



SECONDARY SCHOOLS
Cheerleading
Program Guidelines

2009-2010

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INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in Rockwall Independent School District extra/cocurricular activities. The District strives to provide effective and timely communication to all constituents. Therefore, the *RISD Secondary Schools Cheerleading Program Guidelines* was created to provide information, answer questions and pave the way for successful involvement with the cheerleading program. The *RISD Secondary Schools Cheerleading Program Guidelines* is divided into five sections so that candidates understand responsibilities and commitments prior to tryouts.

The guide addresses District policies and procedures related to cheerleading. Not all District policies and procedures are included. Those policies that are included have been summarized. Policies and procedures may change at any time. If changes are made, the changes supersede any guideline provisions which are not compatible with the changes. For more information, students and parents may refer to the policy codes associated with guideline topics and confer with the cheerleading sponsor or building principal. Policy manuals are available on the Internet through the Rockwall Independent School District website (Board of Trustee). Suggestions for additions and improvements to the guide are welcome and may be sent to the Director of Student Services.

RISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES' GOALS 2008-2009

Rockwall Independent School District will improve the extra/cocurricular programs by increasing opportunities for all students to participate. [Excerpt from Board of Trustees Goal X]

CHEERLEADING PROGRAM PURPOSE STATEMENT

Cheerleaders are student leaders who exemplify and promote school spirit, pride, and sportsmanship. Cheerleaders enhance a positive school climate by exhibiting leadership skills, such as respect for individual differences, building consensus, academic excellence, and modeling appropriate behaviors at all times, both in and away from school.

Objectives

- To become mentally and physically fit and athletically skilled in the field of cheerleading. (Reference sources: National Cheerleading Association manual, American Cheerleading Association manual, Universal Cheerleading Association manual)
- To demonstrate cheerleading etiquette for public appearances and private practices.
- To provide an atmosphere of support and cohesion essential for team building.
- To support and participate in academic, athletic, and community projects that help the campus and District achieve respective goals and objectives.

SECTION I: MEMBERSHIP GUIDELINES

The following membership guidelines are categorized under Leadership/Teamwork, Attendance and Promptness, Transportation, Uniforms and Appearance, Competitions, Fundraising, Financial Responsibilities, Head Cheerleader and Mascot. Other sections pertinent to membership are Section II: Eligibility Requirements, Section III: Tryout and Judging Guidelines, and Section V: Conduct Guidelines.

The *University Interscholastic League (UIL) Side by Side 2008-2009* states on page 14, “*Cheerleading and drill teams do not come under UIL rules, but the regulations in this document regarding no pass-no play, 8 hour practice limitation, athletic periods, one contest during the school week and extracurricular absences are applicable.*” Therefore, this and other sections will reference UIL regulations when applicable.

LEADERSHIP/TEAMWORK

As outlined in *Cheerleading Program Purpose Statement* on page 2 of this guide, cheerleaders are representatives of the Rockwall ISD and will adhere to the following standards:

- Abide by the cheerleading rules and guidelines.
- Abide by the Student Code of Conduct.
- Behave in a manner that is becoming to the individual and to the organization. In or out of uniform, cheerleaders are representatives of the cheerleading squad and their school.
- Maintain desirable attitudes and spirit.
- Cooperate with head cheerleaders, sponsors, and other members of the squad.
- Return the following completed forms, with all appropriate signatures, as directed by the sponsor:
 - Student Drug Testing Consent Form* (Grades 9 – 12)
 - National Cheerleader Association Permission Form*
 - RISD Physical Examination Form* [See FFAA (LOCAL)]

ATTENDANCE AND PROMPTNESS

All cheerleaders and mascots will have a scheduled class period during the instructional school day to allow for planning and practice. Cheerleading practices and performances are under the umbrella of UIL time limit restrictions. Special practices may be called by the sponsor when necessary. However, due to UIL procedures, the eight hour limit will apply to practice held outside of the school day. No practice activities will be scheduled on a Sunday. [*UIL SIDE BY SIDE 2008-2009*, Page 12-13; EIF (LOCAL); FEA (LEGAL/LOCAL); FM (LEGAL/LOCAL)]

Cheerleaders/mascots are expected to attend:

- The cheerleading class period, practices, and assigned sports activities designated by the sponsor and administrator. Sports activities include, but are not limited to:

Varsity:

Football – All home and away games, including play-off games.

Basketball – All home games, including play-off games, with sponsor’s discretion on away games.

Clinics/Camps - Cheerleading camp held in June, July or August. (Camp/clinic instruction is an integral part of program quality - attendance is required.)

All Other Squads:

Football - All grade level home games and other games at sponsor discretion.

Basketball - All grade level home games and other games at sponsor discretion.

Camps/Clinics -Summer camp and a clinic.

Participation in other sports events, community and social activities will be at the discretion of the sponsor.

Squads *may* be split to accommodate games and to conform to UIL guidelines.

Students will be present at least one-half of the school day to participate in an activity - or at the sponsor’s discretion.

Cheerleaders must be prompt for scheduled cheerleading class periods and all functions - ensuring timely pick up at the conclusion of activities outside of the school day.

Regular school attendance in all classes is mandatory. The principal and sponsor will evaluate absences in excess of five days per semester.

Cheerleaders may not leave a practice, class or any other activity at any time unless approved by the sponsor.

Exceptions: Any absence must have the prior approval of the sponsor. Prior notification of conflicts with school activities will be addressed with the sponsors and, when appropriate, the principal. Work is not considered an excuse for an absence.

TRANSPORTATION [See CNA (LEGAL/LOCAL); FMG (LOCAL)]

Each cheerleader/mascot shall ride school provided transportation to and from home games and out-of-town games. A written request from the parent/guardian is required for the student to be released to the parent or to another adult designated by the parent. Prior approval from the sponsor is required. The penalty for missing school-provided transportation is suspension from that night’s game and the following game.

UNIFORMS AND APPEARANCE [See FNCA (LEGAL/LOCAL)]

All uniform and practice attire is approved by the principal and sponsor. While performing, each member is expected to:

- Wear proper attire as directed. The uniform is worn to official functions only and a member may perform only if he/she is in the complete required uniform. If the cheerleader or mascot is not in proper uniform (including, but not limited to, secured hairstyle, ribbons, sweatshirts, cold weather attire), he/she will contact a family member to bring the necessary uniform. A specific uniform will also be required for each practice.
- Keep uniforms clean, pressed and mended at all times.
- Reflect grooming standards as directed by the sponsor, including, but not limited to:
Make up that is natural and wholesome looking.

Nails that are short and well groomed and do not exceed the length of the finger. Acrylic nails or tips are strongly discouraged for safety reasons. Colored nail polish is not to be worn when cheering or in uniform.

No visible jewelry, including body piercing.

No visible tattoos.

No gum chewing or candy.

Secured hairstyle with ribbons.

- Parents are financially responsible for the replacement of school issued uniforms and equipment. At the end of the school year, launder and return all school issued uniforms. [FNCB (LEGAL)]

COMPETITIONS [See FM (LEGAL/LOCAL), FMG (LOCAL); FMF (LOCAL)]

High school squads may participate in one summer camp and may elect to participate in one national competition with principal approval. Middle school squads may participate in one area summer camp and may elect to participate in one area competition (but not NCA national competition) at the discretion of the sponsor and principal. Every other year, the high school varsity squad may go out of state for competitions with the approval of the principal and superintendent.

FUNDRAISING CFD (LOCAL); EC (LEGAL); FJ (LEGAL/LOCAL); FP (LEGAL/LOCAL)]

A thorough description of appropriate practices and procedures for fundraising is outlined within the document, *RISD Campus Activity Fund Raising Guidelines*. Individuals directly responsible for fundraising should refer to the document and District policy for complete directions. The following is important information for all members and parents:

- Each cheerleader will participate in fundraising activities.
- Fundraising activities must support the educational goals of the District.
- Fundraising will be coordinated by the sponsor, approved by the building principal and must include a written request outlining the need for funding, the type of fundraising activity, the projected amount to be raised, how the money will be used, and the time and duration of the activity. Efforts should be made to avoid conflict with other school organizations attempting to raise funds.
- Sponsors are required to keep a detailed account of income and expenditures of student money, with all transactions processed through a campus activity account.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES CFD (LOCAL); FP (LEGAL, LOCAL)]

The District will provide the basic uniform for each member. Additional uniforms, camp wear, clothing items, bags, sweaters, and practice attire are purchased by the parent and must be approved by the director and campus principal prior to purchase.

Cheerleaders are expected to attend summer camp and are responsible for all fees associated with summer camp.

A more specific list of approved items outlining financial requirements will be provided to parents at orientation.

To be eligible to tryout, current cheerleaders' outstanding balances must be paid in full prior to the first day of tryout clinic. (Grades 8-12)

Payments which are the responsibility of the parent for camp/camp wear/uniforms will be paid as directed by the sponsor in order for the cheerleader to attend camp. (Grades 8-12)

HEAD CHEERLEADER

There are two Head Cheerleaders for each of the three squads at the high school level. Head Cheerleaders are rotated at the middle school level. The Head Cheerleader serves in a leadership role as a liaison between cheerleaders, students and faculty. He/she also serves as a liaison between sponsors and other cheerleaders and is the spokesperson for the program in public meetings and in front of the student body. The following is expected of this position:

- Communicates to squad members information regarding upcoming activities, such as uniform requirements and practice schedules.
- Teaches and starts all cheers and routines for camp, games and competitions.
- Assists the sponsor in planning all pep rallies.
- Organizes the creation, placement and removal of signs and items throughout the school and stadium. [See FMA (LEGAL/LOCAL)]
- Carries out all other duties assigned by the sponsor.

The Head Cheerleader may be removed from his/her position for conduct that occurs on or off campus that is detrimental to the school or squad as determined by the sponsor and principal.

MASCOT

Each school will select a minimum of one mascot. The mascot will be an integral part of the spirit program at the school. His/her main responsibilities are to provide interaction with the crowd at all functions by incorporating them in cheers and skits and to work closely with all organizations to enhance the spirit of the school. The mascot will follow all cheerleading guidelines as set forth by District policy. Other responsibilities include:

- Work closely with the athletic department and cheerleader sponsors to foster school spirit.
- Be familiar with game rules in order to make appropriate responses with the crowd at sporting events.
- Create skits with appropriate themes to foster spirit, in conjunction with the cheerleaders.
- Dress in creative attire, when appropriate, with sponsor approval.

SECTION II: ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

A student enrolled in the District and who participates in an extracurricular activity . . . is subject to District policy and UIL rules regarding participation only when the student is under the direct supervision of an employee of the school or district in which the student is enrolled or at any other time specified by resolution of the Board.
FM (LEGAL)

The Cheerleading program will follow the eligibility requirements as outlined by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the University Interscholastic League (UIL). The following is an excerpt from the requirements: *A student who receives, at the end of any grading period (after the first six weeks of the school year), a grade below 70 in any class (other than an identified class eligible for exemption) or a student with disabilities who fails to meet the standards in the Individual Education Plan (IEP) may not participate in extracurricular activities for three school weeks. An ineligible student may practice or rehearse, however. The student regains eligibility after the seven calendar day waiting period has ended following a grading or the 3 school weeks evaluation period when the principal and teachers determine that he or she has earned a passing grade (70 or above) in all classes, other than those that are exempted..*

All schools must check grades for all participants at the end of the first six weeks of the school year. From that point, grades are checked at the end of the grading period whether it is six, nine, or twelve weeks in length. Students who pass remain eligible until the end of the next grading period. All activity coaches and directors are responsible for obtaining official grade reports from the individual the principal designates as the keeper of official grades before the student represents the school. This provision applies to all grading periods. It also applies to all three-school week evaluation periods for ineligible students.

Senate Bill 1517 identified advanced courses eligible for exemption and include any College Board Advanced Placement (AP) course, Honors and high school/college concurrent enrollment or dual credit courses in the subject areas of English Language Arts, Mathematics Science, Social Studies, Economics or language other than English. Classes identified as advanced by Rockwall Independent School District are listed in the Secondary Course Guide and at the Guidance and Counseling Office. [*UIL Side by Side 2008-2009, page 3-4; FM (LEGAL/LOCAL)*]

All conduct grades must be satisfactory. If a cheerleader receives a grade of “N” or lower, a meeting will be held with the member, parent, teacher, sponsor and campus administrator.

SECTION III: TRYOUT AND JUDGING GUIDELINES

Section III: *Tryout and Judging Guidelines* provides requirements with the application and orientation process, scholarship and citizenship requirements for candidates, tryout injury option, and judging guidelines.

Cheerleading tryouts are required beginning with the eighth grade cheerleading squad. Sixth grade students wishing to participate in the seventh grade cheerleading program are not required to tryout as enrollment is open. However, much of Section III is still relevant to this age group.

APPLICATION AND ORIENTATION

A candidate for cheerleading/mascot and parent or designee must:

- Attend an orientation meeting scheduled by the sponsor.
- Return the following completed forms including all appropriate signatures as directed by the sponsor:
 - Cheerleading Application.*
 - TEA Medical Release Form.* [See FFAA (LOCAL)]
 - Tryout Permission Form.* (Grade 8-12)
 - Inherent Risk Form.*
 - RISD Secondary Schools Cheerleader Handbook Parent/Student Acknowledgement.*
 - A copy of the student's report card.
- Have no outstanding balance for prior year financial obligations. (Grades 8-12)
- Attend clinic prior to tryouts. (Grades 8-12)

SCHOLARSHIP AND CITIZENSHIP [*UIL Side by Side* 2008-2009 page 14]

A candidate must:

- Be enrolled in Rockwall ISD and be in attendance by the first day of the second semester.
- Have a cumulative GPA of 70 or better (high school) or an over-all average of 70 (middle school) as of the preceding semester. (Also see Judging.)
- Meet state guidelines for compulsory attendance.
- Not receive private instruction from a student currently enrolled in RISD.
- Have not resigned or been dismissed from the cheerleading squad in the previous year. However, if he/she resigns due to circumstances out of his/her control, the director and campus principal will determine whether he/she may be considered for tryouts the following year.

TRYOUT INJURY OPTION

A candidate for the cheerleading squad may show a video of his/her performance for the judges only if he/she is incapable of required physical activity. Sponsors must receive a doctor's note the day after the injury and must state the reason(s) for the inability to tryout. The video to be shown must be approved by the sponsor and should

be no more than three to six months old. The final determination of eligibility to tryout using a video will be at the sponsor’s discretion. The video will be judged using the same criteria as outlined in this section.

JUDGING GUIDELINES

The following guidelines are established to determine membership for the cheerleading squad beginning in Grade 8. The criteria are in three areas: Performance (70%), Academics (10%), and Citizenship (20%).

Performance

The performance evaluation represents 70% of the cheerleader/mascot candidate’s total score and will be made by a panel of five qualified judges. Judges may not have previous associations with students, parents or sponsors. The qualifications of the judges will be required and reviewed by the sponsor. Candidates will receive numbers when they tryout and shall not be referred to by name. Tabulations of scores will be made by campus administrator(s) and designated tabulator. Tryouts will only be open to participants, judges, sponsor, tabulator, campus administrator(s) or other appropriate RISD administrators.

Each cheerleader/mascot candidate’s group dance performance will be scored in Category #6 below. All other category scores will be obtained from the candidate’s performance in:

- One solo cheer (cheerleaders)
- One original performance using props (mascots)

The total score will be added from the nine categories:

<u>High School Cheerleading Squads</u>		<u>Middle School Cheerleading Squads</u>	
1. Entrance/Smile	5 points	1. Entrance/Smile	5 points
2. Spirit	5 points	2. Spirit	5 points
3. Crowd Appeal	5 points	3. Crowd Appeal	5 points
4. Memory/Recall	5 points	4. Memory/Recall	5 points
5. Voice Projections	5 points	5. Voice Projections	5 points
6. Group Dance	5 points	6. Group Dance	10 points
7. Motion/Technique	10 points	7. Motion/Technique	10 points
8. Jumps	15 points	8. Jumps	15 points
9. Tumbling	15 points	9. Tumbling	10 points
TOTAL SCORE	70 points	TOTAL SCORE	70 points

Tabulation of scores will be conducted by campus administrator(s) and designated tabulator. For each candidate, the highest and lowest of the five judges’ scores will be dropped. A composite score for performance will then be determined by averaging the three remaining scores. Scores will be calculated to the nearest one-hundredth.

Academics

The academic evaluation represents 10% of the cheerleader/mascot candidate’s total score. Each candidate’s academic score will be calculated from the preceding semester’s GPA as determined by the District. The maximum number of points a student can earn in this category is ten points. The following formula will be used in determining academic scores:

High School - Weighted semester average X .10 = Score.

Middle School – Weighted semester core average X .10 = Score [See EIC: LOCAL]

No score will be given to a student in the academic category for the following:

- Having previously been removed from the program due to academic ineligibility.

- Failure to have at least a 70 in all courses for the preceding grading period, with the exception of state approved Pre-AP and AP classes for which a student must have a 60 or above.

Citizenship

The citizenship evaluation represents 20% of the cheerleader/mascot candidate's total score. The two areas of citizenship, grades and discipline action, will determine the points for this category and will be considered up to the point of tryouts.

Citizenship Grade - Each candidate may receive a total of ten points in this category if he/she has not received Needs Improvement (N) or an Unsatisfactory (U) in citizenship. A two point deduction will be given for each (N) and a four point deduction for each (U) but not to exceed a total ten point deduction.

Discipline Action - Each candidate may receive a total of ten points in this category with no discipline action documented by the administration prior to tryouts. A discipline action is one that has been documented by an administrator during the current school year. If a candidate has one discipline action from the administrator, two points will be deducted from this score. If a candidate has two discipline actions, four points will be deducted from this score. A candidate will receive no score in this category for the following reasons:

- Three or more discipline actions prior to tryouts, or
- Having been removed from an extracurricular activity for disciplinary reasons.

Final Determination and Notification

The principal and designee will tabulate scores and calculate to the nearest one-hundredth. In the event of a tie, the judges' score on jumps will determine the winner. Seventh grade cheerleading has open enrollment. Each of the Grade 8, Grade 9, and JV squads shall have a total of sixteen members. The varsity level cheerleading squad shall have a minimum of 16 not to exceed 20 members. The number of members on the varsity squad shall be determined by the campus principal. Varsity will have at least four seniors on the squad. A minimum of one mascot will be chosen for each campus. Candidates will receive notification of results on the day of tryouts. The notification message will only identify the selected candidates based on assigned tryout numbers. No candidate's name, rank or score will be included in the notification. [See GBA (LEGAL/LOCAL); FL (LEGAL/LOCAL)]

Replacements

If there is an opening in the cheerleader squad for any reason prior to the first day of school, the sponsor **may** fill the opening by reviewing the ranked scores from tryouts.

SECTION IV: SUPPORT STAFF, PARENTS, AND CLUBS

SPONSOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Leadership

Sponsors are expected to:

- Be committed to the cheerleader program.
- Be a positive role model and demonstrate conduct that is ethical and rational.
- Display the qualities of good sportsmanship and fair play.
- Set long term and short term goals for professional growth and the cheerleader program.
- Follow RISD employee policies, guidelines and rules.
- Have knowledge of and compliance with rules for eligibility and participation. [See FM (LEGAL/LOCAL); FMF (LOCAL)]

Management

Sponsors are expected to:

- Supervise students.
- Provide appropriate communication to parents/students concerning all guidelines and requirements.
- Disseminate and manage all required written forms and documentation.
- Communicate and ensure proper safety standards and stunt progressions, as prescribed by the National Federation High School Spirit Handbook.
- Plan and provide written schedules for all practices, games, pep rallies, clinics, camps, and other activities.
- Coordinate tryouts, including the selection of judges.
- Follow state and RISD accounting practices/procedures for maintaining the budget and proper administration of student funds. [See CFD (LOCAL)]
- Obtain principal or designee approval on all disbursements. [See CFD (LOCAL)]
- Be responsible for the approval, selection, ordering, distribution and return of all uniforms.
- Maintain current certification in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation. [See DBA (LEGAL)]

PARENT/GUARDIAN RESPONSIBILITIES [See GKA (LEGAL/LOCAL)]

Parents are partners with the school and shall:

- Respect and support the cheerleading program, cheerleaders, and sponsors.
- Support the student's commitments to the school, community and herself/himself.
- Attend performances and other necessary activities.
- Meet financial obligations in a timely manner.
- Set an example of good sportsmanship at all activities.
- Provide transportation for cheerleading activities.
- Assist in fundraising.
- Support the cheerleading booster club.

BOOSTER CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES [See CFD (LOCAL); GE (LEGAL/LOCAL)]

Cheerleading booster clubs are formed by school patrons to help enrich an organization's participation in extracurricular activities. The purpose of the cheerleading booster club is to support and promote the cheerleaders through fundraising, attendance at athletic performances and special events. The cheerleading booster club is vertically coordinated with the sponsors and parent officers in eighth through twelfth grades. The club will

function in a way that is consistent with the District's philosophy and objectives, within adopted Board of Trustees' policies, in accordance with applicable UIL guidelines and financial and audit regulations. General guidelines are as follow:

- Gain sponsor and principal approval on all actions regarding expenditures, fundraising, performances, special events, and other decisions according to District policy/procedures.
- Work cooperatively with the sponsor and school to provide the opportunity to meet the cheerleading organization's goals.
- Follow District policy and UIL guidelines, which shall be provided to all booster club members at the first meeting.
- Establish and follow by-laws which will be distributed to all booster club members.

SECTION V: CONDUCT GUIDELINES

Upon the completion of tryouts, selected cheerleaders will be subject to all rules, expectations and discipline consequences associated with the new squad. All discipline actions will affect the cheerleader's standing on his/her squad after tryouts and throughout the following academic year. Any member failing to abide by rules and regulations as set forth under the provisions may be subject to review by the sponsor and principal. Dismissal from the group may result from that review.

The guidelines for student discipline are outlined in the Student Code of Conduct adopted by the Rockwall Independent School District Board of Trustees. Additional standards of behavior for students involved in extra/cocurricular activities are:

- *UIL Side by Side* 2008-2009. (Available at www.uil.utexas.edu)
- RISD Policy FO (LOCAL) EXTRACURRICULAR STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOR. (see below)
- *Rockwall Public Schools Activity Student Drug Testing Policy*. (See below)
- Extra/Cocurricular Standards of Behavior. (See below)
- Cheerleading Standards of Behavior. (See below)

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The Student Code of Conduct can be found in the *RISD Student Handbook and Code of Conduct* which is annually disseminated to students. The Code of Conduct is also available on the Internet through the Rockwall Independent School District website (www.rockwallisd.com).

OTHER DISTRICT POLICY

District policy FO (LOCAL) STUDENT DISCIPLINE, speaks directly to the behavior of students who participate in extra/cocurricular activities. Within the subheading, EXTRACURRICULAR STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOR, the policy states:

With the approval of the principal and Superintendent, sponsors and coaches of extracurricular activities, including interscholastic athletics and marching band, may develop and enforce standards of behavior that are higher than the District-developed Student Code of Conduct and may condition membership or participation in the activity on adherence to those standards. Extracurricular standards of behavior may take into consideration conduct that occurs at any time on or off school property. No provision of an extracurricular behavioral standard shall have the effect of discriminating on the basis of sex, race, disability, religion, or ethnicity.

Students shall be informed of any extracurricular behavior standards at the beginning of each school year or, in the case of interscholastic athletics and marching band, at the time the students report for workouts or practices that occur prior to the actual beginning of classes. Students and their parents shall sign and return to the sponsor or coach a statement that they have read the extracurricular behavior standards and consent to them as a condition of participation in the activity.

Organizational standards of behavior of an extracurricular activity are independent of the Student Code of Conduct. Violations of these standards of behavior that are also violations of the Student Code of Conduct may result in independent disciplinary actions. A student may be removed from participation in extracurricular activities or may be excluded from school honors for violation of organizational standards of behavior of an extracurricular activity or for violation of the Student Code of Conduct. [Also, see FNC (LOCAL)]

District policy is available on the Internet through the RISD website (Board of Trustees).

DRUG TESTING POLICY

Rockwall Independent School District has a student drug testing program for all students in grades 9-12 who participate in certain extra/cocurricular activities. An excerpt from the document, *Rockwall Public Schools Activity Student Drug Testing Policy*, under II: Procedures, Page 3, states that:

Each student shall be provided with a copy of the Student Drug Testing Consent Form which shall be read, signed and dated by the student, parent or custodial guardian and coach/sponsor before such student shall be eligible to practice or participate in any extracurricular activities. Prior to the commencement of drug testing each year, an orientation session will be held with students to educate them on the sample collection process, privacy arrangements, drug testing procedures and other areas which may help to reassure the student and help avoid embarrassment or uncomfortable feelings about the drug testing process.

Each student shall receive a copy of the Activity Student Drug Testing Policy. The head coach or sponsor shall be responsible for explaining the Policy to all prospective students, and for preparing an educational presentation to acquaint the student with the harmful consequences of drug and alcohol use and abuse.

EXTRA/COCURRICULAR STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOR

Student participation in extracurricular activities is encouraged. Rockwall ISD makes extracurricular activities available as an extension of the regular school program, with an important difference: participation in the regular curriculum is a right afforded to each student, while participation in the extracurricular program is a privilege that carries additional expectations for acceptable conduct. Students who engage in extracurricular activities represent not only themselves, but also other students and the District when performing, competing, or participating in extracurricular activities and while wearing uniforms or other clothing that identifies the student to the community or public in any setting as a Rockwall ISD student. Behavior must be exemplary and reflect the finest attributes of the Rockwall ISD student body at all times and in all places.

Important goals of the extracurricular program are to give students direction in developing self-discipline, responsibility, pride, loyalty, leadership, teamwork, respect for authority, and healthy living habits.

Since participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege and not a right, Rockwall ISD is authorized to set higher standards for participants of extracurricular activities than for students who choose not to participate in extracurricular activities. The expectations for extracurricular activities extend beyond the Rockwall ISD Student Code of Conduct, not only in types of behavior prohibited, but also in corresponding consequences and jurisdiction for imposing discipline. Extracurricular expectations apply to all students participating in extracurricular activities, regardless of whether:

- School is in session;
- The offense occurs on or off school property or at a school-related event;
- The student is directly involved with the extracurricular activity at the time the prohibited conduct occurs;

- The extracurricular activity is in-season; and regardless of where or when the conduct occurs.

It is possible that a student who violates the Rockwall ISD Student Code of Conduct will incur consequences from both the appropriate school administrator and from his or her coach or sponsor for the same particular violation. It is also possible that a student participating in extracurricular activities may violate the Extracurricular Expectations and be subject to discipline or sanctions by a coach or sponsor without having violated the Rockwall ISD Student Code of Conduct.

Procedures

Coaches and sponsors will review all facts and circumstances surrounding a particular event and determine appropriate disciplinary action or sanctions. FO (LOCAL)

- 1st offense – Parent/student/sponsor conference to discuss the event, possible sanctions*.
- 2nd offense –Parent/student/sponsor conference to discuss the event, sanctions*, possible dismissal.
- 3rd offense –Parent/student/sponsor conference to discuss the event, sanctions*, possible dismissal.

Any event may be serious enough to result in removal from the extracurricular activity at any step. Dismissal will be determined by the parent/student/sponsor conference on the second and third offense.

*Sanctions may include but are not limited to: physical activity, bench time, loss of playing or performance opportunities.

Nothing in the Extra/Cocurricular Standards of Behavior section limits the authority of a sponsor to impose reasonable sanctions for students who breach program conduct expectations but do not engage in prohibited conduct. Signing the *RISD Secondary Schools Cheerleading Program Guidelines Parent/Student Acknowledgement* on page 16 verifies your receipt and agreement to the expectations outlined in the *Extra/Cocurricular Standards of Behavior* section.

CHEERLEADING STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOR

- Each extra/cocurricular activity has specific conduct expectations in addition to the expectations outlined in the *Extra/Cocurricular Standards of Behavior*. The expectations outlined in the Cheerleading Standards of Behavior document are specific to the cheerleading program and will be developed and approved by the sponsor and principal. The document will be disseminated to students and parents during orientation. You will be held responsibility for any postings to a social networking site that would “materially disrupt classwork, involve substantial disorder, or interfere with the rights of others.” [Tinker, 393 U.S. at 506]

PERMANENT DISMISSAL

Reasons for permanent dismissal from the cheerleading squad include, but are not limited to:

- Expulsion.
- Failure to meet behavior expectations in the *Extra/Cocurricular Standards of Behavior*.
- Unexcused absence from more than two games over the course of the fall/spring season.
- Violations as outlined in the *Rockwall Public Schools Activity Student Drug Testing Policy*.

The RISD Secondary Schools Cheerleading Program Guidelines is designed to be in harmony with RISD Board of Trustees’ Policy, the Student Code of Conduct and University Interscholastic League rules and guidelines. The RISD cheerleading guidelines are reviewed annually. Changes and revisions will be made available to students and parents and will govern cheerleading selection and decisions regarding supervision of the program. [See FN (LOCAL)]

**ROCKWALL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
SECONDARY SCHOOLS
CHEERLEADING PROGRAM GUIDELINES
PARENT / STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

We have read and understand the policies, procedures, practices and expectations as outlined in the *RISD Secondary Schools Cheerleading Program Guideline*, including the Extra/Cocurricular Standards of Behavior. We agree to adhere to these rules as a condition for voluntary participation in the cheerleading program and understand that failure to do so may result in disciplinary measures.

Parent Signature

Date

Cheerleader Signature

Date

The *RISD Secondary Schools Cheerleading Program Guidelines Parent/Student Acknowledgement* Form was submitted to my office:

Sponsor Signature

Date

Please detach this page and return to the sponsor prior to Cheerleading Tryouts.

