

GISD VARSITY DRILL TEAM CONSTITUTION
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GISD HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY DRILL TEAM CONSTITUTION

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PURPOSE

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

Instructional and performance activities are affirmatively directed toward development of individual member improvement, resulting in a highly skilled performance group. Each student selected 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 tryout the next school year. This does not include the academic guidelines. Because of TEA rules, the academic policies are in effect for a school year.

SELECTION

Beginning with the team members selected for the 2010-2011 school year, all varsity drill team members will be required to tryout for the team each year. (Current drill team members will be required to go through the tryout process but will be “grandfathered” and will not be removed from the team regardless of judges’ scores. Failure to participate in the tryout process will result in removal from the team.

EXCEPTION: Drill team members who have already been selected to serve as a team officer for the next school year will be exempt from the line tryouts.

The procedures for selection are based on the Board Policies of the Garland Independent School District and from the guidelines in this handbook.

Each director will be responsible for the preparation and distribution of a packet of information to be made available to all candidates. This information will include specific tryout dates, times, attire, and procedures. This information must be approved by the building principal prior to distribution. Candidates and parents must sign a form stating that they understand and will comply with all information in the packet before the students is allowed to participate in the tryout process.

The Garland Independent School District will hold a centralized tryout for the selection of high school varsity drill team line members. The goal of the centralized tryout will be to provide a consistent, equitable and monitored tryout process for all high school drill team candidates across the district. The tryouts will be held on a Saturday in May to be determined by the principals and Director of Fine Arts. The date will not be during the week of six weeks and/or TAKS testing. Every student wishing to audition must do so on this date with no exceptions.

Any student who arrives at the tryout site after the tryouts for that campus have started will not be allowed to try out

There will be no application fees or tryout fees for students trying out for drill team.

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Drill team candidates wanting to participate in an optional drill team clinic may be charged a small fee, not to exceed \$10.00, if the school chooses to host a pre-tryout workshop.

The school district will bring in judges to assist in the selection process. The Director of Fine Arts will have final approval of judges hired. There will be a five-member judging panel that will score candidates from each school. The high and low scores for each candidate will be thrown out. Each candidate must score a minimum of 45 points in order to be placed on a drill team.

Scores given to a student by an individual judge will not be changed by a director, principal, or the Director of Fine Arts. Complaints about any aspect of the tryout process are subject to the requirements of GISD Board Policy FNG (LOCAL). Copies of such policy may be obtained from the school principal.

Parents will not be allowed in the building during any phase of the tryouts.

The number of candidates selected each year will be based upon the talent level and qualifications of the candidates. In order to try out, a student must be at least a freshman and meet all state, TEA, and GISD requirements.

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 varsity drill team at the new school of attendance, that student must wait for the scheduled yearly tryout to audition.

Candidates selected to be a member of the drill team are expected to make a commitment to the activity for the full year. Any drill team member who voluntarily quits the team before the end of the school year will not be allowed to tryout at the next tryout session unless he/she has had prior approval from the principal and director.

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

To be eligible for tryouts, students must have passed all subjects the preceding six-week grading period in order to participate in all of the out-of-school workshops and judging.

or

If a student failed one or more course(s), he/she may try out for drill team. The tryout for a student who has failed a course is limited to one-day participation before the judges.

INJURY AND USE OF VIDEO

In the case of physical injury prior to the tryout, the Director of Fine Arts must be notified for permission to have any deviations in the tryout procedure.

A video can only be used after notification of the Director of Fine Arts, and only in the case of an injury that impairs a student from participating in a "specific skill" of the tryout. If a video is used, only a small segment of the video that shows the "specific skill" done by the student prior to the tryout may be judged.

A medical doctor's note indicating the specific skill the student is incapable of performing will be required prior to video use.

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VIDEO USAGE GUIDELINES

(Directors will make these guidelines available to judges if a video is used for tryout.)

The judges shall be instructed to consider "absence of pressure," lack of physical/respiratory exertion, vocal ability, and note if a cheerleader is using a hard or spring floor when performing specific skills" on video.

The candidate must perform each individual "specific skill" required in the tryout to receive credit/points.

No score reduction or credit shall be exercised due to the claimed injury. However, in light of the above considerations, a perfect score for any "specific skill" or category should be rare.

JUDGES

There will be five judges on each panel. Every attempt should be made and documented to secure a minority judge on each panel.

The judging panels will consist of three (3) judges who are not employed by the Garland Independent School District and two (2) GISD drill team directors who will rotate on the judging panels. Obviously, no director will judge his/her own campus. The integrity of the tryouts will be maintained because with the Olympic scoring system, the high and low scores are discarded.

Judges will be selected from qualified professionals and can include directors from high school and/or college campuses. Outside judges should not be hired to judge tryouts if they have tutored or taught the drill team candidates during the current school year. Every attempt should be made to hire outside judges who have not worked with students in the Garland area. However, with the hundreds of camps in the state of Texas, attended by thousands of drill team members and taught by hundreds of instructors, it may be possible at some time that a member of the judging panel may have had some contact with a candidate who is trying out.

Professional judges with outstanding credential and references will be hired for all tryouts. They will be instructed to judge the candidates based only on the mastery of the skills that they see demonstrated during the tryouts. Tryout results will not be challenged because of prior knowledge of judges and candidates.

TRYOUTS

Tryouts will be closed to everyone except judges, directors, principals, and principals' designees. There will be no students, parents, or existing drill team members who are not part of the audition in the tryout room/area, nor will they be involved in the collection or tabulation of scores.

Any deviation by the candidates from the tryout requirements may result in the disqualification of the candidate.

TABULATION OF SCORES

Each of the five judges will enter each candidates' scores into an Excel spreadsheet. At the conclusion of the tryouts, a technical assistant will download all of the judges' individual score sheets into a master database.

The District-wide formula for tabulating final scores should be as follows:

- Each judge may award up to 60 points total per candidate. The high and low judges' scores will be dropped and the remaining three scores will be averaged together to get the judges' average score. This number will count 100%.

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Scores will be calculated to two decimal points.

Each candidate must score a minimum of 45 points in order to be placed on a drill team.

Scores given to a student by an individual judge will not be changed by a director, principal, or the Director of Fine Arts. Complaints about any aspect of the tryout process are subject to the requirements of GISD Board Policy FNG (LOCAL). Copies of such policy may be obtained from the school principal.

JUDGING CRITERIA FOR DRILL TEAM TRYOUTS

Jazz (20)

Kick (20)

R Split (10)

L Split (10)

The highest possible score is 60 points.

Candidates **MUST** score a minimum of 45 points to be selected for the team. (the high and low score will be dropped and the remaining three scores will be averaged.)

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 tenth grade year — at least 6 units toward graduation.
2. Beginning of the eleventh grade year — at least 12 units toward graduation or a total of 5 units that count toward graduation that have been earned during the 12 months preceding the first day of the current school year.
3. Beginning of the twelfth grade year — at least 18 units toward graduation or a total of 5 units that count toward graduation that have been earned during the 12 months preceding the first day of the current school year.

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. This will not include the courses designated in board policy as exempt from the ineligibility rule.

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.

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.

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.

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 with regard to auditioning and performing with specialty groups. This will not include the courses designated in board policy as exempt from the ineligibility rule.

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A drill team member who becomes academically ineligible three times during a school year will be removed from the team.

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 director.

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. If a member is placed on academic probation, that member will also be on probation regarding the **specialty groups** and may not audition for or perform with such groups for the remainder of the academic probation term. Students who are placed on academic probation twice in one year will automatically be on probation with regard to **specialty groups** for the remainder of the school year.

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, or of specialty groups, as defined in the **specialty groups** section of this constitution.

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

C. Removal

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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 will be removed from the team after two disciplinary probation periods in one year. Removal occurs once point deductions reach 22 or more. If the student progresses to 22 or more points without having served other disciplinary actions, or during a disciplinary term, removal is still the result, and will be immediate.

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.

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 placed in the alternative school will be removed from the team, effective on the date of placement.

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 varsity drill team membership, including attending drill team-only events, using drill team facilities, and wearing drill team attire.

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

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 and director.

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 or of specialty groups. 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.

-5 points	Benched
-10 points	Benched
-15 points	Benched
-18 points	3-week probation
-21 points	6-week probation

A student will receive a benching after the initial 10 points accrued and every 5 points thereafter. The accumulation of 22 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

RULE INFRACTION	POINT DEDUCTION
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
Not following instructions for stands behavior	1
Failure of student to dress out for practice	3
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
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

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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. Students should use discretion in his/her commitments to multiple extracurricular activities.
- D. There will be tryouts for each performance. The director will judge routines. Factors such as attitude, manners, and effort will be taken into consideration as well as ability. Students unable to execute the routine to the expected standard or who have exhibited excessive negativity regarding practices will not be chosen to perform.
- E. Members should strive to maintain a reasonable level of fitness including a reasonable weight.
- F. 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.
- G. A student may only perform if in correct and complete uniform at the time of performance.
- H. 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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FINANACIAL OBLIGATIONS

Because drill team is an extra-curricular activity, there are both financial and time commitments involved in being a part of a successful drill team. These commitments are spelled out clearly for each school in the packets that are distributed prior to tryouts. It is critical that students and parents understand the financial obligations of the organization and the timeline for submitting payments due for materials and/or activities before the student decides to tryout for the team.

A. Any student who fails to make a payment on time will not be allowed to perform with the organization until such time that the financial obligation is satisfied.

Any drill team member who has not met their financial obligation for the current school year will not be allowed to tryout for the next school year.

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.

SPECIALTY GROUPS

- A. It is up to the discretion of each school to decide whether to offer specialty groups such as elite dance teams and kick lines.
- B. Any member is eligible to audition for specialty groups such as: All-City, kick lines, elite dance teams, contest teams, officers, squad leaders, etc., unless on academic or disciplinary probation.
- C. Specialty groups are: officers, squad leaders, all-city, kick lines, elite dance teams, contest teams, travel teams, and other special groups. It is considered a privilege to be a part of these specialty groups.

COST COVERED BY GISD

- A. GISD will provide field uniform pieces excluding hats, boots, body suits, and tights. Members are required to return the district-provided uniform pieces upon leaving the team, with dated dry-cleaning receipt attached, or must pay dry cleaning fees as determined by the director. As these uniform pieces are GISD property, failure to return them will result in disciplinary action by school administration.
- B. The principal will provide a minimum supply budget to the drill team of \$1500.00.
- C. Award blankets will be provided to senior varsity drill team members who have not already been awarded any other award blanket or jacket by GISD organizations.
- D. A record of all uniforms and equipment issued to members will be kept. Students will be assessed the replacement cost of items not returned. Items with excessive abuse and/or items deemed unusable or destroyed must also be replaced at the student's expense.

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.

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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:

Accumulation of 5 points: benched from next performance
Accumulation of 10 points: benched from next performance
Accumulation of 15 points: benched from next performance
Accumulation of 18 points: 3-week probation
Accumulation of 21 points: 6-week probation
Accumulation of 22 points: 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 22 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/performances in one term/semester**
- **Loss of Credit for the drill team course due to excessive absences**
- **Second infraction of tobacco, alcohol, illegal drug policy.**