



2015-2016

*NISD Dance/Drill Team Constitution*



**NISD DANCE/DRILL TEAM CONSTITUTION  
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**NISD DANCE/DRILL TEAM CONSTITUTION**

**Article I: PURPOSE**

Section 1: The purpose of the NISD Dance/Drill Team is to promote school 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 and self-respect 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.

## **Article II: DEFINITION**

**Section 1:** Dance/drill team Year: The rules and procedures outlined in this constitution are in effect from the time the student is selected to the dance/drill team squad until the last day of the following school year.

## **Article III: TEAM SELECTION**

**Section 1:** Requirements for tryouts. A candidate:

1. Must not have been academically ineligible for any two or more grading periods during the application school year
2. Must have no DAEP or JJAEP school placement during the current school year
3. Must not have been absent (without making up those hours) for more than 10% of school days in the school year
4. Must be cleared through both the attendance and administrator's offices before being eligible to tryout
5. With current injuries must provide a doctor's release note at the time of the tryout in order to tryout
6. A tryout waiver may be obtained from the director for those that wish to try out and do not meet the above standards.

**Section 2:** Candidates will be provided with a information concerning tryout dates & procedures, dance/drill team policies and procedures and financial obligations. Candidates and parents must sign a form stating that they understand and will comply with all information in the packet before the student is allowed to participate in the tryout process.

**Section 3:** There will be a three-member judging panel that will score the candidates. Judges will have no affiliation with NISD. The top 80 scores with an average score of 80 or above will be eligible for selection for the Varsity team. NHS Only – The next 60 candidates with an average of 70-79 will be eligible for selection for the Junior Varsity team. Varsity teams are limited to 80 members.

**Section 4:** Students in grades 8-11 are allowed to audition. Returning members must audition for a place on the squad each year.

**Section 5:** Parents will not be allowed in the gym during any phase of the tryouts.

**Section 6:** Candidates selected to be a member of the dance/drill team are expected to make a commitment to the activity for the full year. Any dance/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 she has had prior approval from the principal and director.

**Section 7:** All individual judging sheets and scores will be shredded immediately after the scores are totaled and recorded at the tryout. If a parent wishes to view their student's score, they must make an appointment with the officiating campus administrator. Parents are only allowed to view their student's

total score. The statute of limitations for viewing scores is five (5) school days following the tryout session. The judges' decisions are final. The tryout results may not be appealed beyond the campus level.

**Section 8:** Judging criteria for dance/drill team tryouts will be as follows:

Dance Technique (20%)

Dance Ability/Execution (20%)

Showmanship (10%)

Splits (Right & Left) (10%)

Kick Height (20%)

Kick Technique (20%)

#### **Article IV: ELIGIBILITY AND MAINTENANCE**

**Section 1:** 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 a 70 on a scale of 0-100 in any course for the preceding six-week period.

**Section 2:** A student who regains eligibility at the end of a six-week or three-week period will regain eligibility according to the UIL calendar.

**Section 3:** 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.

**Section 4:** A dance/drill team member who becomes academically ineligible two times during one school semester will be automatically dismissed from the team.

#### **Article V: Standards of Conduct**

**Section 1:** 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.

**Section 2:** Proper manners should be used at all times to address adults and team officers. Mutual respect and politeness toward fellow members within the group are basic elements and contribute to the total success of the team.

**Section 3:** The following are expressly forbidden: assault or harassment of directors 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.

**Section 4:** Any member failing to abide by published school rules relating to the conduct, use of drugs, alcoholic beverages, or other illegal activities will be subject to review by the directors and principal. Dismissal from the group may result from that review.

**Section 5:** Dance/drill team members will wear practice and performance uniforms as designated by the director.

**Section 6:** Dance/drill team members will abide by the following P.D.A. (public display of affection) rules while on campus and at all school related functions: no kissing, no sitting in other people's laps, no hugging or any other actions that are deemed inappropriate by the Director. Side hugs and holding hands are acceptable.

#### **Article VI: ATTENDANCE** (these rules govern all practices and activities, including those not during school hours)

**Section 1:** Attendance at all dance/drill team activities and practices is mandatory unless otherwise decided by the director. The director will give two weeks' notice of any schedule changes when possible.

**Section 2:** An absence is recorded if the student is more than 20 minutes late.

**Section 3:** An unexcused absence from dance/drill team activities , class periods and other practices receives 10 demerits.

- A. Excused absences/tardies are limited to: personal illness, school related activities when 5 days notice is given, religious holidays, eco, Saturday School, death in the family or funeral --must have a phone call or email from the parents)
- B. Unexcused absences/tardies include: Work, vacation, appointments, non-school related extra curricular activities.

**Section 4:** Absence from practice will result in the 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. Students absent on the day of auditions will not be allowed to tryout at a later time. The only exception is for school related activities where 5 days notice is given. The dancer must audition the day prior to audition day.

**Section 5:** Any absence approved by the administration for other school activities will not be recorded as an absence.

**Section 6:** Members must call ahead if they are going to be absent. Failure to do so will result in demerits.

**Section 7:** A doctor's note is required for absences due to illness in excess of 2 days per semester.

**Section 8:** Outside employment is not an excuse to miss any part of dance/drill team activities. Doing so constitutes an unexcused absence and results in demerits.

**Section 9:** Students who are absent from school on a performance day for more than half a day are ineligible to perform. (Exception: school field trips)

**Section 10:** Team members that miss more than 10 practices, any combination of excused or unexcused, in 1 semester will be submitted to a review for dismissal from the team.

## **Article VII: PROBATION AND REMOVAL**

**Section 1: Probation – Disciplinary** A dance/drill team member may be placed on *disciplinary* probation for indicated periods of time as described in the **Regulations and Policies** and **Attendance** sections of this document.

- A dance/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 class and practices as scheduled during and before/after school hours.
- A dance/drill team member of disciplinary probation will not be allowed to participate in auditions or performances of the team.

**Section 2: Removal** - A dance/drill team member may be removed from the team at the discretion of the dance/drill team director for violation of the **Standards of Conduct** or **Regulations and Policies** sections of this constitution.

- A dance/drill team member may be removed from the team after accruing 30 demerits.
- A dance/drill team member who is placed in Out Of School Suspension more than one time during the dance/drill team year will be subject to a principal/director review, which may result in removal from the team.
- A dance/drill team member who is placed in the alternative school will be automatically removed from the team, effective on the date of placement.
- A dance/drill team member who is expelled from school will be removed from the team.
- Students who have been removed and those who voluntarily quit the team retain no rights to team awards, recognitions, etc. They lose all privileges associated with varsity dance/drill team

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

- A dance/drill team member who has voluntarily quit or who has been removed from the team will not be eligible to participate in the following dance/drill team tryouts.

### **Article VIII – BEHAVIORAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

**Section 1:** A Demerit System is used to track regulation and policy infractions. Demerits are strictly used to determine disciplinary probation periods and are not used for grading purposes. Demerits accumulate for one school year. 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.

**Section 2:** Each campus will issue specific guidelines for the demerit system prior to tryouts each year. Disciplinary action will be taken according to the following chart for permanently recorded demerits according to the guidelines of the individual campus.

<b># of Demerits</b>	<b>Disciplinary Action</b>
5 demerits	Benched
10 demerits	Benched
15 demerits	1 week probation
20 demerits	3 week probation
25 demerits	6-week probation
30 demerits	Director review for dismissal

**Section 3: Benching:** The 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 the pre-game, half-time, or post games performances or festivities. Once the student is benched, they must sit out of all dance/drill team performances for at least one week, unless they accrued enough demerits to serve a three or six week probation.

**Section 4: Probation:** The member is not allowed to participate in auditions or performances of the team. The member is required to travel with the team in attire designated by the director. The member may not wear the dance/drill team uniform. The member must continue to attend classes, work periods and practices as scheduled during and before/after school hours.

**Section 5: Merits –** Merits may be earned for end of the year awards and to earn other privileges designated by the director. The merit system is separate from the demerit system; they have no bearing on each other.

### **Article IX: DANCE/DRILL TEAM PRACTICE AND PERFORMANCES**

**Section 1:** Dance/drill team members MUST be picked up from all dance/drill team activities within 15 minutes of dismissal. Failure to do so will result in consequences deemed appropriate by the director.

**Section 2:** Dance/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.

**Section 3:** Dance/drill team members who are absent twice during a performance week will automatically be removed from that week’s performance. They must also re-tryout for the following week’s performance.



**Section 4:** Students should use discretion in their commitments to multiple extracurricular activities.

**Section 5:** There will be tryouts for each performance. The director will judge routines. The director will have the final say as to who makes the performance. 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.

**Section 6:** 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 her from doing so.

**Section 7:** A student may only perform if in correct and complete uniform at the time of performance.

**Section 8:** Dance/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.

**Section 9:** Practice times are scheduled by the Director and can change at any time. It is up to the discretion of the Director to determine when the team, officers or select squads should or should not practice. All dance/drill team members will be notified of any additions or changes to the practice schedule at least two weeks in advance, unless a special circumstance arises that is out of the Director's control.

#### **Article X: SUMMER CAMP**

**Section 1:** All members are required to attend line camp. Vacations should be planned accordingly. Dates are given prior to the team tryout.

**Section 2:** Line officers must attend a separate officer camp in addition to separate summer practices and line camp.

**Section 3:** Social officers must attend a separate social officer camp in addition to line camp.

#### **Article XI: COMPETITIONS AND OTHER DANCE/DRILL TEAM SPONSORED FUNCTIONS**

**Section 1:** All members are required to attend all competitions. Failure to compete at any designated competition, (for any reason), will result in the dance/drill team member being placed as an alternate for all contest routines.

**Section 2:** All members are required to attend all dance/drill team sponsored activities including, but not limited to dance clinics, contest show-offs and spring shows. Planning of such events will be at the director's discretion. Ample notice will be given to plan for such events.

#### **Article XII: SPECIALTY GROUPS**

**Section 1:** It is up to the discretion of the director whether to offer specialty groups such as line officers, all-stars, social officers, elite dance teams and managers.

**Section 2:** Any member is eligible to audition for a specialty group as long as they meet specific requirements defined by the director. Any specialty group member put on probation (academic or disciplinary) during the course of the year must step down from their position immediately and permanently.

**Section 3:** Returning members of specialty groups must try out each year for a place on the team.

**Section 4:** The amount of dance officers and positions will be determined by the director to meet specific needs of the team.

**Section 5:** Officer Candidates must meet team specific criteria determined by the director.

**Section 6:** Scoring System for line/dance officers will be determined by the director and published for the team prior to tryouts.

#### **Article XIII: COST COVERED BY DANCE/DRILL TEAM MEMBERS**

**Section 1:** Every member of the team will be responsible for various items and expenses throughout the year such as t-shirts, tights, etc.

**Section 2:** Expenses include practice attire, boots, pep rally uniform, field hat and warm-up suit. Many supplies can be reused from year to year, so that each year of membership should decrease in cost.

**Section 3:** Competition items such as fake eyelashes, earrings, competition makeup, etc. will be paid for by the dance/drill team member.

**Section 4:** Spirit supplies such as locker decorations, big sis/lil' sis gifts, etc. will be paid for by the dance/drill team member.

**Section 5:** Additional expenses for line officers:

- a. Officer camp
- b. Officer camp uniforms

**Section 6:** Additional expenses for social officers:

- a. Officer camp
- b. Officer camp supplies

**Section 7:** No uniforms or unpaid items will be issued to a student. Students will not be able to attend camp or other activities with a delinquent account.

**Article XIV: COST COVERED BY N.I.S.D.**

**Section 1:** N.I.S.D. will provide field uniform pieces excluding field hats, boots, body suits and tights. Members are required to return the district-provided uniform upon leaving the team. As these uniform pieces are N.I.S.D. property, failure to return them will result in disciplinary action by school administration.

**Section 2:** Letters for letter jackets will be provided to varsity dance/drill team members who have earned the required number of points. Refer to Article XV. Jackets must be purchased by the team member.

**Section 3:** A record of all uniforms, costumes 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.

**Article XV: LETTERS FOR LETTER JACKETS – VARSITY TEAM MEMBERS ONLY**

**Section 1:** To earn a letter for your jacket the team member must earn a minimum of 170 out of 200 points. Points are earned by attendance at drill team functions. Any member with less than 170 points after the Spring Show has concluded will not receive a letter. The point system for letter jackets is as follows:

<b>Drill Team Function</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Maximum Value</b>
Athletic Events	5 points each	50 points
Dance Clinics	15 points each	30 points
Community Events	20 points	60 points
Spring Show	20 points	20 points
Competitions	20 points each	40 points
Total Possible Points		200 points

Eligible events are decided by the drill team director at the beginning of the year.



**Article XVI: FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES**

**Section 1:** There will be various fundraising activities/events throughout the year in which all members are required to participate.

**Section 2:** One or two optional fundraisers will be held immediately following dance/drill team tryouts to help offset the cost of dance/drill team.