

May ISD
Cheerleading and Mascot
Constitution



Revised 2023

Tryouts

A cheerleading or mascot candidate must follow all rules in order to try-out.

1. A candidate must be passing each class individually with a cumulative 70 average or better in order to try-out. The first 4 six weeks will be used to tabulate the cumulative score. Dual credit and AP courses will be tabulated utilizing the eligibility standards.
2. Groups will be a blind draw by the principal and high school secretary, as long as they do not have a child participating in the tryouts. If they do have a child participating, another administrator will perform this duty.
3. All cheer candidates will be instructed on the material that will be used at try-outs. Material will be provided to each candidate. It is the candidate's responsibility to learn these cheers, chants, and dances.
4. Cheerleading candidates will be required to wear matching shirts designated by the cheer sponsor. These shirts will be shirts sold by the school and available to all candidates. Black shorts and tennis shoes will be worn. The attire must have no additional writing that would indicate prior cheerleading experience. Mascot candidates will try-out in costume.

Tryout Format:

Judges:

- Girls will come out by groups. Only one group will be allowed in the gym at a time. They will not be allowed to watch another group tryout.
- One girl will step up, do her 3 jumps and tumble/spirit to the middle. That girl will do her cheer and chant individually and move to the back. This will repeat through all of the group members.
- After the last girl in the group has finished her cheer and chant all other members will come back to the middle of the court.
- Together, they will do the cheer, chant, and dance as a group.
- Everyone will spirit off.
- This format will allow the judges to score each participant individually and as part of a group.

Election

Candidates wishing to participate in cheerleading/mascot in the Junior High School or High School will be elected by the following criteria:

Scoring Criteria

- 100% from judges (an average of 3 judges) comprised of one or more persons in a college or professional cheerleading or organization that has no affiliation with May ISD staff or students.

The leadership positions are elected as follows:

High School

8 cheerleaders

1 Mascot

Junior High

6 cheerleaders

The leadership positions will be elected by tabulation of scores selecting the candidates with the highest points. The tabulation of scores will be conducted by at least 2 administrators.

In the event that one of the candidates elected to a leadership position cannot fill the position, the next highest scoring candidate will be elected. After each squad has attended summer camp, no alternate will be moved up to fill any open positions. This applies to both junior high and high school squads. The results of the election process will be kept in the Principal's office for a period of the school year in which the elected candidates will participate.

All members of the squad will abide by the following rules regarding uniforms.

- A. The length, color, style, emblems, material type, and all accessories of the cheerleading/mascot uniform will be decided in a meeting with the sponsor and the cheerleaders/mascot. This meeting will be scheduled before the last day of school. The final decision of the uniforms will be approved by the school board, as they choose to

pay for the high school uniforms. Junior High uniforms must be approved by the principal, sponsor and the parents.

B. A down payment of 50% of the full expected payment or \$250 will be due on the day that we meet with our Varsity representative to fit and order camp clothes, cheer uniforms, etc. The down payment will be applied to your order. The down payment will not be refunded to you.

C. The Full Payment is required before the uniform, camp clothes, etc. will be issued to the member. High School cheerleaders will be required to pay for the following:

- Megaphone
- Poms
- 3 days of approved camp-wear for summer camp
- Undergarment tights/bloomers
- Socks
- Shoes
- Sweaters/Jackets
- Any additional desired accessories or clothing agreed upon by the sponsor/ principal.

*Mascot will only be required to pay for shoes, 3 days of approved camp-wear, and any additional desired accessories or clothing agreed upon by the sponsor/principal. If the Mascot chooses any additional clothing pieces, such as a sweater/jacket, he/she will be required to pay for these as well.

D. Junior High Cheerleaders will be required to pay for everything stated above, in addition to uniforms (shirt and shell/top) and summer camp.

E. Each member has the responsibility of having a clean, pressed uniform, with clean shoes and accessories for each performance (games, pep-rallies, competitions).

F. Uniforms are to be worn at pep-rallies, games, competitions, and approved functions only.

G. Uniforms or partial uniforms will be worn at school on game days with dress to coordinate with the designated spirit day.

May ISD Cheerleading Constitution

Junior High and High School

I. Purpose

- A. The purpose of this constitution is to provide a set of guidelines to follow both for the cheerleader/mascot and the sponsor/principal.
- B. Each cheerleader/mascot should set a good example for others; act respectful of squad members, sponsor, and teachers; and show pride in themselves as well as their school. Cheerleading is a privilege, not a right, and it is an honor to be elected to this position.

II. Rules and Responsibilities

A. Rules

1. Conduct

- A. Responsibilities are carried out throughout the Entire School Year and summer.
- B. Members must not chew gum or wear any jewelry either at practice or at any performance.
- C. Members must conduct themselves as a leader (in which they do not use improper language, cheat, steal, smoke, vape, drink alcoholic beverages, drugs, skip school or any act that is considered degrading to the school). (Please see demerit section)
- D. Members must make every effort to get along with other members of the squad, regardless of personal feelings, because the cheerleading squad is a team and must function accordingly.
- E. Members are considered to be a leader for the school and will be expected to behave as one.

2. Rules and Responsibilities

- A. Members must be in school at least half the day of any performance event (4 periods) in order to perform with the squad. Members must attend all practices unless cleared with the sponsor or principal.
- B. Members must wear the correct uniform and care for the uniform properly. If a member does not have the entire uniform for a performance, the member will not be allowed to perform. The

member will be responsible for payment if the uniform is neglected/torn (i.e. not well taken care of).

- C. Members must be back in place and ready to perform promptly after designated break at all practices and performances. Members are expected to perform for all quarters of play.
- D. Members must not smoke or possess tobacco products, drink alcoholic beverages, use non-prescribed drugs or possess them, nor participate in ANY act which would reflect upon the moral reputation of the squad, if this occurs, immediate action/consequences will be taken. All disciplinary action will follow May ISD's Athletic Code of Conduct.
- E. Members must help with ALL fundraising activities. They must all help with sign-painting, prop-making, and any other responsibility required to prepare for games/pep rallies/other events, etc.
- F. High School Cheerleaders and Mascot will cheer during basketball playoff games when the boys are playing after the girls have been eliminated. If there are adequate numbers of a cheer squad who do not participate in basketball then the cheerleaders may be required to cheer for both squads.
- G. Members must be passing ALL subjects. Failure to meet this standard mandates suspension from performances as required under U.I.L. rules and legislative mandates. Failure for 2 six-week periods will result in dismissal from the squad. If a squad member quits his/her position, is dismissed from his/her position or is asked to resign his/her position, he/she will NOT be honored or recognized at the Sports Banquet or any other function with the cheerleaders.
- H. Members must travel to and from games on school-provided transportation unless released by a sponsor to ride home with parents.
- I. Members must obtain a physical as stated by U.I.L guidelines.
- J. Members must not participate in any outside activity that will conflict with the responsibilities as a cheerleader.
- K. Members MUST attend summer cheer camp. No excused absences will be given---you must attend. Camp is required of both junior high and high school squads.

- L. Members must attend all practice sessions. Cheerleading will cooperate with other school events, but will take priority over non-school activities.
- M. All members must abide by the rules set forth by the sponsor and the principal.
- N. Members must understand and illustrate the importance of good safety habits at ALL times. Use common sense and good spotting habits when practicing stunts. Members must not perform a stunt until approved by the sponsor/principal. Safety MUST come FIRST!
- O. All practices will be supervised by a sponsor/coach. Therefore, there will be no unscheduled practices outside of school.
- P. Members must exhibit pride in May High School and Junior High School, in the squad, and the team. No negative comments/attitudes will be accepted.

III. Demerit System

A total of 10 demerits constitute reason for dismissal of the receiving member. Once a member has been dismissed or resigns, that member will not be allowed to return for the remainder of the school year.

<u>Reasons for Demerits</u>	<u># of Demerits</u>
Unexcused absence from performance	4
Unexcused tardy to performance/game	1
Unexcused absence from practice	2
Unexcused tardy to practice	1
Inappropriate or incorrect/incomplete	
Attire (wearing, wrong shoes/socks, etc.)	1 for 1 st time 2 thereafter
Use of profanity or inappropriate actions	maximum of 6
Lunch detention	1
Choosing not to help with fundraisers	2

Disciplinary Additional Guidelines

- 1. Demerits will be issued and explained by the sponsor/principal.*
- 2. Disciplinary action is not limited to those items listed above.*
- 3. Demerit system will be enforced starting at the date elected, during camps, and any summer practices as well as the school year.*
- 4. Suspension from school will constitute reason for dismissal from the squad. This will also apply to the Alternative Education Program.*
- 5. Exceptions for these rules will be made when other school-related activities conflict or in severe emergency situations.*
- 6. If a member chooses to work off any demerits, they will follow the athletic disciplinary guidelines.*
- 7. The Student Code of Conduct and Athletic Code of Conduct will still be followed by each member in addition to the constitution.*

As a parent/guardian of _____, I have read the May ISD Cheer Constitution and Demerit System and will abide by these guidelines.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

I, _____ (cheerleader/mascot) have read the May ISD Cheer Constitution and Demerit System and will abide by these guidelines.

Student Signature _____ Date _____