

WHS VARSITY/JR VARSITY CHEERLEADER & MASCOT CONSTITUTION 2022-2023

PURPOSE: To promote and uphold school spirit, develop good sportsmanship among students, and to improve relationships between schools during athletic events.

MEMBERSHIP: The varsity squad will consist of at least ten cheerleaders but could be up to 20 from any combination of the 10th, 11th and/or 12th grades. Number for Varsity will be determined based on the natural break in the scores. The mascots, Spike and Sandi “may be any 10th, 11th, or 12th grade students. The JV squad will consist of up to 10 cheerleaders from any combination of the 9th, 10th and/or 11th grades depending on the natural break in scoring.

Varsity and Mascot PARTICIPATION: Cheerleaders and mascot will participate officially during the summer for practices and camp. The squad will cheer at the following:

1. All Varsity football games and pep rallies.
2. Home volleyball games as designated by the coach or campus administration.
3. Home basketball games as designated by the coach or campus administration. JV may be combined with Varsity to cheer at basketball games.
4. All football and basketball playoff games and the regional and state tournaments for football, volleyball and basketball. As conflicts arise with district games and playoff games, the Junior Varsity squad may be called upon to cheer.

JV PARTICIPATION: Cheerleaders will participate officially during the summer for practices and camp. The squad will cheer at the following:

- 1) All home Junior Varsity and/or Freshmen A team football games. Sometimes B team or Sophomore team if they are the only ones playing at home.
- 2) Varsity pep rallies to promote volume, homecoming pep rally routine, homecoming game, Cooper game, all playoff pep rallies, playoff games, and any others that may come up.
- 3) Other Varsity events as designated by the coach or campus administration.
- 4) For basketball games Junior Varsity may be combined with Varsity to cheer varsity games or may be cheer at JV games.
- 5) Varsity volleyball and basketball playoff games and the regional and state tournaments as needed.

The squad may also participate in some community sponsored activities as representatives of Wylie High School. The mascot schedule for each event is specified in the mascot expectations document.

ELIGIBILITY: Certain criteria must be met by each candidate before being allowed to try out for any position on the squad:

1. Candidate must have an average of 70 or higher in all classes for the first semester.
2. Candidates must turn in a current medical release form signed by a doctor. A photocopy from a coach of the current athletic physical form is acceptable. Candidates are responsible for getting a copy from the coach and turning it in with the application packet. If the candidate has incurred an injury or extensive illness more recently than the date of the provided physical, then a doctor’s release is required. If the candidate is unable to complete the physical requirements of being a cheerleader or mascot, the candidate is not eligible to try out for the squad.
3. Candidates must turn in all required forms, completed and signed by **the due date or they will not be eligible to try out.**
4. Discipline records for the current school year for all candidates will be checked by an administrator. Any candidate who has been assigned to DAEP or has been suspended or expelled from school during the current school year **may not be eligible for tryouts.**
5. Students will not be eligible to try out if dismissed or voluntarily removes themselves from any school cheer squad in the current year (election date to election date).
6. Regarding **transfer students**, administration must be able to obtain records from the previous school to match what is factored in for tryouts- discipline, attendance, etc. Approval by administration is required before a transfer student can turn in an application packet.
7. Current year cheerleaders and mascot must have balances paid in full to participate in tryouts.
8. Current year cheerleaders and mascot are expected to participate in cheer events from election date to election date. Failure to fulfill this commitment will make the squad member ineligible to try out.

SELECTION PROCESS: The squad will be selected based on passing grades, discipline, and judges' scores. In the event of a tie, the candidate with the highest judges' scores will be selected.

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS OF SQUAD MEMBERS:

1. **Varsity cheerleaders, JV cheerleaders and mascot are required to take the cheer/conditioning class which will be 1st period.** This will count as a local elective and is **mandatory**.
2. A Consequence/Discipline Policy (see explanation below) will be in place beginning immediately after the results are announced and will continue until the end of tryouts next year.
3. Members must be present at specified events and activities including but not limited to the following:
 - A. Summer camp in July
 - B. Summer practices in August
 - C. Pup Squad in August
 - D. School year practices, pep rally set up nights, cheer events and community events.
4. Members may not be football, volleyball or basketball managers. Members may be baseball managers with the understanding that managing will not take precedence over cheerleading. Cheerleaders may participate in school athletics with the understanding that they will still cheer unless there is a direct time conflict. The cheerleader must communicate if there is another school-event/game that conflicts during a time they are supposed to cheer.
5. Members are held financially accountable for costs related to being a cheerleader or mascot as described in the Expenses form provided. **A payment of a minimum of \$100 is due by Sunday, April 10. The remaining balance will be due one week prior to camp.** If not paid in full the squad member could be dismissed from the team. Trouble paying balance should be communicated to the coach.
6. Jobs that would interfere with the member's obligations to the squad are not allowed.
7. WHS cheerleading events will take precedence over all non-school related activities. Exceptions will include, but are not limited to, family emergencies and family special events. The squad member should communicate with the sponsor prior to any absence or as soon after the emergency as possible in order to discuss excused or unexcused status of the absence.
8. Members are expected to set a good example in school. Members will adhere to all school policies.
9. Members are expected to set a good example outside of school. **Members are considered "active" year round, including the summer months.** Any action that would reflect poorly upon the squad, including but not limited to TikTok, Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook, email, messaging, etc., will not be tolerated and discipline will be dealt with accordingly. The internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible form of communication. Any communication such as Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, Snapchat, TiKToK or photo sharing, etc. appearing on the internet is public domain even if it is marked private. Cheerleaders are responsible for their personal websites, postings and videos as well as for postings on other websites or by other individuals. The areas of appropriateness will include, but are not limited to, language (abbreviated or alluding to), pictures, suggestive poses, derogatory poses, clothing, possession of or reference to alcohol, drugs, use of ANY tobacco substance, vaping/juuling done by the squad member or **POSTED** of a friend **by** the squad member. Any question of appropriateness will be decided by the administration and sponsor.
10. Members are **REQUIRED** to inform the cheer coach within **24 HOURS or the next school day of ANY ticket more serious than a speeding ticket.** If a member is required to appear in front of a judge or has to attend teen court for any reason regarding the law, the cheer coach **MUST** be informed. Failure to do so may result in dismissal from the squad. Discipline for the offense will be addressed and consequences will be decided based upon the offense.
11. Cheerleaders are required to participate appropriately for and within the theme of the scheduled spirit days throughout the football season.
12. Members should never wear their uniform to any activity that is not a designated cheer event.
13. All members will ride to designated cheer events with the coach or other persons as designated by the administration. This includes all play-off games. Special circumstances may require other arrangements to be made. Special circumstances include family emergencies, medical emergencies and student holidays. Special circumstances must be accompanied by a written note from the parents and are subject to coach and/or administration approval. Squad members may ride home with a parent as long as the parent signs the cheerleader out with the sponsor after the game or event. If a squad member will be riding home with someone else, the member being signed out. During football season, the cheerleader responsible for the pep rally each week will also be responsible for football game materials (signs, megaphones and cooler). That cheerleader may either (a) ride home with the coach (b) meet the coach at the school after arriving in town, to help unload cheer equipment or (c) take materials home with them and return them to the cheer closet the following Monday morning. All cheerleaders and mascot will help the coach with cheer equipment for home games.
14. Any member too sick to cheer will not attend the cheer event and will remain at home during that time. The type of absence will be determined based on the school absence guidelines. If a member is simply not

- feeling well, they will attend the event and sit with the coach. The coach has the right to request a doctor's release to cheer or a doctor's request not to cheer any time the coach feels it is necessary.
15. Squad members must attend school a minimum of 1/2 day on the day of an afternoon/evening cheerleading activity.
 16. Care of the uniform is the sole responsibility of the member. Any lost or damaged uniform articles or equipment will be replaced by the member before they are allowed to tryout or pick up a diploma after graduation. Uniforms must be clean for all cheer events.
 17. All senior cheerleaders and mascot may be allowed to help with tryouts for the next year's squad if they are in good standing with the school and/or sponsor by the end of basketball season and will also sign a confidentiality agreement.
 18. Cheerleaders and mascot will not be allowed to use cell phones during cheerleading events or practices, unless they have sponsor approval.
 19. Do not have food or drinks other than bottled water on the track at football games or inside a gym at basketball or volleyball.
 20. **PEP RALLIES:** All cheerleaders and mascot, under the cheer coach's guidance, are required to help with the planning, setup, conducting, and cleanup of pep rallies. The entire squad, all cheerleaders and mascot, will set up before the pep rally and take-down/clean-up after the pep rally. Administration approved students may also help with set up and take-down/clean-up of the pep rally. The cheerleaders and mascot, along with the coach, will determine needed decorations and these will be purchased by the sponsor through the school. The decoration list is due to the cheer sponsor the Monday before the pep rally. After receiving the list, the coach will purchase the pep rally items. All decorations, uniforms, music, skits, activities, games, cheers, dances, etc. must be approved by the sponsor and/or administration before being used in a pep rally. Any students selected to participate in pep rallies must be approved by the sponsor and/or administration.
 21. **JV Roles for PEP RALLIES:** JV cheerleaders may participate in some pep rallies at the sponsor's discretion. JV squad members will help with pep rally set up on Thursday nights when JV and Freshmen football games are out of town.
 22. **UIL COMPETITION:** The WHS Cheerleading squad will compete at the UIL Gameday Competition held in January. The UIL sets the number of cheerleaders allowed to represent each school at competition. Should the WHS Cheerleading squad exceed the maximum number allowed to compete, the competing squad will be selected by the coach with the remainder serving as alternates at competition.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS: Cheerleaders are viewed as leaders of the school, therefore, it is extremely important that they maintain excellent conduct and set appropriate examples at all times. In addition to this constitution, the sponsor will communicate expectations to the squad and if expectations are not met, disciplinary actions will be enforced.

POSSIBLE AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION OR DISMISSAL (Administration approval is required):

1. Missing summer camp(s).
2. Drinking, smoking, vaping/juuling, any drug use or any misdemeanor or felony act on or off school grounds and in or out of uniform.
3. Any ticket received due to illegal behavior or any ticket received above a misdemeanor.
4. The possession, use, or association (i.e. presence or availability) of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs are expressly forbidden and will not be tolerated. **Example: Being caught with a juul, e-cigarette etc.** Any infraction, on or off campus, will result in a principal/sponsor/parent/student review. Dismissal from the team may result from this review. A second infraction will result in the immediate dismissal from the cheerleading squad.
5. Any health situation that would not allow the member to perform all duties or would reflect poorly upon the squad.
6. Inappropriate behavior that reflects poorly on the squad or Wylie ISD.
7. Any belligerent attitude or act toward the coach, squad members, or any employee of Wylie ISD.
8. Any situation that would lead to in-school suspension (ISS or DAEP), suspension, or expulsion from school.

During a suspension, the member will be expected to adhere to the constitution and follow the instructions from the coach. If the member adheres to the suspension policy, the member will be reinstated on probationary terms. Further policy or constitutional violations could cause permanent dismissal from the squad. The outcome of severe disciplinary cases must have administration approval. Suspensions from the squad will be taken under serious consideration by the cheer coach and administration in determining tryout eligibility for the next year.

THE RIGHT TO ASSIGN A DISCIPLINARY ACTION FOR ANY VIOLATION LISTED OR NOT LISTED WHEN DEEMED NECESSARY IS LEFT TO THE DISCRETION OF SPONSORS AND ADMINISTRATION.

