

## WHS CHEERLEADING AND MASCOT DEMERIT/MERIT SYSTEM

### OVERVIEW:

1. The WHS Cheer coaches/sponsors will have the authority to discipline any member for not upholding the cheer constitution, school policy, and/or instructions set forth by the coach.
2. Demerits affect the active status for a member and are in effect during the **entire cheer year**.
3. Cheerleaders will be made aware when they receive a demerit and will initial it.

### **2 DEMERITS will be given for:**

- Excessive talking at practice/game/event.
- Talking to people in the crowd while in sideline formation.
- Not standing at attention during the national anthem and school song (for both teams).
- Wearing incorrect uniform/outfit/bow/shoes/socks.
- Wearing jewelry at a game/practice/event.
- Hair not pulled back with bow at game/practice/event or in uniform.
- Not fulfilling weekly duties as assigned for games/events, including reporting absences
- Not bringing required supplies (Ex: poms, megaphone).

### **4 DEMERITS will be given for:**

- Leaving a **PRACTICE** early for an unexcused reason.
- Late to **PRACTICE**.
- Parent/guardian more than 15 minutes late for pick up after the event or practice.
- Not wearing spirit dress when required.
- Not wearing the required uniform for the event.
- Lending uniform, sweats, t-shirts, or jackets that have the WHS Cheer name to a non-cheer member.
- Not returning an item within a due date.
- Nails not sport length and/or bright or dark polish. Must be nude/French/approved light colors. No points - only square or rounded shapes allowed.

### **6 DEMERITS will be given for:**

- Leaving a **GAME OR EVENT** early for an unexcused reason.
- Late to a **GAME OR EVENT**.
- Public displays of affection while in/out of uniform.
- Inappropriate use of a cellular device such as but not limited to text messaging and pictures.
- Accumulation of three or more tardies to any cheer related event including, but not limited to class, extra practice, games.
- ANY dress code violation from teacher or administration, including wearing slippers to school or shoes without backs (these are safety hazards).
- Assignment to TNL for discipline reasons. In addition, the cheerleader will be benched for one performance.
- Assignment to Saturday School for discipline reasons. In addition, the cheerleader will be benched for one performance.

**NOTE:** Any other misbehavior or infraction to be determined by the coach can receive demerits, a written warning and possibly removal from the squad.

**CONSEQUENCES:**

- Once a cheerleader receives 8 demerits, parents will be notified.
- Any cheerleader with an accumulation of 12 demerits will receive a written warning.
- A cheerleader may be benched at any time or pulled from a performance because of insufficient knowledge of material (cheers, chants, dance, etc.).
- If a cheerleader is benched/suspended for any reason, the cheerleader is required to attend the game or performance and sit in the stands with the coach, dressed in their squad shirt with jeans, and perform duties as assigned.

**WRITTEN WARNING will be given for:**

- Unexcused absence from any cheer event. Please refer to the Code of Conduct for definition of excused and unexcused absences.
  - Squad Coach must be notified of all absences PRIOR to a practice/game/event (including school related activities and excused absences) through Google Form and email/text.
- Accumulation of 12 demerits.
- Assignment to ISS/OSS/DAEP (in addition, cheerleader will be benched for two performances per the Code of Conduct).
- Undesirable conduct related to ANY other social media site, including but not limited to postings, status updates, pictures, etc. (please refer to social media contract).
- Undesirable/disrespectful conduct toward another teammate, coach, staff members, or members of the opposing team as determined by coach or an administrator.
- Any other misbehavior or infraction to be determined by the coach.

*Consequences for written warnings are outlined in the FISD Cheerleading Code of Conduct. An accumulation of 3 Written Warnings will result in removal from the squad.*

**MERITS:**

- Merits are the means by which the cheer member may work off his/her demerits and be rewarded for her/his extra service to the organization.
- It is the **CHEERLEADERS** responsibility to inquire for merit opportunities. Coaches will gladly provide opportunities, but first and foremost it is the cheerleader's responsibility to inquire.
- Merits can be earned by attending extra events and/or activities as well as doing additional things as designated by the coach.
- Merits may be earned and accumulated throughout the cheer year.
- Merits may cancel demerits once demerits have been incurred
- Cheerleaders will only be allowed to work off **8 Demerits** per semester (fall / spring).
- Community service hours cannot receive double credit. They cannot be pulled/double dipped from any other extracurricular activity.
- Merits cannot remove or clear a cheerleader from a written warning or three week suspension once he or she has been placed on suspension.

**MERITS AND VALUES:**

- Merit opportunities are given at the coaches' discretion.
  - Determination of value of merit is set by the coach.
- **Ultimately it is the cheerleader's responsibility to inquire about working off demerits.**