



Wylie ISD Junior High Drill Team Constitution

I. Purpose

- A. To help support Junior High School spirit activities, to promote school loyalty, to perform and entertain audiences through precision drill team.
- B. To develop character, leadership, and individual responsibility.
- C. To encourage school attendance and high scholastic achievement by its members.

II. Membership

- A. The number of members will be determined by number of girls trying out and their ability level.
- B. Members must tryout every year.
- C. Members must follow the WISD Student Code of Conduct.

III. Absences and Tardies

- A. Every member must be present and on time for all practice sessions, games, performances, camp, pep rallies, etc. Only excuses approved by the director will be accepted and each will be evaluated individually.
- B. Any unexcused absence may result in the member being placed on probation and **may prohibit that member from participation at the next performance.**
- C. Field practice is required in order to perform.

IV. **The Demerit System**

- A. Demerits are the means by which the director(s) determines which members are not upholding their obligations to the team. Demerits are in effect during the school year as well as summer practices and camp, apply to all members.
- B. Squad members will receive demerit(s) for any of the following:
 - 1. Tardy for practice. (1)
 - 2. Not being ready for practice. This includes not being in appropriate clothing and not having requested equipment for practice. (1 for each occurrence.)
 - 3. Not following directions. (1)
 - 4. Chewing gum at practice, games, or pep rally. (1)
 - 5. Not being in full uniform for performance event (including pom-poms, etc.) (1)
 - 6. Being late to a game (for any reason other than those excused by school rules.) (1)
 - 7. Leaving the stadium during a game without permission. (3)
 - 8. Behaving inappropriately at **any** school function. (1)
 - 9. Eating or drinking at games and/or practices without permission. (1)
 - 10. Failure to come to attention on demand. (1)
 - 11. Not being in assigned area at game. (1)
 - 12. Showing lack of spirit or participation. (1)
 - 13. Cell phone use during practice or event without director permission. (1)
 - 14. Showing disrespect to the director or other adults (i.e. choreographer, camp instructors). (3)
 - 15. Any discipline entries on Skyward (1)
- C. Demerit scale for determining probation:
 - 1. Six (6) accumulated demerits = suspension from one performance
 - 2. Twelve (12) accumulated demerits = dismissal from the team and ineligible for tryouts.

V. **Probation**

- A. General probationary considerations.
 - 1. Failure to comply with any regulations as stated in the constitution may result in probation for a member in question until the reason for probation is corrected to the satisfaction of the director(s) and the administrator(s).
 - 2. A member on probation may not participate in performing activities including dressing out and attending all activities.
- B. Scholastic Probation
 - 1. In compliance with the Texas “No Pass – No Play” rule.
 - 2. In compliance with all other Junior High School policies.

VI. Conduct

A. Games/practices

1. Members must remain in the assigned area at all times unless given permission to leave by the director(s).
2. Members are a group and will sit as a group. There will be no visitors beside or within the group.
3. There will be no gum chewing or eating in assigned area, with the exception being, 3rd quarter breaks.
4. Members will participate in the cheer as initiated by the cheerleaders.
5. At football games, all members will cheer/perform as a group until the conclusion of the final game. Members will be released to their parents at that time.

B. Conduct in General

1. Drill team members are direct representatives of the team and are therefore held to a high standard. They are required to adhere to all policies and procedures outlined in the WISD Student Code of Conduct. Inappropriate behaviors include, but are not limited to the following: use of alcohol, drugs, or tobacco products, possession of any prohibited weapon at school or school related event, hazing/initiation, vandalism, assault, displaying photos or language that is inappropriate via the internet, text messaging, or any other form of technology. Drill team members that violate any of the above guidelines shall be subject to the following:
 - a. Upon confirmation of the first violation, the member may be suspended from the team for a period of up to 30 school days.
 - b. A second violation of these rules may result in suspension for a period of up to 60 days.
 - c. A third violation of these rules will result in expulsion from the drill team.

VII. Uniform and Equipment

- A. Payments must be made before a member will receive uniform pieces, or equipment. Deadlines for camp fees must be honored.
- B. Field uniforms will be worn to games.
- C. Uniforms should always be clean, in good condition, and fit properly.
- D. All personal equipment must have the member's name on it.
- E. Each member assumes full responsibility for the care of the uniform and equipment.
- F. All uniforms will be worn by squad members only.
- G. Members will not be allowed to wear the dress uniform outside of any squad function.
- H. The individual team member is responsible for any item(s) that is lost or damaged by that member. The lost or damaged items(s) must be replaced or repaired immediately. This cost is totally at the expense of the individual team member. See your director immediately if any item is lost or damaged.

VIII. **Transportation**

- A. For events within the boundaries of Wylie ISD: Transportation is not provided by the school district and all parents are responsible for getting their children to and from all games and practices on time.
- B. For events outside the boundaries of Wylie ISD: School buses will be utilized. All students must ride to and from the event on the school bus unless extenuating circumstances exist. In such cases, written permission to ride with the child's parent home from the event must be presented to the sponsor and principal a minimum of 24 hours prior to departure. Requests for parent provided transportation must be approved by the principal.

IX. **Tryouts**

- A. Eligibility
 - 1. Open to all incoming 6th graders and current 7th graders in respective attendance zones.
 - 2. A student must be eligible according the TEA/UIIL extra-curricular eligibility rules.
 - 3. Disciplinary records will be checked for each student wishing to try out for the team prior to try out practices. Students who are or have been expelled, suspended, or accumulated five or more days of ISS and/or OSS during the current school year are ineligible to try out for drill team.
 - 4. Candidates wanting to try out for the drill team who have resigned from any WISD drill team during the current or previous year may be allowed to do, solely at the discretion of the director.
 - 5. Candidates that are eligible for tryouts are encouraged to attend all tryout practices.
 - 6. All paperwork must be turned in to the director by stated deadline.
- B. All WISD junior highs will follow same judging criteria.
 - 1. The performance of a candidate will be evaluated and scored by a panel of qualified judges from outside the area.
 - 2. Selection of the members will be based on the sum of the scores of all judges during a closed tryout session.
 - 3. Candidates will be expected to perform a specific required routine at tryouts.
 - 4. No spectators will be allowed during practice or tryouts.

X. **Parental Permission and Responsibility**

- A. Parents must give their written permission for their student to fulfill all responsibilities of being a member of the team. This must be done before they are officially accepted.
- B. Parents must meet all financial obligations involved in having their student be a member of the team.
- C. Parents are responsible for picking up their students promptly at the conclusion of all games and practices. Failure to do so will result in demerits for the member. Continued failure to pick up promptly will be handled on an individual basis by the director(s).

XI. **Practice Sessions Responsibility**

- A. Members must be at practice on time and stay until dismissal by the director.
- B. Members must be at school one-half day in order to be eligible to attend practice or perform that day. Administrator approval to participate required for all exceptions.
- C. Members must be **PICKED UP PROMPTLY AT THE END OF PRACTICE.**
- D. All practices are closed.

XII. **Officers**

To better align with current Junior High Cheerleading and Athletic team policies, Wylie ISD Junior High Drill Teams will not name year-long or season-long officers. Instead, sponsors will strive to provide all second-year members leadership opportunities on a rotating basis throughout the year. These opportunities will be at the sole discretion of the sponsor and principal.

XIII. Limitations on Practices and Performances

To ensure high scholastic achievement, as noted in I.c. above, the following guidelines have been established.

- A. Beginning with the first week of school, practice time will be limited to 8 hours per school week. (School week is defined as beginning at 12:01am Monday and ends at the close of instruction on the last instructional day of the week.) The sponsor will determine the practice schedule. It is recommended that teams practice between 4 and 8 hours per week. Sponsors are encouraged to reduce practice time when possible as performance demands allow. The Junior High Drill Teams in WISD should have similar hours per week of rehearsal.
- B. Teams may have an extended practice on Friday or Saturday if needed, but will be limited to one extended Friday or Saturday per calendar month unless special permission is granted by the principal. A form to request an extra rehearsal should be completed and on file with the principal.
- C. Teams will perform at JH football games as scheduled by the sponsor. The sponsor and principal will determine the number of games scheduled during the season.
- D. Teams may perform at one or more JH basketball games as scheduled by the sponsor. Performance at basketball games is at the sole discretion of the sponsor and principal.

XIV. Competitions

At the discretion of the sponsor and principal, JH drill teams may participate in one or two local drill team contest(s) during the spring semester. Participation in the competition will be optional for all members. (Sponsors will require a commitment to participate before any competition plans are made.) Students choosing to participate in the spring competition(s) will be required to pay an additional amount to cover the expenses. (see XV below)

- A. Teams will be limited to two contests per year.
- B. Contests are limited to the surrounding DFW area (within a 50 mile radius of WISD) and must be single-day events. No overnight travel is allowed.
- C. Students will not be allowed to miss any school time in order to participate in Spring contests.
- D. An optional day trip using provided transportation is allowed, provided that principal and fine arts director approval is granted.

XV. Cost of Junior High Drill Team

In order to keep Junior High Drill Team affordable to all students, the Wylie Independent School District has established a \$800 per student spending limit. Students choosing to participate in the optional spring competition(s) may be required to pay additional fees not to exceed \$400.

- A. Teams may hold a maximum of two fundraisers during the year with approval of the campus principal. One of these may be a “sales” fundraiser and the other may be a “service” fundraiser. No additional fundraising activities by the group or their supporters will be permitted.
- B. Funds raised by students may be used to offset the per student cost.
- C. Additional funds beyond those needed to cover the per student cost may be raised but are limited to an amount determined by Wylie ISD administration for the purpose of paying for the Spring tryouts and other costs associated with the drill team operations.

XVI. Social Activities

From time to time drill team students may wish to participate in team social activities outside the school day.

- A. As much as possible, these activities will be paid for with funds raised through fundraising efforts.
- B. If the social activity requires a small contribution from the students (monetary or otherwise) participation will strictly be optional.
- C. Wylie ISD Junior High Drill Teams will not have formal or informal banquets at the conclusion of the season or year. Awards will be limited to small tokens such as a certificate or comparable recognition.

XVII. Performances

Junior High Drill Team should be a positive learning experience for students who may wish to continue in drill team or other performance activities at the High School level. Because of this, we will strive to value effort, not expertise in the Junior High teams. Students who are selected for membership in the JH Drill Team will be deemed sufficiently skilled to perform at all football games scheduled by the sponsors.

- A. While students will not be cut or “benched” based on performance abilities, they may be benched as a result of absences or the demerit system. (see sections III and IV above)
- B. For the optional spring competition(s), students may be required to tryout for each of the dances entered.
 - 1. These contest tryouts will be evaluated solely by the team sponsor.
 - 2. The team sponsor’s decision will be final.
 - 3. Every effort will be made to ensure that each student who chooses to participate in the spring contest(s) will have the opportunity to perform in the majority of the dances entered.

XVIII. Director and Constitutional Changes

- A. The Constitution is subject to change at any time as deemed necessary with approval from the school principal and other school officials.
- B. The director and/or school administration may enforce other rules as they become necessary during the school year for the benefit of the organization.