

2015-2016 Sunray High School

Cheerleader/Mascot Handbook

The cheerleaders of Sunray High School are the athletic spirit leaders of the school. The Cheerleading organization includes Varsity and JV cheer squads, mascot, and sponsor. Cheerleading Handbook has been designed to clearly outline the policies and procedures that will guide the organization during the year. Please know that although the most common kinds of situation have been identified in this handbook, the list is not comprehensive. It is the responsibility of every member of the cheerleading squad to familiar with this handbook. In addition to being held responsible for the policies and procedures identified in this handbook, the members of SHS Cheerleading squad are also responsible by abiding by the SISD Student Code of Conduct and the UIL Code of Conduct. There is not legal entitlement to being a cheerleader. **It is an honor and privilege, not a right, to be a SHS cheerleader;** therefore, **excellence is expected and required**

Coaches Responsibilities:

As determined by the authority of their position, the Coach will supervise and oversee all activities and matters. She will exercise her authority, judgment, and discretion with the squad and individual members while providing for the safety and betterment of the group. As an adult sponsor of the cheerleaders, the Coach is responsible for the decisions affecting the team under the guidelines of Sunray High School and Sunray ISD, and shall have the final authority on all matters pertaining to the proper functioning of the squad, whether or not it is incorporated in the Cheerleading/Mascot Handbook or Sunray ISD Handbook. Her judgment shall carry in all matters. These rules and guidelines are a framework for our set of expectations. These rules will by no means address all situations that we may encounter, but the Coach will exercise consistent and fair judgment and discretion when managing discipline infractions.

Expectations:

Members of the cheer program will devote and pledge themselves to components outlined in the handbook. A cheer member will serve from the day of selection until the last day of school the following academic year. Cheerleaders must enjoy learning and performing stunts, jumps, cheers, chants, and dances as well as conditioning. **A Bobcat Cheerleader is expected to be above reproach at all times.**

- Cheerleaders must step into all cheerleading activities with a positive attitude.
- Cheerleaders at SHS are expected to show the highest level of respect. **Disrespect will not be tolerated.** Disrespect towards the coach and other adults (teachers, administrators, faculty, and parents) will result in immediate discipline.
- Cheerleaders are expected to be leaders within the school community on and off the field, as well as, on and off the campus.
- Cheerleaders will not use foul language, show poor sportsmanship, participate in "Public Displays of Affection", or be unprofessional at any time in public.
- Cheerleaders will be punctual and ready to perform at all activities and practices.
- If a squad member quits, they will not be allowed to tryout the following year.

Requirements:

Attendance and Participation:

- **Summer Activities:**
 - Cheerleaders must attend all training
 - Cheerleaders must attend summer camp
 - Cheerleaders must attend all summer practice
 - Cheerleaders must participate in Sunray FunDay
- **Yearly**
 - Cheerleaders will attend all scheduled activities with the exception of a doctor's excuse, death in the family, medical emergency, or special permission from the coach.
 - A note is always required for any absence
 - More than 3 unexcused absences will result in dismissal from the squad.
 - Cheerleaders must attend all practices, games, events, pep rallies, and fundraising activities is mandatory.
 - Jobs, vacations, family events are not an excuse to miss any of these!!
 - Cheerleaders must be on time to all practices, games, pep rallies, and any other scheduled event.
 - Cheerleader must be present at school for FOUR (4) class periods to be eligible to participate at any events.
 - If you do not have the material learned in practice, you will not perform for the event.
 - Practices are closed to family and friends.
 - Cheerleaders must plan, prepare, and decorate for and conduct all pep rallies
 - Cheerleaders must plan, prepare, and decorate for and conduct all Homecoming Activities
 - **Members of the SHS Cheerleading squad shall refrain from posting questionable or disrespectful material on the internet (including but not limited to "Facebook", "Instagram" or any other site on internet).**
 - **Any portrayal or a cheerleader that reflects negatively on the program or the school is subject to discipline, consequences, including removal from the squad.**
 - Cheerleaders must prepare and decorate the school and town (as needed)
 - Mascots will be required to attend all activities scheduled by the coach.
 - They will be treated as a member of the cheer squad and held to all the same expectations.
 - Mascots are responsible for the care and upkeep of their mascot uniform.
 - Cheerleaders will not chew gum, wear jewelry; hair must be pulled up and away from your face while cheering.
 - Football games:
 - JV cheerleaders will cheer for all JV football games and Varsity Homecoming, as well as any playoff games.
 - Cheerleaders are expected to be on the field at the beginning of each game to lead the team out of the tunnel.
 - Cheerleaders are expected to be on the field at the beginning of each half-time to lead the team out of the tunnel.
 - Cheerleaders are expected to actively cheer throughout the game each quarter.
 - Cheerleaders will be allowed to eat prior to or after the games.
 - When cheerleaders are not cheering they must be standing at attention.

- Basketball games:
 - JV cheerleaders will cheer for all varsity girls' games along with all varsity cheerleaders who are not playing varsity basketball
 - Cheerleaders are expected to be on the court ready to cheer at the beginning of each game.
 - Cheerleaders are expected to be on the court ready to cheer at the beginning of the 3rd quarter until the end of the game.
 - **Basketball players, who are cheerleaders, will be allowed the first 3 minutes of the following basketball game to be on the court.**
 - Cheerleaders may eat prior to the game, at half-time, between games, or after all games.
 - When cheerleaders are not cheering they must be standing at attention.
- **Financial Expectations:**
 - The school will give meal money for all out of town games during football and basketball season.
 - All costs are estimated.
 - Fundraising may cover some of the costs, but you must be prepared to pay costs if needed.
 - All money is due by the first football game.
 - All uniforms purchased with school fundraising money will be kept and reused the following year.
 - See cost example attached
- **Tryouts:**
 - Six (6) JV cheerleaders and six (6) Varsity cheerleaders and one (1) mascot will be selected each spring.
 - The selection process involving student body vote and an outside panel of judges will be used to determine the squads.
 - The top six (6) cheerleader applicants with the highest points will be Varsity Cheerleaders no matter their grade.
 - The following six (6) cheerleader applicants with the next six (6) highest scores will be JV Cheerleaders no matter their grade.
 - Students who are selected must meet all UIL eligibility requirements specified for extra-curricular activities.
 - Cheerleader applicants must have teachers fill out a form stating they are passing at the time of the tryout deadline.
 - Cheerleaders will first tryout in front of the student body. After each participant has gone, students will return to their classes and vote. This section of tryouts is open to the public.
 - Cheerleaders will finally tryout in front of the panel of judges. This is a closed tryout session. Only participants trying out, coach and panel of judges will be allowed.
 - If you decide to not accept the position given, you will not be allowed to try out the next year.

The coach will have the full discretion in every discipline situation. Discipline may include, but is not limited to: conditioning, infractions, benching, suspension, and removal from the squad.

Level I Infraction:

- Failure to attend practices
- Failure to attend games
- Failure to attend any scheduled activity
- Failure to follow all general rules and guidelines
- Disrespect/insubordination to cheer coach
- Disrespect and behavior unbecoming of cheer member
- Disrespect toward a teacher or administrator
- Leaving a performance, practice, or event
- Talking on cell phone during game or activity
- Any behavior deemed by coach for reprimand

First Infraction	Written warning by sponsor. Writing warning signed by parents and returned to coach.
Second Infraction	Suspension from cheerleading for ONE (1) WEEK. Written warning by sponsor. Writing warning signed by parents and returned to coach.
Third Infraction	Removal from squad. Written warning by sponsor. Writing warning signed by parents and returned to coach.

• **Level II Infraction:**

- Incident involving drugs, alcohol, or tobacco, on or off campus
- Academic dishonesty
- Assignment to ISS
- Assignment to DAEP
- Received a disciplinary office referral
- Not participating in fundraising events
- Repeatedly receiving Level I infractions
- Any behavior deemed by coach for reprimand

First Infraction	Suspension from cheerleading for TWO (2) WEEKS. Written warning by sponsor. Writing warning signed by parents and returned to coach.
Second Infraction	Removal from squad. Written warning by sponsor. Writing warning signed by parents and returned to coach. <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Once a squad member has been dismissed from the squad, they are responsible for all monies still owed, and must turn in all school issued uniforms to the coach. Once you have been removed from the squad, you are not allowed to try out the next year.

CHEERLEADING EXPENSES 2015-2016

CAMP:	\$100.00 by June 1
COAT:	\$150.00 payable to Lisa Williams by July 1st
SHOES:	\$75.00
POMS:	\$50.00
PERSONALIZED MEGAPHONE:	\$50.00
CAMP CLOTHES:	\$50.00

TOTAL: \$475.00

ALL COSTS ARE ESTIMATED.

FUNDRAISING MAY COVER SOME OF THESE COSTS BUT YOU MUST BE PREPARED TO PAY THEM, IF NEEDED.

ALL MONEY IS DUE BY THE FIRST GAME UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.

IMPORTANT DATES

PRACTICE FOR TRYOUTS:	Feb. 25 through March 6; Times will be based on afterschool extracurricular activities
TRYOUTS:	March 7 th at 9:00
MANDATORY PARENT MEETING:	February 24, 2014 5:30 pm in the Auditorium

I EXPECT EVERYONE AT EVERY PRACTICE & MEETING.

Summer practice schedule will be set up after tryouts.

Last revision July 2015, approved by board

***Cheerleader/Mascot
2015- 2016
Consequences for Infractions
of the Rules and Requirements***

Level I: Failure to attend games, practices, and other required activities. Failure to follow all general rules and guidelines including acceptable use of social networking sites. Unacceptable use of social networking sites would include inappropriate or negative comments about the school, school employees, and/or students. Please see handbook.

First Infraction	Warning in writing by sponsor Warning signed by parents and returned to principal
Second Infraction	Suspension from cheerleading for 1 week Note to parents, note signed and returned to principal
Third Infraction	Removal from squad Note to parents

Level II: Severe disciplinary action - incidents involving drugs, alcohol, or tobacco or other incidents as outlined in the student handbook, Code of Conduct, and Progressive Discipline Guidelines which are detrimental to the cheerleading squad. Please see handbook.

First Infraction	Suspension from cheerleading for 2 weeks Note to parent, note signed and returned to principal
Second Infraction	Automatic dismissal Note to parents

As a part of the cheerleading squad of Sunray High School, I commit to accepting my responsibilities, following the rules, and being a positive role model in our school and community. I have read this sheet and understand the consequences if I fail to honor my commitment.

Cheerleader/Mascot Signature

Date

I have read this sheet with my son/daughter and understand these consequences.

Parent Signature

Date

Parental Permission for Cheerleader/Mascot

Student:

I, the undersigned, have read and fully understand the rules and regulations which will govern me if I am elected to represent Sunray High School as a cheerleader or the mascot. I further understand that this is an extra-curricular activity governed by UIL rules. I understand that attendance is a requirement of the elected squad member. I understand my financial obligations if I am elected. I commit to be a positive role model at Sunray ISD while serving in this leadership position.

I understand my attendance at all games, practices, special functions, and summer training is a requirement of the elected cheerleader/mascot.

I hereby state that I want to be a candidate for the cheerleading squad at Sunray High School. I hereby state I will accept the outlined responsibilities and will fulfill the requirement as a member of the cheerleading squad if I am elected.

Student Signature

Date

Parent:

I, the undersigned, have read and fully understand the rules and regulations which will govern my child if she/he is chosen to represent Sunray High School as a cheerleader or a mascot. I further understand that this is an extra-curricular activity governed by UIL rules.

I understand my financial obligations if my child is elected to the cheerleading squad. It is also understood that if my balance is not paid in full, I will not cheer at the first football game.

I hereby give consent to my child, _____, to try out for cheerleader/mascot at Sunray High School, and recognize her/his responsibilities and requirements as a leader of Sunray High School.

Parent Signature

Date