

**SAINT JO ISD**  
**HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADER**  
**CONSTITUTION**  
**2012-2013**

**SAINT JO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY**  
**CHEERLEADER CONSTITUTION**

ARTICLE I – PURPOSE

- A. To promote school spirit throughout the year
- B. To encourage good sportsmanship among fans.
- C. To uphold positive relationships between schools during all athletic events.

ARTICLE II – TRYOUT QUALIFICATIONS

- A. Grade Eligibility – a candidate must have a 70 average on grades through the available last six-week period. All subjects are considered.
- B. Students must meet the 90% attendance rule for all classes.
- C. A permission slip explaining estimated expenses and other constitutional requirements must be signed by the parents or legal guardians and returned to the school prior to tryouts.
- D. Any student from the current year's 8<sup>th</sup> grade through the 11<sup>th</sup> grade may be permitted to try out for cheerleader.
- E. Once a cheerleader has been dismissed from any squad for failure to meet academic qualifications, or has resigned, the school administration may review the reason and grant an exception under certain circumstances. Student handbook violations will also be considered when determining qualifications.

ARTICLE III – TRYOUT PROCEDURES AND JUDGING

- A. High School squad will consist of 6 members and a mascot.
- B. Tryouts will be held during the spring semester of the school year.
- C. The 100 point scoring system will be as follow  
Total 100% =100% Judges
- D. Those trying out will perform as a squad and as an individual in front of the judges. Numbers will be drawn so that all participants will have an equal opportunity before the judges.
- E. Tryout material and specific format will be at the discretion of the sponsor.

#### ARTICLE IV- POST ELECTION PERIOD PROCEDURES

- A. The sponsor must choose all uniforms for cheering and camp
- B. A cheerleader is required to abide by the constitution immediately upon election.
- C. Cheerleaders should be familiar with the constitution and have memorized the school song and fight song.
- D. University Interscholastic League (UIL) guidelines will be followed. A six weeks grade below 70 will result in a suspension from all activities for the given period of time as defined by the "No Pass/No Play" guidelines. Cheerleaders will continue to be responsible for all duties for the school year.

#### ARTICLE V – SUMMER CAMP/CLINIC

- A. Summer camp and clinic are required for cheerleaders and scheduled by the sponsor.
- B. Any group attending a cheerleading camp/clinic is representing its school and must act accordingly.
- C. **Everyone must attend all classes.**
- D. Sponsor will attend camp/clinic.
- E. Rules not followed at camp/clinic: cheerleader will be sent home and dismissed from the squad.
- F. Hazing will NOT be tolerated. Hazing will be defined at sponsor's discretion.

#### ARTICLE VI-PRACTICE SCHEDULE & CHEERLEADING CLASS

- A. Summer practice is required.
- B. Only cheerleaders, mascot and sponsor will attend practice sessions.
- C. Summer duties will include preparation for camp and making spirit signs.
- D. Practices will be called by the sponsor.

#### ARTICLE VII-TRAVEL

- A. Cheerleaders are required to travel to all out of town football games as a squad. The sponsor will accompany them. The cheerleaders must ride the bus to and from the activities. If there are any special arrangements, the sponsor must be notified by the parents or legal guardian in writing prior to the departure of the cheerleading squad.
- B. Cheerleaders will only be allowed to ride with parents or legal guardians with written permission.

### ARTICLE VIII – ROLE OF THE MASCOT

- A. Work with all spirit groups
- B. Attend all practice sessions
- C. Use game antics to increase spirit
- D. Be organized at all times
- E. Know cheers and chants
- F. Wear appropriate uniform

### ARTICLE IX – MASCOT ELECTIONS

Refer to Article II

### ARTICLE X – PEP RALLIES

- A. Cheerleaders and mascot will wear the proper uniforms.
- B. The purpose of the pep rally is to instill good sportsmanship and to motivate those individuals in attendance.
- C. Cheerleaders will be expected to give 100% of their energies at all pep rallies.
- D. Post-season play in all sports – organized pep rallies with the approval of the building principal.
- E. All pep rallies will be pre-approved by the building principal.

### ARTICLE XI – GAMES RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. All cheerleaders must attend scheduled functions in accordance with the cheer sponsors schedule of events.
- B. Cheerleaders will be responsible for their assigned equipment. The cheerleader sponsor will set a rotation schedule for all equipment responsibilities.
- C. Cheerleaders will be at assigned games at least 30 minutes prior to the game.
- D. All cheerleaders must cheer at all football games (home and away), home District basketball games, and other games as assigned.

### ARTICLE XII – GROOMING

While practicing or performing, cheerleaders:

1. Will not wear heavy make-up, fake nails, or inappropriate nail polish.
2. Will not wear jewelry.
3. Will keep hair clean and pulled up into a ponytail.
4. Will not chew gum.

5. Will keep shoes clean for each event.

### ARTICLE XIII- UNIFORMS

- A. Uniforms must be clean and neatly pressed at all times.
- B. When in uniform or at practice, the sponsor will establish appearance guidelines and have the final say.
- C. All uniforms, at any required function will be exactly alike in its entirety, including, but not limited to socks, jacket, shell, wind suit, warm-up tights, etc.
- D. Cheerleaders will be expected to display no affection while in uniform.
- E. A cheerleader/mascot is responsible for all items issued to him/her.
- F. Skirt length will be at the discretion of the sponsor and building principal.
- G. All uniforms will be approved by the principal.
- H. No uniforms will be worn during regular class periods.

### ARTICLE XIV – COSTS

- A. Uniforms will be purchased by the cheerleader.  
Each cheerleader will purchase shoes, socks, tights, briefs and wind suits.
- B. Cheerleaders will be responsible for all camp expenses including tuition, room and board, camp uniforms, and spending money.
- C. Jackets and school emblems are optional.

### ARTICLE XV – CONDUCT

- A. Gum chewing and eating of candy will not be allowed when cheering or practicing.
- B. Refusing to participate in any cheerleading activity will result in immediate dismissal from squad.
- C. Cheerleaders may be suspended or dismissed for failure to abide by the terms of the cheerleading contract.
- D. Cheerleaders will be dismissed for smoking, drinking alcoholic beverages, or using illegal drugs at any time.
- E. Cheerleaders may be dismissed for truancy or any major disciplinary infractions listed in the Student Code of Conduct of Saint Jo ISD.
- F. Other improper conduct, as determined by the sponsor and principal, could result in suspension or dismissal from the squad.
- G. Suspension for improper conduct will be for a period of three school weeks. A second occurrence of any improper conduct will result in permanent removal from the squad.
- H. The following could be considered improper conduct. The list is not meant to be all inclusive:

1. Being at any gathering where alcohol is being consumed by a minor
  2. Riding in a vehicle in which a minor is transporting alcohol.
  3. Using false identification.
  4. Unexcused absences or excessive tardies.
  5. Lying to school officials.
  6. Public display of affection (example: "hickies", etc.)
  7. Any illegal activity such as shoplifting, theft, ect.
  8. Obscene language or gestures.
  9. Rude, hateful conduct directed towards students, teachers, fellow cheerleaders or staff.
  10. Cheating.
- I. A cheerleader is to behave in a manner that reflects positively on the squad and Saint Jo ISD at all times. It must be remembered that squad members can be identified even out of uniform. Members found to exhibit behavior not in keeping with squad guidelines are subject to removal from the squad.
  - J. Summer practices and after-school are required and no excuses will be made for absences. Cheerleaders must not allow work or social lives to interfere with their duties.

#### ARTICLE XVI– FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Prior to try-outs parent must attend a general meeting which will outline cheerleading duties and responsibilities. The parent must sign a sheet accepting financial responsibility for cheerleading.

#### ARTICLE XVII – LETTER JACKETS AND LETTERS

Letter jackets can be earned by serving as a varsity cheerleader for 2 full years provided no previous letter jacket has been awarded. The final decision on awarding letter jacket and /or letter will be made by the sponsor with the approval of the building principal.

<p><b>The Saint Jo ISD Administration reserves the right to determine acceptability issues not addressed in the Cheerleader Constitution.</b></p>
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