



**Azle ISD's Junior Highs'
CHEERLEADER CONSTITUTION
2022-2023**

FORWARD:

The State Board of Education considers Cheerleading to be an extracurricular activity. Membership in an extracurricular activity is considered a privilege rather than a right. In order to participate in this program, students must meet and comply with specific requirements that are set forth in this Constitution. The Director of District Operations along with the high school principal and cheer coach is responsible for the successful implementation of this program. Coach(es) will be employed to manage the day-to-day operations of the program and competitions.

Cheerleading membership requires time, energy, and a positive attitude. A member must be committed to working hard, being supportive of all extracurricular sports, and is dedicated to the goals established by the school, coaches, and squads. In addition, members are expected to be cooperative in all endeavors and maintain good physical fitness.

Time is a major consideration for being a cheerleader. Most cheerleading practices will be after school but may include Saturdays or before school depending on the event, performance, fundraising activity, competition, and travel time. This time commitment must be considered when making the decision to try out for cheerleaders. Other members of the squad depend on you and your commitment to the squad. Therefore, if you are involved in a variety of school activities you may want to reevaluate your membership in each activity. In addition to games, Rowdies will be required to set up the stadium before school on game days and paint signs for themes before the school year starts..

PURPOSES:

The Azle Independent School District coaches cheerleaders and the mascot to promote:

1. spirit and support within the student body for all extracurricular sports
2. good sportsmanship
3. better relations with rival schools
4. better public relations within the community

The Cheerleaders and the mascot are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that meets the purposes of the Constitution. Throughout this document, any reference to "cheerleader" will also include "mascot." and "Hornet Muscle."

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

To be eligible to try out for a Cheerleader position, students (candidates) must meet the following criteria:

- A. Past cheerleader participation membership: A candidate who was dismissed or resigned from a position on a cheerleading squad or as the mascot in the current school year is ineligible to try out to serve as cheerleader or mascot for the following school year.
- B. Parent Meeting: At least one parent of the candidate must attend a mandatory parent meeting. If a situation prohibits them from attending a group meeting, the parent must schedule a meeting with the coach before the mandatory meeting occurs.
- C. Documents: A candidate must have signed documents set forth by the coach

SQUAD TRYOUTS:

A. Tryout Week

- a. Practice sessions will be held before the tryout date where the candidate will learn all material needed for tryouts.
- b. Sessions may be conducted by 8th grade cheerleaders and coaches.
- c. Candidates must attend all practice sessions and be on time.
- d. On tryout day, the candidates should wear a white T-shirt, black shorts, white no show socks, and white tennis shoes or cheer shoes. Hair should be pulled back and all jewelry must be removed, including body piercing jewelry.

B. Squads:

- a. 8th grade: Members will be selected for the 8th-grade squad. The top 10-16 candidates that have the highest score according to the judge's score sheets will be on the squad. Cut-off will occur at the natural point break or at the judge's and coach's discretion.
- b. 7th grade: Members will be selected for the 7th grade squad. Cut-off will occur at the natural point break or at the judge's and coach's discretion. The top 16 - 24 candidates will be on the squad.

MEMBERSHIP:

- A. Cheerleaders will participate in all activities in which the organization (team) is involved and will exhibit and maintain a cooperative attitude toward school policies and regulations.
- B. Cheerleaders are required to participate in fundraisers that help cover the cost of camp, camp clothes, camp extras, additional clothing, and end-of-the-year banquet.
- C. Cheerleading Members are **required** to attend cheerleading camp. If a cheerleader cannot attend camp, he or she will forfeit his or her position on the team and an alternate will replace the position for the entire year. No cheerleader may leave camp for any reason other than personal illness, injury, death in the family, or other reasons acceptable to the coach or Director of District Operations. The cheerleader may only leave with a parent or guardian.
- D. Cheerleaders must have all fees paid in full by the final payment date.
- E. The official term of service for a cheerleader will be from the announcement of the winners of the cheerleading tryouts and end with the same announcement the following year.
- E. Dismissal
 - a. Hazing of other members
 - b. Members may be dismissed from the squad for failure to fulfill the duties of a cheerleader
 - c. Members may be dismissed for conduct unbecoming of a cheerleader/teammate
 - d. Members will be dismissed according to The Extracurricular Code of Conduct.
 - f. Members will be dismissed for 2 unexcused absences at required performances or required activities.
 - g. Members may be dismissed for receiving 30 demerits.
 - h. Members may be dismissed for failing more than one class in a grading period or failing two or more grading periods.
 - i. Any member dismissed from the squad, for any reason, will have the right to appeal utilizing AISD Board Policy FNG (Local) which can be found on the district website or picked up at the administration building
 - j. Members who are arrested and charged with a felony will be automatically suspended from the cheerleading program until guilt or innocence is determined. Cheerleaders found guilty of an alleged offense will be removed from the team and will not be allowed to try out the following year.
 - k. Upon dismissal from the squad, there will be **NO** refund for any expenses.

ATTENDANCE AND PERFORMANCE:

- A. Members must be on time and participate in all mandatory events. Members must notify the coach prior to the absence or tardy taking place.
 - a. Each situation will be evaluated individually based on the circumstances
 - b. The coach will also determine eligibility for performance.
 - c. Practices may be scheduled either before or after school.
 - d. Cheerleaders will be required to dress for practice in clothes appropriate for workouts.
 - e. Attendance at all required events will be monitored by the coach.
- B. A cheerleader must be able to perform all physical activities required of a cheerleader. The UIL standard physical will be required from all members. Physical forms will be checked.
- C. If absenteeism from school becomes a consistent problem, the cheerleader and a parent will be notified and a conference scheduled to try to correct the problem.
- D. Cheerleaders must be present at least half the day on game days in order to participate. Exception: same-day health care and field trips.
- E. Any cheerleader absent (excused or unexcused) from the practice before a performance (pep rally, competition, etc.) will not be able to participate in the performance.

UNIFORMS:

- A. The school district will buy the basic cheer uniform. Members will purchase any required clothing that is not provided by the district.
- B. Cheerleaders assume 100% responsibility for the care and return of uniforms and equipment purchased by the school district. School-issued uniforms are only to be worn on game days and **only as complete uniforms.**
- C. Uniforms worn during the instructional day must meet dress code.
- D. While in uniform, cheerleaders will put hair up and wear no jewelry, including body-piercing jewelry. Pictures are the only exception.

ACADEMIC GRADING:

- A. A cheerleader must remain eligible per the UIL No Pass, No Play guidelines.
- B. The coach will check grades during each grading period.

DEMERITS:

An accumulation of a total of THIRTY (30) demerits at any time of the year will be cause for dismissal from the organization. Demerits are accumulated from the first scheduled practice in the spring until tryouts the next year. If four or more demerits are accrued during one week in the summer, the probation period will be in effect as of the first required week of an Azle Cheerleader appearance or performance of the following school year.

When issuing the demerits, the Coaches may use discretion as to the severity of the misdemeanor.

Demerits will be given for not following the constitution and specifically for the following offenses:

- 8 Failure to participate in a required fundraiser
- 8 Disrespect to the coaches, team members, faculty, staff, other students, or visitors
- 6 No show to a game or practice without notice prior to the event
- 5 Missing a football game, unless notice is given before the season begins, or in emergency.
- 5 Failure to tell the truth
- 5 Disloyalty to the team
- 5 Unexcused absences with notice
- 5 Public display of affection
- 5 Receiving a "U" in conduct or a teacher conference with coaches regarding bad behavior or irresponsibility.
- 5 Inappropriate time of use of cell phone or other communication devices.
- 5 Unlady-like conduct
- 5 Inappropriate posting on social media
- 5 Use of profanity or obscene language
- 4 Hickeys - Cheering at any event will not be allowed until it is gone
- 4 PDA at school or anywhere while in uniform
- 2 Talking while at attention
- 2 Observed not cheering/participating
- 2 Incorrect hairstyle, makeup, wrinkled/dirty uniform
- 2 Failure to wear coordinated underclothing in performance or appearance
- 2 Each forgotten performance item
- 2 Wearing nail polish while in uniform (only French manicure, white, or nude allowed)
- 2 Not checking in with team or squad shirt on game days
- 1 Unexcused tardies (after five minutes, 1 demerit will be given for each additional ten minute increment).
- 1 Leaving trash or other items on the bus or at practice
- 1 Unexcused leaving early (same policy as tardy).
- 1 Late for ANY deadline (per day).
- 1 Wearing jewelry in practice or performance