

Wolfe City ISD
2014 - 2016
Cheerleading Handbook



**Wolfe City ISD
2013-2014 Cheerleading Handbook
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ARTICLE I: Organization Name

Section 1: The name of these organizations will be: Wolfe City High School Cheerleaders/Wolfe City Middle School Cheerleaders.

ARTICLE II: Statement of Policy and Goal

Section 1: The following material has been prepared to acquaint both our members and their parents/guardians with the rules and procedures involved in being a Wolfe City Cheerleader. It is necessary that all **members understand what is expected of them at all times.**

Section 2: The goal of Cheerleading is to exhibit a positive example that exudes pride and excellence in Wolfe City ISD while participating in this extracurricular activity. Members must gain prestige through good conduct, dedication, hard work, and adhere to the regulations set for all members. For this reason, it is necessary to demand the best from each member because this opportunity to serve our school is a privilege! This will build character while working together and having fun.

ARTICLE III: Purpose

Section 1: To render service to the school by participation at school and community functions.

Section 2: To foster friendship and good fellowship among members.

Section 3: To build spirit and loyalty towards the school and community.

Section 4: To encourage attendance of students and community.

ARTICLE IV: Membership

Section 1: An informational meeting will be conducted by the campus administrator and the campus cheer sponsor during the first week of tryout sign ups at both the Middle School and High School. The purpose of this meeting will be to clarify tryout requirements regarding grades, discipline, and attendance. Any student seeking membership on the cheer squad will be expected to attend this meeting and sign the verification of attendance form on page 10.

Section 2: The High School Varsity squad shall consist of the top ten candidates for cheerleader, and the top scoring single mascot candidate. The JV squad will consist of a minimum of 6 candidates and a maximum of 10. If there is not enough for a JV squad, then the varsity will cover the JV games. *To make the varsity squad, the minimum score of 200 will be used as a score that must be earned by the judges to qualify for the squad.

The Middle School squad will consist of a maximum number ten cheerleaders and one mascot. There is no qualifying score for this division.

Section 3: Eligible students who will be entering the 9th thru 12th grade may try out for the Varsity/JV squad as a cheerleader or mascot. Eligible students who will be entering the 7th or 8th grade may try out for the Middle School squad as a cheerleader or mascot.

ARTICLE V: Tryouts

Section 1: Candidates for the squad must meet the following requirements:

- a. The student must be eligible at the time of tryouts/signups at the latest progress report. In addition, the student must have earned a 70 or above in all classes for both the 1st 9-week and the 2nd 9-week grading periods & all UIL reporting periods for the year that you are trying out.
- b. A physical will be required for all tryout candidates.
- c. The student's current year disciplinary record must reflect a standard of behavior that is in compliance with the discipline matrix on the last page of this constitution. **Any incident that would have warranted removal from the squad negates the opportunity to try-out.**
- d. The student must be able to attend all required activities during the summer. Camp is required and the date will be set as soon as possible.
- e. **The student must return all necessary paperwork and be able to meet all financial expenses. There will be a \$200 deposit fee (cash or money order). Paperwork and deposit will be due by Monday the week practice starts, of the current year by 3:30 p.m. in the school office. Students who make the squad will automatically be credited \$200 towards their account. Any student that does not make the squad will get his or her deposit back.**
- f. Students who have not attended Wolfe City ISD since the beginning of the current school year will be required to meet all requirements set forth in the Cheerleader Handbook from the initial WCISD enrollment date. In addition, any incident from previous schools within the current school year that would have warranted removal from the WCISD squad negates the opportunity to try out.
- g. If the student was a cheerleader last year, he or she must not have received probation as a punishment more than twice, been removed from the squad, or quit the squad to try out.

Section 2: All tryout practices are mandatory unless a note is given to the sponsor excusing the student from practice for a school sponsored event, **at least 1 day before practice.**

Section 3: Tryouts will be closed to the public; this is to include parents and/or guardians.

ARTICLE VI: Selection

Section 1: The Varsity, JV, Middle School cheerleaders, and mascots will be chosen by an impartial, qualified group of judges which will constitute 100% of the selection process. In the case of a tie there will be a tie-breaker to be determined by the judges. There will be an interview question included to the tryouts. Sample questions will be provided to each candidate the week practices begin.

Section 2: The High School Varsity squad shall consist of the top ten candidates for cheerleader, and the top scoring single mascot candidate. The JV squad will consist of the next top scores with a minimum of 6 cheerleaders and a maximum of 10. The Middle School squad shall consist of the top 10 scoring cheerleader candidates and the top scoring mascot candidate.

Section 3: The cheerleading squad members will be selected on the basis of chant, cheer, dance, jump technique, interview, and overall performance. There will be no dance for middle school. Mascots will be selected on the basis of judges' scores for group chant, interview, and personal skit performances.

Section 4: A maximum of two head cheerleaders will be selected from the junior and senior candidate's with the highest judge's scores and at least one year varsity experience. An additional Interview question will be given to these wishing to try out for head Cheerleaders. JV captains will be chosen on a weekly basis and/or utilize members that have been a previous high school cheerleader.

Section 5: The Middle School head cheerleading responsibilities will be shared between the two top scoring eighth grade cheerleaders.

ARTICLE VII: Expectations

Section 1: From the time the student is selected as a cheerleader/mascot until the next tryout date, the following expectations will be enforced at all times:

- a. You should be aware of the responsibilities required and the commitment you are making to Wolfe City ISD and the student body. This is a position of responsibility and representation that should not be taken lightly! Your commitment to your Wolfe City squad or team must come before any other commitments you may have or seek to have. (Work is not an excuse to miss)
Absences, excused and/or unexcused will be made up.
- b. You should cooperate with sponsor, other members of the squad, faculty, administration, and community at all times. You were selected for a purpose, and **your actions should reflect the squad's best interest.**
- c. You must realize that you represent Wolfe City ISD seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day from the day you were selected. You are expected to avoid even the appearance of misconduct.
- d. You must **agree to support a decision that has been made by 1) the sponsor, 2) the head cheerleader, or 3) the group. You may not like the decision, but you must support it.**

ARTICLE VIII: Duties and Responsibilities

Section 1: All duties and responsibilities as a squad member begin once you are selected and do not end until the end of next school year. All members of the squads will be required to attend:

- a. Varsity cheerleaders must cheer at all Varsity football games.
*If no JV squad, the varsity will cheer at JV home games.
JV cheerleaders must cheer at all JV football games.
*If there is not a JV game due to grades or a school not having a team, the JV squad will be allowed to cheer on Friday night with the Varsity squad as determined by the sponsor.
Middle School cheerleaders must cheer at all 7th & 8th grade football games.
- b. Varsity/JV will cheer at ALL assigned home basketball games.
- c. Cheering at any play-off game or special event designated by the sponsor. Both Varsity and JV will be allowed to attend and cheer at playoff games just to include more students in the special activities. By having more students participate we will foster school spirit, family attendance, and voices will be louder.
- d. Summer practices and scheduled events. Attendance is necessary to be prepared for football season and camp. The dates will be set in advance to allow families time to schedule activities, but emergency meeting may arise. Emergencies do arise, but we can't practice if everyone is not in attendance.
- e. Each cheerleader will be required to be in full uniform, as set in advance, when they arrive at the scheduled event. That includes the correct, matching items – such as bows, socks, tights. The sponsor will not argue or beg you to comply with the dress code. If you are not dressed appropriately when you enter the facilities, demerits will be issued which are explained on the demerit matrix. If you are not in full uniform, you will not be allowed to participate during the games and/or halftime.
- e. Every scheduled practice or performance during the school year. This includes fundraisers, community service projects, homecoming, or any other scheduled event. An unexcused absence will result in a one game probation. The sponsor is responsible for determining excused absences as necessary, but there will be a set policy for making up time missed.
- f. In the event of a **conflict of a school sponsored activity**, All cheerleaders **must provide 5 days prior notice to the sponsor to be excused**.

Section 2: You are responsible for promoting good sportsmanship and school spirit

through cooperation with other students, teachers, and administration.

Section 3: You are not to “loan out” any cheerleader/mascot CD, video, routine, or uniforms including camp clothes, outerwear, and accessories.

Section 4: You must not allow work or non-school activities to interfere with scheduled practices. Absences will be counted as unexcused. Schedules cannot be set around one person’s schedule. We have to work around other school sponsored events.

Section 5: You are responsible for all fundraisers and the money you collect.

Section 6: You will be required to know all cheers and chants before the first game.

Section 7: You may not leave the performance early. You must cheer the entire game. Each cheerleader will be required to help set up, hang signs, etc. for each performance. Your responsibility as a cheerleader does not end until the activity is over and all props are put away. This means helping clean up, carry and put up all materials after a game. The sponsor will be responsible for dismissal. Jobs will be assigned each week for all members. Everyone can help get materials ready and unloaded.

Section 8: You will be expected to equally share all projects and responsibilities such as fundraisers, making signs, preparing for pep rallies, and cleaning up after pep rallies, games, and fundraisers.

Section 9: The sponsor(s) will determine all practices. Practices are closed to non-members; this includes parents, brothers/sisters, friends, etc.

Section 10: During football games, you will perform during halftime. After the halftime performance, you will be dismissed until the 3rd quarter begins or until the designated time as determined by the sponsor.

Section 11: Cheerleaders must be on the field at the time designated by the sponsor in **FULL UNIFORM.**

Section 12: When the head cheerleader calls a cheer/chant you are to get into formation promptly. **The decisions of the head cheerleader are final.**

Section 13: Pep Rally

All cheerleaders will participate during the pep rally unless not eligible.

High School: Varsity will run in and do everything to the High School side of the gym. JV will stand in front of the elementary side of the gym for Fight Song and basic chants to get the students started and involve. The JV will participate during the pep rally when needed and/or to do one of two special cheers.

Jr. High: The cheerleaders will take turns being in the middle and on different sides of the gym.

Section 14: Play-Off Games:

All HS (Varsity and JV) Cheerleaders will be allowed to go to the play-off games. Cheering capacity will be assigned by the sponsor and head cheerleaders.

Section 15: Additional responsibilities for mascot:

- a. **The mascot is responsible for the cleaning, storage, and transportation of the suit.**
- b. **The mascot is responsible for the purchase of camp clothes, and any other necessities.**

ARTICLE IX: Discipline

Section 1: If you miss the last practice before a pep rally or game, you will be eliminated from the pep rally and the game performance for that specific week. This applies whether the absence is excused or unexcused.

Section 2: Tardiness will not be tolerated! You must be on time to community events, practices, and games.

Section 3: Practice is necessary and you must participate wholeheartedly. Halfway going through the motions, words, and stunts is not acceptable. After volleyball practice, each member will be allowed 5 minutes to get to practice. The sooner we start, the sooner we finish.

Section 4: You must not wear jewelry or chew gum at any time during practice or performance.

Section 5: Outside communication (cell phones or in person) with family, friends, etc. during practice or performance will not be allowed. **Cell phones must be turned off and put away until a break is given. If you cannot leave you phones alone to practice, the sponsor will take up, keep them with her until practice is over.**

Section 6: During a football game or basketball game, when not actively cheering to the crowd, you are expected to pay attention to the game. This means no horseplay, dancing, chatting, or going over cheers. You should be aware of what is happening in the game at all times so that you may cheer accordingly. **Carrying on a conversation with your friends, gives the impression that you are not cheering or watching the game. We are here to support the team and lead the crowd.** Squads will have a

specific formation that they should remain in while watching the game.

Section 7: You must be on your best behavior at all times. The following actions will result in disciplinary consequences:

- a. Misconduct during practice, pep rally, or performances on the field.
- b. Being late for practice or scheduled event.
- c. Not being dressed out for practice or performance.
- d. Missing parts of the uniform to be worn for that performance. You will not perform for that event if something is missing.
- e. Unexcused absence from practice.
- f. Public display of affection. If in doubt, do not do it. Pats on the back for a job well done are acceptable; holding hands, hugging simply for hugging, kissing, etc. is not acceptable. Use your wise judgment.
- g. Any violation of the student code of conduct at the discretion of the sponsor and the campus administrator.

Section 8: Social media such as Facebook, twitter and any other not listed, is a reflection of yourself and your activities. By becoming a Wolfe City cheerleader/mascot you are always representing Wolfe City ISD. All photographs and written post must be school appropriate.

Members involved in any inappropriate social media behavior that is questionable, against constitution, or portrays yourself, your squad, or WCISD in a poor light may result in suspension or removal from the squad, depending on the severity of the incident as determined by the coach and administrator.

Consequences will depend on the severity of the violation. Please see the Discipline Matrix (p.12) for a more detailed description. If placed on probation, your probation will take effect at the next pep rally and home game. You will attend all practices while on probation. You will attend games during probation; however, you will not travel with the team or wear your uniform, and you will be required to sit with the sponsor. Remember the important part of the word cheerleader is the word leader. Your must be a leader at all times. Members must display appropriate behavior both in and out of school.

ARTICLE X: Financial Obligation

Section 1: You are responsible for the cost of one uniform, if applicable, accessories, and camp expenses. **All balances are to be paid in full by the first Friday in May of the current year. Any member who is unable to meet the financial obligations by that date will not be allowed to participate for the upcoming school year. The following will be the payment schedule:**

Payment 1	First Friday in March	initial deposit	\$200
Payment 2	First Friday in April	minimum payment	\$350
Payment 3	First Friday in May	remaining balance	

*****Varsity members may want to pay more each month to keep the last payment from being larger.**

Section 2: You are responsible for the cost of any lost or damaged items.

ARTICLE XI: Uniform

Section 1: The sponsor must approve any alteration to the uniform. The uniform must comply with the school dress code. If the uniform is out of compliance, the cheerleader will not be allowed to perform until the appropriate corrections are made in accordance with the sponsor.

Section 2: You should return to the sponsor all school-purchased items in the same condition. All items must be returned by the date designated by the sponsor.

Section 3: You should make sure that all parts of your game uniform and practice uniform are neat and presentable at all times.

Section 4: You should remember that hair, make-up, and smiles are all part of your uniform. Hair must be worn as designated by the sponsor or head cheerleader. Nail polish must be clear or not used at all. This is an important part for the uniformity of the team.

ARTICLE XII: Transportation

Section 1: You are permitted to ride home with your parents after an away game, with sponsor approval. Your parent must sign you out with the sponsor. No one will be allowed to leave with anyone other than a parent/guardian, unless a parent written note is provided to the sponsor before leaving for the event. There will be no exceptions!! This rule will be revised, if the athletic handbook is changed at a later date. The cheerleaders will be required to follow the same rules as other athletes.

Section 2: Transportation to out-of-town activities is provided by the school district. You must ride to the activity in the district provided transportation. Per new athletic handbook, every cheerleader will be required to ride home on the bus with the squad. Exceptions are for special circumstances, then your parent will need to send a note 24 hours in advance to the sponsor. This policy is not intended for the members to get a note for every away game. By riding the bus, you are helping unload and clean up with all the other members and build a better team relationship by spending time together.

Section 3: When making trips, you will be expected to conduct yourself in a respectful and mature manner at all times.

Section 4: Everyone will be responsible for loading and unloading your own issued props and the things necessary to cheer. Assigned items will be given to all cheerleaders each week that they are responsible to take care of after the game. Ex. – run through, signs, spirit items, radio, raincoats, gloves, etc. The sponsor and girls that do not play volleyball will be responsible to load the items while the players are busy, but then those girls will be responsible for taking care of the items after the games.

ARTICLE XIII: Grades

Section 1: You are required to maintain a grade of 70 or above, in all classes, in accordance with UIL standards.

Section 2: If you have a grade below 70 on any report card or UIL reporting period, you will be placed on probation for three weeks. The 2nd offense due to grades will result in your removal from the squad for the remainder of the school year, and you may not try out the following year.

ARTICLE XIV: Football Sweetheart

Section 1: The middle school football sweetheart will be chosen by a vote of the football players. Two 7th grade princesses will be nominated by the 7th grade football players, and four 8th grade Sweetheart Nominees will be nominated by the 8th grade football players. All football players will vote on the Sweetheart from the four 8th grade nominees. The same process will apply for Mr. Football by the cheerleaders.

Section 2: The football players will select four nominees for high school football sweetheart from the Varsity cheer squad. The sweetheart will be chosen from the four nominees by a vote of the football players. Four Mr. Football nominees will be chosen from the Varsity football squad by the Varsity cheerleaders. The cheerleaders will vote on Mr. Football from the four nominees.

ARTICLE XV: Letter Jacket

Section 1: Upon completion of two years as a varsity cheerleader, members of the squad with junior standing become eligible for a letter jacket.

ARTICLE XVI: Communication

Section 1: Student Communication – Remind 101 will be used to notify each student and/or parent of any announcements that arise. There will be a group for each and everyone will be required to sign up to get text messages or e-mail notifications.

Section 2: Positions and formations (From the Athletic Policy) – coaches will make the decisions on what positions athletes will play based upon the make-up of the team each year. We will try to project where we see an athlete playing on the varsity level with the philosophy and talent makeup of the team.

Section 3: Problem Solving Chain of Command (from the Athletic Policy)

In the event that a player or parent comes to a disagreement with a coach, the following steps should be taken in this order:

1. Athletes need to discuss any issues with the coach at an appropriate time.
2. 12 hour rule for parents (This is the length of time after a game or practice a parents has to wait to discuss a concern that has occurred dealing with their child) Call the school or e-mail to set up a time to visit with the coach.
3. Set up a conference with the coach of the sport.
4. If a resolution is still not found, set up a conference with the Athletic Director.
5. If a resolution is still not found, set up a conference with the principal.
6. If a resolution is still not found, set up a conference with the Superintendent.

Wolfe City ISD

Cheerleader Discipline Matrix

	1 st Offense	2 nd Offense	3 rd Offense	4 th Offense		
Attendance:						
Attendance Unexcused absence from practice Tardy Not in position ready to cheer Picked up late from practice or game	Demerit	If offenses continue, demerits will be doubled	If offenses continue, demerit, will be tripled.			
Communication/Conduct						
Talking Ugly Being inconsiderate of others Leaving required area without permission	Demerit	If offenses continue, demerits will be doubled				
Uniforms						
Not dressed on time Missing items Wrong items Wearing jewelry	Demerit	If offenses continue, demerits will be doubled	Total Demerits 5 Demerits = Sit out first Quarter of a game 10 Demerits = Sit out half of a game 15 demerits = Sit out a whole game and pep rally 20 Demerits = Put on probation: if you receive 3 more demerits or major infraction, you will be removed from the squad.			
Not following directions:						
Chewing Gum Talking or Horseplay Arguing with others Bad Attitudes Talking back Any minor offenses as determined by sponsor. Public display of affection Inappropriate actions of a cheerleader Misconduct during scheduled event Disrespect/Inappropriate Behavior	Demerit	If offenses continue, demerits will be doubled				
Serious Infractions:						
Failing a class in any nine weeks/UII reporting period	Probation until next reporting period/progress report, if still failing at that time it becomes 2 nd offense	Removal from squad				
Unexcused absences from scheduled event/Excesses absences from school.	One game/pep rally *when suspended, you may not attend game at all.	Removal from squad				
First ECO Placement						

Second ECO Placement DAEP Placement or major discipline infractions. Tobacco, alcohol, or drugs	Removal from squad			
Attendance mandatory at the practice before a pep rally.	Can't cheer at pep rally.			

Cheerleader Informational Meeting
Attendance Verification Form

An informational meeting will be conducted by the campus administrator and the campus cheer sponsor during the first week of school at both the Middle School and High School. The purpose of this meeting will be to clarify tryout requirements regarding grades, discipline, and attendance. Any student seeking membership on the cheer squad will be expected to attend this meeting and select one of the options below and complete that portion of the form.

Date of Meeting _____

Option 1:

I am not interested in joining the cheer squad and will not be attending the informational meeting.

Student Signature

Date

Option 2:

I am interested in joining the cheer squad. I attended the informational meeting and understand the tryout requirements.

Student Signature

Date

Updated June 2011