

SMUSD: SHAWNEE MISSION EAST
CHEERLEADING CONSTITUTION
2019-2020

SMUSD Philosophy Statement

Shawnee Mission East cheerleaders will serve as the primary support group to lead and direct spirit for athletics, special events, and activities. Members will encourage school pride, good sportsmanship, and a positive image in school activities. Education is foremost in cheerleading and good personal conduct is not limited to the sidelines. Members will strive to project an image of high standards, morals, and goals for others to follow. 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.

Candidate Eligibility

In order to try out, candidates must adhere to the following requirements:

1. Candidates and one parent/guardian must attend a mandatory pre-tryout meeting.
2. Candidates must present the written permission of a guardian to try out.
3. Candidates and their parents must sign a statement agreeing that, if elected, they will abide by all the rules and regulations governing cheerleaders and agree to pay for any expenses incurred.
4. All financial obligations related to cheer fees and the return of school issued uniforms/equipment from the year previous, must be cleared before tryouts.
5. Candidates along with their parent/guardian will sign the district Tobacco/Alcohol/Drug Contract.
6. Candidates must meet KSHSAA eligibility requirements by passing five subjects at tryout time.
7. Candidates must be present at tryouts to be eligible, unless explicit approval is granted by the head coach and building administration.

Selection Process

The weighted scoring system for cheerleading tryouts is as follows:

1) Teacher Evaluation	10%
2) Current Cheer Sponsor Evaluation*	20%
3) Judge Scoring	70%

**If the candidate is not a current cheerleader, the current cheer sponsor evaluation will be based on performance/attitude during clinic.*

Clinics will be organized and run by the coach and senior members of the cheer program. The tryout selection committee will consist of 8-12 members who may be cheerleading coaches from other schools, former coaches, and/or professionals with cheerleading backgrounds. A building administrator will be present at tryouts and may not judge the event. Cheerleaders will try out in groups of 2-3.

Cheer candidates will be ranked based on the grand total of points achieved in each performance category, though a natural break in the score rankings will be considered. The natural break is a campus decision with no minimum requirement. The total number of cheerleaders selected will be at the discretion of the cheerleading sponsor and the building administrator. **All tryout results are final.**

- The highest ranking sophomore, junior, and senior candidates will be placed on the Varsity squad.
- The **next** highest ranking sophomore and junior candidates will be placed on the Junior Varsity squad.
- Seniors who do not meet varsity scoring criteria will not be placed on a squad.
- The highest ranking freshman candidates will be placed on the freshman squad.
- All varsity cheerleaders will be placed on the competition squad. Remaining additions to the squad will be determined by the coach.

The results will be posted on the SME Cheer Website (www.smecheer.com) by a specified time on the day after tryouts. The posting will show the names of the selected members. Coaches and administrators will not meet with anyone about the tryout results **until a minimum of seven days have passed following the announcement of results.**

Responsibilities, Duties, and Obligations of an SMSD Cheerleader

Grades

- Each cheerleader must be passing five classes to be eligible for any performance (game, assembly, etc.). It is highly suggested, especially for seniors, that you take at LEAST six graded classes. Eligibility is determined by letter grades in Skyward on the morning of any performance.
- If a cheerleader is ineligible for a game or event, s/he is still responsible for attending the event in full uniform and sitting on the sideline with the coach.

Attendance

A cheerleader's year begins the day s/he is elected and ends the last day of the following school year. This means that a current SME cheerleader who tries out for the following year and makes a squad is a cheerleader year-round, as cheerleaders are elected prior to the last day of the school year. **Attendance is required for the following performances, activities, and events:**

1. All Practices
2. Summer Camps
3. Pep assemblies
4. Lancer Day Parade - Float Building
5. Meet the Coach Night (Fall 2018)
6. Little Lancer Cheer Clinics (Fall/Spring)
7. Cheer Class
8. Competition performances
9. Cheer fundraisers
10. **Varsity:** All home and away games
11. **Junior Varsity:** All home and in-district JV games
12. **Freshmen:** All home freshmen games

The only excused absences from the above events will include: personal illness, death in the family, family emergency, or a school-required absence; coaches should be notified of any school-related absences well in advance of the absence. **Personal or doctor's appointments should, when possible, be scheduled at times that do not conflict with cheerleader activities or practices.** Multiple absences (excused or unexcused) may result in being pulled from a performance due to stunt and choreography requirements.

Expenses

Cheerleaders should be prepared to meet the financial obligations of cheerleading. Uniform rental fees are non-refundable. Squad members may be responsible for paying for some personal items throughout the year.

Physical Exams

To participate in the cheerleading program, cheerleaders must have a completed physical **dated after May 1, 2019.**

Concussions and Injury

All cheerleaders will abide by the SMSD concussion policy. Should the coach suspect a health condition that could be injurious to the cheerleader if s/he continues to cheer, the coach has the right to ask him/her to submit to a doctor's examination at the cheerleader's expense and obtain a doctor's release before continuing to cheer. If a cheerleader is removed from a routine due to injury, it is at the coach's discretion whether or not s/he will be added back to the routine choreography, due to safety or time constraints.

Travel Information

Varsity Cheerleaders are expected to attend many away games throughout the school year, for which cheerleaders may be expected to provide their own transportation. Please let your coach know if this will be an issue. **ALL CHEERLEADERS will ride the bus both ways when transportation is provided.** The members will stay until the end of the event, unless determined otherwise by the coach. Students may ride home with a parent if it has been approved by the coach. No student will be allowed to leave with anyone other than his/her parent. Students must have a transportation form on file with SME.

Discipline and Conduct

1. A demerit system will be used to track discipline issues.
2. Violations are cumulative from the time a cheerleader is elected to date of the following tryout. If a cheerleader reaches the maximum number of demerits, s/he will be removed from the squad following a meeting with coaches and administration.
3. Cheerleaders who incur discipline problems may be placed on probation, suspension, or be dismissed from the squad.
4. The decision to dismiss a cheerleader from the squad will be made by the coach and the campus administrators.
5. A cheerleader may be **automatically dismissed** for any of the following reasons:
 - On the first day of the beginning of the 7th week of academic ineligibility
 - If s/he violates the district's drug and alcohol policies as referenced in the *Student Code of Conduct*
 - When a cheerleader reaches the maximum number of demerits as determined by the school's constitution
 - For any infraction which results in suspension
 - For criminal activity or any act punishable by law
 - When a cheerleader organizes or is involved in a hazing incident

SME Cheer Drug and Alcohol Policy

In addition to the aforementioned demerits list, any cheerleader who violates the SMSD Drug and Alcohol contract by receiving an MIP or equivalent will be subject to the following consequences:

1. Benching for a minimum of 10% of the season immediately following notice of infraction (district policy). If the offense occurs between seasons (football has ended, but basketball has not begun), the benching will begin at the start of the next season. It is at the discretion of the head coach and administration as to whether the minimum of 10% of the season will suffice for the offense.
2. Removal from choreography for stunts or routines that will be performed during the time the cheerleader is benched. If the stunt or routine will be performed again following the cheerleader's return, it is at the coach's discretion as to whether or not the cheerleader will be choreographed back in, due to safety and time constraints.
3. If a violation occurs during the months following tryouts and leading up to the start of football season (April, May, June, July), the cheerleader will be released from all events leading up to and including the home opener football games for all grade levels.

Booster Club Financial Policies related to Disciplinary Action:

The SME Cheer Booster Club functions, in part, as a means to handle funds on behalf of cheerleaders. Activities such as (but not limited to) national competitions and local competitions require deposits and payments which may not be refundable, per the vendor.

As such, if a member does not participate in an event due to disciplinary action, parents/cheerleaders must understand the following:

1. No refunds will be provided to a cheerleader, parent, or business from business sponsorship funds that a cheerleader has received, should s/he be removed from an event due to disciplinary action.
2. The Booster Club cannot issue refunds of deposits for such items (but not limited to) airline flights and hotel costs. A parent can go directly to the vendor if s/he desires, but the Booster Club will not be involved.
3. If the entire fee has already been paid by a member when the disciplinary action removes him/her from an event, there will be no refund by the Booster Club of any or all of the entire fee. If a parent desires to seek a refund/credit from the airline, hotel, etc., the Booster Club will not be involved.
4. If a member still owes a portion of the cost of an item (including, but not limited to hotel, flight, competition fees) the Booster Club will not be responsible for covering her cost, should a disciplinary action remove her from that event. In the event that her fees cannot be dismissed by the vendor, the dancer will still owe those fees to the Booster Club.
5. If a member is removed from an event which results in an increase in cost for other team members (example - hotel room, local competition fees, etc.) that member will compensate the Booster Club an amount that will allow other team members to avoid an increase in cost of that item.

Changes to Policy

The coach has the ability to revise all policies as needed on an annual basis.