

Bosqueville High School

Cheerleading/Mascot Guidelines

A cheerleader/mascot must understand that they represent the student body of Bosqueville ISD and the community of Bosqueville. He/she must realize that conduct while representing Bosqueville, whether in or out of uniform, is a direct reflection on the entire student body. Each cheerleader/mascot candidate must NOT have more than one failing six week grade, during the current school year. Cheerleaders and Mascots have a responsibility to themselves and the rest of the cheerleaders and mascots to maintain eligibility. Being a cheerleader or mascot takes time and effort. If the eligibility is a problem, then the increased time demands will reduce the chances of maintaining eligibility.

The success of the cheerleader/mascot program at BISD requires commitment, dependability, cooperation and organization. Before agreeing to be a Bosqueville cheerleader or mascot, candidates should reflect on the amount of time, work and dedication it takes to be in these positions. Cheerleading responsibilities begin immediately after tryouts and continue throughout the entire year. Cheerleaders will work the calendar/schedule set by the sponsor.

A cheerleader/mascot position is considered a leadership position at Bosqueville. A cheerleader/mascot will follow the BISD handbook rules at all times. Cheerleaders/mascots are expected to display positive leadership traits in and out of uniform. They must also be willing to cooperate with the sponsor at all times.

I. TRYOUT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- A. Candidate must be currently enrolled as a student in Bosqueville ISD in any grade 6-11.
- B. Candidate must not have any outstanding fines fee, dues or uniforms.
- C. Candidate must attend candidate meeting or sponsor conference before tryouts.
- D. Candidate must have a parent/guardian attend a parent meeting or sponsor conference before tryouts.
- E. Candidate must turn in an agreement to abide by all the guidelines set forth in this document before tryouts.
- F. Once a student has been dismissed from the squad or leaves the squad for any reason (including withdrawal from school at any time during the year), she may not tryout the following year.
- G. One is not eligible to try out if he/she has previously resigned from cheerleading/mascot for an unreasonable excuse this will be determined by administration and sponsor.

II. THE TRYOUT PROCESS

- A. Workshop
 1. The varsity sponsor will set workshop for tryouts in the spring.
 2. Workshop is mandatory for all candidates.
 3. An unexcused absence from the workshop will eliminate the student from candidacy.
 4. Current senior cheerleaders make up and teach tryout routine as needed
- B. Cheerleader Tryouts
 1. The varsity sponsor will set tryouts in the spring immediately after the workshop.
 2. Tryout uniform will be the responsibility of the candidate. Candidates will try out one time:
 - a. Judges
 1. Candidates will tryout in front of judges.
 2. Tryouts before independent judges will be closed to the public.
 - b. Student Body Tryouts
 1. Each candidate will be assigned to a tryout group.
 2. Groups will perform in front of grades appropriate to squad level.
 3. Candidates will perform a set tryout routine. The tryouts generally consist of memorizing cheers, jumps, and possibly a dance.
 4. Candidates must complete all sections (judges, student body)
 5. Cheerleading squad will consist of:
 - a. Varsity – Current 8th graders, freshman, sophomores and juniors may try out.
 - b. Jr. High – Current 6th and 7th graders may try out.

- C. Mascot Tryouts
1. There will be one mascot (a maximum of two mascots – at sponsor discretion) for the Varsity.
 2. Mascot candidates will perform an original skit. The tryout routine is representative of the routine that the mascot will perform during pep rallies.
 3. Original skit
 - a. Minimum of 1 minute and maximum of 3 minutes in length.
 - b. Set-up and take-down is limited to one minute.
 - c. Maximum of two participants may assist candidate
 - d. A written description of the routine, including and equipment list, participants’ list, and the audio, must be submitted to the sponsor on the second day of the workshop.
 - e. Candidates must perform their routines before the sponsor during the workshop
- D. Selection of Cheerleaders
1. Eight Jr. High Cheerleaders will be selected by the following criteria:
 - a. 80% from the judges score sheet
 - b. 20% student vote
 2. Tie on the Jr. High
Judges’ score will break the first tie.
 3. Varsity cheerleaders and the mascot(s) will be selected by the following criteria: There is no set number of cheerleaders that are required for Varsity. The squad will consist of minimum of 8 and maximum of 12 cheerleaders. The squad will be determined on a “natural” break. A natural break occurs when there are a significant number of final points separating any two candidates.
 - a. 80% from the judges score sheet
 - c. 20% student vote
 4. Tie on the Varsity
Judges’ score will break the first tie.
- E. Vacancies
1. If a cheerleader/mascot is removed, leaves the squad, or has more than one failing six weeks grade during the tryout year; the replacement will be the candidate with the next highest score.
 2. Only vacancies occurring before the squad attends camp will be filled.
 3. Cheerleader/mascot receiving 10 demerit points will be dismissed from the squad. Awards may be forfeited.
 4. Any cheerleader/mascot choosing to resign from the squad or who withdraws from school must turn in a written resignation to the sponsor and the principal. Cheerleading award may be forfeited.
- F. Head Cheerleader
1. The Varsity head cheerleader must have been on the Varsity squad the prior year and will be chosen by the following criteria. The Junior High head cheerleader will also be chosen by this criteria but previous experience is not required.
 - a. Judges Score – 30%
 - b. Cheerleader Vote – 40%
 - c. Sponsor interview/questionnaire – 30%

III. RULES

- A. Attendance
1. Cheerleaders/mascots are expected to be at all scheduled practices and games. A list of the required games will be issued at the beginning of each athletic season or as requires changes by sponsor.
 - a. Sponsor will decide which events to attend.
 - b. Sports may include, but are not limited to: football, basketball, power-lifting, baseball, UIL events, and softball.
 2. All school and UIL attendance policies apply.
 3. Absences will be deemed excused/unexcused at the sponsor’s discretion. IE. If a student has an excused absence from school, the absence is excused. Missing practice because of work is unexcused.
 - a. Prior notification of an absence is preferred.
 - b. It is the responsibility of the cheerleader/mascot to notify the sponsor of an absence.
 - c. The student will bring a signed note by a parent/guardian to the sponsor explaining the absence.

- d. Doctor's appointments will be excused only with a doctor's note.
4. Practice for another activity is not an excuse for missing a performance and demerits will be given.
5. Cheerleaders participating in other school activities must cheer required games.

Practices

6. Cheerleaders/mascots are required to attend all scheduled practice sessions.
7. Scheduled practices will include:
 - a. Summer practices – dates, times, and locations will be determined by sponsor.
 - b. Summer Camp – date and location determined by the sponsor. All cheerleaders/mascots must attend camp. Varsity and Jr. High cheerleaders may attend camp at separate locations.
 - c. School practices – will be set by sponsor.
8. No boyfriends/girlfriends are allowed at practices.
9. Cell phones at practices will be put on silent mode or turned off. Cheerleaders may not check messages or answer cell phone during practices.
10. Cheerleaders must practice with the sponsor or designee present.
11. A cheerleader/mascot missing practice may be removed from the cheers/routine for the performance.
12. Most practices will take place during the week; however, it may be necessary to practice on weekends and school holidays.

B. Transportation

1. All cheerleaders/mascots will be required to ride the school provided transportation to and from all away games and activities.
2. Cheerleaders/mascots will be allowed to ride home from away games ONLY with a parent or guardian and only with prior administrative permission.

C. Uniforms

1. The sponsor and the principal will approve uniforms. Uniforms and equipment purchased by the school will bear the school name and/or mascot only.
2. Cheerleaders/mascots will be required to purchase shoes, socks, briefs, camp clothes, game day clothes, leggings, cold weather wear, and other personal items.
3. Cheerleaders/mascots will be responsible for proper care of the uniforms.
4. Cheerleading equipment should be used by cheerleaders only. Non-cheerleaders must receive permission from the sponsor.
5. Cheerleaders will not wear camp clothes or uniform prior to camp without sponsor permission.

D. Appearance

1. Cheerleaders/mascots will wear uniforms correctly at all times. (ie unzipped skirts, rolling the waist band of the skirt, sports bra or bra straps showing, etc. is considered incorrect)
2. When in public view, full uniform must be worn
3. Cheerleaders/mascot will wear a sponsor-approved uniform to school on game days. If dressing for the theme - dressing must be appropriate.
4. Cheerleader/mascot will be in correct uniform at all performances. All cheerleaders will look exactly the same.
5. Cheerleader/mascot will wear sponsor-approved clothing when representing the school at activities in which the uniform is not worn.
6. Jewelry will be limited to small stud-type earrings ONLY.
7. Hair will be neat and safely pulled away from the face and shoulders Standard style will be hair up in ponytail. Sponsor will determine style of hair at each game.
8. Any cheerleader out of uniform at a performance will sit out until the correct uniform is put on. (Demerit Points will be assigned)

IV. EXPECTATIONS

A. Cheerleaders/mascots:

1. Promote school spirit
2. Work to maintain a quality organization
3. Plan activities under the direction of the sponsor
4. Provide cheers, chants, skits, signs, etc. that:
 - a. Are in good taste
 - b. Are approved by the sponsor
 - c. Contain no racial reference
 - d. Contain no reference to controversial topics
 - e. Will not embarrass any participant or member of the audience
 - f. Does not antagonize the opponent's team or fans
 - g. Does not imitate or make fun of the opponent's players, cheerleaders, or fans

B. General Performance Guidelines

1. Cheerleaders/mascots will kneel when a player is hurt.
2. Cheerleaders/mascots will not chew gum or eat while performing.
3. Cheerleaders/mascots will be ready to cheer at the designated time depending on the sport.
4. Cheerleaders/mascots will take down signs and throw away trash after both pep rallies and games.
5. Cheerleaders/mascots will stand at attention when not cheering.
6. Cheerleaders/mascots will pay attention to the game.
7. Cheerleaders/mascots will keep discussions during the game relevant to the job.
8. Cheerleaders/mascots will not talk to or people in the stands, or go into the stands unless directed to by sponsor, etc.
9. Cheerleaders/mascots will cheer alone if necessary.
10. Cheerleaders/mascots will not leave assigned area without permission from the head cheerleader, or sponsor.
11. Cheerleaders/mascots will clean up area after game and practice.
12. Cheerleaders/mascots will sign out with sponsor after EACH performance.

C. Play-off guidelines

1. Because sports play-offs are not an event that can be planned in advance, cheerleaders/mascot must be flexible to scheduling during this time.
2. Practice 1-2 times per week
3. Plan pep rally to be held during school day or at night.
4. Attend playoff games/events

D. Mascot

1. The mascot(s) will learn the words to the cheers and chants.
2. The mascot(s) will make spirit signs to use.
3. The mascot(s) will be responsible for a routine during designated pep rallies and any time when told to prepare one. (Skits must be approved by sponsor)
4. The mascot(s) will show and demonstrate enthusiasm and spirit both in and out of uniform.
5. The mascot(s) will wear the "bulldog" suit when appropriate and approved by the sponsor. When not wearing the "bulldog" suit, the mascot must wear sponsor-approved clothes.

V. PROJECTS AND FUNDRAISERS

Fundraisers and projects are an integral part of a successful program

- A. Cheerleaders/mascot will participate in projects and fundraisers scheduled by the sponsor.
- B. With cheerleader cooperation, fundraisers will be conducted prior to summer camp to raise money to pay for camp. Each cheerleader will be responsible for raising a portion of his or her monies for camp.
- C. Fundraisers conducted after August 1st will benefit the activity account for that squad.
- D. Fundraisers often take place on weekends.
- E. Fundraiser money may not be used to pay for personal expenses.

VI. Letter Requirements

- A. Varsity cheerleaders/mascots only are eligible to letter in cheerleading.
- B. Varsity cheerleaders/mascots will receive letter jackets during their first year as a varsity cheerleader.

VII. DISCIPLINE MANAGEMENT

A. Point System

1. Points will be issued by the sponsor. A list of behaviors and number of points are as follows:
 - a. Wearing inappropriate jewelry with uniform – 1
 - b. Not properly dressed for practice –1
 - c. Hair not following guidelines of performance – 1
 - d. Chewing gum or eating while performing – 1
 - e. Being out of correct uniform – 1
 - f. Unexcused Tardy or leaving early from practice –1
 - g. Failure to bring excuse when absent –1
 - h. Failure to sign out after performance –1
 - i. Unexcused tardy to a performance –2
 - j. Leaving early from a performance (this includes bus departure times) –2
 - k. Unexcused absence from practice – 2
 - l. Profanity/inappropriate behavior any time –2
 - m. Disrespect - 1 to 3
 - n. Unexcused absence from a game – 3
 - o. In-School suspension –1 to 3
 - p. AEP will result in immediate removal from the squad
 - q. Not meeting outlined expectations – sponsor discretion
 - r. Violations not specifically listed – sponsor discretion
 - s. The cheerleader uniform and practice uniform may not be worn on a non-activity day during the season – 1
2. Consequences
 - a. Four demerits will cause a cheerleader/mascot to not participate in a pep rally, two quarters of a game or the equivalent of any other activity.
 - b. Six demerits will cause a cheerleader /mascot to not participate an entire game or the equivalent of any other activity.
 - c. Eight demerits will cause a cheerleader/mascot to be suspended from all cheerleading/mascot activities for a period of one week. At this time an individual contract will be written and signed by the cheerleader, sponsor, and principal.
 - d. Ten demerits will cause a cheerleader/mascot to be dismissed from the squad.
3. Cheerleader/mascot not allowed to participate may be assigned other responsibilities by the sponsor. Cheerleaders not participating must be in attendance and in designated area.
4. If a violation is also a violation of school rules, the consequences specified by the school shall apply in addition to any consequences specified by the organization.
5. Cheerleaders/mascots dismissed for any reason from the squad are not eligible to try out the following year. (lose award)

VIII. SPONSOR DUTIES

- A. Sponsor will attend all games, activities, and practices to monitor progress and performance of the squad.
- B. Each sponsor has the authority to set specific guidelines for his or her squad.
- C. Sponsor will secure travel arrangements for the squad.

IX. EXPENSES

- A. All expenses must be paid by check or money order before the scheduled camp date. Checks must be made out to Bosqueville ISD. Absolutely no camp clothes, uniforms, etc. will be dispersed to the cheerleader until balance has been paid in full.
- B. Payment Schedule
 1. April 1st - \$200.00 deposit on uniform/camp clothes
 2. May 1st – 2nd payment for Uniform money due (if this option is chosen)

3. June 1st or 2 days prior to the first day of camp (which ever comes first) – Personal items and camp balance due. (Cheerleaders/mascots will not be eligible to attend camp if balance is not paid. Removal from squad will result)
4. Failure to make timely payments will result in removal from the squad until payment is received.
5. Submitting a NSF check may result in mandatory removal from the squad.

Any publication approved by the Board of Trustees is considered to be school district policy; therefore, this document will not be all- inclusive. If written Board of Trustees' policies or directives on a subject do not exist, written guidelines, decisions, and actions of the sponsor will prevail.

Both the candidate and the parent/guardian must sign this page BEFORE a candidate may tryout for cheerleader or mascot.

I have read the Bosqueville Independent School District's Cheerleading/Mascot Guidelines. I understand the rules, consequences, commitment, responsibility, and expense involved in cheerleading. I agree to follow the guidelines as set forth in this document. I further understand that cheerleading can be a hazardous sport and I will not hold BOSQUEVILLE ISD or sponsors responsible in case of accident or injury. I understand a UIL physical exam form must be on file with the high school after tryouts and before cheerleading duties begin in June, if one is not currently on file.

Estimate of expenses

Cheerleaders/mascots will be responsible for the following estimated costs.

Camp fee*	\$300
Skirt	\$150
Shells	\$130
Camp Clothes	\$200
Shoes	\$100
Poms	\$50
Leggings	\$21
Briefs (1 pair)	\$20
Megaphone	\$50
Weather gear	\$150
TOTAL	\$1171

*****This is only an ESTIMATE of expenses*****

* Camp fee depends on location
The camp fee will be reduced depending on the amount of fundraising done prior to camp.

Signature of Candidate _____

Date _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____

Date _____

Please check the position you will be trying out for:

- Jr. High Cheerleader (current 6th graders and 7th graders)
- Varsity Cheerleader (current 8th graders, Freshman, Sophomore, and Juniors)
- Varsity Mascot (current 8th graders, Freshman, Sophomore, and Juniors)