

KELLER ISD
MIDDLE SCHOOL
CHEERLEADING
CONSTITUTION

2023-2024

THE CONSTITUTION OF CHEERLEADING
FOR
KELLER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Introduction

.....3

I.	Purpose	3
II.	Membership & Eligibility	3
III.	Tryouts for 8 th Grade	4
IV.	Tryouts for 7 th Grade	5
V.	Participation Requirements	5
VI.	Grades	6
VII.	Attendance	6
VIII.	Uniforms and Equipment	7
IX.	Finances and Fundraising	7
X.	General Conduct	8
XI.	Benching, Probation, Suspension, Dismissal, and Resignation	8

CONSTITUTION OF THE KELLER ISD MIDDLE SCHOOL CHEERLEADERS

Each member of the Keller ISD Middle School Cheerleaders must adhere to the following articles. It must be understood that as an athlete in this cheer program, the student becomes a representative of the Keller ISD and its Middle School and each athlete must maintain high moral and ethical standards.

Membership may be terminated any time for unacceptable standards.

ARTICLE I PURPOSE

The purpose of the Keller ISD Middle School Cheerleaders is to create and promote loyal school spirit, encourage quality performance and high academic standards. Through the development of spirit and cheer technique, leadership, cooperation, self-discipline, and sportsmanship in each individual athlete, the KISD middle school cheerleaders will encourage their student body and their community through support in the promotion of athletic events and activities which will inspire the athletes to perform to the best of their ability. We, the KISD middle school cheerleaders hereby pledge our time, our ability, our minds and hearts to that purpose. We agree to abide by the rules and regulations as set forth in this constitution.

ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP AND ELIGIBILITY

- Section 1. Anyone who meets the set qualifications will not be discriminated against because of race, gender, creed or educational handicap.
- Section 2. Prospective candidates for the 7th grade team shall be entering grade 7. Prospective candidates for the 8th grade team shall be entering grade 8. Mascot(s) shall adhere to the same rules and regulations as the cheerleaders, as he/she/they are considered as part of the cheer program.
- Section 3. Requirements: Prospective candidates must meet the following requirements.
- A. Must not have missed more than 10% of school days as set by state standard.
 - B. All returning members must have a zero balance unless prior approval has been received by campus administration.
 - C. A prospective candidate must reside with his/her parent/legal guardian within the attendance zone of the KISD high school they are zoned to attend or show proof of future KISD residency within the appropriate attendance zone or has a transfer request on file with KISD. If transfer is not approved by the date tryout paperwork is due, then the prospective candidate must be evaluated at their home campus. If the transfer gets approved and the candidate makes the team of the home campus, they are eligible to be re-evaluated by the coach at the transfer campus for possible placement on the appropriate team. If the transfer gets approved after tryouts and the prospective candidate did not make the squad at their home campus they are ineligible to tryout for any KISD Middle school campus for the current year.
- Section 4. Conduct Grade: A candidate who has received more than one "N" or "U" prior to evaluations and has been selected as a cheerleader will enter the cheer program on probationary status. If he/she receives another "N" or "U" at the time of any grading check for the remainder of the year, he/she will be subject to disciplinary actions.

- Section 5. Additional Probationary Considerations: Tryout eligibility of a candidate who has been dismissed or has resigned from the cheer program for any reason will be at the discretion of the coach or administrator. Any candidate allowed to tryout under these circumstances will enter the cheer program with a signed probationary contract as determined by the coach and the principal.
- Section 6. Mandatory Tryout Meeting: All candidates and their parent/guardian must attend, and sign in, at one of the mandatory tryout orientation meetings. Failure to attend will result in the candidate's loss of ability to tryout.
- Section 7. Returning Members: All former athletes will submit completed paperwork and tryout each year. No one can be automatically reinstated.
- Section 8. Evaluation Packet/ Required Forms: All candidates must print, complete, and file required forms prior to or by the designated date and time, in order for a candidate to qualify for consideration on any team.
- Section 9. Attendance: A candidate must attend all evaluation practice sessions.
- Section 10. Candidates are expected to attend school in accordance to the KISD attendance requirements in order to be eligible to participate in the tryouts.

ARTICLE III TRYOUTS FOR 8TH GRADE

*Only candidates, coaches, administrators, and trainers will be allowed in the building where tryouts are being held. Failure to comply will result in the candidate's disqualification.

- Section 1. Qualifications: Each candidate must fulfill all requirements before he/she may participate.
- Section 2. Tryout Attire: Each candidate must wear solid shorts (color may be selected by the coach), the official tryout shirt (color may be selected by the coach), white tennis shoes, white socks, an identification number and hair must be worn in a ponytail. A bow may be worn. Clothing and accessories may not display any lettering or emblem indicating prior cheerleading experience. No skirts or jewelry allowed.
- Section 3. Adjudication:
- A. Tryouts will be held on dates designated by the cheer coaching staff.
 - B. Candidates will be evaluated by the middle school cheer coaching staff.
 - C. Each candidate will display skills of one cheer, one dance, jumps, stunts and optional tumbling (preferably both standing and running).
 - D. The coach's evaluation will be 100% of a candidate's overall tryout score, and the team size will be determined by the coach.
 - E. A sample copy of the tryout rubrics will be provided online, prior to the tryout.
- Section 4. Announcements of New Squads:
The time, date and location of the announcement will be established by the cheer coach, prior to the evaluation.
- Section 5. New Team:
The new team will report for practices/uniform ordering on the designated day(s)

following evaluations.

ARTICLE IV TRYOUTS FOR 7TH GRADE

*Only cheerleaders, coaches, administrators, evaluators, and trainers will be allowed in the building where the evaluations are being held. Failure to comply will result in the squad member's disqualification and need for re-evaluation.

Section 1. Qualifications: Each candidate must fulfill all requirements before he/she may participate.

Section 2. Tryout Attire: Each candidate must wear solid shorts (color may be selected by the coach), the official tryout shirt (color may be selected by the coach), white tennis shoes, white socks, an identification number and hair must be worn in a ponytail. A bow may be worn. Clothing and accessories may not display any lettering or emblem indicating prior cheerleading experience. No skirts or jewelry allowed.

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- E. A sample copy of the tryout rubrics will be provided online, prior to the tryout.

Section 4. Announcements of New Squads:
The time, date and location of the announcement will be established by the cheer coach, prior to the evaluation.

Section 5. New Team:
The new team will report for practices/uniform ordering on the designated day(s) following evaluations.

Section 6. Level Squads:
Teams will be chosen based on skill level and evaluation, at the coach's discretion. After team placements, if an athlete from a lower team shows an increase in ability, the athlete can be moved up to a higher level team at any time during the season, at the coach's discretion. If there is an ineligible athlete, behavior issues, and/or if skills of an athlete fall below their current level, the coach can move the athlete to another team until the issue is resolved, or when skills improve. The athlete can also be permanently moved down a team due to issues listed above, at the coach's discretion.

ARTICLE V PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Section 1. Schedule Conflicts: Athletes must participate in all activities, in which the cheer program is involved, pending eligibility status. If you are involved in organization/activities outside of your school cheer team it is your responsibility to communicate your schedule to your cheer coach and your conflicting organization with no less than two weeks' notice.

- Section 2. Events during school breaks: All athletes are required to attend cheer camp during summer break and practices/events during all school holidays as designated. Failure to attend all required events may result in removal from the cheer program. Schedules will be provided as early as possible and families are expected to plan family vacations and functions accordingly.
- Section 3. Attendance: Athletes may not leave any function for any reason other than illness, injury or death in the family. Prior to departure, a written note should be submitted in advance to the coach and must state that the student is leaving with the parent/guardian, the time and date of departure, the reason for early departure and that the cheer coach, the school, and Keller ISD is released of all responsibility.
- Section 4. Competition: Competition is required for all cheerleaders of the program, at the coach's discretion. Every program member may be a part of the competition team, whether that is as an alternate or a team member. Athletes selected as alternates are considered true members of a competition team. The coaches will determine the placement on the competition teams based on skills, balanced stunt groups, size guidelines of the competitions, and cheerleader behavior. Changes in placement may occur at any time due to injury, illness, loss of skills, excessive absences, or change in team numbers. It is the goal of the coaches to create strong balanced teams for competition purposes. Competition teams may attend 1-3 events, only under the supervision of the coach. The coach reserves the right to mix 7th and 8th grade cheerleaders for the competition. Any athlete that quits the competition team will be removed from the cheer program.. Type of competition is at the coach's discretion. Not attending competition practices and/or fulfilling their commitment to the competition team may also result in being removed from the cheer program.
- Section 5. Mandatory Attendance:
- A. Summer camp
 - B. Home football games
 - C. Basketball games (7th and 8th)
 - D. Pep Rallies
 - E. Choreography
 - F. Competitions and competition practice, as scheduled by the coach
 - G. Special performances, as designated by the coach.
- Section 6. The coaches may bench a cheerleader at any time they deem necessary for safety and disciplinary reasons.

ARTICLE VI GRADES

- Section 1. Academic Eligibility: Cheer coaches will conduct grade checks at the times designated by the official KISD Eligibility Calendar and Guidelines as set forth by University Interscholastic League. Any athlete whose recorded grade in any course at the time of an eligibility grade check is less than 70 will become ineligible to participate in any team event as set forth by the UIL eligibility calendar. Ineligible students must continue to fulfill fundraising requirements. If the academically ineligible athlete attends a designated activity, he/she is not allowed to wear any part of the chosen team uniform to school or activities during the period of ineligibility.

ARTICLE VII
ATTENDANCE

- Section 1. Excused Absences: The status of an absence or tardy will be determined by the coach as defined by Texas state law. Cheerleaders must limit their number of excused absences, as performance privileges may be revoked for excessive absences. Absences or tardies from any cheerleading activity or event should only be excused for the circumstances listed below.
- A. Personal illness or accident
 - B. Death in the family
 - C. Special school activities with advanced approval from the cheer coach.
- Section 2. Unexcused Absences: Absences for reasons other than those listed above will be unexcused. **Work**, doctor or dental appointments **must not interfere with practices or performances and will be considered unexcused.** Any unexcused absence could affect performance eligibility.
- Section 3. Unexpected Absence Procedures: In the unexpected event of an illness, accident, or death in the family, **a parent must contact the coach prior to practice.** Leaving a message with an officer or secretary **will not** be sufficient. A parent note and/ or doctor's note must be submitted to the coach upon the cheerleader's return to school or practice. Two consecutive absences will require a doctor's note.
- Section 4. Expected Absence Procedures: At least two weeks prior to an event and/or a practice, athletes must submit a written request for an expected absence.
- Section 5. Excused academic absences do not necessarily equate to an excused cheer absence.
- Section 6. Athletes are expected to attend school all day in order to maintain eligibility for participation in an organizational activity with coach's discretion.
- Section 7. Athletes who suffer injuries or illness must consult a doctor or trainer within 24 hours. If an injury or illness hinders or limits an athlete's performance and/or practice capabilities, that athlete will be required to provide doctor's note outlining the specific limitations. Injured athletes are still expected to attend all events and practices in accordance with their doctor's notes. An athlete with a concussion must follow the KISD concussion policy until the athlete is cleared to participate under the standards set forth by the KISD concussion policy.

ARTICLE VIII
UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

- Section 1. Athletes are responsible for purchasing uniforms, shoes, camp/practice clothing and other necessary clothing and accessories as required. All personal items must be labeled with the athlete's name. If a uniform piece is lost or damaged, the athlete is responsible for ordering and paying for a replacement.
- Section 2. Uniforms will not be worn anywhere other than scheduled events. The cheer coach must approve the use of any part of the KISD cheerleading uniforms, clothing and supplies other than at scheduled events. Failure to return all items in good condition may result in ineligibility to tryout and/or attend banquet.

Section 3. All cheerleader clothing, uniforms, jackets, etc. are to be worn by current KISD cheerleaders only. Cheerleaders may not loan out any KISD cheerleading apparel to any non-cheerleaders. Students who have been dismissed or voluntarily removed from the cheer program may not wear cheerleading apparel in public, under any circumstances.

ARTICLE IX FINANCES AND FUNDRAISING

Section 1. Financial Obligations: Is under the supervision of the middle school coach and policies and expectations shall be made known at the Mandatory Tryout Meeting. Failure to make timely payments may result in probationary status or suspension and could lead to dismissal.

Section 2. Fund-raising: The coaching staff will organize fund-raisers to help with team expenses. Athletes will be required and their parents strongly encouraged to participate in team fund-raisers.

Section 3. Activity Account: Monies profited from team fundraisers will be held in the Middle School 7th and 8th Cheerleading Activity Account to offset the expenses incurred by the teams during the school year. The dispensing of these monies is at the discretion of the cheer coach.

Section 4. Insufficient Funds: If a check is returned insufficient, it will be the athlete's responsibility to pay any necessary bank charges immediately by cash or money order. Receipt of a second insufficient check will require that all payments be made by cashier's check or money order, thereafter. If it is a check collected in a fund-raising event, it is the member's responsibility to collect the funds due or the amount due will be deducted from his/her personal profits.

ARTICLE X GENERAL CONDUCT

Section 1. Certain standards are necessary for the integrity and reputation of any organization. Each athlete should be a leader within the school and should set a good example before the public at all times. Athletes on the cheer teams are expected to have and maintain a character above reproach. Personal appearance, habits and actions of which there can be no criticism, are required. Each member must be aware that his/her conduct reflects on the image of the team, the entire cheer program, your middle school and ultimately KISD.

Section 2. All cheerleaders/mascots will abide by the Keller ISD Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct, in addition to the Middle School Student Handbook, and this Cheerleading Constitution. Athletes must also follow the written and oral directives of all KISD employees.

Section 3. KISD rules will be strictly applied at any time that the cheerleaders/mascots are officially representing KISD. This includes all school-sponsored activity or while on a school-sponsored trip.

Section 4. Any inappropriate actions, including representation on social media, that do not uphold the standards and expectations of the KISD cheer program may be subject to disciplinary

actions by the coach.

- Section 5. The interpretation of all rules is the sole right of the coach, the principal, and the Athletic Director. They have the right to add or change those things they feel must be changed for the benefit of the cheer program.

ARTICLE XI
BENCHING, PROBATION, SUSPENSION, DISMISSAL, AND
RESIGNATION

Section 1. Benching:

- A. Benching is the temporary removal from performing or participating at a game or performance, at coach's discretion.

Section 2. Probation:

- A. Probation is a designated period of time in which the athlete may participate in limited organizational activities as determined by the cheer coaches. A probation contract may be written for the member who should be notified of his/her probationary regulations.

Section 3. Suspension:

- A. Suspension eliminates the athlete from participation at cheerleading functions and excludes participation in performances and special events; however, the athlete is required to participate in practice sessions. If the suspended athlete attends a designated activity, he/she is not allowed to wear any part of the chosen team uniform to school or activities during the period of suspension.

Section 4. Dismissal:

- A. Dismissal involves the loss of membership from the cheer program. All school-issued equipment **and uniforms must be returned and all financial obligations must be cleared within one week of dismissal.** Once an athlete has been dismissed, he/she loses all privileges of the cheer program. Students may not wear any part of the KISD cheerleading uniform or additional clothing, jackets, etc. in public.

Section 5. Resignation:

Resignation shall be defined as a choice made by the individual athlete that he/she no longer desires participation in the cheer program. Resignation procedures involve a conference with the cheer coach and a letter of resignation from the resigning athlete, signed and dated with the parent/guardian signature. **All uniforms, clothing and equipment must be turned in and financial obligations must be cleared at the time of resignation.** Students may not wear any part of the KISD cheerleading uniform or additional clothing, jackets, etc. in public. **The athlete will be held financially responsible for any and all items already ordered. No refunds will be made.**

- Section 6. Once resignation or dismissal from the cheer program occurs, for reasons for other than academic, reinstatement will not be allowed during the current year. Upon resignation or dismissal, the former athlete loses all privileges of a cheerleader and may not be a guest at cheerleading functions. Evaluation eligibility for the following year will be established only at the discretion of the cheer coach and administration and will incur the acceptance of strict guidelines and a probationary status. Before the evaluation, the terms of probation are to be agreed upon by the student, the parents, the cheer coach, and the

on-site administrator.