

Grand Oaks High School

Royal Pride Drill Team Constitution

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Being a part of the Royal Pride organization is a privilege and must be earned.



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Article I- Team Structure and Objectives

Section I- Organization Director

- A. The Royal Pride Organization is under the supervision of directors, appointed by the Principal.
- B. Current Director-Hannah Gasset Current Assistant Director-Kathryn Prather

Section II- Team Name

- A. Royal Pride Drill Team

Section III- Team Purpose

- A. The purpose of the Royal Pride Drill Team is to encourage quality performance, high academic standards, loyal school spirit, and high personal values among its members.
- B. Through the development of dance technique, leadership, cooperation, self-discipline, and sportsmanship in each individual member, the Royal Pride Drill Team will fulfill its purpose for the benefit of Grand Oaks High School and the community of Conroe Independent School District.

Section IV- Team Colors

- A. Royal Blue & Orange

Section V- Team Structure

- A. At any point, the team may be made up of a Varsity and Junior Varsity team.
- B. The team will be made up of line members which will be divided into squads at the discretion of the directors.
- C. The directors will designate the hierarchy and titles of the leadership positions of the team. They may include: dance officers, social officers, and sergeants. Depending on the year, the directors may choose to exercise all or some of the leadership positions.
- D. The Royal Pride Elite Team is an additional team that may be called upon for additional appearances, performances, and competition routines. Depending on the year, the directors may choose to exercise this elite team by holding auditions at her own discretion.
- E. Depending on the year, the directors may elect to have team managers. The selection process will include an application and interview following team tryouts. The number of managers selected is at the director's discretion.
- F. Manager duties include but are not limited to attending all practices and performances, filming routines, assisting with music equipment, medical bag, ice chests, snacks, poms, and any other items as needed.
- G. Managers are subject to all rules regulations and the demerit/merit system.

Section VI- Team Constitution

- A. This Royal Pride Constitution is individualized to our Drill Team and our own style and systems.
- B. These guidelines are intended to maintain the integrity of the program and serve as guidance for the directors, dancers, and guardians.
- C. The directors and administration will review these guidelines annually.
- D. Any additions must be approved by the directors and principal.
- E. Members and parents/guardians will be notified in writing of any changes in the constitution.
- F. Parents should follow appropriate avenues to communicate issues pertaining to their child. Students and parents should follow the steps below if an issue or concern arises.
 - Step 1:** Contact the director and notify her of the concern.
 - Step 2:** If there is no resolution after initial contact with the director, contact your child's counselor and set up an in person conference with the director, counselor, and AP.

Article II-Tryout Requirements and Procedures

Section I-Tryout Requirements and Procedures

- A. At the time of tryouts, the drill team candidate must currently be a resident of the attendance zone in which the school/team the student is trying out for is located. If they are not a current resident, they must have an approved transfer from the office of school administration to attend that school for the next school year.
- B. Any student who plans to tryout for the team must be in the 8th, 9th, 10th, or 11th grade at the time of tryouts.
- C. Each candidate must meet UIL eligibility standards. The candidate must have passed all subjects the preceding nine-week grading period. Candidates must be passing courses as specified below:
 - General education classes – 70 or higher
 - Honors, AP, or DC classes – 65 or higher
- D. Candidates must be in good standing with the grade level principal's office. There must be no recurring behavior problems. The directors and administrators will review student discipline records on an individual basis as needed. Disciplinary action resulting in in-school suspension, out of school suspension, expulsion, alternative schools or other disciplinary programs may prevent a student from trying out per directors discretion.
- E. Students must have an attendance record that complies with the District Attendance Policy.
- F. Students with one (1) dismissal or resignation from the Royal Pride Organization, will be eligible to tryout with permission from the directors.
Students with more than one (1) dismissal or resignation will not be eligible to tryout.
- G. Each candidate and a parent/guardian must attend a mandatory informational meeting prior to the first tryout practice on a date designated by the directors.
- H. Candidates must submit the tryout application to the directors on or before the date designated by the directors.
- I. Students must attend the practice sessions prior to tryouts.
- J. Because of the vigorous nature of the physical activity required of dance team members, each candidate should be in excellent condition and must fill out and submit a CISD Physical or Tryout Waiver in order to tryout.
- K. Prior to the tryout, each candidate must have the following information on file with the directors:
 - Online Application
 - CISD Physical or Tryout Waiver
- L. Prospective members and their parents must be fully aware of the expenses of drill team as explained in the tryout meeting. They must be willing to meet all financial obligations. If a student is not able to meet all financial obligations, the student needs to consult the directors.
- M. Current members of the Varsity Drill Team must tryout each year if the member accumulates 10 or more demerits (regular/permanent) prior to tryouts. If a Varsity Drill Team member has less than 10 demerits (regular/permanent) they do not have to tryout. All Junior Varsity Drill Team members must tryout each year.
- N. Each student shall be judged on the basis of dance ability and other related areas such as poise, projection, and knowledge of routine.
- O. Each prospective member must take and pass a Team Constitution Test during the tryout clinic to be eligible for tryouts.
- P. A dancer in good standing on another dance team is eligible to transfer to the Royal Pride Drill Team. The following steps must be completed:
 - Turn in a letter of recommendation from the former director.
 - Audition in front of the new directors.
 - Make all payments in full to the former team.
 - Make all payments in full to the new team.
 - Understand the dancer may not perform until the next season depending on time of transfer.
 - All transfers will be at the discretion of the directors and GOHS administration.

- Q. Auditions are closed to all spectators. Those eligible for attendance include candidates, judges, directors, tabulators, and administrators.
- R. The judges will select an amount of members based on a break in scores. The judges and directors will decide where the break in score occurs.
- T. On years when the the Junior Varsity Team is exercised, it will consist of those members who meet the second break in scores following the audition process.
- U. An individual member's drill team year begins on the day the member's name or number is officially posted after tryouts and continues until that membership is officially terminated or an announcement of the new team occurs.
- V. If a parent wishes to view his/her student's individual tryout documents, he/she must make an appointment with the administration. Parents are allowed to view their students individual documents only. The statute of limitations for viewing is ten school days following the tryout session. Parents are not allowed to view any other student's documents.

Section II-Dance Officer, Social Officer, and Sergeant Tryout Requirements and Procedures

- A. Dance Officer, Social Officer, and Sergeant tryout requirements and procedures will be established and released by the directors.
- B. Candidates who are eligible to tryout will be required to complete the tryout packets and submit the required application on time.
- C. Any officer who is unable to fulfill their duties as an officer due to poor attitude, conduct, or attendance will be relieved of their position at the discretion of the directors. If removed, members are at no time in the future eligible to tryout for an officer/leadership position again.
- D. The number and rank of officers will be at the discretion of the directors.
- E. The officer tryout results will be released after tryouts with their installation taking place at the end of the year banquet.
- F. Officers are expected to perform their responsibilities at the highest level of leadership, citizenship, and personal character. They should not expect to receive a probation period or second chance for an infraction of any drill team rule. The officer may be relieved of their position. Prior to the removal, the directors will confer with the administration.

Section III- Royal Pride Elite Team Tryout Requirements and Procedures

- A. The Royal Pride Elite Team will consist of the dance officers and team members chosen in an audition.
- B. The audition may take place at any time throughout the year and will be at the discretion of the directors.
- C. The number of elite members will be at the discretion of the directors.

Article III-Maintaining Membership

Each member is expected to abide by all rules, regulations, and expectations set forth by the constitution and by the directors. Failure to do so may result in probation, suspension, or dismissal from the team. Such disciplinary actions are defined below and are upheld and interpreted at the discretion of the directors.

Probation- Probation is a period in which a member is eliminated from performances but may continue to participate in other organizational activities and practices. A probation contract will be written for the member and if the reason for the probation is not corrected within the allotted time, the member is subject to suspension or dismissal.

Suspension-Suspension is a period in which the member is eliminated from performances and practices. The member will be given alternative activities to fulfill during class time. A suspension contract will be written for the member and if the reason for the suspension is not corrected within the allotted time, the member is subject to dismissal.

Dismissal-Dismissal involves the loss of membership from the Royal Pride organization. All issued team materials must be returned in quality condition, and all financial obligations must be cleared within one week of dismissal. Once a member is dismissed, he/she loses all privileges of the organization. In all cases of dismissal, the directors will confer with the Principal.

Section I – Grade Requirements and Consequences Resulting from Infractions

- A. All grade averages will be checked and recorded immediately after the close of each grading period.
- B. Any member who makes a failing grade on the UIL grade check is ineligible for drill team performance activities for the period of time defined by the UIL guidelines from the state. This will be known as **Academic Probation** (except identified advanced classes).
- C. Members who are ineligible and on **Academic Probation** are not allowed to travel with the team, sit with the team, dress out in uniforms or participate in performance activities during the time of ineligibility. Members must dress out and practice with the team. They can participate in practices and fundraisers only. Students may not wear “school time” uniforms, sit with the team at a pep rally, or participate in the dances or activities of the pep rally.
- D. The member must clear the ineligibility by the next 3-week grading period. Failure to become eligible by the next 3-week grading period will result in **Academic Suspension**. While on suspension members will not be allowed to participate in any team activities including practice and performances, team travel, and will not wear “school time” uniforms with the team. They will be given alternate class time assignments until the suspension period is over. This suspension period will allow the student the time needed to bring up their academics.
- E. At the end of this time if he/she has not obtained passing grades, they may be dismissed from the team.
- F. Any member who receives academic ineligibility for three grade checks in a row (9-weeks and progress report) or receives two or more “F’s” as a semester grade will be permanently removed from the team.

Section II– Conduct Requirements and Actions for Failure to Comply

- A. It is expected that drill team members’ conduct in classes, hallways, and anywhere on campus will be highly satisfactory. Members are expected to abide by the rules and regulations as stipulated in the Conroe ISD Student Handbook.
- B. Infractions of rules may result in demerits or removal from the team.
- C. Any violation of the constitution will apply to the drill team year.
- D. A student will be placed on **Disciplinary Probation** for inappropriate behavior or minor conduct infractions as deemed by the directors. This will result in a 1-week probation with director evaluation required at the end of the week. The member may dress out for practice and travel with the team, but may not dress out or perform in team uniform.
- E. **Disciplinary Probation** may be given for
 - First receipt of ISS, ASD, or Saturday Detention
 - 5 permanent demerits
 - First receipt of a conduct issue from school discipline
 - Inappropriate behavior as deemed by the directors
- F. If a member that is on Disciplinary Probation continues to have excessive absences, behavior issues, or earns additional demerits during the probationary period, that member may have their probationary period extended or may be placed on **Disciplinary Suspension** at the discretion of the directors.
- G. **Disciplinary Suspension** will be a 3-week suspension with director evaluation at the end of the period. While on suspension members will not be allowed to participate in any team activities including practice, performances, and team travel. Students will not wear “school time” uniforms with the team. They will be given alternative class time assignments until the Suspension period is over.
- H. **Disciplinary Suspension** may be given for
 - Failure to correct probation contract within the allotted time
 - 10 permanent demerits

- Second receipt of ISS, ASD, or Saturday Detention
- Second receipt of a conduct issue from school discipline
- Inappropriate behavior as deemed by the directors

Section III-Termination of Membership

- A. Termination is when a member on his/her own accord or due to some action is no longer a member of the organization.
- B. Termination on behalf of the member is known as **Resignation**. Resignation is a choice the team member who no longer desires to participate in the Royal Pride organization makes. In this event, the member must turn in a letter of resignation, signed and dated, with a parent/ guardian signature.
- C. Termination on behalf of the organization is known as **Dismissal**. Dismissal involves the loss of membership from the Royal Pride Organization and will occur for stated constitution infractions any time during the drill team year (drill team year begins at announcement of the new team).
- D. The length of this termination is until the time of the next annual announcement of the new team.
- E. A member will be dismissed from membership on the drill team for the following reasons:
 - Withdrawal from school
 - OSS or Expulsion from school
 - Assignment to an alternative education program
 - Disrespect to a teammate, teacher, director, or an administrator
 - Fighting
 - Excessive absences
 - Vandalism to school, community, or public property
 - Discovered engaging in sexual acts by a faculty or staff member on or off school property
 - Engaging in illegal activities
 - Alcohol and/or drug use
 - Smoking
 - Receiving a MIP (Minor in Possession), DWI, DUI, PI, or Consumption of Alcohol by a minor at school or a non school function
 - Two or more "F's" as a semester grade
 - Failing three grading periods in a row
 - Two or more of the same Probationary types, i.e. , Disciplinary
 - Two or more Team Suspensions
 - Three or more Team Probations
 - Failure to meet the necessary requirements to be removed from Team Suspension
 - 15 permanent demerits during the drill team year
 - Hazing and Initiation-The Texas Supreme Court prohibits hazing. There will be no hazing or initiation for any members. Anyone engaging in these activities will be subject to disciplinary measures and removal from the team.
 - There will be a Zero-Tolerance Bullying/Cyber Bullying Policy. No sharing or posting of any information or videos via social media that would portray negativity, or negatively impact yourself, other students, or faculty. Anyone engaging in these activities will be subject to disciplinary measures and removal from the team.
 - Any other behavior deemed by the directors to be of a serious nature.
 - The school principal may remove any drill team member from his/her position as a result of serious or persistent misconduct.
- F. If **Resignation** or **Dismissal** occurs, all uniforms and equipment must be turned in and all financial obligations must be cleared within one week. Lost or damaged uniforms or equipment will be subject to replacement charges. Refunds of payments, orders, or Booster Club dues cannot be made. Failure to turn in all items will result in owing money for those items. The member must obtain a schedule change out of the team class period. If the resignation is made during the semester, a loss of credit for the course may occur.
- G. Once a student has been dismissed or resigned from the team, he/she is not eligible for reinstatement during the current school year. Auditioning for the next school year may occur with permission from the directors.

- H. If a student has accumulated 2 dismissals or resignations from the Royal Pride organization, he/she will not be eligible for auditions for the Royal Pride Drill Team for the remainder of their tenure at Grand Oaks High School.

Article IV- Commitments, Expectations, and Responsibilities

Being a Royal Pride member is a family affair. Your schedules will sometimes have to be adjusted to accommodate your dancer's commitments in Royal Pride. Family vacations, college days, etc. should not be made during rehearsals or performances and will need to be scheduled around Royal Pride. This is a TEAM activity, so each dancer must be present for rehearsal and performances. Parents will be asked to give their time to work on costumes, to help with props, to support fundraisers, to chaperone, and most importantly, to attend as many performances as possible. Parents will also be required to work the dance competition that we host annually by providing two volunteer shifts per dancer during the event. In return, I will do my best to get our schedule out far in advance and stick to it as closely as possible. You have been given almost every Wednesday and some Fridays off, so that you have time to yourself and for family.

Section I-Attendance

- A. All members must register for and participate in drill team class for the first and second semesters.
- B. All practices, performances, appearances, and meetings are mandatory. Each member is required to attend all scheduled events.
- C. Members must be diligent to follow the calendar and be aware of changes and updates. Updated calendar notices will be announced in class, and emailed to the team and parents.
- D. An absence will be excused only if it is approved by the directors in advance.
- E. If a member must miss practice the following procedures should be followed: Report in advance, prior to the beginning of class, practice, activity, or performance by **emailing the directors. OR contacting your officer** immediately.
- F. Reasons for an excused absence include:
 1. Personal illness, injury, or doctor's appointments (notice asap via email)
 2. Funeral or death in the family
 3. School sponsored Field Trips and other school activities with permission from the directors in advance
 4. Weddings or required religious events with permission from the directors in advance
- G. Any member who is injured should come to rehearsal to sit and observe unless they are confined to bed, have a fever, are at the doctor's office, or instructed otherwise with a doctor's note.
- H. If you are injured or ill and confined to bed, a parent's note will excuse you from participating for one day. After that, a doctor's note is required.
- I. Any excused absence **with notice and a note upon return** will result in no demerits.
- J. Any excused absence **without notice and a note upon return** will result in 2 demerits
- K. Unexcused absences include but are not limited to:
 1. Vacations
 2. Concerts/Social Events
 3. Work cannot interfere with any drill team activity. It is not an excuse to be absent, late, or leave early.
- L. Any unexcused absence **with notice** will result in 3 demerits and may result in loss of performance eligibility.

- M. Any unexcused absence **without notice** will result in 5 demerits and may result in loss of performance eligibility.
- N. Missing practice during a performance week for any reason, may result in the member being removed from the routine for that week's performance and any routine taught or worked on that day.
- O. Any member who is absent from dance auditions whether excused or unexcused will be cut from the performance.
- P. If a member is absent, **it is his/her responsibility** to acquire information, announcements, or routines taught during any absence. Failure to do so may result in being placed on alternate status.
- Q. Members will be allowed to participate in other school activities and clubs that do not conflict with drill team activities or schedules. Involvement in other extra-curricular activities that conflict with drill team on a regular and recurring basis must be resolved between the directors, member, parent, and sponsor of the other program prior to any absences. Every attempt will be made to allow students to participate in multiple activities.
- R. If a member is involved in additional activities/sports/organizations, it is a member's responsibility to follow through with the split time plan that is established and to pick up with Royal Pride like you never missed a beat.
- S. Tutorials should be scheduled around practice. Preferably on non-practice days. We cannot function correctly without everyone at practice. It is inexcusable to attend tutorials during practice when the member poorly utilizes available off days.
- U. Members should never communicate to their teachers that drill team obligations disable them from attending necessary tutorials or retakes. Every effort must be made to communicate with the directors and the tutoring teacher in a timely fashion.
- V. Royal Pride members who have a job, in addition to being on the team, must schedule their work after drill team practice. Work schedules must not conflict with Royal Pride practices or commitments. Please inform your employers that they must be flexible with work schedules as you will not be excused early from practice to go to work.

Section II- Fundraisers

- A. Individual team members are responsible for purchasing their team practice attire, individual team items, and paying their team camp and choreography fees. Balances for these items must be paid according to the payment breakdown timeline given at the new team meeting in the spring.
- B. Balances must be paid up in full in order to participate in any performance or social aspect of the team. Members must also be paid in full prior to the receipt of any team attire.
- C. Failure to pay team balances may result in dismissal from the team.
- D. CISD will provide all high school drill team members a field uniform. Each member must provide their own uniform shoes, hair accessories, practice uniforms, backpacks, garment bags, and warm ups through individual purchase.
- E. On overnight trips, members will be responsible for the cost of their own food and lodging. Fees may be assessed for travel expenses.
- F. The team will be asked to participate in group fundraisers throughout the year. All team members are expected to contribute by way of participation. The fundraisers help reduce the financial burden of each family associated with competition fees, clinicians, judges, costumes, and props. They are also needed to cover team costs associated with costumes, supplies, Royal Pride maintenance, shipping/storage expenses, mailing fees, team bonding, and more.
- G. If a member participates in a fundraiser, members will be required to turn in fundraising money on particular dates set by the directors.
- H. A competition fee may be taken up each year. This goes directly towards competition registration, transportation, costumes, choreography, props, song rights, and more.

Section III- Team Pictures

- A. The directors will arrange team pictures.
- B. Only members on the team at the time of pictures will be allowed to participate.
- C. The directors may have any member removed from the composite photo that does not complete the year, or that is not in good standing with the team.

Section IV-Summer Camp and Summer Practices

- A. Summer Dance Hours/Active Hours are required and will be given at the New Team Meeting in the spring. These will be based on each dancer's individual tryout score. If the returning Varsity Drill Team member doesn't have to tryout (receiving less than 10 demerits), their dance hours will be determined by the directors.
- B. Summer Team Camp, Officer Camp, and Summer Practices will be scheduled in advance and will be mandatory in order to prepare and condition the members for the year.
- C. **A physical must be completed on each member each year before they may begin summer camp/practices for the new team year.**
- D. Failure to attend summer camps, practices, and complete summer dance/activity hours may warrant demerits, being benched, or removal from the team.

Section V-Football, Contest, and Show Season Commitments

- A. All members are expected to attend and participate in all activities, fundraisers, classes, practices, performances, and functions.
- B. Seasonal schedules will be provided.
- C. Tryouts may be held for performances and individual routines. They are judged by the directors and will be judged on memory, technique, precision, and projection. Those who make no significant errors during routine tryouts will make the routine. Those who make small errors or lack appropriate technique, execution, or memory will be placed on the alternate list. This is not a reflection on the member's abilities and each member should maintain a positive attitude and demonstrate a good work ethic. The dance officers will also watch and take notes on their squad members' performance. This will guide them as they help individual squad members improve.
- D. Everyone is expected to be in attendance at practice each day regardless of their routine status.
- E. Missing any part of class or practice during the season may result in a member, who has made a given routine, to be placed as an alternate.
- F. Any special practices held on Saturdays, holidays, or in the morning before school, scheduled by the directors, must be attended by all members. Advanced notice will be given.
- G. We are a competitive drill team. We strive to be the best that we can be. Seeing other great teams strengthens our work ethic and challenges us to reach for higher goals. No matter what, Royal Pride members will demonstrate good sportsmanship behavior both within our team and towards other drill teams.
- H. We will typically take 4-5 team routines, 3 officer routines, an elite routine, and individual routines to competition. However, this may change year to year.
- I. The team travels together for competitions around the state of Texas. There may be costs involved for each member depending on the year.
- J. Every few years Royal Pride may look for an out of state competition, workshop, etc.
- K. Royal Pride will put on a Spring Show. The show serves as a community and school engagement event and a team fundraiser. We may invite other school/district organizations to perform as well.

Section VI- Class & Practice Expectations

- A. You must be on time to class. If you are late you will receive a tardy.
- B. Quickly dress, use the restroom, and have your things neatly put away in your locker, have any paperwork needed, and in your squad line stretching by the allotted time. You will receive demerits if not on time to squad lines. Once you arrive you need to begin warming up/stretching while dance officers begin assigning any demerits needed. Once attendance is taken you should not be in and out of the locker room without permission from a dance officer or directors.
- C. Always use a cover up coming to and leaving from rehearsals when moving about the hallway.
- D. No cover ups during rehearsal.
- E. Hair out of face and secure, no holes in rehearsal attire. Make sure your attire is labeled.
- F. You must remain at practice in its entirety unless you have worked out an agreement between the directors and another club/activity sponsor.
- G. Full attention and common courtesy is expected to be extended towards anyone leading practice. We will all use "Yes Ma'am" and "No Ma'am" at all times.
- H. Alternates, injured, and ineligible/probation members must attend and participate in all practices unless instructed otherwise by the directors.
- I. We will be dedicated, hard working, attentive, and productive in our practices. They will be high intensity but will be enjoyable and fun as well. Practice is what we make of it so attitude is key.

Section VII- Performances & Uniform Expectations

- A. The team will sit as a group at all functions. Only team members, managers, and chaperones will be allowed in the team section.
- B. The team will go to and from the performance areas together in a uniform fashion.
- C. All members will sit in an assigned position during functions.
- D. All members will actively participate in cheers and stand routines according to team behavior standards.
- E. All members will demonstrate good sportsmanship, school spirit, and acceptable behavior at all school/community activities. No booing or inappropriate language will be tolerated.
- F. Any member arriving late, missing uniform items, or not in correct uniform with correct hair and makeup will receive demerits and may be subject to not participate.
- G. Any member going into public after a performance must change out of their uniform and into appropriate clothing. Uniforms may not be worn anywhere except team performances.
- H. Jewelry, nail, tattoo, and hair policies as stated in the constitution will be followed for practices and performances. Failure to follow will result in demerits and being benched from performances.
- I. Members will not talk to any persons outside of the team during functions without the director's permission.
- J. Members will not talk when performing (including waiting to perform), or while entering and exiting a performance.
- K. Members will not talk or move while a player is injured or during the national anthem.
- L. Members may not have food or drink during team activities without the director's permission other than water.
- M. Members may not eat in uniform.
- N. Team uniforms are an object of pride. They should be worn with dignity and respect. They should be kept in perfect condition.
- O. Team uniforms should never be worn by non-team members.
- P. The uniform consists of a formal uniform, pep rally uniform, practice uniform, and costumes.
- Q. It is each member's duty to know which uniform is required and wear it properly.

- R. Drill team uniforms and costumes are school property and are to be returned to the drill team after use. No member shall keep a uniform, and the cost of any lost or damaged uniform shall be reimbursed to the school.

Section VIII- Equipment Expectations

- A. Equipment will be issued in good condition and should be returned in good condition.
- B. Drill team equipment is school property and is to be returned to the drill team after use. No members should keep equipment and any that is not returned should be paid for to reimburse the school.
- C. Each member is responsible for drill team equipment.

Section IX- Bus Expectations

- A. Members are to ride the bus to and from all performances on buses provided by the district with the exception of home football games. The student may return from home games (or other performances designated by the director) with their parents only if the student has submitted a note or email from the parent at least one day prior to the event. The parent must check the student out from the officers at the time the student is leaving the performance. No student will be released to anyone who is not their parent or guardian without written permission. No student should expect to leave an event until the end of the event when the whole team leaves.
- B. No food or drink is allowed on the bus unless told otherwise by the directors. When it is allowed, you must have a t-shirt or jacket covering your uniform while you eat.
- C. Standing up on the bus or moving seat to seat once in route is not permitted.
- D. Only team members, chaperones, and managers will be permitted on the bus.
- E. Talking, laughing, and having a good time on the bus is permitted and welcomed. However, for safety reasons, excessive loudness is not permitted.

Section X- Trip Expectations

- A. Females and males do not enter each other's rooms or intermingle on bus rides.
- B. If a person outside of the team needs to see or speak to a member, he/she will come to the directors first.
- C. Members will be assigned chaperones and will be given explicit instructions on whether to be with them, the team, or when to check in.
- D. Members will not use hotel phones, order room service, or other hotel amenities.
- E. All members will be in their rooms for bed check at a specified time. Once bed check has been conducted, a member will not leave their room.
- F. Members must be in groups of 3 or more at all times and may not leave the group at any time.
- G. Members may not associate with males outside the team while on team trips.
- H. Members may not change assigned rooms or buses without director approval.
- I. Members injured prior to a trip that are not able to walk or move on their own may be asked to skip the trip.
- J. Money paid for trips prior to the activity cannot be reimbursed if the student is not able or does not attend for any reason including resignation, UIL Academic Eligibility, and team dismissal.
- K. Drinking alcoholic beverages, smoking, using drugs, sexual acts, or partaking in illegal activity of any kind will not be tolerated. You will be sent home at your own expense immediately and will be removed from the team.

Section XI- Dance Officer, Social Officer, & Sergeant Duties

- A. Criteria to be judged will be determined by the directors.

- B. Dance Officers, Social Officers, and Sergeants are responsible for setting an example for other team members to follow. All leaders should be positive, cooperative, helpful, and dedicated.
- C. Dance Officers and Sergeants may be asked to assist in evaluating team members during dance auditions.
- D. Dance Officers and Sergeants are responsible for their particular squad of members. They are to provide individual help in learning and perfecting routines, checking attendance, inspecting uniforms and equipment, assisting in choreography, and any additional duties involving their squads.
- E. Social Officers are responsible for the bonding of their squad members, maintaining team morale, engaging in our school and community, managing team equipment and storage organization, and more.
- F. All leaders must be willing to spend extra time both in and out of practice to perform their duties, plan, organize events and activities, and perform additional duties without complaint. Expenses for leaders may be higher than those for team members for specialized attire.
- G. All leaders must attend and pay for summer camp at a site chosen by the directors.
- H. The directors may remove an officer from the position at any time if the responsibilities and duties of the position are not being fulfilled.

Section XII- Technology

- A. A members' electronic communication (via computers, phones, tablets, media devices, etc.) and online accounts such as but not limited to Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, TikTok, etc. may not include inappropriate posts or images having to do with explicit language, smoking, alcohol, drug use or material, or material of a sexual nature, or any illegal activity of any kind..
- B. Members may not post on their social media sites, or send out inappropriate photos (such as those taken in undergarments, revealing swimwear, or no clothes at all).
- C. Students should remove all foul language, vulgar signage (such as the middle finger), and extreme sexually explicit comments and songs from their profiles immediately and refrain from use in the future.
- D. Students may not support advertisements on their profile or news feed that promotes alcohol, smoking, drug use, vulgar, or sexually explicit material.
- E. Ask friends that post inappropriate photographs to delete them, and always "untag" your name from pictures that won't be deleted.
- F. Students are prohibited from sending, posting, or displaying electronic messages that are damaging to the team or to another person's reputation. This behavior can be considered bullying or harassment which will be dealt with according to CISD policy.
- G. Bullying or harassment can be in the form of voice messages, emails, text messages, instant messages, photo images, video, social networking and personal web pages. Any of this conduct may lead to probation, suspension, or dismissal from the team.
- H. Remember that once something is online, it cannot be taken back.
- I. You must follow the Royal Pride Team Page on **ALL** of your social media accounts. When you create a new account, you must follow the team page with the new account as well.
- J. If you have inappropriate material on your profile, the following actions will take place:
 - The Drill Team Directors will email or talk with you, your guardian, and possibly GOHS Administration privately about removing the items.
 - You will have 24 Hrs to remove said items. This does not exempt you from any consequences.
 - If the items have not been removed, the directors, parent, and administration will have a conference regarding the matter and any further consequences.
 - If negligence continues, further disciplinary actions and possible removal from the Royal Pride Drill Team may apply.
 - The severity of the offense will determine the severity of the consequence.

Section XIII- Team Awards

- A. Scholarships given by the Booster Club will be determined by a Booster Club committee review of all applications.
- B. Banquet awards will be determined and selected by the directors. However, the directors may consult with the team and team leaders in the selection of these awards.
- C. Spirit Girl and Dancer of the Week will be selected during football season and may be selected at other times throughout the year. These awards will be selected by the team and officers.
- D. Spirit Girl of the week will be chosen by the amount of team spirit and overall morale, encouragement, & leadership exhibited that week.
- E. Dancer of the week will be chosen by the quality of work, participation, dance technique, and growth exhibited that week.

Section XIV- Lettering Policy

- A. Team members are eligible for purchasing their letter jacket through the Drill Team after completing one full year in the program.
- B. A first year senior member is eligible on December 1st, provided they are a team member the second semester.
- C. The member must be a member of the Varsity team in order to be eligible.
- D. Letter jackets will be ordered at one time during the year at the director's discretion.

Article V-Merit and Demerit System

Section I-Background and General Regulations

- A. This organization will be governed by a **merit/demerit system**. The system will last throughout the member's tenure on the team.
- B. The purpose of the demerit philosophy is to ensure team members and officers are working to their full potential concerning the areas of discipline, behavior, and performance.
- C. **Demerits** reinforce the team by keeping members accountable for all policies and procedures. While intended to be a mild disciplinary measure, demerits do accumulate and may result in the dismissal from the team.
- D. Students may be assigned permanent demerits and/or non-permanent demerits. **Permanent Demerits** may be assigned for more serious infractions and may not be worked off. **Non-Permanent Demerits** may be worked off/cleared at the discretion of the directors.
- E. The directors have the authority to assign, assess, and adjust merits/demerits for anything stated or not stated in the constitution.
- F. The dance officers and sergeants may assign merits and non-permanent demerits as listed in the constitution and will be responsible for referring actions deserving of additional merits/permanent demerits to the directors.
- G. The dance officers and sergeants keep record of their squad's demerits and merits. The member will be required to sign for each incident.
- H. Demerits may be assigned during school or at any school/drill team function on or off campus.
- I. Merits/demerits do not carry over from year to year, though records are kept for the member's entire tenure.
- J. Each member will have an opportunity to erase non-permanent demerits immediately following practice. Demerits in excess amounts that cannot be worked off within 15 min directly following practice will roll over to the next day's practice until any non-permanent demerits are removed.
- K. A member must clear all their demerits by the day before a performance to be eligible to

participate. Cleared demerits remain on the member's record but do not count towards their permanent count.

- L. A member is responsible for checking their own merits/demerits and initialing their status. Any member who participates in a performance without clearing their demerits automatically receives another 3 demerits.
- M. Demerits will be worked off/cleared with the performance of "**Royal Pride Kicks**." 1 set of Royal Pride Kicks=1 demerit (40 KICKS). Kicks must be performed at chest level or higher, and members will spell out "Royal Pride" as they kick. Officers will watch kicks at the conclusion of practice each day and sign off on the members demerit form.
- N. The purpose of the merit philosophy is to ensure team members and officers are working to their full potential, going above and beyond to achieve academic excellence and community outreach, while serving as ambassadors to Grand Oaks High School and its community.
- O. Merits do not cancel out demerits. **Merits** will be used towards lettering, scholarships, tryouts, and awards. Merits are the responsibility of the member to declare and document with their squad's officer.

Section II- Meritable Behavior

Opportunities for merits not listed will be announced or may be presented to the directors for approval. Proper documentation must be provided for the collection of any/all Merits.

A. Academic Excellence

- 1-1 Merit per A on your report card (*per nine weeks*)
- 1-1 Merit per 30 minutes of tutoring a teammate (*must be in the studio or with a teacher*)
- 2-No school tardies for the nine weeks

B. School Support

- 1-1 Merit per 30 minutes of helping a GOHS faculty member
- 2-Attending a non-required GOHS sporting/fine arts or school event
- 2-Participating fully in school spirit days put on by the campus

C. Community Engagement

- 1-1 Merit per 30 minutes volunteering/working for a community service project

D. Membership Excellence

- 1-1 Merit per 30 minutes of outside dance class, workshop, or convention
- 1-Participating fully in team spirit dress up days put on by the directors, team, or officers
- 1-Bringing in additional necessary items as needed by the team and approved by the directors (*i.e. bobby pins, ponytails, bandaids, paper towels, nail polish remover, hand sanitizer, supplies, etc.*) (*20 per yr cap*)
- 1-Sweeping or cleaning the studio/locker room before or after practice
- 5-Royal Pride Dancer of the Week/Spirit Girl of the Week

Section III-Permanent Demeritable Offenses

The directors may determine if additional incidents warrant demerits not listed. The directors may increase the number of demerits assigned in the case of repeated or extreme offenses.

A. Permanent Demerits (*may not be worked off*)

*A member with 5 permanent demerits will be placed on **Disciplinary Probation**.*

*A member with 10 permanent demerits will be placed on **Disciplinary Suspension**.*

*A member with 15 permanent demerits will be **Dismissed** from the team.*

*A dance officer, social officer, or sergeant with 5 permanent demerits **will lose her leadership position and be demoted** back down to a regular line member.*

- 2-Profanity

- 3-Tangible courtship in uniform/Royal Pride attire OR at any time during school hours, events, and functions (*Public Displays of Affection-PDA*)(*side hugs and hand holding are acceptable*)
- 3-Leaving any drill team activity without dismissal
- 3-Excused absence from a performance (***without*** 2 week notice or doctor's note upon return. *It is your responsibility to call/email every time you are absent & bring notes upon return. I will not track you down.*)
- 3-Unexcused absence from a performance (***with*** appropriate 2 week notice)
- 5-Unexcused absence from a performance (***without*** notification, i.e. *SKIPPING*)
- 5-Office Referral
- 5-Undermining the director's authority, displaying an uncooperative attitude, disobeying or ignoring the directors
- 5-Failing to represent the Royal Pride Organization or school in an acceptable manner
- 5-**Newly Acquired** tattoos, piercings, and hair color against school and team guidelines
 - No piercings other than ears are permitted
 - Any visible tattoos are NOT permissible on the team and must be covered up at all times to the expectation of the directors at any Royal Pride or GOHS function.
 - Please note that there are some occasions in which the directors will require ALL jewelry including usually acceptable earrings to be removed.
 - All chosen hair colors/treatments must be natural and in accordance with the current school guidelines.
 - Hair must be long enough to be put up into a ponytail, half up/half down ponytail, and fully down look for performances
 - If new tattoos, piercings, or hair color against policy are obtained, you will not only receive the 5 permanent demerits, but also not be allowed to perform until the article is removed or covered to the satisfaction of the directors.
- 10-Unexcused absence from a performance (***without*** notification i.e. *SKIPPING*)
- 5- First assignment to In School Suspension (*ISS*), *After School Detention (ASD)*, or *Saturday Detention*
- 10-15 Second assignment to In School Suspension (*ISS*), *After School Detention (ASD)*, or *Saturday Detention*
- 5-15-Forging excuses, grade reports, cheating, lying
- 5-15 Destruction/theft of someone else's belongings (*subject to probation, suspension, or dismissal*)
- 5-15-Undignified or inappropriate behavior determined by an administrator
- 5-15 Documented inappropriate conduct while displaying membership on the drill team (*with consultation of administration*)
- 15-Assignment of Out Of School Suspension (*OSS*) (*with administrative approval*)

Section IV- Non-Permanent Demeritable Offenses

The directors may determine if additional incidents warrant demerits not listed. The directors may increase the number of demerits assigned in the case of repeated or extreme offenses.

A. Responsibility

- 1-Late to any Royal Pride practice, performance, or function (1 per 5 min late)(*Any amount of minutes late after 30 min will result in an unexcused absence*)
- 1-Being picked up late from practice/an event (1 per 5 min late after the grace period)(*Grace Period=20 minutes. Example: If practice ends at 4:00pm, you have until 4:20 pm to get picked up*)
- 2-Excused absence from practice or a required function (***without*** 2 week notice or doctor's note upon return. *It is your responsibility to call/email every time you are absent & bring notes upon return. I will not track you down.*)
- 3-Unexcused absence from practice or a required function (***with*** appropriate 2 week notice)
- 5-Unexcused absence from practice or a required function (***without*** notification, i.e. *SKIPPING*)
- 1-Missing a piece of attire at practice (*1 per item*)(*A pair of poms/shoes=1 item*)
- 1-Failure to bring assigned items
- 1-Late turning in payments, team documents, and other important papers (*1 per day late*)
- 1-Leaving out attire, props, shoes, personal belongings after practice, performance or event (*1 per item*)(*A Pair of poms/shoes=1 item*) (*This applies to studio and locker room too*)

- 1-Failure to help with props, sound system, & team assignments as given out
- 1-Not having your locker properly shut/locked
- 3-Performing without clearing all non-permanent demerits the day before the performance

B. Respect

- 1-Improper body language
- 1-Failure to respond in our team normal of "Yes Ma'am" "No Ma'am" (1 per incident)
- 1-Talking while the directors or officers are giving instructions
- 1-Locker room left dirty/food or drink left out (1 per item)
- 1-Using phone during practice (Phones may be left on with the director's approval in the case of emergency. Example of emergency: Family member is in the hospital and the dancer is "on call".) (Inappropriate phone use may warrant phones being taken up at director's discretion.)
- 2-Letting a non member into the drill team locker room
- 3-5 Showing disrespect/poor attitude towards the directors, team members, or officers
- 3-5 Failure to participate, follow directions, or respond to directors and officers

C. Safety

- 1-Chewing gum at practice
- 1-Wearing jewelry at practice
- 1-Use of inappropriate footwear
- 3-Chewing gum at a performance
- 3-Wearing jewelry at performances
- 5-Not being in groups of 3 or more on any drill team trip
- 5-Speaking to outsiders not in our travel party during team performances or trips (other than other drill teams within good sportsmanship.)

D. Uniform/Costumes

- 1-Not wearing proper cover-up over dance attire in the hallways, to/from tutorials & meetings, etc. (You do not have to change out of your team practice clothes if you're going straight to your car and going home. If you are going out to dinner, shopping, one of the games, etc.....you need to get back into school dress.)
- 1-Wearing colored nail polish at a performance (nude and french tips are acceptable)
- 1-Wearing underwear or other incorrect undergarments with costumes and uniforms
- 1-Not wearing correct team makeup or hair at a performance (1 per issue)
- 1-Performing in dirty, scuffed, or torn shoes (i.e. boots, jazz shoes, white tennis shoes, turners, etc.)
- 1-Visible tattoo, body piercing, unnatural hair color (1 per day showing at a practice. You will not perform with it showing)
- 2-Removing uniform pieces without permission
- 3-Eating or drinking in uniform without permission
- 3-Wearing uniform anywhere other than a drill team function without permission
- 3-Incorrect or missing a piece of uniform at a performance (anything in a pair=1 item, i.e. poms, earrings, shoes)(missing items may prevent your from performing)
- 3-Lending uniform pieces or exclusive Royal Pride items to a non-drill team member
- 3-5 Negligence of uniform care or condition (may be subject to replacement depending on damage)

E. Before/During/After Performances

- 1-Not being ready/on time for squad line inspection (1 per min late unless excused by the directors)
- 1-Improper stand, sideline, and haltime conduct (1 per offense)
- 1-Improper posture in the stands or while at attention (1 per offense)
- 1-Not cheering with the team (1 per offense)

- 1-Turning around or talking inappropriately in the stands, sidelines or during halftime
- 3-Moving from assigned seating
- 3-Talking to non-team members while going to the restroom, in the stands, or at attention
- 3-Talking on the football field, track, or hallway before/after a performance until dismissed
- 1-5 Eating in stands or at other inappropriate times without permission at the discretion of the directors
- 5-Allowing a non-team member to sit with the team in the stands
- 5-Using phone in stands or at other inappropriate times at the discretion of the directors.
(Inappropriate phone use may warrant phones being taken up at director's discretion.)
- 5-Talking while performing (other than appropriate and approved vocals/dance reminders)
- 1-5 Improper bus conduct
- 1-5 Unsportsmanlike conduct

F. Dance Officers, Social Officers, and Sergeant

These positions require extra responsibility as they are the leaders of the team. In addition to the consequences below, dance officers, social officers, and sergeants will receive double the amount of non-permanent demerits as a regular line member. The directors will determine if additional incidents warrant demerits not listed and may increase the number of demerits assigned if the case is repeated or the offense is extreme.

- 1-Failure to show up/stay after 15 min prior to every Royal Pride function unless specified or dismissed by directors (1 per 5 min late/left early)
- 2-Leaving officer notebook out in studio/locker room
- 2-Unnecessary criticism of a member
- 2-Not following through with daily assignments and duties
- 3-Failing to correctly assign and maintain record of squad members merits and demerits according to this constitution
- 3-Abuse of authority
- 1-5 Conduct unbecoming of an officer
- 1-5 Failure to show support for decisions of the directors, officer line, or team in general
- 5-15 Failure to respect officer confidentiality (subject to demotion)

***An officer loses their position after 5 permanent demerits for any reason.**

Revision #6- May 7th, 2024: Changes to the constitution are italicized and underlined below for reference.

Article V-Merit and Demerit System

Section III-*Permanent Demeritable* Offenses

- 3-Excused absence from a *performance* (***without*** 2 week notice or doctor's note upon return. It is your responsibility to call/email every time you are absent & bring notes upon return. I will not track you down.)
- 3-Unexcused absence from a *performance* (***with*** appropriate 2 week notice)
- 5-Unexcused absence from a *performance* (***without*** notification, i.e. SKIPPING)

Section IV- *Non-Permanent Demeritable* Offenses

- 2-Excused absence from *practice or a required function* (***without*** 2 week notice or doctor's note upon return. It is your responsibility to call/email every time you are absent & bring notes upon return. I will not track you down.)
- 3-Unexcused absence from *practice or a required function* (***with*** appropriate 2 week notice)
- 5-Unexcused absence from *practice or a required function* (***without*** notification, i.e. SKIPPING)
- 3-5** Showing disrespect/poor attitude towards the directors, team members, or officers