

I. DISTRICT CHEERLEADER ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES

A. INTRODUCTION

The cheerleading program in the Shawnee Mission high schools has a long tradition of excellence. Cheerleaders may include both male and female participants. Cheerleaders maintain high visibility within the school and community; they are expected to be model students and citizens. The Shawnee Mission School District high schools are consistent in the administration and supervision of all athletic programs. As student athletes, the cheerleaders will abide by the same policies and procedures. Since the responsibilities of cheerleading span the seasons of all athletic programs, the selection process must include an indication of the willingness and commitment to participate over this extended period of time. The following policies and procedures will be enforced to ensure fairness and confidentiality in the process.

B. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR CHEERLEADING PROGRAMS

1. Prior Notice and Information

- a. Prior to cheerleading tryouts, the cheerleading sponsor and athletic director/administrator will conduct an organizational meeting of the cheerleader candidates. The meeting will be held at each school. The following items will be discussed at this meeting:
 - i. The cheerleader candidates will be informed of all academic eligibility requirements.
 - ii. The cheerleader candidates along with their parent/guardian will be informed of the requirement to sign the district's Tobacco/Alcohol/ Drug Policies and Contract.
 - iii. The cheerleader candidates will be informed that there will be no "hazing" of prospective or selected cheerleaders. Any such "hazing" will be grounds for termination from the squad or from participation in tryouts.
 - iv. The cheerleader candidates will be informed that they will represent a district high school and will be subject to the policies of the KSHSAA and district policy.
 - v. The cheerleader candidates will be informed that there will be no delivery or special congratulations in any form to selected students during the school day. There will be no "rituals," "hazing," private

selection parties, or gatherings in conjunction with selected candidates. Any group social meeting or social function connected with the cheerleader selection process will be with the consent of the cheerleader sponsor and the building athletic director/ administrator.

- vi. The cheerleading candidate will be informed of all financial obligations associated with the cheerleading squad.

2. Time of Selection

- a. The selection of sophomore, junior varsity, and varsity cheerleaders will be held at each individual high school during the preceding spring.
- b. Selection of freshman cheerleaders will occur after July 15.

3. Philosophy of Selection

The philosophy of the selection of cheerleaders in the district is to ensure fairness and consistency in judging, in an environment conducive to optimal performance on behalf of the cheerleading candidates.

4. Method of Selection

- a. The head cheerleading coach will identify and select qualified judges. Judges must be knowledgeable about the fundamentals and processes of cheerleading. The judges may be selected from cheerleading coaches from the home and other district high schools, excluding the head coach of the home school; coaches from other schools outside of the district; faculty members who are knowledgeable in the fundamentals of cheerleading, and experts from the community including, but not limited to, former college or professional sports team cheerleaders, former cheerleading coaches, or members of cheerleading professional associations such as the United States Cheerleading Association or the National Cheerleading Association.
- b. The head cheerleading coach and athletic director/administrator will designate the format of the tryout. The format of the tryout will consist of either "station tryouts" or "panel tryouts."

c. Station tryouts will involve an individual performance at a designated number of stations. The number and type of stations designated will be consistent with the skill requirements for the squad. If the squad normally performs a dance routine as part of their responsibilities, a dance station would be included in the tryout. Stations may consist of four to eight stations that measure necessary skills. The coach and athletic director/administrator will determine the required stations. A minimum of two judges will judge at each station.

d. Panel tryouts will involve small groups of students (2-3) performing together in front of a panel of 8–10 judges. The required elements of the tryout will be consistent with the skill requirements for the squad. If the squad normally performs a dance routine as part of their responsibilities, a dance would be included in the tryout. The head cheerleading coach and the administrator/athletic director will determine the required stations. A minimum of two judges will judge at each station.

e. Tryout evaluation will consist of three weighted scores:
10% - teacher evaluation- each building will decide the method of assessing teacher evaluations.
15% - current cheerleading sponsor evaluation - or - if candidate was not a cheerleader, an evaluation will be completed during tryout clinic.
75% - score of judges at the tryout.

5. Scoring of Tryout

a. Tryouts will be scored by the judges immediately following the performance of the required element.

b. A mean score in each performance category for each cheerleader candidate will be calculated during station tryouts. A grand total of mean scores across all categories will be determined. For panel tryouts the high and low scores will be dropped. Cheerleader candidates will be rank ordered, based on the grand total achieved.

c. Score sheets will be tabulated by the coach and approved by the building administrator/athletic director. The building administrator/athletic director will secure the score sheets for safekeeping for a period of one calendar year.

6. Number of Cheerleaders to be Selected

a. It is recommended there will be a minimum of eight cheerleaders on each squad. The number of cheerleaders

to be selected for each squad will be determined by the cheerleading sponsor and building administrator of each high school.

7. Notification

- a. The building administrator will authorize the names and/or numbers of the students selected, and the final results will be posted as soon as possible.
- b. The results will be posted in an area designated by the building administrator/athletic director.
- c. Only the names of the students who have been selected will appear on the list.

8. Academic Eligibility

Academic eligibility for cheerleaders will be the same, as that required by board policy and the KSHSAA.

9. Cheerleader Guidelines

a. Uniforms

- i. Cheerleaders will furnish socks, shoes, shirts, and undergarments. These items are considered personal items and are worn as part of the everyday school wardrobe.
- ii. Skirts, sweaters, vests, and jackets will be purchased by the individual school and remain the property of the school. It will be the responsibility of each cheerleader to maintain and clean the uniform during the school year and prior to returning the uniform at the end of the cheerleading season.
- iii. Articles such as practice clothing, pompons, and individual squads (at the discretion of the cheerleading sponsor and building athletic director/administrator) may purchase warm-ups.
- iv. Cheerleaders will be required to pay an annual uniform rental fee.

b. Fund Raising

The appropriate individual building administrator must approve fundraising activities.

c. Travel

- i. Cheerleaders will follow all guidelines of the board.
- ii. No trips or excursions, including summer camp, will exceed the approved 500-mile limit.

10. Cheerleader Responsibilities

- a. Varsity cheerleader squads will cheer at events to be determined by the cheerleading sponsor and athletic director/administrator.
- b. Junior varsity cheerleaders should cheer at all junior varsity home and in-district away football, basketball, and soccer events.
- c. Sophomore and freshmen cheerleaders will cheer at only home football, basketball, and soccer events.
- d. Due to the extended season in which cheerleaders participate and the number of athletic activities covered, discretion should be taken to ensure that a cheerleader will not cheer at more than three events from Monday through Saturday.

11. Cheerleading Summer Clinics

Junior varsity and varsity cheerleader squads may attend summer clinics if planned and supervised by school designated personnel.

12. Cheerleading Budgets

The head cheerleading sponsor will file a budget request with the building athletic/activities director no later than June 1 in accordance with the district's High School Activities Handbook. The budget request shall include all proposed expenditures in itemized form. The building administrator/athletic director will construct the building athletic budget. The budget for cheerleaders will resemble a budget established for any athletic squad, and will include money for transportation and supplies such as uniforms, pompons, and other appropriate uniform articles.

13. Cheerleader Sponsor Responsibilities

The cheerleader sponsor is responsible for establishing in-house rules, making certain that all rules of the board and of the KSHSAA are enforced, and assuming responsibility for all aspects of the cheerleading program. The sponsor or their designee will be present at each event where cheerleaders are assigned.

14. Annual Review of Cheerleader Policies

The building administrator, cheerleader sponsors, and the district director of athletics will review the cheerleader administrative policy annually. Any suggested changes or additions will be recommended to the athletic policy committee.