

# **Allen Independent School District**



## **Cheerleader/Mascot Guidelines**

**Updated 1/18/2019**

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## **PHILOSOPHY/PURPOSE**

The primary purpose of the Allen ISD cheerleading/mascot program is to provide a positive game time experience for the athletes and fans. Being a cheerleader/mascot is an honor and special privilege. Cheerleaders and spirit groups exist to promote good sportsmanship, good citizenship, and wholesome and enthusiastic school spirit and are first and foremost representatives of their school. They should exemplify both individual and group behavior suitable to their position and in accordance with the rules as stated in the AISD Student Code of Conduct. Members of these groups have a fundamental responsibility to play a leadership role in building teamwork and helping the school achieve its goals and objectives. Because of these responsibilities, cheerleaders/mascots will be expected to maintain a higher standard of behavior both on and off campus and academic achievement than that of their peers. Cheerleaders/mascots will create and promote loyal school spirit, encourage quality performance and high academic standards. Through the development of spirit and cheer technique, leadership, cooperation, self-discipline and sportsmanship in each individual member, the cheerleaders/mascots will encourage the student body and the community through support in the promotion of athletic events and activities and inspire athletes to perform to the best of their ability. Each cheerleader/mascot hereby pledges to dedicate the time and energy needed to achieve and fulfill these purposes and agrees to abide by the AISD Cheerleader/Mascot Guidelines, the AISD Student Code of Conduct, Student Handbook, AISD Board Policy, Texas Education Association (TEA) and University Interscholastic League (UIL) rules and regulations, and any and all other applicable AISD Extracurricular Activity rules and regulations.

## **OBJECTIVES**

Cheerleaders/mascots are expected to be physically and mentally skilled in learning and remembering cheers. They are also expected to be able to publicly demonstrate a skill level suitable for the team position and the timing necessary for group performance. Off the field, they are to enthusiastically support all athletic teams through advertisement, personal attitude, and attendance at events chosen by the sponsor and approved by the Principal and/or Program Director.

## **DEFINITION**

Cheerleading year: The rules and procedures outlined in these guidelines are in effect from the time the student is selected to the cheerleading/mascot squad through the following academic year.

Program Sponsor: Cheer coach/sponsor

Program Director: Director of Fine Arts

## **PARENT PARTICIPATION**

**Positive parental involvement is appreciated throughout the cheer program. Parents play an integral role in supporting and encouraging their cheer member and the program. Parents are encouraged to work in a positive manner with the Allen Cheer staff and administration to promote and improve the educational, financial, and ethical welfare of the Allen Cheerleading Program and all the students involved. Parents are encouraged to set up an appointment with the program sponsor to discuss concerns, both positive and negative, which directly impact their child or the overall program with the appropriate cheer staff member.**

## **ELIGIBILITY – TRYOUT**

A student is eligible to try out for cheerleader/mascot if the following conditions are met at the time of tryouts:

1. The student must have passed all subjects the preceding grading period in order to participate in the tryout process. If a student is academically ineligible for the grading period preceding tryouts, that student is not eligible for tryouts unless eligibility is regained prior to tryouts.
2. The student is not serving a disciplinary placement (ISS, OSS, DAEP, JJAEP).
3. The student is enrolled in the Allen Independent School District and is trying out at the school where the student is registered to attend for the next school year.
4. If the student is not currently enrolled in the AISD, but is registered to attend an AISD campus for the next school year, the student may try out at that campus.
5. The student has no outstanding cheerleading balances from prior years.

## **COMMITMENT**

Participation in the AISD cheerleading program carries both a significant time and financial commitment. Each cheerleader is expected to meet all financial responsibilities identified by their specific campus. Dedication to, and the prioritization of, cheerleading is obligatory from all cheerleaders and mascots to meet the objectives of the program. Candidates selected to be a member of the spirit squad are expected to maintain their commitment to the activity for the full cheerleading year. Prior to making commitments to be involved in other activities (including but not limited to competitive cheer and work), cheerleaders and mascots should carefully consider specific program requirements, as involvement in other activities may cause participation and time conflicts with cheerleading duties. Any cheerleader/mascot who voluntarily quits the squad before the end of the cheerleading year will not be allowed to try out for the next year.

## **FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

It is the responsibility of each cheerleader/mascot to meet all financial obligations. Every effort is made to make all expenses minimal. Failure to meet the stated financial obligations will be reviewed which may lead to removal from the squad. If finances are an issue, a parent/guardian must discuss with the sponsor immediately.

## **SELECTION**

The Allen Independent School District will hold a tryout for the selection for the cheerleading squads, (and mascots, if applicable). The tryouts will be held in the spring.

The principal or principal's designee of each secondary school hosting the tryouts will chair a committee composed of the campus cheer sponsor(s) and Program Director. The committee will be responsible for planning and facilitating the tryouts. The sponsor and Program Director, Principal or Principal Designee will be present during the entire tryout process. Parents will not be allowed in the building during any phase of the tryouts.

## **TRYOUT GUIDELINES**

Each sponsor will be responsible for the preparation and distribution of a packet of information to be made available to all candidates. This information will include specific tryout dates, times, attire, procedures and all necessary application and permission materials which will include:

- Cheerleader/Mascot Application Form
- Allen ISD Cheerleading/Mascot Guidelines Acknowledgement Form
- Allen ISD Fine Arts Permission and Emergency Release Form

The building principal and the Program Director will approve this information prior to distribution. Tryout packets from all secondary campuses will be posted on the AISD cheer website. Candidates and their parent/guardian must sign a form stating that they understand and will comply with all information in the packet, including, without limitation, the AISD Cheerleader/Mascot Guidelines, and return all required permission forms and applications to the appropriate campus cheer sponsor by the designated deadline, before the candidate will be allowed to participate in the tryout process.

Once a candidate is selected as a member of the cheerleader squad or as a mascot, they will be required to complete the physical packet distributed after tryouts.

There will be a \$10.00 tryout fee which will help cover the cost of outside judges, materials, choreographers and clinic expenses.

Tryout numbers will be randomly selected.

Tryout uniforms should be limited to plain white t- shirt with no visible logo(s), black or navy blue shorts and any type of athletic shoes. Every item of clothing should be carefully considered to insure equity, anonymity, affordability, and safety for the students during the tryout procedure

Any deviations from the tryout procedure will require written approval of the Program Director prior to the deviation.

Cheerleaders shall be selected by a scoring method that assigns a weight of 100% to the ratings assigned by a panel of judges.

## **SQUAD MAKEUP**

The Program Director, principal or principal's designee shall have the sole discretion to determine the maximum number of cheerleaders that will comprise the cheer squads for any school year.

### **High School Level**

- Varsity squad – up to 28 juniors and seniors
- Junior Varsity squad – up to 24 sophomores, juniors, and seniors
- Freshman squad – up to 24 freshman
- Mascots – up to 4 (2 Varsity, 1 JV, 1 freshman)

Cheerleaders will attend spring and summer practices, summer camp, and will be enrolled in the Cheerleading class for the entire academic year.

Mascots will attend spring and summer practices and summer camp but will not be enrolled in the class.

*Any squad vacancies occurring prior to summer cheer camp will be filled based on the spring tryout results.  
Any squad vacancies occurring after summer camp will not be filled.*

### **Middle School Level**

8<sup>th</sup> grade squad – up to 20 eighth graders

7<sup>th</sup> grade squad – up to 20 seventh graders

Mascots – determined by each campus administrator for each squad.

*Any squad vacancies occurring prior to summer cheer camp will be filled based on the spring tryout results.  
Any squad vacancies occurring after summer camp will not be filled.*

## **JUDGING CRITERIA FOR CHEERLEADERS**

### **INDIVIDUAL (may include):**

#### **Entrance**

- Presence/Poise
- Running tumbling
- Spirit/Enthusiasm

#### **Jumps**

- Toe Touch
- Pike Jump
- Front Hurdler (R or L)

#### **Standing tumbling**

- Back handspring
- Back Tuck
- Full

#### **Cheer**

- Motion Technique
- Vocal Communication
- Incorporation  
(Jumps/Standing Tumble)

### **GROUP (may include):**

#### **Chant**

- Motion Technique
- Vocal Communication
- Timing

#### **Dance**

- Showmanship
- Motion/Technique
- Timing

## **JUDGING CRITERIA FOR MASCOTS**

Mascots will be judged on a 2 minute skit planned and organized by the candidates. Candidates are responsible for bringing all of their own props and music to the try out. Mascot points will be divided between:

- Creativity
- Use of Props (no live persons)
- Character Definition/Exaggeration
- Crowd Appeal
- Dance
- Incorporation of Music
- Spirit and Enthusiasm

## **JUDGES**

There will be five (5) judges on the high school panel and three (3) judges on the middle school panels.

Judges with professional credentials will be hired for all tryouts and selected from NCA, UCA, ACA other professional cheerleading associations, universities, and/or out-of-District sponsors. Every reasonable effort shall be made to avoid hiring judges to judge tryouts if they have tutored, taught or coached a cheerleader candidate(s) during the current school year. Every reasonable attempt will be made to hire judges who have not worked with students in the Allen area.

*Notwithstanding the foregoing, however, with the hundreds of camps in the state of Texas, attended by thousands of cheerleaders and taught by hundreds of instructors, it is possible at some time that a member of the judging panel may have had some contact with a candidate who is trying out.*

Judges will be instructed to judge the candidates based only on the skills that they see demonstrated during the tryouts.

AISD Cheerleader/Drill Team sponsors will not serve as a judge for cheerleader tryouts.

## **PANEL TRYOUTS**

Panel tryouts will be closed to everyone except judges, program director, principals, and principals' designees. There will be no students, parents, or existing cheerleaders in the tryout room/area, the cheerleader candidate's warm up room, nor will they be involved in the collection or tabulation of scores. Parents and friends may wait outside the building. Any deviation by the candidates from the tryout requirements may result in the disqualification of the candidate.

## **TABULATION OF SCORES**

The District-wide formula for tabulating final scores at the high school level will be as follows:

- Each judge may award up to 200 points total per candidate. For high school, the high and low judges' scores will be dropped and the remaining three scores will be averaged together to get the

judges' average score. This number will count 100%. All judge's scores will be used for middle school tryouts.

After the tabulation of scores, all official scoring will be kept in the Program Directors, principal or principal designee's office until results are posted. Original scoring sheets will be retained for 30 days following the tryout date.

### **REQUEST FOR SCORES**

Any candidates wishing to receive their scores should email their cheer sponsor within two weeks of the tryout.

By law, all other student scores are protected and cannot be shared with anyone except the sponsor, principal, or principal's designee.

### **NOTIFICATION**

After all tryout scores for a school are tabulated and confirmed by the Program Director, principal or principal designee, the final results will be posted in numerical order by tryout number with no indication of rank on the website.

### **VIDEO USAGE**

Use of video in case of a medical condition will be determined on a case by case basis by the sponsor.

A written confirmation by a qualified medical doctor indicating the specific skill the candidate is incapable of performing will be required. This notice must also indicate an expected clear date that is on or before the first day of summer camp.

A video can only be used in the case of an injury that impairs the candidate from participating in a specific skill of the tryout. The video can be no more than six months old.

The candidate must perform each individual specific skill in the tryout to receive credit/points.

### **ELIGIBILITY--MAINTENANCE**

All cheer squads will abide by the Texas Education Agency and University Interscholastic side by side rules for eligibility (No Pass, No Play).



## **GENERAL CONDUCT RULES**

*“Standards of Behavior; Sponsors of student clubs and performing groups such as the band, choir, and drill and athletic teams may establish standards of behavior—including consequences for misbehavior—that are stricter than those for students in general. If a violation is also a violation of school rules, the consequences specified by the Student Code of Conduct or by board policy will apply in addition to any consequences specified by the organization’s standards of behavior.” – AISD Student Handbook, pg. 62*

Cheerleaders/mascots are expected to behave in a manner that is becoming to the individual, as well as to the organization they represent. They should be aware that in or out of uniform they are representatives of the cheerleading squad and the school they attend and should act accordingly.

Maintaining a higher standard of conduct will also include ensuring that cheerleader’s/mascot’s websites/social media are appropriate. The internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible form of communication. Cheerleaders/mascots will be responsible for any social media communication including but not limited to, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, Vine or photo sharing, etc. that appears on the internet even if it is marked private. Cheerleaders/mascots are responsible for their personal websites and postings as well as for postings on other students’ websites. The area of appropriateness will include, but are not limited to, language (abbreviated or alluding to), pictures, suggestive poses, clothing, reference and or depicting the use of alcohol, drugs, tobacco, vaping, etc.. Any question of appropriateness will be decided by the sponsor.

## **REMOVAL FROM THE SQUAD**

The following will result in immediate removal from the squad:

- Students who are academically ineligible for three reporting periods, consecutive or non-consecutive, will be removed from the squad for the remainder of the year to focus on their academics.
- The possession and/or use of alcohol, tobacco, e-cigs/vaporizers, and illegal drugs are expressly forbidden and will not be tolerated. Any infraction, on or off campus, will result in dismissal from the squad.
- Any member given out of school suspension, expelled from school or sent to DAEP for any reason will be removed from the squad for the remainder of the school year.

Any student removed from the cheerleading squad must also have a schedule change and be removed from the class.

Any cheerleader/mascot that is removed from or quits the squad for reasons other than academics before the end of the cheerleading year will not be allowed to try out for the next year.

Students who have been removed and those who voluntarily quit retain no rights to team awards, recognitions, etc., which are received after dismissal, although they may have accrued over the duration of the school term. They lose all privileges associated with cheerleading or mascot membership, including attending cheerleading/mascot only events, attending the cheer banquet (even as a guest), using cheerleading facilities, and wearing cheerleader/mascot attire. They are not eligible to tryout the following year.

## **SPECIFIC GUIDELINES/RULES**

UIL, AISD Regulations and Policies

- Students shall not be required to purchase gifts for other students or gifts for teachers.
- Students shall not be required to pay "dues" to a booster club or be required to purchase a membership

## **EXPECTATIONS**

### **CHEER CLASS AND PRACTICES – SCHOOL YEAR AND SUMMER**

- Cheerleaders must be on time to all in/out of school practices, including summer practices and camp.
- Cheerleaders will attend all in/out of school practices. Any absence must be cleared by the sponsor prior to the event/practice. Excused: personal illness, death in family, illness in family that requires out of town travel, funeral, mandatory court appearance, and religious holidays. Unexcused: Work/vacation, appointments, non-school related activities (competitive cheer, etc.).
- Cheerleaders will follow all directions and expectations of the sponsor during all in/out of school practices, including summer practices and camp, as well as during any performances.

### **GAMES/PEP-RALLIES/ALL CHEERLEADER/MASCOT ACTIVITIES**

- Cheerleaders/mascots will follow all directions and expectation of the sponsor at all in/out of school games/pep-rallies, meetings, functions and activities.
- Cheerleader/mascots will maintain proper side line behavior at all times
  - ✓ No excessive talking among cheerleaders
  - ✓ No talking to people in the crowd
  - ✓ Pay attention to the game/pep-rally
  - ✓ Stand in correct formation/stance
  - ✓ Cheer/spirit, jump, and tumble the entire game or pep-rally.
  - ✓ Only one person out of formation at a time for drinks
  - ✓ No taunting the other team
  - ✓ Cheerleaders/mascots will stand in formation.
- Cheerleaders/mascots will attend all in/out of school games/pep-rallies, meetings, functions and activities. Any absence must be cleared by the sponsor prior to the practice. Excused: personal illness, death in family, illness in family that requires out of town travel, funeral, mandatory court appearance, and religious holidays. Unexcused: Work/vacation, appointments, non-school related activities (competitive cheer, etc.). NOTE: An absence from school does not excuse cheerleader from the responsibility of contacting the sponsor.
- Cheerleaders/mascots will act in a safe manner.
- Cheerleaders/mascots will not leave any events early.

### **SUMMER CAMP**

Cheerleaders/mascots:

- will attend summer camp to remain on the squad
- will be unable to attend summer camp and will therefore forfeit their place on the squad if they have more than 2 unexcused absences from spring practices.
- will be on time for all camp activities
- may not leave the campus with anyone at any time unless approved by the sponsor
- may not talk to family/friends when engaged in a squad activity. Absolutely no public displays of affection.
- will respond to all sponsor's directions. No disrespect will be tolerated.
- will follow all NCA/UCA/ACA or other professional cheerleading association and university camp rules and respect all staff members.

- will respect each other and all squad members. No bullying/taunting/arguments or cursing will be tolerated.
- Absolutely no smoking/vaping, drinking or illegal substances will be tolerated.

### **OTHER SCHOOL FUNCTIONS**

Cheerleaders/mascots:

- will participate in community activities.
- are encouraged to participate or support the cheerleader fundraiser activity which goes to support cheerleader functions/costs.

### **UNIFORMS GUIDELINES**

Cheerleaders/mascots:

- will not wear uniforms to a non-cheerleader function. (eating after a game may be approved by the sponsor as an exception to this guideline).
- will not lend uniforms, sweats, letter jackets, etc. to someone who is not a cheerleader/mascot.
- uniforms may be altered, but no fabric may be cut without prior approval from the sponsor
- uniforms will be turned in by the scheduled due date.
- are responsible for damage to or loss of any part of a uniform.

### **GENERAL**

- Cheerleader/mascots will not participate in any public displays of affection during school, at school activities or while wearing the cheerleader/mascot uniform.
- Cheerleaders/mascots will follow all expectations, Student Code of Conduct and District Policy, including the dress code
- Cheerleaders/mascots will follow, although may not agree with the head cheerleader's (9-12) instructions at all times at cheerleader activities
- Cheerleaders/mascots will respect/respond to all Sponsors at all times. Rudeness/insubordination will not be tolerated
- Cheerleaders/mascots will respect all teachers/staff members at all times
- Cheerleader/mascots will not have any visible body piercings (other than ears).
- Cheerleader/mascots will not have any visible tattoos.

### **NOTES**

Any sponsor and principal review of student's actions may result in dismissal from the squad.

Guidelines: these are general rules and guidelines for all AISD cheerleaders/mascots. Failure to comply may at times require judgment calls to be made. These decisions will be left up to the individual Sponsors for each squad. Sponsors reserve the right to upgrade any penalty (immediate benching, office referral) depending on the severity of the situation.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR CHEERLEADING SAFETY**

*Refer to the current AACCA School Cheer Safety Rules.*

## **CHEERING ACTIVITIES**

Cheerleading squads are only permitted to cheer at one sporting event per school week. This does not include pep rallies or activities held during the school day or events on Fridays after 3:35 pm.

High School:

Varsity cheerleaders/mascots will cheer at all:

- Varsity football - all
- Varsity volleyball – district home games and playoffs
- Varsity basketball (boys and girls) – district home games and playoffs
- Teams of other sports as designated by the sponsor

Junior Varsity cheerleaders/mascots will cheer at all:

- JV football – district home games
- JV volleyball – district home games
- JV basketball (boys and girls) – district home games
- Varsity football – playoff games
- Teams of other sports as designated by the sponsor

Freshman cheerleaders/mascots will cheer at all:

- Freshman football – district home games
- Freshman volleyball – district home games
- Freshman basketball (boys and girls) – district home games
- Teams of other sports as designated by the sponsor

Middle school cheerleaders will cheer at all:

- football – home field games
- basketball (boys and girls) – district home games

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

It is the sponsor's discretion as to what other activities the cheerleaders will participate in. Cheerleaders/mascots are required to attend each of these events/appearances.

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

In the event of inclement weather, it will be the responsibility of the cheerleader sponsor, in collaboration with the principal or principal designee, to make the decision to leave the event. The decision will be based on what is in the best interests of the students and their health and welfare.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Per school district guidelines, high school cheerleaders/mascots will ride district provided transportation to and from out of town games. Cheerleaders/mascots will be responsible for providing their own transportation to home games.

## **MONIES COLLECTED BY SPONSORS**

All monies collected shall be maintained in accordance with AISD financial management guidelines and as required by District Policy.

# ALLEN ISD CHEERLEADING/MASCOT DEMERIT SYSTEM

Cheerleaders/Mascots will begin each week with a daily grade of 100. Any grade deductions will affect the weekly grade for the week of the offense.

Discipline is essential for a Cheer team to run properly. In order for the Allen ISD Cheerleaders and Mascots to function in this manner, the team will operate on a merit and demerit system. Demerits and Merits will be given based on sponsor discretion.

Cheerleaders/Mascots will be dressed **Bows to Toes** for summer camp, classes, practices, and all performances.

A Cheerleader will receive demerits for the following actions. (*Demerits do NOT start over 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.*)

## SUMMER CAMP & SPRING/SUMMER PRACTICES

Deductions from grades will not begin until the start of the school year.

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. Not attending summer camp.               | Removal from Team            |
| 2. Not wearing proper camp attire           | 1-5 demerits                 |
| 3. Not arriving on time for camp activities | 1-5 demerits                 |
| 4. Leaving campus with anyone at any time   | Sent Home-Possible Dismissal |
| 5. Disrespect to Sponsor(s) and/or Captains | Referral                     |
| 6. Unexcused absence from practice          | 5 demerits                   |

## CLASS/PRACTICE/PERFORMANCES (GAMES, PEP RALLIES ETC.)

- |   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 7. Hair not in ponytail   | 1 demerit / -5 points                |
| 8. No/Wrong bow   | 1 demerit / -5 points                |
| 9. Wearing jewelry in class or at an event  | 1 demerit / -5 points                |
| 10. Chewing gum/candy in class or during performance  | 1 demerit / -5 points                |
| 11. Incorrect/no shoes  | 1 demerit / -5 points                |
| 12. Cell phones – use during event or practice  | 1 demerit / -5 points                |
| 13. Not helping with clean up (game, pep rally, mats, etc.)   | 1 demerit / -5 points                |
| 14. Tardy (class or practice)   | 1 demerit / -5 points                |
| 15. Bad language  | 2 demerits / -10 points              |
| 16. Arguing   | 1 demerit / -5 points                |
| 17. Excessive talking   | 1 demerit / -5 points                |
| 18. Public displays of affection  | 5 demerits                           |
| 19. ISS/Evening School  | 2 week probation / -30 points        |
| 20. Disrespect to Sponsor(s), Captains, teachers, etc.  |                                      |
| • First Offense   | 1 demerit / -5 points                |
| • Second Offense  | 3 demerits / benched 1/2 event       |
| • Third Offense   | Probation                            |
| 21. Leaving early   | benched for ½ next event / -5 points |
| 22. Failure to notify Sponsor/Coach of absence in advance   | 2 demerits / -10 points              |
| • Advance noticed required for absence from any event/practice.<br>Sponsor must be notified before the event begins |                                      |
| • Absences from practice during the week of a pep rally will<br>result in removal from the pep rally routine.       |                                      |
| 23. Incomplete/incorrect uniform to performance   | benched for the event                |
| 24. Visible body piercings (other than ears)/visible tattoos  | benched for the event                |
| 25. Missing signs /poms   | 1 demerits / -5 points               |
| 26. Lending any piece of the cheer uniform to anyone who is not a cheerleader                                       | 3 demerits                           |

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 27. Missing performance (unexcused)                              | zero and 2 week probation                    |
| 28. Late to a performance/game                                   | benched for ½ next event /-5 points          |
| 29. Not maintaining proper sideline behavior                     |  |
| - excessive talking  | 1 demerit / -5 points                        |
| - talking to people in crowd                                     | 1 demerit / -5 points                        |
| - not paying attention to game/pep rally                         | 1 demerit / -5 points                        |
| - not standing in correct formation/stance                       | 1 demerit / -5 points                        |
| - leaving formation without permission                           | 1 demerit / -5 points                        |
| - unsportsmanlike like conduct                                   | benched rest of event/ 1 demerit / -5 points |
| - out of formation   | benched rest of event/ 1 demerit / -5 points |
| 30. Inappropriate Social Media (does not refer to drugs/alcohol) |  |
| • First Offense  | 3 demerits / benched ½ of event              |
| • Second Offense   | 5 demerits / benched 1 event                 |
| • Third Offense  | Probation / benched 2 events                 |

1. Only the Sponsors are allowed to issue demerits.
  2. Demerits begin the 1<sup>st</sup> day of team practice or camp and end the last day of school.
  3. Each team member will be required to sign his/her demerit sheet when she is given demerits.
  4. Signing or not signing the demerit sheet has no effect on the receipt of the demerit.
- For every 10 or more demerits accumulated, the Cheerleader/mascot will not be allowed to perform in the next performance/activity. *However, if a 10<sup>th</sup> demerit or greater is issued on a performance date, the removal of the student will take place at the next scheduled performance.* The Cheerleader/mascot is still required to attend the performance. He/She must also attend the performances in uniform.
  - 15 total demerits equal one week probation. However, the Cheerleader/mascot is still required to attend all practices and performances in that time. The Cheerleader/mascot is still required to attend the performance. He/She must also attend the performances in uniform.
  - 20 total demerits equal three weeks probation with a review with the Sponsor, Activities Principal/Fine Arts Director, and Parent(s).
  - 25 total demerits equal possible dismissal from the team with a review with the Sponsor, Activities Principal/Fine Arts Director, and Parent(s).

**Probation & Dismissal:**

Possible Probation/Dismissal:	
1. Insubordination	8. Truancy
2. Repeated failure to follow AISD Cheerleader Guidelines	9. Forgery
3. Academic Dishonesty	10. <b>Severe</b> discipline problems in school
4. Excessive misbehavior in school	11. Continuous failing of classes
5. Excessive absences and tardies	12. Hazing/Bulling/Teasing others
6. Disrespectful to teammates/Cheer Organization	13. Inappropriate online pictures/blogs/bulletins, etc. of a Cheerleader or by a Cheerleader.
7. Disrespectful to director/teachers/administrators	14. The possession and/or use of alcohol, tobacco, e-cigs/vaporizers, drugs = dismissal from the squad. See page 9.

1. Listed above are possible grounds for probation and dismissal from the team after a review with the Sponsor, and Activities Principal/Fine Arts Director. The Sponsor will determine punishment on a case by case basis.
2. If a Cheerleader/Mascot is placed on probation for any of the above reasons it will be for *three weeks*. The Cheerleader/mascot will not perform during this time and will continue to attend practices and attend performances in uniform.
3. While on probation, if another offense occurs, it may be grounds for dismissal from the team after a review with the Sponsor, Activities Principal/Fine Arts Director, and Parent(s).
4. If a Cheerleader/Mascot is placed on probation twice (either first and second semester, *or* twice in one semester), he/she may be dismissed from the team after a review with the Sponsor, Activities Principal and Parent(s).
5. Probation is for disciplinary actions only. If a Cheerleader/mascot is academically ineligible, he/she is not on disciplinary probation.
6. Cheerleaders/Mascots on probation need to work off their demerits while on probation.

### **Merits:**

1. Cheerleaders/Mascots have the opportunity to earn merits to erase demerits. However, merits may not be earned until the Cheerleader/Mascot has reached 10 demerits (or on probation).
2. It is the individual's responsibility to ask the Sponsor how he/she may earn merits. Merits may be earned by attending optional appearance opportunities, through service activities, or by helping sponsors with duties such as cleaning the cheer closet, inventorying items, painting additional signs, etc.
3. Merits will not impact the student's nine weeks grade.
4. It will be up to the discretion of the sponsor on how the merits are earned.

## **DEFINITIONS**

- The cheer uniform includes correct spansks, cheer shoes, appropriate hairstyle, no show white socks (no colors), correct bow and the uniform of the day or game day shirt.
- **Benched** – attending all practices and events, but not participating. Cheerleader/Mascot **will not** be allowed to socialize and will sit on the sidelines with the Sponsor(s). Cheerleader/mascot will dress out. Phones are not allowed.
- **Probation** – attending all practice and events, but not participating for length of probation period. Parents will be notified when a cheerleader/mascot is place on probation. Any infraction during the probation period may result in permanent dismissal. Cheerleader/mascot will dress out. Phones are not allowed.
- **Zero** – cheerleader/mascot will receive a zero in cheerleading class for the week. Permanent dismissal is possible if a cheerleader fails cheerleading for any nine-week grading period.

All consequences must be served within a week. Failure to serve a consequence can result in a referral, parent/teacher conference, and possible permanent dismissal.