



Pflugerville Independent School District

High School Cheerleader Handbook 2016 - 2017

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PHILOSOPHY AND PURPOSE

Cheerleaders and mascots are student leaders who exemplify and promote school spirit, pride, and sportsmanship by participating at athletic events and extracurricular activities deemed appropriate by the campus administration and coach. Being a Pflugerville cheerleader is an honor and a privilege. Cheerleaders enhance a positive school climate by exhibiting leadership skills, such as respect for individual differences, building consensus, academic excellence, and modeling appropriate behaviors at all times, both in and away from school.

Cheerleaders are expected to be mentally and physically fit and athletically skilled in the field of cheerleading. They are first and foremost representatives of their school. Because of these responsibilities, members of the cheerleading squad will be expected to maintain a higher standard of behavior both on and off campus than that of their peers. In or out of uniform, cheerleaders are representatives of the cheerleading squad and the school.

UIL & TEA

It is the practice of Pflugerville ISD to utilize the University Interscholastic League (UIL) guidelines to regulate and govern the cheerleading program with regard to the no pass/no plays eight-hour practice limitations, athletics periods, and all other applicable regulations. The cheerleading program will follow the eligibility requirements as outlined by the TEA and UIL.

TRYOUT – ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

A student must be enrolled in Pflugerville ISD and be in attendance by the first day of the second semester. Principal has discretion to determine participation for students new to the district. Other requirements:

- ³⁵/₁₇ A student must have a cumulative GPA of 70 or better (high school) or an overall average of 70 (middle school) as of the preceding semester.
- ³⁵/₁₇ A student must meet state guidelines for compulsory attendance.
- ³⁵/₁₇ A student must have no outstanding balance for prior year financial obligations.
- ³⁵/₁₇ A student must have never received deferred adjudication and/or conviction for a Class B misdemeanor or higher-class conviction.
- ³⁵/₁₇ Students who have been expelled or sent to discipline school on mandatory placements during the current school year are ineligible to tryout.

A student is not eligible who has resigned or been dismissed from the cheerleading squad in the previous year. However, if he/she resigns due to circumstances out of his/her control, the coach and campus principal will determine whether he/she may be considered for tryouts the following year.

Disclaimer: Unfortunately, not all situations that arise can be anticipated or accounted for in the manual. Should events occur that are not covered in the Pflugerville ISD Cheerleading Handbook, they will be reviewed on a case by case basis by the principal and cheer coaches and will be dealt with according to what is fair and just. Furthermore, Pflugerville ISD reserves the right to alter the rules according to the situation, at any time.

COMMITMENT

Participation in the PflISD cheerleading program carries both a significant time and financial commitment. Candidates selected to be a member of the cheerleading squad are expected to make a commitment to the activity for the full cheerleading year (selection day through the last day of school the following academic year, this includes summer camp and practices).

³⁵₁₇ Cheerleading is a time consuming activity and it is the responsibility of each cheerleader to be present at each activity and perform to the best of his/her ability. Because of the many hours involved in practicing, planning pep rallies, painting signs, and actually cheering at games, other school and non-school activities will have to be limited. The cheer coach and the other coach will review school participation conflicts in an attempt to solve the problem while considering the best interests of the individual, as well as the interests of the cheerleading squad and other school organization. Everyone must share equally in the behind the scenes work, as well as the cheering before the crowd. Since cheerleading is a team activity, loyalty and dedication to the team is a key ingredient in gaining the most valuable elements from the association.

³⁵₁₇ Cheer members need to be aware that PflISD cheer commitments will come first. Jobs, driver education, outside cheer teams, etc. need to be considered before trying out for the cheer squads. Any outside commitment will not be considered as a reason to miss any cheer event/game. Absences related to outside commitments will result in a “strike” (see PflISD Cheer Code of Conduct).

³⁵₁₇ Each cheer member will be required to be in the cheer class at their respective campus. Classes consist of physical conditioning, prep for games/events, tumbling, jump technique, and stunting. Physical conditioning may include, but is not limited to running, weight training, push-ups, crunches etc. Managers and mascots will participate with physical conditioning, but may also be given separate expectations per each campus cheer coach.

³⁵₁₇ It is the responsibility of each Cheerleader to meet all financial obligations. Every effort will be made to make all expenses minimal. A list of expenditures and their possible value is listed in the constitution. Failure to meet the stated financial obligations will result in principal and coach review which may lead to removal from the squad.

PROGRAM MEMBERSHIP-SQUAD MAKEUP

Pflugerville fields 2 teams, Junior Varsity and Varsity. Freshmen may participate on the Junior Varsity team.

³⁵₁₇ Junior Varsity members may be freshmen, sophomore, or junior girls/boys.

- ³⁵₁₇ Varsity members may be sophomore, junior, or senior girls/boys.
- ³⁵₁₇ Both teams, including any alternate members, will consist of no more than 50 members. A smaller squad may be selected by the coach and administration.
- ³⁵₁₇ Mascot – It is a campus decision to select a mascot. If a mascot is to be selected, the campus will establish the selection procedures and publish information related to selection procedure and job description for a school mascot. The qualifications, responsibilities, and consequences described in this document will be used to govern the mascot. A school may select up to two students to serve as mascots; the mascot duties may be shared by the students or both students may be in costume acting as mascots at the same time.
- ³⁵₁₇ Captains/Co-Captains – The cheer coach selects the Captain(s) with the consideration to the qualities of leadership, responsibility, and academic performance. The cheer team may also be involved in the voting process. Each campus publishes information which delineates the duties of the captain and co-captain and the consequences for failure to carry out these duties.
- ³⁵₁₇ Cheerleading openings that occur after the official tryouts may be filled by the coaches and campus administration.
- ³⁵₁₇ Coaches reserve the right to move cheerleaders from JV to Varsity and from Varsity to JV. Seniors will not be moved to JV at any time.

TRYOUT GUIDELINES

Procedures for cheerleader selection are based on the guidelines in this handbook. Each school will be responsible for facilitating the tryouts on their campus and tryout material will be specific to the campus.

Tryouts will be held in the second semester of the school year.

Each coach will be responsible for the preparation and distribution of a packet of information to be made available to all candidates. This information will include tryout dates, times, attire, and procedures. The building principal will approve this information prior to distribution.

Candidates and parents must attend an orientation meeting scheduled by the cheer coach. Conflicts will be handled on a case by case basis.

Candidates and parents must sign a form stating that they understand and will comply with all information in the packet and in this handbook prior to the student being allowed to participate in the tryout process. The following forms must be signed and turned in to the coach prior to tryouts:

- ³⁵₁₇ Cheerleading Handbook Parent/Student Acknowledgement
- ³⁵₁₇ Parental Release Form
- ³⁵₁₇ Extracurricular Standards of Behavior Contract
- ³⁵₁₇ Pre-participation Physical Evaluation-Medical History & Physical Examination
<http://www.pfisd.net/dept/athletics/formsandhandbooks/uilphysicalform>

³⁵₁₇ Candidates, who are injured and unable to demonstrate skills due to injury or illness, may provide video footage for evaluation of skills during the tryout process for the campus. Videos may be of practice, game or competition footage. Video footage should include tryout skills evaluated: motions, dance, tumbling, stunting, and jumps. Video footage should be prior to current injury.

³⁵₁₇ Grades, attendance and behavior will be reviewed by coach upon tryout.

PRE-TRYOUT CLINIC

Each campus schedules a pre-tryout clinic to acquaint candidates with skills/techniques on which they will be judged. Attendance at the clinic is mandatory. The clinic is planned and led by the campus cheer coach and eligible senior cheerleaders.

Spectators (including parents, coaches, friends, non-involved school personnel) are not permitted to watch or videotape clinic practice. Clothing for clinic sessions: shorts, t-shirt/tank top, cheer shoes.

CLOSED TRYOUTS

Tryouts are closed to everyone except judges, principals, coaches, tabulators, and principal designees. There will be no students or parents in the tryout areas, nor will they be involved in the collection or tabulation of scores. No parents are allowed in the school building during tryouts. Students and coaches may not utilize electronic devices or texting during tryouts. Any deviation from the tryout requirements by the candidates may result in the disqualification of the candidate.

Any student who arrives at the tryout site after tryouts have started will not be allowed to try out.

If candidates have a conflict, emergency or an illness that prevents them from attending the clinic and tryout, cheer coaches and campus administration will make arrangements to tryout.

TRYOUT FORMAT/ JUDGING/EVALUATION

³⁵₁₇ Varsity and junior varsity tryouts will be scheduled on the same date, time and location.

³⁵₁₇ The tryout process is organized and facilitated by the cheer coach. In addition to the judges, the cheer coach, and up to three designated faculty members may be present in the tryout room for the purpose of giving directions, room set up, etc. At least one campus administrator is present in the tryout room to oversee the selection process. Candidates are in the tryout center for the length of their performance only.

³⁵₁₇ A panel consisting of a minimum of three (3) impartial judges will be secured by the campus for cheerleader tryouts.

- Judges shall be knowledgeable cheerleading coaches, former college cheerleaders, and/or member of UCA/NCA/ACA staff.
- Judges shall not be a relative of any candidate or a private coach of any candidate.
- Judges will be instructed to judge the candidates based only on the mastery of the skills that they see demonstrated during the tryouts.

³⁵₁₇ In the unusual case where one judge becomes unavailable on the day of tryouts, it is the responsibility of the campus to have secured an alternate judge so that the tryouts may proceed with the minimum number of judges present. It is recommended that a 4th judge be contracted for the same day. If this judge is not used on the panel, he/she will monitor the tabulation of results.

³⁵₁₇ Candidates perform before the judges individually and/or in randomly assigned small groups. Each campus specifies the set of activities which a candidate performs before the judges and communicates this to the candidates during the clinic.

³⁵₁₇ Activities for tryouts can include:

- group cheer
- individual cheer
- jumps
- dance routine
- new cheer
- chants
- stunts
- tumbling

³⁵₁₇ While viewing the prescribed activities, the judges assign points to candidates on their potential to perform cheerleading skills and functions. The specific skills and attributes to be judged are specified by each school and can include:

- audience appeal
- spirit/enthusiasm/poise
- sharpness/synchronization
- voice projection
- motion technique
- jump technique
- neatness/appearance
- gymnastics, tumbling

³⁵₁₇ The scoring template for each campus will be distributed to candidates at that school prior to tryouts.

³⁵₁₇ Candidates must adhere to the required dress for tryouts, which is published in advance and specified by campus. Tryout clothing must be pre-approved by the cheer coach.

³⁵₁₇ All candidates and/or any person acting as a representative on their behalf are prohibited from having any form of communication or personal contact with the judges prior to, during, or after the tryout process. Violation of this guideline will result in the immediate removal of the candidate from the process and/or squad if the candidate had been selected. Judges are instructed to report any incident of this activity to the campus administrator.

³⁵₁₇ Please be aware that a student's grades, behavior, and character will also be a determining factor in the selection process.

TABULATION OF SCORES/RESULTS

Cheer tryout participants will be evaluated on skills using a point system. Each skill is assigned a point value. The maximum point value assigned is considered excellent and the minimum point value assigned is considered below expectations. Stunts and tumbling begin at the lowest skill level and progressively become more difficult. The more difficult the skill, the higher the point value earned. In skills that progressively become more difficult, participants will be asked to perform the most difficult skill they are capable of doing and will be scored accordingly. (See PfISD scoring rubric)

Points will be used to rank candidates and tabulation of scores/points will be conducted by campus administrator(s) and designated tabulators. With approval by the principal, each campus will establish the manner in which the selected candidates are informed, and the results announced.

Decision of the campus principal and cheerleader coaches is final in all tryout results.

Appeals for any component of the cheerleading tryout process, including final results, must take place at the campus level. Parents may inquire about their student's tryout results by making an appointment with the cheer coach. Grounds for appeal may be made in reference to mathematical calculations or procedural impropriety only. Appeal results/decision will be final at the campus level. Concerns about other student's tryout results, including scores, will not be discussed. The campus is responsible for keeping all documentation regarding the tryout process for 30 days.

If an underclassman was previously on the cheer team and does not make the team the following year, the student will be permitted to choose another course.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Leadership

³⁵₁₇ Cheerleaders represent their school and PfISD at all times. They must act as role models and leaders at school and in the community.

³⁵₁₇ Members will demonstrate good sportsmanship; promote school spirit and display genuine concern for others.

Academics/Eligibility - Maintenance

³⁵₁₇ The Cheerleading program will follow the eligibility requirements as outlined by the TEA and UIL.

³⁵₁₇ Any cheerleader who has been ineligible for any two grading periods during the school year may be dismissed from the squad.

³⁵₁₇ A student enrolled in HS Cheerleading may earn up to one credit in physical education.

Attendance and Participation

- ³⁵₁₇ All cheerleaders and mascots will have a scheduled class period during the instructional school day to allow for planning and practices. Cheerleading practice and performances are under the umbrella of the UIL time limit restrictions. Special practices may be called by the coach when necessary. However, due to UIL procedures, the eight-hour limit will apply to practice held outside of the school day.
- ³⁵₁₇ Attendance at all games and cheer events is mandatory. This includes but is not limited to practices, fundraising activities, competitions, and pep rallies.
- ³⁵₁₇ Planned absences to a game/event/practice/etc. should be requested in writing at least 48 hours in advance. Campus coaches will determine if it will be excused. Inappropriate notification will result in disciplinary action. Examples of excused absences include:
- ³⁵₁₇ Funeral or death in the family
 - ³⁵₁₇ UIL or school-related performance or event
 - ³⁵₁₇ Students who are ill should notify the coach as soon as possible.
- ³⁵₁₇ All cheer members are required to attend summer camp, summer practices, and any fundraisers or team activities that are set for the teams in the summer. Cheer members not attending these events are subject to dismissal from the squad.
- ³⁵₁₇ Cheering activities (list specific competitions that will be covered i.e., all football, Tues. home volleyball games, All district boys and girls basketball games, 3 baseball & softball games in the stands as fans, track meet helpers/volunteers, District XC, Soccer, etc.) Have calendar of events so students can plan.

Financial Responsibilities

The district will provide the basic uniform for each member. Additional uniforms, camp wear, clothing items, bags, sweaters, and practice attire are purchased by the parent and must be approved by the director and campus principal prior to purchase. Cheerleaders are expected to attend summer camp and are responsible for all fees associated with summer camp. Cost for the year may vary by campus and for returning members, but will not exceed \$950.00, per cheerleader for school cost (Competition costs are additional, including any uniforms, fees, choreography costs, etc.) Items needed vary by campus.

³⁵₁₇ Estimated cheer cost information:

- Team T-Shirt \$12 each
- Practice Shirts/Tanks \$20 each
- Shorts \$10 each
- Camp Clothes \$30 per outfit
- Warm-up \$100
- Hooded Sweatshirt \$30
- Shoes \$60 each pair
- Bag \$30
- Camp Fees \$300
- Training Fees \$300
- Bloomers \$20 per pair
- Sports Bras \$15 each
- Midriff Top \$20

- ³⁵₁₇ Competition costs are additional, including any uniforms, fees, choreography costs etc.
- ³⁵₁₇ Returning members may not need to purchase all required items.
- ³⁵₁₇ Other costs throughout the year may develop (team gifts, dinners, spirit items etc.)
- ³⁵₁₇ A payment schedule may be set for all payments due.
- ³⁵₁₇ Cheer members must be current with their payment schedule. Not being current may result in missing cheer events or games. In the event that a cheer account is not current, suspension from the team may occur. In that case, the cheer member will still be responsible for the amount due to the campus cheer program.
- ³⁵₁₇ Cheer members who owe a balance on their account will not be eligible to tryout out for the following year until the amount is paid in full.
- ³⁵₁₇ Cheer members are required to attend and participate in all fundraising activities in order to receive credit and be eligible to cheer. Cheer members may also be required to participate in group fundraising activities in which all money earned will be contributed to the general cheer activity fund. Cheerleaders who do not participate or fulfill any quotas set by the campus may be considered ineligible to cheer (see Code of Conduct)
- ³⁵₁₇ All payments should be made to the Campus Activity Fund.
- ³⁵₁₇ If a member is declared ineligible, injured, being disciplined, is dismissed or resigns from the team, the member is still responsible for all fees. Refunds will not be issued.

Physical Functions/Safety

Cheerleading is an athletic endeavor. A physical exam given by a doctor will be required of all new and returning cheerleaders. Cheerleading entails running, lifting weights, stretching, and conditioning similar to other athletic sports. Conditioning will vary depending on that day's agenda. Safety is our primary concern. Members will be extremely well-trained and prepared before any stunting or pyramid building will take place. Members will also be expected to do proper stunt progressions before advancing to more difficult stunting – **no matter the individual's experience**. Proper warm-up, stretching, and cool-down activities will be directed and followed to prevent injuries. Members are expected to treat practices with utmost seriousness and participate to their fullest potential at all times. All cheerleaders will be required to meet the following demands:

- ³⁵₁₇ All participants must be trained and qualified for proper landing and spotting techniques before they are allowed to stunt.
- ³⁵₁₇ No tumbling or building of stunts is permitted unless a cheer coach is present.
- ³⁵₁₇ No horseplay, laughing or general socializing will be permitted during any stunt/practice session.
- ³⁵₁₇ Clear diction, vocal strength, rhythm and coordination.
- ³⁵₁₇ Physical moves that may involve jumps, balance, agility, and upper and lower body strength.

- ³⁵/₁₇ Stamina to endure these physical activities through the duration of the games and events.
- ³⁵/₁₇ Ability to perform routines in both indoor and outdoor settings, in hot and cold weather.

Uniform and Appearance

All uniform and practice attire is approved by the principal and coach. While performing, each member is expected to:

- ³⁵/₁₇ Wear proper attire as directed. The uniform is worn to official functions only, and a member may perform only if he/she is in the complete required uniform. If the cheerleader or mascot is not in proper uniform (including, but not limited to, secured hairstyle, ribbons, sweatshirts, cold weather attire), he/she will contact a family member to bring the necessary uniform. A specific uniform will also be required for each practice.
- ³⁵/₁₇ Keep uniforms clean, pressed, and mended at all times.
- ³⁵/₁₇ Reflect grooming standards during performances and practice as directed by the coach, including, but not limited to:
 - Makeup that is natural and wholesome looking
 - Secured hairstyle with ribbons
 - Nails that are short and well-groomed and do not exceed the length of the finger, acrylic nails or tips are strongly discouraged for safety reasons; colored nail polish is not to be worn when cheering in uniform
 - No visible jewelry, including body piercing
 - No visible tattoos
 - No gum chewing or candy
- ³⁵/₁₇ Parents will be responsible for replacing items that are returned in lesser condition than received, other than normal wear and tear.

CAPTAIN and CO-CAPTAIN

Leadership Roles

Captain(s) serve in a leadership role as liaison between cheerleaders, students, and faculty. He/she will be required to commit time for additional responsibilities of the cheerleading program and are expected to be a positive role model, serving as a community ambassador of the program. Captain(s) are the spokesperson for the program in public meetings and in front of the student body. Captain(s) will demonstrate leadership by setting an appropriate example for peers, assisting the coaches with planning and preparation, and assisting with communication between all coaches and squad members.

Leadership Rubric (Scoring Mechanism)

When a captain is chosen, the leadership role will be determined by the following process:

- ³⁵/₁₇ Members who wish to become captain/co-captain shall submit an application.
 - Additional requirements may be asked by each campus
- ³⁵/₁₇ A rubric will be designed by each campus to evaluate the following attributes:
Attitude, Leading by Example, Character, Respectfulness of Authority, Work Ethic, Responsibility, Leadership Ability, Maturity, Kindness/Respectfulness of Peers, and Ability to Communicate Effectively.
- ³⁵/₁₇ All Captain/Co-Captain positions will be decided on and governed directly by the coaches. The coaches reserve the right to appoint, remove, and replace captains/co-captains as needed.
- ³⁵/₁₇ Captain responsibilities (pg. 11-12 in current PfISD handbook)

COMMUNICATION

Communication is vital for a successful cheer program, on all levels.

Coaches will communicate:

- ³⁵/₁₇ Requirements for students and the squad
- ³⁵/₁₇ Locations, dates, times of practice, games and events
- ³⁵/₁₇ Squad requirements including special equipment, uniform, squad rules/regulations, travel arrangements and off-season expectations.

Parents should communicate:

- ³⁵/₁₇ Concerns regarding a son/daughter directly to the coach at the appropriate time and place. Not before, during, or after an event. Make an appointment to discuss:
 - Student's plan for success
 - Student's behavior
 - Student safety
- ³⁵/₁₇ Issues not appropriate for discussion with a coach:
 - Squad selection of cheers, chants, stunts, or elements of a performance.
 - Any situation that deals with other students/cheer members.

Communication between parent, school and coach:

- ³⁵/₁₇ If at any time a cheer member or parent feels he/she needs to discuss a problem or complaint, please follow the appropriate channels (make sure your son/daughter has had a conversation about issues or concerns with the cheer coach before making an appointment):
 - Campus cheer coach (set up appointment)
 - Do not confront coach before, during, or after any event.

- Only enter cheer class with permission from the campus principal or his/her designee

If meeting does not provide a satisfactory resolution, parents should then contact the following in this order:

- ³⁵/₁₇ Campus Assistant Principal
- ³⁵/₁₇ Campus Principal
- ³⁵/₁₇ Director of Athletics

TRANSPORTATION

Each cheerleader shall ride school-provided transportation to and from out-of-town games. Any extenuating circumstances require a written request from the parent/guardian for the student to be released to ride home with the parent or to another adult designated by the parent. Prior approval from the coach is required. The penalty for missing school-provided transportation is suspension from that night's game and the following game.

If the cheerleaders meet at the campus prior to going to the stadium/event, then school-provided transportation must be utilized. If the cheerleaders meet initially at the stadium/event, then students may utilize their own means of transportation to the event.

COMPETITION SQUADS

Whether to have a squad that enters competition is a decision to be made by the campus principal and coach. This activity will not interfere with the regularly scheduled activities of the cheerleaders. All PfISD cheerleaders will have the opportunity to try out for their high school's competitive team. A cheerleader must be a member of the school's regular cheer team in order to be eligible to try out for the competitive team. Competitive squads will adhere to PfISD Cheer guidelines. Additional requirements may be imposed:

- ³⁵/₁₇ The campus will set competitive practices.
- ³⁵/₁₇ The campus will determine competition location and dates.
- ³⁵/₁₇ The PfISD competitive cheer team will not attend more than 6 competitions within a school year.
- ³⁵/₁₇ The campus coaching staff may divide and level the teams.
- ³⁵/₁₇ Campus coaches may make changes to any routine/performance as necessary (illness, injury, attitude, disciplinary concerns).

All costs/fees of competition are in addition to school cheerleading fees. If cheerleaders choose to compete, they will be required to pay all fees regarding competition.

If the cheerleader is academically ineligible or has been subject to disciplinary action, he/she is still required to pay all competition fees. Fees must be paid in advance. Cheerleaders will not be able to perform until all fees are paid.

Estimated costs include:

³⁵ ₁₇	Uniform	\$250
³⁵ ₁₇	Bloomers	\$20
³⁵ ₁₇	Shoes	\$60
³⁵ ₁₇	Hair Bow	\$20
³⁵ ₁₇	Make Up	\$30
³⁵ ₁₇	Choreography	\$150
³⁵ ₁₇	Competition Fees	\$30-80 per competition
³⁵ ₁₇	National Competition Fees	\$100-175 per competition
³⁵ ₁₇	Gym Fees	\$200-400 per season

Competition is a privilege, not a right of team members.

FUNDRAISING

A thorough description of appropriate practices and procedures for fundraising is outlined within the document, *PfISD Campus Activity Fundraising Guidelines*. Individuals directly responsible for fundraising should refer to the document and District policy for complete directions. The following is important information for all members and parents:

- ³⁵
₁₇ Each cheerleader shall participate in fundraising activities.
- ³⁵
₁₇ Fundraising activities must support the educational goals of the district.
- ³⁵
₁₇ Fundraising will be coordinated by the coach, and/or Booster Club officers, approved by the building principal, and must include a written request outlining the need for funding, the type of fundraising activity, the projected amount to be raised, how the money will be used, and the time and duration of the activity. Efforts should be made to avoid conflict with other school organizations attempting to raise funds.
- ³⁵
₁₇ Coaches are required to keep a detailed account of income and expenditures of student money, with all transactions processed through a campus activity account.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event of inclement weather, it will be the responsibility of the cheerleader coach, in collaboration with the trainers/admin on duty, to make the decision to leave the event. The decision will be based on what is in the best interests of the students and their health and welfare. If a parent or student voluntarily leaves a cheerleading event, they will be subject to the penalties as outlined in the cheerleading constitution.

LETTERING

In order for a member of the Varsity cheer team to receive a letter or patch and qualify to purchase a jacket, he/she must:

- ³⁵
₁₇ Remain academically eligible

- ³⁵/₁₇ Remain in good standing
- ³⁵/₁₇ Perform in all required events
- ³⁵/₁₇ An unexcused absence for any event/game/performance excludes cheerleaders from earning a jacket.

BOOSTER CLUBS

Booster clubs are optional, but may be allowed at the discretion of the principal and coach. Booster clubs are formed by school patrons to help enrich an organization's participation in extracurricular activity. This should be their primary focus. Fund raising activities should support the educational goals of the school and cheerleading squad, but they should not exploit the students.

Booster clubs should have a board of directors made up of at least a President, Vice-President and Treasurer. There should be at least two signatories on booster club checks. A detailed list of income and expenditures should be published by the Treasurer for the membership on a monthly basis.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Because participation in Cheerleading is a privilege and not a right, the PfISD Cheerleading program is authorized to set higher standards for participants than it would for those students who choose not to participate in these activities. The expectations for extracurricular activities extend beyond the PfISD Student code of Conduct, not only in type of behavior prohibited, but also in corresponding consequences and jurisdiction for imposing discipline. Extracurricular expectations apply to all students participating in extracurricular activities regardless of whether:

- ³⁵/₁₇ School is in session;
- ³⁵/₁₇ The offense occurs on or off school property or at a school related event;
- ³⁵/₁₇ The student is directly involved with the extracurricular activity at the time the prohibited conduct occurs;
- ³⁵/₁₇ The extracurricular activity is in season; and
- ³⁵/₁₇ Regardless of where or when the conduct occurs.

A PfISD cheer member takes on the role of a respectful and disciplined athlete who should model appropriate behavior for his/her peers at all time-in school, after school, and in the community. This is a very visual position. Along with this position comes a great deal of responsibility.

The responsibilities of cheerleading and consequences for not meeting expectations are assumed at the time the selected cheerleaders are announced.

Coaches will have full discretion in every discipline situation. Discipline may include, but is not limited to: conditioning, strikes, community service, benching, and removal from the squad. This strike policy is a GUIDE to our discipline system. It is not meant to be inclusive of every, or exclusive of any situation. The coaches will handle all discipline issues with fairness and with their discretion as they arise.

Participants in the PfISD Cheer Program will follow a “Three Strike” system. Strikes will be given based on a cheer member’s behavioral infraction. The coaches will document each behavioral infraction and communicate the strikes with cheerleader and parent at the time of the infraction.

Any cheer member who is removed from the cheer program during the school year will be moved from the cheer class to a physical education class in order to earn the P.E. credit for the semester. Appeals will be granted on a case-by-case basis determined by a PfISD cheer coach and administrator.

The following levels outline discipline infractions and possible consequences. All discipline is designed to be corrective in nature.

The following behaviors/circumstances may lead to a temporary suspension from the cheer program:

- ³⁵/₁₇ Inability to perform at an event due to long term or catastrophic health conditions
- ³⁵/₁₇ Ineligibility due to academic non-compliance (first time only)

Questions to keep in mind:

- ³⁵/₁₇ ARE YOU ON TIME?
- ³⁵/₁₇ ARE YOU WHERE YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO BE?
- ³⁵/₁₇ ARE YOU DOING WHAT YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO BE DOING?

Level I: These infractions do not incur strikes

Immediate reminders: The cheer coach will determine the reminder and consequence at the time of the infraction. Consequences for Level I behaviors may result in reminders, physical conditioning, or suspension for part of a game/event. The list below includes examples of some behaviors which would require immediate reminders:

- ³⁵/₁₇ Tardiness to practice or class
- ³⁵/₁₇ Incorrect practice clothes (including hair bows, if applicable)
- ³⁵/₁₇ Incorrect game uniform (including hair bows)
- ³⁵/₁₇ Wearing jewelry at inappropriate times
- ³⁵/₁₇ Chewing gum, eating candy, or snacking during a game, practice or an event without permission.
- ³⁵/₁₇ Being disruptive, horsing around, or talking excessively at inappropriate times.

- ³⁵/₁₇ Failing to fully participate in fundraising activities
- ³⁵/₁₇ Failure to bring designated materials when required (including supplies for cheer class)
- ³⁵/₁₇ Failure to help paint, hang or remove signs when assigned
- ³⁵/₁₇ Failure to turn in paperwork or project money

Level II: These infractions incur strikes

Strikes will result in the same consequences as a level I infractions, along with the strike itself:

- ³⁵/₁₇ Disrespect/insubordination toward the cheer coach, a teacher or administrator.
- ³⁵/₁₇ Disrespect/inappropriate language/actions toward other team members.
- ³⁵/₁₇ Absence to a game/practice/event
- ³⁵/₁₇ Leaving a practice/game/event without permission
- ³⁵/₁₇ Unsportsmanlike conduct at a game or event
- ³⁵/₁₇ Talking or texting on cell phone during game/practice/event
- ³⁵/₁₇ Academic dishonesty
- ³⁵/₁₇ Assignment to ISS
- ³⁵/₁₇ Receiving a discipline referral
- ³⁵/₁₇ Not participating in mandatory fundraising activities
- ³⁵/₁₇ Repeatedly (more than three times) being tardy to a practice/game/event
- ³⁵/₁₇ Repeatedly (more than 3 times) receiving “reminders” for a combination on any Level I behaviors
- ³⁵/₁₇ Being assigned Saturday school

Level III: These infractions result in removal from the team

- ³⁵/₁₇ Suspension from school
- ³⁵/₁₇ Receiving 3 strikes
- ³⁵/₁₇ Assignment to the Opportunity Center
- ³⁵/₁₇ Failing any two 9 week grading periods
- ³⁵/₁₇ Alcohol Use
- ³⁵/₁₇ Drug Use
- ³⁵/₁₇ Smoking
- ³⁵/₁₇ Destruction or vandalism of school property
- ³⁵/₁₇ Stealing

SOCIAL MEDIA

Everything posted in social media is public information – any text or photo placed online is completely out of your control the moment it is placed online – even if security settings are listed as “private”. Information (including pictures, videos, and comments) may be accessible even after removed. Once a photo or comment on a social networking site has been posted, that photo or comment becomes the property of the site and may be searchable even after being removed.

Similar to comments made in person, Pflugerville ISD will not tolerate disrespectful comments and behavior online, such as:

- ³⁵/₁₇ Derogatory language or remarks that may harm other teammates or coaches; other PfISD cheerleaders, teachers, or coaches; and cheerleaders, coaches, or representatives of other schools, including comments that may disrespect opponents.
- ³⁵/₁₇ Incriminating photos or statements depicting violence; hazing; sexual harassment; full or partial nudity; inappropriate gestures; vandalism, stalking; underage drinking, selling, possessing, or using controlled substances; or any other inappropriate behaviors.
- ³⁵/₁₇ Creating a serious danger to the safety of another person or making a credible threat of serious physical or emotional injury to another person.
- ³⁵/₁₇ Indicating knowledge of an unreported school or team violation—regardless if the violation was unintentional or intentional.

Violations of the Student Code of Conduct will also be handled by campus administration in conjunction with the PfISD cheer discipline process.



PFLUGERVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Cheerleading Handbook Parent/Student Acknowledgment Form

We have read and understand the policies, procedures, and expectations outlined in the Pflugerville Independent School District Cheerleading Handbook. We agree to adhere to these guidelines as a condition of voluntary participation in the cheerleading program and understand that failure to do so may result in disciplinary measures and removal from the program.

Printed Parent's Name _____ **Date** _____

Parent's Signature _____ **Date** _____

Cheerleader's Printed Name _____ **Date** _____

Cheerleader's Signature _____ **Date** _____

The PflISD Cheerleading Handbook Parent/Student acknowledgement form was submitted to my office:

Coach's Signature _____ **Date** _____



PFLUGERVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Parental Release Form

Student's Name _____

School _____ **Grade** _____

I, the undersigned, have read and fully understand the rules and regulations that will govern my son/daughter if he/she chooses to represent Pflugerville Independent School District as a cheerleader. I understand that this is an extracurricular activity and that attendance at all practices, games, special functions, and summer camp is a requirement of the elected cheerleader.

I hereby give consent to my son/daughter, _____ to tryout for cheerleader at _____ and recognize his/her responsibilities and requirements as a leader of his/her school. I understand that, if chosen, my son/daughter will be required to pay for summer cheerleading camp and uniforms.

Parent's Printed Name _____ **Date** _____

Parent's Signature _____ **Date** _____

Parent's Contact Information Address _____

Email _____

Cell Phone # _____

Home Phone # _____

If I am elected as a cheerleader, I shall fulfill all of the requirements to the best of my ability as set forth in the PfISD Cheerleader Handbook. I have read these policies and understand that if I fail to maintain these rules, I will be reprimanded according to these guidelines and possibly removed from the squad.

Candidate's Printed Name _____ **Date** _____

Candidate's Signature _____ **Date** _____

Candidate's Contact Information Address _____

Email _____

Cell Phone # _____

Home Phone # _____



PFLUGERVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Extracurricular Standards of Behavior Contract

I, _____, understand that I must conduct myself with utmost integrity and honesty as a student involved in co-curricular/extracurricular activities in the Pflugerville Independent School District. I understand that my position as a student involved in co-curricular/extracurricular activities means that I am held to a higher standard of behavior, and therefore, may receive greater consequences than those outlined in the Pflugerville ISD Student Code of Conduct regardless of whether such conduct occurs on or off school property and/or at a school-sponsored or school-related event. I understand that if I represent my organization in an unfavorable, questionable, or illegal manner through electronic media (i.e. websites, personal home pages, blogs, camera phones, digital photos, electronic descriptions, text messages, chat rooms, social media, or similar websites/filed accessible through a server or Internet), I will be subject to the disciplinary action determined appropriate by school officials.

I understand that if I violate the Pflugerville ISD Student Code of Conduct, I may receive consequences in accordance with those outlined in the Code of Conduct, as well as additional consequences as a result of my participation in co-curricular/extracurricular activities. I understand and agree that consequences assigned under this contract will be assigned at the discretion and determination of the campus administrator and coach of the activity and may include, but are not limited to, disciplinary consequences in, suspension form, removed from and/or prohibition from future participation in all co-curricular/extracurricular activities.

I understand that as a participant in a co-curricular/extracurricular activity, I must follow the PflISD Student Code of Conduct in addition to all rules, regulations, and schedule commitments, as required by the coach of the activity.

I have read the PflISD Extracurricular Standards of Behavior Contract and agree to all of the terms and consequences stated herein.

Student's Printed Name _____ **Date** _____

Student's Signature _____ **Date** _____

Parent's Printed Name _____ **Date** _____

Parent's Signature _____ **Date** _____

Student's Contact Information Address _____

Email _____

Cell Phone # _____

Home Phone # _____