

Crowley ISD Cheerleading/Mascot Handbook

2021-2022



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CROWLEY ISD

CHEERLEADER AND MASCOT PROGRAM HANDBOOK

The following articles must be adhered to by all Crowley Independent School District (CISD) Cheerleaders and Mascots. It must be understood that as a member of this organization, the student becomes a **representative and role model** of their school and the CISD. All cheerleaders/mascots (i.e. cheer team members) must maintain high moral and ethical standards at all times. Annual cheer membership is from the date of selection to a cheer squad to the start of cheer tryouts the following year. Membership may be terminated at any time by the appointed cheer coaching staff or school administration for failure to meet acceptable standards of conduct.

ARTICLE I – MISSION STATEMENT

The CISD Cheer Program is based on the premise that cheerleaders are students first and membership as a cheerleader is a privilege rather than a right. Cheerleaders are representatives of their school campus and school district. Therefore, members have a fundamental responsibility to be held accountable to their leadership role. Because of this responsibility, members of the cheerleading squad are expected to maintain a higher standard of behavior and academic achievement than that of their peers.

Cheerleaders are expected to be physically and mentally skilled in learning and remembering cheers. They are expected to be able to publicly demonstrate a skill level suitable for the team position and the timing necessary for group performance. They are expected to enthusiastically create, promote, support and uphold school spirit at school/district sanctioned functions in accordance with TEA-UIL Side by Side Guidelines within the CISD Rules.

ARTICLE II – CANDIDACY FOR SELECTION

Section A – Candidacy

1. Candidates must be willing to:
 - a. Meet all tryout requirements.
 - b. Abide by rules and follow directions.
 - c. Set a high moral standard as a representative of CISD.
 - d. Demonstrate responsibility at all times.
 - e. Follow all rules outlined within TEA-UIL Guidelines and the CISD rules.
 - f. Follow the guidance and leadership of the assigned cheer coach.
 - g. Meet the assigned squad practice and exhibition schedule.
 - h. Exhibit the character traits of determination, hard work, strength, dedication, and self-discipline.
 - i. Cooperate and to be a part of a cohesive unit.

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By CISD Administration Team Page 3

- i. Individual exhibitions and desires are not for the cheerleader. The needs and functions of the cheer squad must always come first.
 - j. Learn and perform cheers, chants, and dances.
 - k. Participate in all activities, which the organization is involved.
 - i. These activities will include but are not limited to:
 1. Cheerleading
 2. Fundraising
 3. School and community events.

Section B – Financial expectation, obligation and responsibilities

1. Parents/guardians must be willing to meet all financial obligations involved in having a son/daughter as a member of the cheer team.
2. Candidates must in in good financial standing with CISD to be eligible to tryout.
3. Failure to meet financial obligations will result in removal from the program.

Section C – Levels of Membership

1. Incoming 7th and 8th grade students will be eligible for selection to the Richard J.Allie Middle School, Crowley Middle School, Summer Creek Middle School, or H. F. Stevens Middle School cheer teams.

2. Incoming freshmen will be eligible for selection to the North Crowley Freshman or Crowley Freshman teams.
3. Incoming sophomores will be eligible for the North Crowley or Crowley Junior Varsity teams only
4. Incoming juniors will be eligible for selection to the Jr. Varsity or Varsity cheer teams.
5. Incoming seniors will only be eligible for selection to the Varsity cheer team.
6. Squad sizes will be determined by the designated campus administrator on site at the cheer tryout process.
 - a. The Varsity team shall consist of a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 20 team members UNLESS THERE IS A LARGE POINT BREAK.
 - b. The JV team shall consist of a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 16 team members. UNLESS THERE IS A LARGE POINT BREAK.
 - c. The freshman team shall consist of a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 15 team members. UNLESS THERE IS A LARGE POINT BREAK.
 - d. The middle school team shall consist of a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 15 team members. UNLESS THERE IS A LARGE POINT BREAK.
7. The mascots are students who promote school spirit on campus and at school athletic contests by assuming the identity of the school mascot. The mascot will adhere to all rules and regulations of the cheerleaders. Mascot will follow cheer schedule unless otherwise determined by cheer coach. The mascot will not count against the authorized number of team members listed above.

ARTICLE III – TRYOUT PROCESS

Section A - Tryout Pre Screening process

1. All cheer team candidates must be current CISD students and must reside in the attendance zone for the team they are seeking membership at the time of tryouts. k 2. **All candidates and their parent or guardian must attend the mandatory orientation meeting to be eligible for try-outs. Failure of the parent or guardian to attend the mandatory orientation meeting(s) will result in the candidate being ineligible for try-outs.**
3. Candidate must submit a completed tryout application packet and **all** forms the night of the mandatory orientation meeting. The application packet must include a copy of the candidate's 4th six-week report card and reflect the first semester.
4. Members with accommodations or student IEP's must meet the standards in their IEP to be eligible to participate.
5. All eligible applicants must obtain an "S" or above in citizenship in all subjects for each academic reporting period prior to the selection/tryout process.
6. All candidates must demonstrate exemplary attendance, behavior, and citizenship habits.
 - a. Candidates who have received more than one placement in ISS or any Out of school suspensions for any reason during the current school year must have administrative permission to tryout.
 - b. Candidates must have had at least a 90% attendance rate for the current school year, and a 90% punctuality rate (tardiness).
 - c. The campus principal will make the final determination regarding a candidate's citizenship and attendance eligibility if extenuating circumstances cause the student to have an attendance rate or punctuality rate less than 90% prior to try outs.
7. Candidates must have no Disciplinary Alternative Education Program assignments or Expulsions days for the current school year.
8. Prospective members and their parent/guardians must be willing and able to meet the time commitment of the student becoming a cheerleader.

Section B – Application to Tryout

1. Cheer coaches will make the Cheerleader Handbook and applications for cheerleader/mascot tryouts available to all students prior to the tryout process.
2. Candidates will be informed of eligibility to tryout the night of the orientation meeting.
3. The following forms must be completed and turned in the night of the orientation meeting:

- a. Form 1A: Application for CISD Cheerleading/Acknowledgement of CISD Cheerleading Handbook. This form is available on the CISD website on the NCHS cheerleading page.
- b. Form 2A: Crowley ISD Cheerleader Medical Release Form. This form must be notarized and will be kept by the cheerleading coach.
- c. Form 3A: CISD Uniform Agreement

Section C – Guidelines for Tryouts

1. The cheer coaches will facilitate a three or four day cheerleader/mascot clinic prior to tryouts.
 - a. The clinic is **closed** except to the following participants:
 - i. Eligible candidates
 - ii. Cheer coaches
 - iii. Clinic instructors
 - iv. CISD Administrators
2. A professional trainer, coach, collegiate cheerleader and/or outgoing senior cheerleaders (approved by campus administration and/or cheer coach), will teach a dance and cheer to be performed by candidates during the tryout process. Instruction for proper technique of jumps, arm motions and how to spirit properly will also be taught. Tumbling will not be taught at clinic, however it is still a part of the score sheet.
3. **A candidate must be in attendance one half of a school day to participate in that day's clinic. Mandatory attendance to clinic each day is required to maintain tryout eligibility.**
 - a. If a student must be absent for any reason, they must inform the applicable cheer coach in writing prior to the required session for approval of absenteeism. (Ex. School track meet.)
 - i. **Illnesses are not an excused absence unless accompanied by a doctor's note.**
4. During the tryout process, candidates will perform the following:
 - a. Spirited entrance
 - b. Standing/Running Tumbling (with prior approval from a coach)
 - c. 3 individual jumps,
 - d. Cheer performed individually
 - e. A dance routine performed in groups of 3 or 4 candidates.

5. Tryout numbers will be drawn and assigned to the cheerleaders upon arrival to tryouts.
6. All candidates must be physically present and able to compete on the day of tryouts. If tryouts are held during the school week, **attendance for one half of the school day on the day of tryouts is mandatory in order to participate.**
7. Electronic recordings will not be permitted.
8. Parents or guardians, including any teacher/parents of candidates, will be prohibited from having any contact with judges or serve in any capacity prior to or during the tryout process.
9. Parents will be prohibited from having contact with any candidate(s) during designated tryout hours with the exception of an emergency. Failure to comply may lead to disqualification. In the case of an emergency, parents are to contact a coach.
10. Cheer candidates will be prohibited from using any type of communication device throughout the duration of tryouts.
11. In the event of an emergency during tryouts, the cheer coach will be responsible for establishing communication with the parent/guardian by use of personal information provided on the student's medical release form.
 - a. Failure to comply may lead to disqualification.

Section D – Attire for Tryouts

1. Each cheerleader/mascot candidate will be required to wear the following:
 - a. Plain BLACK knit shorts (no letters, words, or symbols)
 - b. Plain WHITE t-shirt (no letters, words, or symbols)
 - c. Plain white socks
 - d. Tennis shoes
 - e. Hair pulled back into a pony tail and away from face. No ribbons.
2. The following is prohibited:
 - a. Body paint, glitter, tattoos.
 - b. Jewelry of any kind.
 - c. Chewing gum.
 - d. Long, colored, and/or acrylic nails

Section E - Tryout Score

1. The tryout score will consist of

- a. the candidates physical tryout score (60%)**
- b. the candidates teacher recommendations (15%)**

i. The coaches will email the candidates current teachers of record

a recommendation form. The recommendation score will consist of an average of the returned recommendation

forms. Cheer class and/or classes instructed by a current cheer coach will be excluded. The purpose is to evaluate the candidates' character.

c. the candidates grades (25%)

- i. Every candidate will begin with 50 points. 10 points will be deducted for each failing grade that the student received on their report card throughout the duration of the school year. The purpose is to evaluate the student athletes academic ability.**

1. Cheer class and classes taught by a current cheer coach will be excluded.

2. Squad Selection

- a. The top scores for each level will be selected as members for their respective squads.**
- b. The top scores will be determined by the largest natural break of at least one point.**
- c. Parents are able to view their candidate's scores within five school days by scheduling an appointment with the appropriate administrator.**
- d. No scores will be released. Viewing of scores will be allowed only.**

ARTICLE IV – FINANCIAL EXPECTATIONS AND OBLIGATIONS

Section A – Financial expectation, obligation and responsibilities

1. Parents/guardians must be willing to meet all financial obligations involved in having a son/daughter as a member of the cheer team.
 - a. Parents/guardians must purchase the necessary uniforms and provide money for other costs and expenses involved in their son/daughter being a member of the cheer team.
2. The following is an estimate of the costs associated with cheer team membership:
 - a. Cheerleading uniform estimated: \$400-\$800
 - b. Camp costs estimated: \$380-\$450 depending on location
 - c. Competition costs estimated:\$150 - \$400 depending on location
 - d. **Tumbling support estimated cost: \$200 (optional for HS/MS)**
 - e. Total **estimated** membership cost: \$1000-\$1500
3. CISD cheerleaders are limited to two school sponsored fundraising events per school year to offset the costs of cheerleading. These funds may be used for the purchase of uniforms, camp, tumbling and stunting training, and competition costs.
4. If selected as a cheerleader or mascot, a deposit of \$400.00 will be required at the time of uniform fitting following the tryouts. The deposit will be subtracted from each member's total cheer uniform fee. Half of the remaining balance is due the last week of April and the final balance is due before the last week of school.
 - a. The ONLY accepted payment will be cash, cashier's check, or money order.
5. All members are required to meet the financial requirement for cheerleading. **Should a member not fulfill his/her financial requirements by the set deadline, as determined by the coach, he/she will be removed from the team with no refund of any payment made.**

ARTICLE V – EXPECTATIONS AND STANDARDS

Please Note:

Being a member of a CISD cheer program is an honor, a responsibility, and a privilege. Due to the level of visibility of campus cheerleaders, it is imperative that team members set a good example for their peers. Members will be recognized as cheer members at all times by students and adults and must conduct themselves accordingly. Members of CISD cheer teams will be subject to the standards of conduct outlined herein at all times regardless of when or where conduct occurs. Codes of conduct will be enforced whether team members are on or off school property and whether or not school is in session. Failure to comply with the standards of conduct may result in disciplinary action against the member, **up to and including removal from the team.**

1. Cheer team members must adhere to UIL sportsmanship codes, campus policies, the CISD Cheerleading Handbook, CISD Student Code of Conduct, CISD Extracurricular Standards of Behavior, and the Campus Student Handbook Addendum at all times. Failure to comply may lead to disciplinary action against the member, up to and including removal from the team.
2. All team members are considered participants in extracurricular school activities and they must comply with TEA-UIL Side by Side Guidelines for Cheerleading and Drill Teams. a. The TEA-UIL Side by Side Guidelines for Cheerleading and Drill Teams permits the school district to impose stricter standards than those in the TEA-UIL requirements, but CISD will not impose more lenient standards.
3. The cheer coach will be trained to supervise all cheer performances to maintain the adherence to UIL guidelines.
 - a. UIL requires that 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.

Section A – Continuing eligibility requirements

To maintain eligibility, the cheerleader must comply with the following:

1. Cheer team members must comply with all CISD residency requirements.
2. Cheer team members must maintain their eligibility status under No Pass, No Play Rules. a. Members must maintain a grade of 70 or above in all classes, other than honors or advanced classes as identified by the State Board of Education or by local District policy, to be eligible to participate.

- I. For purposes of academic eligibility and continued membership, a student will be allowed one waiver per course, per current school year in an advanced class.
 - II. In the case that a cheerleader is permitted a waiver during a marking period, they will be permitted to cheer and must be passing all classes at the three week mark of the following marking period to continue eligibility.
 - III. If the cheer member who received a waiver is not passing all classes at the three week mark of the following marking period, they will be benched throughout the remainder of that marking period.
 - IV. Members with accommodations or student IEP's must meet the standards in their IEP to be eligible to participate.
3. Varsity and JV team members will be given a scholastic grade each marking period.
 - a. The class will count either as a local credit or a PE credit, and team members will to treat the class like any other academic course.
 4. If a cheerleader is injured or medically unable to participate in cheerleading activities, they will be given alternate assignments in order to receive their scholastic grade **until released by a physician.**
 5. All cheerleaders must earn an "E" or "S" in citizenship in every class for each 6 weeks reporting period to be eligible to participate.
 6. A cheer team member who receives a failing grade in any class for more than one marking period, or an "N" in citizenship for more than one marking period will automatically be removed from the team for the remainder of the school year.
 7. Members shall maintain at least a 90% attendance rate for each grading period throughout the school year.
 - a. Extenuating circumstances will be determined by the coach and campus administration.
 8. Members shall maintain at least a 90% punctuality rate (tardiness) for each grading period throughout the school year.
 - a. Extenuating circumstances will be determined by the coach and campus administration.
 9. In School Suspension and Out of School Suspension – If a cheerleader is placed in ISS or given OSS for any disciplinary reason, he/she will have a consequence ranging from benching to dismissal as determined by the administrator and coach. Severity of the consequences will depend on the severity of the infraction. Decisions will be determined on a case by case basis.
 - a. If an ISS or OSS assignment is given on the same day as a performance, he or she will be benched from participating in that performance pending further consequence if deemed necessary by an administrator and coach.

Section B-Cheerleader expected standards of behavior

- Cheerleaders are expected to understand and uphold the following without exception:
1. Cheer team members will exhibit loyalty to the team and will exemplify the highest moral character, behavior and leadership at all times.
 2. Cheer team members will strive to improve themselves and others through positive interaction and accountability at all times. Members must work to build an image of dedicated, hard-working, honest young adults that function well as a team
 3. A cheer team member shall not say or do anything that is disrespectful to his/her team and/or coach.
 4. Cheer members must exhibit good taste in appearance and acceptable social behavior in and out of school as outlined by the Student Code of Conduct, CISD Cheerleading Handbook, Extracurricular Standards of Behavior, and conduct of the cheer program.
 5. A Cheer member must demonstrate responsible leadership and model lady-like or gentleman-like behavior at all times.
 6. Cheer members must promote and maintain good relationships with school faculty, administration and the student body.
 7. Cheer members must work cooperatively with the drill team, band, athletic teams, and all school organizations.
 8. Cheer members will promote school spirit at all designated football, basketball and volleyball games.
 - a. In addition to the events outlined above, cheerleaders may be required at other designated sporting/community events as deemed by the cheer coach. All activities and events, including fundraisers, will be designated by the cheer coach.
 9. All cheerleaders must attend **all** scheduled district home volleyball, basketball and football games, including games that fall over holiday break or school closing days, if designated by the coach.
 - a. A game that is scheduled during break or school closing may be designated by the coach as a no miss event.
 10. It is a cheer member and their parent/guardian's responsibility to utilize the appropriate chain of command for communication. The appropriate order will be:
 - A. Cheer member
 - B. Current Cheer Coach
 - C. Head Cheer Coach
 - D. Assistant principal on designated campus
 - E. School principal on designated campus

10. Outgoing seniors may be required to learn/choreograph the tryout material and teach the material to all tryout clinic participants. Outgoing seniors are required to attend the mandatory cheer clinics and mock tryouts for the entire time as determined by the coach unless they reside with a clinic participant.

Section C-Game day/Event Day/Practice

1. All Cheer members must attend one-half of a school day of classes to be eligible to participate in that day's practice or performance.
 - a. Unexcused absences and/or failure to follow school rules regarding attendance will result in administrative discipline.
 - b. Extenuating circumstances must be approved by the campus principal or their designated appointee.
2. Cheer members are required to arrive at least 30 minutes prior to game/pep rally; however, show times are subject to change as designated by the cheer coach. Members will report wearing the correct uniform and ready to cheer. This includes hair accessories, socks, shoes and poms. If a member fails to wear the correct uniform he/she will sit out of the performance and be subject to disciplinary action as deemed necessary by the cheer coach.
3. Should a cheer team member be absent on the day of any designated cheer activity, the cheerleader or their parent/guardian must contact the cheer coach **before** being absent from a cheer performance or practice.
 - a. Cheer team member or parent/guardian must contact the cheer coach via school phone, school e-mail system and/or designated social media.
 - b. Any member absent from a practice or performance without notifying and **receiving** coach's approval **prior** to the start of the scheduled function will be subject to discipline up to removal from the squad
 - c. If extenuating circumstances are present which are acceptable to the coach, there will be no disciplinary actions taken.
4. Cheer members must attend the designated practices preceding an event. Failure to attend practice may result in benching for the upcoming performance. Attendance for one half of a school day of classes that day is mandatory to participate in practice and/or performances.
 - i. Extenuating circumstances must be approved by the campus principal.
5. Missing cheer events is not acceptable unless prior approval by the coach.
 - a. A cheerleader must provide notice in writing **five** days in advance of the missed performance or be benched for the next activity.
 - b. Events include but are not limited to athletic class, after school practices, games, pep rallies, clinics, and/or anything scheduled by the coach that is identified as a cheerleading activity.

- I. With **prior** approval by the cheer coach, a cheerleader is allowed to miss **one** event per year as long as notice is received five days in advance.
 - c. Some events may be designated as a “NO MISS” activity.
 - d. After the first missed event, the cheerleader will be benched from the next event as designated by the coach.
 - e. Any absence deemed as excused by the district will also be excused by the coach with proper notification. Unexpected illness on the day of an event does not count as a missed event with doctor’s notice.
6. Cheer members must stay with their team for the duration of all performances. Socializing during games or performances with squad members, friends or family is not allowed.
7. Cheer members will be on the field/court, ready to cheer, one minute prior to the conclusion of half time activities.
8. Any Cheer member benched at a particular game or school function must remain dressed out and present at all subsequent workouts during class time and after school hours.
 - a. He/she must continue to practice and uphold all responsibilities as a member of the cheer team.
9. All cheerleaders must attend **all** summer practices preceding “Meet the Eagle” or “Meet the Panther” night.
10. Three unexcused absences from any scheduled event may result in dismissal.

Section D-Pep Rallies

1. Under the guidance of the varsity cheer coach, varsity cheerleaders will direct and prepare all varsity pep rallies.
 - a. At the discretion of the varsity cheer coach, junior varsity cheerleaders may perform at designated varsity pep rallies.
 - i. Junior varsity cheerleaders may host their own pep rallies, upon approval from an administrator.
 - b. Freshmen cheerleaders will conduct their own pep rallies.
 - c. Middle school cheerleaders will conduct their own pep rallies.
2. Any athlete that does any standing and or running tumbling at tryouts is required to perform those skills as many times designated by the coach at every performance, including but not limited to: camp, Meet the Panther/Eagle night, games, pep rallies, etc. If the cheerleader fails to perform the standing and or running tumbling skills at a performance, they will be benched from the following performance.

Section E-Cheerleading Camp

1. All cheer team members must attend and pay for cheerleading camp in the summer as designated by the cheerleader coordinator and coaches.

2. Failure to attend cheerleading camp will result in removal from the team.
3. While attending summer camp, all students will be subject to the standards of conduct and behavior outlined in the CISD Student Code of Conduct, the Extracurricular Standards of Behavior and the CISD Cheerleading Handbook.
 - a. Failure to comply with the standards of conduct may result in disciplinary action against the member, up to and including removal from the team.

Section F – Cheer team student leaders

Cheer team Captains and Co-Captains are designated by the Cheer Coaches.

1. Each coach will set the standards on how captain selection will occur with their team and will communicate the process of selection with candidates.
2. In order to become and remain eligible as captain or co-captain, the cheerleader must maintain his/her grades at 70% or above and earn “S” or “E” in citizenship for each grading period.
 - a. Failure to maintain a passing grade and an “S” or “E” in citizenship for any grading period, may result in removal from the captain or co-captain position.
3. Captains and/or co-captains will serve as a leader of the team and will work closely with the cheer coach.
4. Captains and/or co-captains will uphold all standards set forth in team membership and will exercise superior interpersonal skills, and will always maintain confidentiality along with high standards of integrity.

Section G-Coordination of approved CISD activities outside of cheerleading

4. Cheerleading requires a vast time commitment and team members will be expected to put cheerleading above participation in non-academic activities, including after-school or weekend jobs, dance classes, club cheer classes, etc.
5. Coaches, directors and other sponsors of CISD activities will work together to manage the schedule of the members involved in more than one CISD sponsored event. Cheerleaders involved in other CISD sponsored activities will be required to attend two cheer practices per week to remain eligible to cheer. The following are transition times for a cheerleader/athlete on JV or Varsity cheer teams:
 - a. From volleyball to cheer – Monday after last volleyball game is played. Cheerleader will not cheer during football season.
 - b. To basketball from cheer – Monday after last football game. Cheerleader will not cheer during basketball season.
 - c. To soccer from cheer – Monday after last football game. Cheerleader will not cheer once transition is made.

- d. To track from cheer – First school day after Christmas break.
Cheerleader will not cheer once transition is made.
 - e. To softball from cheer – First Monday after last football game.
Cheerleader will not cheer once transition is made.
6. Freshman will be able to transition to ANY sport, school sponsored activity or otherwise per the coach's discretion (i.e. Competitive Cheer).

Section H – “80 or Above Merit System”

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At the discretion of the cheer coach, the “80 or Above Merit System” will be used as the means of discipline each week for participation at cheer performances. However, other forms of discipline can be used in conjunction or in place of the “80 or Above Merit System.”

At the discretion of the cheer coach, the “80 or Above Merit System” may be used as the means of discipline each week for participation at cheer performances. However, other forms of discipline can be used in conjunction or in place of the “80 or Above Merit System.”

The Merit System works as follows:

1. Each cheerleader will start the season with 100 merits.
2. Prior to games and cheer events, a cheerleader must have 80 merits or above in order to participate in games and pep rallies.
3. If the cheerleader fails to maintain his/her merits, they will be required to attend the game and sit with the coach.
4. Persistent misbehavior may result in additional consequences set forth by the coach.
5. The “80 or Above Merit System” will not be used as a scholastic grade for the athletic cheer class.
6. Cheer members can accrue merits to offset demerits by completing approved activities as assigned by the coach including but not limited to community service activities and/or conditioning,

“80 or Above Merit System” Scoring Criteria

Failed Expectation	Demerits per incident
No practice clothes	5 (per item)
Chewing gum during practice/games	5
Tardy to before/after school practice, games, halftime, etc.	5/10
General misconduct (documentation required)	5/10 (decided by coach)
Excessive visiting during practice, at games, and during performances	5
Not following coach’s instruction	5
Disrespect to a coach or team member (**Major disrespect will be handled through administration and additional consequences will be administered)	5/10
Not participating in cheer, missing/marking arm motions and/or jumps	5
Leaving an event without being dismissed by coach	5
Allowing non-cheerleaders to wear the cheer uniform	10

If you receive 20 demerits two times in a semester, you will be benched from the next cheer event. If you receive 20 demerits more than two times in a semester, further disciplinary actions will be taken determined by the coach and administration, up to removal from the team.

ARTICLE VI – PROBATION, SUSPENSION, DISMISSAL, AND RESIGNATION

The coach is responsible to the School and CISD Administration for the welfare of the cheer team. The cheer coach reserves the right to decide the consequence(s), depending on the severity of the infraction(s), of a member that has not upheld their obligations to the cheer program, on an individual case-by-case basis. If necessary, the coach will obtain the approval of the campus principal or designated school administrator.

Section A – Benching

Automatic benching includes the following, but is not limited to this set of infractions. Duration of the benching will be decided by the cheer coach.

The following infractions will result in benching:

- a. Not abiding by the school's handbook, the CISD Student Code of Conduct, the CISD Extracurricular Standards of Behavior and the CISD Cheerleading Handbook.
- b. Deliberate disobedience or disrespect to any of the Crowley ISD cheer coaches, school personnel, or fellow cheer team members. This includes but is not limited to:
 - a. Verbal disrespect
 - b. Rolling of eyes
 - c. Notes
 - d. Text messages and comments on Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram or any other internet site or app.
- c. Not in proper uniform from head to toe, including having poms at events.
- d. Not in complete practice attire 2 or more times per grading period. This includes hair pulled back, shoes, socks, no jewelry, etc...
- e. In School Suspension for tardiness and dress code violations, Saturday School, morning or evening detention or any other type of school related discipline.

Cheer team members will attend and dress out for all cheerleader activities and sit with the coach unless the infraction calls for probation. While benched, the cheerleader will not be allowed to socialize, use their cell phone or leave the event early.

Section B – Probation/Dismissal/Resignation

Probation: a trial period or condition of cheerleaders who are being permitted to redeem failures, misconduct, etc. determined by the coach and administrator.

Removal: Final decision by the coach and the principal to end a student's participation as a cheerleader for the remainder of the year.

Resignation: A choice made by the individual member that he/she no longer desires to participate in the organization.

Due to the high level of visibility of campus cheer team members, members are expected to demonstrate leadership, honor, and integrity both in and out of uniform. Because acceptance onto a CISD Cheerleading Team program is a privilege, not a right, members will be held to higher standards than those imposed on the general student body. Members may incur disciplinary consequences for behavior that does not constitute a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, and may also incur disciplinary consequences from both the appropriate administrator and his/her coach for conduct that does constitute a violation of the Student Code of Conduct. Members must comply with all standards of conduct outlined below, in addition to the standards of conduct and behavior outlined in the CISD Cheerleading Handbook, Student Code of Conduct and Extracurricular Standards of Behavior. Members will be subject to the standards of conduct outlined herein **at all times** regardless of when or where the conduct occurs, whether on or off school property and whether or not school is in session. Failure to comply with the standards of conduct may result in disciplinary action against the member, **up to and including removal from the team.**

1. A cheerleader removed from the team for any reason forfeits all duties and privileges of cheerleading, including attending the banquet and he/she will be removed from their Cheer Athletics class.
 - a. Whenever a cheerleader is removed from a team, he/she will not be allowed to wear their uniform top (shell), uniform bottoms (skirt/pants) or uniform track jacket for that particular school.
 - b. Tryout eligibility for the following year will be determined by the coach and principal based on the severity of the event that resulted in removal from the squad.
 - c. If a cheerleader quits the team **or is removed from the team** for any reason, he/she will be ineligible to tryout the following year and forfeits all duties and privileges of cheerleading, including attending the

banquet and he/she will not be allowed to wear the listed uniform articles.

2. Members shall not engage in inappropriate behavior, including but not limited to inappropriate sexual contact, inappropriate posting of pictures through texting or the internet, fighting, public intoxication, possession or consumption of alcohol or illegal drugs, or other criminal activity excluding minor traffic offenses.
 - a. Inappropriate is defined as any action, activity or likeness that would bring disgrace to CISD, the team member or their squad.
3. Members shall not engage in behavior that warrants:
 - a. 2 in school suspensions for tardiness or dress code violations
 - b. 1 in school suspension for disciplinary reasons other than tardiness or dress code
 - c. 2 before school/after school detentions
 - d. Suspension from school
 - e. Removal to DAEP, or expulsion from school.

Members who have been assigned in school suspension, before/after school detention for disciplinary action, suspended from school, removed to DAEP, or expelled from school may be placed on probation or removed from the team for the remainder of the year based on the severity of the infraction based on the CISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct and CISD Student Code of the Conduct. For additional information, see the CISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct and CISD Student Code of Conduct.

4. Members, **who fail two or more marking periods**, anytime during the school year, will be removed from the squad.
5. Members may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including removal from the team, for any other behavior which the coach deems inappropriate. Activity deemed inappropriate include but not limited to:
 - a. Unsportsmanlike conduct
 - b. Insubordination
 - c. Continual negative attitude
 - d. Posting disrespectful comments about team members/coaches
 - e. Lewd or profane internet behavior.

ARTICLE VII – UNIFORMS

1. No part of the uniform will be worn except when instructed by the coach. Uniforms may not be altered in any way without coach's authorization, and alterations done without coach permission may result in benching until the uniform is returned to original measurements.
2. Uniforms are not to be worn outside of CISD activities unless directed by the cheer coach.
3. Current CISD Cheer uniforms are not to be worn by anyone other than the cheerleader.
4. Members may **not wear any jewelry** while in uniform, practicing, or performing. **This includes navel rings, tongue jewelry, and any other type of body piercing. Bandage coverings or any other object (spacer/retainer) inserted in the pierced area will not be permitted. If a member is asked to remove the described jewelry, and he/she refuses, then he/she will not be allowed to participate.**
5. Offensive and/or obscene tattoos will be covered and are NOT allowed to show during any performance.
6. Hair must be natural in color and appearance. Natural is defined as the color of the hair that naturally grows from the individual's scalp. Hair should not include accessories that are not cheer approved
7. Nails must be manicured to no more than fingertip length. Nail polish may be nude, clear, American or French manicure, and it must be the same on all fingers. Acrylic, dip or similar on the nails is prohibited.

ARTICLE VIII– TRANSPORTATION

1. Cheer members and their parent/guardian are responsible for transportation to and from home games.
2. Transportation will be provided by the school district for away games.
 - a. Each cheerleader will be responsible for his/her transportation to and from the home campus before and after all games.
3. All cheer members are required to ride **to away** games/functions/activities in the district provided transportation.
 - a. Cheer members are required to arrive at least 30 minutes prior to bus departures; however, show times are subject to change as designated by the cheer coach. If a cheerleader misses the bus, he/she will not be allowed to cheer at that game in addition to other disciplinary action deemed necessary by the cheer coach.

- b. A member must ride home on the transportation provided by the district unless a parent/guardian provides written permission for the member to leave the event with the parent or legal guardian. **Unless coach decides that all members must ride home on the district transportation.**
 - i. In addition to written permission, the parent must sign out the member, not returning on the bus, with the coach.
 - c. Members are NOT allowed to ride with any other student or drive themselves home from any away event.
 - d. Members may NOT leave with anyone other than a parent/guardian.
 - e. Failure to follow the transportation protocol will result in a one game suspension.
4. All cheerleaders/mascots must be picked up at school by a parent or designated guardian within 15 minutes at the close of practice/performances. Repeated failure (three times) to be picked up will result in benching in the next event.
5. Members will abide by all school transportation rules, procedures, and safety guidelines.
6. Members will conduct themselves in an appropriate manner at all times on all trips and buses.
7. School policies and regulations are extended to all school sponsored trips.

ARTICLE IX – SAFETY AND MEDICAL

1. Safety is paramount in CISD cheerleading. Cheerleading is a vigorous, physical activity that carries a higher than ordinary risk of injury. Serious catastrophic injury, paralysis or even death could occur if a cheerleader lands on his/her head, neck or back.
 - a. Proper physical conditioning and safe stunting practices will mitigate the risk of injury.
2. Cheerleaders are not allowed to practice or perform any stunts without the coach or a designated staff member present.
3. Without exception, all cheerleaders medically cleared for activities will be required to participate in at least one day per week of physical strength and conditioning training.
4. All cheerleaders must have a notarized application/medical release form on file with the cheerleader coach.
5. Each year, the cheerleader must have a current UIL physical on file with the cheerleader coach and athletic trainer.
6. For safety reasons, the chewing of gum or eating during practice, pep rallies, games, or any performance is prohibited.

ARTICLE X – LETTER JACKET AWARDS

1. In order for a member to letter in cheerleading, he/she must be a **Varsity** team member.
2. The Varsity cheerleader is required to actively cheer at 10 Varsity athletic games in order to earn a letter jacket.
 - a. If a Varsity letter jacket is not earned, by the end of the football season, the Varsity cheerleader will be allowed to complete the requirements and receive a jacket at the end of the Basketball season.
 - b. Games where a cheerleader is benched for disciplinary reasons do not count toward the 10-game requirement.

ARTICLE XI – GRADING

If selected for the Junior Varsity or Varsity cheer team, the cheerleader is **required** to enroll in the cheer athletic class. A scholastic Physical Education grade will be earned at the end of the school semester or year.

1. To receive physical education credit, cheerleaders will be graded on the following basis:

- a. Psychomotor skills: Physical cheerleading skills and personal fitness (health and physical fitness).
 - i. Cheerleaders will be expected to participate in physical conditioning throughout the year.
 - b. Cognitive skills: Written test that covers rules and strategies of the current athletic activity for which the student is cheering.
 - i. Kinesthetic knowledge of cheerleading skills
 - ii. Safety
 - iii. Concepts of personal fitness.
2. Citizenship grades will be given in accordance with school policy. 3. Weekly grades may include participation in making signs and other spirit activities required by the coach.
4. All athletic class periods will consist of activities and practices for school performances only.
5. A semester and final exam will be given to any cheerleader enrolled in the cheer class period. The style/type of exam is at coach's discretion.