

Wolfe City ISD
2012 - 2013
Cheerleading Handbook



**Wolfe City ISD
2011-2012 Cheerleading Handbook
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ARTICLE I: Organization Name

Section 1 : The name of these organizations will be: Wolfe City High School Cheerleaders/Wolfe City Middle School Cheerleaders.

ARTICLE II: Statement of Policy and Goal

Section 1: The following material has been prepared to acquaint both our members and their parents/guardians with the rules and procedures involved in being a Wolfe City Cheerleader. It is necessary that all members understand what is expected of them at all times.

Section 2: The goal of Cheerleading is to exhibit a positive example that exudes pride and excellence in Wolfe City ISD. Members must gain prestige through good conduct, dedication, hard work, and adhere to the regulations set for all members. For this reason, it is necessary to demand the best from each member.

ARTICLE III: Purpose

Section 1: To render service to the school by participation at school and community functions.

Section 2: To foster good fellowship among members.

Section 3: To build spirit and loyalty towards the school and community.

Section 4: To encourage attendance of students and community.

ARTICLE IV: Membership

Section 1: An informational meeting will be conducted by the campus administrator and the campus cheer sponsor during the first week of school at both the Middle School and High School. The purpose of this meeting will be to clarify tryout requirements regarding grades, discipline, and attendance. Any student seeking membership on the cheer squad will be expected to attend this meeting and sign the verification of attendance form on page 10.

Section 2: The High School squad shall consist of the top ten candidates for cheerleader, and any additional candidates whose score is within one standard of deviation of the high score of the top ten candidates; and the top scoring single mascot candidate. The Middle School squad will consist of a maximum number ten cheerleaders and one mascot.

Section 3: Eligible students who will be entering the 9th thru 12th grade may try out for the Varsity squad as a cheerleader or mascot. Eligible students who will be entering the 7th or 8th grade may try out for the Middle School squad as a cheerleader or mascot.

ARTICLE V: Tryouts

Section 1: Candidates for the squad must meet the following requirements:

- a. The student must be eligible at the time of tryouts/signups according to UIL no-pass no-play standards. In addition, the student must have earned a 70 or above in all classes for both the 1st 9-week and the 2nd 9-week grading periods prior to tryouts/signups.
- b. A physical will be required for all tryout candidates.
- c. The student's current year disciplinary record must reflect a standard of behavior that is in compliance with the discipline matrix on the last page of this constitution. Any incident that would have warranted removal from the squad negates the opportunity to try-out.
- d. The student must be able to attend all required activities during the summer. Camp is required.
- e. **The student must return all necessary paperwork and be able to meet all financial expenses. There will be a \$200 deposit fee (cash or money order). Paperwork and deposit will be due by March 2, 2012, 3:30 p.m. in the school office. Students who make the squad will automatically be credited \$200 towards their account. Any student that does not make the squad will get his or her deposit back.**
- f. Students who have not attended Wolfe City ISD since the beginning of the current school year will be required to meet all requirements set forth in the Cheerleader Handbook from the initial WCISD enrollment date. In addition, any incident from previous schools within the current school year that would have warranted removal from the WCISD squad negates the opportunity to try out.
- g. If the student was a cheerleader last year, he or she must not have received probation as a punishment more than twice, been removed from the squad, or quit the squad.

Section 2: All tryout practices are mandatory unless a note is given to the sponsor excusing the student from practice, at least 1 day before practice.

Section 3: Tryouts will be closed to the public; this is to include parents and/or guardians.

ARTICLE VI: Selection

Section 1: The Varsity and Middle School cheerleaders and mascots will be chosen by an impartial, qualified group of judges which will constitute 100% of the selection process. In the case of a tie there will be a tie-breaker to be determined by the judges.

Section 2: The High School squad shall consist of the top ten candidates for cheerleader, and any additional candidates whose score is within one standard of deviation of the high score of the top ten candidates; and the top scoring single mascot candidate. The Middle School squad shall consist of the top 10 scoring cheerleader candidates and the top scoring mascot candidate.

Section 3: The cheerleading squad members will be selected on the basis of chant, cheer, dance, jump technique, and overall performance. There will be no dance for middle

school. Mascots will be selected on the basis of judges' scores for group chant and personal skit performances.

Section 4: A maximum of two head cheerleaders will be selected from the junior and senior recommendation, candidate's grades, and the sponsor's recommendation for the Varsity Squad. If there are no returning qualified candidates, the head cheerleaders will be chosen by tryout scores, teacher recommendation, candidate's grades, and sponsor recommendation.

Section 5: The Middle School head cheerleading responsibilities will be shared between two eighth grade members who were seventh grade cheerleaders the previous year. Selection of head cheerleaders will be based upon tryout scores and the sponsor's recommendation.

ARTICLE VII: Expectations

Section 1: From the time the student is selected as a cheerleader/mascot until the next tryout date, the following expectations will be enforced at all times:

- a. You should be aware of the responsibilities required and the commitment you are making to Wolfe City ISD and the student body. This is a position of responsibility and representation that should not be taken lightly! Your commitment to your Wolfe City squad or team must come before any other commitments you may have or seek to have.
- b. You should cooperate with sponsor, other members of the squad, faculty, administration, and community at all times. You were selected for a purpose, and **your actions should reflect the squad's best interest.**
- c. You must realize that you represent Wolfe City ISD seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day from the day you were selected. You are expected to avoid even the appearance of misconduct.
- d. You must agree to support a decision that has been made by 1) the sponsor, 2) the head cheerleader, or 3) the group. *You may not like the decision, but you must support it.*

ARTICLE VIII: Duties and Responsibilities

Section 1: All duties and responsibilities as a squad member begin once you are selected and do not end until the end of next school year. All members of the squads will be required to attend:

- a. Varsity cheerleaders must cheer at assigned home JV football games and all Varsity football games. Middle School cheerleaders must cheer at all 7th & 8th grade football games.
- b. Varsity will cheer at ALL assigned home district varsity basketball games.
- c. Cheering at any play-off game or special event designated by the sponsor.
- d. Summer practices and scheduled events. Attendance is necessary to be prepared for football season and camp.
- e. Every scheduled practice or performance during the school year. This includes fundraisers, community service projects, homecoming, or any other scheduled event. An unexcused absence will result in a one game probation. The sponsor

is responsible for determining excused absences as necessary.

- f. In the event of a conflict of a school sponsored activity, JV and Varsity cheerleaders must provide 5 days prior notice to the sponsor to be excused.

Section 2: You are responsible for promoting good sportsmanship and school spirit through cooperation with other students, teachers, and administration.

Section 3: You are not to “loan out” any cheerleader/mascot CD, video, routine, or uniforms including camp clothes, outerwear, and accessories.

Section 4: You must not allow work or non-school activities to interfere with scheduled practices.

Section 5: You are responsible for all fundraisers and the money you collect.

Section 6: You will be required to know all cheers and chants before the first game.

Section 7: You may not leave the performance early. You must cheer the entire game. Your responsibility as a cheerleader does not end until the activity is over and all props are put away. The sponsor will be responsible for dismissal.

Section 8: You will be expected to equally share all projects and responsibilities such as fundraisers, making signs, preparing for pep rallies, and cleaning up after pep rallies, games, and fundraisers.

Section 9: The sponsor(s) will determine all practices. Practices are closed to non-members; this includes parents, brothers/sisters, friends, etc.

Section 10: During football games, you will perform during halftime. After the halftime performance, you will be dismissed until the 3rd quarter begins or until the designated time as determined by the sponsor.

Section 11: Cheerleaders must be on the field at the time designated by the sponsor.

Section 12: When the head cheerleader calls a cheer/chant you are to get into formation promptly. **The decisions of the head cheerleader are final.**

Section 13: Additional responsibilities for mascot:

- a. The mascot is responsible for the cleaning, storage, and transportation of the suit.
- b. The mascot is responsible for the purchase of camp clothes, and any other necessities.

ARTICLE IX: Discipline

Section 1: If you miss the last practice before a pep rally or game, you will be eliminated from the pep rally and the game performance for that specific week. This applies whether the absence is excused or unexcused.

Section 2: Tardiness will not be tolerated! You must be on time to community events, practices, and games.

Section 3: Practice is necessary and you must participate wholeheartedly. Halfway going through the motions, words, and stunts is not acceptable.

Section 4: You must not wear jewelry or chew gum at any time during practice or performance.

Section 5: Outside communication (cell phones or in person) with family, friends, etc. during practice or performance will not be allowed. **Cell phones must be turned off.**

Section 6: During a football game when not actively cheering to the crowd, you are expected to pay attention to the game. This means no horseplay, dancing, chatting, or going over cheers. You should be aware of what is happening in the game at all times so that you may cheer accordingly. Varsity members will have a specific formation that they should remain in while watching the game.

Section 7: You must be on your best behavior at all times. The following actions will result in disciplinary consequences:

- a. Misconduct during practice, pep rally, or performances on the field.
- b. Being late for practice or scheduled event.
- c. Not being dressed out for practice or performance.
- d. Missing parts of the uniform to be worn for that performance. You will not perform for that event if something is missing.
- e. Unexcused absence from practice.
- f. Public display of affection. If in doubt, do not do it. Pats on the back for a job well done are acceptable; holding hands, hugging simply for hugging, kissing, etc. is not acceptable. Use your wise judgment.
- g. Any violation of the student code of conduct at the discretion of the sponsor and the campus administrator.

Consequences will depend on the severity of the violation. Please see the Discipline Matrix (p.12) for a more detailed description. If placed on probation, your probation will take effect at the next pep rally and home game. You will attend all practices while on probation. You will attend games during probation; however, you will not travel with the team or wear your uniform, and you will be required to sit with the sponsor. Remember the important part of the word cheerleader is the word leader. You must be a leader at all times. Members must display appropriate behavior both in and out of school.

ARTICLE X: Financial Obligation

Section 1: You are responsible for the cost of one uniform, if applicable, accessories, and camp expenses. **All balances are to be paid in full by May 4, 2012. Any member who is unable to meet the financial obligations by May 4 will not be allowed to participate for the 2012-2013 school year. The following will be the payment schedule:**

Payment 1	March 2	initial deposit	\$200
Payment 2	April 5	minimum payment	\$200
Payment 3	May 4	remaining balance	

Section 2: You are responsible for the cost of any lost or damaged items.

ARTICLE XI: Uniform

Section 1: The sponsor must approve any alteration to the uniform. The uniform must comply with the school dress code. If the uniform is out of compliance, the cheerleader will not be allowed to perform until the appropriate corrections are made in accordance with the sponsor.

Section 2: You should return to the sponsor all school-purchased items in the same condition. All items must be returned by the date designated by the sponsor.

Section 3: You should make sure that all parts of your game uniform and practice uniform are neat and presentable at all times.

Section 4: You should remember that hair, make-up, and smiles are all part of your uniform. Hair must be worn as designated by the sponsor or head cheerleader. Nail polish must be clear or not used at all. This is an important part for the uniformity of the team.

ARTICLE XII: Transportation

Section 1: **You are permitted to ride home with your parents after an away game, with sponsor approval. Your parent must sign you out with the sponsor. No one will be allowed to leave with anyone other than a parent/guardian. There will be no exceptions!!**

Section 2: Transportation to out-of-town activities is provided by the school district. You must ride to the activity in the district provided transportation.

Section 3: When making trips, you will be expected to conduct yourself in a respectful and mature manner at all times.

Section 4: You will be responsible for loading and unloading your own issued props and the things needed for the trip out of town.

ARTICLE XIII: Grades

Section 1: You are required to maintain a grade of 70 or above, in all classes, in accordance with UIL standards.

Section 2: If you have a grade below 70 on any report card or UIL reporting period, you will be placed on probation for three weeks. The 2nd offense due to grades will result in your removal from the squad for the remainder of the school year, and you may not try out the following year.

ARTICLE XIV: Football Sweetheart

Section 1: The middle school football sweetheart will be chosen by a vote of the football players. Two 7th graders will be nominated by the 7th grade football players and two 8th graders will be nominated by the 8th grade football players. The football players will vote on the Sweetheart from the four nominees.

Section 2: The football players will select four nominees for high school football sweetheart from the Varsity cheer squad. The sweetheart will be chosen from the four nominees by a vote of the football players. Four Mr. Football nominees will be chosen from the Varsity football squad by the Varsity cheerleaders. The cheerleaders will vote on Mr. Football from the four nominees.

ARTICLE XV: Letter Jacket

Section 1: Upon completion of two years as a varsity cheerleader, members of the squad with junior standing become eligible for a letter jacket.

Wolfe City ISD Cheerleader Discipline Matrix

Offense	Punishment			
	1 st Offense	2 nd Offense	3 rd Offense	4 th Offense
Picked up late from practice or game	Demerit	Demerit	Probation one game/pep rally	Removal from squad
Wrong clothes	Demerit	Demerit	Probation one game/pep rally	Removal from squad
Wearing jewelry	Demerit	Demerit	Probation one game/pep rally	Removal from squad
Chewing Gum	Demerit	Demerit	Probation one game/pep rally	Removal from squad
Talking or Horseplay	Demerit	Demerit	Probation one game/pep rally	Removal from squad
Other minor offenses as determined by sponsor	Demerit	Demerit	Probation one game/pep rally	Removal from squad
Unexcused absence from practice	Demerit	Probation one game/pep rally	Removal from squad	
Public display of affection	Demerit	Probation one game/pep rally	Removal from squad	
Tardy	Demerit	Probation one game/pep rally	Removal from squad	
Communication with others during event	Demerit	Probation one game/pep rally	Removal from squad	
Misconduct during scheduled event	Demerit	Probation one game/pep rally	Removal from squad	
Disrespect/Inappropriate Behavior	Demerit	Probation one game/pep rally	Removal from squad	
Multiple demerits	4 = probation one game/pep rally	5 = removal from squad		
Failing a class in any nine weeks/UII reporting period	Probation until next reporting period/progress report, if still failing at that time it becomes 2 nd offense	Removal from squad		
Unexcused absences from scheduled event	Probation one game/pep rally	Removal from squad		
Leaving required area without permission	Probation one game/pep rally	Removal from squad		
Saturday School	Probation one game/pep rally	Removal from squad		
Disciplinary ECO	Removal from squad			
Suspension from school or major discipline infraction	Removal from squad			
Tobacco, alcohol, or drugs	Removal from squad			
Unexcused absence from school	Removal from squad			
Probation for any reason 2 times	Removal from squad			

Cheerleader Informational Meeting
Attendance Verification Form

An informational meeting will be conducted by the campus administrator and the campus cheer sponsor during the first week of school at both the Middle School and High School. The purpose of this meeting will be to clarify tryout requirements regarding grades, discipline, and attendance. Any student seeking membership on the cheer squad will be expected to attend this meeting and select one of the options below and complete that portion of the form.

Date of Meeting _____

Option 1:

I am not interested in joining the cheer squad and will not be attending the informational meeting.

Student Signature

Date

Option 2:

I am interested in joining the cheer squad. I attended the informational meeting and understand the tryout requirements.

Student Signature

Date

Updated June 2011