

CONSTITUTION OF THE POINT ISABEL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT CHEERLEADERS

Effective March 6, 2017

ARTICLE I

Name, Purpose, and Interpretation

- A. The names of these organizations shall be:
 - a. The Port Isabel Junior High Cheerleaders
 - b. The Port Isabel High School Cheerleaders
- B. The purpose of this organization shall be to create enthusiasm, select qualified members, elevate school spirit, promote sportsmanship, and promote leadership.
- C. This organization complies with the rules and regulations stated in the PIISD Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct.
- D. The school principal and cheerleader coaches will act as final authority in interpreting the cheerleader constitution. This is a living document, and it may be amended at any point throughout the year.
- E. The campus principal makes any final decisions regarding the enforcement of the constitution.

ARTICLE II

Membership

- A. Port Isabel Junior High School will maintain one cheerleading squad.
 - a. The squad will consist of the top sixteen members selected at tryouts.
 - i. One head cheerleader and one co-head cheerleader will be selected after an interview.
 - b. The total number of cheerleaders on the squad will not exceed sixteen.
 - c. The sixteen cheerleaders on the squad will be the top eight scoring 7th graders and top eight scoring 8th graders at Port Isabel Junior High School for the upcoming school year.
- B. Port Isabel High School will maintain one cheerleading squad.
 - a. The squad will consist of up to twenty members selected at tryouts.
 - i. One head cheerleader and one co-head cheerleader will be selected after an interview.
 - b. The total number of cheerleaders on the squad will not exceed twenty. Tryout scores will depend on a point break system with at least a 20 point gap determining the cutoff score. Not all 20 spots may be awarded. The campus principal's decision, in consultation with the cheer coach, will be final.
 - c. Only students who are currently enrolled in 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th grades in Point Isabel ISD will be eligible to tryout.
- C. The candidate must meet all eligibility requirements to be invited to the mandatory parent meeting. Tryout eligibility requirements include:
 - a. Passing the most recent grading period
 - b. 90% attendance in all classes as of the last tryout sign up day
 - c. No more than two ISS placements during the current school year
 - d. No OCCS or AEP placements during the current school year

ARTICLE III

Duties and Responsibilities of the Head Cheerleader and Co-Head Cheerleader

- A. The head cheerleader will be expected to:
 - a. Be responsible for all actions of the squad.
 - b. Begin all practice session promptly at the designated time.
 - c. Make decisions with the assistance of the members and approval from the cheer coach.
 - d. Inform the cheer coach and cheerleaders of what supplies are needed.
 - e. Understand that the final authority rests with the cheer coach and principal.
 - f. Inform and organize practice schedules with the approval of the cheer coach.
 - g. Aide the cheer coach with informing all cheerleaders of time and place of practices, games, and/or performances before the actual day of the activity.

- h. Plan routines and have the routines approved by the cheer coach at least a week before the performance.
 - i. Include requirements that the cheer coach requests for each routine.
 - j. Begin chants/cheers at pep rallies, games, and or other performances.
 - k. Accept and respect constructive criticism from the cheer coach and choreographers.
 - l. Serve as a role model for all cheerleaders.
 - m. Abide by all the cheerleaders' duties and responsibilities stated in Article IV.
 - n. Arrive 10 minutes early to a report time.
 - o. Be enrolled in the 9th period cheer class (High School Only)
- B. The head cheerleader will be demoted to line member if they receive more than three demerits. After the third demerit, the head cheerleader position will be given to the co-head cheerleader.
- C. The co-head cheerleader will be expected to:
- a. Assist the head cheerleader when needed.
 - b. Support the head cheerleader and make suggestions respectfully.
 - c. Act as head cheerleader when needed.
 - d. Accept and respect constructive criticism from the head cheerleader, cheer coach and choreographers.
 - e. Serve as a role model for all cheerleaders.
 - f. Abide by all the cheerleaders' duties and responsibilities stated in Article IV.
 - g. Arrive 10 minutes early to a report time.
 - h. Be enrolled in the 9th period cheer class (High School Only)
 - i. The co-head cheerleader will be demoted to line member if they receive more than three demerits. After the third demerit, the co-head cheerleader position will be given to the next qualified candidate that meets these requirements:
 - i. Has the next highest total score from tryouts and the interview.
 - ii. Has less than 3 demerits.
 - 1. If the ones selected for the interview don't meet those requirements, it will be an 8th grader with one year of cheer experience at Port Isabel Junior High with the highest score from tryouts.
 - 2. If the ones selected for the interview don't meet those requirements, it will be a junior or senior with two years of cheer experience at Port Isabel High School with the highest score from tryouts.

ARTICLE IV
Cheerleaders' Duties and Responsibilities

- A. Cheerleading squads will be expected to:
- a. Promptly attend and participate at all meetings, practices, performances, and games required of them by the cheer coach.
 - b. Style their hair according to the guidelines given by the head cheerleader or cheer coach.
 - c. Have their phones put away unless given permission by the cheer coach.
 - d. Yell chants/cheers at all required games and/or performances.
 - e. Paint required posters assigned by the cheer coach, and request approval from the cheer coach before painting any unassigned posters.
 - f. Load and unload necessary supplies or equipment before and after a game.
 - g. Notify the cheer coach prior to being absent or tardy for any practice or activity.
 - h. Respectfully accept constructive criticism from another member of the squad, choreographer, and/or cheer coach.
 - i. Respectfully follow directions given by the cheer coach, head cheerleader, and/or co-head cheerleader.
 - j. Submit an excuse from a medical doctor to stop and return to participating if a cheerleader becomes temporarily ill or injured.
 - k. Fully participate in fundraisers.
 - l. Respect all decisions made by the cheer coach.
 - m. Maintain a 90% attendance rate throughout the school year.
 - n. Stay on the track during half time at football games, unless given permission by the cheer coach.

- o. Take restroom breaks when given by the cheer coach. A cheerleader must ask for permission to go to the restroom if there is an emergency.
 - p. Eat before a game or function.
 - q. Be given water/and or a sports drink before a game or function begins.
 - r. Attend summer practices and UCA Cheer Camp with the squad.
 - s. Take responsibility for dividing his/her time between other campus extra-curricular activities by still fulfilling all assigned duties and learning the routines for performances.
 - t. Equally complete their duties assigned to them on a weekly basis according to their groups.
 - u. Not allow vacations or jobs interfere with any practices, duties, games, and/or performances.
 - v. Keep the practice and game areas clean.
 - w. Pay off their camp wear a week before the first day of camp.
 - x. Contact the cheer coach when necessary in a timely and respectful manner.
 - y. Have their parents/guardians contact the cheer coach via email when/if necessary.
- B. Port Isabel Junior High School Cheerleaders will be expected to:
- a. Provide their own transportation to designated away games and choreography practices.
- C. Port Isabel High School Cheerleaders will be expected to:
- a. Be enrolled in the 9th period cheer class, unless there is a scheduling conflict approved by the principal.
 - b. Dress out appropriately for cheer class with the following:
 - i. Sports bra
 - ii. Tarpon t-shirt or cheer camp shirt with short/long sleeves
 - iii. Loose fitting or athletic shorts
 - iv. Cheer shoes
 - v. Cheer warm-ups (as needed)
 - vi. Cheer jacket (as needed)
 - c. Have their parent email the cheer coach if they are going home with them from an away game before departure.
 - d. Keep the cheerleading loft clean and organized.
 - e. Sell at least \$1,200.00 in advertisements for the football program.

ARTICLE V Penalties and Violations

- A. Cheerleaders will be issued demerits for each violation.
- a. Once a cheerleader receives 5 demerits, he/she will be suspended for two academic school weeks.
 - b. If a cheerleader receives 6 demerits, she will be permanently removed from the squad.
 - c. Up to 6 demerits in a calendar year can be worked off by other disciplinary measures at the coach's discretion.
- B. Each demerit is noted by the cheer coach as it occurs, and any cheerleaders issued a demerit sign a notification on a weekly basis.
- C. It is the cheerleader's responsibility to keep track of how many demerits he/she has.
- D. One unexcused absence from a game/performance will equal 3 demerits.
- E. ISS placement any day of the week will equal 3 demerits.
- F. One unexcused absence from a practice will equal 1 demerit.
- G. Cheerleaders may be subject to disciplinary action, including receiving demerits and up to removal from the squad, for any profane language and disrespectful behavior on the internet or electronic devices.
- a. Examples of inappropriate conduct on the internet or electronic devices include:
 - i. Inappropriate/illegal pictures or activities on electronic communication devices (including cell phones).
 - ii. Social media websites including but not limited to Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, or other public forum websites in which inappropriate/illegal language, pictures, and behavior is visible.
- H. A demerit will be issued for each of, but not limited to, the following violations:
- a. Not following any of the duties and regulations stated in Article IV.

- b. Chewing gum or eating food at a practice, game, and/or function.
- c. Wearing the wrong uniform or outfit to any game/function.
- d. Forgetting to bring a part of their uniform and/or accessories. Uniform and accessories include:
 - i. Shell top
 - ii. Under armor
 - iii. Sports bra
 - iv. Skirt
 - v. Bloomers
 - vi. no-show white socks
 - vii. cheer shoes
 - viii. matching bow
 - ix. poms
 - x. megaphone
 - xi. cheer warm-ups
 - xii. raincoat
- e. Wearing jewelry after the cheer coach has instructed the squad to take it off.
- f. Having long or acrylic nails while in uniform.
- g. Arriving to a game without makeup or hair done.
- h. Visiting with family/friends while in uniform during a game, performance, and/or selling programs.
- i. Talking to family/friends while in uniform and a formation at a game/performance.
- j. Not turning in anything asked by the cheer coach on time.
- k. Not notifying the cheer coach when he/she is going to be absent or late to a practice, game, and/or function.
- l. Doing stunts unsupervised.
- m. Talking back or being disrespectful to the cheer coach, administrators, and/or faculty member in the school district.
- n. Not following designated hairstyle for a function.
- o. Excessively talking or not standing at attention while cheering at a game.
- p. Publicly displaying affection with a boyfriend/girlfriend while in uniform, at practice, or on campus. This includes photos on the internet and/or electronic devices where they can be seen publicly.
- q. Using inappropriate language in uniform, at practice, or on campus.
- r. Engaging in any arguments or fighting within the squad or peers at practice, in uniform, and on/off campus.
- s. Failure to follow dress code on campus.
- t. Leaving a practice/function without permission from the cheer coach.
- u. Wearing a uniform without the cheer coach's permission.
- v. Letting other students borrow their uniform, or any clothing that represents cheerleading or the school.
- I. The cheer coach's decision on any issued demerits will be final.
- J. If the majority of the squad fails to listen to directions given by the cheer coach, it will result in consequences such as toe touches, extension show-offs, or other drills/work outs.
- K. If a cheerleader is ineligible due to failing, he/she will still be expected to fulfill all duties and responsibilities, but cannot participate in uniform.
- L. If a cheerleader becomes pregnant, he/she will still be expected to fulfill all duties and responsibilities, but cannot participate in uniform.

ARTICLE VI
Reasons for Dismissal

- A. Point Isabel ISD has a Student Code of Conduct which is in response to requirements of Chapter 37 of the Texas Education Code. All extra-curricular/co-curricular students will adhere to the same requirements set forth by Chapter 37. Participating in extra-curricular/co-curricular programs is a privilege; therefore, students will also be subject to more stringent discipline procedures stated in the Point Isabel ISD Extra Curricular Code of Conduct.

- B. A Point Isabel ISD cheerleader is held at higher standards because they are seen as role models in this community. Therefore, the PIISD Extra Curricular Code of Conduct allows this organization to uphold more strict consequences.
- C. A cheerleader will be dismissed from the squad for any of the following reasons:
 - a. If a cheerleader is caught using, in possession of, or distributing alcohol or tobacco products by PIISD staff and administration, PIISD police, or any other law enforcement agency. This includes posts on social media or electronic devices.
 - b. If a cheerleader is caught using, in possession of, or distributing illegal drugs by PIISD staff or administration, PIISD police, or any other law enforcement agency. This includes posts on social media or electronic devices.
 - c. Attending or remaining at any activity where illegal alcohol consumption is occurring, illegal drugs are present or being used, or where other mood-altering substances are being used. This includes posting on social media or electronic devices that you are in attendance.
 - d. Being arrested for a crime or remaining at any activity where illegal actions are taking place.
 - e. If a cheerleader is placed in In-School Suspension 2 times during the current academic school year.
 - f. If a cheerleader is placed in Out-of-School Suspension or Disciplinary Alternative Education Program Placement.
- D. Any cheerleader dismissed for any reason is not allowed to tryout the following year.
- E. A position will only be filled if a cheerleader resigns or is dismissed prior to the camp wear fitting.

**ARTICLE VII
Competition**

- A. Beginning in 2016 cheerleading is now a sanctioned UIL competition in the state of Texas. Information in regarding the 2017-2018 Spirit competition can be found on the UIL website at www.uil texas.org/spirit.
- B. The UIL will provide a championship for each of the six conferences.
- C. The qualifying round to advance to the state finals will be conducted in the preliminary round at the state venue.
- D. All members of the cheerleading squad will NOT be required to participate on competition squad.

**ARTICLE VIII
Finance**

- A. Cheerleading expenses will not exceed \$500.00 throughout the year.
- B. Each cheerleader must pay for everything needed for cheer camp and uniforms that are not paid for by the school district. All items must be paid for a week before camp, or it will result in dismissal from the squad.
- C. At the camp wear fitting, all cheerleaders need to be prepared to make a \$350.00 cash deposit.
- D. If a cheerleader becomes ineligible or resigns, he/she is still required to pay for any personal cheerleading items that he/she ordered.
- E. Cheerleaders who have not paid by the due date will face disciplinary action.
- F. Fundraiser funds will be used to supplement the organization's needs however deemed necessary with the consent of the cheer coach and approval of the campus principal.
- G. If a cheerleader becomes ineligible or put on suspension, he/she is still required to sell fundraiser items.
- H. If a cheerleader fails to contribute to any fundraising projects, then he/she will be subject to paying the appropriate amount of funds.
- I. There will be no refunds given to a cheerleader that has been dismissed or resigns from the squad.

ARTICLE IX
Uniform

- A. A cheerleader's uniform includes:
 - a. Shell top
 - b. Sports bra
 - c. Under armor
 - d. Bloomers
 - e. Skirt
 - f. No-show white socks
 - g. Cheer shoes
 - h. Matching bow
- B. A cheerleader must carry the following items in her cheer bag to games or functions if he/she is not required to wear/use them:
 - a. Under armor
 - b. Cheer jacket
 - c. Cheer warm-ups
 - d. School-issued raincoat
 - e. Poms
- C. Hair must be long enough for it to be pulled back in a ponytail, and may not pass the waistline for safety purposes.
- D. Only temporary spirit tattoos are allowed to be shown.
- E. Alterations to skirt lengths must be approved by the cheer coach.
- F. Cheerleaders must return all school-purchased uniforms dry cleaned and in good repair, or be responsible for replacement costs

ARTICLE X
Letterman Jacket- Port Isabel High School

- A. Once a squad member has completed two years as a Port Isabel High School cheerleader, they will be eligible to receive a letterman jacket. If the cheerleader resigns or is dismissed from the squad after he/she receives the jacket, he/she will be expected to return the jacket.

