

## MCMATH MIDDLE SCHOOL



### CHEERLEADING CODE OF CONDUCT

The members of the McMath Middle School cheer squad must adhere to the following articles. It must be understood that as a member of this organization, the student becomes a representative of the Denton ISD and of McMath Middle School and each member must maintain high moral and ethical standards. **Membership may be terminated at any time for unacceptable standards of conduct.**

The Cheer Squad Code of Conduct is designed to be used as a guideline toward becoming the best you can be. **Good judgment and common sense will be used when an incident occurs (not covered in the constitution).**

Being a squad member provides for many students their first opportunity to share a common bond and a close relationship with others. Learning what it means to work very closely with other girls/boys and sharing in accomplishments and frustrations are all part of being a squad member. It is an honor to be chosen as a squad member. To remain an active cheer or pep squad member, a girl/boy must maintain passing grades, keep in good physical shape, and uphold all guidelines established in the McMath Cheer Code of Conduct.

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#### ARTICLE I. PURPOSE

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The purpose of the McMath Middle School Cheer Squad shall be to boost the morale and spirit of the school, to entertain audiences through cheering, to develop leadership, sportsmanship, and responsibility. It is also the squad member's purpose to represent McMath Middle School in a manner that will reflect positively upon the school, as well as upon the squad whether in uniform or not. Each member agrees to abide by the rules and regulations set forth in this constitution.

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#### ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP

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Section 1. Each member must return the following forms by the posted due date.

- A. Parent Permission Form: permits squad member to participate in all performances and shows understanding of financial responsibilities.
- B. Physical Form: must submit a copy of squad member's current physical to have on file, so coaches are informed of medical conditions.

Section 2. The term of membership shall be recognized as the time immediately following cheerleading tryouts through tryouts for the following year. Cheerleading is a FULL YEAR commitment.

- Section 3. Members must have a commitment to cheering, supporting athletic teams and promoting school spirit among the student body and all organizations.
- Section 4. A member's resignation will be accepted only after the member has a conference with the coach and **ALL** financial obligations are met. All school properties must be returned in good condition. Once dismissed from the squad, reinstatement will not be allowed.

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### ARTICLE III. GRADES

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- Section 1. **Academic Eligibility:** Any member whose recorded six weeks grade average in any course is less than 70 will be ineligible to participate in any team event during the succeeding number of weeks as set forth by the UIL **"No Pass, No Play"**. To regain eligibility, a student must have a grade of 70 or above at the 3 week period in all classes. If not, probation will continue until the end of the six weeks period. *Grades will be checked every three weeks.*
- Section 2. The second occurrence of academic ineligibility within the year may result in dismissal from the organization. **Failing two or more classes, may result in being dismissed from the team permanently.**

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### ARTICLE IV. SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

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- Section 1. All squad members must be in regular full day attendance to participate in practice or a scheduled activity.
- Section 2. Members will participate in all activities in which the squad is involved. This includes all practices, performances, fund-raisers, and social activities that the squad is involved.  
A student that is in athletics or other extracurricular activities may also be a cheerleader, but please understand there will be scheduling conflicts.
- Section 3. Failure to comply with absence policies, to falsify reasons for absences or excessive absences may result in privileges being revoked.

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### ARTICLE V. CHEER/PEP ATTENDANCE

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- Section 1. In the event of an absence (excused or unexcused), the squad member must inform the coach of the absence and the reason for the absence **PRIOR** to the absence.
- Section 2. If a squad member misses a practice of a new performance, then she/he may be removed from that routine.

- Section 3. If a scheduling conflict arises, then exceptions may be made with prior approval from the coach.
- Section 4. Squad members are responsible for obtaining any information that was given on the day of the absence.
- Section 5. Schedules will be provided as early as possible, and families are expected to plan family functions and vacations accordingly.

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## **ARTICLE VI. PRACTICES**

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- Section 1. All practice sessions will be mandatory upon notification of the dates and times. Check posted announcements, Remind101 app and webpage weekly for updated information.
- Section 2. Members will arrive on time to practice and stay until dismissed.
- Section 3. Members must wear the specified practice attire. Hair must be pulled back and secured from the face at all times. Jewelry/gum is not allowed in practice sessions. Section 4. Members should schedule tutorials, make-up tests, etc. at times that do not conflict with practice or performance.
- Section 5. On occasion, some routines will need some additional attention. If the coach feels more time is needed to perfect a routine, every effort will be made to notify the cheerleader of the extra time required to polish the routine.
- Section 6. Member's suffering from injury will be excused from practice upon receipt of written notice from an attending physician.

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## **ARTICLE VII. UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT**

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- Section 1. **DO NOT** make alterations to the uniforms without permission from the coach.
- Section 2. If any uniform article is lost or damaged, the cheerleader will be responsible to pay to replace the lost item.
- Section 3. All designated uniforms, jackets, warm ups, bows, poms, megaphones, etc. are to be used and worn by squad members only.

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## **ARTICLE VIII. PERFORMANCES**

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- Section 1. Squad members will perform at scheduled athletic games or special events.
- Section 2. The coach reserves the right to pull any member from a performance due to absences, lack of knowledge of cheers/chants/dances, poor attitude, lack of effort, or excessive demerits.

Section 3. A uniform and equipment check will be held prior to performances. At this time the member should be completely ready for performance. This includes uniform, hair, etc.

Section 4. Performance Rules and Guidelines:

- A. Never leave the stands, field or the group without permission from coach.
- B. Never talk or cheer when a player is injured. Cheer when they recover.
- C. Never speak to spectators, including family, without permission from coach.
- D. Always pay close attention to the coach and follow their instructions.
- E. Be knowledgeable enough about the sport to be a good spectator.

Section 5. CoVid Guidelines

- A. All squad members must wear a mask at all times at indoor events, even whilst cheering.
- B. All squad members must maintain 6-10 feet social distancing.
- C. All squad members must wear a mask at outdoor events, but may pull down the mask to do a cheer.
- D. Masks may not be worn while performing stunts.
- E. We will follow all UIL and district guidelines as the year progresses. Many guidelines are subject to change at any time.

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## **ARTICLE IX. SPECIAL PERFORMANCES**

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Special performances will be announced by the coach and are required for each girl unless specified otherwise by the coach. These may include, but not limited to clinics, high school football/basketball games and other community affairs. Performances/Events will be announced as soon as possible and each member is expected to make arrangements to participate. Try-outs may be held for these special performances. We will also have two school pep rallies in the year where the squad will perform. The coach reserves the right to call extra practices for these routines with every effort to notify parents and cheerleaders in a timely manner for scheduling purposes.

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## **ARTICLE X. GENERAL CONDUCT**

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Section 1. Each squad member should be a leader within the school and should set a good example at all times. Squad members must display appropriate behavior both in and out of school.

Section 2. Denton Independent School District rules will be strictly applied whenever the cheerleader is officially representing DISD, attending a school sponsored activity or a school-sponsored trip. Each member must be aware that their conduct off-campus reflects upon the team image and that any member who is guilty of engaging in any illegal activity will be subject to dismissal.

Section 3. If an incident occurs during school or off campus at another event, a member should expect disciplinary action from the school as well as from the coach. The coach will determine consequences for inappropriate behavior after consulting with an administrator.

Section 4. Everyday Cheerleader Rules:

- A. No gum or candy during practices or performances.
- B. Be in proper attire during practices, game days, and performances.
- C. If you do not like a decision, discuss it privately with the coach.
- D. No public display of affection.
- E. Gossip will not be tolerated.
- F. Be respectful and treat others with respect.
- G. If you do not know what is expected of you, just ask!
- H. Inappropriate language is never allowed.
- I. Do not complain or whine.
- J. Insubordination will not be tolerated.
- K. Be responsible for your own actions.

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### **ARTICLE XI. CAPTAINS/CO-CAPTAINS**

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The coach will determine who will be selected as captain and co-captains for football season based on team performance and leadership qualities. Basketball season captains will be chosen by the squad or coaches.

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### **ARTICLE XII. PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

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Section 1. Parents must give their permission for their daughter/son to fulfill all the responsibilities of being a member of the squad.

Section 2. Parents are encouraged to participate in various cheerleading activities and fundraisers. Some fundraisers help defray the cost of cheer uniform and equipment.

Section 3. **Parents are required to get cheer/pep squad members to and from activities on time.** Bus transportation will NOT be provided to cheer and/or pep squads.

Section 4. Parents must be willing to cooperate with the coach and keep her informed of dates that might conflict with squad activities. **At least 24 hours notice** of scheduled conflict is required.

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### **ARTICLE XIII. FINANCES AND FUND-RAISING**

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Section 1. Parents must be willing to meet all financial obligations for having their daughter/son as a cheerleading member. **All payments are final. No refunds once uniforms are ordered. Once uniforms are custom ordered they cannot be returned and must be paid for in full.**

- Section 2. If we participate in camp, Partial Fee Waiver Scholarships for camp are available. Please see your coach for further details.
- Section 3. Each squad member will be required to buy all supplies and uniforms, unless otherwise stated, or the school has a uniform rental program.
- A. Cheer – uniform (shell and skirt), warm ups, camp wear, etc.
  - B. Accessories-bag, shoes, poms, socks, bows, etc.
- Section 4. All financial obligations for camp must be paid for prior to attendance at camp.
- Section 5. Turning in money:
- A. All money will be turned into the coach.
  - B. The cheerleader's name must be written in the memo line on each check.
  - C. Make all checks payable to MMS Cheer.
- Section 6. Insufficient Funds: If a check is returned insufficient, we will follow D.I.S.D. policy. The team member will be responsible for paying the amount plus an additional thirty (\$30) dollars to cover bank charges.

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#### **ARTICLE XIV. CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES**

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- Section 1. The interpretation of this constitution is the sole right of the coach and administration.
- Section 2. We have the right to add or change those things which we feel must be changed for the benefit of the squad or for the situation itself.
- Section 3. This constitution is meant to be a basic operating instrument and is not intended to cover every operating policy.
- Section 4. The constitution is subject to change at any time due to Texas Education Agency rule changes or with approval from the administration.
- Section 5. The coach may enforce other rules as they become necessary during the school year for the benefit of the organization.

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**APPENDECIES:** Each middle school is different based on populations and ability level.

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#### **Appendix A: Merit/Demerit System**

- Demerits may be given for any breaking of the Cheerleading Rules.
- Merits may be given for responsible behavior and additional activities.
- Merits/demerits will be given by the Cheer Coach and administrators and documented by Cheer Coach and sometimes managers.
- The coach and administrator's decision regarding demerits is final.

## List of Merit and Demerits and their Given Value

### MERITS

- Making posters on own time (2 merits per poster, no more than 4 per week)
- Bringing candy or goodies for players and/or coaches/bigs and littles (2 merits per bag, no more than 4 merits per opportunity)
- Compliments from teacher regarding behavior (2 – 4 merits per positive contact about class behavior/work)
- Helping pick-up practice and game area (up to 3 merits per event)
- Cleaning cheer equipment or cheer closet (by appointment) (2 merits for 15 minutes of work)
- Others to be announced

### Consequences for Earning Demerits

1. **Squad members** will be **notified** after earning a total of **15 demerits**.
2. After earning a total of **20 demerits**, the member may be placed on **suspension and parents will be contacted**. Suspension requires that the cheerleader be in full uniform and sit in the stands with the coach during at least one game or performance until demerits are made up. Game or performance is at the discretion of the coach.
3. After earning a total of **25 demerits**, a cheerleader/pep **squad member may be permanently removed from the squad**. This will be a decision made by the coach and administrators.

### List of Demerits and their Given Value

#### 2 Demerits

- Chewing gum at practice or game
- Wearing jewelry to practice or game
- Failure to bring supplies (poms, bow, warm-ups, megaphones, shoes, uniform, etc.)
- Failure to be in correct uniform (socks, bow, undergarments, mask if applicable, etc.)

#### 4 Demerits

- More than 10 minutes tardy to practice or event
- Not returning paperwork, money, or failure to comply with due dates
- Public display of Affection at school or game

#### 6 Demerits

- Teacher referral or complaint
- Absence not communicated before a practice or event

#### 8 Demerits

- Leaving practice or event without permission
- Late pick-up from practice or event (more than 15 minutes late)

#### 10 Demerits

- Cursing, gossiping, or spreading rumors
- Lack of cooperation, respect towards the coach, peers, other adults in authority
- Inappropriate behavior while representing the school (in or out of uniform)-includes social media usage

#### 16 Demerits (for entire placement not per day)

- ISSC Placement and squad member may have to sit out the next game (multiple ISSC placements will result in removal from squad).

#### Automatic Removal

- AEP (Davis) Placement or Illegal Activity--Smoking, drinking, or drug use
- Physical altercations/fights with peers

## **Appendix C: Middle School Stunt Guidelines**

**Coaches Safety:** American Association Cheerleading Coaches & Administrators (AACCA) Training-- Use school cheer budget to pay for (\$80.00). Training good for 3 years. Attend UCA or NCA camp with cheerleader to receive training every year. Parents sign Informed Consent and Acknowledgement Agreement. Use safety Mats when learning new stunts.

**Basic Stunts:** Stunts will be limited to 2 persons high (2 bases, back spot, and flyer, and front spot if needed). May do stunts standing on thighs and/or shoulders. May do prep/elevator level stunts using a post and/or one foot step in. Single leg stunts (i.e. liberty, heel stretch) at thigh and/or prep level only.

Extended two leg stunts with front and back spot.

**Dismount:** Dismount from shoulder level. Step off with bases holding hands of flyer, sponge, or cradle.

Must follow stunt and dismount rules. Connection to prep may be with arms using an interlocking or overlapping grip.

**Pyramids:** Connection may also be with one foot to another person. 1 Extended stunt for every 2 prep/elevator stunts. 1 reload connection sequence per pyramid.

**Basket Tosses:** Prohibited, no exceptions.

**Tumbling:** Not taught or spotted by school personal or peer. Must be able to do on own in a gym before performing at game. No twisting flips.

**Information:** AACCA Safety Manual [www.aacca.org](http://www.aacca.org), UCA webpage [www.uca.com](http://www.uca.com) , NCA webpage [www.nca.com](http://www.nca.com)

## **Appendix D: Financial Responsibility**

**Costs to expect as a cheerleader:** This may not be all of the costs incurred during your child's participation as a cheerleader, but it is a general idea. Please note you will get to keep everything you pay for. Payment plans are available for these fees. Please see the payment plan form to choose the best option for you.

UCA Summer Camp (required) **\$200**

Practice Wear **\$35 (2 squad t-shirts and shorts)**

Bow to Toe Package Uniform (top, skort, bow, poms, bag, shoes, jacket/pullover)- **\$215**

**Total Estimate for a cheerleader= \$450**



**Costs to expect as a mascot:** This may not be all of the costs incurred during your child's participation as a mascot, but it is a general idea.

UCA Summer Camp (required) **\$200**

Game Day Cheer Shirts **\$25+extra \$10 for bow for females**

Mascot uniform (dry clean at the end of school year) **\$50**

**Total Estimate for the mascot=\$275-\$285**

**Cost to expect as a manager: \$35** (cheer shirt, and bow for females)

*\*\*If managers or mascots would like a jacket please add \$65 to your costs.*