

**CHEERLEADING / MASCOT
SPIRIT SQUAD
CONSTITUTION**

ARTICLE I – Goal

The goal of this document is to provide guidelines for the spirit squads of Diamond High School in order to facilitate the development of a program that will promote teamwork, school spirit, and community pride by setting an example of good citizenship and a positive representation of the student body.

ARTICLE II – Tryouts

The football squad will be selected in the spring, and the basketball squad will be selected during the fall. The tryouts will involve two basic areas. Candidates for the squads will be judged based on skill and spirit, and will be judged by a panel of 3 out of district judges. Teachers will evaluate each candidate based on academics, social, and personal skills.

The candidates must attend tryout clinics and mock tryout sessions in order to be considered. Participants that are selected and then are dismissed or quit before the season is over will not be eligible to tryout for either season the next school year.

ARTICLE III – Membership

The squad member will participate in all required activities throughout the season. The squad member will participate in all assigned fund raising activities throughout the season.

The parent / legal guardian of the squad member must be willing to support the member in complying with all rules and regulations of the school and the organization.

ARTICLE IV – Code of Conduct

Any student who represents their school as a cheerleader / mascot must be a creditable citizen as judged so by the proper school authority. Students whose character or conduct reflect negatively, or bring discredit to themselves or the school, are not considered “creditable citizens.”

Squad members will be expected to be honest, trustworthy, responsible, and fair while exhibiting loyalty to the squad and the school it represents. The members will be expected to conduct themselves with a high standard of moral conduct in and out of school. They will be expected to contribute to their school in a positive way and show courtesy to the opposing teams, spectators, administrators, and cheerleaders.

Members will refrain completely from possession or use of alcoholic beverages of any type, tobacco in any form, and drugs of any type except as prescribed by a physician.

Aspirin and over the counter medications are acceptable only if taken as directed on the label. The sponsor and/or the administration shall have the authority to permanently remove any member who is found to be in possession of, or using these illegal substances at anytime.

Involvement in disciplinary problems within school or cheerleading, direct defiance to a sponsor or administrator, or unbecoming behavior that reflects on the squad or the Diamond R-IV School District will be cause for a suspension for a period of time, and may result in suspension from the squad permanently.

ARTICLE V – Responsibilities

Squad members will attend athletic events, practices, activities, and competitions as designated by the administration and/or sponsor. Members must participate in projects to promote school spirit and in assigned fundraising activities. Failure to wear the appropriate “game day” attire and failure to participate daily in Homecoming activities (spirit days, pep assemblies, dances, etc.) will result in demerits. A limited number of gymnastic sessions (4) will be required with transportation and fees to be the member’s responsibility.

Any member who does not meet performance expectations during practice or who has one or more absences from practice may be excluded from participation in the next performance.

During a game, cheerleaders are responsible for cheering and raising spirit. Talking among the squad members or to friends in the stands will not be permitted. This rule also applies to anyone benched for disciplinary reasons. Members are required to be in formation, and ready to cheer 1 minute prior to the start of the game (this includes ½ time), failure to follow this instruction will result in proper assignment of demerits.

Cheerleaders will display good sportsmanship at all times. MSHSAA rules for sportsmanship and safety will be enforced. Cheerleaders will also set an example of good citizenship in the classroom. Their conduct shall be of a caliber which sets a good example for other students.

Grade eligibility according to MSHSAA rules and rules set forth by administration and/or the sponsor must be maintained. Grades will be reviewed with each mid-quarter, and quarter report. Receiving an F will result in being benched. Receiving 2 F’s may result in dismissal from the squad.

Uniforms will be furnished for each cheerleader / mascot. However, personal clothing such as shoes, bloomers, bodysuits, wind suits, camp wear, etc. is the sole responsibility of the member. Camp fees will also be the member’s responsibility as MSHSAA rules state that fundraising is not allowed for camp fees.

ARTICLE VI – Attendance

Attendance at all activities is required. A cheerleader must be present 4 class periods of the school day in order to be eligible to participate in events scheduled that day. If the scheduled event falls on a Saturday, or a day school is not in session, you must have been present for 4 hours the previous day.

A member may not have more than 3 unexcused absences from activities or practices. More than 6 absences (excused & unexcused) will result in administrative review and possible dismissal from the squad. Cases of prolonged absences will be given special consideration by administration.

Excused absences include:

- Documented personal illness or accident
- Death in the family
- Special school activities pre-approved by the sponsor
- Religious holiday
- Weddings of an immediate family member

An excused absence will require a written note from a parent or guardian. It must include the name, date, reason for the absence, and the parent's signature. This includes days the squad member is absent from school.

Out-of-town trips, vacations, and work are not acceptable excuses for missing required activities.

Missing the last practice before a performance may result in the member not performing special cheers or dance routines. Appropriate demerits will be handed down.

All cheerleaders are to clear any outside activities with the sponsor during the week of homecoming. Activities and practices will be scheduled by the advisor and handed out in advance so that the squad members can plan accordingly.

ARTICLE VII – Transportation

Squad members must travel to games on the bus/van unless another school activity interferes. In that instance, prior arrangements must be made and approved by the administration.

A request to leave a game with parents/guardians will require the parent or guardian to accept the responsibility of the student by seeing the sponsor at the end of the game or event and by their signature on the sign-out sheet kept by the sponsor. The member will ride the bus/van if correct procedures are not followed. Written permission and prior approval of the administration will be required for those requesting to ride home with anyone other than a parent or legal guardian.

ARTICLE VIII – Uniforms

Uniforms checked out to the cheerleader must be in excellent condition at all times. When uniforms are returned at the end of the season, they will be clean and in excellent condition. If not, they will be returned to the cheerleader and not accepted until they are clean and in good repair.

Uniforms or any part of the uniform (including shoes) are only to be worn on game days and during games unless permission is given by the sponsor. Optional accessories (jackets, gloves, hair fixtures, etc.) must be approved by the sponsor before used.

Uniforms belong to the school. Failure to return a uniform will result in a charge for the uniform and withholding of grade cards or diplomas until the issue has been resolved.

ARTICLE IX – Merits & Demerits

A list of merits / demerits will be given to each person selected for the squad.

A cheerleader will be dismissed from the squad if she/he accumulates 8 demerits during the season. When a cheerleader receives demerits, he/she will be given a written notice that he/she will be expected to sign confirming his/her knowledge of the demerits. This will be placed in the members file.

ARTICLE X – Awards

Each cheerleader will be awarded a letter following the end of each year he/she participates providing he/she has maintained a “C” average throughout the season and has fewer than 8 demerits.