

Devine Middle School Cheerleader Constitution 2024-2025

All Devine Middle School Cheerleaders must adhere to the following constitution. It must be understood that as a member of this organization, the student becomes a representative of Devine Middle School and each member must maintain high moral and ethical standards. Membership is from tryout date to the last day of school the following school year. Membership may be terminated at any time for unacceptable standards of conduct.

Article I: Mission Statement

The purpose of the Devine Middle School Cheerleading program is to support athletic functions and to represent DMS to the highest degree. The role of a DMS Cheer representative goes beyond the wearing of the uniform. It is an honor and responsibility given to an individual who shows leadership, honor, and integrity. Ultimately, the purpose is to create, promote, and uphold school spirit in accordance with District/School rules.

Article II: Candidates for Membership

Part I: Candidacy

- Candidates must be willing to abide by rules and follow directions.
- Candidates must be willing to set a high moral standard as a representative of Devine Middle School. **Participation in the cheer program is a privilege and not a right.**
- Candidates must enjoy learning and performing cheers, chants, and dances.
- Candidates must demonstrate responsibility at all times
- Candidates must have perfection as their goal and understand that the schedule and discipline of a cheerleader demands a high degree of determination, hard work, strength, dedication, and self-discipline.
- Candidates must have a desire to cooperate – to be “one of the group.”
- Parents/guardians must be willing to meet all financial obligations involved in having their daughter/son as a member of the squad.
- Candidates, pending eligibility status, will participate in all activities that the organization is involved, be it cheerleading, fundraising, or school and community events.
- Candidates must exhibit and maintain a satisfactory attitude toward school policies and regulations.

Part II: Selection

- The selection of both the 7th grade & 8th grade cheerleading squads will be by judges' scores only. Tryouts will be held on the DMS campus.
 - Candidates will be rated on a 1-50 scale based on the following criteria:
 - Crowd appeal
 - Projection
 - Jumps
 - Tumbling
 - Motions
 - Dance
- In order to be selected to the Devine Middle School 8th grade squad candidate must receive a minimum score of 30 or natural break as determined by judges, not to exceed 8 members.
- In order to be selected to the Devine Middle School 7th grade squad candidate must receive a minimum score of 25 or natural break as determined by judges, not to exceed 8 members.
 - In the event of a tie between the 8th and 9th place candidates, the judges will request the candidates who are tied perform one or more of the required elements. The judges will decide the tiebreaker.
 - Only judges, sponsor(s), principal(s), tabulators, auditors and candidates will be present at tryouts.
 - There will be a **MANDATORY** mock tryout in advance of the tryout date. Attendance and participation is required for all candidates. The sponsor(s), principal(s), authorized personnel, candidates and candidate parents will be allowed to attend the mock tryout. No others will be allowed to attend. Failure to participate in the mock tryout will result in the candidate relinquishing their right to tryout.
- There will be one captain selected. Only returning 8th grade cheerleaders, with parent's permission will be eligible for captain. The captain will be the candidate who received the most votes from the newly selected squad. All incoming cheerleaders will vote for captain on the night of tryouts after the squad has been announced. In the case of a tie between two eligible candidates, there will be a run-off vote to determine the captain.

Article III: Eligibility Requirements

In order for a student to try-out for Devine Middle School 7th Grade or 8th Grade Squads they must meet the following requirements:

- Be a student of 6th or 7th grade at Devine ISD since the beginning of the second semester during the year of tryouts.
- Be passing all subjects at the time of tryouts, UIL rules (except those exempted by the district), no pass no play, will be followed, i.e. students must be passing all classes at the end of the six weeks prior to tryouts, or have regained eligibility if time permits.

- Have no major disciplinary action against her/him. Major disciplinary action is defined as the student being suspended (ISS -No more than 1 day / or OSS) or sent to DAEP/JJAEP.
- Must attend 90 percent of the days that classes are offered, unless the excused or unexcused absences have received prior administrative approval.

Article IV: Roles and Responsibilities

To remain eligible a cheerleader must adhere to the following guidelines and policies:

- Grades: Pass every class every six weeks. A cheerleader who fails a six weeks in any course will not be eligible for the following three weeks-UIL guidelines will be followed.
 - If a cheerleader fails two consecutive grading periods they will be removed from the squad for the remaining of the school year and will not be eligible to try out for the following school year. (consecutive grading periods: six weeks and the following three weeks or two consecutive six weeks)
- Discipline: Have no major disciplinary action against him/her. Major disciplinary action is defined as the student being suspended (ISS –No more than 1 day / or OSS) or sent to DAEP/JJAEP. (see demerit chart)
- UIL Rules: Obey the guidelines set by the school board and administration in the DISD UIL PARTICIPANT/CHEERLEADER HANDBOOK.
- The cheerleaders should set an example for the rest of the student body. They must always be in dress code. (see demerit chart)
- Devine Middle School Cheerleaders will follow the Devine ISD Extracurricular Activity Handbook.
- Demerits: Devine ISD Cheerleaders are role models and will be subject to a strict code of conduct. Infractions of this code of conduct will result in demerits. Demerits will be issued by the sponsor and may also be issued by the principal and/or vice principal.
- Cheerleaders will have the opportunity to receive two merits MAXIMUM per six weeks.

****IN THE EVENT THAT A CHEERLEADER REACHES 20 DEMERITS IN ONE SCHOOL YEAR, OR IS SUSPENDED FROM THE TEAM MORE THAN THREE TIMES FOR ANY REASON, SHE/HE WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM THE SQUAD FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE SCHOOL YEAR. IF SUSPENDED FROM THE SQUAD AS A 7th GRADE CHEERLEADER, THEY WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO TRY OUT FOR THE SQUAD THE NEXT SCHOOL YEAR. ****

- Practices: NO SCHOOL SPONSOR, NO STUNT PRACTICE.
 - Attend summer practice sessions. The sponsor(s) will schedule these practices.
 - Be present at ALL required practices during the school year. **If any practices are missed, the cheerleader will be suspended from the pep rally for that week.** In addition, demerits will be given for being late or missing a practice. No demerits will be given for game or pep rally in which the cheerleader was suspended. (See demerit chart)

- Specific DMS Cheerleader Assignments
 - Pay all cheerleading uniform/camp expenses at the time that uniforms are ordered. *All cheerleaders who have not paid by this date will not be allowed to order uniforms.*
 - Attend instructional clinics. (Including mini-cheer camp) *If any camp is missed, the cheerleader will be removed from the squad.*
 - Attend all home DMS football games. Sponsor(s) may require attendance at additional games.
 - Attendance at additional games may be required at the discretion of the sponsor/administrator. Discretionary games will not result in a demerit for non-attendance.
 - Attend all pep rallies and participate as required by the sponsor.

****NOTE****

ALL ABSENCES MUST BE APPROVED IN ADVANCE AND MUST HAVE THE SPONSOR'S APPROVAL.

Article V: Alternate Cheerleader

- There will be no alternate cheerleader named.

Article VI: Uniforms

- The traditional uniform colors are maroon and gold and will be used for both the travel and home uniforms.
- In an effort to hold down the cost of uniforms, ONE uniform will be chosen.
- It is the responsibility of individual cheerleaders to pay for uniforms and accessories, and the amount may not exceed **\$1,200.00** for uniform camps, supplies, and accessories. There will be a pricing sheet available 2-3 weeks after tryouts. Money making projects can help defray expenses.
- No part of the uniform will be worn except when instructed by the sponsor.
- Members may not wear any jewelry while in uniform, practicing, or performing. This includes belly button rings, tongue jewelry, and any other type of body piercing.
- A tattoo must be covered while at practice, in uniform at games or at any school-sponsored event where you are cheering.
- All designated uniforms will be worn by the members only.
- Hair should always be worn in a pony tail or pulled back up and away from the face.
- With the sponsor's input/oversight, the captain may recommend 2-3 uniforms, and the group will vote on the final choice of uniform. Uniform choices will be sent home to parents before the final vote.

Article VII: Transportations

- Transportation shall be provided by the school district to away games.
- Members are required to **ride to and from** games/functions/activities in the provided transportation.
- Members will abide by all school transportation rules, procedures and safety guideline.
- Only in extreme circumstances will a member be allowed to use alternate transportation.
- Members will conduct themselves in an appropriate manner at all times on all trips and buses. (Members will always walk in and out as a group).
- School policies and regulations are extended to all school-sponsored trips.

Article VII: Points to Remember

- Election results are final. Sponsor(s) and principal(s) will tabulate the final standing from the judges' scores. An outside auditor will tabulate the final standing from the judges' scores.
- Uniforms are to be worn at pep rallies and games only, unless specific permission is given by the sponsor(s).
- The sponsor(s) must approve the attire worn during tryouts. No previous year cheerleader uniforms will be permitted.
- If a cheerleader moves and/or withdraws from school and re-enrolls, his/her reinstatement will be at the discretion of the principal and the sponsor(s).
- Cheerleaders should be in control of all cheering actions by using appropriate cheers for the situation and helping to discourage booing and other negative crowd reactions.
- Cheerleaders are members of a team and are expected to work together as a group. If differences occur, they will be arbitrated in private, by the sponsor and/or other administrators.
- As a cheerleader, you are an official representative of DMS. Your conduct in uniform and 'civilian dress' is expected to be EXEMPLARY at all times. As a cheerleader you are a role model for your school, team and community and are EXPECTED to behave as such at all times.
- A cheerleader must cheer with enthusiasm.

A. In dealing with this group or any group, there will be circumstances when a sponsor or sponsors will have to make a decision on a rule interpretation or circumstances not covered by this constitution. In these instances, the decision of the sponsor(s)/administration is final.

***See Student Handbook for handling complaints.**

Devine Middle School Cheerleader Merits / Demerits

Devine Independent School District Cheerleaders are role models and will thus be subject to a strict Code of Conduct (See Cheerleading/UIIL handbook). Infractions of this code will result in demerits. Demerits will be issued by the sponsor(s) and may also be issued by the principal and/or vice principal. ***In the instance that a cheerleader commits a major infraction that would result in his/her immediate suspension or dismissal, merits previously obtained may not be used to eliminate or reverse the suspension or dismissal*.**

Violations	Number of Demerits
Absent from practice; parent note required upon return*	3
Improper attire at practice	1
Not conforming to uniform requirements	1
Hair not pulled back and out of face	1
Chewing gum during pep rally/game	1
Wearing jewelry during pep rally/game	1
Long nails during practice/pep rally/game	1
Late to practice/pep rally/game*	1
Absent from pep rally/game, parent note required upon return*	5
PDA (Public Display of Affection)	5
Suspension (ISS)	5 per day
Suspension (OSS)	10 per day
AEP (Alternative Education Program)	Expulsion from the squad
Lunch Detention	1 per day
Forgetting items for performance or practice	1

*Except for extenuating circumstances

****For violation that are not mentioned above, demerits will be given at the discretion of the sponsor and/or administration and will be in accordance with the severity of the violation.****

Consequences of Demerits

Five (5) demerits – Suspended from the squad for one week
 Ten (10) demerits – Suspended from the squad for two weeks
 Fifteen (15) demerits – Suspended from the squad for three weeks
 Twenty (20) demerits – Suspended from the squad for the remainder of the year (will not be allowed to try out for the squad for the next school year)

Merits

Cheerleaders may earn a MAXIMUM of 2 merits per six week grading period.

1. Perfect attendance for the six weeks with no tardies = 1 merit
2. Three hours of community service = 1 merit.
3. Making extra posters (4) or spirit items for games and pep rallies = 1 merit.

I have read the Violations list that will result in demerits on my behalf.

I have read the Devine ISD Extracurricular Activity Handbook and understand that if I do not follow I will be subject to disciplinary actions.

I understand that if I do not follow the Devine Middle School Code of Conduct set in place that I will be subject to dismissal from the cheer squad.

I understand that the role of a DMS Cheerleader goes beyond wearing the uniform and I will promote and uphold school spirit in accordance with District/School rules.

Cheer Candidate

Date

I have read the Devine Middle School Cheer Constitution with my cheer candidate.

I understand that she will have guidelines to follow and consequences when unacceptable conduct occurs.

Cheer Candidate Parent or Guardian

Date