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## **GARLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL PEP SQUAD CONSTITUTION AND GUIDELINES**

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REVISED: 5/10/03

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### **PURPOSE**

Pep Squads and spirit groups exist to increase school spirit at the campus level and at athletic events. They should promote good sportsmanship, help students acquire basic attributes of good citizenship, encourage the responsibility of students, improve student self-esteem, and promote cooperation between the student body and school staff.

### **SELECTION**

Pep Squads are open to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students wanting to participate in the promotion of school spirit and good sportsmanship. While there are no tryouts, all students must meet TEA, State, and G.I.S.D. rules and policies.

### **SQUAD MAKE-UP**

There will be one pep squad per middle school. The make-up of the squad will come from 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. There will be no size limit to the squad.

### **GENERAL RULES AND GUIDELINES**

#### **1. SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES**

- A. Weekly practices so that the squad may cheer at athletic events and pep rallies.
- B. Develop hand, card, and pom routines or perform with music.
- C. Act as hosts for special school activities.
- D. Work with cheerleader squads, but do not infringe on cheerleader activities.
- E. There will be no summer camp or competitive activities.
- F. Pep Squads may perform in the stands. They may not perform on the track, field, or court. This would also apply to baseball and basketball games.

## 2. GRADES AND CITIZENSHIP

- A. Pep Squad members who fail a class during any six weeks grading period will be excluded from participation in all extra-curricular activities for the following six weeks, or until they become eligible under the TEA guidelines. They may attend all practices, but may not participate (in any way) in the performances. This state policy does not apply to social activities.
- B. Grades are a VERY IMPORTANT part of Pep Squad. Students should strive for excellence in their grades and remain eligible to participate in all pep squad activities. It is a waste of time, money and energy when a student cannot participate due to failing grades.
- C. A member that is sent to the reassignment room, is suspended, or receives an N or U as a citizenship grade will be subject to review by the sponsor and principal. Results of that review will be based on GISD policies and may result in dismissal from the group.

## 3. ATTENDANCE/BENCHING/SUSPENSION FROM SQUAD

- A. Pep Squad members must attend all weekly practices to be eligible to perform with the squad. Exceptions will be made for excused absences.
- B. Unexcused absences from a practice or a game will cause a student to miss the following game or activity.
- C. Excessive missed practices, games, pep squad activities or a poor attitude exhibited by the student may cause students to be removed from the squad. Both sponsor and principal must approve removal.
- D. Any member failing to abide by TEA rules or GISD policies relating to conduct, use of drugs, alcoholic beverages or illegal activities will be subject to review by the sponsor and principal. Dismissal from the group may result from that review.

## 4. TRANSPORTATION

- A. The Fine Arts Department budget will pay the transportation to two football games in the fall and two winter/spring athletic events.
- B. All activities must be approved by the principal.
- C. Additional activities requiring transportation will be paid by the principal or through fund-raising.

## 5. UNIFORMS/PROPS

- A. Uniforms should be similar between schools.
- B. Uniform costs will be limited to \$35.00. No matter what the source, no additional funds may be spent that would cause the uniform cost/value to exceed \$35.00.
- C. Recommended uniforms are: T-shirts, biker shorts, wind shorts or jeans during winter activities. Students will furnish their own non-uniform type shoes and socks.
- D. Poms, cards, props, etceteras will be purchased from fund-raising.
- E. Fund-raising will be limited to one fund-raising activity per year.
- F. Pep Squad members must wear the designated uniforms at all games where the pep squad is performing.

## 6 Website

A. This constitution can be download from <http://www.garlandisd.net/drillteam>