

Cheer & Mascot Handbook



2024-2025

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Purpose

Being a cheerleader is an honor and a special privilege. Cheerleaders should exemplify both individual and group behavior suitable to their position and in accordance with the rules as stated in the SDISD Code of Conduct.

Cheerleaders are expected to display:

- ❖ School and Community Pride
- ❖ Spirit
- ❖ Tradition

Cheerleading exists to promote:

- ❖ Good Sportsmanship
- ❖ Ambassadorship
- ❖ Support of Academic Excellence
- ❖ Leadership Experiences
- ❖ Team Camaraderie

Because of these responsibilities, members of the cheerleading squad will be **expected to maintain a higher standard of behavior both on and off campus** and academic achievement than that of their peers.

Membership Responsibilities and Expectations

- ❖ **Cheerleading is a year-long sport.** Cheerleaders are expected to follow all guidelines and regulations as documented in the Cheerleading Constitution from the tryout date until the end of the next school year.
- ❖ **All varsity cheer members will cheer for all varsity events and designated payoff games for varsity.**
- ❖ **All JV cheer members will cheer for all JV events with the exception of parents night (football), homecoming, and designated playoff games for varsity.**

- ❖ Cheerleaders must be present and on time for all activities. **Total commitment to the squad is expected.**
- ❖ All Cheerleaders must follow the state's "No pass, No play" policy.
- ❖ Cheerleading camp and summer practice attendance is **MANDATORY**.
- ❖ Excessive absences and tardies will not be tolerated. Consequences include benching, suspension, or dismissal (See demerit list below).
- ❖ **All students who participate in school activities must be in compliance with UIL attendance requirements.**
- ❖ **Practices** are mandatory and the practice schedule will be set by the sponsor. To participate in a practice a student must attend school a minimum of 4 consecutive periods, verifiable with the school PEIMS clerk. Practices on Saturday and Sunday, if any, will be at the sponsor's discretion and are **mandatory** during football season. **Practices** will begin in June before cheer camp.
- ❖ The cheer sponsor or campus administrator has the authority to excuse a cheerleader from practice. Excuses will be granted only in case of illness or emergencies. All routine dental, doctor, and other appointments must be made around scheduled practices. These are not considered emergencies and will not be considered excused absences.
- ❖ In the event of a member being pregnant, it will be the responsibility of the member and her parents to inform the sponsor or campus administrator. The member must submit medical certification from a licensed United States physician, stating that she is able or not able to participate in the required activities. In addition, the parents must sign a waiver releasing the school district and its employees of liability.
- ❖ It is **MANDATORY** that all cheerleaders participate in all fundraisers. Money raised goes towards the general cheer fund.

- ❖ Other spirit duties as assigned by the cheer sponsors will also be mandatory including but not limited to: locker decorations, posters, hallway decorations, etc.
- ❖ Cheerleaders under the direction of the head cheerleader and/or sponsor are responsible for planning pep rallies and assemblies. Pep rally groups will be assigned and must present an agenda to sponsor(s) at least two weeks before the scheduled pep rally date.
- ❖ Cheerleaders must ride the school bus to and from all away games. The cheerleader must return with the squad unless the parent submits a squad release form before the game indicating they are not traveling home with the squad. Cheerleaders will only be released to the parent/guardian unless previous arrangements are made.
- ❖ Cheerleaders will use halftime/intermission for restroom needs and concession purchases only. Cheerleaders will NOT walk into the bleachers or sit in the bleachers, loiter around the concession and bleachers, and/or go to the opponent's side.
- ❖ A cheerleader shall not sit in the stands or leave the squad while cheering and may not leave any activity, especially after pep rallies until dismissed by the sponsor(s).
- ❖ All SDISD cheerleaders will cheer/perform as follows:
 - ❖ Varsity squad at all Varsity football games, and playoff games. Tuesday Home district Volleyball games, Basketball, Baseball, and Softball home district games, and playoff games.
 - ❖ Junior varsity squad will cheer at home JV football games and as needed for other events/games. The JV squad will also cheer at two varsity games which are Homecoming and Parent's Night.
 - ❖ Junior High squad at all junior high football games and other BJJH sports events as assigned.

- ❖ At the annual Homecoming parade and Christmas parade.
- ❖ At all school-scheduled pep rallies.
- ❖ At any other event designated by the sponsor(s) or the principal.
- ❖ Cheerleaders are required to make posters, and spirit banners, decorate the gym, manage the sound system, put out mats, put mats away, clean up the gym after practice and pep rallies, and any other duty assigned by the sponsor.
- ❖ Cheerleaders will fulfill all **summer obligations** including the following:
 - ❖ Summer Cheer Camp
 - ❖ Mini Cheer Clinic
 - ❖ Summer practices and conditioning are mandatory.

Mascot Expectations

- ❖ The mascot shall symbolize school and community spirit used to enhance the tradition and emotions of its audience through exaggeration, characterization and entertainment.
- ❖ The same constitutional guidelines will apply to the mascot.
- ❖ The mascot will NOT be distracting during the National Anthem/Alma Mater.
- ❖ The mascot will not degrade game officials.
- ❖ The mascot will not dress or undress in front of a crowd.
- ❖ The mascot will not talk to the crowd while in costume and must remain in character while in costume.
- ❖ The mascot will not use lewd or obscene gestures.

- ❖ The mascot will be responsible for preparing and performing a short skit related to the theme at every pep rally in order to bring spirit to the student body. The mascot will be responsible for music and props related to the skit and will get sponsor's approval prior to the pep rally.

Uniforms and Dress Code

- ❖ All tattoos must be fully covered by a bandage to practice, events, and games.
- ❖ All piercings and other jewelry are to be removed before a practice, events, and games.
- ❖ No alterations should be made to the uniforms, unless approved by administration and sponsor(s). If alterations are made that cause the uniform to look inappropriate the parent/guardian will be responsible for purchasing another uniform.
- ❖ All cheerleader uniforms, practice wear, and accessories are the responsibility of the cheerleader. The parent/guardian is responsible for purchasing the replacement item.
- ❖ A cheerleader's uniform must be clean and free of stains at all times. Cheerleading shoes must be clean and white at all times. On game days, all cheerleaders are required to wear designated attire to school.
- ❖ Any item ordered specifically for cheerleader use is not to be worn by anyone other than the cheerleader and only on designated days.
- ❖ Hair must be styled neatly and uniformly in the manner designated for practices, events, and games.
- ❖ Cheerleaders must follow a practice wear schedule designated by the sponsor.
- ❖ No additional items may be worn with the uniform unless approved by the sponsor. (ie.mums, necklaces, pins)

Conduct

- ❖ The San Diego ISD code of conduct will be strictly enforced in all cheerleading activities throughout the year.
- ❖ Cheerleaders must cooperate with the sponsor(s), head cheerleaders, game officials, teachers, and other squad members at all times. Failure to do so may result in the assignment of demerits and possible suspension.
- ❖ No chewing gum, eating, or drinking at any time while cheering. This includes practice. (Water is permitted.)
- ❖ Squad members are required to be courteous, polite, friendly, and to have a smile for everybody.
- ❖ Everything about a squad member's cheers and chants should be positive and sportsmanlike in manner.
- ❖ **Squad members will make every attempt to ignore or dissuade negative responses at events and not become involved in such actions themselves. Cheerleaders are expected to maintain composure and vent later.**

Social Media Expectation

- ❖ Maintaining a higher standard of conduct will also include ensuring that cheerleaders' websites are appropriate. The internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible form of communication. Any communication such as Facebook, Twitter, SnapChat, photo sharing, etc. appearing on the internet is public domain even if marked private. Cheerleaders are responsible for their personal websites and postings as well as for postings on other students' websites. The area of appropriateness will include, but are not limited to, language (abbreviated or alluding to), pictures, suggestive poses, clothing, reference to alcohol, drugs, and tobacco. Any questions of appropriateness

will be decided by the principal and sponsor (See demerits and consequences below).

Therefore, the San Diego Cheerleading squads Social Media and Texting Policy will be as follows:

- ❖ Cyber bullying in any form will not be tolerated. Cyber bullying will be considered by occurrence, and consequences will be assigned.
- ❖ Specific mention of Vaqueros/Bronc Riders Cheer Squads must be positive in nature.
- ❖ Students are not to post negative content in regards to any squad or squad member on any social media site or through texts.
- ❖ Students are not to respond negatively/aggressively to any posting or text.
- ❖ Students are not to use social media or texting to threaten other students or spread negative content.
- ❖ Students who are concerned about any posts or texts can ignore the comments, share their concerns with their parents, or notify the sponsors who will then handle the situation appropriately.
- ❖ Pictures and videos of members of the San Diego Cheerleading squad must not display inappropriate or illegal behavior. This includes any posts in or out of uniform, and during or outside of school activities.
- ❖ All electronic communication to the squad shall be directed by the cheer sponsor through the district-approved system.

Any posting on a social media site or use of texts which is offensive or in violation of the SDISD or San Diego Cheer Constitution may be subject to disciplinary action as outlined below.

In the event that a student's social media account or use of texting is found to be in violation of the policy either through (a) review of the student's social media page or text messages (b) a posting or text which is otherwise brought to the attention of cheer sponsors, the cheer sponsors reserve the right to impose discipline which may include one or more of the following:

1. A conference with the student to assign consequences (See demerit system below).
2. A written reprimand in the form of a probation notice.
3. Suspension from activities.

The severity of the discipline will be based on the seriousness of the infraction and whether there have been previous offenses by the student.

Squad Organization

- ❖ All SDISD cheer squads may be co-ed.
- ❖ SDHS Varsity squad will consist of the top 12 candidates with the highest-ranking scores. **All 12 candidates will cheer at varsity events only.**
- ❖ SDHS Junior Varsity squad will consist of the next 10 candidates with the highest ranking scores. **All 10 candidates will cheer at all JV events only with the exception of parents night (football), homecoming, and all playoff games for varsity.**
- ❖ BJJH squad will consist of 16 members; 8 members for the 7th grade with the highest scores and 8 members for the 8th grade with the highest scores.

Varsity Head and Co-Head Cheerleaders

- ❖ Head cheerleader must be a junior or senior with the highest ranking score who has previous experience on the SDHS varsity squad.
- ❖ Co-head will be the cheerleader with the next highest ranking score who is a junior or senior with previous experience on the SDHS varsity squad.
- ❖ In the event there is only one eligible junior or senior, or no eligible junior or senior; any sophomore who was a member of the SDHS JV squad in the previous year may have the opportunity to become Head and/or Co-Head for the varsity squad.

- ❖ If an eligible candidate does not wish to be considered for the captain, they may sign the opt-out form. The candidate will still answer interview questions as they are part of the general score.

Junior Varsity Head and Co-Head Cheerleaders

- ❖ Head cheerleader must be a sophomore, junior or senior with the highest ranking score who has previous experience on the SDHS JV squad.
- ❖ Co-head will be the cheerleader with the next highest ranking score who is a sophomore, junior, or senior with previous experience on the SDHS JV squad.
- ❖ In the event there is only one or no eligible sophomore, junior or senior; any freshman who was a member of the BJH squad may have the opportunity to become Head and/or Co-Head for the JV squad.
- ❖ If an eligible candidate does not wish to be considered for the captain, they may sign the opt-out form. The candidate will still answer interview questions as they are part of the general score.

Junior High Head and Co-Head Cheerleader

- ❖ Head cheerleader must be an 8th grader with the highest ranking score who has previous experience on the BJH cheerleading squad.
- ❖ Co-head will be the 8th-grade cheerleader with the next highest ranking score with previous experience on the BJH cheerleading squad.
- ❖ In the event there is no eligible 8th grader; any squad member may have the opportunity to become Head and/or Co-Head for the BJH squad.

- ❖ If an eligible candidate does not wish to be considered for the captain, they may sign the opt-out form. The candidate will still answer interview questions as they are part of the general score.

Officer Duties

- ❖ The head and co-head cheerleaders will be responsible for setting an example for the rest of the squad by following all rules and regulations for the cheerleaders.
- ❖ The duties of the head and co-head cheerleader are as follows:
 - ❖ Be at practice early and get practice started on time.
 - ❖ Lead warm-up activities.
 - ❖ Be responsible for having all necessary supplies ready for practice.
 - ❖ After consulting with the sponsor(s) contact all cheerleaders to notify them of practices, change in practice, and change in calendars, etc.
 - ❖ Be prepared for games and know what cheers, chants, etc. for games and pep rallies.
 - ❖ The head cheerleader should be able to take suggestions from the squad but has the authority to make decisions after consulting with the sponsor(s).
 - ❖ Select uniforms to be worn at all cheer events with the sponsor(s).
 - ❖ Organize pep rallies with sponsor(s).
 - ❖ Keep the cheerleaders in proper formation during the games.
 - ❖ Show no partiality within the squad.

- ❖ Report conduct complaints, uncooperative cheerleaders, or any other problems concerning the squad to the sponsor.
- ❖ Assist the sponsor in any activity and any other help that is needed throughout the year.
- ❖ The co-head cheerleader will assist in all the above activities and be ready to step into the head cheerleader's role in the event that he/she cannot perform her duties.
- ❖ In the event that the elected head cheerleader does not fulfill his/her duties, the sponsor will replace them with the co-head cheerleader.

Eligibility

- ❖ Candidates must meet current UIL eligibility requirements.
- ❖ A candidate must have had an overall 70 average in all classes including college level from the 1st semester and must meet the 90% attendance policy prior to make-up hours. (Students with previously documented medical excused absences that fall below 90% will be reviewed by the campus principal on a one-to-one basis to consider eligibility for tryouts. The campus principal's decision is final and may not be appealed.)
- ❖ A cheerleader candidate and mascot must clear all financial obligations before tryouts to be eligible. This includes but is not limited to; class dues, fundraising money, library fees, late fees, etc.
- ❖ Cheerleader candidates must be registered in school at the time of tryouts and must have been enrolled in SDISD for six weeks prior to the tryout date.
- ❖ Each candidate must turn in a completed tryout packet no later than the date of the parent meeting.
- ❖ Each candidate must turn in written certification by a medical doctor stating that she/he has passed a physical examination and is capable of cheering.

Documentation of proof is needed and is needed on or before the first cheer practice, February 12, 2024 (BJJH).

- ❖ Any cheerleader who was dismissed from a campus squad for disciplinary actions forfeits tryout privileges in the upcoming school year.
- ❖ Candidates may have no more than two minor disciplinary referral offenses for the current school year in order to try out.
 - Minor offenses as listed in the Code of Conduct and the SDISD Disciplinary Referral form include but are not limited to tardiness, unpreparedness for class, dress code violation, and minor class disruption.
 - Candidates may not have any OSS or DAEP placements for the current school year to try out.
- ❖ A candidate must attend the mandatory meeting prior to the tryouts with at least one parent or legal guardian in order to be eligible. The completed application is required to be eligible for tryouts and/or all practice sessions held immediately prior to tryouts.
 - ❖ Excused reasons for non-attendance at the mandatory first meeting are:
 - Illness-either student or parent, doctor excuse required
 - Death in the immediate family with documentation
 - Absence because of a school event or school sport

Tryout Procedures and Protocols

- ❖ Candidates will draw numbers for their tryout placement at mock tryouts, all numbers are final.

- ❖ Candidates will wear only designated colors for tryouts. Only plain and solid royal blue shorts and a plain and solid white t-shirt. Hair must be pulled up neatly in any style and only a gold, blue, or white bow will be allowed. Cheer shoes are preferred.
- ❖ Flowers, food, balloons, gifts, etc. **will not be** accepted in the school building on the day of tryouts.
- ❖ Once all candidates have drawn their numbers, a Cheer coach will record the number and the candidate's name. This sheet will be placed in an envelope and sealed until the tryouts have finished and it becomes necessary to record the name in order to announce the next year's Cheer team.
- ❖ Candidates will remain in a separate room until they have been called to the gym area. Only those candidates will be in the gym at that time.
- ❖ **Candidates are not allowed to have any electronic devices/cell phones during tryout sessions. Candidates will turn in electronic devices/cell phones to the sponsor prior to the tryout session. Any candidate keeping an electronic device/cell phone in their possession during the tryout session will be disqualified from tryouts.**
- ❖ All tryouts and practices are closed to everyone except candidates, sponsors, professional judges, and principals. Any other person/persons not directly associated with the tryouts must leave the building. All candidates will be held until all tryouts are completed.
- ❖ Score sheets will show the candidate's number—not their name.
- ❖ Judges will be identified as Judge #1, Judge #2, and Judge #3. Their names and judge numbers will be recorded on paper and placed in an envelope that will be sealed and kept with all score sheets and tryout documents. They will not be made available to parents.
- ❖ Judges will use a blue ink pen to mark their scores. If a judge desires to change a score, he/she must cross out the original score with a

single line, make the score change, and then initial next to the change.

- ❖ A minimum of 3 independent verifiers (individuals who are not directly associated with the Cheer program) will check each score sheet for accurate tabulation. Each verifier will initial next to the total score using a black or red ink pen.
- ❖ A candidate and parent or legal guardian will be the only individuals aside from administration and the cheerleading sponsor(s) allowed to view individual scores. Scores will only be available for viewing for 10 days after tryouts and may not be removed from the school, copied, or photographed inquiring about the scores of any other candidates will not be permitted under any circumstances.
- ❖ After each group of candidates has completed their tryouts, the score sheets will be collected and delivered to the verifiers. These will remain with the verifiers until tryouts have concluded. The verifiers will put them in rank order from highest score to lowest score. The judges' rankings will be validated against the verifiers' rankings.
- ❖ Results will be posted on the campus's main website on Friday night after tryouts. Only candidate numbers will be posted. ALL SCORES, RESULTS, AND JUDGE'S DECISIONS ARE FINAL.

<https://sdhs.sdisd.us/>

<https://bjjh.sdisd.us/>

Tie Breaking

***Judges will break tied scores by determining who scored highest in the following skills:**

1. Tumbling
2. Spirit and Enthusiasm
3. Jumps

4. Perform for judges again

For example, Candidate #8 and Candidate #12 both have total scores of 135. Candidate #12 scored higher in tumbling than Candidate #8, so Candidate #12 breaks the tie and becomes a member of the squad. Should the two candidates have equal tumbling scores, judges will look at their points for spirit and enthusiasm, and so on. In the event that scores are equal on tumbling, spirit, enthusiasm, and jumps, and both candidates are tied, they will be asked to perform again (individually) for the judges.

CALCULATION OF SCORES

The cheerleader evaluation sheet will consist of the following categories. **Each candidate (cheer/mascot) will be evaluated by three judges therefore will have three evaluation sheets.**

<u>Category</u>	<u>Points</u>
Jumps	15
Individual Chant	15
Individual Cheer	15
Spirit and Enthusiasm	25
Tumbling	25
Dance Technique	20
Interview	20
<u>Total:</u>	<u>135</u>

*** The max points that can be earned per cheer candidate is 405 points once the three judges scores have been added.**

The mascot evaluation sheet will consist of 5 categories:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Points</u>
Jumps	15
Skit Routine	15
Improvisation	15
Spirit and Enthusiasm	25
Interview	20
<u>Total:</u>	<u>90</u>

*** The max points that can be earned per mascot candidate is 270 points once the three judges scores have been added.**

Financial Obligations

- ❖ Cheerleading is an extracurricular activity which is NOT FINANCED BY THE SCHOOL and therefore all fees are the responsibility of the individual cheerleader. Remember: You must understand that being a member of the squad can be very costly. All cheerleaders must be prepared for the financial responsibility.
- ❖ The total estimated cost for each cheerleader will be **approximately \$2,000**. An itemized list will be given by the sponsor to each parent/guardian at the introductory meeting. This amount is merely an estimate to take care of judging fees, summer camp fees, camp equipment, and fees for uniforms, shoes, and accessories. Additional fees may be necessary throughout the course of the year in order to cover overriding costs for these items and other items.
- ❖ The remaining balance will be due in four separate payments (See payment schedule below).
- ❖ The full initial deposit will be returned to the candidate who does not make the squad via a check from central office within 5 school business days of tryouts (excluding spring break)
- ❖ A candidate forfeits membership on the squad if the candidate makes the squad but does not meet the second, third, fourth, or fifth payment by the required dates, and will not be able to have the previous deposits returned. **ABSOLUTELY NO LATE PAYMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED!**

Payment Schedule and Installment Prices

Payments	Payment Dates	\$ Amount
Parent Meeting Payment 1	February 12, 2024	\$250.00
Payment 2	March 1, 2024	\$250.00
Payment 3	March 29, 2024	\$500.00
Payment 4	April 26, 2024	\$500.00
Payment 5	May 22, 2024	\$500.00

****All payments must be paid using a cashier’s check or money order. No personal checks, cash or digital money (cashapp, venmo, etc.) will be accepted.**

Demerit System

Demerits will be issued when the action of a squad member reflects poorly on the team or school, creates a problem with the general operation of the group, detracts from or hinders the group performance, or fails to comply with instructions or guidelines issued by those in authority.

Attendance and Tardies

Late to practice, game, or other event	5 Demerits
More than 3 tardies or unexcused absences in a grading period	5 Demerits
Leaving practice or the practice area without permission	5 Demerits
Unexcused absence from practice (only 3 handwritten notes allowed per semester) after 3 absences, it will be considered personal leave and will not be excused unless it is a school related UIL event or illness documented by a doctor or health care professional.	5 Demerits
Being late after a break at a game or event	5 Demerits
Unexcused absence from a required event	10 Demerits
Leaving an event without sponsor approval	10 Demerits
Missing 2 practices in the week	Benched
Missing school the day after an event	10 Demerits

Attendance requirements during suspension from the squad:

1. Required to attend and participate in all practice sessions
2. Required to attend in uniform but not participate in pep rallies (sit with coach).

- Required to attend in uniform but not participate in athletic events (sit with coach)

Behavior

Hair in face or any untidy appearance (or as instructed by Coach)	2 Demerits
Wearing jewelry of any type during a practice/performance (unless sponsor approves)	2 Demerits
Not wearing appropriate attire (ie bow, shoes, correct uniform, socks)	2 Demerits
Visible tattoos	5 Demerits
Unclean or stained uniform	2 Demerits
Allowing someone other than a cheerleader to wear designated cheerleading garments	2 Demerits
Passion Marks (hickies)	5 Demerits
Using profanity of any kind during school or while in uniform	5 Demerits
Did not stay to clean up after each game/pep rally	2 Demerits
Unprepared for or failing to complete assigned tasks at pep rally, event, or game (ie pep rally routine, planning, missing pom poms)	2 Demerits
Public displays of affection (including kissing or inappropriately hugging)	5 Demerits
Not Maintaining Proper Sideline Behavior	
Using cell phones or other electronic device during practice or event	2 Demerits
Chewing gum at any practice or game	2 Demerits
Eating/drinking at practice (water permitted)	2 Demerits
Speaking to individuals not on the squad during a performance	2 Demerits
Insufficient knowledge of cheers, chants, dances, etc.	2 Demerits

Not standing in correct formation	2 Demerits
Excessive talking among cheerleaders during a performance	2 Demerits
** Disrespect during the National Anthem or both school songs	Benched for rest of event
Failing to stay peppy and enthusiastic for entire event	1 Demerit
** Unsportsmanlike conduct	Benched for rest of event

Misconduct **

Disrespectful Behavior, arguing, defiant, rude, or toward any school staff.	
1st Offense	5 demerits
2nd Offense	10 demerits
3rd Offense	Dismissal
Office referral for any reason	3 demerits
ISS	2 Week Suspension
DAEP	Dismissal
Cheating on a test or assignment in class	5 demerits
Refusing to cheer or dance at an assigned event	10 demerits
Inappropriate Social Media Postings	
1st Offense.	5 demerits
2nd Offense	10 demerits
3rd Offense	Dismissal
Any conduct resulting in arrest by law enforcement	Dismissal
Use or possession of tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drugs, or related	Dismissal

paraphernalia, or abuse of prescription drugs including photos and/or videos	
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* Denotes a misconduct demerit

Consequences for Receipt of Demerits

- ❖ **Ten Demerits:** If demerits are received during football season cheerleader participation is revoked for a period of one week. If demerits are received after football season cheerleader participation is revoked for the next scheduled activity.
- ❖ **Fifteen Demerits:** If demerits are received during football season cheerleader participation is revoked for a period of two weeks. If demerits are received after football season cheerleader participation is revoked for the next two scheduled activities.
- ❖ **Twenty Demerits:** The cheerleader will be suspended from the squad for the remainder of the school year. The student will be informed of the suspension in the form of a letter signed by the sponsor and the principal.

Note: Expulsion from the squad for an immediate dismissal disciplinary action forfeits tryout privileges for the following school year. In the event a cheerleader is dismissed from the squad for whatever reason or voluntarily quits the squad at any time REFUNDS WILL NOT BE ISSUED.

Drug Testing

The SDISD Cheer Program will follow the SDISD Drug Testing Policy as listed in the Student Handbook along with the SDISD Athletic Program Handbook when it comes to drug testing, any offenses, and consequences.

Cheerleader Awards (High School)

- ❖ **Varsity cheerleaders will be honored at the annual SDHS Sports Banquet with awards.**

Parent Information and Complaint Process

Parent Complaints As described in the district policy, parent(s)/guardian(s) are encouraged to first make every effort to resolve complaints or concerns informally. Parent complaints must be forwarded to coaches in written form (see Attachment B). Unless the concern is an emergency, concerns will be addressed the very next workday by the coaches. The forms must be fully completed to be considered. The coaches will not address any verbal concerns.

The following steps should be followed until the situation is resolved.

Step 1: Complete a Complaint Form—Schedule a meeting with the designated coaches assigned to cheerleading.

Step 2: A meeting with the designated administrator assigned to cheerleading should be scheduled.

Step 3: A meeting with the high school/junior high school's principal (not another assistant principal) should be scheduled.

Step 4: Thereafter, any parent(s)/guardian(s) who have a concern that has not been resolved informally may contact the Superintendent.

Note: The Superintendent will not acknowledge complaints unless this chain of command has been followed and the complaint form has been completed. Harassment of cheer coaches by parents (verbally, in writing, via email, or on social media) will result in 5 demerits for their child. In addition, communication with parents will only be allowed through district approved platforms such as Blackboard and/or Remind. Group Me application and group texts will no longer be used by the cheer sponsors and school administrators.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

This handbook cannot and does not address every issue that may arise in the cheer program. It is a guide to our discipline system and is not meant to be inclusive of every, or exclusive of any, situation. If an incident should arise that is not specifically addressed in this handbook, the coach(es) and/or school administration will address the matter on an individual basis. All decisions, if applicable, will reflect state laws and/or guidelines. All decisions made by SDISD administration are final. The resolution of any incident may not be shared with the team where confidential student matters are involved. This handbook may be adapted at any time by the coaches and/or administrators as needed. This handbook will also be reviewed and revised annually prior to cheerleading tryouts. We look forward to a successful new cheer season.

Principal

Cheer Coach

PLEASE READ AND SIGN THE RECEIPT OF THE SDISD SCHOOL CHEER PROGRAM HANDBOOK, THAT IS EFFECTIVE FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR. I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND ALL THE INFORMATION HEREIN AS IT PERTAINS TO CHEERLEADING AND THE ADMINISTRATION'S AUTHORITY TO MAKE FINAL DECISIONS WHEN NECESSARY.

Parent/Guardian

Student

Date

SDHS Cheerleading Squad Complaint Form

Student Name: _____

ID #: _____

Grade: _____

Date: _____

Concern/Complaint:

What remedy/solution are you seeking?

Your concern or complaint will be addressed at the next cheer coaches' parent meeting, unless it is deemed an emergency by the coaches. You will receive a phone call or letter in reference to your concern/complaint within 5 days of the meeting.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____