

## **SHELBY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

### **CHEERLEADER CONSTITUTION**

Cheerleading is an activity for young people that combines athleticism, energy, and leadership skills into an activity that builds pride within a school and a community.

This Constitution is designed to establish a minimum guideline for establishing and maintaining a quality cheerleader program in Shelby County Schools.

#### **I. Purpose of Cheerleading**

- A. To set examples of good character and sportsmanship.
- B. To promote good sportsmanship and spirit.
- C. To promote good relations with the public and build positive relationships with other schools. Cheerleading is a positive activity which will not tolerate any negative cheering or obscene signage.
- D. To promote spectator participation in all athletic activities.

#### **II. Sponsor Responsibilities**

- A. Plan and conduct clinics with principal's approval.
- B. Monitor eligibility of cheerleaders.
- C. Revise rules and regulations with the principal.
- D. Oversee all practice sessions.
- E. Arrange necessary transportation.
- F. Ensure adherence to the Shelby County Code of Conduct and Attendance, Shelby County Cheerleader Constitution, National Federation of State High School Associations SPIRIT Rules Book, and local school student handbook and local school cheerleader constitution.
- G. Receipt and manage cheerleader funds.
- H. Obtain principal and other appropriate approval for summer camps and/or clinics.
- I. Obtain principal's approval for all uniforms and outfits used by cheerleader squad.
- J. Be knowledgeable in first-aid techniques and emergency procedures.

#### **III. Candidate Eligibility**

- A. Candidates will have no grade lower than 60 in any subject, and an overall average of at least 70 for the semester preceding tryouts.
- B. Candidates must have a statement of physical fitness signed by a physician.
- C. Candidates will have the consent of parents/guardians and will sign stating they have read the entire Cheerleader Constitution and are aware of the requirements and responsibilities of a cheerleader, parents, and school officials.
- D. Candidates are to have no knowledge of tryout material prior to clinic. Prior knowledge may result in loss of points or denied the privilege to participate in all or parts of tryouts as determined by the sponsor and principal.

- E. Candidates who have been dismissed from a cheerleading squad for disciplinary reasons or quit a squad will be ineligible for the remainder of the cheerleading season and subject to lose eligibility for the next tryouts.
- F. Candidates will be presently enrolled in and attending the school or feeder school in which they are trying out.

**IV. Selection Procedures**

- A. Local schools will decide grade levels and size of squads. A mandatory clinic will be held prior to tryouts.
- B. The principal and sponsor will select a minimum of three (3) judges from outside the school community. Minority representation will be included in this panel. Tryouts will be postponed if these minimum requirements can't be met.
- C. A school administrator must be present during tryouts to monitor the tryout process. All scores and other tryout material must be secured in the principal's office immediately following the conclusion of the tryout.
- D. Someone outside the school community will tabulate scores.
- E. Clinic and tryout will be closed to the general public.
- F. Each school will establish a plan to announce new cheerleaders as soon as scores are tabulated.
- G. Cheerleaders must be present for at least one half day on the day in question to participate in any tryout related activity.
- H. Videos will not be allowed.

**V. Responsibilities of Selected Cheerleaders**

- A. To cheer for any athletic event as required by school authorities.
- B. To organize, set up and clean up after pep rallies.
- C. To conduct a training clinic (seniors) before tryouts, if requested.
- D. To attend activities as necessary to promote school pride and spirit.

**VI. Transportation**

- A. Transportation to all athletic events will be via Shelby County School buses unless otherwise specified.
- B. Parents/guardians will be called upon to aid in transportation.
- C. According to SCBOE policy, cheerleaders may not drive themselves and/or other cheerleaders to any away contest.

**VII. Rules and Regulations**

- A. Cheerleaders must purchase 24-hour school insurance if they are not covered by another plan.
- B. Cheerleaders are to be present for all meetings, activities, pep rallies, and practices unless a valid reason is presented before the absence to the sponsor.
- C. Cheerleaders and their parents will be responsible for camp costs and all other cheerleading expenses. Debts incurred through cheerleading must be paid before camp unless prior arrangements have been made.
- D. Cheerleaders will turn in, at the end of their term, all uniforms and supplies bought through the cheerleader fund. Any necessary repair or replacement cost to these items will be the parents' responsibility.

- E. Cheerleaders are expected to comply with the Shelby County Code of Conduct and Attendance, Shelby County Cheerleader Constitution, and local school student handbook and local school cheerleader constitution.
- F. Cheerleaders must be present for at least one half the day to cheer that night unless the sponsor and/or principal approve a valid reason in advance.
- G. Selected cheerleader must maintain an overall average of at least 70 with no grade lower than 60 in any subject each report card grading period. Any cheerleader who fails to do so will follow guidelines outlined in the Shelby County Academic First policy. A second failure to maintain the appropriate overall average or minimum grade requirement by subject will result in removal from the squad for the remainder of the cheerleader season. (Cheerleader season lasts from tryout to tryout.) Grades will be monitored beginning the grading period immediately following tryouts.

**VIII. Cheerleader Conduct**

Any discipline problems will be handled by the sponsor or school administrator. Serious infractions could result in suspension or expulsion from the squad. The following is a list of possible infractions.

- A. Unexcused absences from games, practices or any other designated cheerleader functions.
- B. Display of poor sportsmanship.
- C. Failure to bring all necessary equipment and materials to pep rallies, games, practices, etc.
- D. Failure to pay cheerleading debts within the required time limits, unless previously approved.
- E. Failure to be prompt for all activities.
- F. Failure to execute duties assigned by sponsor.
- G. Violation of the system’s policy regarding drinking, smoking, drugs, or any other substance abuse.
- H. Failure to follow rules of the classroom, school handbook or the Shelby County Code of Conduct and Attendance.
- I. Violation of any school rule or any action that tends to leave a bad impression upon the general public will subject the cheerleader to disciplinary action.
- J. Misuse of, or inappropriate postings on social/electronic media deemed detrimental to the cheerleading program.

I have read this Constitution thoroughly and agree to abide by all rules and responsibilities.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent Signature