

2012-2013
Waskom High School
WILDCATS
Pep Squad/Dance Team



Team Constitution, Team
Regulations, and Handbook

Philosophy

The goals and objectives of this selected team are to assist in providing overall school spirit and the development of self-pride through music and dance. Students are to represent the community, the campus, and the district in a positive manner at all times upon being associated as WILDCATS team performers. The increased interest in expression through music, appreciation of various musical techniques, and dance setting are also focused upon. Most importantly, students are taught the necessary skills of teamwork, cooperation, collaboration, social skills, and respect for themselves, authority, and others. The team is expected to abide by all standards of expectations in all mannerisms and conduct themselves as stated in overall Student Code of Conduct (WISD) and the Waskom High School Student Handbook.

The following team guidelines are submitted for approval effective March 2012.

I. Tryouts

- a. Spring tryouts may be held during the middle of April. The time period will be selected to prevent conflicting with any testing period and/or any previous school activity.
- b. No maximum or minimum number of girls is required for the team.
- c. A week of practice will be held with the required dance, kick routine and split combination.
- d. Judges may include team directors and two or three selected judges upon approval from the principal and/or principal's designee.
- e. All candidates must have a signed permission slip from their parents acknowledging their daughter's intention and parental signatures indicating their agreement to support the team's requirements and guidelines.
- f. All candidates must be in good health, free from any illness or conditions that would endanger their well being during the week of practice. A current physical must be complete and submitted by the first day of practice. Physical strain and/or injuries could result from an unconditioned candidate. WHS, the director, team, and district are not responsible for any injuries sustained during the camp week.

- g. To be eligible, all candidates must submit two current teacher recommendations. One recommendation from one core teacher and one elective teacher. Recommendations must be received by Friday afternoon before tryouts.
- h. A member must be a student of Waskom High School for the upcoming year and be academically eligible on the first day of the new school year.
- i. All team members must be in attendance at all tryout practices.
- j. Tryouts will be held the morning of Saturday following practice week. Any conflicts occurring with the tryout morning should be brought to the director's attention for possible alternative arrangements to be made.
- k. Transferring students who show interest in the team and who have prior team experience may request a consultation or the team consideration with the director.
- l. Candidates have one day's time period from the day of tryouts to review individual, personal tryout ballots. Team director, school administrator, and parent must be present to review and discuss any concerns with tryout selection. After 24 hours, all ballots will be destroyed.
- m. Results from tryouts will be posted the Monday following tryouts at your respective school.
- n. Any girl who has left the team for any reason, other than submitted and accepted by the director and principal's designee will not be allowed to tryout for the team the following year.
- o. Tryouts are closed to the public.
- p. Candidates must meet U.I.L. eligibility requirements and be eligible during the time of tryouts in order to participate.

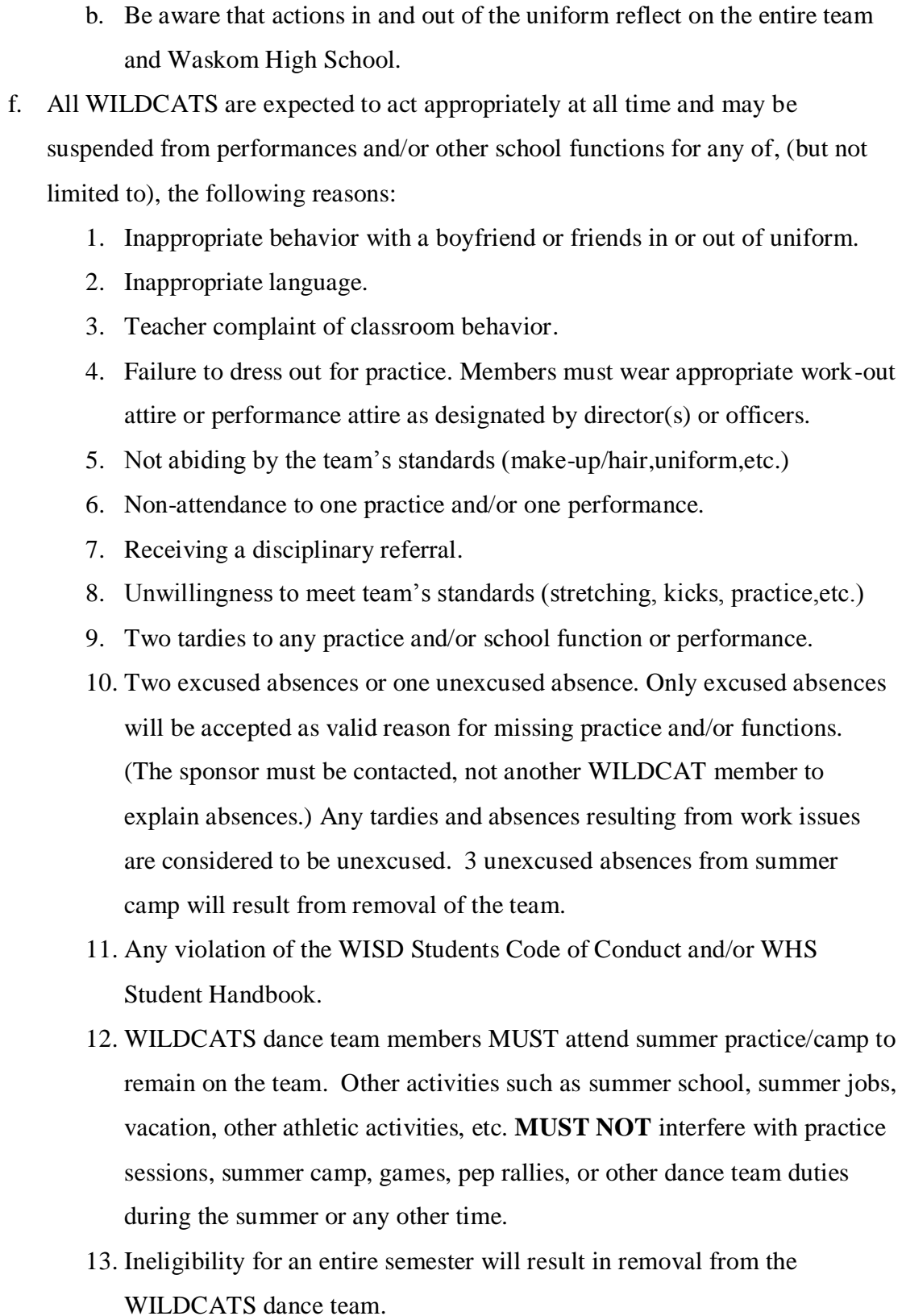
II. Officer and Captain Tryouts

- a. All selected individual officers will be responsible to the overall team's stated guidelines.
- b. All selected individual officers, must have served on the WILDCATS dance team for one year, prior to being eligible for officer status.
- c. Officer tryouts will be open to all girls, if there is an insufficient amount of line members returning.

- d. Any girl who has left the team for any reason, other than a reason submitted and accepted by the director, will not be allowed to tryout for officer the following year.
- e. All eligible candidates will be required to learn or make-up a dance, submit a 2 page coherent typed essay and have an interview with the judges, and/or be able to teach part of a dance.
- f. Officer results will be posted the Monday following tryouts at the high school.
- g. Officer tryouts are closed to the public.

III. Team Responsibilities/Guidelines/Rules

- a. All WILDCATS must understand that being a member of the team is a **privilege, not a right;** and therefore, this privilege may be revoked at any time at the discretion of the director and/or administrator's notification.
- b. All WILDCATS must ride the same bus/van (or approved mode of transportation) to and from games and other activities. No one will be able to ride with anyone else, except parents, guardians; immediate family members who have received prior approval of the team director(s). Allowances for other transportation arrangements must be given to the director(s) in written documentation 24 hours in advance, no exceptions. No one will be allowed to be transported by other means without parent's written permission and the director's approval.
- c. Members must stay in assigned places for the entire game or performance. Visitors are not allowed in the designated seating area of the WILDCATS dance team.
- d. Any WILDCAT not enrolled for any reason other than mandated graduation requirements, or approved reasons by the director, will not be allowed to tryout in the future. All dancers will also be responsible for other assignments such as tryouts in the upcoming year.
- e. Grooming and conduct:
 - 1. Members are expected to be well groomed at all times. One's appearance is a reflection of the organization and Waskom High School.
 - 2. Members are expected to conduct themselves properly at all times.
 - a. Exhibit good sportsmanship;

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- b. Be aware that actions in and out of the uniform reflect on the entire team and Waskom High School.
- f. All WILDCATS are expected to act appropriately at all time and may be suspended from performances and/or other school functions for any of, (but not limited to), the following reasons:
1. Inappropriate behavior with a boyfriend or friends in or out of uniform.
 2. Inappropriate language.
 3. Teacher complaint of classroom behavior.
 4. Failure to dress out for practice. Members must wear appropriate work-out attire or performance attire as designated by director(s) or officers.
 5. Not abiding by the team's standards (make-up/hair, uniform, etc.)
 6. Non-attendance to one practice and/or one performance.
 7. Receiving a disciplinary referral.
 8. Unwillingness to meet team's standards (stretching, kicks, practice, etc.)
 9. Two tardies to any practice and/or school function or performance.
 10. Two excused absences or one unexcused absence. Only excused absences will be accepted as valid reason for missing practice and/or functions. (The sponsor must be contacted, not another WILDCAT member to explain absences.) Any tardies and absences resulting from work issues are considered to be unexcused. 3 unexcused absences from summer camp will result from removal of the team.
 11. Any violation of the WISD Students Code of Conduct and/or WHS Student Handbook.
 12. WILDCATS dance team members **MUST** attend summer practice/camp to remain on the team. Other activities such as summer school, summer jobs, vacation, other athletic activities, etc. **MUST NOT** interfere with practice sessions, summer camp, games, pep rallies, or other dance team duties during the summer or any other time.
 13. Ineligibility for an entire semester will result in removal from the WILDCATS dance team.

14. Members are only allowed to wear uniforms to football games or other school sponsored activity. Members will NOT wear their uniform to any non-school sponsored function.

g. All WILDCATS may be removed from the team for any reason for any of, (but not limited to), the following reasons:

1. Disruptive behavior, such as physical fighting.
2. Two suspensions resulting from any violations listed above.
3. Serious violations of the WISD Student Code of Conduct and/or the WHS Student Handbook.
4. Two non-completions of each function through its entirety.
5. All girls, once selected, may also be removed from the team by the director based upon her opinion and judgment of the member's lack of personal attitude, team participation, team contribution, or behavior that may become detrimental to the betterment, peace, and cooperation of the entire team.

IV. Grades

- a. Each member must bring her report card to class at the end of each 6 weeks reporting period to be checked by the director.
- b. A seventy (70) average or better must be maintained in each class at the end of each eligibility period.
- c. A member failing to comply with these requirements will be placed on probation according to UIL guidelines.
 1. Any probation shall include:
 - a. The member will not perform.
 - b. The member will not wear any team uniform.
 - c. The member will not travel with the team.
 - d. Though ineligible, the member *must* attend fundraisers and social events.
 - e. Though ineligible, practice is required by the member on probation unless otherwise decided by the director.

V. **Officer Responsibilities/Guidelines/Rules**

- a. All officers must set the example of what a WILDCATS Dance Team member should be.
- b. All officers are subject to comply with all team responsibilities, guidelines, and rules.
- c. Any officer with two suspensions will automatically be demoted to a line member.
- d. Any officer who becomes academically ineligible will automatically become demoted from their position.
- e. All officers are expected to be present at all practices and function 15 minutes early for roll call.
- f. All officers must attend and perform at all functions.
- g. All officers must choreograph routines. Routines and music must be approved by director.
- h. The director and all officers must supervise and are responsible for the actions of the entire WILDCATS Dance Team.
- i. All officers will be responsible for starting practices promptly, for making optimum use of practice time, and for any other duties as designated by the director.
- j. All officers will be responsible for notifying the director of any infraction of rules that might necessitate demerits.
- k. All officers must follow directors' instruction.
- l. Being an officer does not guarantee a spot in all performances, you must earn your spot through competing with the rest of the line members.
- m. Being an officer does not guarantee a front and center spot in all performances.
- n. All officers, once selected, may also be removed from the team by the director based upon her opinion and judgment of the member's lack of personal attitude, team participation, team contribution, or behavior that has become detrimental to the betterment of the entire team.



VI. Parental Consent and Support

- a. All team member's parents, guardians, and family members should be supportive of the overall benefit and representation of the team, and support the team members in complying with all rules and regulations of the school and the team. All financial responsibilities are to be supported by their parents, if the student fails to meet fundraising goals, etc.
Requested items for ordering are the responsibility of the team members.

VII. School District Expenses

- a. Travel expenses for each out of town games and camps.
- b. Letterman jacket at the end of the required time period.
- c. Meals related to all out of town games and camps.

VIII. Team Member Expenses

- a. Required night and day performing uniforms.
 - 1. Each member is responsible for the care of the official field uniform(s) and all other uniforms.
 - 2. The uniform or any part of the uniform is NOT to be worn unless authorized by the director.
 - 3. Uniforms will be inspected for neatness at all appearances.
- b. Personal uniforms such as bloomers, tights, hose, shoes, pants, leotards; or any such item that the individual wishes to use. Members must acquire workout clothing (jazz pants, jazz shoes, leotards, etc.) by summer practice/camp.
- c. All transportation to WILDCATS functions held in the Waskom community or nearby areas.
- d. Obligation to reimburse the organization for any non-returnable, fundraising items, which have not been sold after the designated period of sale time.
- e. Any personal item the team, as a whole elects to purchase, which will become personal items of the team member.

IX. Demerit System

- a. Demerits are the means by which the director assures that members uphold the high standards of the WILDCATS Dance Team. Demerits will be given on a thirty (30) point scale basis per semester. If a member receives 30 demerits within a semester, that member will automatically be removed from the team. Demerits may be deleted with merits. Merits are awarded to members who go beyond their duties or extraordinary tasks or performance, as according to the director. Three merits delete one demerit. Only the director can issue demerits and merits. Demerits will be given for the following reasons:

| OFFENSE | DEMERITS |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. Any severe behavioral problems on or off campus which may or may not lead to at home suspension or expulsion. Including any type of fight at school or any school related event. | Removal from the team |
| 2. Illegal drug use | Removal from the team |
| 3. Use of alcohol | Removal from the team |
| 4. Suspension from school | Removal from the team |
| 5. Smoking | Removal from the team |
| 6. Assignment to ISS: | 10 |
| Assignment to DAEP: | 20 |
| 7. Assignment to ISS for the second time: | 15 |
| 8. Failure to tell the truth | 10 |
| 9. Unexcused absence | 10 |
| 10. Use of profanity or obscene language | |
| first time: | 5 |
| second time: | 10 |
| 11. Disrespect to the director, teachers: | 10 |
| 12. Failure to remove uniform after a | 5 |

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| performance: | |
| 13. Leaving practice or the practice area without permission from the director: | 5 |
| 14. Ineligibility during a marking period: | 15 |
| 15. Eating or drinking in uniform (unless authorized): | 5 |
| 16. Public display of affection: | 5 |
| 17. Wearing any part of the uniform without authorization: | 5 |
| 18. Removal of any part of the uniform before reaching the changing area: | 5 |
| 19. Unexcused tardy: | 3 |
| 20. Talking while in attention or position: | 3 |
| 21. Chewing gum in practice or in uniform: | 3 |
| 22. Unclean or untidy uniform: | 3 |
| 23. Late for ANY deadline: | 3 |
| 24. Forgetting ANYTHING needed for practice or performance: | 3 |
| 25. Failure to wear appropriate Make-up with uniform (as instructed by director): | 3 |
| 26. Wearing jewelry in uniform/performance or practice (including belly button & tongue rings) and uncovered tattoos. | 3 |
| 27. Unnecessary conversation with the crowd, band, team or other dance team members: | 2 |
| 28. Failure to wear designated clothing for practice: | 2 |

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|---|---|
| 29. Leaving trash on the bus or in the practice area: | 2 |
| 30. Failure to follow directions given by the director and/or officers: | 2 |
| 31. Unladylike conduct: | 2 |
| 32. Failure to follow WISD dress code: | 2 |
| 33. There will be no usage of cell phones during practice or dance team activities (unless authorized by the director). | 2 |

X. Award Criteria

- a. Criteria for certificate: Completion of one full year on the team. A certificate will be received for each individual year of participation.
- b. Criteria for plaque: Completion of four, full years on the team. The plaque will be awarded at the end of four year term.
- c. Criteria for Letterman jacket: Completion of one, full year year with 95% participation in both Fall and Spring seasons. To be considered, but not limited to:
 - 1. missed no more than one practice during summer period or camps.
 - 2. missed no more than two performances during regular season.
 - 3. missed no more than one eligibility time period.
 - 4. full completion of all fundraising obligations.
 - 5. meet all individual responsibilities and be a cooperative team member.

PLEASE READ THE ENTIRE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS. ALSO READ THE FOLLOWING PAGE: BOTH REQUESTED PARTIES MUST SIGN. DETACH THE LAST PAGE AND RETURN WITH YOUR CHILD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Constitution Agreement

Applicant Release:

I (applicant's name) _____, have read all rules and regulations that govern the Waskom ISD Pep Squad/Dance Team. As a representative of my school, I understand and agree to abide by them if selected as a member for the 2012-2013 school year.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Parental Release:

I, the undersigned, have read and fully understand the rules and regulations which will govern my son/daughter if he/she is chosen to represent Waskom ISD as a member. I further understand that this is an extracurricular activity and that attendance at all practices, games, special functions, and summer camp is a requirement of the elected member.

I hereby give consent to my son/daughter, _____, to tryout for pep squad/dance team at Waskom ISD and recognize his/her responsibilities and requirements as a leader of his/her school. I understand that, if chosen, my son/daughter will be required to pay for dance camp and uniforms. Further, we understand that school and/or personal insurance must cover our son/daughter. We give our permission for our child to receive medical attention in the event that we cannot be present or reached for any reason.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian

Date

Waskom High School WILDCATS Dancer Parental Permission Form

Waskom High School will be conducting its yearly tryout camp and actual tryout performance during April or May. Any girls who are enrolled at Waskom High School 2011-2012 school year are eligible for tryouts.

At this time, students and parents are asked to complete the following form granting them permission to attend tryouts. Transportation is to be arranged with personal vehicle.

The following items are required by the first practice date:

1. Girls must be punctual in attendance Monday through Friday, 4:30 pm until 6:00 pm for the camp teaching.
2. Girls must submit their parental form of consent, medical card information, acknowledgement of rules, and grades.
3. Girls must submit two teacher recommendations (1 core & one elective).
4. Girls must wear appropriate shoes (tennis) and practice workout clothes each day of practice (keep in compliance with dress code).
5. Physical exam from a local doctor.
6. A copy of personal insurance or waiver form must be submitted.

Upon tryout selection, the following items will be needed.

1. Attendance at upcoming meeting for summer plans/practice.
2. Parental consent and signature of WILDCATS Dance Team Constitution and handbook rules.
3. Performance uniforms and make-up must be worn appropriately for tryouts.
4. All scheduled practices must be attended.

At this time, I (parent/guardian) _____, do give my personal consent for my daughter, _____, to participate in the WHS WILDCATS tryout camp and tryout auditions. I fully understand that my daughter must abide by the camp regulations and do not hold the school responsible for any injuries sustained during the week's camp.

Teacher Evaluation

Waskom Pep Squad / Dance Team
Teacher Recommendation Form

DANCER NAME: _____

Dear Teachers,

As part of the process for the 2012-2013 Pep Squad / Dance Team, I am asking each candidate to acquire a teacher recommendation. Your perspective as a teacher observing the actions of the candidate inside the classroom will help in my selection process. I want to ensure that I am selecting students who are committed and will positively represent WHS. Thank you for your time in helping our team chooses new members that are not only successful at cheer & dance, but also in academics, personality, and attitude. All of these attributes combined will lead us to a successful season! **Please return this form to Erika Hyter at WMS by Wednesday, April 4th. Do not return this form to the dancer - send it directly to me please. Your comments will be held in confidence and will not be shared with the dancer.**

For each factor listed below, place a check in the column that you believe best represents the candidate's ability for that particular trait. I would also appreciate any additional comments you believe would be helpful for the selection process.

| Rating Factors | Excellent 5 | Good 4 | Average 3 | Fair 2 | Poor 1 |
|--|----------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| Dependable | | | | | |
| Honest | | | | | |
| Attendance-comes to school regularly | | | | | |
| Punctuality-comes to class on time | | | | | |
| Attitude-is cooperative | | | | | |
| Initiative | | | | | |
| Team Worker | | | | | |
| Helps others when time and circumstances allow, even at the risk of doing more | | | | | |
| Handles Stress Well | | | | | |
| Leadership Skills | | | | | |
| Creativity | | | | | |
| Judgment/Trustworthy - can be trusted to make good decisions | | | | | |
| Listens to and Follows Directions | | | | | |
| Responds Well to Constructive Criticism | | | | | |
| Poise and Social Skills with Adults | | | | | |

Please use the reverse side to provide any recommendation comments regarding the applicant's qualifications. Thank you for time and input.

Additional Comments:

Teacher Signature _____ Date _____