

Constitution of the Lewisville Independent School District Drill Teams The Colony High School Topcats Varsity Drill Team

ARTICLE I: PURPOSE

- A. The purpose of the LEWISVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT DRILL TEAMS shall be two-fold: to perform and entertain audiences through precision drill dances and to boost the morale and spirit of the school. The purpose shall also be to develop character, leadership, and individual responsibility in each member, while maintaining high moral standards. It is the drill team members' purpose to represent each high school in a manner which will reflect credit upon the school, as well as upon the members of this organization. Each member agrees to abide by the rules and regulations set forth in this constitution.

ARTICLE II: GOAL

- A. *The goal of this document is to develop a set of uniform guidelines for the Topcat Drill Team Organization at The Colony High School. These guidelines will focus on the proper implementation of tryouts, membership requirements, and performance expectations of the organization.*

ARTICLE III: ORGANIZATION

- A. *Dance Team membership is open to ninth, tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grade students. Students will specialize in advanced dance styles and technique. To become a member, the student must participate in a tryout procedure and follow rules and regulations set forth by the school. Requirements for competition team selection will be specified at a later date.*

ARTICLE IV: TRYOUT QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

- A. All candidates (students and/or parent) must attend the try-out information meeting or must contact the director prior to the tryout date.
- B. *All candidates will receive a tryout packet outlining projected costs, tentative schedules, and a copy of the pertinent parts of the Constitution/Handbook.*
- C. All candidates must attend all tryout practices. If a candidate misses a tryout practice he/she is automatically withdrawn from tryouts, unless the candidate has prior approval from the director.
- D. Each candidate for line membership will be evaluated and scored by a panel of three impartial, qualified judges. *Selection of line members will be based on a sum of the three judges (out of 300). Campus staff will tabulate all scores. The administrator and director will determine membership of the team based on a large break in the scoring array.*
- E. *Determination will be made based on tryout numbers, rather than candidate name.*

- F. To be eligible for tryouts Candidates must have on file:
1. Tryout application form
 2. Physical Evaluation Form—completed by a doctor
 3. Tryout Declaration Form
 4. Extracurricular Code of Conduct
- G. *Candidates must clear all financial obligations prior to tryouts.*
- H. *Candidates for an organization may submit to the organization's director a letter from a physician licensed to practice medicine in the United States, describing any serious physical injury that may have an impact on the student's ability to actively participate in the tryouts. The physician's letter must state; injury, limitations, and date for clearance to return to activity. The director will provide copies of the physician's letter to the tryout judges, on which the student's name will be redacted and replaced by the student's tryout number. The judges may use their professional discretion in scoring the candidate.*
- I. *Candidates who suffer a serious injury that may impact their ability to actively participate in the tryouts may submit a videotape that contains a demonstration of the student's current skills in high impact activities (e.g., jumping, turning, kicking, etc.), if such activities are affected by the student's injury. The videotape may not exceed 60 seconds in length and must be submitted on the day of tryouts. The use of videotapes at tryouts rests in the sole discretion of the organization director, whose decision is final.*
- J. LISD Transfer Students
1. Candidates must apply for a transfer within LISD for The Colony High School
 2. If the transfer is not approved before tryouts, a candidate that is placed on a team by the judges will not be an official member until the transfer is approved.
 3. If LISD denies the transfer for any reason, the candidate will not be made a member of the team.
- K. Anyone who meets the above qualifications will not be discriminated against because of race, creed, or handicap.

ARTICLE V: PERSONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- A. A candidate must WANT to be a drill team member. A candidate must be willing to accept criticism that will help attain improvement.
- B. A Candidate must understand that it is a privilege, not a right, to be a drill team member.
- C. A candidate must be willing to abide by rules and follow directions from the director and officers.
- D. A candidate must have good coordination and the ability to learn dances in a short period of time for performances.

- E. A candidate must be willing to participate in fund raising projects.
- F. A candidate must understand that any decision made by the director is in the best interest of the team.
- G. A candidate must understand that the schedule and discipline of a drill team member demands a high degree of determination, hard work, strength, dedication, self-discipline, and loyalty to the team concept.
- H. A candidate must get a physical yielding that he/she is physically able to complete all requirements of the line, including daily kicks and conditioning. Medical certification may be required if a health condition arises that interferes with his/her ability to participate. Communicating that certification to the director is the member's responsibility.
- I. A candidate will not be allowed to tryout if they fail to meet the director's expectations for behavior or directives during the clinic or on the day of tryouts.
- J. Students with visible tattoos or facial piercings will not be allowed to audition, as members are not allowed to have either.

ARTICLE VI: MEMBERSHIP

- A. There will be no set number of members. Membership depends on the scores of the candidates at tryouts.
- B. *Membership is for one year only. Members must re-establish their membership through auditioning each year.*
- C. Members will attend and participate in all athletic events, practices, and activities the organization is involved in. This includes projects to promote school spirit and assigned fund-raising activities.
- D. *Each member must give his/her time to participate in designated required activities. The individual should not hold a job or participate in an outside activity that will interfere with the student's involvement in the spirit organization.*
- E. Members must exhibit and maintain a satisfactory attitude toward school policies and regulations as well as a positive attitude toward the organization.
- F. Members may not have any visible tattoos, facial piercings or clear spacers at anytime during membership—this include summer break and holidays.

ARTICLE VII: MANNERS

- A. *Manners should be demonstrated at all times to adults, officers, and fellow line members. Mutual respect and politeness among members is expected.*

- B. All members should use the words “yes ma’am” and “thank you” to show respect for each other. The use of this language is not meant to belittle, but to teach the importance of being polite, giving, and receiving respect, and to use the mannerisms of a young adult.*

ARTICLE VIII: ABSENCES AND TARDIES

- A. Attendance at all Drill Team events is required. This includes but is not limited to line camp, all practices, pep rallies, varsity sporting events, and all other activities. This includes playoff games. Only excuses approved by the director will be accepted and each will be evaluated individually.*
- B. Excused absences include:*
- 1. Personal illness or accident*
 - 2. Funeral or death in the family*
 - 3. Special school activities which are approved in advance by the director*
 - 4. Religious Holiday*
 - 5. Weddings in the immediate family*
- C. Out of town trips, vacations, work, diver’s education, non-emergency doctor/dentist appointments, and detention, are not acceptable excuses for being absent or tardy.*
- D. To receive an excused absence from practice, a member must present a note in the form a parent or doctor. This note must include member’s name, date, reason for absence, signature and phone number. A note from a doctor must include the return to practice/activity date.*
- E. In the case of absence a parent/guardian must notify the director prior to the practice or performance, and the member must present the note upon returning.*
- F. If a note is not presented the absence will remain as unexcused. This may affect the student’s standing in the organization.*
- G. When a member is absent it is his/her responsibility to obtain any information and material that was missed and what will be required upon return.*
- H. Missing a practice may forfeit performing in the next scheduled performance.*
- I. Missing a game may result in performance penalties, demerits and/or probation.*
- J. A member may have no more than three (3) unexcused absences from meetings and practices. The member may not accumulate more than ten (10) absences from activities for the entire year. Absences in excess of thee (3) unexcused and ten (10) in total of the year may be ground for dismissal from the organization.*

ARTICLE IX: PRACTICE SESSION RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Practice will be required each day during a designated class period. All practice requirements for this time are structures and specified. Students in this class must fulfill specific requirements for performances, which will be evaluated by the director are for any other academic class.
- B. Before school, after school, and summer practice sessions will be required. Time specifications for these will be established as camp dates and other school schedules become available to the director. All sessions are mandatory upon notification of these dates and times.
- C. Members will arrive on time to practice and stay until they are dismissed by the director.
- D. Extra practices may be called if necessary and all members will be required to attend.

ARTICLE X: ROUTINE EVALUATIONS/ PERFORMANCE

- A. The director reserves the right to hold audition for performance routines throughout the year. *All candidates will be required to audition unless an exception for medical reasons has been granted. If auditions are required all team members must participate.*
- B. A member unable to meet the performance standards will not be allowed to perform in that particular performance, but he/she must attend the performance and assume his/her responsibility as a team member.
- C. *While student officers may be used to assist the director with auditions, under no circumstance will they assume the responsibility of determining who will or will not perform.*
- D. The director has the final decision on who makes the performances and all members will continue to rehearse each routine daily.
- E. Any member who misses formation settings, practice with the band, or performance day practice may be eliminated from that performance.
- F. Inability to perform:
 - 1. Any member who does not meet performance expectations due to illness, injury, or other circumstance may be excluded from that performance.
 - 2. Any member failing to meet grade requirements set forth by UIL guidelines will be expected to be present, dressed out and practicing with the team. ****He/She may not attend performances with the team and may not wear team oriented uniforms until eligibility is regained.**
 - 3. If a member is "cut" from a particular performance he/she must be present, dressed out, and continue to practice with the team.

ARTICLE XI: UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

- A. Members will buy their necessary drill team clothing as required.

- B. Members will wear designated items to practice.
- C. Proper uniforms will be worn at school and drill team functions as the director selects. Uniforms are to be kept in clean, good condition.
- D. Uniforms are to be worn ONLY when assigned and are to be worn by MEMBERS only.
- E. Uniforms are not to be worn to an event or place other than drill team activities.
- F. Each member will be issued field uniforms, costumes, props, equipment, etc., and assumes full responsibility for the care of these items.
- G. All uniform and costume items will be turned in prior to the end of the school year.
- H. Male uniforms will be up to the directors of the district. They will consist of the following:
 - 1. Dress shirt or polo in appropriate school color.
 - 2. Black dance slacks.
 - 3. Appropriate accessories such as a tie or bowtie.
 - 4. Males will not wear boots, drill team style belts, hats, gauntlets or sequins.
 - 5. Males will not wear make up.
 - 6. Males will follow all other guideline regarding piercings, tattoos, practice clothes etc.
 - 7. Any other attire worn for performances, such as pep rallies, contest or spring show, will be determined by the director.

ARTICLE XII: TRANSPORTATION

- A. Transportation will be provided by the school district. All drill team members are required to ride to and from drill team activities in the provided transportation.
- B. Only parental permission IN WRITTEN FORM, presented by the parent to the director will release a member to ride home with the parent only.
- C. Members will obey all bus transportation regulations.

ARTICLE XIII: FOOTBALL AND SPORTING EVENTS

- A. A complete uniform check will be held prior to any activity/performance. At that time the member should be and remain completely ready for the activity/performance. This includes hair and make-up.
- B. Members will sit in a group and participate in cheers and routines.
- C. There will be NO outside visitors in the stands, No food, drink (other than water), or gum in the stands.
- D. Members must conduct themselves in a responsible, lady-like manner at all times.

ARTICLE XIV: CONTEST

- A. *The drill team will attend various contests during the year, with the location and number attended at the director's discretion.*
- B. *All members must attend every contest unless on probation.*
- C. *Additional contest practices may be scheduled after school or on weekends.*

ARTICLE XV: SPRING SHOW

- A. *Spring Show is mandatory for all members*
- B. *Practice for Spring show may be held after school or on the weekends.*
- C. *Absences may eliminate a member from a dance.*
- D. *All members will be expected to helping with any projects for spring show as designated by the director.*

ARTICLE XVI: PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. *Parents must give their permission for their child to fulfill all the responsibilities of being a member of the drill team before she is officially accepted.*
- B. *Parents must be willing to meet all financial obligations involved in having their daughter as a drill team member. All payments are final.*
- C. *Parents are responsible for arranging transportations to and from all activities, expect when transportation is provided by the district.*
- D. *Parents are encouraged to participate in various Booster Club activities and fundraisers.*
- E. *Parents must be willing to cooperate with the director and keep her informed of dates that might conflict with drill team activities.*
- F. *Parents are encouraged to attend the booster club meeting once a month and sign up for volunteer committees throughout the year.*

ARTICLE XVII: DANCE OFFICERS

- A. *Officers will act as leaders of the drill team, both in and out of school. They will conduct themselves with dedication, determination, and devotion to this organization. All officers are expected to promote and represent the organization above reproach in all outside activities. It is the responsibility of the officers to assist the director with the performances or the team through choreography, teaching, and polishing of routines.*

- B. *The Dance Officers consist of a Captain and Lieutenants; number to be determined at the discretion of the director.*
- C. *The Captain the candidate must be on Topcats Drill Team for at least two years, must be a junior or senior, must be on the team at the time of tryouts, attend the tryout meeting, and attend all tryout practices.*
- D. *The Lieutenant candidate must be on Topcats Drill Team for at least one year, must be a junior or senior, must be on the team at the time of tryouts, attend the tryout meeting, and attend all tryout practices.*
- E. *Selection of Dance Officers will take place as follows:*
 - 1. *The performance of the candidate for officer will be evaluated and scored by a panel of three qualified judges. Selection of the officers will be based on the sum of the scores of the three judges, the director score, and the team vote.*
 - 2. *In the event of a tie, the judges will decide if there should be callbacks.*
 - 3. *The score will determine the rank of an officer.*
- F. *The director may remove the Captain or Lieutenants from their positions for the following reasons:*
 - 1. *Failure to uphold the responsibilities of their positions*
 - 2. *Accumulation of 10 or more demerits while in office*
 - 3. *Failure to maintain UIL eligibility due to failing grades*

ARTICLE XVIII: SERGEANTS

- A. *The Sergeants are responsible to the director for the morale of the team through activities, team bonding, member recognition, and parties.*
- B. *The Sergeants will consist of a Head Sergeant and a minimum of 2 other Sergeants as determined by the director.*
- C. *The Head Sergeant must be a senior unless there are 2 or less seniors trying out, then the position for Head Sergeant opens to juniors.*
- D. *Sergeants must be on Topcats Drill Team for at least one year and must be on the team at the time of elections.*
- E. *Selection of Sergeants will take place as follows:*
 - 1. *The selection of the candidate for Sergeant will be voted on by the team and director after presentations are made.*
 - 2. *In the event of a tie there will be a fun-off vote.*
- F. *The director may remove a Sergeant from their position for the following reasons:*
 - 1. *Failure to uphold the responsibilities of their positions*
 - 2. *Accumulation of 10 or more demerits while in office*
 - 3. *Failure to maintain UIL eligibility due to failing grades*

ARTICLE XIX: DEMERITS

- A. *A student may accumulate demerits at any time following membership selection. Demerits are issued for improper conduct. Demerits will not affect the grade but will affect active status in the organization. All demerits issued will be done so by the director and will be in effect for one semester. One demerit can be cancelled by earning three merits during the semester.*
- B. *Attendance and Tardies*
 - 1. *3—Unexcused absences from practice, game, meeting, or activity*
 - 2. *1—Exceed 3 tardies to practice, games, roll call, trips, etc.*
- C. *Uniform*
 - 1. *2—Failure to wear proper uniform when required*
 - 2. *5—Failure to remain in uniform*
 - 3. *1- Exceed 5 practice attire infractions*
- D. *General*
 - 1. *1-5—Disrespect towards director and fellow teammates*
 - 2. *1-5—Failure to fulfill assignments or instructions given by the director*

ARTICLE XX: MERITS

- A. *Merits can only be earned once demerits have been received. A student may cancel a demerit by earning three merits. Merits are in effect for one semester.*
- B. *Merits can be earned by*
 - 1. *6—Straight “A” report card*
 - 2. *1-10—Special assignment by the director*
 - 3. *1—Exceptional motivation and spirit*
 - 4. *3—Perfect attendance record for nine weeks*

ARTICLE XXI: CONSEQUENCES AND REWARDS

- A. *A member accumulating 5 or more demerits in a semester will be placed of probation until merits have been accumulated to offset demerits.*
- B. *A member accumulation 10 or more demerits will be dismissed from the organization and may be denied future participation.*
- C. *Eligibility for end of the year awards will be based upon the member being in accordance with the Constitution and the member having good standing within the organization.*

ARTICLE XXII: PROBATION AND DISMISSAL

- A. *Scholastic Probation*
 - 1. *If a student fails a class on his/her report card, he/she is on probation for 3 weeks. At the end of the 3 weeks, he/she must be passing all classes to regain eligibility.*

2. If a member fails a class for 2 consecutive report cards, he/she will be dismissed from drill team for the remainder of the school year. He/she may audition for a position on next year's team if he/she meets the following stipulations:
3. He/she must have failed only the 2 consecutive report cards that caused him/her to be dismissed from the team
4. He/she must meet all eligibility requirements for try-outs as stated in the constitution.
5. He/she may not fail another report card once he/she resumes his/her team membership. If he/she does fail again, he/she will automatically be dismissed.

B. General Probation

1. Failure to comply with any regulations as stated in the constitution may result in probation for the member in question until the reason for probation is corrected to the satisfaction of the director and the administrators.
2. A member on probation may not participate in performance activities, but is required to fulfill all other responsibilities.
3. *The length of probation from the Topcat Organization is 15 consecutive school days. Weekends are included but not a part of the 15 day probation.*
4. *A student must within the 15 day probation period complete an assignment as specified by the director to remove the five demerits.*
5. *A member violating this probationary status will be dismissed from the organization.*

C. Dismissal

1. Drill team members must display appropriate behavior both in and out of school. Dismissal from the team may occur for reasons including but not limited to:
2. Violation of drill team standards of conduct, grades and performance.
3. Violation of The Colony High School Student Handbook when the violation results in:
 - i. In-school suspension
 - ii. Placement in out of school suspension
 - iii. Placement in the Alternative Education Center
 - iv. Expulsion to the DAEP
4. Violation of the LISD Student Code of Conduct when the violation results in:
 - i. In school suspension
 - ii. Placement in out of school suspension
 - iii. Placement in the LISD Alternative Education Center
 - iv. Expulsion
 - v. Violation of the Extracurricular Code of Conduct
 - vi. 10 Demerits
 - vii. A member who is placed on General Probation twice.

ARTICLE XXIII: HANDBOOK

- A. *The Colony High School's Handbook whose guidelines may address some of the articles in this constitution in a more specific way. This handbook should be an extension of this document and shall not contain information that is contradictory to the information contained in the document.*

ARTICLE XXIV: CONSTITUTION FORMAT

- A. The rules and regulations in standard print are designated LEWISVILLE ISD rules and regulations.
- B. The rules and regulations in *italic print* are specifically for THE COLONY HIGH SCHOOL TOPCATS.

ARTICLE: XXV: CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

- A. The constitution is subject to change at any time due to Texas Education rule changes, or with approval from administration.
- B. If necessary, the director may alter rules in the constitution according to the situation.
- C. The Director may add Articles to the constitution as needed for the particular high school drill team.
- D. The Director may enforce other rules, as they become necessary during the school year, for the benefit of the organization.