

EVANS HIGH SCHOOL SPIRIT CONSTITUTION

2026–2027

Revision 2025/26

The Evans High School Spirit Constitution is a written set of rules and policies that the principal, coaches, athletes, dancers and parents have agreed to follow.

I. PURPOSE OF THE CHEERLEADING SQUAD

It shall be the purpose of this organization to promote and uphold school spirit, to develop good sportsmanship among students, to support athletic programs, and to develop and promote good relations between the community and the school in regard to athletic events. The organization will work in harmony with the administration, faculty, band, athletic teams, and all other school organizations.

II. QUALIFICATION, ELIGIBILITY, SELECTION

- A. **ACADEMICS & CITIZENSHIP:** All candidates must be on track for graduation and must have passed 5 of 7 classes to cheer the upcoming school year. Each candidate **MUST** be enrolled in 5 classes to be eligible according to GHSA guidelines. Furthermore, he/she must have demonstrated good conduct and be in good standing with the administration. (Required by Columbia County Board Policy IDE that is based on Georgia High School Association Guideline for Student Eligibility.)
- B. **PHYSICAL:** A current physical is required for each person trying out. A completed form must be submitted on or before the first day of tryouts. A physical used for any other extracurricular activity sanctioned by the GHSA will be accepted for tryouts; however, it must be valid for the entire season(s) that the candidate may be cheering. (Required by GHSA)
- C. **INSURANCE:** A cheerleader must carry school insurance or present a waiver saying that he/she has adequate insurance. A copy of your insurance card must be supplied
- D. **PERMISSION FORMS:** A candidate must submit and submit all forms via DRAGONFLYMAX in order to participate in cheerleading tryouts. **Forms needed: Inherent Risk Form, the High School Athletic / Activity Medical Authorization Form, and the GHSA Concussion Information & Sign-Off Page**
- E. **TRYOUTS:**
 - a. **All Dragonfly Max Forms, Physical Form, and Proof of Insurance must be completed on or before the first day of tryouts. Forms are to be filled out online. The physical form, concussion form, heart form and other GHSA required forms must be uploaded into Dragonfly Max. There will be no paper copies given out.**
 - b. Application and all signatures must be turned in on or before the first day of tryouts.
 - c. Tryout results will be posted on the EHS Cheer website no later than 9pm on the day of tryouts.

I have read and agree to this information on the page _____.

d. The criteria for selection are (ordered, based on importance):

- i. Motions
- ii. Jumps
- iii. Stunts - ALL TEAMS
- iv. Projection/Spirit/Presence
- v. Tumbling (Varsity - Back Handspring (standing) RO BHS multiples (running))
- vi. Cheers
- vii. Appearance
- viii. Attendance, Discipline coachability are equally considered in the selection process

** Cheer and dances will be taught at the clinics this season. Come prepared to learn the material, learn quickly, and work on old and new skills.

**Final selections will be the coaches' decision.

- VARSITY FOOTBALL/GAME DAY COMPETITION TEAM: The team can consist of up to 24 athletes. 9th – 12th grade students are eligible for the team. *If you are on the sideline team, you are required to participate in the Game Day Competitions*
- VARSITY COMPETITION: The team will consist of up to 12 –18 athletes. The top 12-16 will compete, with the additional girls being alternates. 9th – 12th grade students are eligible for the team. This team can either choose to do both sideline/game day or just participate in competition team.
- VARSITY BASKETBALL:
The squad will consist of a maximum of 20 athletes. 9th – 12th grade students are eligible for the team.
- JUNIOR VARSITY FOOTBALL / BASKETBALL SQUAD:
The team will consist of a maximum of 15 athletes. Rising 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students will be eligible for the team. JV football and basketball are two separate teams. The JV football/basketball squad may also be required to cheer at one or more varsity football/basketball games.

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III. LEADERSHIP, RESPONSIBILITY, AND BEHAVIOR

A. RESPONSIBILITY:

Cheerleading requires a **strong commitment** and a responsible, **cooperative attitude**. **Each cheerleader will understand the seriousness of the commitment to the school, student body, and the squad, and will carry out the responsibilities faithfully.**

B. CAPTAINS:

The coach may choose one or more captains for each squad. Captains are expected to exhibit exemplary behavior. Failure to do so could result in removal from the position. Each cheerleader will cooperate with and be helpful to their captain(s). Captains are responsible for organizing practices and working with the coach to delegate authority. Captains will also call cheers at sporting events. Each captain must know the game of football/basketball and know what and when a cheer is appropriate to call. Being a Captain does not mean that you are in charge. **Final decisions are up to the Coach. Captains are usually seniors, but if there is no senior who can withhold these responsibilities, the coach can make the decision to look to underclass men who display leadership qualities.**

C. BEHAVIOR:

Disrespectful and/or rude behavior towards a coach, team member, or a visiting team will not be tolerated and may be grounds for dismissal. Each cheerleader will realize that his/her conduct reflects directly on the school, student body, and cheerleading squad. While wearing the Evans High School uniform, you will conduct yourself in a respectable manner. Smoking, vaping, drinking, and using illicit drugs are prohibited while representing the school. Offenses that result in out-of-school suspension will be grounds for dismissal from the squad. Other actions that would reflect adversely on the school/ team are also prohibited. Such actions, in or out of uniform/school, will warrant immediate dismissal from the squad at the discretion of the coach. An athlete/cheerleader will be given a fair warning for any action or behavior, that takes place during school, that does not promote a positive image for Evans High School and other team members. Dismissal from the team will be the result of any such behavior that takes place during school after that fair warning has been issued. Dismissal from the team could hinder you from being able to try out for future seasons. Any Action or Behavior that is unbecoming, unlawful, or excessive, will result in immediate dismissal at the discretion of the coaches. No monetary compensation will be given to anyone who quits or is dismissed. All social media platforms should be of respectable behavior. This includes Facebook, Instagram, VSCO, Twitter, Public and private stories, reposts, Tik Toks, etc. All CCSD rules and guidelines should be followed, this includes, phone usage, dress code. You will represent Evans High School.

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D. COMMUNITY PROJECTS:

All athletes will help in community projects deemed worthy by the coach.

IV. FUNDRAISING/FEEES -

1. Each cheerleader is required to participate in fundraising programs designated by the coach.
2. The athletes and their parents are responsible for any costs not covered by the fundraising program. If items are purchased with funds raised by the group or donated to the group, the items are considered property of the school and must be returned or paid for by the cheerleader at the end of the year.
3. All items that need to be purchased for the 25-26 season will be the sole responsibility of the cheerleader and their parent. If items are not purchased by the designated date, the cheerleader may have to forfeit participation until these items are ordered and received.
4. Fees are to be paid in a timely manner. A payment plan will be established by the coach prior to the season beginning. ***Failure to pay these fees will result in: loss of exemption privileges, or the ability to try out the following year. Fees owed will transfer year to year and can prevent the ability to participate in prom and or graduation.***

Cost of participating in the program

- Each cheerleader is required to purchase certain items through the company that is chosen to use each year. Practice gear, warmups or jackets, spirit gear for game days, etc. This will be paid directly to the vendor and **NOT** ordered through the school.
- Each cheerleader is required to raise **\$300 for Varsity and \$150 for JV**. This covers costs throughout the season and includes, performance bow, game day shirt, travel, comp fees, choreography fees and other costs through the season.
- Fundraisers are primarily to build the funding of the program, there will be a 60/40 split to the required funds each athlete is to raise (example \$500 raised through snapraise; \$300 to EHS \$200 toward the required amount) **ANYTHING OVER THE REQUIRED AMOUNT IS PLACED IN THE CHEERLEADING PROGRAM ACCOUNT. NO MONIES WILL BE REFUNDED TO THE ATHLETE**

IV. TRANSPORTATION:

Evans High School provides transportation to all away games. Athletes will be required to ride back on the bus to the high school. JV parents may be asked to provide transportation to some local games if our school transportation is not available.

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V. CONDITIONING/TUMBLING CLASS:

Conditioning is a critical component of the cheerleading program. athletes will be required to demonstrate conditioning and strength skills. Summer conditioning is highly recommended. **FOOTBALL/BASKETBALL: You will be required to log a certain amount of summer hours before being able to participate in the 1st game. Summer conditioning/camps will help prepare you for a successful season. Those who are on the football competition team and/or the varsity basketball team are encouraged to enroll in a group tumbling class. Information on this will be provided. Classes will begin in the summer.**

Tumbling is a necessary aspect of cheerleading. All football athletes,

- JV needs to have or be working on a back handspring
- Varsity Traditional competition team needs a minimum of a standing back handspring and advanced running tumbling (round off tuck, round off multiples, round off Multiples plus lay out)
- Game Day Competition/Sideline Team - **Goal** is to have full team BHS. However is not the determining factor as to whether or not someone makes varsity vs JV
- A minimum of a toe touch is required to be on the Varsity Basketball team

VI. CHEERING:

- A. Football and basketball athletes must cheer at all games, regular and postseason. Competition athletes must participate in all scheduled competitions. A doctor's certification will be required if a game or competition is missed.
- B. If injury, or any other reason, prevents a cheerleader from participating, he/she will still dress out and sit with the coach and support the squad unless excused by the coach. This includes practices, games and competitions.
- C. Cheers, chants, and dances are a part of being a cheerleader. Each cheerleader will be required to practice and learn routines. Failure to learn a cheer will be subject to disciplinary actions, and the cheerleader may not be allowed to participate in the event.
- D. Cheer lines will be fluid, and athletes who have not learned cheers, or who "play" or act inappropriately while on the sidelines/or in bleachers, may be moved from their position.

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- E. **ATTENDANCE:** athletes must attend all games, practices, and all official cheerleading functions. They must be on time and properly dressed upon arrival at the designated function. Attendance, tardiness, and improper dress will be subject to disciplinary action. ***Attendance to a club meeting that requires a cheerleader to be tardy to practice will be limited to 1 meeting per week.**
Attendance issues during the regular school day will be monitored.
Excessive absences from school/practices may result in dismissal from the team.

Excused absences will be granted for the following:

- A. personal illness (after 2 personal illness excuses a Dr. Notes will be required)
- B. death/funeral
- C. family emergency (limit 2)
- D. School function. (If part of practice can be attended, it will be required)
IF ANY OF THE ABOVE SEEM TO BE ABUSED AS AN ABSENCE A MEETING WILL BE SET UP WITH THE COACHES, ATHLETE AND PARENTS.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

- A. Work
- B. Nail appointments
- C. Tanning appointments
- D. Hair appointments

- **after 2 unexcused absences a parent/cheerleader meeting will be requested**
- **after 5 absences (excused or unexcused) suspension from next game or performance**
- **after 7 absences you will be dismissed from the team.**

1. The cheerleader **parents/guardians** must contact the coach prior to the absence or tardiness from a practice or game. **MUST GIVE AMPLE AMOUNT OF NOTICE. 1 HOUR PRIOR TO PRACTICE IS NOT AMPLE AMOUNT OF TIME.**
2. A cheerleader may not attend a practice or game unless he/she has been present for more than half of the school day (three and a half class periods). For competitions, this would be the Friday before.
3. Any cheerleader who is suspended (ISS or OSS) from school for any reason will not be allowed to cheer at any game or event during the week(s) of the suspension. Other disciplinary actions may occur depending on the severity of the action causing the assigned discipline.

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4. The cheerleader must be on time to practice, all home games, and to the school to depart for all out of town games. Being on time also means being prepared. Being on time also means helping teammates set up for practice.
5. **Proper dress for practice is required.** The athletes must have hair up, **secured**, and out of their faces. They must dress out in appropriate gym wear (practice wear) and **have their cheer shoes on.** All athletes are expected to have the correct uniform (including the correct **low/no show white socks (football) scrunch socks (basketball) and hair bow**) on at each game. No bra straps or midriff can be shown. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action, including not cheering at the game. Hair is to be in the style presented by the coach and follow GHSA rules
6. **ABSOLUTELY NO JEWELRY (including all piercings), nail polish must be a natural color and nails a natural length, glitter may not be worn at any time while practicing or cheering. This is a GHSA rule. (This includes nose piercings, belly button piercings, cartilage piercings) This is for practices AND GAMES/COMPETITIONS**
7. Per county policy: all practices are closed practices unless the coach has invited parents to attend.

VII. LETTERING:

In order for a varsity cheerleader (competition, football, or basketball) to letter, he/she **must attend 90% of all games and functions** that are assigned by the coach for that season. In addition, **any absences must be excused. This includes all practices, regular season and postseason play, tournaments, and competitions.**

Junior Varsity athletes do not letter; instead, each JV cheerleader will receive a certificate of participation.

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Edited 10/8/25

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