**Hobart High School and Jr. High**

**Cheerleader Rules and Responsibilities**

**Revised: April 4, 2023**

1. **Purpose**

A. Promote and uphold school spirit

B. Develop a sense of good sportsmanship among students.

C. Improve relationships between schools during all athletic events.

D. Demonstrate athletic ability.

E. Grow as a leader in spirit, scholarship, and sportsmanship.

1. **Tryout Requirements**
2. All applicants must present a 2.5 grade average (or above) at the time application for tryouts. This grade point average will be figured by 1st, 2nd, and 3rd nine weeks grades for the school year in which you are trying out.
3. NO suspensions during the current school year.
4. If you have quit a cheer squad in a previous year you can NOT try out for future cheer squads.
5. Parental permission form signed
6. Teacher recommendations/forms given to all teachers.
7. Attend two cheer clinics the days required before tryouts is highly recommended.
8. Cheer dues are to be paid ASAP. Payment plans are available.
9. All previous charges for cheerleading must be paid in full to the appropriate account. (This includes prior years as a junior high or high school cheerleader). The entire amount owed must be paid in full by tryouts or the individual will not be allowed to try out.
10. Cheerleaders will be scored based on teacher evaluations and their performance in front of professional college judges. All decisions will be final.
11. **Composition of Squad**

A. A varsity squad will consist of 8-12 cheerleaders who will cheer for BOTH football and basketball.

B. Applicants may decline the position of cheerleader only one week following tryouts. If a position is declined, the sponsor has the option to bring up the next cheerleader.

C. A cheerleader who quits the squad at any other time during the year, (after the one week tryout deadline) will NOT be allowed to tryout the next school year.

D. The cheerleaders who play basketball WILL be required to cheer for basketball. They will change after the girls' game and cheer during the boys' game.

E. The entire squad will cheer the entirety of the football and basketball season, in addition to any extra performances deemed so by the sponsor. i.e. Community events, parades, competitions, etc.

F. During football Homecoming, if any cheerleaders are selected as members of the Royal Court, the remainder of the squad will cheer at the game.

1. **Uniforms**

A. Care of uniform should be excellent at all times

* + 1. **Best Practice** - Do not wash in hot or warm water
    2. **Best Practice** - Do not dry in the dryer.
    3. **Best Practice** - Always machine wash or hand wash in COLD water with mild detergent.
    4. **Best Practice** - Hang or lay flat to dry.

B. Uniforms are only to be worn to games, pep rallies, occasionally school and to any other performances scheduled by the sponsor.

C. Uniforms will be worn on game days during football season and home games during basketball season. This sometimes changes at the sponsors discretion.

D. The entire uniform must be worn, as specified by sponsor. **This includes bows in hair.**

E. Uniforms for specific games will be decided upon by the sponsor and/or the cheerleader in charge of uniforms.

F. Returned uniforms will be in excellent condition. They should be cleaned and on a hanger. If a cheerleader fails to return a uniform(s), he/she will be responsible for payment for the missing uniforms. A “hold” will be placed on the individual's transcript (through the HHS counselor's office) until all uniforms are paid for or returned.

G. The individual cheerleader is responsible for the uniform assigned to her.

H. If you are dismissed from the squad, you will discontinue wearing the uniforms immediately and return to the sponsor within one week of dismissal.

I. If uniforms are damaged while in a cheerleader's possession, whether it be deliberate or not, the cheerleader will be responsible for paying for the uniform(s) within 2 weeks of the occurrence; failure to do so will result in a dismissal from the squad. Furthermore, the cheerleader will not be allowed to cheer the games where the damaged uniforms are being worn.

**V. Games**

A. During games, cheerleaders will not leave the cheering section; emergency situation must be cleared with the sponsor.

B. Cheerleaders will be allowed a break during half-time of football games, half-time of girls' basketball games, between girls and boys' basketball games, and half time of the boys game.

C. All cheerleaders will be ready to cheer at all times! **The cheerleader designated to call cheers will lead appropriate cheers and all other cheerleaders must comply.**

D. Cheerleaders must travel to and from away games by school transportation.

**E. A written note must be provided on a game by game basis to the sponsor prior to the game in order for a cheerleader to ride home with parents. Only parents may request this privilege.**

F. Cheerleaders will not be allowed to leave following a home game until the sponsor has dismissed the entire squad.

G. Excused absences will require a written note from a parent and approval from the cheer sponsor days in advance. Excused absences are (but not limited to) another school event, doctor's note required for sickness, family emergencies.

**VI. Proficiency of cheers, stunts, jumps**

A. Each cheerleader will be responsible for learning the proper routines for each band dance, cheers and chants.

B. Each cheerleader will show proficiency and weekly progress

**VII. Practices and Camp – Cheerleaders must be at all required practices, fund-raisers, and sporting events unless the principal or sponsor has excused her for an extreme emergency or conflicting school event.**

A. Summer Practices

1. The squad will practice some during the summer at practices determined and set by the sponsor.

B. Summer Cheer Camp

1. Cheer camp will be arranged by the sponsor.
2. **Attendance at cheer camp is mandatory.**
3. Practices during the school year will be scheduled as needed. More than likely, practices will be held at 6am before school or 8pm in the evenings to not conflict with other activities.
4. If you miss practice (excused or unexcused) it is your responsibility to learn the material that you missed. You must sit out at a game or pep rally if you don't know the material.

**VII. Behavior Requirements**

A. A cheerleader is an official representative of HHS and should not participate in any act that harms the reputation of the school or themselves, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

* 1. 2.5 GPA for each grading period (each 9 weeks and semester)
  2. More than 1 appearance on the ineligible list; probation will serve as a warning.
  3. Observation of school rules (No write-ups)
  4. No displays of bad habits such as smoking, drinking of alcoholic beverages, or use of narcotics.
  5. Inappropriate behavior such as (but not limited to) improper text messages, emails, pictures, Facebook, SnapChat,Twitter, etc.
  6. Good sportsmanship
  7. No “in fighting” with other cheerleaders.
  8. No gum chewing at games, practices or performances.
  9. Hair must be worn appropriately and back from the face, as requested by sponsor.
  10. Appropriate moral behavior. Cheerleaders are leaders.

1. **Fund-raisers**

A. Cheerleaders will actively participate in all fund-raisers, including but not limited to: car washes, mini cheer camp for elementary students, Bearcat Bash, sales of Bearcat memorabilia, Sale of football program ads.

B. Failure to actively participate in any fund-raiser will result in the automatic dismissal form the squad.

C. Cheerleaders will be held accountable for any funds generated through individual sales of product.

**XI. Discipline**

A. Conference with cheerleader and parents

B. Benched one game

C. Dismissed from squad

D. Absences – Don't be absent!! Discipline is the sponsor's decision.

1. **Participation fees – Dues**

A. All cheerleaders will be responsible for paying certain fees, including but not limited to:

a. briefs, shoes, hair ribbons, gloves, headband, etc.

b. Pom-poms

c. camp fees

d. Hoodies

B. The fees will be determined by the needs of the squad for a particular year. The first installment will be due immediately following tryouts. This year the amount is $300.00 for both junior high and high school.

Fees cover the following:

Pom-poms

Shoes

camp cost

bloomers

camp clothes

bows

C. Any unpaid fees/charges owed to the HHS cheerleading fund will result in a hold on the individual's transcript. Also, unpaid dues will prevent a cheerleader from trying out in future years.

Hobart High School/Jr. High

Cheerleading Constitution

Agreement Form

I have read the entire Cheerleading Constitution and agree to abide by the rules and regulations therein.

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HHS Cheerleader Date

I agree, as a parent, to encourage my daughter and foster support for the cheerleading program at HHS. I also understand the rules and regulations set forth in the cheerleading constitution and agree to support the decision of the sponsor.

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Parent Signature Date