

WEST PERRY CHEERLEADING CONSTITUTION

The purpose of the West Perry High School cheerleading program is to support West Perry Athletics, and promote school and community spirit. This document outlines the responsibilities and expectations of the West Perry cheerleader. This constitution is designed to hold the cheerleader to high standards, as she is a role model for the entire West Perry Community. This constitution will function with the cooperation of the cheerleader, coach, and parent(s), and will be implemented upon commitment to the cheerleading team for the duration of the 2017-2018 cheerleading season.

WEST PERRY CHEERLEADERS WILL:

1. Participate in the try out process at the start of each season
2. Represent their school and community in a positive manner
3. Uphold the expectations of the School District's Code of Conduct for Student Athletes
4. Attend all scheduled practices, games, competitions (if on the competition squad), and events
5. Maintain passing grades in all academic areas
6. Fulfill their financial obligations in order to maintain the cheerleading budget
7. **Obtain and pass a medial physical examination after June 1st and prior to August 10th**

TRYOUTS

- a) All interested candidates must participate in the try out process at the start of the season
- b) Interested candidates will be evaluated by three judges, including the coaching staff
- c) "Consent to Participate" must be completed and signed by the parent in order to participate in tryouts
- d) Two teacher evaluations must be completed in order to participate in tryouts
- e) Team placement will be decided by the coaches and these decisions will be FINAL
 - i. Varsity (grades 9-12th) JV (grades 6-11)
 - ii. Teams offered for this season: Football Cheer Team, Basketball Cheer Team and Competition Team
 - iii. To participate on the competition team, you must participate on at least 1 other team (Football Cheer Team/and or Basketball Cheer team)
 - iv. You may tryout and participate for all 3 teams

BEHAVIOR/ATTITUDE

- a) Cheerleaders will sign the Code of Conduct for Student Athletes
- b) Cheerleaders must behave appropriately both in and out of school and especially when in uniform
- c) Cheerleaders will warm up, perform and work as a team at all scheduled events
- d) Cheerleaders should be a positive role models within the school and community

APPEARANCE

- a) Uniforms must be clean, wrinkle free and presentable at all times
- b) Full uniforms must be worn during games and competitions. Full uniform consists of skirt, body liner, top, and hair bow, specific colored briefs as instructed by coach, very low WHITE socks, and cheer sneakers. During cold weather at Football games a warm-up, rain coat, white gloves, leggings will also be considered full uniform and **MUST** be in your cheer bag at all times in case of inclement weather and the uniform gets changed. Coaches will decide when those items are necessary to use. We will always dress as a team, which means if one girl doesn't remember her rain coat and its pouring no one will wear them.
- c) Hair should always be kept out of your face during practices, games, competitions and all other events. Bangs that are not cut above your eye brow need to be pulled back. **NO EXCEPTIONS!!!** Cheerleaders will not be permitted to cheer at games, competitions, or events with bangs below their eyebrows or down the sides of their face.
- d) Hair color should be a natural color. No longer will anyone be permitted to cheer with their hair being colored bright red, pink, blue, green purple, orange or any unnatural colors. It is fine to color your hair or highlight your hair just do it in a color that is natural. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** Cheerleaders showing up to games, competitions, or events with their hair colored in unnatural hair colors will not be permitted to cheer and will result in an unexcused absence.
- e) Financial obligations (for music, and registration fees) must be met in order to maintain a position on the competitive cheerleading team

- f) The competition team will fund raise during the summer and will be responsible for following the calendar with regard to upcoming fundraiser dates, paperwork, deliveries, money turn in, cheer gear orders and payment.
- g) No fundraisers will be ordered without payment
- h) All competition team cheerleaders MUST attend summer choreography camp held at the high school.

ACADEMICS

- a) Cheerleaders must maintain passing grades for the duration of the season
- b) Cheerleaders become ineligible for one calendar week if:
 - a. Failing one subject for two consecutive weeks or failing two subjects for one week
- c) Cheerleaders become ineligible for 15 school days if
 - a. Failing a course for a marking period
- d) Ineligible cheerleaders may not participate in performances for this designated time.
- e) Habitual ineligibility may result in being dismissed from the team. Academics come first

FINANCES

- a) An anticipated expense list will be distributed prior to tryouts
- b) Installment dates (3 of them) will be listed on the calendar handed out at the try out meeting
- c) Cheerleaders are responsible for paying for their cheerleading apparel
- d) A number of optional fundraisers will be offered during the summer months to offset the costs of these items
- e) Cheerleaders are expected to participate in up to three fundraisers to benefit the cheerleading program and/or raise funds for competition fees. You have the option to do a buy out or pay a portion of balance due if the full amount is not raised
- f) Failure to uphold your financial obligations may result in dismissal from the team
- g) Teams, which are out of season during the time of installment dates and orders, must be drop off payments and order forms to the coach on the scheduled dates. Pay attention to your calendar. Installment dates are listed as well as fundraising dates.

SCHOOL PROPERTY

- a) Any items you borrow from the school (uniform, pompoms, etc.) must be properly cared for and returned in the same condition at the conclusion of the season
- b) Any item owned by the school district which is not handed in at the end of the season will be the responsibility of the cheerleader/parent to replace
- c) Any item owned by the school district which is not returned in its original condition, within reason, will be the financial responsibility of the cheerleader/parent to replace

TRANSPORTATION (Away Events)

- a) Cheerleaders will travel to away events as a team
- b) Transportation will be provided by the school district
- c) Cheerleaders must give the coach PRIOR notification if leaving the game with a **parent**, and WRITTEN notification from the parent if leaving with an adult other than a parent
- d) All cheerleaders must be signed out before leaving an event

INJURIES

- a) Risk of injury is involved with cheerleading activity
- b) If a cheerleader is injured, she is still expected to attend practices
- c) If a cheerleader is potentially injured, she will need a written permission slip from a doctor in order to resume cheerleading activity
- d) It is the responsibility of the cheerleader to keep the coach up to date on all progress or decline of an injury during her time off. Failure to come back to the team after being released by your doctor from injury will result in no awards or recognition (varsity letter etc.) at the end of the school year.
- e) The only jewelry permitted during practices, games and events will be 1 small earring in the lobe of each ear. The earrings must not be hooped. The earring must be green, white, black, or silver-matching our uniform. No other color will be permitted NO EXCEPTIONS. During competition absolutely no jewelry can be worn!!!! Never should a cheerleader come to practice, games competitions or events with tongue rings, belly button rings, nose rings, and multiple earrings in their ears, eyebrow rings or any other possible location. This is a danger and it goes against our request for the team to dress and look like a team.

- f) All cheerleaders should arrive at every practice, game, competition or events in their uniforms or warm ups. No street clothes or street shoes should be worn on arrival to any other school, competition location or our main gym during a game time. On game days, please enter through the aux gym doors if you are ever out of uniform during arrival to an event
- g) Nail polish should be light in color. NO BOLD COORS. Nails should be trimmed at all times to avoid injuring yourself or another cheerleader during stunting.

CELL PHONES

- a) **Cell phones will no longer be used within practice area until after practice if over unless it is an emergency and approved by the coach. This includes no cell phones used during break time within the practice area**

ATTENDANCE

- a) Practices/Games/Competition
 1. All practices/games are mandatory
 2. Vacation or camps during the summer prior to August 11th will not be marked as unexcused nor will they count toward your absences
 3. ANY absences from practices/game require PRIOR approval from the coach
 4. Missing more than 3 practice during a season, even if they are excused absences, may result in a dismissal from the team
 5. Cheerleaders must call the coach prior to an absence. Failure to notify the coach will result in an unexcused absence, DO NOT text another cheerleader to tell the coach this will be marked as unexcused if a coach is not notified
 6. Doctor visits and other appointments should NOT be scheduled during practice/games
 7. Cheerleaders must remain in the designated practice/performance area
 8. Cheerleaders may not leave practice/games until dismissed by the coach
 9. Personal belongings should not be kept in the performance area
 10. Competition team practices and competitions are mandatory and STRICTLY enforced. Your third absence from competition practice, regardless of the reason, will result in dismissal from the team.
 11. Not calling the coach prior to an absent will result in an automatic dismissal from the competition team
 12. Not showing up for a competition without contacting the coach or without a valid reason (emergency) will result in dismissal from the team.
- b) School
 1. If you are absent from school, you may not participate that evening without a written doctor's excuse
 2. If you have an approved education trip on a practice day or game day, you must still come to practice, game or competition
 3. If you are tardy to school, you may not participate that evening without a doctors excuse
 4. IF YOU ARE ABSENT FROM SCHOOL ON THE DAY OF A PRACTICE OR GAME YOU STILL MUST CONTACT YOUR COACH TO INFORM THEM OF YOUR ABSENCE FROM THAT EVENT. IF YOU FAIL TO CONTACT THE COACH PRIOR TO PRACTICE OR GAME TIME, IT WILL BE UNEXCUSED.
 5. If you have six unexcused absences from school at any time throughout the season, you will be dismissed from the team. This is a school district policy.
- c) Competitions
 - 1) ALL team members MUST be present at competitions. NO EXCEPTIONS
 - 2) Team members must stay for the awards ceremony and congregate on the mat in full uniform for the duration of the awards ceremony.

ALL PARENTS ARE ASKED TO ARRIVE AT THE SCHOOL 5 MINUTES PRIOR TO THE PRACTICE ENDING TIME, OUR COACHES HAVE FAMILIES OF THEIR OWN WHO THEY ARE NOT SPENDING TIME WITH WHILE THEY ARE WITH YOUR CHEERLEADER. IF YOU ARE GOING TO BE LATE PLEASE SEND THE COACH A TEXT.

ADDITIONAL CONSEQUENCES/REPRIMANDS

- a) Failure to adhere to the expectations set forth in this constitution will result in an oral reprimand and will be documented and dealt with on an individual basis. Some examples include:

Football/Basketball Cheer Team Practice Related:

- 1) 1st excused absence from practice which is not the last practice prior to a game – oral reprimand
- 2) 1st unexcused absence from practice which is the last practice before a game= No stunting or any other practiced material created especially for that game
- 3) 2nd unexcused absence from practice no matter if it is the last practice before a game or not=oral reprimand and suspension for one game
- 4) 3rd unexcused or excused absences from practice during the current season=dismissal from team. Excluded from this will be summer vacations or camps prior to August 11th. Also, if we have practices which fall on two consecutive days and the absence is from an illness, will only count as 1 absence.

Competition Team Practice Related:

- 1) 3 excused absences during the competition season=dismissal from the team regardless of the reason
- 2) 1 unexcused absence during the competition season=dismissal from the team
- 3) Ineligibility which causes cheerleader to miss 3 practices=dismissal from the team

Football/Basketball Cheer team Game Related:

- 1) 1st unexcused absence from a game =oral reprimand and suspension from one game
- 2) 2nd unexcused absence from a game=oral reprimand and dismissal from the team

Competition Team Missed Competitions:

- 1) If you give the coach prior notice and you have a true EMERGENCY, which is deemed a true emergency by the coach, it will be excused
- 2) Unexcused absence from a competition=dismissal from team
- 3) Ineligibility which causes a cheerleader to miss competition=dismissal from the team

General All Practice and Games

- 1) Being late to practice more than 10 minutes=10 minutes of running... Failure to run will result in sitting out during the practice which will be considered an unexcused absence
- 2) Being more than 10 minutes late on game day will result in no stunting during the game
- 3) Anyone developing a habit of being late will receive an oral reprimand and then dismissed from the team if it continues
- 4) 1st in school suspension=oral reprimand
- 5) 2nd in school suspension=oral reprimand and suspension from the team
- 6) All cheerleaders are to be picked up at the dismissal time!!!!!!
- 7) Practices- We have open gyms before our season in June starts, June we will have football cheer practice Mondays 6-8:30, Wednesday we will have tumbling. Watch your calendars/website/facebook for updates.

FACEBOOK GROUP

- 1) We will have a Facebook "private" group that you and your parents will be allowed to join while you are a cheerleader. This is where the cancellation and announcements other than at practices will be posted. You may post pictures to this group. **NO CRITICISM WILL BE ACCEPTED IN THE GROUP.** If any negative comments are made the person will be removed from the group and not allowed to re-enter. Please check the Facebook group for announcements and reminders on practice and game days.

Remember:

You are a student athlete in a West Perry Uniform, act in a way that will add value to our school and not detract from our positive reputation in our community.