12 members
 - The Pep Squad is a separate group from the 7th/8th grade cheer team and serves a different role and purpose. Pep Squad members will cheer and lead spirit activities from the stands at chosen athletic events. Guidance for the Pep Squad and their sponsor should be taken from the lead 7th/8th grade cheer team coach.

Dance Teams

- 7th/8th Grade Team – Open to 7th and 8th grade students, limited to 20 members (excluding ties).

Section 2

Students who have been academically ineligible for two or more times during the current school year (1st 6 weeks and each 9 weeks report cards) are not eligible to audition.

A cheerleader or dance team member who quits the team or is dismissed from the team will be placed on probation if they audition and are accepted for the following year

Article III – Selection Process

Section 1

Candidates will receive a copy of this constitution and the BISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct prior to auditions. Candidates and their parents or guardians will read, sign and return all permission forms and applications to the appropriate campus activity sponsor by a designated date.

Section 2

There will be a student/parent meeting held in advance of the audition. All audition candidates are required to attend with a parent or guardian. The activity sponsor, working with campus administration, may adjust this requirement when extenuating circumstances exist.

Section 3

Prior to the audition, each candidate will be notified about his/her eligibility status. Based on that status, students will be informed concerning an inability to participate based upon eligibility.

Section 4

Each campus schedules auditions and secures knowledgeable and impartial judges. Clinics and auditions are closed to the public, including parents, private coaches, friends, and non-involved personnel. The activity sponsor may provide audio/video recordings of audition material. All team auditions will occur at the same time, date, and location.

Section 5

Clinic/practice schedules will be set and announced in advance. Since audition material is taught at all sessions, attendance is required. The activity sponsor, with campus administration, may grant exceptions for extenuating circumstances. Students attending all practices are more likely to have a successful audition.

Section 6

Activity sponsor will approve all audition attire. Candidates must adhere to the required dress for auditions; this will be provided in advance.

Section 7

If a candidate is severely injured near the audition, a video of them performing audition material (or other approved material) within the past 12 months may replace the live performance. A doctor's note is required, and campus administration must approve the substitution.

Section 8

The audition process is managed by the team sponsor and campus administration. Judges, activity sponsors, and designated faculty may be present for logistics. Campus administrators oversee selections and assist with score tabulation.

Section 9

Activity sponsors will assign participant numbers for each squad prior to auditions. During the judging and tabulation of scores, students are referred to by number only.

Section 10

Auditions panels should be composed of three knowledgeable and impartial judges. An absent judge results in a zero score for all candidates. Candidates will perform individually or in small groups, with each campus specifying the activities to be performed; these are shared with candidates during the clinic. Campus administration and the Director of Fine Arts may alter the number of judges as needed due to availability.

Section 11

Each campus may include additional materials in a candidate's final score, such as audition notebooks, coach evaluations, grades, attendance, discipline, or interviews. All additional materials will have a scoring rubric, and campus administration will review scores before the audition.

Section 12

Results will be posted at the activity sponsor's discretion. Parents may request to view their child's scores after posting. Score viewing is available by appointment with campus administration for up to ten business days following the audition.

Section 13

Mascot and pep squad candidates must attend clinics and rehearsals if assigned by the activity sponsor. Mascot and pep squad candidates will be evaluated and scored by a judging panel based on the rubric established by the activity sponsor and campus administration.

NOTE: Unless otherwise specified, all references to "team members" in this document refer equally to mascots and pep squad members.

Section 14

Candidates and their representatives are prohibited from communicating with judges before, during, or after the audition process. Violations may result in immediate removal from the process or squad. Judges must report any incidents to campus administration.

Section 15

The number of students selected for each team may vary each year. The most qualified candidates will be chosen based on audition scores. Campus administrators and the activity sponsor will identify a "natural break" in scores to determine team size. Varsity teams may require a minimum qualifying score.

Section 16

If a vacancy arises, the activity sponsor, with approval from campus administration and the Director of Fine Arts, may invite the next highest-scoring candidate to fill the position. A deadline for filling vacancies may be set by the activity sponsor and campus administration.

Article IV – Team Leadership

Section 1

Student leadership is vital to each team's success, with the number of leaders and selection process determined by the activity sponsor and campus administration. Expectations and criteria will be outlined in the campus activity handbook. Team members must follow student leaders' instructions and show respect. Leaders may be removed or replaced if they fail to meet their responsibilities, with decisions made by the activity sponsor and campus administration.

Article V – Obligations

Section 1

All team members must remain in compliance with the Beaumont ISD Cheer & Dance Team Constitution, the Beaumont ISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct, the respective middle school campus handbooks, and the Beaumont ISD Student Code of Conduct at all times.

Section 2

Team members will participate in any and all activities as determined by the activity sponsor. These events will be communicated to parents and students as quickly as information is available.

Section 3

Team members must attend all practices, performances, and campus-approved camps, including mandatory summer sessions. These events may take place outside the normal school year.. Failure to attend may result in dismissal at the discretion of the activity sponsor and campus administration.

Section 4

Activity sponsors, in coordination with campus administration, may adjust practice and performance requirements for extenuating circumstances. All dates and times will be announced in advance, though the sponsor may change them to better meet the team's needs and limit conflicts. Students unable to perform due to injury or academic ineligibility are expected to continue attending practices and working out with the team as directed by the sponsor.

Section 5

Team members are required to attend all practices, performances, summer camps and summer activities. All absences are considered to be unexcused except for the following:

- Attendance at other school-sponsored activities as approved in advance with the activity sponsor,

- Illness with a note from parent and/or medical doctor
- Special circumstances pre-approved by the activity sponsor such as family funerals, family weddings, etc.
- Other activities as agreed upon in advance by team member and the activity sponsor

Note – Team members not in attendance at school on the day of a performance, including the student's scheduled activity period, may be benched at the discretion of the activity sponsor.

Examples of unexcused absences include, but are not limited to: parental discipline, part-time employment, family vacations, homework, tutoring, and principal/teacher detention hall. The final decision concerning the difference between an excused absence and an unexcused absence is made by the activity sponsor and campus administration.

Section 6

Team members who do not consistently perform at the required level may face benching, suspension, or dismissal, at the discretion of the activity sponsor and campus administration. Membership does not guarantee participation in performances. The sponsor determines performance placement based on ability, effort, attitude, and attendance and is not required to include all members in every performance.

Section 7

Students are expected to enroll in the appropriate class for their chosen activity for the entire academic year. Grades will be assigned in accordance with established Beaumont ISD grading procedures. Any exception to this rule must be pre-approved by campus administration.

Section 7

All team members are required to complete an annual athletic physical and be cleared of all required forms in Rank One before participating in any auditions, practices, or summer camps.

Article VI – Expenses

Section 1

Each team member will be required to purchase the necessary equipment as deemed appropriate by the activity sponsor and will be expected to provide additional personal items as designated.

Section 2

All fees for team members will be communicated to parents and students before auditions. The fee structure and payment timeline will be approved by campus administration. Fees must be paid on time, and students leaving the team are responsible for all outstanding fees. Refunds are not available.

Article VII – Suspension and Ineligibility

Section 1

Once a student has been selected as a member of a cheer or dance team, that student will be allowed to be a member of only that school's team. Students will not be allowed to participate as a member of a different campus' team or continue participation at the original campus after their enrollment status changes.

Section 2

Benching – A team member is not allowed to participate in performances or activities and must attend and participate in all practices. They will still attend performances, wear appropriate attire, sit with the team as directed, refrain from socializing, and support the team as directed by the activity sponsor.

Suspension – see the BISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct

Dismissal – see the BISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct

Probation – a team member may be placed on probation if during the previous year they voluntarily quit or were dismissed from the team for any reason. Probation for these reasons will be for an entire academic year or activity season. During probation, the following will be in effect:

- Team members on probation will be benched for the first three (3) performances in the year they are on probation. The selection of these performances may be modified by campus administration.
- Team members on probation may be dismissed if they are academically ineligible for one (1) grading period.
- Team members on probation who voluntarily quit or are dismissed from the team will not be allowed to audition for the team the following year.

Article VIII – Special Situations

Section 1

The Beaumont ISD Director of Fine Arts, after consulting with campus principals, may alter any part of this constitution at any time if it is determined to be in the best interest of the Beaumont ISD Fine Arts programs..

Section 2

Any special situations which may arise and are not specifically addressed in this constitution will be dealt with on an individual basis by the sponsor, campus administration and/or the Beaumont ISD Director of Fine Arts.

Section 3

All BISD students are encouraged to participate in various extracurricular activities. Team members may audition for a cheer or dance team and join other campus activities. Students and parents should assess the ability to manage multiple commitments before making this decision. It is the student's responsibility to communicate potential conflicts with the activity sponsor and other coaches in advance, seeking permission for a solution. Failure to notify sponsors or receive approval may result in disciplinary action.

Acceptance of the Constitution

Parents and Prospective Team Members,

After thoroughly reading the Beaumont ISD Middle School Cheer & Dance Team Constitution and determining that the student and parent fully understand the responsibilities attached to selection as a team member, please sign the following statement. Return this signed page to the activity sponsor along with any other required forms.

I have read the Beaumont ISD Middle School Cheer & Dance Team Constitution and the Beaumont ISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct. I have a complete understanding of the responsibilities of the position. If selected, I pledge to fully abide by the rules and regulations outlined in this constitution. I understand that failure to abide by these policies may result in temporary suspension or permanent dismissal from the team.

Candidate Printed Name

Grade Next Year

Candidate Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Printed Name

Phone Number