



Dear Students and Parents,

The Cheerleading Handbook is a result of careful consideration and collaboration amongst Weiss Highschool Coaches and Admins. The purpose of this handbook is to provide students, parents, and the general public as much information as possible regarding our high school cheer teams and the expectations of members.

Cheerleaders are expected to:

- Demonstrate excellence in cheer technique and execution in a variety of Cheer styles;
- Perform with projection, confidence, and expression;
- Understand the importance of Cheer Performance Skills;
- Promote school spirit, pride, and sportsmanship;
- Exhibit strong work ethic with a focus on improvement through a growth mindset; and
- Positively contribute to the success and reputation of the Cheer Team.

Questions regarding this handbook are to be directed to the head Cheer Coach at Weiss High School.

Sincerely,

Ashley Moehnke
Head Cheer Coach

Linda Ramirez
Assistant Cheer Coach

Addendums to this agreement may be made at any time with approval by the PfISD administration. Students and parents will be notified of any changes.

2024-2025 Weiss Cheerleading Agreement

Cheerleaders and Yell Leaders are student leaders who exemplify and promote school spirit, pride, and sportsmanship by participating in athletic events and extracurricular activities deemed appropriate by the coach. Being a Weiss High School Cheerleader is an honor and privilege. Participation in the WHS Cheerleading Program carries both a significant time and financial commitment. All cheerleaders will be held to a standard of excellence outlined in the PfISD Student Handbook, PfISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct, and the Weiss High School Cheerleading Agreement.

Financial Obligations:

Every effort is made to keep expenses reasonable, but there are considerable costs associated with cheerleading. If a cheerleader has participated 100% in every team offered fundraiser and the family is unable to financially fulfill the requirements for attire, camp, and equipment, the parents should communicate with coaches.

- All cheerleaders are required to purchase items that will be individually owned. These items may include practice wear, uniform pieces, shoes, customized items, and any other personal items that the student will own.
- Cheerleaders are responsible for the maintenance of all uniforms and equipment assigned to them. Cheer team members are responsible for the well being and maintenance of their uniforms. Any uniform piece that is lost or damaged will be paid for by the student they were issued to. Cheerleaders may be asked to launder or dry clean uniforms.
- If a cheerleader is declared ineligible, injured, is dismissed, or resigns from the team, the member is still responsible for all fees. ***Refunds will not be issued.***

Attendance:

Cheerleading is a year round activity that requires commitment from all members. When a student is selected as a member of the cheer team, he or she understands and agrees to participate in every cheer team event throughout the year. With that said, unexcused absences or tardies will result in consequences decided upon at the discretion of coaches. This could include makeup hours and/or sitting out of events, performances, and games. The following attendance requirements are expected of all Weiss High School Cheerleaders:

- Attend all scheduled practices after school, games, performances, and events.
- Attend summer camps and summer practices.
- Arrive on time and stay for the entirety of all practices, performances, games, and events.
- Ride the bus to and from any school-related activity requiring such transportation. Students may not leave an event with another person besides their parent/guardian, and only with written approval 24 hours in advance may a student leave with a parent/guardian from a school related event.
- Attend school on game days or days of events.
- Students should not schedule doctor/dentist appointments that interfere with scheduled practices, performances, games, and events (including class period practices).
- Students should not schedule college visits and/or vacations that interfere with scheduled practices, performances, games, and events (including class period practices).

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Excused absences may include:

- Personal illness that results in a doctor's visit AND is accompanied by a doctor's note.
- Personal illness that results in the student checking out of school through the nurse's clinic.
- Death of family member and/or friend, funeral attendance, or bereavement.
- Medical emergency of you or a family member that requires your attention.
- UIL school related event (administration approval), with a 24 hour notice.
- Religious Holiday

Unexcused absence is defined as an absence that the Cheer Coach has no prior knowledge of and/or is based on a reason that is determined to be unacceptable to the Cheer Team Coach.

Unexcused absences include, but are not limited to:

- Work or job-related conflicts
- Non-school sponsored activities
- Social events with friends and/or family
- Driver's Education, obtaining a permit/license, etc
- Concerts, sports games, parties, etc.
- Oversleeping, forgetting to set an alarm, etc.
- Not having a ride
- Senior portraits, family pictures, etc.
- Needing to study
- Tutorials without 24 hour prior notification

Performance Evaluations:

Cheerleaders may not perform in every routine. This includes games, pep rallies, and events/performances. Prior to performances, the cheerleaders will be evaluated on their ability to execute the requirements of the routine based on criteria set forth by the cheer coach. These evaluations may be defined as a formal tryout process or an informal observation of the cheerleaders by the cheer coach. Seniority or leadership positions are not a determining factor in selection or placement in a routine. You will be placed based on their ability to execute the requirements of the routine based on criteria set forth by the Cheer Coach.

Member in Good Standing

In order to be considered a member in good standing, a Cheerleader shall:

- Demonstrate punctuality, good conduct, preparedness, and active participation in all Cheer Team activities
- Maintain an A average in Cheer Class
- Maintain a balance of less than 10 Demerits, and
- Have no outstanding financial obligations unless approved by the current Cheer Coach

Academic Eligibility:

The cheerleading program will follow the eligibility requirements outlined by TEA and UIL. Any cheerleader who has been academically ineligible two consecutive 9 weeks during the school year, will be dismissed from the cheerleading program.

Appearance and Grooming Expectations

No jewelry will be worn in practice, games, or events. Nails will be kept short, fingertip or shorter, and absolutely NO acrylic nails or tips permitted. Polish or shellac may be worn on the natural (short) nails. Failure to comply with practice attire will result in the cheerleader sitting out and receiving a warning. Three warnings lead to disciplinary action per the Demerit Guidelines (listed on page 9).

Phone Usage

Phones are not allowed during practice or games. Phones are to be put away or locked in your assigned locker. If a need arises where you need to contact your parents, a coach must approve and the phone must be used in the appropriate location. Failure to comply with cell phone usage policy will result in the cheerleader sitting out and receiving a warning. Three warnings lead to disciplinary action per the Demerit Guidelines (listed on page 9).

Social Media

Everything posted in social media is public information - any text or photo placed online is completely out of your control the moment it is placed online - even if security settings are listed as "private". Information (including pictures, videos, and comments) may be accessible even after removal. Once a photo or comment on a social networking site has been posted, that photo or comment becomes the property of the site and may be searchable even after being removed. Similar to comments made in person, the Coach(s) will not tolerate disrespectful comments, behavior, such as:

- Derogatory language or remarks that may harm other teammates, teachers, or representatives of other schools, including comments that may disrespect opponents. Incriminating photos or statements depicting violence; hazing; sexual harassment; full or partial nudity; inappropriate gestures; selling, possessing or using controlled substances; or other inappropriate behavior.
- Creating a serious danger to the safety of another person or making a credible threat of serious physical or emotional injury to another person.
- Indicating knowledge of an unreported school or team violation - regardless if the violation is intentional or not.

Coach(s) retain ultimate decision-making authority for students who violate the social media policy, depending on the severity of the violation, up to and including removal from the team. Violations of the social media policy will be handled by the Coach as well as campus administration in conjunction with the PfISD campus disciplinary process and the Demerit Guidelines (listed on page 9).

Competition:

Whether or not to have a squad that enters competition is a decision made by the campus administration and coaches. Competitive squads will adhere to the PfISD Student Handbook, PfISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct, and the Weiss High School Cheerleading Agreement. Additional requirements may be imposed for competition squad eligibility. All costs for competition are in addition to school cheerleading fees and are non-refundable.

Communication Protocol

We expect, as an athlete, to discuss any concerns, or direct any questions directly with your assigned coach. We are on the HS level. We expect our young athletes to be communicators and build relationships with their peers and coaching staff. Remember, our expectation is for a conversation to occur during an appropriate time. It is your child's responsibility to follow this. Trying to talk to the coach right before, or as practice is starting; not the appropriate time. Call or email in advance to find an appropriate time to have the conversation.

Parents shall utilize the following chain of communication regarding Cheer Team related topics:

1. Cheerleader to Coach Communication
2. Parent to Coach email
3. Parent to Coach phone call
4. Scheduled parent/Coach conference with Cheerleader present
5. Scheduled parent, Coach, and campus administrator conference with Cheerleader present.
6. Scheduled parent, Coach, campus administrator, and district fine arts administrator conference.

Failure to follow the above outlined communication steps and/or severe misconduct by a parent/guardian at or relating to Cheer events, may result in consequences determined by the campus or district officials.

Meetings with Coaching Staff

Can occur in person (set up a meeting). By phone conversation or email. Coaches are expected to return an email or phone call to you in a 24-48 hour window (exception may be over a weekend). If you haven't heard back from a coach, please follow up. Sometimes emails can go to spam, or something is inadvertently overlooked. Please do not contact a coach on their *personal mobile device or through their personal social media means. DO NOT approach the coach to discuss concerns or issues at events including but not limited to sporting events, pep rallies, parties/banquets.*

Team Travel:

Weiss High School Cheerleaders will have opportunities to travel to enhance their skills and compete. There are expenses associated with trips that are the responsibility of the cheerleader. Cheerleaders shall adhere to the following expectations:

- Cheerleaders shall participate in trips associated with competition during contest season.
 - If a cheerleader does not participate in a trip associated with competition, they shall not perform in any competition routine during the competition season.

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- Cheerleaders not participating in competitive trips shall participate in all practices and events, including game days, during said competition season.
- Trips not associated with competition are optional
- Cheerleaders and family members attending trips shall sign and adhere to a travel agreement prior to the trip's occurrence.
 - Travel agreements outline the financial obligations of each traveler, including payment deadlines, refund stipulations, and consequences for delinquent payments.
 - Travel agreements outline the behavioral expectations of each traveler and align with the PfISD Student Handbook, PfISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct, and the Weiss High School Cheerleading Agreement.
- Cheerleaders shall continue to make payments towards required financial obligations related to the Cheer team.

Tryout Eligibility:

- A Cheerleader must be in good standing to try-out each year to obtain a spot on the Cheer team.
- Qualified candidates shall submit all required try-out paperwork on or before the campus specified date and time.
- Qualified candidates must participate in all try-out events to be eligible for try-outs. This includes but is not limited to parent meetings, clinics and try-outs.
- A student who has been dismissed from any high school extra-curricular activity including but not limited to dance team, band, choir, theater, or athletics for disciplinary reasons will require prior approval from the Cheer Coach and campus administration prior to try-outs.
- A student who has been suspended from school during the current academic school year will require prior approval from the Cheer Coach and campus administration prior to try-outs.
- A student who has been placed in Alternative School, DAEP, or OC during the current academic school year will require prior approval from the Cheer Coach and campus administration prior to try-outs.
- Qualified candidates shall have room in their schedule for the single blocked dance team period.

Cheer Team Try-out Process:

The Cheer Coach administers the audition process, which will include the following:

1. Full completion of the Try-Out Clinic practices
2. An evaluation of the candidate's student records including discipline, attendance, grades, etc.
3. An evaluation of the candidate's teacher recommendations.

Try-outs are:

1. Closed to the public
2. Evaluated by a panel of judges

The results of try-outs and therefore the size of the Cheer Team is determined based on a variety of criteria including but not limited to:

1. Director Input
2. Judges panel results
3. Teacher recommendations, and
4. All student records

Try-out results are:

1. Revealed or posted as determined by the Cheer Coach, and
2. Final and not appealable.

Junior Varsity Team vs. Varsity Team Expectations

Effective September 2023, the Weiss Cheer program will follow these guidelines for Junior Varsity and Varsity teams. Listed below are the differences between the two teams. Changes may be made at the Coaches’ discretion and will be communicated to the parents via Team App in a timely manner. This list is *not* to create division but to provide clarity on what the teams are expected of during the season.

VARSITY	JUNIOR VARSITY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Will cheer at all Varsity Football Games ▪ Will cheer at all District home Volleyball games ▪ Will cheer at all District home Varsity Basketball Games ▪ Will cheer at selected home Varsity Soccer Games ▪ Will wear uniforms on Varsity Game Days (when applicable) ▪ Will be required to attend all planned practices, during and outside of school hours ▪ Will perform in all Pep-Rallies ▪ Create Run-thru banners for Varsity Football Games ▪ Will participate in “out-side of school” events such as Orientation, Open House, etc. ▪ Will participate in <i>majority</i> of the fundraisers (at least 3 will be mandatory) ▪ Will participate in at least 2 small competitions and the UIL Competition in January. ▪ Will create own fundraisers for UCA Camp, post spring tryouts ▪ Will attend UCA Summer Camp as a Varsity Team (Mandatory) ▪ Invitation to the End of Year WHS Cheer Banquet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Will cheer at all Junior Varsity Football Games ▪ Will cheer at selected home JV Basketball Games ▪ Will cheer at selected home JV Soccer Games ▪ Will fill in at any event Varsity Team cannot make. ▪ Will wear uniforms on JV Game Days (when applicable) ▪ Will be required to attend all planned practices, during and outside of school hours ▪ Will perform 1 routine (cheer or dance) at Homecoming Pep-Rally* ▪ Create Run-thru banners for JV Football Games (if applicable) ▪ Will participate in “out-side of school” events such as Orientation, Open House, etc. ▪ Will participate in <i>most</i> of the fundraisers (at least 2 will be mandatory) ▪ Will participate in the Scheduled Competitions. ▪ Will create own fundraisers for UCA Camp, post tryouts ▪ Will attend UCA Summer Camp as a Junior Varsity Team (Mandatory) ▪ Invitation to the End of Year WHS Cheer Banquet

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Will a Captain (senior), Co-Captain (Senior/Junior), and Social Captain ▪ Will have a Social Media Manager ▪ Will purchase 1 personalized uniform (2024-2025) ▪ Will be issued 1 school provided uniform ▪ Will be issued 1 school provided warm up set ▪ Will purchase Varsity specific camp practice gear, including 1 game day bow** ▪ All new cheerleaders will be required to purchase a set of pom-poms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Will elect a Captain, Co-Captain, and a Social Media Manager. ▪ Will be issued 2 school provided uniforms ▪ Will be issued 1 school provided warm up set ▪ Will purchase JV specific camp practice gear, including 1 game day bow** ▪ All new cheerleaders will be required to purchase a set of pom-poms
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*This will be their only pep-rally performance for 2024-2025 season. All other pep-rallies, they will sit/stand as a group, participating in welcoming students and rolling out mats. They will dress all the same in their customized Camp Gear of choice.

** Starting 2024-2025, Camp Gear will not *just* include oversized t-shirts. We will order more customizable ensembles chosen by the coach, from a reputable Cheer Apparel company. Cost will be within the same ballpark as previous season's camp gear.

Standards of Conduct

All Weiss High School Cheerleaders are governed by the discipline system based on demerits, and all members shall comply with the expectations for the entirety of their team participation. Non-compliance will result in consequences in the form of either warnings or demerits.

Warnings and demerits will be documented by the Cheer Coach. Parents/Guardians may request access to their students' demerit log at any time throughout the school year.

Parents/Guardians will be notified by the Cheer Coach when their student reaches probation, suspension, and/or dismissal. A written agreement will be issued requiring the signature of the student, parent/guardian and Coach.

WHS Cheer Demerit Guide				
	Warning (3 Warnings = 1 Demerit)	Minor (1 - 2 Demerits)	Intermediate (3 - 4 Demerits)	Advanced (5+ Demerits)
Attendance	Less than 10 Minutes late to practice or event	Tardy, up to 15 minutes late to practice or event (1 Demerit)	Unexcused from previously committed team event (3 Demerits)	Unexcused from a performance (5 Demerits)
		Unexcused absence from practice or past 16 minutes late to practice (2 Demerits)		
		Failure to communicate scheduling conflicts within the 24 hour time frame (1 Demerit)		
	Warning (3 Warnings = 1 Demerit)	Minor (1 - 2 Demerits)	Intermediate (3 - 4 Demerits)	Advanced (5+ Demerits)
Attire	Wearing incorrect clothes/uniform (1 Warning per item)	Visible piercing or tattoo for performance or event (1 Demerit)		
	Wearing incorrect or unsafe jewelry to practice or event (1 Warning per item)	Being seen in incomplete uniform (1 Demerit)		
	Wearing acrylic nails or nails longer than fingertip length	Forgot a piece of your uniform for event (1 Demerit)		
	Wearing incorrect hair for event			

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	Not wearing designated spirit attire on Game Days			
	Not following dress code at school			
	Warning (3 Warnings = 1 Demerit)	Minor (1 - 2 Demerits)	Intermediate (3 - 4 Demerits)	Advanced (5+ Demerits)
Conduct	Excessive Talking during practice or event	Not cheering/smiling/standing at attention at game/event (1 Demerit)	Disrespectful behavior towards a peer, parent, teacher, coach, or administrator (3 Demerits)	Leaving practice or event without permission (5 Demerits)
	Cell phone use during practice or event	Failure to turn in doctor note after excused absences (1 Demerit)	Not following general school rules & Regulations (1-4 Demerits)	Inappropriate behavior during school or school-related activity (1-5 Demerits)
	Leaving a Mess			Referral (1-10 Demerits)
	Chewing gum during practice or event			Repeated intermediate or advanced infraction (5 Demerits)
	Disorderly Locker Room			Criminal Act (such as illegal substance use, etc.) (3-10 Demerits)
	Leadership officer not performing assigned responsibilities			In School Suspension (ISS) (3-10 Demerits)
				Suspension or placement at the Provan Opportunity Center (automatic dismissal from team)
				Failure of 2 consecutive 9 weeks (automatic dismissal from team)

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WHS Cheer Merit Guide			
	1 Merit	2-3 Merits	
<p>Merits: Weiss Cheerleaders will have the opportunity to earn Merits to dismiss Demerits issued by warnings and <i>minor</i> infringements. The demerits issued by intermediate and advanced infringements are not eligible to be removed by merits.</p> <p>With every 5 merits accrued, one demerit will be dismissed. It is the Cheerleader's responsibility to maintain their own documentation and submit to the Cheer Coach via email on the first of each month. If the first of each month falls on a weekend or holiday, the merit log will be due the following school day. Merits shall not be accounted for if the documentation is submitted late.</p>	Grades	Earning all A's and B's on a 9 week report	
	Attendance	No more than 2 absences on a 9 week report	
	Citizenship	Service in the community with signed documentation (1 merit per hour not to exceed 5 hours per act)	
		Attending a PFISD sports event and or performance. Documentation Required	
		Aiding the Coach with a team related task	
		Receiving a Team Related Award (ex: Cheerleader of the week)	
		Receiving an Academic or Leadership Award from the school or credited organization	
Peer tutoring with a teacher present & not during school hours. Documentation required.			

Disciplinary Action

- 3 Warnings = 1 Demerit
- 5 Demerits = Probation
- 10 Demerits = Suspension
- 15 Demerits = Dismissal

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Probation

Cheerleaders shall be placed on probation upon receiving 5 demerits or by not maintaining a 90% attendance rate (4 or more unexcused absences in a class period)

- Cheerleaders on probation shall be pulled from the next game day activities (pep rally and football game).
- Cheerleaders on probation shall attend all scheduled practices and participate fully in all practice activities.
- Cheerleaders on probation due to demerits shall attend all performance events in team attire.
- Cheerleaders on probation due to academic or attendance ineligibility shall not attend any events with the team and are not allowed to wear team attire until eligibility has been regained.
- Cheerleaders on probation due to the school attendance ineligibility shall not participate until attendance records are fixed.
- Cheerleaders on probation shall receive a document outlining the exact stipulations of their probation term. The cheerleader and their parent/guardian shall sign and return the document as an acknowledgement of the rules and regulations during the probation term.

Suspension

Cheerleaders shall be suspended after receiving 10 Demerits. Suspension will take place for the remainder of the current semester.

- Cheerleaders on suspension shall not perform in any performance occurring within the remainder of the current semester.
 - If there are no scheduled performances during the remainder of the semester, the member shall be pulled from the next four performances.
- Cheerleaders on suspension shall attend all scheduled rehearsals and participate fully in all practice activities
- Cheerleaders on suspension shall not attend any events with the team, including social activities.
- Cheerleaders on suspension shall not wear any team attire.
- Cheerleaders on suspension shall receive a document outlining the exact stipulations of their suspension term. The cheerleader and their parent/guardian shall sign and return the document as an acknowledgement of the rules and regulations during the suspension term.
- Cheerleaders on suspension for two consecutive semesters shall be dismissed from the team.
 - Two consecutive semesters are defined as the fall semester and next spring semester of the same school year or the spring semester and following fall semester of the next school year.
- Cheerleaders on suspension who serve in a leadership or officer position shall be removed from their leadership role along with the above outlined suspension consequences.

Dismissal

Cheerleaders will be dismissed from a PFISD Cheerleading Team after receiving 15 Demerits, even if the cheerleader has not previously been placed on probation or suspension. The following guidelines will be followed for formal dismissal:

- Dismissal will require a meeting with the student, parent/guardian, and campus administrator and Cheer Coach.
- All uniforms and equipment shall be returned within one week of dismissal.
- All financial obligations shall be cleared within one month of dismissal.
- Upon dismissal, schedule changes will be made with counselors. Until schedule changes have been finalized, dismissed students shall check in with the Cheer Coach at the start of the Cheer class period.
- If a cheerleader is dismissed from a PFISD Cheer team, they are ineligible to try-out for the cheer team for one full calendar year.

*****Coaches will have full discretion in every decision regarding cheerleader standings and discipline.*****

Approved by: _____ Date: _____

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By reading the below statement, and signing this document, you are agreeing to the terms and conditions that are set forth in this document as well as our PfISD Student Handbook and PfISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct.

Cheerleader Printed Name: _____

Cheerleader Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Printed Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____