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Article 1 – Name

The names of the organizations shall be the Varsity and JV Cheerleaders of Robert E. Lee High School, the Varsity and JV Cheerleaders of Ross S. Sterling High School, and the Varsity and JV Cheerleaders of Goose Creek Memorial High School.

Article 2 – Purpose

The primary purpose of this organization is to promote school spirit by actively participating in as many phases of school life as possible. The cheer teams offer members the chance to support our school district and the community by giving time and effort to the advancement of school representation in areas ranging from support of school activities and athletic events to voluntary civic work. Membership in a district cheer team program fosters responsibility, leadership, sportsmanship, and community awareness. Each member should reflect the highest standards of character, scholarship, and ability. Costs are involved and will be explained at the parent meeting.

Article 3 – Squads

Membership shall be open to all high school students who meet the requirements and agree to be governed by the GCCISD High School Cheer Team Constitution.

- A. The Varsity Squad at each high school will have a maximum of 20 cheerleaders and a minimum of 12 cheerleaders. No quotas pertaining to grade level, race, or gender will apply. The final number of cheerleaders on the squad roster will be determined by the natural break in scores, as determined by the head coach. If there is not a clear and natural break in scores and the number of qualified candidates exceeds 20, an established tie-breaking procedure will be implemented, and the judge's decision is final.

The Varsity Squad will be selected based solely on judges' scores, ranked from highest to lowest. A minimum total judges' score of 55 out of a possible 90 points will be required for a candidate to be named to the Varsity Squad; however, a score of 55 or more does not guarantee a spot on the Varsity Squad.

- B. The Junior Varsity Squad will have a maximum of 12 and a minimum of 5 cheerleaders. There must



be at least 5 qualified candidates to make a Junior Varsity Squad. No quotas pertaining to grade level, race, or gender will apply.

The Junior Varsity Squad will be selected using judges' scores only. A minimum total judges' score of 45 out of a possible 90 points will be required for a candidate to be named to the Junior Varsity Squad; however, a score of 45 or more does not guarantee a spot on the Junior Varsity Squad.

C. Vacancies

All candidates who score 45 out of a possible 90 points will be ranked by their total tryout score, from highest to lowest. If a cheerleader moves, quits, or is removed before uniform orders are processed, the next cheerleader/candidate who meets all minimum criteria for the position may be moved into that position if the coach and campus administrator determine it to be necessary for safety (e.g., stunt formations) or aesthetic (e.g., sideline or routine formations) reasons. The coach is not required to fill a vacancy created on either squad.

D. Rebuild Clause

If there are 16 or fewer total candidates named cheerleaders for the Varsity and Junior Varsity squads, the squads will combine to form one Varsity squad.

Article 4 – Tryout Qualifications

Section 1:

Tryouts for the cheer team will be held in the spring semester of the school year. The coach and the principal or designee will set the specific dates for the tryout. Each candidate must meet the requirements for grades and conduct, return the cheer team candidate application with the required forms and the cheer team constitution agreement, and have a parent/guardian attend the mandatory meeting. Candidates will be current 8th- to 11th-grade students. The campus cheer team coach may decide to have a JV cheer team. The criteria for the varsity cheer team and JV cheer team, along with tryout information, will be discussed at the mandatory tryout meeting.

Section 2:

Tryout Criteria

- A. Before trying out, each candidate must have an overall average of 70 for the Nine Weeks before the actual tryout.
- B. Candidates must not have received more than three full or partial days' assignment to In-School Suspension for the school year. They must not have received any assignment to an alternative campus or home suspension during the current school year.
- C. Each eligible candidate must participate in the Cheer Team Clinic to learn the necessary procedures and routines for tryouts.
- D. A student must try out for the team at the campus at which the student is approved to attend for the upcoming school year.



Violation of any portion of Article 4 – Tryout Qualifications will disqualify a candidate from participation in all portions of the cheer team tryouts.

Article 5 – Tryout Procedures

After a student has successfully fulfilled all criteria outlined in Article 4 – Tryout Qualifications, they will be able to participate in the following tryout procedures:

A. Training Clinic & Mock Tryout

1. Tryout routines and required skills will be reviewed with candidates after school at the training clinic.
2. Tryout routines and required skills will be performed by candidates after school at the mock-tryout to practice the tryout procedure.
3. Candidates must be present in school to attend the afternoon session of the training clinic and mock tryout.
4. The Training Clinic and Mock Tryouts will be done in private and closed to the public.

B. Tryout Procedures

1. Candidates must be present in school on the date of judging.
2. The tryout order will be determined by a random drawing of numbers by the candidates.
3. Judges will have full access to candidates' tryout packet as needed.
4. Judging of candidates will be done in private and closed to the public.
5. Candidates will wear attire approved by the campus cheer team coach.
6. If any candidate planning to try out for cheerleader is physically unable to perform a tumbling pass or jumps because of a temporary physical injury (such as a broken wrist or ankle), then they may be allowed to use video footage that is date and time stamped within the calendar year preceding tryouts that shows the candidate performing the required skills for the specified stations, if the following requirements are met:
 - i. The coach and administrator approve of the use of video footage.
 - ii. The candidate has a doctor's note which includes an explanation of his/her physical impairment and an expected return date for him/her. An expected return date may not exceed the end of the current school year, and the candidate will be expected to demonstrate the skills shown by video by that time.
 - iii. The candidate provides proper documentation of his/her injury by the pre-tryout meeting or proof that the injury occurred between the date of the pre-tryout meeting and the day of tryouts.
 - iv. The candidate is still judged on all other skills required during tryouts to the best of his/her ability.

C. Judging of Candidates

1. The judging portion of the tryouts will be closed. Only candidates, judges, coaches, and administrative personnel will be allowed in the judging portion of tryouts.
2. Judging will be done on an individual basis for each candidate.



3. Judges will not be related to any cheerleading candidate. Qualified judges include, but are not limited to, NCA or UCA-trained instructors and college cheerleaders. The scores of the two judges at each station will be averaged to determine the final station score for each candidate.
4. Candidates will be scored by two judges at each station. These two scores will be averaged to determine the candidates' score for each station. Senior cheerleaders will perform the required elements at each station for the judges before any candidate tries out at that station.
5. When all candidates have completed all stations, individual scores will be tallied.
6. If a tie exists in the total judges' scores and the tie must be broken, the following steps are to be used.
 - i. If the total of the three judging stations is the same, judge station #1 scores will be used as the tiebreaker.
 - ii. If a tie still exists, judge station #2 scores will be used to break the tie.
 - iii. If a tie still exists, judge station #3 scores will be used to break the tie.
 - iv. If a tie still exists, candidates will be re-judged by all judges on jumps and cheer for the tiebreaker.
7. Scores will be double-checked and verified by the campus administrator on duty, and the cheerleading coach.
8. Results of tryouts will be shared electronically. Coach will notify candidates and parents of the date, time, and location for the posting of results.
9. Score sheets will be taken directly to the office vault by a school administrator after judging is completed.
10. All score sheets are kept on campus and are available for personal viewing. Parents/guardians may view their child's final tabulation sheet by scheduling an appointment beginning the first Monday on which school is in session following tryouts. Under no circumstances shall a parent be permitted to view tryout materials for any student other than their own child.

D. Judging Criteria and Point System:

Station #1 – Cheer and Jumps

Cheer = 1-25 points

- a. Cheer Motion Technique and Timing: Clean, sharp, and strong motions (up to 10 points)
- b. Spirit: Energy, enthusiasm, crowd engagement (eye contact), effort & confidence. (up to 5 points)
- c. Voice & Facials: Voice projection- use of diaphragm to project voice, facial expression. (up to 5 points)
- d. Mastery of Cheer: Memorization of cheer and overall impression. (up to 5 points)

Jumps = 1-15 points

- a. Toe Touch: Height, form, and finish (up to 5 points)
- b. Hurdler: Height, form, and finish (up to 5 points)
- c. Jump of choice: Height, form, and finish (up to 5 points)



Station #2 – Tumbling and Chant

Tumbling = 1-10 points

Tumbling skills are scored based on the level of tumbling acquired / level of difficulty and the Form/Visual Impression

a. Standing Tumbling: up to 5 points

Scoring Range: 0 Points: NO attempt made

1 Point: Cartwheel or Roundoff + Rebound

2-3 Points: Roundoff Back handspring

4-5 Points: Roundoff BHS Series OR a more advanced tumbling pass

b. Running Tumbling: up to 5 points

Scoring Range: 0 Points: NO attempt made

1 Point: Cartwheel or Roundoff

2-3 Points: Back walkover or front walkover

4-5 Points: Back Handspring or a more advanced tumbling skill

Chant = 1-20 points

a. Motion Technique and Timing: Clean, sharp, and strong motions (up to 10 points)

b. Spirit: Energy, enthusiasm, crowd engagement (eye contact), effort & confidence. (up to 5 points)

c. Voice & Facials: Voice projection- use of diaphragm to project voice, facial expression. (up to 5 points)

Station #3 - Dance

Dance = 1-20 points

a. Technique / Form: Motion placement, style, body expression (up to 10 points)

b. Rhythm / Timing: choreography executed on the correct counts (up to 5 points)

c. Overall impression: Energy, facial expressions, eye contact, effort & confidence (up to 5 points)

Article 6 – Maintaining Membership

Section 1:

Six\Nine Weeks Grades

- A. Beginning with the first Six Weeks of the fall semester following selection to the campus cheer team, a team member ruled ineligible as a result of receiving a grade below 70 in any class will be placed on warned status for grades for the remainder of the school year. Waivers granted in accordance with the GCCISD Student Handbook for receiving a grade below 70 in a Pre-AP, AP, Honors, or Dual-



Credit class will allow a team member to continue to participate in cheer team activities.

- B. Any team member on warned status as a result of Article 6, Section 1, and Part A, who is ruled ineligible as a result of receiving a grade below 70 in any class, will be placed on probation for grades for the remainder of the school year. Waivers granted in accordance with the GCCISD Student Handbook for receiving a grade below 70 in a Pre-AP, AP, Honors, or Dual-Credit class will not prevent a team member from being placed on probation for grades.
- C. Any team member on grade probation as a result of Article 6, Section 1, and Part B, who receives a Nine Weeks grade below 70 in any class, will be dismissed from the cheer team program for the remainder of the school year. Waivers granted in accordance with the GCCISD Student Handbook for participation after a student fails Pre-AP, AP, Honors, or Dual-Credit class may not be used to prevent dismissal from the campus cheer team program.
- D. Any team member who has been dismissed from the campus cheer team program for the remainder of the year because of failing grades may try out the following school year if they fulfill the portion of Article 4 – Tryout Qualifications. If the team member makes the cheer team the next year, (s)he will resume their active status (assuming they succeed in the tryout process) but will remain on grade probation for the entire first semester. For the definition of grade probation, see Article 6, Section 1, and Part B.
- E. Team members will follow UIL guidelines for participating in activities and events based on academic eligibility and the UIL eligibility calendar.

Section 2:

Conduct

- A. Any team member not abiding by the GCCISD or campus dress code(s), including piercings and unnatural hair colors, will not be permitted to perform and will receive demerits.
 - 1. Piercing to include, but not limited to, nose, lip, excessive ear piercings, and anywhere else while in uniform or practice wear.
 - 2. Natural hair colors include blonde, black, brown, and a natural red tone. Any other colors are not permitted according to the GCCISD student code of conduct.
 - 3. No visible tattoos are allowed.
- B. A team member receiving suspension (in-school suspension or out-of-school suspension) for a physical altercation with another student or school employee may be dismissed immediately with administrative approval.
- C. Any team member holding a title, whether appointed or selected, who receives disciplinary action from the administration may lose their rank or title for the remainder of the school year. This will be determined at the coach's and principal's discretion.
- D. Any team member dismissed through the demerit system or through voluntary resignation from the cheer team during the school year will be allowed to reestablish membership in the campus cheer team program by trying out at the end of the current year's tryouts. If membership is reestablished through the audition process, the student will be classified as a new member for the upcoming school year.
- E. Any team member dismissed through the demerit system or through voluntary resignation from the



cheer team during the school year may not wear official cheer apparel to school.

Section 3

Responsibilities and Duties

Being a member of the campus cheer team program is a time-consuming activity. It is important that members budget their time efficiently. A team member is expected to keep up with academic classes while participating in team activities. A team member who is a participant in other extracurricular requirements will be expected to fulfill their cheer team requirements before fulfilling other extracurricular requirements. Conflicts between other extracurricular activities and team activities should be brought to the attention of the coach and the other sponsor involved as soon as possible, and a solution should be worked out. Active status for the cheer team begins when a team member is selected and concludes on the last day of instruction of the following school year.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory at all cheer team practices, events, and performances. The coach may excuse up to four (4) absences during the school year for healthcare appointments or emergencies if the student notifies the coach before the absence occurs (not including excused absences due to extenuating circumstances such as extended illness under a doctor's care, hospitalization, etc.). Absences for any other reason and absences without prior notice will be deemed unexcused absences. Absences that would otherwise qualify as excused absences will be designated as unexcused absences if the student has already received four excused absences during the year.

Health and Wellbeing

- A. All team members will be required to have an athletic physical as required by GCCISD before participating in any activity.
- B. The coach will require a medical release for any condition that may be affected by the member's participation in activities. The referral must be signed by a physician and returned to the coach. The student will not be allowed to participate in practices or any member events until the release is returned.
- C. Student safety is GCCISD's primary concern.

Summer Camp

- A. Each team member is required to attend a training camp held during the summer. The camp will be held in a location designated by the coach and school principal.
- B. Camp expenses are the responsibility of the team member.
- C. A member will forfeit one game performance for each day or partial day absence from camp.

Summer Practice



- A. Summer practice is mandatory for all members. The coach will determine summer practice dates.
- B. A member who is unable to attend any summer practice, for any amount of time, will be penalized at the discretion of the coach.
- C. Each member will be required to complete summer hours of cheer technique as follows:
 - 1. Captains – 16 hours (minimum)
 - 2. Varsity Members – 12 hours (minimum)
 - 3. Junior Varsity Members – 8 hours (minimum)

*Failure to complete the required summer cheer hours could result in forfeit of performances.

Fall & Spring Semester

Cheer Team Class

- A. All members are required to be scheduled into the designated team class.
- B. The grade of a member is determined by their participation, attitude in class, ability to complete assignments and paperwork, and performance of cheer skills.
- C. Members will receive course credit according to the GCCISD curriculum guidelines.

School Practices

- A. Members practice regularly throughout the year, as indicated by the team calendar.
- B. Members will arrive on time, practice, and stay until dismissed by the coach. However, allowances will be made to attend tutorials after school until the time designated by the coach.
- C. The only reasons accepted for absence are illness, accompanied by a doctor's note, or death in the family, or religious event or activity.
- D. In an emergency, when a member is unable to attend practice, meetings, or performances, contact must be made with the coach or a captain.
- E. Members shall not be permitted to participate in an activity if she/he is absent for any reason from practice in which the coach deems it necessary for her/his participation in the activity.

Games

- A. Members will attend all assigned games and school functions unless prior approval for excused absence is granted by the coach.
- B. Members are also required to attend all championship playoff games.
- C. Members will be required to travel to and from all away games on district-provided transportation. Members with extenuating circumstances may ride home only with their parents. A note stating the extenuating circumstance, signed by the parents, and a copy of their driver's license must be turned in for principal approval in a timely manner before the trip. The principal will then approve or disapprove and give a copy to the coach. If the coach does not receive the principal's approval before



departure, the student will not be approved.

- D. Any member leaving with their parents from an away game will meet them after the game is over at a location specified by the coach. They will be dismissed to their parents only at that time.
- E. Members are to be at the stadium or gym for games at the time set by the coach.
- F. The manner of presentation and choice of yells will be determined by the coach. This includes the style and techniques to be used throughout the year.
- G. Restroom breaks will be at the discretion of the coach.
- H. Members will not drink or eat in uniform unless it is a team activity with the coach's permission.
- I. Gum is never allowed when in uniform.
- J. Members may not take part in the following:
 - 1. Any actions that draw the crowd's attention to any individual member.
 - 2. Any actions that would reflect negatively on the school and/or group.
- K. No unauthorized persons may sit in the cheer team section.
- L. A team member's transportation home after all games should be at the school at the time designated by the coach. If the team member's transportation is not at the designated area one hour past the time designated, security will be called.
- M. Members will not stop at any public place in uniform. Do not stop, or drive through, to get anything to eat or drink before or after the game (see Article 6, Section 4 – Uniforms).
- N. Games, just like any other cheer team activities, are school functions even though they may be held off campus. All standards of conduct outlined in this Constitution and the Student Code of Conduct apply.

Parades

- A. Annually, the campus cheer teams will perform in local parades. All of these are required activities.
- B. All standards of conduct outlined in this Constitution and the Student Code of Conduct apply to parade appearances.

Competitions

- A. The cheer team members may take overnight trips and compete in competitions. These are mandatory activities.
- B. All standards of conduct outlined in this Constitution and the Student Code of Conduct apply to competitions and overnight trips.

General

- A. Cheer team members are frequently asked to perform/participate in special functions. Ample notice will be given. These events are mandatory.
- B. All team members, including all captains, will try out for all performances as deemed necessary and appropriate by the coach. Members who fail to demonstrate mastery of all required material may be required to attend the function but not perform, at the coach's discretion.
- C. All standards of conduct outlined in this Constitution and the Student Code of Conduct apply to all



assigned appearances, functions, and performances.

Fundraising Projects

- A. All members shall lend their support to all fundraising projects and other activities participated in by the organization.

Personal Responsibility

- A. Members are responsible for notifying their parents/guardians of all activities.
- B. Members are responsible for turning in all forms, monies, etc., on time.
- C. Members are responsible for having transportation to and from all events unless the district provides transportation.

Section 4:

Uniforms

- A. The uniform includes all matching cheer attire.
- B. All uniforms must be approved by the coach and/or administrator.
- C. Uniforms are to be worn only at assigned activities.
- D. Uniforms must be complete (i.e., having all required components), clean, and appropriately sized.
- E. Each member will be responsible for caring for his/her uniforms, including dry cleaning costs, as needed.
- F. GCCISD provided uniforms must be returned in good condition to the campus at the end of the term of service.
- G. While in Uniform
 - a. No heavy make-up
 - b. No false or long fingernails
 - c. Hair must be out of face (off cheeks, ears, and forehead, clear of face) in a ponytail, if the cheerleader's hair length and normal hairstyle allow for such
 - d. Hair must not distract from the cheer environment
 - e. Uniform team hairstyle may be altered for special events with coach approval

Section 5:

Social Media

- A. Members must sign and abide by the Goose Creek Social Media Contract to participate in cheer team activities. Any violation of the Goose Creek Social Media Contract may result in demerits and disciplinary consequences, up to and including removal from the team.



Article 7 – Captains and Mascots

Section 1:

- A. The total number of captains may vary from year to year, depending on team size.
- B. It is the duty of all the captains to be ambitious, determined, and to maintain pride in themselves and in the organization. A captain must learn everything expected of the organization, cooperate with and be responsible to the coaches and other captains, and maintain a sense of responsibility for the organization. Each captain must always be a good representative of the organization and be the finest example of the ideal team member, demonstrated by their attitude, scholarship, and citizenship.

Section 2:

Captain Tryout Qualifications

- A. Tryouts for captains will be held in the spring semester of the school year. The coach and the principal or designee will set the specific dates for the tryout. Each candidate must meet the requirements of grades and conduct, return application information on the due date, and complete the week of tryouts. Candidates must be on active status with the varsity cheer team to try out for a captain position.
- B. Candidates may consist of 9th, 10th, and 11th-grade team members at the discretion of the coach, depending on the size of the program.
- C. Before trying out, each candidate must have an overall average of 80 and must have maintained UIL academic eligibility the entire current school year.
- D. Candidates must not have been assigned days or partial days to In-School Suspension for the current school year and must not have received any assignment to an alternative campus or home suspension during the current school year.

Violation of any portion of **Article 7, Section 2 – Captain Tryout Qualifications** will disqualify a candidate from participation in all portions of the captain tryouts.

Section 3:

Captain Tryout Procedures

After a student has successfully fulfilled all criteria outlined in Section 2 – Captain Tryout Qualifications, they will be able to participate in the following tryout procedures:

- A. Captain tryouts may consist of demonstrating common routine(s) (determined by the coach), a solo routine (choreographed by the candidate), an interview with the judges, teacher recommendations, team vote, and a project (determined by the coach, e.g., notebook or display board).



B. Judging of Candidates:

1. Candidates must be present in school on the date of judging.
2. A panel of judges who are employees of GCCISD will judge the candidates.
3. Specific judging criteria for each section and an example of the judges' rubric will be given to the candidate before tryouts.
4. Judging of candidates will be done in private.
5. Candidates will wear attire approved by the coach.

Section 4:

Maintaining Captain Position

- A. A captain who is ruled academically ineligible at any point during the school year will lose their title of captain until eligibility is regained, based on the adopted UIL eligibility calendar for GCCISD. This includes being recognized as a captain, along with all captain privileges and performance. A second failure will result in demotion from captain and the team member being put on grade probation (see Article 6 – Section 1).
- B. Any captain receiving an academic eligibility waiver for Pre-AP, Honors, AP, and Dual-Credit level courses will lose captain privileges as determined by the campus cheer coach.
- C. Any captain who resigns their position at any time throughout the year may not regain captain status for the remainder of the current school year.
- D. Captains will do extra performances, which require extra practice. Captains will have extra practice as determined by the coach.
 1. Special performances include, but are not limited to, strut, pep rally, cheer clinic, community performance, contest, and other games. Additional performances may be added during the school year with advance notice to captains.
- E. The coach and campus administrator must consult with the Director of Fine Arts before finalizing any recommendation to remove a captain from their role.
- F. Any captain placed on probation from the demerit system will lose captain status and will be ineligible to serve as a captain for the remainder of the school year.
- G. If a team no longer has a captain after the selected captain(s) have been removed, the coach and principal may select one if deemed necessary for the remainder of the term.

Section 5:

Duties of Captains

- A. Captains will develop a game plan for all performances, including cheers to call.
- B. Coaches and Captains will collaborate on cheerleader appearance for events. All changes must go through the coach.
- C. Captains will serve as the official liaison between the squad and the coach.
- D. Captains will encourage teammates to be their best.
- E. Captains will arrive 10 minutes early to practices and required events, and are expected to meet with



the coach after practice and events.

Captains cannot

- A. Discipline teammates or attempt to assume the role of the coach.
- B. Investigate allegations of misconduct by teammates.
- C. Make decisions for the team without prior consultation with the coach.

Section 6:

Mascots

- A. Each high school may have 0-2 student mascots. The mascot position will be open to all eligible candidates. Tryout qualifications for the mascot position will be the same as for the cheerleader position (see Article 4).
- B. Mascot tryouts will be held on the same day as cheerleader tryouts. Candidates for mascot will be judged on a 90-point scale.
- C. Each mascot candidate will be required to perform an original routine (two minutes maximum in length) for the judges using music and/or props supplied or approved by the cheerleader coach. The maximum score for this original routine will be 50 points.
- D. Each mascot candidate will be required to perform a "mocking" of the tryout cheer taught during the cheerleading training clinic the week of the tryouts. The maximum score for this "mock" cheer will be 40 points.
- E. Mascot candidates will be judged on the following categories:
 - a. Originality of performance.
 - b. Spirit and enthusiasm.
 - c. Showmanship and crowd appeal.
 - d. Use of props.
- F. If no qualified candidate applies to try out for the mascot position, the principal may appoint a mascot after the tryout date. Once appointed, the mascot will be bound to all rules and regulations of the cheerleading squad.

Article 8 – Demerit System

- A. All cheer team rules must be followed. All guideline violations will be documented through the demerit system and kept in the school's cheer team file. Repeated violations and/or accumulation of demerits will result in suspension from cheer team activities and/or a hearing involving the student, parent, coach, and principal or designee. The coach must notify the campus principal when a parent/guardian conference occurs. Dismissal will result from the accumulation of 15 demerits during one year of service. The coach must notify both the campus principal and the Director of Fine Arts when a student reaches 15 demerits and/or when the student is being considered for removal from the team. Demerits will accrue for the member's one-year term of service.
- B. Multiple violations of the Standards of Conduct arising from a single incident will be classified as one infraction and will be assigned the corresponding number of demerits. E.g.: A single disciplinary



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infraction may be classified as #23 unsportsmanlike behavior and receive 5 demerits, or #24 inappropriate conduct and receive 5 demerits, but not both. Where conduct constitutes multiple infractions, the coach may classify the conduct at the highest-level infraction.

When a member reaches a total of 5 demerits, a letter from the coach will be sent home to the member and their parent/guardian. When a member reaches 10 demerits, the member will be placed on probation and receive additional parent communication. Probation includes being ineligible for the next upcoming performance, with a possible parent and/or principal conference. Additionally, any captain placed on probation will lose captain status and will be ineligible to serve as a captain for the remainder of the school year. Dismissal will result when a member reaches 15 demerits.

Demerits will be issued, but not limited to, the following:

Cheer Team Activity Demerits – Removable		# of Demerits
1	Inappropriate attire for practice	1 per item (maximum of 3 total)
2	Wearing personal jewelry of any kind while in practice or in public uniform	1
3	Wearing colored nail polish while in uniform	1
4	Not turning in money, uniforms, forms, supplies, or duties, etc., by the due date	1 per day
5	Not wearing the assigned program attire to school	1
6	Improper or incomplete uniform (bows, socks, etc.)	2 per item (maximum of 6 total)
7	Untidy or unclean uniform	2
8	Chewing gum, eating, or drinking while in uniform/practice	2
9	Excessive talking or turning around while in formation or at attention	1
10	Assigned to lunch or afternoon detention	2
11	Assigned to Saturday detention	3
12	Use of a cell phone during cheer team activity or practice without the coach's permission	2
13	Public display of affection, including kissing and excessive body contact	4
14	In public, in uniform, without permission from the coach (see Article 6 for further discipline)	3
Attendance Demerits – Removable		# of Demerits
15	Tardy to a required cheer team activity	1
16	Failing to comply with notice requirements for tardies/absences	1
17	Leaving practice or scheduled events early	2
18	Absences exceeding four excused absences (see Attendance)	6
19	Unexcused absence from required activity (including practice)	6
20	Unexcused absence from required performance	10
Conduct Demerits – NOT Removable		# of Demerits



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21	Leaving a required cheer team activity without permission	10
22	Making decisions without prior consultation with the coach	5
23	Unsportsmanlike behavior during a school-related activity	5
24	Inappropriate conduct\language during a school-related activity	5
25	Inappropriate social media use (see Article VI, Section 5)	5
26	Providing false or misleading information to a staff member	5
27	Insubordination, disrespect, or disobedience to a student captain	7
28	Insubordination, disrespect, or disobedience to a staff member	10
29	Assignment to ISS	4 per day
30	Confirmed academic dishonesty	3
Dismissal		Punishment
31	Suspension from school or assignment to an alternative campus	Dismissal
32	Use, possession, being in the presence of, or being under or giving the impression of being under the influence of marijuana, controlled substances, alcohol, cigarettes, vaping, or any other mood-changing, mind-altering, or behavior-altering drugs.	Dismissal
33	Participation in illegal activities such as stealing, fighting, indecent exposure, or public lewdness.	Dismissal

The coach retains the authority, with the principal's approval, to add demerits for incidents not specifically listed above. The coach will provide opportunities throughout the school year for students to earn merit points for various activities. These merit points can be utilized to offset cheer team activity demerits and attendance demerits, which are removable. Merit points cannot be utilized to remove conduct demerits that are not removable.

Article 9 – Interpretation of Constitution

This constitution has been prepared as a general guideline for the operation of the campus cheer team programs. It must be understood that the students with whom this organization deals are all individuals; therefore, it is necessary to understand that every infraction and situation is unique and the campus cheer team coach, with the consent of the Campus Principal, District Director of Fine Arts and/or designated GCCISD executive administrator, has the authority to render all judgments concerning any matter about the overall organization and its operation.

Article 10 – Changing of Constitution

This constitution should be reviewed annually before the start of the academic year. It should be changed only with the approval of the district's Director of Fine Arts or the GCCISD executive administrator for Fine Arts.