

# GISD JUNIOR VARSITY DRILL TEAM CONSTITUTION

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# GISD JUNIOR VARSITY DRILL TEAM CONSTITUTION

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the junior varsity drill team is to promote spirit and sportsmanship at school functions and to serve as a performing group representing the high school.

Instructional and performance activities are affirmatively directed toward development of individual member improvement, resulting in a skilled performance group. Each student must be cognizant of the time commitment and individual dedication demanded in striving for personal improvement and teamwork through responsibility and discipline.

Students are exposed to teaching, practice, and performance opportunities that result in the development of responsibility, self-respect, and that encourage honest effort in striving for excellence. These opportunities also develop character, teamwork, and pride in quality performance and physical fitness by emphasizing the maintenance of high standards.

## **DEFINITION**

Drill Team year: The rules and procedures outlined in this constitution are in effect from the time the student is selected to the drill team squad until the last day of school year. This does not include the academic guidelines. Because of TEA rules, the academic policies are in effect for a school year.

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## **MEMBERSHIP**

The junior varsity drill team is open to any student grades 9-12 attending any GISD high school. No tryout is required; however all members must follow the rules as outlined in this constitution in order to retain membership on the squad.

In order for an individual to become a member of the junior varsity drill team, it is the responsibility of the student to pick up an information packet in the spring from the high school that he/she will be attending the next school year. The student and parents must complete the application form and turn in the completed packet to the junior varsity drill team director on or before the deadline date as designated in the packet. The director and principal will determine whether to accept late applications.

Each school will conduct tryout for officers of the junior varsity drill team. The school will bring in judges to assist in the selection process. The director and principal from each school will establish one audition date. Every student wishing to audition must do so on this date with no exceptions. The drill team director and school principal will determine the number of officers and squad leaders.

Anyone transferring from one campus to another during the current year will forfeit his/her position on the team. If a student wishes to join the junior varsity drill team at the new school of attendance, that student must wait until the next school year to enroll.

Junior varsity drill team activities begin with a summer camp. During this camp, members will learn the routines that they will perform during the entire season. Attendance at this camp by all members is essential to insure an outstanding drill team.

Junior Varsity Drill Team members are required to submit the Pre-participation Medical Evaluation-Medical History form prior to participation. The form outlines in detail the questions which, if answered yes, require the candidate to show proof of a physical exam.

## **ELIGIBILITY AND MAINTENANCE**

To be eligible at the beginning of the school year, students must have earned the accumulated number of credits in state approved courses indicated below:

1. Beginning of the 10th grade year—at least 5 units toward graduation.
2. Beginning of the 11th grade year—at least 10 units toward graduation or a total of 5 units which count toward graduation that have been earned during the 12 months preceding first day of the current school year.
3. Beginning of the 12th grade year—at least 15 units toward graduation or a total of 5 units which count toward graduation that have been earned during the 12 months preceding the first day of the current school year.
4. A student who lacks the prescribed number of units shall remain ineligible for the first six-week of the fall term. If at that time the student has passed all classes for the six-week period, the student becomes eligible.
5. In order to be eligible for any six-week period following the initial six-week period of a school year, a student shall not have a recorded grade average lower than 70 on a scale of 0-100 in any course for the preceding six-week period. To be eligible to participate in the six-week periods following the initial six-week period of a school year, a student must not have a recorded grade average lower than a 70 in any course for that preceding six-week period.
6. A student whose recorded six-week grade average in any course is lower than a 70 at the end of a six-week period shall be suspended from competition or performance. A suspension continues for at least three weeks and is not removed during the school year until the student is passing all subjects taken. This suspension shall become effective seven calendar days after the last day of the six-week period during which the grade lower than 70 was earned.

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7. A student who regains eligibility at the end of a six-week or three-week grading period shall not become eligible until the end of the school day seven calendar days later.
8. Students on academic probation must continue to attend classes and all practices, must sit out of all performances, and may not sit with or ride with the team to appearances or performances. Students on probation are not allowed to wear the team pep rally or performance uniform. This state policy does not apply to social activities.
9. A drill team member who becomes academically ineligible two times during a school year will be considered on drill team probation for the rest of that school year.
10. A drill team member who becomes academically ineligible three times during a school year will be removed from the team. This will not include the courses designated in board policy as exempt from the ineligibility rule.

### CONDUCT

#### Standards of Conduct

- A. Members are expected to uphold a high standard of behavior that is necessary for the integrity and reputation of the organization. Members should be leaders in the school and should set a good example at all times. Members are expected to have and maintain a character above reproach.
- B. Proper manners should be used at all times to address adults and officers. Mutual respect and politeness toward fellow members within the group are basic elements that contribute to the total success of the team.
- C. The following are expressly forbidden: assault or harassment of director or team members, theft of team or individual property. At the first infraction of either of these rules, the student will be removed from the team.
- D. The possession and/or use of alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs are expressly forbidden and will not be tolerated. Any infraction, on or off campus, will result in a principal/director/parent/student review. Dismissal from the team may result from this review. A second infraction will result in the immediate dismissal from the drill team.
- E. Drill team members will wear practice and performance uniforms as designated by the director.
- F. No visible tattoos or body piercings will be allowing during any drill team function/activity. Failure to abide by this policy will result in point deductions for insubordination.
- G. Maintaining a higher standard of conduct will also include ensuring that drill team members' websites are appropriate. The internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible form of communication. Any communication such as MySpace, Facebook, or photo sharing, etc. appearing on the internet is public domain even if it is marked private. Drill team members are responsible for their personal websites and postings as well as for postings on other students' websites. The area of appropriateness will include, but are not limited to, language (abbreviated or alluding to), pictures, suggestive poses, clothing, reference to alcohol, drugs, and tobacco. Any question of appropriateness will be decided by the principal and sponsor.

### PROBATION AND REMOVAL

#### *A. Probation—Academic*

A drill team member may be placed on *academic* probation for academic/citizenship reasons as stated in the TEA/GISD policies. (see **Eligibility and Maintenance**)

#### *B. Probation—Disciplinary*

A drill team member may be placed on *disciplinary probation* for indicated periods of time as described in the **Regulations/Policies** and **Attendance** sections of this document.

A drill team member on disciplinary probation will not be allowed to participate in auditions or performances of the team.

A drill team member on disciplinary probation will not be allowed to travel with the team for any reason. The member will not be allowed to wear the uniform. During the probationary period, the

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student must attend classes, work periods and practices as scheduled during and before/after school hours.

Any student removed from the drill team must also be removed from the class.

### *C. Removal*

A drill team member may be removed from the drill team or placed on disciplinary probation by the drill team director and principal for violation of the **Standards of Conduct** or **Regulations and Policies** sections of this constitution.

A drill team member who is placed in the alternative school will be removed from the team, effective on the date of placement.

A drill team member who is placed in the reassignment room more than one time during the drill team year will be subject to a principal/director review which may result in removal from the squad.

A drill team member who is suspended from school will have a principal/director/parent/student review and may be removed from the team.

A drill team member who is expelled from school will be removed from the team.

If a drill team member misses more than ten (10) practices in one term, he/she will be subject to director/principal review which could result in removal.

Students who have been removed and those who voluntarily quit retain no rights to team awards, recognitions, etc., which are received after dismissal, although they may have accrued over the duration of the school term. They lose all privileges associated with junior varsity drill team membership, including attending drill team-only events, using drill team facilities, and wearing drill team attire.

A drill team member who has been removed from the squad on any GISD campus will not be eligible to participate in the next tryouts without approval from the principal and director. Areas to be reviewed will include but not be limited to the reasons for the referrals, academic grades, other discipline records, student attitude, and any other factors deemed relevant by the principal, sponsor and Director of Fine Arts.

If a member of the team suffers loss of credit for the drill team course for excessive absences, he/she may be removed from the team subject to principal/director review.

## **REGULATIONS AND POLICIES**

The following are considered rule infractions. Point deductions for each are indicated. Points are strictly used only to determine disciplinary probation periods and are not used for grading purposes.

Points are deducted for one school year, and at the beginning of the next school year, each member's record is cleared. The only exception is if a disciplinary action (benching, probation) has been determined in the previous year but not yet activated. In this case, the disciplinary action will become active on the first day of school of the next year, and then that student's record will be cleared.

***Benching:*** Member attends functions in uniform but will not take part in the team performance. With regard to football or basketball games, the member may perform in the stands with the team but may not perform in pre-game, half-time, or post-game performances or festivities.

***Probation:*** Member is not allowed to participate in auditions or performances of the team. The member is not allowed to travel with the team for any reason. Member may not wear the drill team uniform. Member must continue to attend classes, work periods, and practices as scheduled during and before/after school hours.

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If a student is academically ineligible at the time of a benching or disciplinary probation, the penalty will be served at the time that the student regains eligibility.

<b>-10 points</b>	<b>Benched</b>
<b>-15 points</b>	<b>Benched</b>
<b>-20 points</b>	<b>Benched</b>
<b>-25 points</b>	<b>3-week probation</b>
<b>-28 points</b>	<b>6-week probation</b>

A student will receive a benching after the initial 10 points accrued and every 5 points thereafter. The accumulation of 29 points will result in immediate removal even if no benchings or probationary periods have occurred.

Accumulation of three or more benchings may result in a principal/director review.

### **DEDUCTION SYSTEM**

<i><b>RULE INFRACTION</b></i>	<i><b>POINT DEDUCTION</b></i>
Incorrect practice uniform	1
Chewing gum during practice or performance	1
Not returning any item with a due date	1 each day late
Leaving a mess in practice, performance, or dressing area	1
Moving or talking in performance line	1
Failure of student to dress out for practice	3
Not following instructions for stands behavior	1
Inappropriate behavior in uniform	5
Wearing nail polish to a performance	1
Unexcused tardy to practice, performance, or function	1
Not calling when going to be absent & not bringing a note upon return from absence	2 per infraction
Wearing any jewelry during practice.	1
Wearing any jewelry to a performance.	3
Incorrect performance uniform	3
Lending uniform, sweats, T-shirts, or jackets to non-drill team members	3
Wearing uniform to non-drill team function	5
Failing to bring all required items to a performance	1 per item
Leaving any drill team activity without permission from director	10
Insubordination	10
Violating school rules, dress code, policies	10 and refer to GISD policies
Letting a non-member into locker room without director's permission	2
Non-compliance with drill team standards of conduct. (Example: lying to director, public displays of inappropriate conduct, cursing, etc.)	5
Unexcused absence from drill team class, practice outside school hours, or required function	10
Failing to respect all teachers and staff	10

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<b><i>RULE INFRACTION</i></b>	<b><i>POINT DEDUCTION</i></b>
Office referral	10 and director/principal review
Reassignment Room	15, review and refer to GISD policies
N in conduct	15, review and refer to GISD policies
U in conduct	20, review and refer to GISD policies

### **MERITS**

The director may choose to offer merits for services deemed appropriate. The rewards for such earned merits are also at the director's discretion.

### **DRILL TEAM PRACTICE AND PERFORMANCES**

- A. Drill team members must attend practice sessions as determined by the director. Absence from practice may result in a missed performance if the director determines that the absence has hindered the ability of the team to practice productively.
- B. Activities and practice time must be in accordance with TEA guidelines. Practices must be limited to a total of eight hours per school week outside the school day. A school week is determined as from Monday 12:00 a.m. to the end of the school day on Friday.
- C. There will be tryouts for each performance. The director will judge routines. Students unable to execute the routine to the expected standard will be encouraged and assisted in mastering the required skills by performance time. Students unable to master these skills will not perform.
- D. Members should strive to maintain a reasonable level of fitness including a reasonable weight
- E. If a member is removed from the performance due to tryouts, absences, illness, or injury, that member must continue to attend practices and team performances in uniform unless the illness or injury prohibits him/her from doing so.
- F. A student may only perform if in correct and complete uniform at the time of performance.
- G. Drill team members who have auditioned and passed on the current week's routine will not be disciplined for making mistakes that were clearly unintentional during performance.

### **ATTENDANCE**

*Absences* (these rules govern all practices, including those not during school hours)

- A. Attendance at all drill team activities and practices is mandatory.
- B. An absence is recorded if more than 20 minutes late.
- C. An unexcused absence from drill team class periods and other practices receives a 10-point deduction. (absences are excused for: personal illness, death in family, illness in family that requires out-of-town travel, funeral, mandatory court appearance, and religious holidays.)
- D. Absence from practice will result in student being benched from the next performance if the director determines the student's absence hindered the ability of the team to practice efficiently for that performance.
- E. Any absence approved by the administration for other school activities including religious holidays will not be recorded as an absence.
- F. Members must call ahead if they are going to be absent. Failure to do so results in point deductions.
- G. Upon return from any absence, members must bring a note from a parent or physician explaining their absence. Failure to do so results in point deductions.
- H. Outside employment is not an excuse to miss any part of drill team activities. Doing so constitutes an unexcused absence and results in point deductions.
- I. Students who are absent from school on a performance day for more than half a day are ineligible to perform. (exception: school field trips, religious holidays)

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## **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

In the event of inclement weather, it will be the responsibility of the drill team director, in collaboration with the building principal, to make the decision to leave the event. The decision will be based on what is in the best interests of the students and their health and welfare. If a parent or student voluntarily leaves a drill team event, they will be subject to the penalties as outlined in the drill team constitution.

## **COST OF JUNIOR VARSITY DRILL TEAM**

In order to keep junior varsity drill team affordable to all students, the Garland Independent School District places a \$350 spending limit for practice/performance uniforms and \$50 for accessories.

## **Quick Reference Guide for Disciplinary Matters**

### **Academic Probation:**

#### **Failure to earn the required amount of credit units per year:**

Ineligible for the first six weeks of the next school year

#### **Fail a non-exempt course:**

ineligible to perform, travel, or wear uniforms until eligibility is regained.  
Also may not perform with or audition for specialty groups until eligibility is regained.

#### **Fail twice in one school year:**

May not perform with or audition for specialty groups for the remainder of the school year.

**Fail three times in one school year:** Removal

### **Disciplinary Benching/Probation:**

<b>Accumulation of 10 points:</b>	benched from next performance
<b>Accumulation of 15 points:</b>	benched from next performance
<b>Accumulation of 20 points:</b>	benched from next performance
<b>Accumulation of 25 points:</b>	3-week probation
<b>Accumulation of 28 points:</b>	6-week probation
<b>Accumulation of 29 points:</b>	removal

### **Removal:**

Any of the following will result in removal:

- **Third academic failure in one school year**
- **Assault or harassment of director or team members**
- **Theft of individual or team property**
- **Participation in illegal activities as determined by school code of conduct**
- **Violating Standard of Conduct and/or Regulations and Policies of constitution**
- **Accumulation of 29 points**
- **Reassignment placement more than once in a school year**
- **Placement in Alternative School**
- **Expulsion from school**
- **Suspension from school**
- **Missing more than 10 practices/performance in one term/semester**
- **Loss of Credit for the drill team course due to excessive absences**
- **Second infraction of tobacco, alcohol, illegal drug policy.**