

Melissa Middle School Cheerleader/Mascot Constitution & Rules

Article I: Title

These organizations shall be known as the Melissa Middle School Cheerleaders.

Article II: Purpose

The purpose of the Melissa Middle School (MMS) Cheerleaders shall be to perform and entertain audiences through precision performance and to boost the morale and school spirit for the Cardinal community. The purpose shall also be for each member to promote physical fitness, character, leadership, individual abilities and responsibility while maintaining high moral standards. It is the cheerleading squad's purpose to represent Melissa Independent School District (MISD) in a manner that will reflect integrity upon the school, and to refrain from detrimental personal or group conduct, in or out of school. Off the field, cheerleaders are to enthusiastically support all athletic teams through advertisement, personal attitude and attendance at events chosen by the sponsor and approved by the principal. **Each member agrees to abide by the rules and regulations as set forth in this constitution.**

Article III: Qualifications and Requirements of Membership

Cheerleaders and Mascots will be considered a member of the team if they attend tryout camp/workshop, participate in the tryout process and pay all money required for participation by designated due date.

In order to maintain membership please refer to the following rules and guidelines.

Article IV: Duties and Responsibilities

- A.) Members must abide by the constitution and rules of the sponsor at all times
- B.) Members are required to attend mandatory summer camp
- C.) Members are required to participate in all home/away football games, pep rallies, home basketball games, practices and other events set by the sponsor throughout the year unless prior arrangements have been made
- D.) Members will be on time to all practices and activities
- E.) Members must not be late returning from breaks during events. During cheer activities the sponsor will determine all break times and duration
- F.) Members are expected to help plan, execute, and clean-up after pep rallies, games, and other events
- G.) Members are responsible for all financial obligations
- H.) Members are required to keep their uniform in good, clean condition. Members are expected to not lose their uniform

Article V: Cheer Attendance

- A.) Members are expected to be present and on time at all practices and remain at practice until dismissed, unless prior arrangements have been made.
 - a. Detentions related to discipline are not an excuse to miss any part of practice
 - b. **Non-Melissa ISD extracurricular activities will NOT be excused from practice or official cheer events**
- B.) Absences can be excused by the sponsor or an administrator. Excuses must be given to the sponsor at least 24 hours in advance by a parent/guardian, except in the event of an emergency C.) Excused absences will include the following:
 - a. Personal illness
 - b. Death or wedding in the family
 - c. Required school activity (i.e. test, Melissa ISD band event, Melissa ISD athletic event)
 - d. Doctor's appointment (limited to 2 times per year)
- D.) Unexcused absences include the following:
 - a. Tardy more than 3 times to practice or performance
 - b. Failure to attend required activity without prior approval (including practice)
 - c. Failure to remain for the entire activity without prior approval (including practice)
 - d. **Missing practice or official event for a non-Melissa ISD event/practice (i.e. competitive cheerleading, club sports)**
- E.) All appointments should be scheduled around practice times
- F.) Members may not have a practice session without the presence of a sponsor
- G.) Members will not be allowed unexcused absences on a Friday following a Thursday night game
- H.) Work or non-school sponsored activities; classes and activities cannot interfere with a scheduled practice. Members should arrive and leave at the set times for practices
- I.) Members are responsible for talking with coaches/staff for other Melissa ISD extracurricular activities if games and practices interfere
- J.) Practices are closed to visitors unless invited by sponsor
- K.) **Performance time and cheering time at official events will be directly proportional to practice time. (i.e. if you miss part of practice you will sit out part of the performance)**

Article VI: Uniforms/Appearance

- A.) Cheerleaders are not allowed to wear their uniforms unless representing MISD at an event designated by the sponsor or principal
- B.) Under no circumstances will cheerleaders loan out any uniforms or clothing representing MMS cheerleading to anyone not on the squad without permission from the sponsor
- C.) Members must keep track of uniforms and make sure they are kept clean, neat and in good repair

- D.) No jewelry is to be worn during practice or performances
- E.) Hair should be worn in manner designated by sponsor
- F.) Gum is unacceptable during practice or performance
- G.) Appropriate practice clothes are to be worn – absolutely no bra tops, must have a t-shirt over top

Article VII: Games/Performances/Practice

- A.) A member not performing or practicing for medical reasons are required to attend all practices and performances in full uniform
- B.) A doctor's note will be required for an injury and to release a student back to participation
- C.) There will be no food permitted during the games, except during those times designated by a sponsor
- D.) No cell phones will be permitted during practices, games or performances. All phones must remain stored in backpacks or purses
- E.) Only stunts approved by a sponsor will be performed / practices
- F.) Tumbling, stunting and jumping will be done under sponsor supervision ONLY.
- G.) Public displays of affection are not allowed in school or at school activities

Academis, Discipline, Code of Conduct

Article VIII: General Conduct

A Cheerleader is a person who encourages others. Cheerleaders are expected to behave in a manner that is becoming to the individual, as well as to the organization they represent. In or out of uniform, they are representatives of the cheer squad and MISD and should act accordingly. Cheerleaders engaging in lewd and/or inappropriate behavior may be dismissed from the squad.

Article IX: Specific Guidelines/Rules

- A.) A cheerleader not meeting academic requirements will be placed on probation for one grading period. Academic requirements and lengths of grading periods are set by UIL Side-By-Side standards
- B.) Members are expected to observe the 90% attendance rule. Any member that falls below the 90% attendance rule will be referred to the assistant principal for review which can result in probation, suspension, or dismissal from the squad
- C.) Probation is a term where a member has been notified, written or verbal, for any form of violation. The member still participates in all facets of the organization
- D.) Suspension is a term where a member is required to attend all functions completely in uniform and must sit with the sponsor, but is unable to perform. If grades are the reason for suspension then the member is not allowed to dress out for games or performances and will not be allowed to attend with the squad, per UIL regulations. This will be the second step in the discipline process

- E.) Dismissal is a term where a member is released from the organization completely. Once a member is dismissed from the program for discipline or academic reasons they are not eligible for reinstatement. This is the final step in the discipline process
- F.) Before a member's dismissal if final, a meeting will be held with the principal, parents, sponsor, and member to discuss the reasons for dismissal
- G.) Failure to comply with regulations stated in the constitution may result in probation, suspension and lead to dismissal
- H.) Probation, suspension and/or dismissal from the squad may occur to members for the following:
 - a. Probation
 - i. Up to 2 unexcused absences
 - ii. Up to 2 dismissals from practices or performances
 - iii. Chronic attitude/discipline problems/rule violations
 - iv. ISS for dress code or a missed detention
 - b. Suspension
 - i. 3 unexcused absences
 - ii. 3 dismissals from practices or performances
 - iii. Insubordination towards sponsor, teammates, faculty, school personnel
 - iv. Inappropriate behavior or language; verbal or written
 - v. Truancy
 - vi. Multiple chronic attitude/discipline problems/rule violations
 - vii. **ISS for any reason not listed above, up to two days (i.e. ISS for discipline related reasons)**
 - c. Dismissal
 - i. In school suspension for behavior more than 3 days
 - ii. Smoking
 - iii. Use of alcohol
 - iv. Use of illegal drugs
 - v. Being involved in a fight
 - vi. Convicted of a crime
 - vii. Being arrested for any reason
 - viii. Out of school suspension
 - ix. District alternative education program placement
 - x. Photographs that show more than the standard swim-suit, with full bottom coverage
- I.) Members must abide by the school's code of conduct at all times **Article**

X: Transportation

- A.) The school district will provide transportation to most out of town events. All cheerleaders are required to ride the bus to and from activities and/or functions in the provided transportation

- B.) Members will abide by all bus transportation regulations and any other rules and regulations set for by the sponsor, bus driver, and MISD. Absolutely NO EATING ON THE BUS!
- C.) Members must make sure that all equipment and trash are removed from the bus upon returning home.

Student-Parent Constitution Agreement

Melissa Middle School Cheerleaders & Mascots

By signing this form, both the student and the parent agree to uphold all of the items outlined in the constitution. Any violation of these items may result in disciplinary action.

Member Name: _____

Member Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____