2026-2027 Pearl Varsity CHEER TEAM CONSTITUTION

I. Purpose:

The Pearl High School Cheer Team is an exciting team that performs at Pearl High School athletic events, pep rallies, competitions, community events, as well as a number of special events. It is considered an important and vital component of the student activity program. PHS Cheer squad is composed of a select group of talented young ladies and gentlemen with a passion for school spirit who serves as ambassadors for the campus and the community. The purpose of the organization will be to work with the dance team to encourage the athletic teams, to stimulate fans to support the high school, and to promote school spirit throughout the year through performances. Our program includes cardiovascular, strength, and tumbling and stunting technique practices. Being a member of this team requires hard work, discipline, dedication, and a cooperative attitude.

II. Membership:

Tryouts will be held in the spring of each year to determine the team for the following year. The team will consist of Pearl High School's top cheerleaders. A deposit of $30.00 must be paid prior to the clinic in order to participate in the clinic and tryout. This deposit will be refunded to any candidates that do not make the team by no later than the Friday following the conclusion of tryouts.

A. Clinic Information:

Tryout material will be available online the Friday before tryouts for candidates will learn a cheer and dance. There will be a tryout clinic after school the week of tryouts for candidates for stunt evaluations and for candidates to receive tryout numbers and final tryout information. Only those that are registered to try out will be allowed in the school during the clinic. This will be strictly enforced.

B. Eligibility Requirements:

1. Eligibility for tryouts will be determined using the **MHSAA REGULATIONS FOR ELIGILIBLITY.** Grades will be continually checked at progress reports and report cards throughout the year to determine membership status. Those members who fall below the required average of **70** will be placed on a probationary member status and will not be allowed to actively participate in any functions for up to a three week period or until grades have improved to the required minimum. Once the three week probationary period ends, those cheerleaders who have failed to bring their grades up to the required minimum will be dismissed from the team. During that probationary period, cheerleaders will be expected to attend all functions and dress in the appropriate attire, but will not be allowed to cheer.
2. Teacher evaluations, **which will be completed and returned prior to the clinic**, will serve as a portion of the candidate's final score.
3. Candidates will not be eligible if **THEY**, **THEIR PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S),** or **THE COACH/ADMINISTRATION** have previously terminated their membership on the cheer squad for any reason. This means you cannot quit or be dismissed from the team and then tryout again the next year. If a cheerleader is dismissed from the team as a disciplinary action, evidence must be provided, showing the undesirable behavior has been corrected in order for the cheerleader to be an eligible candidate in ANY future tryout process.

C. Skills to be demonstrated:

1. jumps	3. motions	5. Prop use	7. stunting	9. Voice/projection
2. tumbling	4. dance	6. Poise	8. rhythm	10. overall cheer technique

D. Selection Process:

Cheerleaders will perform the material learned at the clinic and complete a skills evaluation. The panel of experts will select the members of the cheer team for the upcoming year by combining their scores from the tryout, stunt evaluations, and teacher evaluation scores. All decisions are made by the judges and are final. Announcement of new members will be posted online at time after the auditions. Cheerleaders must wear navy shorts and a plain white top at tryouts.

E. Selection of Captain(s) and Co-Captain(s):

Captains may be selected by the team and coach based on work ethic, leadership, responsibility, attendance, and attitude.

III. Duties

A. Practices:

1. Those selected for the team are required to sign up and attend gym during prescheduled practices. This class is when we do the majority of our work during the school year. Cheerleaders will receive a grade for the class and credit toward graduation if they pass. Grades will be given in the class.
2. All cheerleaders will be expected to attend **all practices** called by the sponsor. Regular practices are scheduled in the summer and during class time during the school year. Some after school and before school practices may be called, but every effort is made to keep these at a minimum. Cheerleaders are given a calendar of practices and events in advance, therefore, cheerleaders and parents are expected to schedule other commitments around cheer.
3. All cheerleaders will be expected to dress for practice in **designated** clothing and shoes.
4. Cheerleaders are not allowed to talk or hold discussions during practice unless they have sought permission to do so. Instead they are expected to remain quiet and listen to instruction!
5. All practices must be supervised by the sponsor/coach, assistant, or a designated school official.
6. All other general rules and regulations found in Section VII must be followed at all practices. Failure to do so could result in demerits and/or dismissal from the team and failure of the class.

B. Summer Camp:

The team will be attending a summer training camp. The dates and location of the camp will be determined immediately preceding or following tryouts. **All cheerleaders are required to attend summer camp.**

C. Regular Performances:

1. Cheerleaders will perform at **all pep rallies**.
2. Cheerleaders will perform at **all football games**.
3. Cheerleaders will perform at **all assigned home basketball games.**
4. Cheerleaders will perform at **all special events** (ex. appearances at other schools, musical, etc)
5. The general rules and regulations found in Section VII must be followed at all performances. Failure to do so could result in dismissal from the team and failure of the class.

D. Fundraising:

Cheerleaders will participate in **fundraising activities**.

F. Competition:

The purpose of competition is to provide a place to recognize the efforts of the cheerleaders. In the event that the team participates in competitive events, coaches will select a "competition team." **All members may not be chosen to participate in the competition(s), however, there is a possibility that all will be chosen.**

E. Technique:

The team will take gym Southern Athletics each week and **all team members are required to participate**. There is a monthly tuition fee of $90 and a yearly registration fee* that is the financial responsibility of each individual cheerleader and is paid to Pearl Spirit Club each month. Pearl Spirit Club will then write one check each month to outside coaches. That fee is in addition to the regular costs associated with membership on the team. Failure to pay tuition fees by the deadline at the first of each month will result in that cheerleader not being able to take the class and therefore receiving a daily grade of zero for not participating.

IV. Uniforms:

A. **Individual cheerleaders will pay the cost of uniforms.** Payments will be made according to the schedule provided. No uniform will be purchased without conferring with the sponsor/coach.
B. Some articles/props, etc. will be the property of the cheer team since they will be purchased through fundraisers. These may be issued to the cheerleader for the school year. These must be taken care of and returned. In the event that they are not returned, the cheerleader will be responsible for the cost of these items.
C. Uniforms must be clean and neat whenever worn.
D. Uniforms must be worn properly AT ALL TIMES.
E. Cheerleaders must replace a lost or missing piece of a uniform at their own expense.
F. No uniform may be altered without prior approval from the coach.
G. Prior to start of a game, each individual cheerleader will be responsible for finding out which uniform will be worn. (Including bows and hairstyles)
H. Arrive at performances fully prepared to perform for any kind of weather –have your raincoat and jackets. We will look uniform at all times. If one does not have their raincoat or coat, everyone will be wet or cold!
I. **Jewelry may not be worn at any time during practices or performances.**
J. Hair must be worn in a manner as to not interfere with cheering. This means out of the face!

V. Transportation:

A. Cheerleaders must travel to and from* away games on transportation provided by the school.
B. Cheerleaders must provide their own transportation to home games.
C. If school transportation is provided for camp, cheerleaders will be required to use said transportation unless previously approved by the coach.

* A cheerleader is always permitted to ride home with parents provided the sponsor/coach or principal is contacted by the parent at the game. No cheerleader will be given permission to ride home with another parent without prior knowledge being given to the sponsor/coach or principal by the parent over the phone and/or in writing prior to the activity. And under no circumstances will a cheerleader be given permission to ride home with a minor or another student.

VI. Attendance:

A. All cheerleaders must follow the rules established by the sponsor/coach and principal concerning tardiness and absences from practice and games.
    1. It is the responsibility of each individual cheerleader to inform the coach in advance when they will be absent from practice.
    2. Any cheerleader absent from the practice immediately preceding a performance will not be able to perform without prior consent of the sponsor/coach.
    3. Any extra activities, such as work or athletic participation, need to be excused by the coach.
B. A cheerleader cannot perform at a game if she is absent for two or more classes on the day of the game without permission granted by the coach. It is the responsibility of the cheerleader to be mindful of this and notify the coach in advance if this should happen.
C. Absences will be excused for the following reasons:*
    1. personal illness
    2. serious illness in the family
    3. death in the family
    4. special permission obtained in advance

VII. Conduct:

A. Cheerleaders must abide by the rules set forth in the Pearl High School handbook.
B. General Rules and Regulations:
    1. FOR CHEERLEADERS:
    Noncompliance with any cheer team rule will result in reductions from the grade they are given in cheer, suspension from practices and performances and/or dismissal from the team. This is left to the discretion of the coach and based on the number of occurrences or the severity of the infraction.
        a. MAINTAIN a 70 or above average throughout the year. Failure to do so will result in probation and possible dismissal from the team as mentioned in the policy earlier.
        b. ALL practices, camps and clinics, technique classes, performances, fundraisers, and competitions are mandatory and will be worth a portion of their grade in cheer. Cheerleaders are expected to give the coach ADVANCE notice of all absences.
        c. Cheerleaders are required to practice/perform to their full potential (aka FULL OUT) for the DURATION of EVERY practice/performance. This means NO MARKING! (tumbling, jumps, stunts, facial expression, etc.). If a cheerleader is unable to perform 100% at practices (due to illness/injury), they will not be allowed to participate in any performances during that same week.
        d. All cheer functions other than performances are closed to the public and individuals not part of the program. Anyone else in attendance must be approved in advance by the coach.
        e. Cheerleaders are expected to arrive on time and to stay until the end. Failure to do so will negatively affect their grade. It is suggested that cheerleaders always arrive 5 minutes early!
        f. Proper attire is required AT ALL TIMES. Refer to Sections III and IV for specific rules. Failure to dress appropriately will negatively affect their grade in cheer.
        g. Chewing gum and eating will not be allowed.
        h. Unnecessary and excessive talking is not allowed.
        i. Use of cell-phones is not allowed. Further they must be turned off.
        j. Showing disrespect for the coach, teammates, or anyone who is facilitating a practice, performance, or meeting (i.e. all argumentative behavior such as talking back or rolling eyes) is not allowed.
        k. Cheerleaders are expected to work as a team. And, cheerleaders are expected to work with other school teams and organizations (i.e. the dancers and the girls' basketball team). If a personal relationship creates a conflict of interest,

causes conflict in the program, interrupts the work/goals of the parties involved or other cheerleaders, or causes a negative practice/performance environment, one or both parties may be asked to resign from the team.

l. Team members are to remain in FULL uniform that is worn properly at awards ceremonies.
m. Practicing routines/material "on the sidelines" is not permitted.
n. When cheerleaders are not performing "on the sidelines," they are expected to stand "at attention" with feet shoulder width apart with hands/poms behind the back or as otherwise directed by the coach(s).
o. Cheerleaders are not allowed to talk "on the sidelines." They must do so in a conscientious manner, always respectful of the game, players, officials, etc.
p. Insufficient knowledge of performance material will result in suspension from performance.
q. Represent the team AT ALL TIMES. Cheer team members are subject to scrutiny and can easily be the object of criticism for their behavior and actions. Remember that our performances are only a small reflection of our team, while the manner in which we conduct ourselves is a larger reflection of our commitment, discipline, and image. Any actions that compromise the image, reputation, or goals of the Pearl Public Schools cheer program are subject to immediate dismissal from the team. This includes all forms of profane or inappropriate conduct in school, at school functions, or outside of school.
r. Cheerleaders are not allowed to display any jewelry, piercings or tattoos at any time.
s. Every effort will be made to work with any other extracurricular activity that you participate in, but if your extracurricular coach/sponsor refuses to work with our mandatory practices and performances/competitions, you will have to choose which activity you will continue.
t. Letting someone who is not a member of the team borrow any equipment/uniform without the cheer coach's approval is not allowed.
u. Cheerleaders are expected to refrain from wearing any propaganda for other schools since they are spirit ambassadors for Pearl Public Schools.
v. Cheerleaders who are no longer active members of the team for whatever reason (i.e. dismissal or voluntarily quit) are expected to refrain from wearing cheer team attire. This of course does not include those cheerleaders who have successfully completed the program and graduated from high school.

2. FOR PARENTS
   a. Make sure your cheerleader arrives on time, is wearing appropriate attire, and has all necessary items.
   b. Be supportive of the coach, allowing them to give any instruction or feedback to the team.
   c. Make a point to offer your help or ask if there is anything you can do to benefit the cheer team.
   d. If there is a need for a conference with the coach, make an appointment to meet with them. Try not to call them at home. This is their family time.
   e. Non-participation regarding practices and performances/competitions ARE NOT to be used as punishment for your child's actions outside of cheer. You will not only punish your child, but every other child and parent on the team.
   f. Parents are not allowed to speak to competition officials for any reason. All questions or concerns must go through the coach of the team.

C. Reasons for probation, suspension, or dismissal from the team:
   1. Failure to comply with the rules in Pearl High School's student handbook
   2. Failure to comply with the rules in this PHS Cheer Team Constitution
   3. Dropping below the required grade average for selection
   4. Excessive Unexcused absences
   5. Out of School Suspension
   6. Use of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco
   7. Conviction of a crime
   8. Failure to comply with the sponsor/coach

   *The coach reserves the right to dismiss a member for any reason(s) he/she feels is a disturbance or negative reflection on the team.

D. Awards will be given at the annual banquet hosted by the school or touchdown club.

VIII. Cost:

The estimated cost for participation in the Pearl High School Cheer Team will be **approximately** $1,700. This includes camp, camp clothes, shoes, bag, uniforms, and warm-up suit.

IX. Acceptance:

I have read and understand the above policies for participation on the Pearl High School Cheer Team, and I accept them as governing my participation.

Cheerleader Name (Print): _____ Date: _____

Cheerleader Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Print): _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____