



Brackett Independent School District Secondary Schools Cheerleader Constitution

CHEERLEADER / MASCOT GUIDELINES

The following guidelines have been reviewed by the Brackett Independent School District Board of Trustees. Many of the requirements listed below in respect to behavior are also found in the Cheerleader/Mascot Demerit Guidelines and the Student Code of Conduct.

CHEERLEADER/MASCOT

1. Student must be enrolled in Brackett ISD by the end of the first six weeks.
2. Must be eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities at the time of practice and tryouts.

CHEERLEADER/MASCOT SELECTION

Eligibility to tryout will be determined by an evaluation that consists of academic, discipline, attendance records, and clinic participation records.

1. Cheerleader/Mascot candidates will be selected by three impartial judges.
2. Cheerleaders will be required to do the following:
 - A. Cheer
 - B. Chant
3. Judges will score each performance awarding from 1-100 points.
4. The top ten scores for high school candidates and the top six scores for Junior High school candidates will be cheerleaders for the coming year. The top candidate score for mascot tryouts will be mascot for the coming year.
5. In the event of a tie for the 10th position on the High School squad and the 6th position on the Junior High squad, the Academic Evaluation to Determine Eligibility to Tryout points will be added to each tied participant's total to break the tie.
6. The head cheerleader will be selected by popular vote among cheerleaders.
7. Students trying out for high school cheerleader or mascot are allowed to switch between the two positions from the time of sign-up until the end of the second day of practice. At the end of the second day, the position where the student is practicing will be the tryout position.
8. Any cheerleader/mascot who has been dismissed from the squad due to excessive demerits, conduct unbecoming a cheerleader, or has been suspended from school, expelled, can not tryout for the cheer squad for a period of one year after the dismissal or misconduct.
9. Parents are responsible for the financial burden of a student being a cheerleader/mascot.

Cheerleaders/Mascots represent Brackett ISD. The cheer squads are expected to

conduct themselves in a way that brings honor to the school. Cheerleaders shall promote and uphold school spirit, develop a sense of good sportsmanship among students and adults and strive to uphold the highest personal, as well as cheerleading standards both at school and at athletic events.

Selection as a cheerleader/mascot is an honor. The privilege of representing the school can be removed either temporarily or permanently, at the discretion of the principal with consultation by the sponsor for: 1) failing to meet UIL qualifications, 2) being involved in a incident that would warrant his/her suspension from school, 3) conduct unbecoming a lady or gentleman, 4) excessive detention due to tardiness, misbehavior, etc. 5) failure to participate in group activities, and 6) being assigned to on-campus suspension, Saturday school or alternative education programs.

Cheerleader/Mascot camp is recommended, but not required. Cheerleader expenses will be limited. The sponsor will be the final authority on cheerleader uniforms, shoes, etc., but will consult with the cheerleaders, parents and the principal. Any squad member ordering uniforms will be required to pay for them within the time frame addressed below. Cheerleaders are expected to raise money to cover expenses for crashers, paints, etc.

The sponsor is responsible for:

1. Setting practice times and supervising practices
2. Accompanying cheerleaders at all official school functions
3. Coordinating with the principal concerning grades and conduct

CHEERLEADER UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

Uniforms are considered the personal property of the cheerleader. Once a candidate has been chosen as cheerleader, a \$150.00 payment will be made within thirty (30) days of the election in order to begin covering camp uniform costs. All uniform payments must be made in full prior to receiving a uniform and attending summer camp.

LETTER JACKET REQUIREMENTS

Cheerleaders become eligible for a Letter Jacket when they have completed their second year of cheerleader service. Cheerleaders must be in good standing with the current squad, and must not have been removed from the squad due to discipline or demerit reasons during the two-year service.

ACADEMIC EVALUATION TO DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY TO TRYOUT

The following categories of the academic evaluation are to be completed from the corresponding sections of the individual's report card by the cheerleading coach/principal:

GRADES

No semester average below "80" for the first semester	5
No six weeks grade below "80" for the first semester	5
A semester average below "80" but not below "75" for the first semester	3
A six weeks grade below "80" but not below "75" during the first semester	3
A semester average below "75" but not below "70" for the first semester	2
A six weeks grade below "75" but not below "70" during the first semester	2
A semester average below "70" for the first semester	0
A six week grade below "70" during the first semester	0

ATTENDANCE

The accumulation of no more than 4 absences for the first semester	5
The accumulation of 5-7 absences for the first semester	3
The accumulation of more than 8 absences for the first semester	0

DISCIPLINE

THE FOLLOWING CATEGORY WILL BE COMPLETED ACCORDING TO THE SCHOOL'S DISCIPLINE RECORDS

Number of Office Referrals _____
Number of In-School suspensions/detentions _____
Number of Suspensions from School or placements in DAEP _____

DISCIPLINE RECORD

No Office Referrals issued for this applicant	5
No more than one office referral or one detention/ISS	3
More than one office referral or one detention	0

ANY APPLICANT WHO HAS BEEN ISSUED MORE THAN 3 OFFICE REFERRALS, DISCIPLINE DETENTIONS, HAS BEEN PLACED IN ISS MORE THAN ONCE, SUSPENDED FROM SCHOOL, OR PLACED AT THE ALTERNATIVE CAMPUS AUTOMATICALLY RELINQUISHES THEIR TRYOUT POSITION.

CUMULATIVE EVALUATION _____

THE APPLICANT MUST SCORE 13 OR ABOVE TO BE ELIGIBLE TO TRYOUT FOR CHEERLEADER.

CLINIC ATTENDANCE: (TO BE COMPLETED BY THE CHEER SPONSOR AFTER COMPLETION OF TRYOUT CLINIC)

No absences during tryout practice	5
No more than one absence during tryout practice	3
More than one absence during tryout practice	0

Total of Cumulative Evaluation and Clinic Attendance Points _____

In the event of a tie for the 10th position on the High School squad and the 6th position on the Junior High squad, the Academic Evaluation to Determine Eligibility and Clinic Attendance to Tryout points will be added to each tied participant's total to break the tie.

NOTE: A SCHOOL SPONSORED ACTIVITY DOES NOT COUNT AS AN ABSENCE.

BRACKETT INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

BRACKETT SECONDARY SCHOOLS

CHEERLEADER/MASCOT DEMERIT GUIDELINES

The following rules apply to all cheerleaders and the mascot. Demerits will be given if violation of any rule occurs, including but not limited to the **BISD Cheerleader/Mascot Guidelines, BISD Cheerleader/Mascot Demerit Guidelines and the Student Code of Conduct**. The cheerleader/mascot and sponsor will sign a Demerit Notice on the date of the occurrence of the violation or as soon as possible thereafter. A summary sheet of accumulated demerits will be sent home to the parents/guardians if demerits are being accumulated quickly, or if the cheerleader/mascot is in danger of being dismissed from the squad. Any summary sheet will be signed by the parent/guardian and returned to the sponsor within two days.

GENERAL

7 DEMERITS

1. Missing a game, practice, pep-rally, or meeting you are expected to attend. **The cheerleader/mascot must personally let the sponsor know if you will be late or will miss an event.** Excused absences will be: 1) death in the family, 2) hospitalization or illness.

In the event of hospitalization or illness, the cheerleader/mascot must bring a release from the doctor to the sponsor. This will let the sponsor know the student has been released and if there are any limitations to activities.

2. Failure to participate in group activities such as fundraiser, decorating, practice, etc. **You must personally let the sponsor know you will not be able to participate in the event prior to the date of the event.** Excused absences will be 1) death in the family, 2) hospitalization or illness.

In the event of hospitalization or illness, the cheerleader/mascot must bring a release from the doctor to the sponsor. This will let the sponsor know the student has been released and if there are any limitations to activities.

3. Any Cheerleader/mascot missing more than one practice prior to a pep rally will not perform at the pep rally. The cheerleader may receive demerits for missing practice and an additional five (5) demerits for not performing at the pep rally. Any cheerleader/mascot missing practice the day prior to a pep rally will not perform at the upcoming pep rally and may receive five (5) demerits for not performing at the pep rally.

5 DERMERITS

1. No physical contact with the opposite sex while wearing cheerleader/mascot uniforms or during practice. Boyfriends are not allowed at practice. Boyfriends who attend games may visit with squad members prior to the game, during half time, or after the game. If squad member is late or neglectful of duties and responsibilities, demerits will be issued.
2. Late to a game, practice, pep-rally, meeting, etc. you are expected to attend. **You must let the sponsor know prior to the event you will be late.** The only acceptable excuse for being late is if you have a doctor's appointment. A release from the doctor will be required so the sponsor will know there are no limitations of activities.
3. Misbehavior in class, disrespect toward teacher, administrators, cheerleaders/mascot, or community members, or consistent tardiness to class resulting in Saturday school.
4. Uniforms must be neat and clean at all times. All squad members will wear the proper uniform on game days. These uniforms include, but are not limited to uniform worn:
 - during school (or at a pep rally)
 - during travel
 - during the game or event.
5. Non-cooperation or fighting among squad members will not be tolerated. This rule includes, but is not limited to verbal abuse of other squad members (degrading, making fun of, bickering, etc.).

If a fight literally breaks out between squad members, or if a squad member is fighting with another student, suspension from the squad for a period of one week will occur with possible grounds for immediate dismissal from the squad. Dismissal from the squad will be decided by the principal and sponsor.

6. Use of profanity will not be tolerated.
7. Not participating at games, practice, decorating, fund raiser, etc. (Cheering, chanting, painting, playing around or visiting rather than working when decorating or working on signs, etc.)
8. If a cheerleader/mascot receives detention, in-house suspension or Saturday school an additional 5 demerits will be issued**

** A word of caution, if detention, in-house suspension, or Saturday school is received by a squad member, a possible total of 17 demerits can be earned at one time (5 for the detention, in-house, or Saturday school; 5 for misbehavior or disrespect; 7 for missing a practice, game, etc.). Please refer to the student handbook.

3 DEMERITS

9. No jewelry will be worn during practice, games, or pep-rallies. This is for the protection of all cheerleaders/mascot.
10. No gum chewing at practice, games, pep-rallies.
11. Cheerleaders are responsible for bringing all items necessary for practice to practice. This includes: pom poms, cheerleader shoes, proper workout clothes, etc.

FOOTBALL

5 DEMERITS

1. During pre-game activities, cheerleaders and mascot will stand at attention while school songs, prayer, and national anthem are being performed. **DISRESPECTFUL BEHAVIOR WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.**
2. Cheerleader/mascot will have a break at half-time. Cheerleader/mascot may leave the sidelines at the end of the second quarter and will be back in front of the bleachers or forming a victory line approximately three (3) minutes before the beginning of the second half. The mascot will be in uniform and ready for the game no less than twenty (20) minutes prior to the start of the game or event. The mascot will remain in uniform, with the exception of removing the head and hands during half-time or to get a drink or ice until the end of the game or event.
3. Cheerleaders/mascot may not stand around under the bleachers during half-time. You may sit in the stands with family or friends, or return to the front of the bleachers during half-time activities. **ONLY SQUAD MEMBERS ARE ALLOWED ON THE SIDELINES/FIELD.**
4. Cheerleaders are assigned duties prior to the first football game. These duties include, but are not limited to weekly pep-rallies and loading/unloading van responsibilities throughout the ten week season. Cheerleaders not sharing in assigned duties will receive demerits for non-participation and non-cooperation among squad members.

BASKETBALL

1. Cheerleaders/mascot will be allowed breaks before the varsity girls game, during half-time of the girls game, before the varsity boys game, and during half-time of the boys game. After each break, cheerleaders/mascot will return to the bleachers just prior to the beginning of play. All cheerleaders/mascot will remain on the floor or in the bleachers during playtime.
2. Cheerleaders/mascots who are playing in JV or Varsity games will return to the gym and cheer squad by the end of the first quarter of the following game. (i.e., if you are playing JV basketball, you must be in uniform and in the stands with the rest of the cheer squad by the end of the first quarter of play of the varsity girls game.)

As there are too many behavioral instances to list, all cheer sponsors have the right to amend rules to fit the specific situation and may adjust rules.

Any squad member assigned to Alternative School will receive a total of 15 demerits (5 for disrespect to a teacher/misbehavior; 10 for being assigned to Alternative School). If the squad member misses a game practice, etc. while being assigned to Alternative School, an additional 7 demerits will be given for events missed. Additional action will be taken which include suspension for minimum period of four (4) weeks and the student will be placed on probation for the remainder of the year. The decision for additional action (i.e. extended suspension, extended probation or dismissal from the cheer squad) will be made by the principal and the sponsor at the time of the incident and will override this demerit system or any demerits already accumulated. If the squad member exceeds the 30 demerit maximum they will be dismissed from the squad. If a squad member has not been dismissed, upon return to the regular classroom; any occurrence of violation of school policy, Student Code of Conduct or misbehavior against a staff member, other student, etc. will result in immediate dismissal from the cheer squad.

Cheerleaders/mascot are not only a representative of Brackett ISD outside the community, but you are also expected to be an example to other students in and out of class by showing respect to teachers, not misbehaving in class, not being tardy, completing homework assignments, showing respect to other students, etc. When traveling as a squad, all travel uniforms will meet the Brackett Dress Code located in the Student Handbook.

Because participation in cheerleading or mascot is a privilege and not a right, Brackett ISD is authorized to set higher standards for cheerleader/mascot participants.

Actions performed by a squad member which violate behavior or student conduct guidelines located in the student handbook may result in immediate dismissal from the squad. The decision will be made by both the principal and cheer sponsor and will override the demerit system or any demerits accumulated by the squad member at the time of violation.

Twenty accumulated demerits will result in a squad member being removed from all activities for one week. Accumulation of another ten (10) demerits will result in permanent dismissal of a member from the squad.

A CHEERLEADER/MASCOT WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE CHEER SQUAD UPON ACCUMULATION OF THIRTY (30) DEMERITS.

**BRACKETT INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
SECONDARY SCHOOLS
CHEERLEADER/MASCOT DEMERIT GUIDLINES
DEMERIT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I, the undersigned Cheerleader/Mascot and Parent/Guardian, have read and do fully understand the demerit system stated on the above four pages. I, the undersigned Parent/Guardian, also understand the financial responsibilities and deadlines for payment of uniforms related to my child being on the cheer squad.

I, the undersigned Parent/Guardian, also understand the physical needs related to my child being a cheerleader/mascot and the possibilities of injury which may result from a fall or jump.

Cheerleader/Mascot Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date