

TCHS CAMPUS CHEERLEADING GUIDELINES

MALE YELL LEADERS/CAPTAINS/MASCOTS

YELL LEADERS: There will be a maximum of 10 varsity male yell leaders chosen from sophomores, juniors, or seniors at tryouts. The number will be determined by the number that tryout and judges point break. Freshmen males will tryout for the freshmen squad. Sophomore and junior males that do not make the varsity point break but make the JV point break will be asked to cheer on JV.

CAPTAINS: The varsity captain(s) will be chosen by a combination of squad vote, essay evaluation by teachers, coach's evaluation and judges' interview. There will be a maximum of two varsity captains. To be considered for captain, you must be a senior that has already cheered at least one year at the varsity level. The decision to have a varsity captain will be decided by the coaches. Junior varsity may have 1-2 captain(s) that will tryout based on squad vote and coach's evaluation. It is at the coach's discretion to have a junior varsity captain. The freshmen and possibly the JV will rotate captains designated by the coach.

The captain(s) will:

1. Be in charge of activities associated with games, pep-rallies and practices designated by the coach.
2. Serve as a link of communication between the coach and squad.
3. Serve as a role model for all.

MASCOTS: There will be 1-2 varsity mascots chosen from the junior or senior class. There may also be 1-2 mascots chosen from the freshmen or sophomore class to perform at the freshmen and JV games as designated by the coach.

Mascots will follow all of the same guidelines set up by the district and campus that the cheerleaders will follow. Provided that there are not enough applicants to tryout for mascot, the next member in line that accepts the position, but does not make their squad point break will be that teams mascot.

COMPETITION

There may be a national competition team chosen from any squad member from the freshmen, junior varsity, or varsity teams. The coaches and administration will decide if there will be a competition team to compete at the national level and the division to compete in. The squad will be chosen by tryout scores in the spring and the choreographer's evaluation at the time of the competition tryout. Once committed to the competition team, it is considered a cheerleading duty, any tardies or absences from events will follow the LISD cheerleading constitution guidelines. Any cheerleader quitting the competition team will be removed from all cheerleading duties. Varsity cheerleaders and cheerleaders with the required skills will be highly encouraged to tryout for the competition team. Cheerleaders on the competition team will be required to participate in outside fundraisers for the competition team. The competition team is considered a separate squad, so the team members will participate in the two TCHS cheer team fundraisers as well as two fundraisers set up for the competition team.

RESPONSIBILITIES/RULES

SKILLS: Cheerleaders, yell leaders, and mascots should always be improving their skills. A decline in skills could result in being benched from games or performances until the skills are improved. This does not include a decline in skills due to a new injury.

Any skill performed at tryouts will be expected to be performed throughout the year.

Outside tumbling is highly recommended and may be required if offered as free of charge or paid for by the booster club. The competition team may be required to attend extra outside tumbling classes in addition to the required team class.

ABSENCES: If a cheerleader, yell leader, or mascot is absent it is his/her responsibility to find out what was covered and learn any new material that was missed.

An unexcused or excused absence without prior approval could result in being moved to a different position in a routine, game line up, or performance. A squad member may also be moved if there is an absence (excused or unexcused) on a day when the routine is being worked on depending on the needs of the routine. You must call or email your coach **ahead of time** to let them know of any absence.

DUTIES: JV and freshmen cheerleaders will be required to attend designated varsity games to serve as sign crew and must remain at the game until all duties are fulfilled. All sign crew must ride to and from away games with the cheerleaders. Any sign crew duties that need to be switched with another team member must be approved ahead of time by filling out the game switch form and turning it in to their coach at least two days in advance. Game/performance benchings will be given for not fulfilling the complete sign crew duties.

Committees will be set up that have meetings determined by the coaches. Meetings are mandatory and will be given class grades or game/performance benching if missed.

All cheerleaders, yell leaders, and mascots will be required to take the cheerleading class period and will be graded on cheerleading skills as well as class participation, sign making, attitude, and other areas decided by the coaches.

PRACTICES/CLASS/PERFORMANCES

PRACTICE/EVENTS: Unscheduled practices and events may be called with a 24-hour advance notice.

CLASS: Cheerleaders, yell leaders, and mascots will have 5 minutes after the tardy bell to get dressed and be in their assigned location for the cheer class period. Any tardy to class will follow the LISD Constitution for being late.

Practice and class time will consist of the following: stretching, jumping, running, weight training, tumbling, stunting, cheers/chants, routines, sign making, and any other conditioning skills.

BEHAVIOR

Relatives and friends should understand that the cheerleaders have responsibilities during games, pep-rallies, performances, and practices. Therefore, they may only take photos or talk to the cheerleader after their responsibilities are completed.

Parents should remember that cheerleading is a team sport. Suspending cheerleading activities as a punishment will punish the entire team and will not be excused.

Any squad member quitting the team or removed from the team will not be allowed to attend the end of year cheer banquet as a squad member or as a guest of a squad member. Squad members removed due to injuries will still be able to attend with prior approval from the coaches and administration.

MINOR VIOLATIONS

These items will be considered minor violations and will be dealt with in the following manor: dress out, tardies, jewelry, gum, failure to bring notebook, hair/bangs down, nail polish/nail length, etc. Three minor violations will result in a half game benching. One half-game benching per season (off season-from tryouts to the start of school, football- from the start of school until Dec. 1st and basketball-from Dec. 1st until tryouts) will be allowed to work off with assigned conditioning. Work offs will be mandatory to complete if the squad member has not used a work off for that season. Any squad member that does not complete the work off in the designated time will serve their half game benching and will still be responsible for finishing the remainder of the work off in the time designated by the coach. Unexcused tardies that exceed 10 minutes will not be considered a minor violation.

DISCIPLINE

All discipline/behavior problems at any cheerleading school sponsored event or practice will follow the TCHS school guidelines and will be dealt with by office referrals.