

Argyle Middle School Cheerleader Constitution 2011-2012

(Revised 02-22-11)

Article I: Purpose

The purpose of the Argyle Independent School District Cheerleader Program is to promote school spirit for all male and female UIL sanctioned athletic events. School spirit will be promoted in a way, which is supported by the cheerleading squads' and mascot's physical presence, or, as determined by the cheerleading sponsors and coaches for the sports.

While it is an honor to be elected as an AMS cheerleader/mascot, it is also a great responsibility and time commitment. Please carefully consider everything involved with this leadership role before fully committing yourself for the school year. A candidate who signs their commitment form is stating that cheerleading will be a priority for them over any outside activities and/or work. Special consideration is made for cheerleaders involved and committed to other AMS programs.

A. Middle School Squads

1. The seventh grade squad shall consist of seventh graders scoring above the natural break; up to 12 members.
2. The eighth grade squad shall consist of eighth graders scoring above the natural break; up to 12 members.
3. One mascot will be selected for the middle school and will adhere to all cheerleading rules.
4. A natural break is defined as a point which scores differ significantly.

B. Advisor(s)

1. Organize tryouts, practices, pep rallies, fundraisers and any other activity/functions the squads participate in.
2. Supervise cheerleaders in purchasing uniforms, attending cheerleader camp, and participating in practices and performances
3. Maintain records of cheerleader attendance, participation and financial obligations.
4. Ensure that all school policies regarding cheerleaders and participation in extracurricular activities are enforced.
5. Maintain inventory of school owned equipment.
6. Enforce the cheerleading constitution.
7. Meet with and maintain vendor relationships.
8. Will follow and adhere to the UIL policies, as well as NCA/UCA, for safety and responsibilities.

Article II: Membership and Responsibilities

A. Conduct

1. All cheerleaders are to adhere to the *Extracurricular Code of Conduct* for UIL student-athletes as outlined in the Argyle Secondary School handbook.
2. Cheerleaders must display good conduct in public at all times. You must maintain a positive attitude and conduct yourself in a manner that will reflect positively on your peers and school. Failure to display proper behavior in public will result in a disciplinary action. This also includes but is not limited to all internet sites, chat sites, cell phones and any other technology and media outlets.
3. Uniforms may not be worn in public unless you are traveling to or from a cheerleading activity or participating in one. Remember that your uniform labels you as an Argyle ISD Cheerleader. Any misbehavior in your uniform will immediately reflect badly on the entire squad. Cheerleading uniforms are to be worn by incumbent members of the respective squads only. Uniforms may not be given or loaned to any other person at any time without permission from the cheerleading advisor.
4. Cheerleaders will not be involved in activities that could be punishable as a felony at any time whether on campus or off campus.
5. Smoking, drinking, or use of illegal substances while representing Argyle ISD will not be tolerated. This is cause for direct removal from the squad. Any variation of this violation will be subject to immediate removal from the squad.
6. Any cheerleader who receives disciplinary action from an administrator or a teacher can expect to also have action taken by the sponsor.
7. Any extreme violation of school policies or codes will result in removal from the squad.

B. Participation

1. Members are required participate in all scheduled events. This includes but is not limited to:

athletic events	practices (including summer practices)	spirit activities
competitions	camps	fund raising activities
pep rallies	workshops	special events
community service	pep rally preparation	
2. The sponsor and administration will determine what athletic events are required for the various squads.
3. Please remember that flexibility with schedules is important. At times it will be necessary to call last minute practices or adjust schedules in order to meet the needs of the school functions we help represent.
4. The term of service will run from the time of tryouts through spring sports the following year.
5. For safety purposes, all cheerleaders will be required to participate once a week in a tumbling class.
6. If the sponsor determines that a member does not know the routines or cheers, the cheerleader will not participate until such time the sponsor feels that he / she is ready to perform.
7. If a cheerleader becomes injured or seriously ill and is unable to participate because of a doctor's order, he/she will be granted a leave of absence. A doctor's release is required to resume cheerleading.
8. Members are expected to be on time and in the appropriate uniform for all activities. Only excuses approved by the sponsor will be accepted, and each will be evaluated individually. It is the responsibility of the member to maintain their uniforms. For example, if torn, stained, too small, or too big it is the members responsibility to correct.
9. Except for sudden illness, the advisor (s) must be notified in writing prior to missing any cheerleading activity. Failure to provide a note will result in suspension until a note is received.
10. If a cheerleader has a conflict due to an outside activity unrelated to school such as a competition cheer squad or 4-H, **any school-related activity takes priority.**
 - a. A cheerleader will **only** be excused from a game, practice, activity, or pep rally if:
 1. Medical reasons with doctor's notice
 2. Academic reasons
 3. Death in the family
 4. Other school activity (When school events conflict, the sponsors will determine appropriate student participation.)
 5. Pre Administrative Approval
 - b. Remember if you are sick without a fever, vomiting, or no doctor's noted, you must still come to practice and watch. You can learn a lot from just watching.

C. Summer Activities

1. All scheduled practices and camp attendance are mandatory.
2. Members must be available for practices, fundraisers and other activities during the summer.

D. Practices, Performances & Games

1. Members are expected to be on time and in the appropriate uniform for all activities.
2. Members must remain in the assigned game area unless given permission by the advisor(s).
3. Members should not socialize or visit with friends while performing;
4. Food, drinks, or gum will not be permitted during a game or performance.
5. Use of cell phones is prohibited during practice, activities, or performances.
6. No building, jumps, and gymnastics may be done without a sponsor present.
7. Members are NOT allowed to wear jewelry. Including earrings, necklaces, anklets, bracelets, or any other piercings. Also no paper, plastic or yarn jewelry is to be worn either.
8. Members are NOT allowed to wear colored nail polish and/or fake nails.

E. Financial Obligations

1. Members will be responsible for furnishing any necessary uniforms, clothing and equipment not provided by the district.
2. Students who choose to personalize school owned equipment would be responsible for the cost of replacing the equipment.
3. All financial obligations regarding cheerleading must be met by the assigned date or the cheerleader will not perform.
4. All camp fees are to be paid in full before attending camp.
5. A projected cost for the different squads will be provided to all prospective cheerleaders prior to tryouts.

F. Travel

1. When travel is required, all cheerleaders are expected to travel as a team with the sponsor in a school designated vehicle.
2. Members will meet at the bus or designated place at the designated time.
3. All cheerleaders must return on the assigned bus unless direct contact by the parents has been made with the sponsor; and documentation has been signed and provided to the sponsor before departure to the designated location.

Discipline Procedures

See Merit/Demerit Sheet

Article III: Tryouts and Eligibility

A. Eligibility

1. The candidate must meet one of the following residential criteria:
 - be currently enrolled in Argyle ISD
 - reside in Argyle ISD territory & attend Argyle Middle School in the coming fall
 - provide proof of residence for the coming fall in Argyle ISD territory
(contract for house, lease agreement for house or apartment, or other document accepted by district)
2. The candidate must sign the confirmation of rules and regulations, along with all additional forms and turn them in by the established deadline.
3. In order to participate in the tryout process, candidates must be academically eligible as defined by UIL policies and guidelines.
4. Any student who has been suspended, assigned to DAEP or assigned to I.S.S.(in-school-suspension), except for tardies, during the current year is not eligible to try out.
5. A parent or guardian must attend the spring parent meeting prior to the tryouts and sign all forms, releases, and agreements supplied to each candidate before the tryout date. If a parent or guardian fails to attend the meeting due to extenuating circumstances, he/she assumes responsibility for understanding all information and rules in the handouts.
6. A student who resigned or was dismissed from a squad is not eligible for tryouts the following year.
7. If a student has already committed to another AISD activity, they may not terminate that commitment to become a part of cheerleading.
8. All financial obligations must be met. Including past cheer balances, library fines, parking fines, class dues, etc.
9. Must have a current physical on file before attending the Try Out clinic.

B. Tryout Procedures

1. Information and Materials
 - Candidates for cheerleader will pick up tryout packets when announced and sign up as indicated.
 - There will be a mandatory parent/ candidate meeting prior to tryout clinic.
 - Tryout packets will be handed out at the parent meeting and must be completed and turned in by the designated deadline.
 - For the day of tryouts, candidates will wear a plain white shirt tucked in at the waist, white sports bra, red or black shorts, white tennis shoes, and plain white socks.
 - Hair must be pulled up and bangs out of face. Ribbons and bows are allowed.
 - No jewelry will be worn, including paper, yarn and plastic.
2. Tryout Clinic
 - The clinic will be closed to the public.
 - The tryout clinic will be held the week of tryouts. Dates will be included in the tryout packet as well as posted and announced at school.
 - High School or eighth grade cheerleaders will conduct the middle school clinic.
 - Candidates must attend all practice sessions and be on time. A cheerleader will only be excused from this practice for Medical reasons with a doctor's note, Academic reasons, Death in the family, other school activity, or Pre Administrative Approval. Failure to do so will result in the student not being eligible to try out.
 - All candidates will be taught the tryout material during the clinic.
 - Neither the high school cheerleaders nor the sponsor's designee may work with a potential candidate at any time outside the tryout clinic. Should this occur, both candidates will be disqualified from trying out.

- For the tryout clinic a candidate must wear a sports bra, t-shirt, shorts, and athletic shoes. Hair must be pulled up and bangs out of face.
 - NO jewelry will be worn.
3. Tryout Event
- Tryouts will be closed to the public. The only people present will be the judges, the sponsor(s), and campus administration.
 - All candidates will draw a number to determine the group and the order in which they will tryout. There will be no trading numbers or all candidates involved will be disqualified from trying out.
 - Candidates will perform a cheer, tumbling, jumps and a dance in the presence of the judges on the actual tryout day. No pre recorded performances will be accepted.
 - Mascot candidates will prepare a skit to perform for the judges.
4. Selection and Announcement
- The final score will be based on the judge's scores plus the coach evaluations. There will be three judges. The candidates with the highest scores before the natural break will be named to the appropriate squads.
 - Results will be sent via email the afternoon of the tryout day after 5 p.m.
 - A parent/guardian will have five school days, after the actual tryout day, to request to see their child's score. The request must be in writing to the campus principal.

Judges Point Sheet

Crowd Appeal	10
Tumbling	5
Jumps	10
Projection	5
Cheer Technique	10
Dance Technique	10
Coach Evaluation	25
Total Points	75