

Waskom ISD Cheerleader Constitution

2017- 2018

Middle and High School

Please read the following information carefully before you make your final decision to try out for cheerleader/mascot. The following guidelines are intended to help you be a part of the best cheerleading squad possible. It should be the goal of each individual to make the cheerleaders at Waskom ISD a model for other schools in the district and area. You must also consider the position of honor in which you will be placed. Your actions and performances will affect the entire school. More will be expected of you and your behavior will be held to a higher standard than that of the average student. It is a tremendous duty to take on many activities and it is encouraged that you make the highest possible effort to support all of your activities to the fullest. Since Waskom ISD has the desire for our students to be successful, we hope that your participation in the cheerleading squad is an amazing experience for many years to come. Keeping all of this in mind, as well as the following guidelines, you need to set your priorities and decide if you are prepared to do what is necessary and make the sacrifices that may be required to be a Waskom Wildcat cheerleader or mascot.
Congratulations and Best of Luck!

Purpose and Values of Cheerleading

1. Leadership
2. Physical fitness, coordination, and healthy lifestyle
3. Respect, courtesy, tolerance, and self-control, self-confidence and Character
4. Sportsmanship and citizenship
5. Responsibility and patience
6. Communication Skills

Cheerleader Duties

1. Cheerleaders will plan pep rallies, contribute spirit ideas, and help control the attitudes of the crowd.
2. Attendance in school for 75% of the academic day is required for a performance that day. Excessive absences may result in non-participation or possibly dismissal from the squad.
3. At the end of each game/pep rally/performance, each cheerleader/mascot is expected to meet with the coach to clear away trash and other items prior to being released. Each cheerleader/mascot will be assigned items to pick up and load at each activity.

Squad Membership

The *High School Varsity Squad* will have 16 members and 1 mascot.

The *High School Junior Varsity Squad* will have 10 members and 1 mascot.

The *Middle School Squad* will have 12 members (7th and 8th graders only) and 1 mascot

Athletic Team Support

High School Squads

1. The Varsity Squad will cheer at all varsity football games, and playoffs and all home boys' and girls' district basketball games including playoffs.
2. The Junior Varsity Squad will cheer at all junior varsity football games, and all junior varsity home district girls and boys basketball games.

Middle School Squad

1. The Middle School will cheer at 7th and 8th grade football games.
2. The Middle School will perform during halftime at home football games.

Cheerleader's Vow

A Cheerleader/Mascot-

1. Will attend practice and show cooperation with other cheerleaders and the coach.
2. Will know the cheers, chants, and routines for all games and performances. Will attempt to improve cheerleading skills.
3. Must adhere to the rules as listed in the constitution.
4. Must follow the safety rules as listed in the *National Federation's High School Spirit Rules* book both on and off the campus.
5. Will always promote positive leadership, show good sportsmanship, school spirit, respect, cooperation and be courteous to faculty, administration, officials, coaches, players, and visitors.
6. Shall be aware of their appearance at all times, using good grooming and dress habits.

Expectations and Responsibility

Middle and High School

A Cheerleader/Mascot-

1. Shall be aware of their appearance at all times, using good grooming and dress habits. (Male members should appear clean-cut, no facial hair, no braids or ponytails in hair.)
2. Must follow the safety rules as listed in the *National Federation's High School Spirit Rules* book.
3. Shall always remember that their primary responsibility is to support the athletic program.
4. Should be enthusiastic, and prepared.
5. Will be expected to wear the full uniform, (with exception of the mascot environmental conditions permitting).
6. Must attend camp (or will be released from the squad).
7. The mascot will perform and participate at all activities.
8. Cheerleaders/Mascot playing basketball will cheer after their basketball game. (NO EXCEPTION)
9. No jewelry will be worn to camp, practices, pep rallies or games.
10. All cheerleaders will wear same hair styles. It must be pulled away from the face and preferably back in a ponytail, braid or bun. Any bangs that extends below student's eyebrows will be clipped back with the same color, or close to your hair color, clip.
11. Must attend scheduled practices, and will not eat, or chew gum while involved in any cheerleading activities.
12. UIL eligibility requires a grade point average of 70 or above to participate in extracurricular activities for that six-week grading period.
13. While serving as a cheerleader/mascot, if a cheerleader/mascot fails more than two consecutive grading periods in a cheer season the student will be dismissed from the squad and not allowed to try-out the next year.
14. Cheerleaders/Mascot playing fall sports will be responsible for maintaining their cheer obligations before leaving for sport activities. They should be equally dedicated to all activities that they participate in.

UIL Spirit Program

The UIL has instituted policies and procedures providing direction in the education and health and safety of cheerleaders.

Extracurricular Participants

Spirit and cheerleading programs that support UIL activities are currently identified as a participant in an extracurricular activity. The eligibility for these participants will fall under Section 400 of the UIL C&CR. These rules apply to all students who participate in any UIL activity.

Health and Safety:

According to Section 1208 (y) of the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules:

*Cheerleaders & Spirit Groups: All cheer and spirit performances at any UIL activity shall be in accordance with safety standards as prescribed by the National Federation High School Spirit Handbook. (<http://nfhs.org/resources/publications/>)

Coach Responsibilities

Coach responsibilities are to attend and carefully supervise all practices, performances, and any other function(s) that involves the cheer team and to ensure that the cheerleader's code of conduct is followed along with National Federation of State High School Spirit Rules.

Transportation

All cheerleaders will ride to and from each game with the coach. Special circumstances might warrant a member riding with their parent after a game. These arrangements need to be made in advance and a parent must sign a release. If a squad member misses the bus, the student will not be able to perform at the game and will receive appropriate demerits.

Special Events

Special events include participation in parades, exhibitions, or community service projects the squad will be involved with as determined by coach.

Fundraising Activities

Each squad member will be involved in each fundraiser with 100% participation.

Practice Sessions

1. All practices are mandatory.
2. More than 4 missed summer practices will result in your removal from the squad. Attendance is important at every practice and meeting.
3. If you are more than 30 minutes late to a practice, consider it an absence and demerits will be added.
4. Without prior approval and notification to the coach, the absence will be considered unexcused; a call after the fact does not constitute prior approval to be absent.
5. If a practice must be missed, pre-notification must be given in writing and approved by the sponsor at least 2 days in advance. The sponsor will review extenuating circumstances for notification less than the required time period.
6. During the summer, there will be at least 2 practices per week for 2 hours each practice. A letter of intent is required by cheerleaders whose families will be going on vacation, at least two weeks in advance.

Merits and Demerits Discipline:

Cheerleading or being a mascot is a privilege. Cheerleaders/mascot should be held to the highest standards. Any disciplinary action you may receive as a result of any rule infractions is not intended to be malicious, but to encourage you to accept responsibility for your actions and the consequences of failure to uphold your responsibilities.

- A. If a cheerleader/mascot receives 5 demerits or is asked to not participate in an activity, the cheerleader must dress out in uniform and remain with sponsor throughout the event, game, or activity. If you miss a pep rally you will not be allowed to participate in the game performance. You will receive a written notice of possible dismissal to be signed by the cheerleader/mascot and the parent/guardian.
- B. A cheerleader/mascot may be penalized including dismissal from the squad for blatant insubordination to the sponsor or any other school authority.
- C. Any cheerleader/mascot who behaves improperly while representing the school in practice, travel, or in uniform may be penalized including dismissal from the squad at the discretion of the coach.
- D. AEP or other out of school suspension by the principal or assistant will be subject to dismissal from the squad.
- E. Any activity, behavior or action deemed inappropriate by sponsor or school principal (including but not limited to criminal behavior) will be dismissal from the squad.
- F. Laps may be run in addition to demerits at the discretion of the coach. The number of laps equals the seriousness of the offense.
- G. The coaches will give merits to cheerleaders who wish to clear demerits off her/his record. The coaches will decide all merit points. Two merits equal one demerit.

1. Merits may be given for the following: Spending extra time teaching cheers or chants (2-merits per hour).
2. Doing volunteer work with prior approval of the coach.
3. For "per hour" work, you may earn 2-merits per each hour of work.
4. When a cheerleader finds it necessary to earn merits, the cheerleader must have the merit work approved by the coach before the particular work is done

The maximum number of demerits that can be cleared is 5 for the year. *

Some examples of demerits and combination of other disciplinary actions are:

Letter	Item	Demerit
a.	Disrespect to another squad member or visiting squad member.	2
b.	Incorrect outfit or uniform worn to an event (includes missing parts of uniform such as bow, socks, bloomers; wearing jewelry, wearing hair improperly).	2
c.	Unexcused tardy or leaving early from a performance or practice (includes half-time breaks), or unexcused practice.	2
d.	Unexcused absence from performance or practice	6
e.	Leaving activity without permission (includes leaving field or court during game without coach's permission).	3
f.	Failure to keep cheer notebook at notebook check.	2
g.	Profane language, inappropriate behavior, or uncooperative behavior.	3
h.	SAC	5
i.	Conduct other than satisfactory, including report card grade, teacher detention, not turning in money as required.	5
j.	Failure to follow coach's instructions.	4
k.	Sarcasm, insults or negative remarks made to an administrator, coach, cheerleader, teacher or other school personnel.	3
l.	Temper displayed during practice, pep rally, game and other activities.	3
m.	Any disciplinary action in principal's office (Includes principal's detention).	3
n.	Non-participation in fund-raisers or work sessions.	3
o.	Horse play at practice, game, or other activities. Chewing gum and other minor offenses.	2
p.	Not smiling or jumping or splitting at practice, games or activities.	2
q.	Not saying words or doing motions to the fullest At practice, games, and other activities.	5
r.	Refusal to fulfill obligations (Not performing, not getting trash, poles, etc. at pep rallies, practices, games, and other activities)	5
s.	If you are caught or accused of stealing or ticketed you will be dismissed from the squad	

1. This list of demerits is not inclusive; a cheerleader/mascot may be reprimanded at the coach or principal's discretion.
2. Removal or benching can be done at the discretion of the coach regardless of number of demerits.
3. Grievance procedure: You must discuss your grievances with the coach first. If not settled to your satisfaction, you may take your grievance to the principal. Grievances not heard in this order will result in no action.
4. Probation:
 - a. A cheerleader/mascot receiving 2 demerits will be verbally warned and reprimanded by the coach.
 - b. A cheerleader/mascot receiving 10 demerits will be removed from the squad for the remainder of the school year.

Health Guidelines

1. Any cheerleader/mascot that suffers a major injury or illness during preseason or the regular season may be released from duties. Proper medical documentation must be provided to release or reinstate the individual.
2. If a cheerleader has sustained an injury that prohibits the student from cheering, that cheerleader must still attend practices, performances, and other activities. Doctor's appointments related to the injury should be scheduled around practice, performance, and other activity times.
3. All cheerleaders/mascot can be subject to random drug testing. Refusal to take the test or inability to pass the test will result in dismissal from the squad.
4. In the event a cheerleader becomes pregnant, she will not be allowed to participate. Being a member of the cheerleading squad is a privilege. Each cheerleader serves as a role model for Waskom ISD. In the event that the uniforms have been ordered, the cheerleader will still be responsible for all balances due for uniforms and accessories.

Guidelines for High School Varsity Cheer Captain

1. Two cheerleaders will be chosen for the high school varsity cheer captain, and one co-captain will be chosen to assist the captains.
2. Captain's responsibilities:
 - a. Start cheers and chants at games.
 - b. Provide communication and organization for entire squad.
 - c. Other designated duties assigned as necessary.
 - d. Leadership skills and an ability to work with other people in a professional manner are required.
3. Captains and Co-Captains will be chosen by judges, school principal, and the cheer coach. The coach will make selection of the captains and co captains on the basis of leadership, scores, abilities, attitude, peer respect, and general abilities. The cheer coach and principal have the final authority to name the captains and co-captain.

Demotion- Captains lead the squad. Therefore, they must exhibit a high standard of behavior. Should a Captain abuse her position, she may be demoted or permanently removed from Captain's position. Demotion of a Captain is at the discretion of the coach.

Guidelines for Junior Varsity Cheer Captain

1. Cheer captain, and Co-captain Cheerleader will be chosen for the junior varsity.
2. Captain's responsibilities
 - a. Start cheers and chants at games.

- b. Provide communication and organization for entire squad.
 - c. Other designated duties assigned as necessary.
 - d. Leadership skills and an ability to work with other people in a professional manner are required.
3. Captain and Co-Captain will be chosen by judges, school principal, and the cheer coach .The coach will make selection of the captains and co captains on the basis of leadership, scores, abilities, attitude, peer respect, and general abilities. The cheer coach and principal have the final authority to name the captains and co-captain.

Demotion- The Captains lead the squad; therefore, they must exhibit a high standard of behavior. Should a Captain abuse her position, she may be demoted or permanently removed from Captain’s position. Demotion of a Captain is at the discretion of the coach.

Guidelines for Middle School Cheer Captain

The coach will choose a captain and co- captain based on the following criteria.

1. Only one captain and co-captain will be chosen for the middle school squad.
2. Captain’s responsibilities
 - a. Start cheers and chants at games.
 - b. Provide communication and organization for entire squad.
 - c. Other designated duties assigned as necessary.
 - d. Leadership skills and an ability to work with other people in a professional manner are required.
3. Co-Captain’s Responsibilities
 - a. Take on responsibilities of captain in her absence
4. Captain & Co-Captain selected based on criteria:
 - a. Input from staff to be determined by leadership skills.
 - b. Had not been kicked off the squad, or quit without a valid reason (approval by coach, and principal) the previous year.
 - c. Leadership skills and an ability to work with other people in a professional manner.
 - d. Scores and evaluation
5. Co-Captains will be chosen by judges, school principal, and the cheer coach .The coach will make selection of the captains and co captains on the basis of leadership, scores, abilities, attitude, peer respect, and general abilities. The cheer coach has the final authority to name the captains and co-captain.

Cheerleader Lettering/Qualifications(High School Only)

A cheerleader/mascot-

1. One year on Varsity Cheer
 - A. Cheered at least 30 quarters per football season.
 - B. Cheered at least 10 periods per basketball season.
2. Has not been removed from the squad due to ineligibility etc.

Uniform Fees

A deposit of \$150.00 is required on **February 15, 2017**. If \$150.00 is not paid at that time, your child will not be allowed to be a member of the squad. The next candidate in line according to scores will take her place on the squad. Types of payments will be cash, money order or cashier checks only. No personal checks. The remaining balance is due **May 24, 2017**, NO EXCEPTIONS! If your balance is not zero dollars by **May 24, 2017**, your uniform will not be ordered, NO EXCEPTIONS!

Fee Deposit (Nonrefundable) Due Dates

February 14	Uniform	150.00
March 24	Camp Deposit	100.00
April 24	Camp Balance	DUE
May 24	Remaining Balance due (Uniform/Camp Fee)	

Uniform Selection

The coach will select uniforms and camp clothes. Varsity and Junior Varsity will reuse each uniform for different events throughout the school year. We are a cheerleading squad and are looking for uniformity, not individuality. All alterations will need prior approval by the coach. No alteration will be made on uniforms once final fitting takes place. Any alterations made will be penalized via demerits and sitting on the bench. Depending on how bad the offense is, the offender may have to purchase a new uniform. Until the new uniform arrives, the offender will be benched.

Judges

1. Cheerleaders will be chosen by outside, independent judges. These judges will be trained in judging the qualifications for cheerleader based on NCA or UCA standards.
2. Election results are confidential; however, a parent may be shown the judges total score for their child but for no other candidate (After tryouts, you may review your child's score by making an appointment with WISD SECRETARY on the next school day).
3. Three judges will select our squad members.
4. Judges' scores are final.
5. In case of a tie in the final position, all candidates with the same cumulative whole number score will perform the individual cheer as a tie breaker.

Try-Out Requirements:

1. Completion of forms by the designated deadline include: medical wavier, try-out application, teacher evaluation forms, and constitution agreement.
2. Must maintain an average in the first semester that is acceptable to the principal. Candidates must meet UIL academic eligibility during cheerleader tryouts.
3. Each candidate must have an acceptable discipline record. A candidate cannot have had AEP, suspension, or been assigned to SAC(two times) during the current school year. **Candidate cannot have lost class credits due to breaching attendance requirements.**
4. Each candidate will be required to turn in three teacher evaluation forms by **Wednesday, February 8, 2017**. The forms must be filled out by three teachers that the student has had during the **2017-2018** school year. These forms will be worth 10 points each, for a total of 30 points on the try-out points total.
5. Must attend entire pre-tryout training sessions, on time both days, or you will not be allowed to try-out. If you are not in school the days of pre-tryout training you are not allowed to attend.
5. Must be enrolled in Waskom ISD one day prior to the cheerleader parent meeting.
6. Cannot have been dismissed from the squad due to excessive demerits during the school year, or has quit the previous year without a valid reason (determined by coach, and principal).
7. All fees from the previous cheer season must be paid in full, in order to try-out.
8. All parents and/or student must attend the group meeting to tryouts to discuss costs, rules, and schedules. This meeting will be held on **Monday, January 30, 2017 at 6:00pm** at the High School Library.
9. You cannot try-out for both cheerleader/mascot at the same time.

Try-Outs Practices:

1. Two practices will be held to learn and practice materials on **February 8-9 from 3:30-6:30p.m.** These are CLOSED to EVERYONE!!!! Photography or filming will not be permitted. You must attend both practices on time each day, or you will not be able to tryout.

Try-Out Day

1. Tryouts will be conducted on **Friday, February 10, 2017** at **4:15 p.m.** in the middle school gym. You must be there **@4:00** to pull your number. Tryouts will start promptly **@4:15p.m.**
2. Attendance in all classes in school on **Friday, February 10, 2017** is mandatory in order to tryout on Friday.
3. Numbers will be assigned by lottery to determine the order in which students' try-out and to determine groups. (Groups of 3 or 4 Varsity candidates will try-out first, then Middle School candidates).
4. All candidates will remain in the locker room until their candidate number and group is called to perform for the judges. All candidates will remain in the locker room after trying out until try-outs are complete.
5. Each candidate must wear plain black shorts, a plain white tee-shirt, white ankle socks, and plain white tennis shoes. There can be no writing on any part of the tryout clothing. You will not be allowed to try-out if you are not dressed according to the guidelines.
6. No part of an old cheerleading uniform may be worn. (this includes shoes and socks).
7. Black spandex only may be worn under shorts but not alone.
8. No tight tops or sports bras should show.
9. No jewelry or glitter will be worn at tryouts.
10. Hair must be pulled away from face and secured in a ponytail, braid or bun, if necessary.
11. Try-outs are closed to the public.

Tryout Day Cheerleader/Mascot

1. Numbers will be assigned by lottery to determine the order in which candidates' try-out. Candidates will try-out in numerical order.
2. All candidates will enter the gym in their assigned groups then perform the following when instructed.

Cheerleader/Mascot Tryout Day

Skills and Performance

1. Each candidate will perform in a group: dance, and chant
2. Each candidate will perform individually: jumps, and cheer, a tumble of your choice.

Mascot Tryout Day

Skills and Performance

1. Each candidate will perform in a group: chant
2. Mascot candidates will do a 1-2 minute skit (use props).
3. They will be required to wear the Wildcat uniform and judges will have no knowledge of who they are until after their performance.
4. Will recite all Cheerleaders' Vows (prior to tryouts with the Coach date and time will be given).

Cheerleader/Mascot Results Format

1. Will be the sum of points from "Skills and Performance"

Varsity Cheerleader/Mascot

Scores will be ranked (top 16 cheerleaders), from the highest to the lowest score. No more than 16 will be selected based on meeting the judges' criteria of a high school varsity cheerleader. The Varsity mascot will be the highest candidate.

Junior Varsity Cheerleader

Scores will be ranked (top 10 cheerleaders), from the highest to the lowest score. No more than 10 will be selected based on meeting the judges' criteria of a high school junior varsity cheerleader. The Junior Varsity mascot will be the second highest candidate

Middle School Cheerleader

Scores will be ranked (up to 12 cheerleaders), from the highest to the lowest score. No more than 12 will be selected based on meeting the judges' criteria of a Middle school cheerleader squad.

The **2017-2018** Cheerleaders and Mascot results will be posted for viewing on the Middle School Gym Doors after all try-outs are complete.

Constitutional Amendments

The Constitution is subject to amendment at any time due to Texas Education Agency rule changes or with approval from the principal. Cheerleaders and parents will be made aware of any changes. Although all measures have been taken to address all issues involved in the cheerleader organization, circumstances and situations may arise which are not addressed. These situations will require discretion on an individual basis using this Constitution as the guideline for making a determination or decision on an issue. Some minor adjustments will be made.

After you and your parents have read all the attached material, you should complete the information pages and return them to the cheer coach. Failure to return these documents by the deadline will result in your inability to try-out.

Waskom ISD Cheer Contacts

Nikki Wynn- Waskom High School Coach
nwynn@waskomisd.net
903-687-1500 ext. 1302

Lisa Jones- Waskom Middle School
ljones@waskomisd.net
903-687-1500 ext.1100

Constitution Agreement

Applicant Release:

I (applicant's name) _____, have read all rules and regulations that govern the Waskom ISD Cheerleaders. As a representative of my school, I understand and agree to abide by them if selected as a cheerleader for the **2017-2018** School Year.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Parental Release:

I, the undersigned, have read and fully understand the rules and regulations which will govern my child if chosen to represent Waskom ISD as a cheerleader. 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 cheerleader.

I hereby give consent to my child, _____, to try-out for cheerleading at Waskom ISD and recognize their responsibilities and requirements as a leader of Waskom ISD. I understand that, if chosen, my child will be required to pay for cheerleader camp and uniforms. Further, we understand that school and/or personal insurance must cover our child. 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

Please return to Mrs. Nikki Wynn (HS), or Mrs. Lisa Jones (MS)
by **Wednesday February 8, 2017.**

Possible Points :Cheerleader/Mascot

Group

Group Dance – 25 pts. _____ 25pts
Chant – 25 pts. _____ 25pts

Individual

Individual Cheer –35pts. _____ 35 pts
Jumps – 1 Herkey – 5 pts. _____ 5 pts
 1 Toe Touch – 5 pts. _____ 5 pts
Tumble of Choice –5 pts. _____ 5 pts

Teacher Evaluation

Teacher Form 1 _____ 10 pts
Teacher Form 2 _____ 10 pts
Teacher Form 3 _____ 10 pts

TOTAL _____ 130pts

Captain: (Be prepared to answer questions)

Judges' interview -15 pts. _____ 15 pts
Coach Recommendation-20 pts _____ 20 pts
Principal's Recommendation-15 pts. _____ 15 pts

Total Points – 50 pts. _____ 50 pts

Mascot

Mascot Skit – 60 pts. _____ 60 pts
 Group Chant – 25pts. _____ 25 pts
Overall Performance-15 pts _____ 15 pts

Teacher Evaluation

Teacher Form 1 _____ 10 pts
Teacher Form 2 _____ 10 pts
Teacher Form 3 _____ 10 pts

Total Points-130pts. _____ 130 pts

Social Media Contract

As a Waskom High School/Middle School cheerleader, the sponsors, principals, teachers, and community hold you to a high standard of behavior. This high standard of behavior includes the use of social media such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Tumblr, Snapchat, etc. If you use social media and post pictures and/or printed material on your account, including but not limited to the use of drugs, alcohol, sexual conduct, it can and will result in immediate suspension and/or removal from the team. The discipline will be decided by the coach and principal.

The areas of appropriateness will include, but are not limited to, language (abbreviated or alluding to), pictures, suggestive poses, sexual content, clothing, reference to alcohol, drugs, and tobacco and/or any suggestion of rude comment or anger toward any Waskom Staff or Student. Any question of appropriateness will be decided by the principal and sponsor.

If at any time there becomes question of content on social media, the sponsor and/or principal has permission to have any cheerleader log in to any and all social media websites, apps, etc. in order to observe all public posts made by the cheerleader.

The possession and/or use of alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs are expressly forbidden and will not be tolerated. Any infraction, on or off campus, or with picture evidence, will result in a principal/director/parent/student review, and can result in immediate removal from the cheer team.

I _____, acknowledge, accept and agree to the Waskom Cheer Social Media Contract.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date