

Tivy High School

Spirit Organization  
(Cheer and Dance)

**Constitution**

Fall 2019

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### **Purpose:**

The purpose of the Tivy High School Spirit shall be to support athletic functions, to promote good sportsmanship among students and spectators, to encourage scholarship, and to set an example worthy of the position of leadership.

### **Leadership Responsibilities:**

Each participant should be cognizant of the responsibilities required and the commitment she is making to the school and to the student body. This is a position of responsibility and representation that should not be taken lightly. Each participant should be willing to cooperate with and be helpful to her officers and sponsor at all times. All actions should reflect the group’s best interest. Each participant must realize that the manner in which he or she conducts themselves while representing the school directly reflects on the school itself.

### **Parental Involvement:**

The success of being a member of a spirit organization depends to a great extent on parental support. Participants must have parental support to participate in the following:

1. Timely attendance at all required athletic events (including play-off games).
2. Fundraisers.
3. Timely attendance at meetings and practices before and after school.
4. Summer camp and special clinics.
5. Community events and performances.

**All duties, responsibilities, and decisions not discussed in the Constitution shall be left to the judgment of the sponsor and the school administration.**

When requesting a meeting with the sponsor, parents must call ahead to schedule appointment through email. On the field, at an event, or at meetings is not an appropriate time to have individual appointments and/or conversations with the sponsor. Texting a sponsor with concerns or questions that involve detailed explanations is inappropriate. Parents should not address their concerns to their sponsors via text message.

## **ARTICLE I**

The Tivy High School Spirit Members are governed by this Constitution.

## **ARTICLE II Term of Service**

- A. Term of service is defined as the period of time during which all members are subject to and may be held accountable for any violations of all rules and regulations as set forth by this constitution.
- B. Term of service begins with the date of selection and continues until the date of selection the following year.

## **ARTICLE III Eligibility Requirements**

- A. Academic
  - 1. All students must follow UIL guidelines.
  - 2. To participate, if selected, a student must maintain eligibility under the UIL guidelines.
- B. Participation Requirements
  - 1. Students who are eligible to participate must attend group practices.
  - 2. A student who becomes a member of the organization may participate in other extra-curricular activities. However, these activities may not interfere with practice or performances on a regular basis.
  - 3. Cheerleaders may order their letter jackets in November following the successful completion of their first varsity football season. Goldengirls may order their letter jackets in November following the successful completion of their second football season.

## **ARTICLE IV Tivy High School Spirit Participant's Constitution Conduct/Pledge**

Tivy High School Spirit Members are expected to conduct themselves in a manner which is acceptable, pleasant, cooperative, and efficient. As a member of the spirit program, you represent the program whether you are at school or in the community. A member whose conduct discredits or compromises the Tivy Spirit program's image or interferes with the rights or safety of others will receive disciplinary action up to and including removal from the program.

Each Tivy High School Spirit Participant and his/her parent must sign the Tivy High School Participant's Code of Conduct and Pledge. Additionally, participants are expected to know and abide by the rules and regulations contained in the THS Student Handbook.

Exemplary behavior is expected of participants under the jurisdiction and sponsorship of KISD schools. There is no acceptable reason for alcohol or illegal substances to be used by any student in our spirit programs at any time, nor are there acceptable reasons for KISD participants to be present where illegal or controlled substances activities occur at any time. Any participant involved with controlled or illegal substances, through confession, legal, or disciplinary chargeable events, will adhere to the outlined consequence progression (in addition to disciplinary and/or legal consequences that may apply).

Accumulation of **12 demerits will result in a suspension** from the next game (including the pep rally for that game). Demerits will be ongoing during the school year. Once a participant receives 10 demerits, he/she will serve a one game suspension. At 15 demerits will serve a two game suspension. At 20 demerits or a third suspension, the student will/may be removed from the program for the remainder of the year based on sponsor discretion.

Demerits will be issued at the discretion of the sponsor. In addition to possible suspension due to accumulated demerits, the participant will be required to perform physical exercise as an immediate consequence.

Demerits may be issued as soon as the squads are selected each spring and continue through the term of service. This includes summer practices and camp.

#### **Level A Conduct:**

#### **TIVY HIGH SCHOOL SPIRIT PARTICIPANT DEMERIT SYSTEM**

##### **2 DEMERITS FOR EACH OCCURRENCE:**

- *Late on the field or court after half-time; regularly late to practices*
- *Chewing gum during practice, game, pep rally, or other function*
- *Not wearing correct uniform accessories or missing pieces (ex: hair bow, designated cheer shoes, white socks, proper sports bra, leggings, body suit, hats, boots, etc.) to games and practice*
- *Hair not in neat cheer/dance pony tail or dance specific bun (high, full, all hair out of face) for practice, game, pep rally, or other function*
- *Leaving poms, jacket, uniform, equipment at a function or practice*
- *Wearing jewelry (belly button ring and stud earrings included) for practice, game, or other planned function*

##### **4 DEMERITS FOR EACH OCCURRENCE:**

- *Fingernails must be kept short and no colored or acrylic nails are allowed*
- *Not wearing proper uniform for game, pep rally, or other function*
- *Manipulating uniform (tailoring without permission or rolling waist band) to make it shorter or tighter*

##### **6 DEMERITS FOR EACH OCCURRENCE:**

- *PDA in uniform or while representing Tivy H.S. (only brief side hugs are acceptable. No holding hands, kissing, lap sitting, etc. at any time)*
- *Unauthorized cell phone use during practice, game, or other function*
- *Receiving an office referral or more than one discipline D-hall, including tardy referrals*
- *Cheating in class will result in suspension*
- *Using profanity, obscene gestures, or lewd innuendo in person or on social media*
- *Not having poms, megaphone, and warm-up jacket or letterman, or other uniform requirements for pep rally, game, or other function*
- *Not doing what you are supposed to be doing during a game or pep rally (not yelling words to cheers, not paying attention, not helping with duties, visiting, or sitting out)*

**Tivy Spirit organizations will follow the Extracurricular Handbook guidelines for significant behavioral transgressions on and off campus. Sponsors will provide the Handbook to their students and read through the expectations for all Tivy extracurricular participants.**

**Suspensions:**

- A. A member is put on suspension from games or performances for any of the following reasons:
  - 1. Failure to meet UIL eligibility requirement (No pass; no play.)
  - 2. Accumulation of 12 demerits from Level A Conduct Demerit System.
  - 3. An unexcused absence from school the day of a game, performance, or special practice.
  - 4. An unexcused absence as outlined in Article VI
  - 5. Negative attitude, rudeness, or dishonesty shown toward a coach or teammate.
  - 6. Receiving ISS assignment
  - 7. Financial obligation not being paid in full by due date set by sponsor
  - 8. Not participating in fundraising or volunteer events
  - 9. Inappropriate or disrespectful comment, language, picture, or use of a social networking site, or other electronic format (See details outlined in Article XIII)
- B. The first Level B Conduct offense will result in suspension from spirit activities for 30 school days.
  - 1. Any participant chosen for a position of leadership shall be removed from the position for the remainder of the school year. Sponsors will select replacements.
  - 2. If a participant is subsequently cleared of charges and found never to be in violation as supported by documentation, the suspension may be lifted by the sponsor.
- C. A member on suspension is subject to all rules and regulations of the organization but cannot participate in any of the scheduled activities and events in which the organization participates or sponsors, but must attend and participate in all practices that take place while on suspension.
- D. The member must continue to participate in fundraising for the organization.
- E. While suspended, the member must attend all home games and events and assume all manager duties and will stay with the sponsor throughout the games (and during 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter). Suspended participants will not be in uniform but will wear a spirit shirt and be in school dress code.
- F. Suspended participants will not travel to any away or playoff games with the team.
- G. Suspension from a game includes the pep rally for that game.

**ARTICLE V**

**Removal from the Organization**

- A. A member will be removed from the organization for any of the following reasons:
  - 1. Accumulating UIL ineligibility during two consecutive or three total grading periods.
  - 2. Accumulating 3 suspensions as outlined in Article IV, Suspensions, 1-9
  - 3. Any instance of blatant disrespect, dishonesty, failure to fulfill cheer commitments or any other instance deemed unacceptable by the cheer sponsor will result in removal from the cheer program and/or ineligibility for tryouts.
  - 4. The second offense of Level B Conduct
  - 5. The first offense of Level C Conduct
  - 6. Failure to attend summer camp (unless due to documented illness or family emergency)
- B. A member removed or resigning from the organization must turn in all equipment and uniforms to the sponsor immediately upon removal. Such equipment and uniforms must be in acceptable condition and clean. Failure to do so shall result in a financial obligation of the member.
- C. Financial obligations of a member removed or resigning from the organization must be met.
- D. Removal from the organization or resigning from the organization may eliminate the participant from tryouts for the following year.

**ARTICLE VI**  
**Absences and Tardies**

- A. The student must notify the sponsor prior to an absence from a performance or special practice. Any time missed due to tardiness must be made up with the sponsor.
- B. In order to miss any activity or performance without penalty, a member must have an excused absence and must contact the sponsor personally (parents or peers should not report an absence).
- C. Excused Absences:
  - 1. An excused absence is written and signed by the parent and approved by the sponsor; it may also be an excused absence from the school day.
  - 2. An absence from any practice, performance, or other activity will be excused for the following reasons:
    - a. personal illness or accident
    - b. funeral or death in the family
    - c. family illness or accident, with sponsor's approval
    - d. religious holiday
    - e. special school or other activities, with sponsor's approval prior to the absence
- D. Unexcused Absences:
  - 1. Any absence due to an event other than those listed above will be unexcused.
  - 2. Failure to notify the sponsor 24 hours prior to an absence from a performance, game, or practice will result in an unexcused absence.
  - 3. Leaving a required practice, game, or performance before being dismissed by the sponsor or without the sponsor's permission will result in an unexcused absence.
  - 4. Each unexcused absence will result in suspension from the next game or performance.
- E. A member must be in school all day in order to attend a practice or performance that afternoon or evening unless prior arrangements have been made with the sponsors.

**ARTICLE VII**  
**Summer Requirements**

- A. Summer Practice:
  - 1. Each Participant must have a physical form and travel release form on file with the sponsor prior to summer practice beginning August 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - 2. Summer practice will be one week before the first day of camp and one week prior to the first day of school.
  - 3. Attendance is required at all scheduled summer practices.
  - 4. One (1) unexcused absence from summer practice will result in the member not performing at the first game.
  - 5. All cheer stunting must have sponsor approval and supervision.
- B. Summer Camp:
  - 1. All Participants shall be required to attend a summer camp with the team. Failure to attend camp may result in dismissal from the team.

2. The camp tuition shall be the responsibility of the individual participant. Failure to pay tuition will result in dismissal from the team.
3. All rules and regulations as designated in the Spirit Constitution must be followed while attending camp.
4. All rules and regulations set by the camp organization must be followed.

**ARTICLE VIII**  
**School Practices and Performances**

- A. School Practice:
  1. Regular practice will be held during the assigned spirit class.
  2. Special and/or after school practice may be set by the sponsor as deemed necessary.
  3. Any member in attendance will be expected to dress out and participate unless excused by the sponsor.
  4. All cheer stunting must have sponsor approval and attendance.
- B. When there is a required out-of-town event or performance, all members must ride to the event in a KISD school bus and return to Kerrville in the assigned vehicle or parent vehicle with sponsor approval.
- C. Procedure to gain permission to return home from out-of-town events with a parent or adult only shall be as follows:
  1. Written request from parents.
  2. Consent of sponsor.
  3. The member will be released by the sponsor **only** to the member's parent, family member or to another Tivy parent (who has arranged prior permission) at the end of the event.
- D. Participants shall cheer/perform at all pep rallies, football games, home and designated out-of-town basketball games as scheduled by the sponsor. Attendance/ performance may be required at other athletic events.
- E. **Playoff games are especially significant.** Although they are not scheduled from the beginning of the season, playoff games for all sports are REQUIRED to be attended by all eligible varsity participants as designated by the sponsor. Both Cheer and Dance may be required to perform at various playoff games. Eligible JV may have the opportunity to participate in certain playoff events as designated by the sponsor. Participants are expected to make arrangements to attend. Participants who do not attend will earn a grade of 0 and 12 demerits.
- F. Participants must arrive at the performance area in the designated uniform with all required equipment.
  1. The participant uniform includes: bow, white socks, proper cheer shoes, designated skirt and top, bodysuit, leggings, briefs, and proper sports bra, boots, hats, gloves and all other accessories required. Nothing may cover the uniform except the warm-up jacket, the participant's personal letter jacket, or an assigned rain poncho.

**ARTICLE IX**  
**Fundraising**

- A. All members shall be responsible for participating equally and fully in any fund-raising projects.
- B. All fundraising projects must have sponsor and school approval.
- C. Profits received from fundraising projects shall be used to purchase equipment, uniforms, rewards, supplies, services, and scholarships as deemed necessary by the sponsor.
- D. Members who have not fully participated in required fundraising activities shall be financially responsible for their share of camp, uniform, and equipment expenses and will be suspended at the discretion of the sponsor.

**ARTICLE X**  
**Expenses**

- A. Each member shall be responsible for expenses incurred during the term of service. An estimate of projected expenses shall be given to all eligible candidates and their parents prior to tryouts.
- B. The sponsor must approve of any additional expenses not designated in the estimate.

- C. Any supplies or uniforms ordered by or for the organization must have sponsor approval.
- D. Each Participant is responsible for all uniforms and equipment issued to her. All items must be returned clean and in good condition. Restitution must be made for damaged or lost articles.
- E. All financial obligations must be paid by due dates as set by sponsor. Any debts not paid by due date will result in the member being suspended from performing until the account is paid in full.
- F. First time juniors trying out for varsity will have extra expenses due to missed fundraising opportunities.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **Captain and Co-Captain Elections**

- A. Varsity Officer Responsibilities:
  - 1. Officers for the varsity squad shall be chosen through an application and interview process.
  - 2. Any interested varsity member must submit his or her completed application by the deadline.
  - 3. Application details will be provided to all interested members after try-outs.
  - 4. Officers must be prepared to take on a great deal of responsibility and be able to act as leaders for the members of the organization. Candidates must be aware of and capable of performing in these important positions and be able to work closely with sponsors throughout their tenure.
  - 5. Duties of the Officers:
    - a. Coordinate activities with the sponsor
    - b. Notify squad members of the uniform to be worn for each performance
    - c. Lead warm-up activities and activate practice schedule
    - d. Delegate responsibility to other squad members
    - e. Be positive within the squad and set an example of leadership within the squad
    - f. Other duties as assigned by sponsor

## **ARTICLE XII**

### **Tryouts**

- A. Participants:
  - 1. Participant tryouts shall be held during the spring semester of each school year.
  - 2. Candidates shall be evaluated by trained and qualified out-of-town judges. Judges evaluations shall count as 75% of the candidate's final score.
  - 3. Candidates shall be given a Tryout Packet and list of Tryouts Regulations which must be followed.
  - 4. Spirit Candidates:
    - a. All candidates must be currently enrolled in Kerrville schools or be able to provide proof of residency for the following year.
    - b. All candidates must be present during the entire school day of tryouts and sign up for tryouts at least 10 calendar days before tryouts.
    - c. Juniors and sophomores may try out for the Varsity squad but based on their tryout score, they could make JV. Juniors trying out for the first time who have never participated in cheer may try out for varsity, but will be required to pay for their summer camp, summer camp attire and cheer equipment.
    - d. Incoming 8<sup>th</sup> graders may only try out for the JV squad.
    - e. All grade levels may try out for Golden Girls.
    - f. The sponsor will determine the teams needed and the number of spots for each team.
    - g. In the event of injury, discipline, eligibility issues or other unforeseen circumstances that require any number of JV girls to be pulled up to make a complete Varsity squad, the sponsor will determine which JV girl(s) are selected. This will not be based solely on ability, but leadership skill and maturity level will also be considered. The sponsor's decision is final. JV members may be pulled up to Varsity on a long term basis or on a weekly basis as determined by the sponsor.
    - h. If a participant resigns before summer camp, the sponsor may promote the candidate who is next in line from tryout scores if the level of ability warrants promotion.



- B. Mascot:
  - a. All rules and regulations for Participant designated in the Constitution shall apply to the student selected to be the mascot.
  - b. The mascot is a member of the Varsity Cheer Squad and participates fully with that squad. Try-out requirements and schedule shall be the same as for participant
- C. **Administration reserves the right to review and may disqualify any candidate that does not demonstrate citizenship, behavior, and academics befitting a role model of Tivy H.S.**

**ARTICLE XIII  
Social Media Guidelines**

Due to the increasing use of social media, photo posting, video sharing and other online venues such as Facebook, Instagram, MySpace etc, the following guidelines are established in order to help guide Tivy Spirit Organization participants and to establish parameters for acceptable use of social media as well as consequences for improper use of social media. Participants are responsible for any images of themselves and must be very mindful when others are taking photos of them while in uniform.

**A. Guidelines for Social Media use while in Tivy spirit uniform or dance costume:**

- 1. Whenever a student is wearing their Tivy uniform, they are representing the school and are an ambassador to the public at large and therefore any images of themselves in uniform must conform to the following guidelines:
  - a. Any images posted or published in any way by students, parents, and acquaintances while in uniform must have been taken **during the course of an official Tivy event while performing in their official capacity.**
  - b. Images taken in uniform any time BEFORE or AFTER an official event such as a pep rally, game, fundraising activity or any other school event or images taken or recorded during informal practices **should be appropriate and contain no questionable behavior or attire. Poses must not be suggestive or contain negative innuendo.**

**B. Guidelines for Social Media Use while NOT in Tivy spirit uniform or dance costume:**

- 1. As a member of a Tivy Spirit Organization, you must at all times adhere to the guidelines laid out in this constitution regarding acceptable behavior. Engaging in any activity outside of school or in school that could be construed as inappropriate or as a poor reflection on the high standards set for Tivy students is unacceptable.
  - a. Any participant whose image is posted or published in any way in which the Tivy Spirit Participant is seen in an atmosphere in which alcohol, cigarettes or any other type of drug is present will result in consequences outlined as Level B Conduct and could range from suspension to dismissal from the organization depending on the seriousness of the violation. The conduct pictured will be addressed regardless of the source of publication.
  - b. Any participant whose image is posted or published in any way in which Tivy Spirit Participants are seen holding an alcoholic beverage or a substance known to be alcohol, smoking, or engaging in other activities in which prohibited substances are in use will be subject to the above consequences as outlined as Level B Conduct.
  - c. Any participant whose image is posted or published in any way in which Tivy Spirit Participants are seen engaging in salacious activities, dressed inappropriately or scantily

or displaying vulgar or offensive gestures or using vulgar and offensive language will be subject to Level A or Level B Conduct depending on the details of the image(s).

- d. Images taken or recorded while on campus and not in uniform may not be posted or published if the participant is engaged in cheer or dance related activities.

- C. **Participants wishing to publish images under circumstances listed above may seek approval from their sponsor. Exact images may be shown to the sponsor for approval on a case by case basis.**

#### **ARTICLE XIV**

##### **Additions, Changes, Revisions**

These articles are guidelines and do not describe all circumstances in which an individual, the sponsor, or the team may find themselves, nor do they describe all policies or procedures which might affect the retention of a member of the program. The Tivy Spirit Program, under the direct supervision of the sponsor, reserves the right, at its discretion, to modify, augment, add, delete, change, or revoke any and all policies, procedures, practices, and statements contained in this Constitution as it deems appropriate in the circumstances and without prior notice. This constitution is institute to set forth the *minimum standards* for Tivy High School Spirit Participants. Requirements contained in the Tivy High School Code of Conduct also apply to this organization.