



# ROISD CHEERLEADING ADDENDUM TO THE EXTRACURRICULAR CODE OF CONDUCT

## PURPOSE

The purpose of cheerleading is to create, promote and uphold school spirit in accordance with school rules. Cheerleaders should also promote leadership and good citizenship. Cheerleaders should plan and initiate activities which will promote student body, community support and involvement in the promotion of athletic events and activities. Cheerleaders also represent ROISD at cheerleading competitions and other cheerleading oriented activities. \*Use of the word Cheerleader in this addendum is interchangeable with Mascot or Maroon Mob unless otherwise noted.

## MEMBERSHIP

1. A cheerleader is considered a leader of the student body. Certain responsibilities accompany any position of leadership. Drug and alcohol use or any immoral behavior is not acceptable in any member of an ROISD cheerleading squad member.
2. Cheerleaders are expected to set a good example for their fellow classmates. Cheerleaders must have and continue to display the following character:
  - a. must be honest and truthful
  - b. must exhibit high moral standards
  - c. must willingly display positive school spirit
  - d. must show good sportsmanship
  - e. must exhibit a very positive attitude toward cheerleading
3. Cheerleaders must participate in and give freely of their time for any cheerleading activity deemed appropriate by the coach throughout the year. This includes all fundraisers, summer practices, camp, games, competition practices, etc. All conflicts must be discussed with the coach in advance.
4. A student at Red Oak ISD is allowed one period of athletics per school day. Cheerleaders may participate in other sports or school activities only if there is NO conflict with any cheerleading responsibility. Students must be enrolled in the cheerleading class the entire year in order to be a cheerleader.
5. Cheerleaders must be cooperative with teachers, administrators, coaches and fellow cheerleaders.
6. Cheerleaders must promote and maintain good relationships with other school organizations and the student body. All problems and conflicts are to be discussed within our organization.
7. Cheerleaders must be in good physical condition. Cheerleaders will participate in a conditioning program to help them prepare for performances. This program includes activities such as running, weight lifting, stamina jumps, tumbling, etc.
8. Cheerleaders may not wear jewelry at any time while in uniform, during practice or performance while representing Red Oak ISD. Jewelry includes, but is not limited to: ear piercings, face piercings, body piercings, rings, bracelets, anklets, necklaces, etc. Tongue piercings are strictly forbidden.
9. Cheerleaders may not have tattoos on any visible part of the body while in uniform representing Red Oak ISD.
10. The official cheerleading year is from tryouts to the last day of school the following year.

\*\*\*If any cheerleader becomes unable to meet the membership requirement at any point during the year, he/she may forfeit squad membership.

## TRYOUT ELIGIBILITY

All students are eligible to tryout for cheerleader as long as they:

- have not failed more than two six week grading periods during the current school year
  - Failed classes that are waived by the Principal will not be counted in the above clause.
- have not been placed in AEP/DAEP any time in the current school year
- have not exceeded more than 15 points on the discipline system or received discipline points in the following:
  - 2 or more for vaping, smoking, or use of tobacco products
  - Insubordination or other ISS that resulted in four (4) or more days
  - Theft, fighting, drugs, alcohol, vandalism, graffiti, nudity, and/or partial nudity
- Academically eligible thru the UIL no pass no play at the time of tryouts

To remain eligible for cheerleading, a student must be passing all classes and have acceptable conduct as outlined in the *Extracurricular Code of Conduct* and the Red Oak ISD Student Code of Conduct.

**INJURY CLAUSE:** Any cheerleader that becomes injured and cannot participate in the tryout process may submit a skills video or returning cheerleaders may have his/her judges' skill scores from the previous year carried over to the current tryout. This rule would only apply to the skills portion of the tryout and a doctor's note **MUST** be submitted and will be verified. This does not include colds and minor injuries. All other criteria (grades, discipline, etc.) will be based on this year's status. They must turn in all appropriate paperwork by the deadlines; attend all meetings, clinics, and mock tryouts to remain eligible for this clause.

### **VIDEO TRYOUT**

Any applicant that becomes injured before tryouts can submit a video tape of tryout material/skills, or some form of video of them performing specific elements that cannot be evaluated in person. It cannot be a video from a competition and/or competition squad. The video will be viewed by the judges and scores will be based on the content of the video. They must turn in all appropriate paperwork by the deadlines; attend all meetings, clinics, and mock tryouts to remain eligible for this clause.

Mock tryouts will be videotaped in case of emergency.

## TRYOUT GUIDELINES

### **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

1. The coaches, with the approval of the athletic coach, will be responsible for the distribution of a packet of information to all candidates.
2. The coach, with the approval of the athletic coach, will determine specific tryout dates, times for selection.
3. Candidates and parents must sign a form stating that they understand and will comply with all information in the packet before the student is allowed to participate in the tryout process.
4. The coach, with the approval of the athletic coach, reserves the right for the final decision of all selections during the tryout process.
5. There will be a **MANDATORY** meeting for all candidates and parents prior to tryouts. If you **AND** your parent or guardian do not attend, you will not be eligible to tryout. If the student is involved in another school activity on the night of the meeting, his/her absence will be excused and the sponsor **MUST** be notified in advance and arrangements will be made to meet with the candidate and parent.
6. The date of tryouts will not be held during the last week of a six-week period and/or during STAAR/EOC testing.
7. Mock tryouts and tryouts will be closed to everyone except coaches and administration.
8. Parents will not be allowed in the building during tryouts and must remain at least 120 feet from the building.
9. The tryout attire will be limited to a plain white shirt, a solid colored short (black/navy/maroon/grey) and any type of white athletic shoe with socks. There will be no jewelry during the entire week of tryouts. This includes, earrings, spacers, belly button rings, and tongue rings. Hair will be pulled away from face with a white bow.

### **TRYOUT WEEK SCHEDULE (4:30-6:30)**

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MIDDLE SCHOOL	Learn Material	Review Material	Review Material	Mock Tryouts & Interview	Tryouts Start at 4:30 PM
HIGH SCHOOL (JV and Varsity)	Stunts	Learn Material	Open Practice & Interview	Mock Tryouts & Interview	Tryouts Start at 6:30 PM

### **CHEERLEADER SQUAD COMPOSITION**

There will be one Red Oak Middle School Cheerleading Squad and one Junior Varsity and one Varsity Red Oak High School Cheerleading Squad.

#### **1. Middle School:**

- a. The total number of cheerleaders will not exceed 22 but will not be less than 16, except in the case of a tie
- b. The number of cheerleaders will be determined by
  - i. Ten (10) members (5 seventh graders and 5 eighth graders) scores will be ranked highest to lowest.
  - ii. The remaining spots will be chosen by a natural break in the scores, up to, but not limited to 12 additional members. The Head Coach and Athletic coach will decide upon the total number of Cheerleaders after the tryout scores have been calculated.
- c. The total number of cheerleaders will be determined by Male candidates scores will be considered separately, but must have a score equal or higher.

#### **2. High School**

- a. Junior Varsity High School:
    - i. Grades 9th-11th
    - ii. Sophomores and Juniors must sign a waiver stating that they would accept a position on JV if they don't make the Varsity team. The total number of cheerleaders will be determined by the next natural break in scores after varsity has been chosen. A minimum of six (6) junior varsity cheerleaders will be chosen.
  - b. Varsity High School:
    - i. Grades 10th-12th
    - ii. The total number of cheerleaders will be determined by a natural break in the scores, but not limited to twenty-five (25). The Head Coach and Athletic Director will decide upon the total number of Cheerleaders after the tryout scores have been calculated.
3. There will be no consideration of previous cheer experience taken into account when determining the place or natural break or any other decision concerning squad composition for either team.
  4. Head Coach and Athletic coach will have the discretion to take more or less on a team according to the scores.
  5. Male candidates will be added separately, but must have a score equal or higher.

### **CHEER TRYOUT SCORING**

Panel tryouts will be done in a closed session with admission limited to the following: judges, administration and coaches. Final scores will be weighted by the following:

Report Card Grades	Student Conduct	Teacher Evaluations	Interview (Admin Panel)	Skills (Judging Panel)
10%	10%	15%	10%	55%

**Report Card Grades** is a max of 40 points per candidate. First thru Fourth Six Weeks grades will be considered. Points will be deducted using the following system:

- 70-72 = 1 point deduction
- Below 70 = 3 point deduction
- Nine (9) or more absences = 5 point deduction
  - Missing more than ½ a day counts as an absence

**Student Conduct Report** is a max of **15** points per candidate. Number of discipline points will be deducted from the total score of possible points.

**Teacher Evaluations** from the student's current teachers will be scored by:

- Each form is worth between **5-15** points. The four forms that fall in the middle of the ranking of the total amount of forms turned in will be added together and this number (up to 15 points)
- If a student has less than four forms turned in by a teacher, the student will receive 0 points for the missing that forms and it will count as one of the student's four forms.

**Administration Interview:** each judge may award up to **70** points per candidate. The sum of these scores (140 points max) will be used for this section. Please see sample questions in tryout packet.

**Skills Judging Panel:** A three judge panel from Spirit Event Coordinators will score the applicants. Judging is a paid service funded by the cheerleading budget and campus activity fund. The tryout procedures outlined in this document will be adhered to completely. A panel of judges shall select all cheerleaders. No popular vote will be held.

- Each judge may award up to **100** points per candidate. The judges' scores will be added together to get the judges' total score.
- Please reverence the tryout score sheet in the tryout packet for more information

Final scores will be figured to two decimal points.

Scores will be left in the office of the athletic coach until winners and non-winners are notified. The Head Coach of the organization, along with the Athletic coach, reserves the right for the final decision of all selections. The natural break in the scoring is taken into consideration when compiling squads. Coaches will have the discretion to take more or less on a squad according to these scores.

### **TIE**

In the case of a tie, both students shall be selected.

\*Cheerleader in this section does not refer to Mascots or Maroon Mob.

### **ALTERNATE**

No one will be named an official alternate. In the case of a cheerleader being removed from the squad the Head Coach may elect to move up the next highest scoring cheerleader. This decision will be up to the coach and the use of an "alternate" should not be expected and is not mandatory.

### **MANAGER (Middle School ONLY)**

A Manager will be chosen in rank order after the middle school team is selected. Managers will only be selected from the candidate pool that designated to be a manager on the application packet.

### **TEAM NOTIFICATION**

After all tryout scores are tabulated and confirmed by the Athletic coach and Head Coach, only those making the team will be posted online ONLY. The website address will be handed to each candidate as they leave tryouts. It will also be announced on ROHS Cheer and ROMS Cheer social media; Instagram, facebook, and twitter when the list has be posted.

Each team member is required to accept or decline their position on the team. If one declines their position, the athletic staff has the option to select the next highest scoring candidate to the roster.

### **SCORE RELEASE**

Parents may request their child's score ONLY (no rank scores) to be mailed by including a self-addressed stamped envelope in their tryout forms folder.

## **MASCOT/MAROON MOB (High School Only)**

The Maroon Mob is a coed spirit squad that will accompany the Cheerleaders. They are a part of the Cheerleading program and their responsibilities are as follows:

- Spirit Flags
- In charge of all gear and the transfer of the gear to and from games
- Pep Rally setup and teardown

Tryouts for the Maroon Mob are going to be done on a “needs be” basis. The decision to hold actual tryouts for the Maroon Mob will be determined by the Head Coach and Athletic coach after the tryout packets have been turned in. This decision will be announced at the Pre-Tryout meeting.

If tryouts are deemed necessary the Maroon Mob will have a tryout process and will be judged on their skills in flag running. Please see tryout score sheet for more information. They will follow the same tryout procedure as the Cheerleaders.

- Mascots/Maroon Mob are able to enrolled in the 8<sup>th</sup> period cheerleading class unless in another athletic period.
- Mascots/Maroon Mob must follow all rules and regulations that cheerleaders follow.
- Mascots/Maroon Mob are to attend all events and activities assigned to them by the Coach.
- Mascots /Maroon Mob will purchase any required gear for the season.

The Maroon Mob/Mascots will follow the same rules and have the same expectations as listed above for the cheerleaders. They will follow the same demerit system and be held accountable for their behavior.

Maroon Mob members may be members of other sports and activities. Each Maroon Mob member will discuss their roles and responsibilities individually with the Head Coach.

There can be up to two mascots elected. There can be up to 15 members elected to the Maroon Mob, but elected members will be determined by the natural break in scores after 5 or up to 15.

Mascots and Maroon Mob selections will be announced the same way as the cheerleaders.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Cheerleaders are expected to have above average school attendance habits. Numerous absences for reasons other than illness are grounds to be dismissed. Also, any cheerleader with numerous absences must bring a doctor's note for each following absence. Cheerleaders are responsible to their fellow squad members to attend and participate in all practices and activities. All situations will be looked at individually and it will be the Head Coach's final call on whether an absence is excused or not.

**Excused absences** will be granted only for illnesses, death in the family, extenuating circumstances and/or unforeseen events as approved in advance by the coach. In the event of illness, death in the family, or emergency, a written excuse from the parent must be submitted to the coach. Failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence. If the student is at school, he/she MUST be at the game that night.

1. **Illness**. Two consecutive absences will require a doctor's note. If unable to attend a practice or game due to illness, a doctor's note must be given to the coach(es) in order for it to be an excused absence (even if they missed the entire school day).
2. **Death in Family**

**Unexcused absences:** Cheerleaders must seek approval from the coach BEFORE being absent from any cheerleading activity (preferably 24 hour notice). Cheerleaders must fill out a "Missed Obligation Form" and turn it into the Coach Mailbox (in Cheer Office) at least 24 hours in advance.

1. **Practice** Unexcused absences are anything other than a documented illness or death in the family.
2. **Competition practice** Cheerleader may be made into an alternate. Any cheerleader unable to perform because of any injury or illness will appear at the event in full uniform and sit in a designated area. If any injury or illness hinders or limits a cheerleader's performance capabilities, that cheerleader may be required to provide a doctor's note. All doctor notes will be followed, regardless of the circumstances or importance of the event.
3. **Events/Fundraising** The coach must be notified ahead of time that the cheerleader will be absent.
4. **Competition/Game**
5. **Summer Practice** A cheerleader who misses two summer practices for unexcused reasons may be benched for the first pep rally and/or game. A cheerleader who misses 3 or 4 summer practices for unexcused reasons may be benched for the first two pep rallies and/or games. A cheerleader with more than 4 unexcused absences from summer practice may be dismissed from the squad at the discretion of the Coach and Athletic Coach.

**Additional Information:**

1. Any cheerleader who has not attended at least four academic classes on a game day may NOT perform that day (unexcused absence).
2. Any cheerleader who is absent from a practice prior to a performance, will not be allowed to participate in the performance regardless of the circumstances at the discretion of the coach.
3. Any cheerleader who is absent from a practice where new material is taught, will not participate in the performing of that material.
4. If a cheerleader has a job, it cannot interfere with cheerleading. Absences will be considered unexcused.
5. Student's involvement with outside competitive cheerleading squads cannot interfere with Red Oak cheerleading. All situations will be looked at individually and it will be the Head Coach's final call on whether an absence is excused or not.

## **ACTIVITIES**

Cheerleaders will ride school-provided transportation to and from all events. EXCEPTIONS are for extreme emergencies that are approved by the coach with a written notice given 24 hours in advance.

Everyone is expected to have a ride to and from all practices, games, and events. **Prompt delivery and pick up is expected.**

**If the Coach gives a start time, Cheerleaders should arrive at least 10-15 minutes prior to this time in order to ensure enough time to get ready. Cheerleaders who are not fully dressed, ready, and in the appropriate spot when the Coach given time arrives are considered late.**

**PRACTICES**

- All cheerleaders will need to plan to stay after school for practice. A definitive schedule will be given.
- All practices are mandatory.
- After school practices can go as late as 8:30 P.M. and morning or before-school practices can start as early as 6:30 A.M.
- Practices will not exceed 8 hrs. per school week.
- All summer practices are mandatory

**SUMMER CAMP**

- All cheerleaders and mascots are expected to attend summer camp. Coach and athletic coach will approve certain unexcused absences.

**FOOTBALL/VOLLEYBALL**

Middle School:

- All members will cheer home 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Football Games
- Varsity Homecoming game 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter

- All cheerleaders will cheer Playoff games as selected by the coach.

#### Junior Varsity:

- All members will cheer home Varsity Volleyball Games
- Cheerleaders will only cheer select JV/Freshman Football games as the schedule allows
- Cheerleaders will ride school transportation to home and away games. Leave times will be announced prior to the games.

#### Varsity:

- All members will cheer Varsity Football Games
- Cheerleaders will be divided into groups based off of stunt groups and alternate cheering for JV/Freshman home games as needed. Coach will determine the schedule.
- Cheerleaders will ride school transportation to home and away games. Leave times will be announced prior to the games.

Games could be over as late as 12:00 A.M. – HIGH SCHOOL ONLY

#### **BASKETBALL:**

- Cheerleaders will cheer home district Games Only
- Cheerleaders will be divided into groups
- Schedule will be given no later than November
- Each High School group will cheer no more than two days a week
  - Middle School will cheer no more than one school day a week
- All cheerleaders should arrive at home games 30 minutes prior to game
- Both Groups have an opportunity to cheer playoff games. The schedule will be determined by the coach.

#### **PLAYOFFS**

##### Football:

- Varsity will cheer all games in uniform on the sideline
- JV & Middle will attend the first round (mandatory); all other games will be optional, except the State Championship

##### Volleyball:

- JV will cheer all games in uniform on the sideline
- Varsity will attend the first round (mandatory); all other games will be optional, except the State Championship
- Middle School will attend (mandatory) the State Championship

##### Basketball

- All Varsity members will attend games, however the coach will decide who will be on the sideline
- JV and Middle School has the option to attend games, except for the State Championship

##### Other Sports

- Cheerleaders have the option to ride the cheer fan bus to the game

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

- Any other Sporting or Community Event assigned to by Head Coach.
- Cheerleaders are required to attend and/or cheer at any athletic event scheduled by the coach.
- Any cheerleader who fails to appear in the FULL or CORRECT uniform will not perform until corrected and must take demerits according to the demerit chart.
- Cheerleaders will have additional duties that they will be required to perform throughout the year. These duties will include (but are not limited to): preparation for homecoming festivities, attendance at athletic playoff games, competitions, and participation in various school and community service projects.

- Cheerleaders are able to participate in other UIL sports and/or extracurricular activities. Any UIL conflicts that may occur with cheerleading will be resolved by coaches. The cheerleader is responsible for making both coaches/sponsor aware of the pending conflict (well in advance) and seeing that it is resolved.

## **TEAM COMPETITION**

- Cheerleaders will attend two or more competitions each year as chosen by the coach. All team members must attend every contest unless on probation.
- All members must tryout for competition routines. Team members and captains are not guaranteed a performing position at competition.
- Team members must attend every practice session and competition even if they do not make the mat. Those who do not make the routine become alternates for that routine. They must practice and prepare just as those who did make the routine in case a place becomes available. The coach will select the best qualified alternate to fill that place.
- Team members who are selected to perform must attend every practice prior to the competition in order to maintain their place. If a member in the routine misses more than one practice day prior to a competition, his/her position in the routine may be eliminated or replaced by an alternate.
- Team members may be responsible for their own meals at competition unless provided by the coach or booster club.

## **SPRING TRIP/TEAM TRAVEL**

With approval of the coach and school administration, cheerleaders may travel to experience cheer opportunities outside of the Dallas Fort Worth Metroplex. All expenses will be paid for by cheerleaders who choose to travel. Specific guidelines will be provided by the coach and must be followed in order for a cheerleader to participate in a trip opportunity.

## **COMPETITION PERFORMANCE TEAM (High School ONLY)**

The purpose of the competition performance team is to create and promote a competitive environment that allow its members the opportunity to enhance skills outside of the game day environment. The goal will be to compete and win the NCA Senior & Junior High School National Championship. Other competitions will be scheduled to prepare for this competition. Specific guidelines will be provided by the coach and must be followed in order for a cheerleader to tryout and participate in the competition performance team.

## **RED OAK CHEER BOOSTER CLUB**

The ROHS/ROMS Cheer Booster Club will exist for the benefit and support of the entire ROHS/ROMS Cheer Program. Upon selection for the ROHS/ROMS Cheer Squad, all those in the ROHS/ROMS Cheer Program will automatically be in association with the ROHS/ROMS Cheer Booster Club. This association includes the ability and right to participate in fundraising activities and other team building activities sponsored by the booster club. Requirements for full voting membership for each cheerleader's family will be determined by the booster club.

## **UNIFORMS**

Uniforms are purchased by the individual prior to the new season. A list of required items and an estimated total cost will be available at the pre-tryout meeting. **Failure to pay the total bill before May 31<sup>st</sup> of the tryout year will result in the individual's removal from the team and the repossession of uniforms.** If any item is lost, the individual is responsible for purchasing its replacement. Mending, altering, and cleaning are also the responsibility of the individual. If a cheerleader is not in uniform, he/she will be required to sit out until in compliance.

- All cheerleaders **MUST** be in uniform at all cheerleading events.
- Uniforms must be clean
- Hair and makeup must be done according to the Coach's instructions.
- Only coach-approved items may be worn over/with the uniform.

- No visible undergarments
- Fingernails must be no longer than the tips of fingers
  - only clear, French, maroon, nude, white, black polish may be used
- No jewelry may be worn during games or practices
- Coaches will make the final decision as to what to wear and how hair and makeup should be worn
- Any excessive alterations causing improper fitting of uniform will NOT be allowed and is at the discretion of the coach. A new uniform MUST be purchased if not approved.

## LETTER JACKETS AND AWARDS

Letter Jackets are awarded to Varsity Cheerleaders and Mascots ONLY and may be worn with the uniform. Cheerleaders will letter when they have been on the varsity cheer team for one full season. First year varsity seniors will letter after the fall semester of their senior year.

- Team members will vote for Cheerleader of the Week during Football Season. Only varsity and middle school team members and are eligible for this award.
- Texas Girls Coaches Association Honors (High School ONLY)  
With over 7,000 members including coaches and administrators in all levels of education, the Texas Girls Coaches Association is the largest association for coaches of girls' athletics and activities in the United States.
  - Academic All-State: Senior cheerleaders with a cumulative GPA of 94 (Freshman through Junior years) or higher
  - Texas All-Star: Junior athlete with great skill
  - Legacy All-Star: Senior athlete with great skill
  - Texas All-State: any high school grade level based on skill, GPA, honors, activities and community involvement
  - Cheerleader of the Year: one Cheerleader chosen from 5A-6A conferences.
- ROHS/ROMS End of the Year Awards:
  - Cheerleader of the Year is selected by majority vote by current team members. This honor is dependent upon attitude, loyalty, effort, enthusiasm, determination, leadership, and all around love for cheerleading and its members. Only seniors and 8th graders may be nominated for this award; in the case that the director deems no senior worthy of this honor, nominations may be extended to juniors and/or sophomores.
  - First Year Completion (Rookie) pin is given to every first year team member that has completed a full season in good standing in the ROISD cheerleading program.
  - Outstanding Cheerleader is given to multiple team members who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and dedication of the team. This awards is voted on by team members. All cheerleaders are eligible for this award and there will be no set number of recipients.
  - Coaches Awards are given to cheerleaders who deserve special recognition for their contribution to the team.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

The Red Oak ISD and the Athletic Department recognize and support the student-athletes rights to freedom of speech, expression, and association, including the use of social networks. In this context, however, each student-athlete must remember that cheering and competing for Red Oak ISD is a privilege. As a member, you represent Red Oak. Our school and community of Red Oak are expecting you to portray yourself, your team, and the School District in a positive manner at all times.

Below you will find social networking guidelines which provided for usage of social networking sites:

- Everything you post is public information – any text or photo placed online is completely out of your control the moment it is placed online – even if you limit access to your site. Information (including pictures, videos, and comments) may be accessible even after you remove it. Once you post a photo or comment on a social networking site, that photo or comment becomes the property of the site and may be searchable even after you remove it.

- What you post may affect your future. Many employers and college admissions officers review social networking sites as part of their overall evaluation of an applicant. Carefully consider how you want people to perceive you before you give them a chance to misinterpret your information (including pictures, videos, comments, and posters).
- Similar to comments made in person, the Red Oak Department of Athletics will not tolerate disrespectful comments and behavior online, such as:
  - Derogatory language or remarks that may harm my teammates or coaches; other Red Oak student athletes, teachers, or coaches; and student-athletes, coaches, or representatives of other schools, including comments that may disrespect my opponents.
  - Incriminating photos or statements depicting violence; hazing; sexual harassment; lewdness including full or partial nudity; inappropriate gestures; vandalism, stalking; underage drinking, smoking, selling, possessing, or using controlled substances; or any other inappropriate behaviors.
  - Creating a serious danger to the safety of another person or making a credible threat of serious physical or emotional injury to another person.
  - Indicating knowledge of an unreported school or team violation—regardless if the violation was unintentional or intentional.
- In short, do not have a false sense of security about your rights to freedom of speech. Understand that freedom of speech is not unlimited. The online social network sites are NOT a place where you can say and do whatever you want without repercussions. The information you post on a social networking site is considered public information. Protect yourself by maintaining a self-image of which you can be proud for years to come.

## **GRADE ELIGIBILITY – MAINTENANCE**

A cheerleader must maintain a passing grade of 70% or above (per UIL rules) in all classes. A grade below 70% will result in the cheerleader becoming ineligible for the next progress report period. Dropping below the academic eligibility standard (report card grade) more than twice in one school year will result in dismissal from the squad. Failed classes that are waived by the Principal do not count towards this. This also includes the last two six weeks of the current school year. If the cheerleader makes the squad and does not pass the last two six weeks/nine weeks of the school year, the cheerleader will be disqualified and will be removed from the squad. The cheerleader will, however, be eligible to tryout the following year. The next highest score may be moved up at this time.

An applicant who lives out of district at the time of tryouts, but who will be moving into the district, will NOT be eligible to tryout for the team.

1. Cheerleaders are expected to maintain an overall average of 2.0 or higher (70 or higher for Middle School). Grades will be checked at the end of each six weeks grade period. If a cheerleader's grades do not meet acceptable standards, the cheerleader will be placed on three weeks suspension until satisfactory improvement is shown. If satisfactory improvement does not occur, UIL rules will be followed.
2. In keeping with Texas House Bill 72, cheerleaders who fail a class for a six weeks grading period will be ineligible for three weeks or until passing.
3. A cheerleader who fails a six weeks more than two times during a cheerleading year will be dismissed from the squad.
4. A student on academic probation will follow the academic probation guidelines given in the Red Oak Cheerleading Handbook.

### **Cheerleading class**

Grades will be determined by the Head Coach and should serve as a cumulative representation of the Cheerleaders behavior in class and at events. Cheerleaders will lose points on their grade each demerit cycle based on the Red Oak ISD demerit chart. A demerit cycle is every 3 weeks. Cheerleaders will receive more information in the Red Oak Cheerleading Handbook once they make the team.

## DEMERITS

A cheerleader will receive demerits when he/she fails to satisfactorily complete any responsibility. Excessive demerit consequence in a demerit cycle (per every 3 weeks):

- benched for one week when he/she receives the fifth demerit
  - If a cheerleader receives the fifth demerit on Thursday, he/she will not cheer at any of the Friday events or next major event. A cheerleader will attend the event in required attire chosen by the coach and sit in a designated area.
- two weeks benched when he/she receives the seventh demerit
- Nine demerits received during a demerit cycle will result in dismissal from the squad.

Demerits earned in the summer can affect the fall grade and participation in fall activities. Other demerits can affect the grade of the six weeks in which they are received. The only time demerits are “wiped away” is at the end of the cheerleading year.

\*All cheerleaders will be held to the Red Oak Independent School District Extracurricular Code of Conduct standards in addition to the Demerit/Merit System, and consequences for actions may/will come from both dependent on the infraction.

## DEMERIT CHART

### **Attendance:**

#### **Excused Absences**

Doctors appointment during after school practice	.5
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#### **Unexcused Absences**

Practice during school	1
Failing to notify coach at least 24-hours PRIOR to absence	1
Failure to submit “Missed Obligations Form”	1
Leaving after school practice early (work, competition practice, etc.)	1
Leaving an event or game early	1
Practice after school	2
Competition Practice outside of normal after school practice	2
Fundraising Event	2
Minor Game or Event	3
Major Game or Event (ex. Football, Basketball, Volleyball)	4
Competition Performance	5

#### **Tardy**

Up to 5 minutes	1.5
Over 6 minutes late	2.5
Failing to start at designated warm up time (Games)	1
Failing to return from halftime on time (coach designated time)	1

#### **Assignments** (1 demerit)

Failing to satisfactorily complete an assigned responsibility

Failing to carry out “share” of burdens (clean up, painting, decorating, etc.)

Failing to turn items in on time (each day)

#### **Cooperation** (1 demerit)

Failing to learn or perform cheers or chants

Failing to place payments in the payment safe by the deadline

Failing to work with fellow cheerleaders, coaches, teachers and administrators in a cooperative manner  
 Failing to pay attention to what the squad is doing  
 Failing to complete all parts of the workout  
 Unnecessary talking during games and practices  
 Failure to listen and comply the first time told  
 Ungracious acceptance of demerit

**Uniform/Appearance/Practice Attire** (1 demerit)

Failing to wear correct uniform (any part, any time)  
 Failing to have uniform in good condition  
 Having fake fingernails during “season”  
 Having fingernails longer than fingertip length or with colored polish when in uniform  
 Wearing jewelry in uniform or practice  
 Failing to have hair and makeup neat and attractive (hair must be up at performances)  
 Failing to have proper practice uniform on  
 Allowing a non-cheerleader to wear any part of a cheerleading uniform (this includes a letter jacket).  
 Failing to wear any brace or wrap which has been deemed necessary by a doctor, trainer or coach  
 Chewing gum during any cheerleading activity

**A cheerleader may receive multiple demerits for, but are not limited to:**

Unsportsmanlike/Insubordination conduct	3
Infraction of any accepted school policy	3
ISS or Saturday School per occurrence/day	3
Showing disrespect to teacher, coach or administrator	3
Lying to, arguing with, or disrespecting coach	3
Public display of affection while representing ROISD Cheer in uniform or cheer gear	3
Any conduct unbecoming a ROISD cheerleader	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This includes inappropriate use of electronic media</li> <li>Cursing</li> </ul>	

**A cheerleader may receive multiple demerits for and possible removal, but are not limited to:**

Being assigned to DAEP	9
Connection with activities involving vaping, smoking, drinking or drugs on campus	
Or any time off campus in uniform or gear	7
Forged notes	7
Multiple connection with activities involving smoking, drinking, or using drugs	7

## MERITS

If a merit system is implemented during the year, it is to be used solely at the discretion of the coach and may be revoked at any time. Each merit is worth 0.5 points toward a cheerleader’s daily grade. Merits can not be use toward test grades. Coach will determine which events and activities will be designated for merits.

In the instance that a cheerleader commits a major infraction which would result in his/her immediate suspension or dismissal, merits previously obtained may not be used to eliminate or reverse the suspension or dismissal.

## DISCIPLINE AND CONSEQUENCES

All students are expected to adhere to the Red Oak ISD Student Code of Conduct and Extracurricular Code of Conduct and Red Oak Cheerleader Addendum. Cheerleaders who violate the District’s Disciple Management Plan and Student Code of Conduct will be assessed appropriate school disciplinary consequences for the infraction. Disciplinary infraction

may also result in a student's dismissal from the squad, limited participation in extracurricular activity, and/or leadership position removed.

- Any cheerleader on probation or suspension may not participate in any cheer event to include competitions, athletic events or any public performances. Cheerleaders are still required to attend practices and rehearsals.
1. Short-Term/Probation Restrictions: Campuses may assign short term (1-3 week) restrictions for cheerleaders due to any of the following: poor academic performance, inappropriate behavior, and failure to fulfill published cheer responsibilities as outlined in this document.
  2. Academic
    - a. Probation: a cheerleader who receives a grade lower than 70 on a report card will be placed on probation/ineligibility for at least three weeks. Specific dates regarding academic eligibility are contained in the TEA UIL Academic Eligibility Calendar and Red Oak Cheerleading Handbook.
    - b. Exemption: Advanced Course was designed by the Texas Education Agency and identified by the Red Oak ISD are exempted from the "NO Pass, NO Play" policy, but students may still be subject to academic probation or dismissal at the campus level if academic progress toward graduations is in question.
    - c. Dismissal: the policy for "Grade Eligibility-Maintenance" will be followed. Please note that any vacancy will not be filled for the remainder of the school year.
  3. Behavior:
    - a. Suspension /Dismissal: the Red Oak ISD Extracurricular Handbook will be followed. Additional consequences (demerits, cheer suspension, dismissal) and/or school consequences (detention, ISS, DAEP, etc.) may be received as well.
    - b. Suspended from School: A member suspended from school will be:
      - i. Benched one (1) game or event per day suspended
        1. (ex: Two (2) day suspension = two (2) games or events missed
      - ii. Any leadership role will be removed
      - iii. Given demerits
    - c. ISS Placement: A member receiving ISS from school will be:
      - i. Given demerits
      - ii. Benched from one (1) game or event per day in ISS
    - d. DAEP Placement: A member receiving DAEP will be automatically removed from the team

## **DISMISSAL/QUITTING THE TEAM**

The eligibility of tryouts for students who have previously been a part of the ROHS or ROMS Cheerleading Program and have resigned or were removed from the squad will be determined by the head coach and the Athletic coach on a case by case basis. Any team member that quits or is dismissed from the team must wait one calendar year before they will be eligible to tryout for the team again (this includes drill team). Consent of the Head Cheer Coach and Athletic coach must be sought after if wanting to come back before. All school issued equipment must be returned within 7 days of leaving the team. Failure to do so will result in a monetary fee placed on transcripts which will delay receiving diploma, transcript, parking sticker, etc. until paid in full.

## **COMMUNICATION**

All team members are required to have access to team communication devices, apps, etc. Failure to have access will result in information being missed and demerits will be given.

## **PARENT COMMITMENT**

Parent/guardian commitment and involvement are vital to the success of each cheerleader and the cheerleading team. The following is expected:

- Parents will be supportive and positive about ALL aspects of the program.
- Parents should direct all questions or concerns about the program to the coaches FIRST. The administrator will redirect you to the coach if you have not first spoken to her! FOLLOW THE CHAIN OF COMMAND
- Parents should be active members of the ROISD Cheer program and help achieve to its fundraising goals. Parents SHOULD ALWAYS strive to meet or exceed fundraising goals assigned.
- It takes a VILLAGE!
- One parent per cheerleader will volunteer to work all ROISD Cheer fundraising activities.
- Parents must be willing to make the monetary commitment necessary to fulfill obligations related to the duties and responsibilities associated with being a member of the cheerleading squad.
- Parents should remember that cheerleading is a team sport. If you take away cheerleading as a punishment to your child, it punishes the entire team. This will not be excused.
- Parents need to schedule all appointments so as to avoid the cheerleader missing cheer class, practices, or events; as this impacts the entire squad.

## **APPEALS**

The Coach will make decisions based on the ROISD Cheerleading Addendum to the Extracurricular Code of Conduct, and the Red Oak ISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct. Should a Cheerleader or a parent decide to appeal a decision that the coach has made, the highest level of appeal is the ROISD Athletic Director.

## **COACH**

In order to respect the privacy and family time of the Cheer coaches, the following will apply:

1. The Cheer coach is available for conference to address concerns of parents or cheerleaders, Monday-Friday during her assigned conference time.
2. If the above time is not convenient, you may leave a message 24 hours a day by calling the coach's voicemail. The Cheer coach will return your call later in the day, during school hours, or the following school day. The coach will be glad to work with any parent/guardian to schedule a convenient meeting time should the parent/student be unavailable during the coach's conference time.
3. E-mail is the best way to contact the coach.
4. If necessary, the coach may adapt or change a rule in the constitution with approval from administration as deemed justifiable by the coach.
5. The coach may establish other rules or policies if necessary during the school year.
6. A chain of command should be followed to insure proper communication. The coach should be informed first of any concerns, information, and/or needs prior to going to the principal. She then will contact the principal or other administration as necessary. Positive teamwork will enhance the success of the ROISD Cheer Teams; this includes everyone: students, parents, teachers, and administrators. Parents should never contact a Cheer Captain regarding a concern, or another parent.