

May ISD Cheerleading and Mascot Constitution

Revised February 28, 2018

Tryouts

A cheerleading or mascot candidate must follow all rules in order to try-out.

1. A candidate must be passing each class individually with a cumulative 70 average or better in order to try-out. The first 4 six weeks will be used to tabulate the cumulative score. Dual credit and AP courses will be tabulated utilizing the eligibility standards.
2. All cheer candidates will be instructed on the cheers and jumps that will be used at try-outs. There will be a DVD provided to each candidate. It is the candidate's responsibility to learn these cheers, chants, and dances.
3. Cheerleading candidates will be required to wear matching shirts designated by the cheer sponsor. These shirts will be shirts sold by the school and available to all candidates. Black shorts and tennis shoes will be worn. The attire must have no additional writing that would indicate prior cheerleading experience. Mascot candidates will try-out in costume.

Election

Candidates wishing to participate in cheerleading/mascot in the Junior High School or High School will be elected by the following criteria:

Scoring Criteria

- (1) 60% from judges (an average of 3 judges) comprised of one or more persons in a college or professional cheerleading or organization that has no affiliation with May ISD staff or students;
- (2) 30% from faculty members directly associated with candidates in the classroom or school activities including the sponsor using an evaluation form approved by the May ISD Board of Trustees;
- (3) 10% from the students enrolled in May ISD grades 8, 9, 10, and 11 will be used to compute the cheerleader and mascot scores. Students enrolled in May ISD grades 6 and 7 will be used to compute the cheerleader scores for the Junior High School.

Prior to the election, the student body will be allowed to view and vote on prospective cheerleaders and a mascot.

The leadership positions are elected as follows:

High School

8 cheerleaders
1 Mascot

Junior High

6 cheerleaders

The leadership positions will be elected by tabulation of scores selecting the candidates with the highest points. The tabulation of scores will be conducted by the cheerleading sponsor and at least 2 administrators.

In the event that one of the candidates elected to a leadership position cannot fill the position, the next highest scoring candidate will be elected. After each squad has attended summer camp, no alternate will be moved up to fill any open positions. This applies to both junior high and high school squads. The results of the election process will be kept in the Principal's office for a period of the school year in which the elected candidates will participate.

All members of the squad will abide by the following rules regarding uniforms.

- (a) The length, color, style, emblems, material type, and all accessories of the cheerleading/mascot uniform will be decided in a meeting with the sponsor and the cheerleaders/mascot. This meeting will be scheduled before the last day of school. The final decision of the uniforms will be approved by the school board, as they choose to pay for the high school uniforms. Junior High uniforms must be approved by the principal, sponsor and the parents.
- (b) A down payment of 50% of the full expected payment or \$250 will be due on the day that we meet with our Varsity representative to fit and order camp clothes, cheer uniforms, etc. The down payment will be applied to your order. The down payment will not be refunded to you.
- (c) The Full Payment is required before the uniform, camp clothes, etc. will be issued to the member. High School cheerleaders will be required to pay for the following:
 - Megaphone
 - Pom-Poms
 - 3 days of approved camp-wear for summer camp
 - Undergarment tights/bloomers
 - Socks
 - Shoes
 - Sweaters/Jackets
 - Any additional desired accessories or clothing agreed upon by the sponsor/principal.

*Mascot will only be required to pay for shoes, 3 days of approved camp-wear, and any additional desired accessories or clothing agreed upon by the sponsor/principal. If the Mascot chooses any additional clothing pieces, such as a sweater/jacket, he/she will be required to pay for these as well.

- (d) Junior High Cheerleaders will be required to pay for everything stated above, in additional to uniforms (shirt and shell/top) and summer camp.
- (e) Each member has the responsibility of having a clean, pressed uniform, with clean shoes and accessories for each performance (games, pep-rallies, competitions).
- (f) Uniforms are to be worn at pep-rallies, games, competitions, and approved functions only.
- (g) Uniforms or partial uniforms will be worn at school on game days with dress to coordinate with the designated spirit day.

May ISD Cheerleading Constitution Junior High and High School

I. Purpose

- A. The purpose of this constitution is to provide a set of guidelines to follow both for the cheerleader/mascot and the sponsor/principal.
- B. Each cheerleader/mascot should set a good example for others; act respectful of squad members, sponsor, and teachers; and show pride in themselves as well as their school. Cheerleading is a privilege, not a right, and it is an honor to be elected to this position.

II. Rules and Responsibilities

A. Rules

1. Conduct

- a. Responsibilities are carried out throughout the Entire School Year and summer.
- b. Members must not chew gum or wear any jewelry either at practice or at any performance.
- c. Members must conduct themselves as a leader (in which they do not use improper language, cheat, steal, smoke, drink alcoholic beverages, drugs, skip school or any act that is considered degrading to the school). (Please see demerit section)

- d. Members must make every effort to get along with other members of the squad, regardless of personal feelings, because the cheerleading squad is a team and must function accordingly.
- e. Members are considered to be a leader for the school and will be expected to behave as one.

2. Rules and Responsibilities

- a. Members must be in school at least half the day of any performance event (4 periods) in order to perform with the squad. Members must attend all practices unless cleared with the sponsor or principal.
- b. Members must wear the correct uniform and care for the uniform properly. If member does not have the entire uniform for a performance, the member will not be allowed to perform. The member will be responsible for payment if uniform is neglected/torn (i.e. not well taken care of).
- c. Members must be back in place and ready to perform promptly after designated break at all practices and performances. **Members are expected to perform for all quarters of play.**
- d. Members must not smoke or possess tobacco products, drink alcoholic beverages, use non-prescribed drugs or possess them, nor participate in ANY act which would reflect upon the moral reputation of the squad, if this occurs, immediate action/consequences will be taken (please see demerit section).
- e. Members must help with ALL fundraising activities. They must all help with sign-painting, prop-making, and any other responsibility required to prepare for games/pep rallies/other events, etc.
- f. **High School Cheerleaders and Mascot will cheer during basketball playoff games when the boys are playing after the girls have been eliminated. If there are adequate numbers of a cheer squad who do not participate in basketball then the cheerleaders may be required to cheer for both squads.**
- g. Members must be passing ALL subjects. Failure to meet this standard mandate suspension from performances as required under U.I.L. rules and legislative mandates. Failure for 2 six-week periods will result in dismissal from the squad. **If a squad member quits his/her position, is dismissed from**

his/her position or is asked to resign his/her position, he/she will NOT be honored or recognized at the Sports Banquet or any other function with the cheerleaders.

- h. Members must travel to and from games on school-provided transportation unless released by a sponsor to ride home with parents.
- i. Members must obtain a physical as stated by U.I.L. guidelines.
- j. Members must not participate in any outside activity that will conflict with the responsibilities as a cheerleader.
- k. Members MUST attend summer cheer camp. No excused absences will be given---you must attend. Camp is required of both junior high and high school squads.
- l. Members must attend all practice sessions. If members fail to attend the complete practice, as designated, they will be unable to perform in either pep rallies or game performances as is deemed appropriate by the sponsor and/or administrator. Cheerleading will cooperate with other school events, but will take priority over non-school activities.
- m. Sponsors reserve the right to sit a cheerleader if she is not prepared for a game. This includes not knowing, chants, cheers, or dance.
- n. All members must abide by the rules set forth by the sponsor and the principal.
- o. Members must understand and illustrate the importance of good safety habits at ALL times. Use common sense and good spotting habits when practicing stunts. Members must not perform a stunt until approved by the sponsor/principal. Safety MUST come FIRST!
- p. All practices will be supervised by a sponsor/coach. Therefore, there will be no unscheduled practices outside of school.
- q. Members must exhibit pride in May High School and Junior High School, in the squad, and the team. No negative comments/attitudes will be accepted.

III. Demerit System

A total of 10 demerits constitute reason for dismissal of the receiving member. Once a member has been dismissed or resigns, that member will not be allowed to return for the remainder of the school year.

<u>Reasons for Demerits</u>	<u># of Demerits</u>
Unexcused absence from performance	4
Unexcused tardy to performance/game	1
Unexcused absence from practice	2
Unexcused tardy to practice	1
Inappropriate or incorrect/incomplete Attire (including chewing gum, wearing Jewelry, wrong shoes/socks, etc.)	1 for 1 st time 2 thereafter
Use of profanity or inappropriate actions	maximum of 6 And/or 1-2 Games suspension
Possession of tobacco products, drinking alcoholic beverages, illegal Non-prescribed drug use or possession of, Stealing, legal offense (class B misdemeanor or higher), or any immoral act classified by the sponsor/principal.	maximum of 8 and/or 1-2 games suspension
ISS, Detention	5
Disrespect of Authority	maximum of 8 and/or 1-2 games suspension
Truancy (skipping school)	4
Inappropriate display of affection at school functions (this includes the time at school, too)	2
Choosing not to help with fundraisers	2
Citizenship grade of "U"-reported disrespect in classroom	3
Leaving an event without proper permission	3
Vandalism (other schools or ours)	maximum of 8 and/or 1-2 games suspension

Disciplinary Additional Guidelines

- 1. Demerits will be issued and explained by sponsor/principal.*
- 2. Disciplinary action is not limited to those items listed above.*
- 3. Demerit system will be enforced **starting at the date elected**, during camps, and any summer practices as well as the school year.*
- 4. Suspension from school will constitute reason for dismissal from the squad. This will also apply to the Alternative Education Program.*
- 5. Exceptions for these rules will be made when other school-related activities conflict or in severe emergency situations.*
- 6. If a member chooses to work off any demerits, they will follow the athletic disciplinary guidelines.*
- 7. The Student Code of Conduct will still be followed by each member in addition to the constitution.*