

Hamlin
Junior/**S**enior **H**igh
School



2020-2021
CHEERLEADER & MASCOT HANDBOOK

PURPOSE

Being a cheerleader is an honor and a privilege. The purpose is to lead and promote school spirit, help develop school pride, as well as pride in the community and during school sponsored events. Through teamwork, they will lead the crowd during school sponsored events. Cheerleaders shall demonstrate the "team concept" by following the guidelines as set by the athletic handbook and will cooperate with the coaches, game officials, and other squad members. They should also promote good sportsmanship, exceptional conduct, and school spirit through cooperation with other students, teachers, and administrators.

MEMBERSHIP

1. The Varsity squad shall consist of high school students with a maximum of eight members. The members shall be of freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior classification for the following school year.
2. The Varsity mascot shall consist of a high school student with a maximum of one member. The member shall be of freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior classification for the following year.
3. The Junior High squad shall consist of junior high students with a maximum of six members. Members shall be of seventh and eighth grade classification for the following school year.

MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS

- Have an application approved by the cheer coach and signed by the member, as well as the member's parents or guardian.
- Meet *and* maintain UIL grade requirements throughout membership.
- Be of good moral character with a willingness to set a positive example in and out of uniform.
- Members who were dropped from the team for disciplinary reasons will not be allowed to tryout for the next year's team.
- Members who choose to resign will not be able to try out for the next year's team.

TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

- Meet and maintain UIL grade requirements throughout membership.
- Be enrolled the full school year while serving, unless special problems arise. The cheer coach shall evaluate and make decisions concerning exceptions.
- Maintain a high moral character both in and outside of school.
- Remain faithful to responsibilities of the team and to each other.
- Exhibit good taste in appearance and social behavior at school *and* away from school, as outlined by the Student Code of Conduct according to school policy.
- Comply with all school policies and TEA/UIL rules and regulations.
- Attend **ALL** games, practices, and activities ON TIME. **Social activities, outside of school activities, and work conflicts will not constitute a reason for missing cheerleading/mascot activities, just as any other athletic activity. Conflicting school activities will be resolved between the coaches.**
- Maintain uniforms and supplies, keeping them CLEAN and MENDED at all times.
- Must attend summer cheer camp and all other summer practices.
- Cheerleading duties begin immediately upon making cheerleader and will continue through the end of the following school year.
- Participate in all fundraising activities. Participation in all fundraisers by any HISD cheer squad is mandatory.
- **Assume all costs not covered by Hamlin ISD, such as camp clothes, shoes, and other cheerleading/mascot attire.**

TEAM SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

Included, but not limited to..

Varsity:

- Home and away football games, including playoff games
- All district basketball games and playoff games
- Pep rallies and Send-offs
- Meet the Pipers

- Various parades throughout the year
- Summer camp
- Summer practices
- Mini cheer camp
- Weekly practices
- Sign painting
- Fundraising
- Other activities as required of the position and by the sponsor

Junior High:

- Home and away football games
- Home pep rallies and practices; including sign painting
- Meet the Pipers
- Summer camp and practices
- Fundraising
- Other activities as required by the sponsor

CAPTAIN/CO CAPTAIN CHEERLEADER RESPONSIBILITIES

The Varsity cheer captain will be selected by the cheer coach/sponsor. The cheer coach/sponsor reserves the right to name more than one cheer captain to serve simultaneously.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- With the approval of the sponsor, will call practices, meetings, and sign-making sessions
- Work closely with the sponsor in all areas pertaining to the cheerleading squad
- See that all practices begin on time and that all members are present
- Work closely with the Student Council to promote school spirit
- Be certain of game dates and inform the other members of the squad of all times, places, and uniforms to wear
- Make sure the cheerleaders are present at least **one-half hour before** the game begins
- Perform other duties assigned by the sponsor

MASCOT

- Care for the Piper mascot uniform. This includes proper storage, protecting it from vandalism, and cleaning as needed.
- While in uniform, maintain the "character" of the mascot.
- Work with the sponsor and other members of the squad to plan skits. Expect at least one skit per home pep rally.
- Perform other duties as assigned.

PRACTICES

- Squad members are expected to be punctual and attend all scheduled practices. All practices are closed to parents and other students unless authorized by the cheer coach/sponsor.
- All practices are mandatory. Failure to attend may result in disciplinary action.
- Cheer coach/sponsor or captain will place members in specific positions. Cheerleaders will be moved at any time to ensure safety.
- Practice times will be at the discretion of the coach/sponsor.
- Squad members who miss a practice for any reason during the week of a pep rally may not perform at the pep rally unless arrangements have been made with the coach/sponsor ahead of time. Failure to communicate and/or obtain prior permission for any absence shall result in the inability to perform and may lead to dismissal from the team. Two or more absences in a week may make the member ineligible to perform that week. Continued absence may result in the inability to perform that week. Continued unexcused absences will result in dismissal. All practice or activities will be scheduled ahead of time with the exception of playoffs, unless extra work is needed to ensure the safety of the team.
- Absolutely no stunting is permitted without a coach/sponsor present. Squad members are not permitted to stunt at private residences, parties, etc. The coach/sponsor and Hamlin ISD are not liable for any accidents which may occur.

- No jewelry, gum, candy, soda, or food during practice and games.
- All cell phones will be turned off and put away during practice and games.
- All squad members are required to wear appropriate clothing to all practices. No restrictive or tight clothing.
- Cheer shoes with socks must be worn at all times during practice.
- Hair must be put up and worn away from face during all practices.
- Driver's Ed, work schedules, all-star squads, etc., will not be an excuse for missing practices or performances.

UNIFORMS

- Uniforms are to be worn by squad members only.
- Members may not wear any jewelry while in uniform. This includes belly button rings, and any other type of jewelry. Bandage coverings or any other objects (spacer/retainer) inserted in the pierce area will not be permitted.
- No artificial nails are to be worn during football season or camp.
- Socks must be no show and white only.
- No alterations to uniforms may be made without the cheer coach/sponsor approval. If alterations are approved, they are the financial responsibility of the squad member.
- All uniforms must be worn zipped and unrolled. Uniforms must be worn the way they are made to be worn.
- The cost of the Varsity uniforms will be paid for by Hamlin ISD and will need prior approval from administration before placing the order for uniforms.

CHEERLEADERS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- | | |
|------------------|-------------|
| a. All camp wear | d. Jackets |
| b. Bloomers | e. Warm-ups |
| c. Socks | f. Bows |
| d. Bags | |
| e. Shoes | |
| f. Tights | |

Each Cheerleader will owe \$500, that will be used to pay for all personal wear items listed above and a portion will be used to pay for Cheer Camp. **All bills must be paid before the first day of camp and Ad money must be collected.**

HAMLIN ISD WILL PAY FOR AND MAINTAINS OWNERSHIP OF:

- Uniforms*
- Megaphones/Pom Poms*

- Purchases of any items to be used by a cheerleader must be done through the sponsor. Purchases will not be released to the cheerleader until they are paid for.
- In the case of a member being dismissed from the team or a member resignation, money paid for fees and expenses shall not be refunded. All school owned uniforms and accessories shall be cleaned, repaired (if needed), and turned in within two weeks of the removal or resignation from the team. If not, the member can be fined for the necessary cleaning and repairs which must be paid by the end of the school year.

CHEERLEADING AND MASCOT CONDUCT

The term cheerleader, in the context of this passage, refers to both cheerleaders and the mascot unless otherwise stated. The duties and responsibilities are not limited to activities that are school sponsored, or while an individual is representing Hamlin ISD.

1. **Cheerleaders are expected to maintain standards of conduct that are above the expectations of the average student.** It is a privilege to represent Hamlin ISD as a member of the cheerleading squad. This is a privilege that is earned and is not a guaranteed right. **Failure to maintain such a standard of behavior may be grounds for disciplinary action, including removal from the squad.**
2. Cheerleaders will be expected to maintain passing grades at all times. It is the duty of the individual members of the cheerleading squad to manage their time in such a way that this is a priority. Members of the cheerleading squad will be subject to UIL guidelines regarding passing grades. Students failing one six-week period shall be placed on scholastic probation, but must continue to attend practice. A failure in any other grading period shall result in immediate dismissal from the team. If a student fails two six weeks periods, the student will have to wait one whole school year to be eligible to tryout again. Failing six week periods will be looked at from the beginning of the year they are on the squad to tryout date for the next school year.
3. If a representative becomes ineligible, he/she will not be allowed to perform, travel with the squad, or wear the uniform to school or for any squad performance for the term of the student's ineligibility.

4. Cheerleaders must be on time to all practices, meetings, and games.
5. **Members of the cheerleading squad must be in attendance for the entire school day in order to participate in a cheerleading activity.** Exceptions to this rule may be granted by the school principal in the event of unavoidable circumstances.
6. It is the responsibility of each cheerleader to **maintain a standard of attendance** that is in compliance with Hamlin ISD policies, as well as those set forth by the Texas Education Agency. Failure to do so will result in removal from the cheerleading squad.
7. Cheerleaders **DO NOT** use tobacco products of any kind, drugs, intoxicating beverages, or illegal controlled substances at any time.
8. Cheerleaders **DO NOT** attend parties or dances where alcoholic beverages are consumed unless accompanied by a parent.
9. Cheerleaders **DO NOT** post inappropriate statements, comments, and/or pictures that may be construed as cyber bullying or harassment on any social media such as Facebook, Twitter, My Space, Snapchat, etc.
10. Cheerleaders **DO NOT** resort to any type of violence, verbal or physical.
11. Members of the cheerleading squad must comply with all policies set forth in the *Hamlin ISD Student Handbook* and the *Student Code of Conduct*.
12. Cheerleaders must conduct themselves in a mannerly fashion at all times; no profanity, no kissing or other types of public displays of affection will be tolerated.
13. **ALL** cheerleaders are required to attend summer camp – Varsity and Junior High cheerleaders.
14. Cheerleaders must support each other. If an individual has a problem working with another member of the squad, it is the responsibility of the individual to visit with the sponsor to seek a solution to the conflict. Individuals do not need to talk about their issues to other people.
15. Cheerleaders **DO NOT** bully each other or any student. If a cheerleader has an issue with another cheerleader or student, you must talk to the sponsor to seek a solution to the conflict. **Failure to maintain such a resolution will be grounds for disciplinary action, including removal from the squad.**
16. Cheerleading is a school activity. All applicable rules and regulations of the UIL pertaining to after school participation will be strictly enforced.
17. All cheerleaders and/or mascot will follow the rules pertaining to the demerit system put into place for the cheerleaders.

This guide to our discipline system is not meant to be inclusive of every, or exclusive of any, situation. The guide may be adapted during the year by the coaches as needed. If a coach deems an offense severe enough, a student may be placed directly on a behavior contract or removed from the squad at the sole discretion of the coach.

DISMISSAL

It is not the intention of the sponsor of the cheerleading squad, or the administration of Hamlin ISD, to seek the removal of students from extracurricular activities. There is, however, a responsibility that comes with a position of leadership, cheerleading being such a position, that calls for a higher standard of conduct than is asked of students in non-leadership roles. Dismissal from the cheerleading squad is not taken lightly and will not be used as a disciplinary sanction unless the infraction warrants such action. The rules addressing disciplinary infractions for members of the cheerleading squad are subject to change, and may be modified to comply with the extracurricular participation guidelines of other departments within Hamlin ISD.

RESIGNATION

A cheerleader may choose to resign, although it is not recommended. If the cheerleader chooses to resign he/she will not be able to tryout the following school year.

SELECTION

1. The Varsity Cheerleading squad will be selected from candidates who will be in 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grades. The candidates who fall within these grade levels, who receive the highest total points of the combination of the judges' evaluations, will be part of the Varsity Cheerleading squad. There will be up to 8 cheerleaders selected.
2. The Varsity Mascot will be selected from candidates who will be in 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grades. The candidate who fall within these grade levels, who receives the highest total points of the judges' evaluations, will be the Varsity mascot. There will be 1 mascot.
3. The Junior High Cheerleading squad will be selected from candidates who will be in 7th and 8th grades. There will be up to 6 cheerleaders. The candidates will be from those who have the top six scores.

4. At the discretion of the cheer coach/sponsor, the next highest ranking candidate **MAY** be moved up in the event that an elected cheerleader resigns or moves on or before the last day of school. The alternate will be the ninth candidate with the highest score.
 - a. When the alternate is announced, the alternate will be measured for a uniform, in the event the individual must fulfill the duties as a cheerleader
 - b. The alternate will be announced immediately due to cheer camp and getting a uniform

The selection of cheerleaders for Hamlin ISD will be determined by evaluation by a panel of professional judges from outside of the district = 100%

The judges' decision is final.

TRYOUT PROCEDURES

1. In order to tryout for cheerleader/mascot, candidates and their parent/guardian must attend a mandatory informational meeting.
2. All required forms must be filled out by the deadline as stated on the forms. All forms are available in print in the Junior High/High School office.
3. **A \$25 non-refundable deposit will be made at the parent meeting, prior to tryouts.**
4. All candidates must have demonstrated acceptable standards of attendance before being approved to tryout.
5. All candidates must be passing at the grading period prior to the tryouts. This rule is in compliance with Hamlin ISD board policy that states all student activities and clubs will comply with the UIL No Pass No Play guidelines.
6. Mascot candidates may only try out for the mascot position.
7. Cheerleader candidates may only try out for the cheerleading positions.
8. Candidates MUST be present in order to tryout.

TRYOUT CLINIC

1. The clinic is closed to the public. No parents or other supporters are allowed to watch.
2. There will be NO videotaping during tryouts or tryout sessions.
3. All senior candidates, or qualified instructors, will conduct the clinics.
4. Candidates must attend all practice sessions, unless excused by the coach.
5. All candidates will be taught the tryout material during the clinic.
6. For the tryout clinic, a candidate must wear a t-shirt, shorts, and athletic shoes.
7. NO jewelry (earrings, naval piercings, cartilage piercings, rings, etc.) will be worn.
8. Cell phones are not permitted during practice. Please keep them in backpacks or in your vehicle to ensure they do not interrupt practice.

TRYOUT EVENT

1. All candidates for cheerleader will be required to tryout before a panel of judges until all candidates have the opportunity to tryout.
2. Tryouts before the judges **WILL BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC**. The only people present will be the judges, the coach, and the campus administrator. Graduating cheerleaders/mascot may be asked to assist.
3. All candidates will draw a number to determine the order in which they will tryout. There will be no trading numbers or the candidates will be disqualified.
4. In the event of a school conflict, the tryout order may be altered by the cheer coach only.
5. Candidates will perform an individual cheer, chant, jumps, and a short dance in the presence of the judges.
6. Mascot candidates will perform a 90 second to 3 minute skit they have choreographed. Only one mascot will be selected and this individual will be part of the Varsity Cheerleading squad.

Nothing can be worn to indicate previous cheerleader experience. Candidates will wear a plain white t-shirt, black shorts (no spunks), white no-show socks, and white athletic shoes. Also, hair must be in a ponytail - no bow. **The cheer coach must approve your cheer tryout attire at the last cheer clinic practice. You will not be allowed to tryout if you are not in appropriate dress. NO EXCEPTIONS!!!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Results will be posted after tryouts have been completed on the front door of the Piper Center.
2. Parents may inquire about their child's tryout results by making an appointment with the JH/HS administrator.
3. All score sheets will be kept for two years, and then shredded.
4. There will be a mandatory parent and cheerleader meeting after tryouts for all candidates who make a squad.
Your coach/sponsor will notify you of the date and time.
5. Mandatory uniform fitting will be announced. All cheerleaders **MUST** attend.
6. Cheer camp dates will be announced.
If a cheerleader does not attend cheer camp the cheerleader will be dismissed from the squad immediately.

FUNDRAISERS

1. All fund raising activities must be approved by the cheer coach/sponsor, principal, and superintendent prior to the beginning of the activity.
2. It is mandatory that all members of the cheer squad to participate in all fundraising activities. Teams may have fundraisers to pay for additional items and activities throughout the year. All Football program ad's will be sold and the funds collected prior to attending camp.

Varsity & Junior High School Cheerleader/Mascot Demerit System

DEMERIT SYSTEM:

3 demerits will result in the removal from a week's performances.

6 demerits will result in suspension for two weeks.

9 demerits will result in removal from the cheerleading squad.

One demerit will be awarded for:

1. Being late to practice and/or the game
2. Chewing gum in practice or a game
3. Failing uniform inspection
4. Shoulder length hair must be worn in a ponytail or braid (practices and games)
5. Absolutely no jewelry may be worn during practices or games
6. Attitude including talking back
7. Complaining/whining
8. Missing any practice without permission
9. Phone out or in use during practice
10. No food will be allowed at practices. Water bottles only

Three demerits will be given for:

1. Unexcused absence (from school)
2. Missed practices without prior permission
3. Absence from a game (without prior permission)
4. Phone out or in use during a game

Automatic suspension for one week of cheer activities (i.e., practices; may not participate in pep rallies; games; may not be in uniform, etc.) beginning at the time the infraction is addressed will be issued for violations of above infractions totaling 6 demerits. Any form of disrespect towards the team or its members (i.e., "trash" talking; name calling; inappropriate comments, etc.) will be an automatic suspension with possible dismissal. Any ISS referrals will result in an automatic suspension.

Automatic dismissal will be issued for violations totaling 9 demerits and/or shows of disrespect towards school employees. Any form of bullying is not tolerated and will result in an automatic dismissal. A second ISS referral will result an automatic dismissal from the squad.

I have read and acknowledge the system and consequences of the demerit system for Varsity & JH cheerleaders and/or mascot.

Cheerleader Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

HAMLIN CHEERLEADER SCORE SHEET 2020-2021

Participant# _____

Judge # _____

	<u>Maximum Point Value</u>	<u>Cheerleaders Score</u>
Tumbling	10	
Spirit & Enthusiasm	10	
Motion Technique	10	
Voice & Projection	10	
Jumps	20	
Overall Impression	20	
Dance	20	
Total Points	100	

Comments:

HAMLIN MASCOT SCORE SHEET 2020-2021

Participant # _____

Judge # _____

	MAXIMUM POINT VALUE	MASCOT SCORE
THEME Overall theme	10	
ENTRANCE Works the crowd	10	
CHARACTERIZATION Enthusiastic	10	
CREATIVITY Motivating, entertaining	10	
CROWD LEADING Enthusiastic, exciting	10	
DANCE Unique, amusing	10	
PROP DESIGN Uses props	10	
EFFECTIVENESS Effective use of props	10	
GESTURES Motions synchronized	10	
OVERALL IMPRESSION	10	
TOTAL POINTS:	100	

COMMENTS: _____
