

Kirbyville High School

Cheerleading/Mascot Handbook
2019-2020



Purpose:

The purpose Kirbyville CISD cheerleaders is to promote school spirit and a positive school climate by participating at athletic events and extracurricular activities as deemed appropriate by the campus administration and cheer coaches. Cheerleaders are expected to be positive role models, serving as high school ambassadors at school, in the district, and community.

General Duties:

Cheerleaders/Mascots should be prepared to make a serious commitment in time and energy. Cheerleaders/Mascots are expected to make a commitment to the activity from the time the new squads are announced to the time the next tryouts have been completed. **Cheerleading is a year round commitment.** Failing to maintain this commitment may be grounds for dismissal from the team.

1. All cheerleaders/mascots will:
 - a. Maintain a **passing grade in order to cheer. Cheerleaders/mascots will follow UIL rules** when dealing with no pass/no play.
 - b. Abide by all rules in the KCISD Student Handbook, and KHS Cheerleading/Mascot Handbook.
 - c. Attend all mandatory sponsor/coach scheduled events. Including UIL Texas State Spirit Championship (January)
 - d. Support interscholastic athletics.
 - e. Learn and be able to perform all expected material.
 - f. Be self-motivated and willing to participate in activities with a positive and cheerful attitude.
 - g. Have self-respect and present good appearance. All cheerleaders must dress appropriately and in accordance with KHS dress code at all times.
 - h. Be a good representative of KHS cheer and set a good example for others. Have respect for other teammates, as well as other students on campus and across the district. As a cheerleader, you have an obligation to uphold standards set by the school.
 - i. Understand as a cheerleader at Kirbyville CISD, you have received an honor and a privilege – not a right.

Attendance:

1. All Cheerleaders/Mascots must attend all events.

Excused Absences: Absences or tardiness from any cheerleading activity or event shall **only** be excused for the circumstances listed below.

- A. Personal illness or accident with **doctor excuse.**
- B. Death in family.
- C. Special school activities with advanced approval from the cheer coach.

Unexcused Absences: Absences for reasons other than those listed above, will be unexcused. Any unexcused absence could affect performance eligibility.

- A. Missing practice/performance due to work/job will be **UNEXCUSED**. You will need to make work schedule around cheer practice/performance schedule.
- B. Missing performance/practice due to school disciplinary action (detention, ISS, Wildcat U, etc.) is automatically unexcused.
- C. An excused absence can be changed to an unexcused absence if a cheerleader/mascot is seen in the community without his/her parent during a practice/performance.

Expected Absence Procedure: Coaches must be notified at least two weeks prior to an expected absence for an event and/or practice.

2. Cheerleaders/mascots who suffer injuries or illness must consult a doctor or trainer within 24 hours. If an injury or illness hinders or limits cheerleaders/mascot performance and/or practice capabilities, that cheerleader/mascot will be required to sit out until cheerleader/mascot provides a doctor's release from restrictions.
 - A. Coaches may bench a cheerleader at anytime they deem necessary for safety and/or disciplinary reasons.
3. Cheerleaders/mascots must also commit to attend summer camp.
 - A. **Camp is mandatory.**
 - B. All camp routines, sessions, scheduled activities are mandatory.
4. All cheerleaders/mascots are expected to be on time for all games and practices.
5. If a cheerleader/mascot is absent from school, he/she is **still required to notify the sponsor of an absence from practice/performance.**

Conduct

It must be understood that as an athlete of this cheer program, the student becomes a representative of Kirbyville High School Cheer and he/she holds a very influential position in her relationship with the student body. She is looked upon by parents and the public as an example of ALL KHS students. In such a capacity, highest standards must be met and maintained.

1. Public display of affection is not allowed during school functions, during school hours, on campus or anytime when wearing uniform or any item that identifies you as a member of the cheerleading/mascot squad.
2. Disrespect is not acceptable. You must show respect to all members of the squad, sponsor and teachers. Any problems must be discussed with the sponsor, not other members of the squad.
3. Cheerleaders convicted of civil or criminal laws will be dismissed from the squad.
4. School conduct is to be above that of other students. Repeated referrals for discipline will result in dismissal from the squad.
5. Placement in ISS will result in cheerleader being benched for next scheduled performance.
6. If a cheerleader/mascot is placed in DAEP, he/she will be dismissed from the squad.
7. Cheerleader placed in DAEP during tryout year will NOT be eligible to tryout.
8. Dismissal from the program is for one calendar year from the date of dismissal. If further violations occur within the period of dismissal, the period will be extended for one more calendar year.
9. Any inappropriate actions, including representation on social media, that do not uphold the standards and expectations of the KCISD cheer program, may be subject to **disciplinary actions and/or dismissal from squad.**
10. **No cell phones** during camp, practices, games, performances, and scheduled cheer events.
11. **Tryouts – must not have more than 2 placements in ISS or been assigned DAEP during the current school year.**

Practices and Performances:

1. All cheerleaders are required to attend all practices. Practices are held at the discretion of the coaches.
2. Practices will consist of physical training (running and strength training) in addition to cheer routines and stunts. Cheerleaders are expected to train during practices and continue during break periods from school.
3. Cheerleaders who miss practice will be responsible for the routines that were practiced and/or changed. If the cheerleader is not prepared, it is possible he or she will be (benched) during particular performances during a scheduled event.
4. Cheerleaders must know all cheers/chants/dances sidelines.
5. Equal participation is required during sign painting, locker decorating or any other cheerleader/mascot activity.
6. Cheerleaders are expected to be in full uniform whether at games or pep rallies. Mascots are expected to be in full costume. If you are not in full uniform/costume you will not perform. (Bow to Toe)
7. Each cheerleader/mascot is responsible for his/her uniform/costume. If the uniform/costume is lost or damaged, the cheerleader/mascot must pay to replace it. The cheerleader/mascot is still responsible for attending the events with his/her squad. She/he will not be able to cheer until the uniform/costume has been replaced.
8. Appearance (Games and Practices)
 - Makeup must be a minimal
 - No dark lipstick
 - No fake or long nails allowed
 - No jewelry!!!
 - Hair must be up and away from face. Bow must be worn regardless of hair length.
 - Uniform/costume must be clean and unwrinkled
 - Must wear sports bra. (black or nude color)
 - Cheerleading shoes must be worn during practices and performances.
9. No gum chewing/candy at any performances or practice.
10. Cheerleaders/Mascots are required to cheer/perform at **ALL pep rallies, sponsor selected games, or events**. This includes football games that are scheduled during school holidays. No one event is any less important than another and should be treated with the same sense of responsibility.
11. There will be no socializing at practice or at games with other members of the squad, boyfriends/girlfriends, spectators, etc.

12. Cheerleaders/mascots are required to help with all Paw Pack events, Mini Cheer Clinic, Are You As Fit As A Wildcat, and Fundraisers.
13. All practices are closed.
14. Out of town games: Cheerleaders/mascots and necessary equipment must be on the bus at the designated departure time. Cheerleaders/mascots are solely responsible for any and all equipment needed for the game.
15. Cheerleaders/mascots may only ride home with their parent/guardian from out of town games. Cheerleaders/mascots needing to ride home with someone other than their parent/guardian must handle this request through the principal's office. Alternate Form of Travel form must be signed by principal and given cheer coach prior to trip.
16. Cheerleaders/will have half-time off and must report to END ZONE with poms at designated time as set by coach.
17. Mascots will stay in costume the entire game.
18. Cheerleaders/mascots will be expected to understand the game situation and cheer accordingly.
19. Remember: 100% effort is expected 100% of the time!

Uniforms

1. Cheerleading uniforms are objects of pride and deserve the best care. They should be worn with respect and dignity. Each cheerleader/mascot must keep his or her uniforms in perfect condition.
2. A uniform will be provided by the school, at the end of the cheer season these are to be returned to the school cleaned and undamaged failure to return uniforms will result in a fee being charged. District owned uniforms should not be altered without coach approval.
3. Each cheerleader/mascot is responsible for his/her uniform/costume. If the uniform/costume is lost or damaged, the cheerleader/mascot must pay to replace.
 - a. The cheerleader/mascot is still responsible for attending the events with his/her squad.
 - b. She /he will not be able to cheer until the uniform/costume is replaced.
4. NO one other than cheerleaders will be allowed to wear any part of a current cheerleader uniform. This includes warm-ups, midriff, and leggings.
5. Cheerleaders should smile; have excellent behavior and good manners while wearing the uniform.

Miscellaneous

1. Cheerleaders/mascots must make scheduled supply payments on time. Failure to do so will result in dismissal from squad.
2. One fundraiser will be held for all cheerleaders to participate. Money will go into the general fund. One fundraiser will be offered for individual bills. Individual fundraiser is optional.
3. Cheerleaders/mascots, who quit Kirbyville High School Cheer, will be ineligible to tryout for the following year.
4. **Situations not covered specifically in the rules will be handled at the discretion of the cheer coaches and administration. Decisions will be made that are in the best interest of the program.**

Demerit System

Number of Demerits and consequence	Infraction
1	Late for practice, meetings, events
1	Wearing wrong or unsafe attire Missing poms or any practice gear/attire
1	Cell phone use during any cheer event
2	Unexcused missed practice (ANY NON-SCHOOL EVENT)
5	Unsportsmanlike conduct (including foul language) towards teammates, coaches, other team and peers.
5	Does not follow coach directive
5	Poor attitude or work ethic during any event
10	Unexcused missed games, events, and pep rally
10	Any act at school or cheer event deemed to be unsafe by the coach
10	Any misuse of Social Media that degrades self, others, or school

Consequences: *Physical conditioning can be assigned at any time*

10 Demerits- Benched for one event. If there is not a scheduled event, coaches will assign physical activities.

15 Demerits- Benched for 2 events

20 Demerits-Dismissed from squad.

Merit System

Each cheerleader/mascot may accumulate merits to offset demerits by doing various types of activities that have been approved by the coach.



Competition Team

1. **All competition practices and events are MANDATORY.**
2. The coaches will determine the placement on the competition team based on skills, stunts groups, ability, participation, and behavior.
3. Changes in placement may occur at any time due to injury, illness, loss of skills, excessive absences, or change in team numbers.
4. The goal is to create a strong balanced team for competition purposes.
5. UIL Competition is held in January. Any additional information such as: dates, location, and guidelines for competition will be given when information becomes available.
6. **Competition Fee of \$200 will be required for KHS competition participants and alternates.**