

GLADEWATER HIGH SCHOOL
CHEERLEADER CONSTITUTION
2020-2021

ARTICLE I Purpose.

The objective of this organization shall be to show spirit and loyalty, establish dignity in ourselves and our school, to promote school spirit, foster good fellowship and unity among members, and encourage high moral standards, responsibility, self-discipline in every member.

ARTICLE II Membership.

Section I Each member will give of his/her time to participate in required activities throughout the year.

Section II Each member will participate in all assigned fundraising activities.

Section III The members and their parents/guardians shall be aware of the responsibilities and expenses as stated in the tryout packet distributed to all prospective members.

Section IV In order for a student to be eligible to try out for cheerleader, the student and a parent/guardian **MUST** attend a scheduled orientation meeting, unless excused by prior approval of the coach and principal.

ARTICLE III Organization.

The varsity squad will consist of up to 12 members and one mascot from grades 10th–12th. The junior varsity squad will consist of up to 8 members and one mascot from grades 9th-11th.

ARTICLE IV Responsibilities.

Section I All members will attend athletic events, practices, school activities, and competitions designated by the coach. Members must participate in projects to promote school spirit and assigned fundraising activities.

Section II Attitudes and Teamwork. Members are to display good manners and attitudes at all times.

- A. Each member is to look and act in a positive manner, even when tired, sleepy or “out of sorts”.
- B. Each member will smile and look pleasant.
- C. No member is to correct another unnecessarily, and care should be taken to use helpful, not critical, methods of instruction.
- D. Members of the squad are to obey all commands or instructions given by the head cheerleader and treat her with respect.
- E. The head cheerleader will not give demerits or make any decisions regarding discipline of the squad. He/She will only advise the coach who will administer discipline.

ARTICLE V Conflicts.

- Section I A member may work if hours can be arranged that do not conflict with any cheerleading activities. However, cheerleading responsibilities will be considered top priority.
- Section II A member may take part in other activities related to school providing that any conflict with another activity can be worked out well in advance.
- Section III Members must be careful to judge their time and allow for plenty of rest; therefore, choose and limit activities carefully. Exhaustion is definitely a conflict, endangering health, attitudes, and teamwork.

ARTICLE VI Uniforms and Practice Clothes.

- Section I Members will be responsible for the care and cleaning of all uniforms. Any damage due to poor care or loss will result in the member replacing the damaged or lost article.
- Section II Each member will be required to buy all parts of the uniform, except the top and skirt as decided on by the coach.
- Section III Uniforms are worn only to cheerleader functions. No part of the uniform may be worn by anyone who is not a member of the squad.
- Section IV Members will buy all practice clothes as chosen by the squad for summer camp. Clothes will not be ordered until complete payment is made. These are not worn until camp.
- Section V The head cheerleader and/or coach will convey notices of meetings by phone or in person. Failure to attend without prior notification to the coach will result in demerits.
- Section VI The head cheerleader will not call a meeting without first consulting the coach; nor will any other squad member.

ARTICLE VII Performances and Games.

- Section I Responsibilities of the Varsity Squad:
1. Members will perform at all pep rallies, games, and other assigned activities, unless prior arrangements have been made.
 2. Each member will perform at all varsity football games; home district basketball games, (both boys and girls), and all playoff games.
 3. Members will put up and remove all spirit signs before and after games and pep rallies.
 4. Members will carry out assigned duties, or make arrangements with the coach.
 5. Members will maintain a 70 average in all classes; failure to do so will carry consequences as given in UIL rules.

Section II Behavior.

1. Demonstrate loyalty by making positive, helpful comments, and refraining from negative comments about any participant, coach, or attendee in any event or activity.
2. Refraining from the use of alcohol, drugs, or tobacco products before, during, and after all school events.
3. Do not use any profanity, or improper gestures during school activities.
4. Do not show affection with boyfriend, except the holding of hands during time off.
5. Be helpful to the squads, student body, and the public in being enthusiastic by demonstrating oral and physical interest and spirit at pep rallies, games and all school events.
6. Do not talk during instructions being given by the head cheerleader or coach.
7. For safety, do not wear any jewelry during the practices or at events/games. Hair bows will be worn.
8. Refrain from talking/loitering with anyone during a game or activity where your presence is required as part of the squad.

ARTICLE VIII Attendance.

Section I Practices and Meetings.

1. Daily practices will be set by the coach.
2. No absences or tardies are excused, unless approved by the coach and Principal.
3. Four (4) absences or (4) tardies (or combination) removes a member from the squad for a pep rally and game.
4. Demerits as listed in Article XI are also in effect during summer practice and camp.

ARTICLE IX Performances and Games.

Section I Attendance.

1. Absences: The coach will be notified of the absence before the designated time. All unexcused except for the following:
 - a. Personal illness or accident, with a doctor's note.
 - b. Funeral or death in family (note from one parent).
 - c. Special permission ahead of time from coach and principal.
2. All members of the squad will be required to remain with the squad and perform, except during break time as designated by the coach.

Section II Transportation.

1. All members will ride the school bus to out-of-town games and return the same way. Students may leave an event with a parent with a written note only as allowed by the coach. The only exceptions are for students participating in other UIL activities that interfere with their ability to load the bus with everyone else. Examples would be volleyball or basketball.

2. Male members will ride in the front of the bus and female members will ride in the back of the bus to and from events.

Section III Penalties.

1. An absence from a previously announced activity (unless prior approval is given) will result in a 10-point deduction from the 6 weeks grade and 5 demerits.

Section IV Class Attendance: as regulated by school policy.

Section V Tardies: as regulated by school policy for class: (See Article X for demerits).

Section VI Camp.

1. All cheerleader squad members **must attend summer camp.**
2. Details on time and cost of camp will vary each year. The expense above the money provided by the school is the responsibility of the parents/students.
3. Members must attend all practices scheduled to prepare for camp.

ARTICLE X Grades.

- A. Cheerleaders will receive a grade for Cheerleading P. E.
- B. 25% of the grade will be based on attitude. Attitude is defined as the ability to work with others, how you act and treat the other members of the group, and being respectful to the coach.
- C. 75% of the grade will be based on participation. The attitude and participation grade will be in addition to demerits given. The following will be included in the participation grade.
 1. Participation at practices, pep rallies, games, and any events that the cheer team is included in.
 2. Each member must dress out for all practices.
 3. The Varsity team will be responsible for helping to clean up after the pep rallies and all football games.
 4. The Junior Varsity team will be responsible for helping to prepare for the Varsity pep rallies. (Examples: moving chairs, hanging signs, and helping to clean up after the pep rallies).

ARTICLE XI Demerits.

Demerits.

- A. **Demerits will be given at the discretion of the coach.**
- B. Members will be informed upon receiving a demerit.
- C. Varsity demerits will be totaled from Monday through Friday each week. Junior Varsity demerits will be totaled from Friday through Thursday of each week.

- D. Any member with 4 demerits during the week will not participate in the next pep rally, game, or activity.
- E. Any member with 4 demerits from the beginning of summer practice (including preparation for camp and actual camp) loses the privilege of participating at the first pep rally and game.
- F. Disciplinary demerits: (In force all year) for minor infractions, laps, crunches, or sit-ups may be required for the first offense. (Those with an * cannot be deducted with merits).
 - 1. Not wearing proper practice clothes. (1 demerit)
 - 2. Not doing warm-ups, stretches, or laps as instructed. (3 demerits)*
 - 3. GUM CHEWING IS NEVER ALLOWED! (1 demerit)
 - 4. Breaking behavior rules:
 - a. Making negative remarks (1-3 demerits depending on the severity of the remarks)*
 - b. Profanity or improper gestures. (5 demerits)*
 - c. Not participating in the singing of the “Star Spangled Banner,” Alma Mater and the fight song during the pep rallies or games. (1 demerit)
 - d. Not displaying good sportsmanship at all times. (3 demerits)*
 - e. Wearing of jewelry during practice or any activity (5 demerits)*
 - f. Not participating in and following the rules of an assigned activity. (2 demerits and 5 points deducted from the 6 weeks grade)
 - g. Failure to return forms or money at requested time. (1 demerit each day)
 - h. Inappropriate conduct in any other classroom. Example: Unsatisfactory conduct grade or trip to the office resulting from inappropriate behavior or detention. (3 demerits)
 - i. Failure to comply with rules regarding family and/or friends while involved in cheerleading activities. (3 demerits)*
 - j. Stunting without a coach present. (5 demerits)*
 - k. Not cleaning up after a pep rally or game. (3 demerits).

G. Performance.

- 1. Absence from an activity without prior approval. (5 demerits and 10 points off 6 weeks grade)*
- 2. Part of uniform missing or dirty or not mended. (2 demerits)
- 3. Failure to bring assigned props. (3 demerits)
- 4. Tardy to practice. (3 demerits)*
- 5. Tardy to an activity. (5 demerits)*

**Special Note: All participation demerits will result in an automatic point deduction from the overall 6 weeks grade as follows:

- 1-2 demerits = 3 points off
- 3-4 demerits = 4 points off
- 5 or more = 10 points off

ARTICLE XII Probation and Dismissal

Section I Scholastic Probation: as stated by the state law and/or school handbook or TEA.

Section II **Spirit Group Probation**

- A. Grades: according to the latest ruling by the TEA.
- B. When eligibility is attended, the member will return to the squad.
- C. A member suspended, expelled, given swats or placed in ISS a 1st time by the administration will be suspended for two performances or competitions.

Section III Spirit Group Dismissal

- A. A member may be dropped if he/she receives 15 demerits in the current year, which runs from tryout to tryout and ends the last day of the school. The member will be placed in a physical education class so as not to lose credit for the semester.
- B. **A member may be dismissed whose conduct and standards are not complimentary to the cheerleading squad.**
- C. **Dismissals run from tryout to tryout and not school year to school year!**

Examples:

- 1. Arguing with the coach and other members
- 2. Negative and uncooperative attitude
- 3. Failure to comply with squad regulations
- 4. Fighting
- 5. Any member, failing to meet requirements as given in the constitution, may be dropped by the coach, with the approval of the principal.
- 6. A member shall be dropped for the following reasons: Smoking, or use or other tobacco products, possession or under the influence of drugs or alcohol at any practice, performance, or other function involving the cheerleader organization or at any school related activity at any time during the school year.
- 7. A member suspended, expelled, given swats or placed in ISS a 2nd time by the administration will be dismissed effective immediately.

Article XIII Tryouts

Section I Qualifications and Requirements

- A. A student must be passing all subjects with an average of “C” (70) or better in each subject at last reporting period to participate in tryouts.
- B. A completed application packet must be received NO LATER THAN the specified time given by the coach.
- C. If a candidate has been dropped for disciplinary reasons or quits without the permission of the coach and principal, he/she is ineligible for tryouts until one year from the date of dismissal.
Exceptions: 1. Moves to another school and later returns
 2. Unable to try out due to grades the preceding year
 3. Approval of principal and coach (The student must appeal in writing to the principal and the coach in order to be considered for tryouts.)
- D. Beginning August 2017, if a cheerleader candidate has had an excessive number of absences (truancy) or has been in ISS, received corporal punishment or off campus placement for the school year of tryouts more than one time, their tryout application will NOT be approved!
- E. A student previously removed from two extra-curricular activities will not be allowed to try out for cheerleader in grades 9-11
- F. Fall participation will depend on UIL regulations.

Scoring

- 1. Candidates will earn 100% (see Captain section for exceptions) of their scores for tryouts based on a panel of three judges. Three judges will be chosen from college, NCA, UCA, or other cheer knowledgeable adults. Great care will be taken to acquire the judges from outside our area so as not to give any candidate an advantage.

Section II Captain

- A. Varsity cheer captain will be chosen from a returning member that has a minimum of one year of Gladewater varsity cheer experience and two years of high school cheer experience.
 - 1. Varsity cheer captain candidates will have special requirements to complete including an essay and three letters of recommendation. Each cheer candidate for that school year will vote on captain candidates and those points will be added to the final score for captain.
 - 2. Captain will be chosen by a combination of votes from candidates, an essay contest, overall tryout scores, and coach input.
- B. The coach based on experience, tryouts scores, and leadership experience will choose JV Captain.

The cheer captain will be responsible all duties as assigned by coach.

1. Captain will be responsible for all correspondence between coach and squad regarding games, appearances, practices, and attire.
2. Captain will be responsible for handling member disputes and maintaining squad harmony.
3. Captain will be responsible for assisting coach in making sure the rules are followed.
4. Captain is responsible for making/teaching new squad materials.

Section III Scores

- A. A panel of 3 cheerleading experts will judge cheerleader tryouts. They will use the score sheets created and approved by GHS cheer coach and administration and presented to parents at the parent meeting. Candidates will receive points for jumps, cheer, spirit, dance, tumbling and overall impression.
- B. Procedures and result posting will be at the discretion of the coaches and administration.

Disclaimer:

-This guide to our discipline system is not meant to be inclusive of every, or exclusive of any, situation.

-The guide may be adapted during the year by the coach as needed.

-If the coach deems an offense severe enough, a student may be placed directly on probation or removed from the squad at the sole discretion of the coach.

Cheerleader Constitution Signature Sheet

We have carefully read and understand the Cheerleader Constitution and agree to follow its guidelines. We understand that the coach and principal have the authority to carry out these guidelines as outlined and with discretion. We also understand that cheerleading is not a right but a privilege and those participants will be held to a higher standard of conduct. I understand that anything a participant does in or out of school can have an effect on their membership to this squad. I also understand that decisions are final and will not be changed.

Varsity/JV Cheerleader Member (includes Mascot)

Date

Parent/Guardian

Date

Members and parents should be thoroughly familiar with all the rules for the cheerleader constitution so fewer problems should develop. You should keep a copy of the constitution available to you for referral throughout the year. Any questions or problems should be communicated through the cheer coach.

Approved by:

High School Principal, Cathy Bedair

Date

Cheer Coach, Candi Smith

Date