

BAPTIST ACADEMY

CHEERLEADING HANDBOOK

Article I: Eligibility Status

- Section 1: Cheerleaders must pass their core subjects each 9-week grading period to remain eligible. Two D's or one F results in Academic Probation.
- Section 2: All cheerleaders are subject to the same eligibility rules that apply to all other athletes.
- Section 3: All cheerleaders must have a physical form on file in the athletic office stating that they are physically fit to participate in high school athletics.
- Section 4: Cheerleaders are not to be a behavior problem in the classroom or halls and will not violate school rules.
- Section 5: All cheerleaders must fill out a Medical Treatment/Liability Release form, have it signed by their parents, and return it to the Cheerleading Coordinator. (See Medical Liability Form)
- Section 6: All cheerleaders must sign and return the Handbook Agreement Form prior to trying out for any squad. (See Policies and Procedures Form)

Article II: Try-outs

- Section 1: Each applicant must have her parents sign a try-out consent form and return it to the Cheerleading Coordinator to be eligible to try-out. (See Try-out Consent Form)
- Section 2: Each applicant must be enrolled for the upcoming school year prior to try-outs.
- Section 3: The number on each squad will be determined each year by the Cheerleading Coordinator, the Athletic Council and the Administration.

Article III: Financial Obligations

- Section 1: Each cheerleader must pay the amount to cover the cost of her shoes, socks, bodysuits, and briefs.
- Section 2: All Cheerleaders must attend cheerleading camp.
- Section 3: Each cheer family must participate in scheduled fundraisers to contribute to the Cheer Program.

Article IV: Apparel

- Section 1: Cheerleaders will wear their uniforms on the day of games.
- Section 2: Cheerleading uniforms are to be machine washed and professionally pressed. This is to be done every few weeks and at the end of the season.

- Section 3: Cheerleaders' hair must be pulled back and secured from their faces during practices and games.(per safety rules)
- Section 4: Absolutely no jewelry is to be worn at practices or games. Cheerleaders are not permitted to wear piercing other than the ears at any cheerleading event. (practices, games)
- Section 5: Cheerleaders must take proper care of her uniform, warm-up, and all other loan items. Any missing, lost, or damaged items will result in the cheerleader paying the replacement costs.
- Section 6: Cheerleaders are required to turn in all loan items at the end of the season. Loan items include shells, skirts, jackets, pants, bags, bows, and any other loan items assigned. Failure to do so will result in their report card being held until we receive the items or payment for the items. If by the end of the school year they have not been turned in, the amount for those items will be added to the Cheerleaders school bill.

Article V: Attendance

- Section 1: Cheerleaders are required to attend all practices, special meetings, spirit activities and the games to which they are assigned.
- Section 2: Cheerleaders will not be excused from practices, meetings, spirit activities, fundraising events or assigned games except for illness or severe family hardships. All regular appointments (i.e.: doctor, dentist, etc.) should be scheduled on non-practice days.
- Section 3: BA Cheerleaders will need to put cheerleading before other extra-curricular activities. Other extra-curricular activities include jobs or other non-school activities. Co-curricular (academic) activities take precedence over cheerleading activities
- Section 4: Cheerleaders are to be at school the day before and the day after a game. An unexcused absence the day before or the day after a game will result in that cheerleader not cheering in the next game. However, she must be in full uniform and sit with the coach.
- Section 5: Unexcused absences from practices, meetings, spirit activities, fund raising events, or assigned games could result in a suspension or dismissal from the team, which will be determined by the Cheerleading Coach and the Athletic Council.
- Section 6: Cheerleaders will arrive no later than one hour prior to game time unless otherwise instructed by their coach. Tardiness will not be tolerated.
- Section 7: When attending a game, but unable to cheer (for any physical/disciplinary/ineligibility reason), you must sit with your coach. Full uniform must be worn during the game.

Article VI: Transportation

- Section 1: Cheerleaders must ride to and from away games on a fan bus, a team bus, be with at least one athlete's parent or have a signed note from a parent stating that they may leave the away site in the company of an adult.
- Section 2: Cheerleaders are responsible for their own transportation to practices and home games.

Article VII: Spirit Activities

- Section 1: Cheerleaders will carefully plan pep sessions.
- Section 2: Cheerleaders must participate in cheerleading fundraising events.
- Section 3: Cheerleaders are required to attend the winter sports banquet.
- Section 4: All cheerleaders will learn every cheer and need to be ready and able to perform them with the team. Not learning cheers can result in suspension or dismissal from the team.

Article VIII: Cheerleading Support

- Section 1: Cheerleaders are to be leaders on and off the court. They are to be loyal to their school and what it stands for.
- Section 2: Cheerleaders must promote good sportsmanship during the games and discourage booing and unsportsmanship-like conduct in the stands.

Article IX: Discipline

- Section 1: Any cheerleader violating any section of the cheerleading constitution will receive disciplinary action.
- Section 2: Any cheerleader who talks inappropriately about their school, church, or any other cheerleader's church will be dismissed from the cheerleading squad permanently.
- Section 3: Any discipline received is not to be discussed with others.
- Section 4: Any discussion of any problem on the cheerleading squad, except with the coach and/or administration or persons immediately involved, is absolutely forbidden! All problems, no matter how small, should always first be reported to the coach.

Article X: Captain and Co-Captain's Duties

- Section 1: To keep members of the squad aware of all practices, games, rallies special events, etc.
- Section 2: Make sure everyone has taken their jewelry off before any practice or game.
- Section 3: Report any conduct complaints, uncooperative behavior, or squad problem to the coach.
- Section 4: Welcomes visiting cheerleaders when they arrive and decide half time order.
- Section 5: Take charge of practice if the coach is late or absent of regular coach.
- Section 6: Make sure all cheerleaders are stretched out and ready for practice or game.
- Section 7: She must be ready to call a time out cheer. There should be no delay in starting.
- Section 8: She must maintain an exceptionally good attitude and be a leader in every aspect.

Article XI: Cheerleading Awards

- Section 1: Varsity Cheerleaders will receive a letter with a megaphone pin after the completion of the first season in which it is earned.
- Section 2: An additional megaphone will be presented thereafter.

Article XII: Miscellaneous

- Section 1: No cheer, stunt, or pyramid will be used at a game or pep session until it has been practiced and approved by the coaches.
- Section 2: No stunt or pyramid will be performed without a cheerleading coach being present.
- Section 3: Cheerleaders are not to visit or socialize with anyone – including other cheerleaders – during a game. Exception: the giving of instruction by the captains.
- Section 4: Cheerleaders are not to chew gum during practices or games.
- Section 5: Cheerleaders and coaches are to follow the safety guidelines as outlined by the NFHS Spirit rulebook.

BAPTIST ACADEMY CHEERLEADING TRYOUT CONCENT FORM & HANDBOOK AGREEMENT

_____ has my permission to **tryout** for a 2008 - 2009 Baptist Academy cheerleading squad, and if elected, we assure that we are responsible and understand the cheerleading handbook

Parent or Guardian

Date

I have read the cheerleading handbook and agree to comply with all requirements. I also assure that I am willing and fully responsible to uphold my position as a cheerleader as stated in the handbook.

Cheerleader

Date