

Ganado ISD High School & Junior High



Cheerleader Constitution

**GANADO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
CHEERLEADER & MASCOT CONSTITUTION
AND CONDUCT CODE**

I. THE PURPOSE OF CHEERLEADING IS:

- to promote and uphold school spirit,
- to support and encourage all school teams,
- to develop a sense of good sportsmanship among students,
- to improve the student morale,
- to build better relationships between competing schools,
- to be ambassadors to the community, and
- to establish the high personal ideals and good character expected of a varsity, junior varsity, and / or junior high cheerleader in order to be a role model for peers and younger children in the Ganado Independent School District.

II. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR TRYOUTS:

- A. The student must be an enrolled student in Ganado ISD on the first day of the semester of tryouts and sign up for tryouts by the deadline date, obtain, complete all necessary documents needed for tryouts, and meet all eligibility requirements for tryouts since enrollment for the current school year.
- B. The student must have a good attendance record, which is defined as no more than two unexcused absences for the academic year through tryouts. Saturday school attendance will be reviewed by the campus administrator and sponsor as to the reason for Saturday School attendance. A need for excessive Saturday School attendance is not acceptable.
- C. The student must have a good disciplinary record, which is defined as no more than one day in ISS, no expulsions, no Saturday school for discipline, and no AEP placement. The student also must not have been suspended from school during the current school year.
- D. The student must have a 70 or higher in all subjects as of the last full grading period (six weeks), on the last report card before try-outs.
- E. All students trying out must submit a physician's statement to state the level they are able to perform the athletic skills required by cheerleading and being a mascot. If the student is unable to perform the requirements for a category, they will receive a score of zero for that category.
- F. Prior to tryouts, the student and parent/guardian will be provided a copy of the cheerleading constitution and rules and will be expected to understand these documents and agree in writing to abide by the constitution and accompanying rules. If the student and/or parent cannot attend the meeting(s), arrangements must be made to makeup this meeting prior to the beginning of practice for tryouts. No student can participate in any practice or performance until all documents are understood and signed by the student and parent/guardian. .
- G. The student must participate in **ALL** scheduled tryout practices. If the student is unable to attend a practice because of an excused absence, the student must make arrangements with the sponsor to make up the practice. (Excused absence example: Conflict with another UIL event such as softball, baseball, track, golf, or one act play) Failure to meet this requirement will render the student ineligible to try-out.
- H. The date, time, and place of try-outs will be posted at the office of the High School Principal. Students must be present the entire day of school on the day of judging in order to participate in try-outs.
- I. When trying out, the student must wear a solid pair of shorts that may have a white stripe down the side, a white shirt (collar can be one different color), and tennis shoes that are predominantly white. The tryout uniform must be approved prior to tryouts or the student cannot participate.

III. CHEERLEADER SELECTIONS

- A. The following rules will apply to the selection of the Varsity, Junior Varsity, Junior High Cheerleaders, and Mascot based on the independent scores of the judges.
- B. Varsity Candidates will be learning two cheers, one dance, and one chant. Junior Varsity will be learning two cheers and one chant. Junior High will learn one cheer and one chant. Varsity groups will try out to one cheer, one dance, and one chant. Junior Varsity groups will try out to one cheer and one chant. Junior High groups will try out with the chant. All individuals will try out with the specified cheer.
- C. **Varsity Squad** - Will consist of students who will be sophomores, juniors, or seniors for the upcoming school year. The squad will consist of twelve members. These twelve will be the sophomores, juniors, or seniors who have attained the twelve highest total scores from the judges and had indicated they were trying out for Varsity.
- D. **Junior Varsity Squad** - Will consist of not more than eight students who will be freshman, sophomores, juniors, or seniors for the upcoming school year. These positions will be held by the students that score the highest after Varsity is determined, and who have indicated they wanted JV only or either.
- E. **Junior High Squad** - Will consist of students who will be in the seventh or eighth grade for the upcoming school year. The squad will consist of six seventh graders and six eighth graders with the highest total scores.
- F. In the event of a tie, all candidates who receive a tying score, and when the score is eligible for a requested squad, will serve on that squad.
- G. The sponsors and campus administrator will hire three judges from Spirit Event Coordinators (or an equivalent organization) for the tryout process. Selection of all cheerleading squads and mascot will be based 100% on the judges' scoring. A campus administrator, with no student trying out, will verify all scores prior to the announcement of the squads. No sponsor or parent of a candidate will be involved in the scoring, tabulating or verification of scores.

IV. SELECTION OF CHEERLEADER CAPTAIN

- A. **Varsity Cheerleader Captain** - One Senior member will be elected by secret ballot. Each senior member will be given one point per year of experience as a cheerleader including Junior High cheerleading experience. Each squad member will vote with each vote counting as one point. The cheerleader with the most points will be the cheerleader captain. In the event of a tie, the student with the highest judges' points will be cheerleader captain. In the event that only one senior is on the squad, then that senior will be the cheerleader captain. If for any reason a senior is not elected to the squad, the vote for cheerleader captain will go to the juniors on the squad.
- B. **Junior Varsity Cheerleader Captain** - The JV squad will have a cheerleader captain. The cheerleader captain will be selected by the highest class-ranked cheerleader (in this order: senior, junior, sophomore, freshman) with the highest total score from the three judges.
- C. **Junior High Cheerleader Captain** - The Jr. High squad will have a cheerleader captain. The cheerleader captain will be an eighth grader with the highest total score from the three judges.
- D. **Mascot** - One mascot will be elected for the school year. The student must be a sophomore, junior, or senior the following school year. The student with the highest judges' points will serve as mascot.
- E. At any given time, the captain of any squad who is not carrying out the duties assigned to her, whether it is due to the inability to be a team leader or not following the directions of the sponsor, the sponsor, with the approval of the campus administrator, has the right to dissolve the Cheerleader Captain position. In the event that this would take place, the duties of the Cheerleader Captain will be equally divided between the members, making one or two members "Cheerleader Captain" for the week or the event.

V. **CHEERLEADING EXPENSES**

- A. A handout will be provided showing the approximate costs of participation and when payments are due.
- B. Cheerleaders will attend camp during the summer. The registration fee for the camp will be paid by Ganado ISD. **Please make yourself available for practices the week before cheer camp. DEMERITS WILL BE ISSUED FOR MISSED PRACTICES.**
- C. **FOR ALL SQUADS**
 - 1. All members must be in full uniform to perform.
 - 2. Each cheerleader and mascot will fund cheerleading uniforms and all expenses.
 - 3. All expenses must be paid in full within thirty (30) days after the uniform fittings have been taken.
 - 4. The mascot must care for the uniform as per manufacturer and sponsor instructions.

VI. **RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR CHEERLEADERS/MASCOTS**

- A. All cheerleaders/mascot must abide by the rules and regulations in the Ganado ISD Student Handbook.
- B. Each member must meet the requirements of No Pass/No Play, which means they must maintain an overall grade average of 70 in each class. In addition, any member failing for two grading periods will be dismissed from the squad.
- C. All members must be in regular school attendance. Excessive absences (more than two unexcused) will be dealt with according to the decision of the Principal and sponsor.
- D. All Varsity Cheerleaders MUST participate for the entire school year at:
 - 1. All Football Games (Home & Away)
 - 2. All Play-off Games (Football, Volleyball, Basketball, Softball, and Baseball)
 - 3. All District Basketball Games (Home only)
 - 4. All-Sports Banquet
- E. All squad members will be transported to out-of-town functions by school vehicle. Any student wishing to ride home with parent/guardian must submit a written note from the parent/guardian to the sponsor. If the student will be going home with someone other than the parent, a note from the parent/guardian must be approved by the sponsor. The parent/guardian must also inform the sponsor personally that he/she has their child prior to leaving the game. **Immediately following out-of-town games, cheerleaders and mascot will report directly to the sponsor.**
- F. Any unexcused absence from a game or practice or tardiness from a game or practice will result in disciplinary action from the sponsor
- G. **Any disciplinary infraction at a game or practice will be handled at the time by the sponsor. The campus administrator will be notified and the discipline referred promptly if necessary.**
- H. Each squad will meet with the sponsor on a specified day of each week, to be determined by the sponsor, to decide on the uniform that will be worn to that week's pep rally and game. This decision will be final, unless the sponsor feels a different uniform would be more suited for the weather. At some time after this meeting, the cheerleader captain will give each member, the Campus Administrator, and the sponsor an approved copy of the pep rally agenda for that week.
- I. Game Uniform – The correct briefs, socks, and shoes must be worn. Hair will be pulled back in a ponytail unless prior approval has been given by the sponsor. Shorter hair must be pulled back out of face. This applies to practices, games, and pep rallies. Megaphones and/or pom-poms will be brought to all pep rallies, football, and playoff games. Sweat suits or wind suits will only be worn when instructed to do so by the sponsor. When weather dictates, turtlenecks, under armor, and

tights will be worn by all squad members. Any attire other than the dress uniform must be approved by the sponsor before being worn. The entire squad will wear the **same uniform** when performing.

- J. Varsity Cheerleaders that complete the school year in good standing will letter.
- K. Cheerleaders will not be permitted to wear their uniform to non-cheerleader functions.
- L. No food may be consumed in front of the stands at any time. Drinks may be kept in a bottle with a twist type lid.
- M. **For safety reasons, no jewelry will be worn while cheering or practicing. In addition, no gum, candy, etc. may be chewed or eaten while cheering or practicing. No exceptions!**

VII. **CONDUCT OF THE CHEERLEADERS/MASCOT**

- A. Cheerleaders and mascot ***must***:
 1. conduct themselves properly at all times, because they are official representatives of Ganado Junior High and Ganado High School,
 2. ***never*** display undesirable emotions such as anger, rage, etc.,
 3. ***never*** display bad habits such as improper language, smoking, and use of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs,
 4. display good sportsmanship at all times,
 5. ***never*** be rude or obnoxious,
 6. conduct themselves in the classroom in a manner which gives a good example to other students,
 7. ***always*** conduct themselves as ladies or gentlemen, and
 8. **uphold the purposes of cheerleading outlined in item I. above**

VIII. **DUTIES OF THE ELECTED MEMBER**

- A. Members must abide by all rules and regulations stated in this constitution.
- B. Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Jr. High members must attend a summer camp approved by the sponsor or have a mini camp at home set up by the sponsor and the cheerleader captain.
- C. The Cheerleader Captain will meet with the sponsor to decide on meetings, uniforms, practices, and game times.
- D. The Cheerleader Captain from each squad will inform, in advance, all cheerleaders and mascot of meetings, uniforms, practices, and game times.
- E. The Cheerleader Captain from each squad will fill out a Facility Request two weeks prior to each pep rally (if applicable).
- F. The Cheerleader Captain from each squad will have the pep rally agenda approved by the sponsor and the campus administrator.
- G. The Cheerleader Captain will keep a list of cheers, chants, and formations.
- H. Mascot duties will be the same as those of the cheerleaders.

- I. The members of the High School squads may be required to sell Spirit Ribbons. You will have a limited amount of time to sell the ribbons.
- J. Varsity Squad will wear their uniforms on Friday during football season and cheer for all varsity competitions.
- K. Jr. Varsity Squad members will wear their uniforms on Thursday during football season and cheer for all Jr. Varsity and freshman competitions.
- L. Jr. High Squad members will wear their uniforms on Thursday during football season and cheer for all Jr. High football games.
- M. Jr. Varsity squad members will wear their uniform to all varsity home football games and play-off games to sell programs prior to and during games and to cheer during the times when the varsity squad is away from the stands. (This is not to interfere with your band responsibilities and marching at half time.)
- N. All squad members, Varsity, Junior Varsity, & Junior High, will participate in sign-painting sessions and fundraisers.

IX. FUNDRAISING

- A. Cheerleaders and the mascot will have opportunities to participate in various fundraisers to offset their cheerleading expenses. The amount of fundraiser profit to be divided between the cheerleaders and mascot from the cheerleader activity account will be determined by the sponsor.
- B. No Cheerleader or mascot may receive more money than she actually paid out of pocket for camp and uniforms with any additional money raised remaining in the activity account for overall cheerleading expenses.

X. PARENT/GUARDIAN RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Learn and encourage your child to follow the rules, regulations, and procedures, and attend all parent orientation meetings.
- B. Help to make sure that your child is on time to all activities and in meeting all her financial obligations.

XI. CHEERLEADER SPONSOR RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Establish clear written guidelines and rules, presenting and explaining them well to the students.
- B. Ensure consistent enforcement of rules and regulations.
- C. Adhere to practice schedules, beginning and ending on time, while giving sufficient advanced notice of scheduled changes to allow students and parents sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements.

XII. PRACTICES

- A. Each member of each squad is required to contribute time and effort to insure success to any project of the squad.
- B. The sponsors may issue demerits for actions of any squad member that is detrimental to the school or squad.
- C. **TIME IS PRECIOUS.** All squads will practice regularly. Cheerleaders are required to attend summer practices called by the sponsor, and only the sponsor can call a practice. All squads will practice regularly during the summer months. The amount of practice will be determined by the

quality of the squad. Cheerleaders are required to know when the next practice is, and it is suggested that each member maintain a calendar of practice dates and times.

- D. Any member arriving to practice late will be dealt with by the sponsor through the demerit schedule.
- E. Cheerleaders are expected to attend summer practices called by the sponsor **only** and no other individual. Unexcused absences will result in demerits being issued.
- F. **PRACTICE THE WEEK BEFORE CHEER CAMP, THE WEEK OF MINI-CHEER CAMP AND THE WEEK BEFORE SCHOOL BEGINS IS MANDATORY. FOR ALL SQUADS ALL OTHER SCHEDULED PRACTICES ARE MANDATORY.** Tardiness or absence from a mandatory practice will be handled by the sponsor using the demerit schedule.
- G. Practice will be scheduled for one to two days a week once school starts until the end of football season. (Unless the sponsor feels the need for additional practice.)
- H. **ALL SCHEDULED PRACTICES ARE MANDATORY** unless permission to miss a practice is given by the sponsor. Written notice of any absences is required to be given to the sponsor and must be signed by parent/guardian.
- I. All practices, other than camp, will be held at the school, and the sponsor must be present at all scheduled practices.
- J. All cheerleaders must be prepared to practice when practice is scheduled to start. Each member should allow time to stretch and warm up prior to the start. Being unprepared is the same as being late, and demerits may be issued by the sponsor.
- K. All cheerleaders must have the proper equipment (cheer shoes, pom-poms, etc) and wear the proper clothing to practice. **ABSOLUTELY NO FLIP-FLOPS, SANDALS, LONG PANTS, OR CAPRIS. A lack of equipment or inappropriate clothing may result in the sponsor issuing demerits.**
- L. **ALL PRACTICES ARE CLOSED TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC. NO VISITORS ALLOWED (Including boyfriends, girlfriends, or any other children). PARENTS OF THE CHEERLEADERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME TO OBSERVE PRACTICE SESSIONS QUIETLY.**
- M. **PLEASE NOTE: JOBS AND VACATIONS SHOULD BE SCHEDULED AROUND SUMMER PRACTICES, CHEER CAMP, AND ALL OTHER SCHEDULED PRACTICES, ACTIVITIES, PEP RALLIES, AND GAMES.**
- N. **PLEASE NOTE - that if a cheerleader or mascot has more than five unexcused absences, this will result in the cheerleader or mascot being dismissed from the team, even if he/she has already bought uniforms, shoes, etc.**

XIII. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS: For Detrimental Substances

- A. **Tobacco, alcohol, and drugs have no place in the life of a cheerleader.** (You are to be a role model for your peers, younger students and children, and the community, as well.) Tobacco, alcohol, and drugs are detrimental to health and performance. Cheerleaders are expected to refrain from the use of these substances. Disciplinary actions for the use and/or possession of substances off the school grounds and at non-school activities will be taken in accordance with the substantiality of proof. Disciplinary actions for the use and/or possession of substance(s) at school or at school activities will be taken, in addition to discipline required by the school student handbook, as follows:
 - 1. **Tobacco: A 5-day suspension from all cheerleading activities. (Demerits will be issued for any missed practices, pep rallies, or games during this 5-day suspension.)**
 - 2. **Alcohol: The cheerleader/mascot will be suspended from all cheerleading activities for 14 consecutive days. (Demerits will be issued for any missed practices, pep rallies, or games during this 14 - day suspension.)**

3. Drugs: Any use or possession of illicit drugs shall be grounds for immediate dismissal from the cheerleading program for the remainder of the school year.

- B. Other - It is virtually impossible to cover everything in the constitution that would require disciplinary action, therefore, all rules and regulations concerning Cheerleaders and the Mascot are subject to sponsor's and/or the campus administrator's discretion.

XIV. DEMERITS

- A. A demerit system will be used by the sponsors for disciplinary purposes not otherwise covered by the specific rules, regulations, or duties. The demerits may be issued by the sponsor for the following reasons;

INFRACTION	DEMERITS
Five (5) minutes late to practice, from practice break, to a pep rally, or to a game	Warning
Six (6) Minutes or more late to practice, from practice break, to a pep rally, or to a game	1 demerit
Anytime being late to practice, from practice break, to a pep rally, or to a game after 2 previous tardies	1 demerit
Two (2) written warnings of any kind	1 demerit
Unexcused absence from practice. (Sponsor or Cheerleader Captain must be notified of an absence. If cheerleader will be gone for more than one day, a written letter signed by parent/guardian must be given to the sponsor.)	1 demerit / unexcused absence
Unexcused absence from pep rally	3 demerits
Unexcused absence from game	3 demerits
Insubordination (Not following directions)	1 demerit / offense
Disciplinary Referrals to the Office resulting in action more than a warning	1 demerit / offense
Placement in ISS	2 demerits / day
Deliberate disobedience of sponsor/coach/teacher/administrator, etc...	1 demerit / offense
Disrespect of sponsor/coach/teacher/administrator or other adult	1 demerit / offense
Unsportsmanlike conduct to other squad member(s) / other student(s)	1 demerit / offense
Inappropriate dress for practice	1 demerit / offense
Uniform infractions (not having the correct uniform for pep rallies and games)	1 demerit / offense
Stunting without sponsor's/coach's approval	1 demerit / offense
Inappropriate behavior (cursing, display of temper, gossip, etc...)	1 demerit / offense
Deadlines / Responsibilities (not meeting them on time, etc...)	1 demerit / day
Failure to participate in spirit activities such as dress up days, spirit day, etc.	1 demerit / offense
Tardiness to and from breaks in games and performances	1 demerit / offense
Chewing candy, gum, etc. while at practice or while performing	1 demerit / offense

- B. Three (3) demerits will result in the cheerleader not being allowed to cheer at the next game.
- C. Five demerits will result in the cheerleader being dismissed from the squad.
- D. Excused absences will be the same as listed in the student handbook.
- E. All Demerits are permanent from the selection of cheerleader / mascot until the subsequent tryouts. Demerits may not be worked off.
- F. Placement in Disciplinary Alternative Education Placement (DAEP) will result in immediate dismissal from the squad.

XV. APPEALS AND AMENDMENTS

- A. This Constitution And Conduct Code May Be Amended By The Sponsor And Principal With The Approval Of The Superintendent.

B. To Present A Verbal Complaint About This Organization, Please Follow This Order:

1. Cheerleader Captain
2. Sponsor / Coach
3. Campus Administrator

C. If You Choose To File A Formal Complaint, Please See Ganado ISD Board Policy FNG. A Copy of This Policy Along With the Complaint Forms can be found at any Administrative Office.