

**2022-2023**  
**Deweyville Pirate Varsity and Junior**  
**High Cheer Constitution**



# **Deweyville Independent School District Junior High & Varsity Cheerleaders/Mascots Constitution**

## **ARTICLE I- Name**

The name of this organization shall be the DJH & DHS Cheerleaders.

## **ARTICLE II-Purpose**

The purpose of the Cheerleaders shall be to promote school spirit by leading the crowd, cheer during football, basketball and other DHS events throughout the year; to help develop good sportsmanship among the students, to display leadership qualities, to create positive relationships in the community, while maintaining high moral standards as representatives of Deweyville Independent School District and the Deweyville community.

## **ARTICLE III- Membership**

### **Section A- Members**

Membership in the cheerleading organization is open to any DJH student that will be entering the 7th or 8th grades. Membership in the Varsity cheerleading organization is open to students at DHS entering the 9th thru 12th grade who meet the eligibility requirements as outlined.

### **Section B- Expectations for Entrance**

1. Be a Deweyville student.
2. Once selected, have and maintain an average of 70 in every subject at the end of each eligibility-grading period.
3. Have and keep a reputation of high moral character.
4. Must have a parent or guardian attend mandatory meeting(s) prior to tryouts.

### **Section C- Tryout Qualifications**

1. All interested individuals will sign up for tryouts by the date announced .
2. An application, permission form, and any additional form must be completed and signed by parents and students at the meeting. Parental permission for all activities of the organization must be signed by parent/guardian prior to tryouts.
3. A copy of the constitution will be distributed at the meeting and must be read and signed by parents and students prior to the tryout practices. Dates will be announced at the parent meeting.

4. Must have been in attendance prior to signups for tryouts and/or be an eligible student entering Deweyville who attends private elementary/jr. high and are current Deweyville residents.
5. In order for a student to become a member of the cheerleading squad, he/she must physically be capable of practicing, cheering, stunting, tumbling, and jumping extensively.
6. Must have no grades lower than a 70 during the tryout year and have an **overall** academic grade average of 80. This is determined by averaging the 6-week grades in each subject before tryouts. Excluded classes are: office aide, pe/athletics, study skills, band, art, and yearbook.
7. Students must attend tryout clinics and or practices prior to tryouts.
8. He/She must be able to give freely of his/her time for any cheerleader activity throughout the year and during the week prior to and the week after cheer camp.
9. Parents must be fully aware of the expenses of the cheerleading squad and the financial obligations. First payment is due immediately after tryouts.
10. The student must be willing to participate fully in all fundraising activities for the individual or the whole group, and parents must be willing for them to participate.
11. Disciplinary actions (referrals, ISS, DAEP) More than one referral will be cause for ineligibility.
12. Must not have quit, moved away, become permanently ineligible or been removed from the cheerleading squad during the previous school year.
13. Must be in good physical condition and it must be stated on a health/medical form by a licensed physician that the student is able to physically participate. If a student is unable to participate in Athletics for any reason, he/she will not be eligible for cheer.
14. Must have an **excellent** attendance record. Unexcused absences will result in demerits which will be deducted from tryout score.

#### Section D- Cheerleader Selection Process

1. Try-outs for the DJH and Varsity cheerleaders will be held annually during the spring semester.
2. All candidates must attend a tryout clinic or an after school practice.
3. All candidates will try out before a panel of 3 judges, with the tryouts being closed to the public.
4. Judges will use evaluation forms approved by the cheer coach and principal(s) (or his/her designee). The judges' forms and criteria will be available at parent meetings prior to tryouts.
5. Each candidate will perform one group cheer. In addition each candidate will perform a series of 3 cheer jumps, and an individual cheer and chant.
6. Demerits will be deducted from cheerleaders overall tryout score when trying out for cheer.
7. There will be 6-10 cheerleaders chosen for Junior High.
8. The students from incoming freshman thru incoming seniors with the highest points from the judges will be named to the Varsity Cheer Squad. All candidates must score a minimum of 75 to be chosen to this squad. The sponsor and principal may adjust the number of cheerleaders based on the positions required and the capabilities of the candidates to create a competitive cheer squad.
9. UIL squad will be determined throughout the season. Team will be based on specific positions needed, demerits, attendance, work ethic, and positive attitude. All Varsity cheerleaders will attend the UIL competition but only 12 will compete representing Deweyville High School.

## **Article IV- Captains and Co-Captain Cheerleaders**

### **Section A- Selection of Captains and Co-Captains.**

Selection process will begin after tryouts and requirements are based on a total score arrived by combining the judge's scores, teacher evaluation scores, and experience scores. Experience scores = 100 points for each completed year as a varsity cheerleader. If the score between the top two candidates is 10 or more, a captain and co-captain will be named. When the total score is less than 10, two co-captains will be named.

### **Section B- Duties of Captains and Co-Captains**

Cheerleaders shall follow all rules and constitution:

- a. Obey all rules and regulations.
- b. Teach cheers and material.
- c. Keep a complete list of cheers and chants for games.
- d. Assist coach/sponsor in seeing that all items are prepared for pep rallies.
- e. Monitor everyone's progress and learning of cheers, chants and dances and catch up anyone that has missed practice.
- f. Notify all members of attire and hairstyle to be worn to pep rallies or games.
- g. Lead cheerleaders in stretching at the beginning of practices.

## **ARTICLE V- Parental Permission**

Parents must give their child permission to participate in all activities of the organization before a student is officially accepted as a member. Permission forms will be given out at the parent meeting prior to tryouts. Activities include but are not limited to:

1. Practices before and after school and summer practices.
2. In or out of town athletic games.
3. Summer Camp
4. Special fundraisers throughout the year including Daddy/Daughter Dance
5. Community service projects.

## **ARTICLE VI- Character/Individual Responsibilities of Cheerleaders:**

### **Section A- Character/Individual Responsibilities**

Members of the cheerleading squad are expected to have and continue to display the following characteristics. Members who choose not to display these characteristics will be subject to demerits, probation or dismissal at the discretion of the sponsor/coach or principal.

1. Members should display exemplary social behavior at all times.
2. Members should exhibit good taste in appearance and follow school dress code.
3. Members should attend places and activities, which are reputable.
4. Members should avoid talking about other cheerleaders or negatively about the school.
5. Members should have high moral standards.
6. Members should be honest with each other and in school.
7. Members must willingly display school spirit and support DJH/DHS.
8. Members should show good sportsmanship and deter negative reactions of others.
9. Members should have a good general attitude.
10. Members must not smoke or vape.
11. Members must not drink, use drugs, or participate in or attend any activity that would be degrading to the cheerleaders of DHS.

## **ARTICLE VII- Cheerleader Duties**

### **Section A- Duties for Cheerleaders**

Members of the cheerleading squad are to follow the duties listed below.

1. The cheerleader is responsible for learning all routines. **PRACTICING AND OR STUNTING WITHOUT THE CHEER SPONSOR PRESENT IS NOT ALLOWED WHILE ON SCHOOL PROPERTY.**
2. **The cheerleader must show full cooperation with the sponsor, faculty, and administration of Deweyville ISD.**
3. The cheerleader must show definite leadership in promoting school spirit and must demonstrate good sportsmanship at all school events.
4. The cheerleaders are responsible for decorating the gym for pep rally and football field before games.
5. All cheerleaders are to wait to be dismissed before leaving the sideline after games. Please complete the school song as a team. Leave backpacks on the sideline until duties are completed.
6. Underclassmen are responsible for putting up megaphones, signs etc after all games. Once everything is put in the closet or vehicle at away games.
7. If cheerleaders are members of the DHS volleyball team, they are responsible and expected to arrive at football games in a reasonable amount of time. Reasonable as in all players should arrive within 10 minutes of each other. Get dressed quickly and head to your next team. You are valued as a volleyball player and cheerleader so make sure you do your part to support both teams. Cheerleaders will have the halftime of each game off to eat.
8. All cheerleaders are to be ready to lead the football team back to the field and should be ready 2 minutes before the end of halftime.
9. The cheerleader will be expected to lead yells at all games and all home district basketball games that you are assigned to.
10. A cheerleader must help her squad by dressing out and yelling even if she is unable to cheer.
11. The cheerleaders are expected to participate, work at all fund-raising events sponsored by the cheerleaders. Once basketball season has ended, your duties are not over until the year ends and new squads duties begin.

12. **Cheerleaders must maintain the highest level of conduct and attitude on & off campus, and on social media. A cheerleader is a representative of our district and our school and should carry herself with the utmost respect for herself, peers, school, and community. Acting in any manner not becoming of a cheerleader is considered a MAJOR OFFENSE, and can result in 6 demerits, temporary or permanent suspension from the squad.**
13. Cheerleaders are responsible for securing transportation to and from all practices and home games.
14. Cheerleaders will travel to all out of town events, unless otherwise arranged prior to the game. When traveling to events on school transportation, students will be excused only when parents sign out or send a note for the cheerleader to ride with someone else that is signed by the school principal.
15. All debts must be recorded and honored in a timely manner.
16. Hair shall be worn as designated by the sponsor. Hair should be worn the same as a team including properly secured bows assigned by sponsor or captain and co captains.
17. A cheerleader must enroll in Girl's Cheer/Athletics. class. The sponsor and the principal must approve all exceptions.
18. A cheerleader must attend spirit events and provide items for these events as assigned by the sponsor.
19. A cheerleader is to request a meeting with the sponsor/coach when grades fall below 70 at the three week grading period to discuss ways to improve grades.
20. Any cheerleader who becomes ineligible will be expected to fulfill all duties and responsibilities with the exception of performing. Once the cheerleader becomes eligible, he/she shall resume the duty of performing.
21. The skills used at tryouts are mandatory throughout the season. Example (if you try out with tumbling, then you will be expected to perform the same skills throughout the year). Failure will result in demerits.
22. All Varsity cheerleaders are responsible and expected to cheer for varsity girls and boys basketball. Each cheerleader must cheer unless playing varsity girls basketball. You will be exempt from cheering at the girls game if you are playing, but you will cheer at the boys game. Managers are not exempt from cheering either game.
23. All Varsity cheerleaders are required to cheer every game and that includes the homecoming game. You are required to be back on the field and ready by the end of the 3rd quarter. **No exceptions.**

## **Article VIII- Mascots**

### **Article A- Selection Process**

The tryout process will include a skit 2-4 minutes which will include music, dance, and appropriate props. Mascots must demonstrate interaction with the crowd.

### **Section B- Duties of Mascot**

1. Mascot will follow the rules and regulations and constitution as the other team members.
2. Mascot will attend all practices and performances required by the coach.
3. Mascot will participate in fund-raisers.

4. Mascot **must work with the cheerleaders and always be an asset to the team and motivator to the crowd!**

## **ARTICLE VIII- Attendance Policy**

Section A-Attendance is required for all performances and meetings. This includes games, practices, clinics, competitions, camps, fundraisers, and any other activity assigned by the sponsors.

1. Each cheerleader will have mandatory practice the week before cheer camp and the week directly after cheer camp. Cheerleaders must attend and pay for summer camp as designated by the coach. Mandatory practices, including summer , will be held to prepare for camp and for football season.
2. All practices, performances, appearances, and meetings are mandatory. Each member is required to attend all scheduled events.
3. Practices will begin as soon as tryouts are held and will continue in the summer. We typically practice the week before camp, and then the week after camp. In July we look for 1- 2 days at the end of the month to review material.
4. A minimum of two (2) hours of organized, supervised practice a week will be required during football season. Practices can be called during basketball season as well. Other practices will be arranged as needed by the sponsor and squad. Ex. Homecoming will include a Sunday practice prior to the homecoming pep rally.
5. **Failure to be at a practice during football season will result in 6 demerits and you will not be allowed to cheer in the pep rally and/or game. (Unless excused by sponsor)**

Section B- Members are required to contact the sponsor/coach before being absent from practice or performance.

6. An absence will be excused only if approved by the coach in advance.
7. Reasons for an excused absence include:
  - a. Personal illness or accident.
  - b. Funeral or death in the family.
  - c. Other school activities with special permission from the coach in advance.
8. Reasons for unexcused absences include but are not limited to:
  - a. Appointments
  - b. Work-Work cannot interfere with any cheerleading activity. It is not an excuse to be absent, late or leave early.
  - c. An outside team practice or performance not associated with Deweyville Jr. High or High School.

Section C-Determination of excused absences for practices will be left up to discretion of the sponsor.

1. Maximum number of (1). All subsequent absences will be unexcused. Two (2) demerits for every unexcused absence. (See demerit policy).
2. On performance day, the cheerleader must be in attendance for a minimum of three (3) periods during the school day.

3. Any cheerleader who has one unexcused absence from a game will receive six (6) demerits. (See demerit policy). This will result in the cheerleader not being able to perform at the next game and/or performance. **Excused absence from a game is (3) demerits.**
4. All cheerleaders should be at football games no later than 45 minutes before the scheduled game time and 15 minutes before scheduled basketball games. The time will be discussed in advance. You are responsible for checking group me and group text for all updates

## **ARTICLE IX-Uniforms and Accessories**

### **Section A- Regulations for Uniforms and Pep rally attire**

1. Uniforms are purchased by the cheerleader and are the sole responsibility of the cheerleader.
2. Uniforms are to be clean, in good condition and fit properly before each performance or student will be subject to not performing and receiving demerits.

### **Section B- Regulations for jewelry and accessories**

3. No jewelry at any time during practice and performing. (all belly rings must have proper coverings or spacers) For UIL be prepared, absolutely no jewelry.
4. Sponsors/Coaches will decide on hairstyle including bows for each performance. Bow must be properly attached and worn throughout performances. Be prepared with pins to secure bows in hair.

## **Article X- Demerit, Probation, Removal Policy**

Section A- Demerits are the means by which the sponsor/coach determines which members are not upholding their obligations to the team. Some demerits cannot be worked off at sponsor/coach discretion. All demerits will be given by the sponsor or his/her designee as designated below.

If requested, the sponsor will provide a written explanation for demerit(s) given. Demerits may be worked off at the discretion of the sponsor with 3 scheduled times the entire year. These three times will be posted once school begins. **No more than five (5) demerits may be worked off during the entire cheerleading season. Demerits for major offenses may not be worked off. Demerits will be subtracted from tryout total score the following year when trying out.**

### **Section B- List of each demerit**

#### **1 Demerit-**

1. Chewing gum at any game, performance, and/or practice.
2. Tardiness to any team activity.
3. Jewelry during any performance.
4. Leaving the gym or football field disorderly and/or not putting equipment or supplies away properly after practice, pep rallies or games.
5. Talking excessively while the sponsor or other authority figure is giving instructions.
6. Cell phone usage during practice or game without sponsor/coach permission



7. Neglecting to decorate at assigned times (halls, gym, field, etc.)
8. Being late returning from half-time break. One demerit for every (5) minutes.
9. After school detention (per day)
10. Refusal to perform a skill that was performed at tryouts.y

## **2 Demerits-**

1. Neglecting to wear hair as designated by the sponsor.
2. Not cheering during performances. This includes not saying the words to cheers.
3. Not wearing appropriate assigned uniforms.
4. Not wearing appropriate and assigned hairstyle, bow or ribbon.
5. Hickies- Cannot perform.
6. Not bringing assigned items for pep rally games and activities.
7. Leaving the cheerleading section without permission of sponsor or designate during the game.
8. Being picked up late on practice days and after away games.(This does not include emergencies)
9. Talking to people in the stands after assembling on the field, track, or gym floor for cheering.
10. Leaving the game without being dismissed.

## **3 Demerits-**

1. Leaving practice or performance early without permission of the sponsor.
2. An excused absence from practice.
3. Failure to respect and cooperate with the sponsor/coach. (Lying, talking back, rolling eyes, etc.)
4. Leaving practice or performance without permission.
5. Neglecting to learn assigned material including cheers, chants and dances.
6. Unladylike behavior, attracting undesirable attention or behaving in an undignified manner. (Cursing, arguing, etc.)
7. (PDA) when in uniform. This includes holding hands.
8. Assigned to ISS= 3 demerits day 1, and 1 demerit for each additional day.

## **6 Demerits-These demerits cannot be worked off.**

1. Unexcused missed practice. Students cannot perform that week, but must dress out and sit with a sponsor/coach.
2. Failure to attend scheduled events including fundraisers.
3. Assigned to DAEP= 3 demerits day 1, and 2 demerits for each additional day.
4. Unexcused missed performance.
5. Suspension from School
6. Physical altercation or inappropriate behavior (to be determined by the sponsor and campus principal) on or off campus, in or out of uniform.
7. Any cheerleader caught drinking, vaping, or smoking on camera will result in automatic 6 demerits and or possible removal from the squad depending on the severity of the evidence.
8. Bullying (includes cyberbullying, texting, and any other form of bullying).

## ARTICLE XI- MERITS

### Section A- Merits

Merits can be assigned or approved at the discretion of the coach/ sponsor. Merits shall be established to offer opportunities for cheerleaders to remove demerits. Merits for major offences including those with 6 demerits assigned are not allowed to be removed. There will be only 2-3 times a year when merits can be earned, These dates will be posted a week in advance on group me.

### Section B- Examples of Merits

Examples include: 1 mile run, 20 burpees and 20 sit ups, cleaning out cheer closet.

## ARTICLE XII- CONSEQUENCES

### Section A- Probation

Once a cheerleader reaches 10 demerits, they will be on probation and the parent will receive a notice and one will also be filed in the principal's office. Cheerleaders are to schedule a conference with the coach to discuss the opportunity to earn merits. While on probation, a cheerleader is ineligible to perform, but must attend practice until they have earned enough merits to be eligible.

### Section B- Automatic Removal

1. Accumulation of 12 demerits.
2. Failure 2 six weeks
3. Major offenses will result in removal.

### **Extra Curricular Participation:**

It is a privilege to participate in any extracurricular activity (this includes any activity sponsored by the school) at Deweyville High School. We expect that those who choose to do so, understand that they will be representing their organization, the school, and the community **at all times**. As a result, members will be expected to behave appropriately whether or not they are representing the school in an official capacity. Inappropriate behavior (at school or outside of school) **at any time** will be subject to review by the Activities Committee. This committee will consist of the principal, counselor and director/coach/sponsor with input from the parent (s) and the student(s). After review the Activities Committee may impose consequences in accordance with that organization's bylaws/constitution and could result in immediate removal from the squad.

I have read the 2022-2023 cheerleading constitution and agree to each section outlined in the constitution. If I have any questions concerning the constitution, I will contact the sponsor to discuss any questions or concerns. Please return this page to the cheer coach/sponsor by March 22,2022

Student Name\_\_\_\_\_ Student Signature

Parent Name\_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature