

SMSD: SHAWNEE MISSION EAST
COMPETITION CHEERLEADING CONSTITUTION
2022-2023

SMSD 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. Must be a member of the SME Cheer Game Day Squads. (Freshman, Junior Varsity, Varsity)
2. Candidates and one parent/guardian must attend a mandatory pre-tryout meeting.
3. 2. Candidates must present the written permission of a guardian to try out.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 5. Candidates along with their parent/guardian will sign the district Tobacco/Alcohol/Drug Contract.
7. 6. Candidates must meet KSHSAA eligibility requirements by passing five subjects at tryout time.
8. 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 scoring for Competition cheerleading tryouts is completed by the coaches during game day tryouts and the following sections are scored:

- Jumps
- Tumbling
- Dance
- Chant
- Fight Song
- Coach/Teacher Score

Additionally separate tryouts will be held for the selection of the Competition team. This tryout will take scores from the game day tryout as well as the addition of score for a tryout of the following criteria.

- Stunting

Clinics will be organized and run by the coaches of the cheer program. There will also be 2 weeks of pre-tryout conditioning which is strongly recommended but not mandatory. A building administrator will be present at tryouts and may not judge the event. Cheerleaders will try out in groups of 3-4.

The SME Competition team will consist of 30 athletes which will come from all squads. There will additionally be 5-7 alternates selected to be members of the team but compete only if placed in if the need arises

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 results will be posted on the SME Cheer Website (www.lancercheer.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

SME Competition Cheer Specific Rules and Regulations

Being selected as part of the competition team is a high honor in and of itself. As such it must be treated accordingly. This means the cheerleader in addition to the commitment of game day practices, events, etc. is committed to the rigorous practice schedule, competition schedule, and devoted to the team. The athlete understands that extra practices, conditioning, meetings, and fundraising will be required. The athlete and their family understands the financial aspect of competition cheer which can include local competition fees, national competition fees, hotel fees, airplane or bus fees, etc. They are expected to take care of themselves and their other athletes and support each member no matter the age. They must also abide by the terms set out in this constitution as well as the SME Cheer Constitution

Grades

- Each cheerleader must be passing five classes to be eligible for any performance or competition. 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. For any class not passing the cheerleader must be able to show they have a plan set in place in order to improve the failing grade.
- If a cheerleader is ineligible for a competition or event, s/he is still responsible for attending the event in full uniform and sitting on the sideline with the coach as well as payment for her place that would have been had.

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 100% of the following performances, activities, and events: (These Events can be found at Lancercheer.com/tryouts)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. All Summer Practices | 4. Local Competition Performances |
| 2. MANDATORY Summer Choreography Camp | 5. KSHSAA State Competition |
| 3. Pep assemblies | 6. NCA Nationals |

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-required absences at least one week in advance if this is not done then the event is not considered excused and all other absences 24 hours in advance of the absence. **Personal or doctor's appointments should be scheduled at times that do not conflict with cheerleader activities or practices and are not counted as excused absences. Work is not considered an acceptable absence for events.**

The SME Cheer Competition Team has a 3 absence maximum of any kind (excused or unexcused) within coach/ administrative discretion. If 3 absences occur the athlete will be removed from the team and their spot filled with alternative athletes.

A NO contact NO show absence is one in which the athlete does not notify the coach of the absence either at all or in a timely manner. The window for notifying a coach of an absence is 24 hours unless an emergency has occurred. If this is not done then the absence whether excused or unexcused is considered a NCNS and will receive the strike associated with this action.

Athlete Signature _____

Guardian Signature _____

Expenses

Competition Cheerleading requires dedication of not only an athlete's time but also carries a financial obligation that can not be understated. Cheerleaders should be prepared to meet the financial obligations of Competition Cheerleading. This expense will include Competition Registration fees, Competition Travel fees, Fees associated with nationals, and other competition related fees. These fees are the responsibility of the athlete and their guardians.

The following fees are an estimated cost for membership of the SME Competition team and are subject to change.

Local Competition Fees:	\$100
NCA Nationals Registration Fees:	\$199
NCA Nationals Program Fees	\$808

Travel Information

Competition Cheerleaders are expected to attend away competitions 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/s. Students must have a transportation form on file with SME.

NCA Nationals Travel

In the event that the SME Cheer team qualifies and has the opportunity to attend NCA Nationals in Dallas, TX the SME Cheer program will travel as a unit to this competition. Cheerleaders will be required to travel and board with the SME Cheer program while in attendance of this event.

Discipline and Conduct

Cheerleaders are expected to behave in a way that represents the program and school well. They are also expected to behave in a way that respects not only themselves, but also their teammates and their coaches. **Actions such as being late, not filling out items on time, talking out of turn, attitude issues, and other actions at the coaches discretion are considered minor infractions. Minor infractions incur disciplinary actions at the coaches discretion. These disciplinary actions will be extra conditioning at the coaches discretion.** Repeated minor infractions will be considered an act of extreme disrespect which will incur a serious infraction.

Serious Infraction

Serious infractions are actions which will result in serious discipline. Serious infractions are as follows:

- NO Contact NO Show to practices, events or games. (A NCNS is defined as missing a practice, event, or game without notifying the coach at least 24 hours in advance unless a medical or family emergency has occurred) Coaches discretion is used to help navigate these matters.
- Extreme acts of disrespect towards coaching staff or other cheerleaders. This includes any bullying of any type.
- Any more than 2 instances where the cheerleader is late to any cheer event, game, practice, etc.

There will be a 3 strike system for serious infractions with an increasing level of disciplinary action for each one.

- Strike 1 - Will result in benching from a game where the cheerleader will be required to attend in uniform and sit with the coach. (if the cheerleader does not attend that will count as a NC/NS as automatically count as another strike.)
- Strike 2 - Will result in Benching for the remainder of the Fall or Winter Season.
- Strike 3 - Will result in dismissal from the squad following a meeting with administrators and coaching staff

Disciplinary actions that occur on either Game Day Teams or Competition Teams will carry significance across both of the athlete's teams. This means an athlete has a maximum of 3 strikes across both teams, not 3 per team.

Cheerleaders may be removed from performance or games, placed on probation/ suspension, removed from leadership positions, or be dismissed from the squad due to behavioral or discipline issues, at the discretion of the coach and administration.

Additionally a cheerleader may be **automatically dismissed** for any of the following reasons:

- 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
- 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*

Athlete Signature _____

Guardian Signature _____

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 local competitions and national 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, hotel costs, travel bus fee, competition entrance fees. 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 athlete 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.

Parents/Guardians

Parents please understand that by signing this contract you agree to abide by the statements in this contract as well as the decisions made within this program.

Additionally the following rules need to be followed by parents:

- The coaching staff should receive contact from a cheerleader about any issues they may have before we receive contact from parents. If this is not followed we will not respond.
- The SME Cheer Coaching Staff will be respectful in communication with parents/guardians as such parents/guardians are expected to reciprocate this behavior in all communication ventures with coaching staff.
- By signing this contract all guardians in this household agree to this contract.

Guardian Signature _____

By signing this contract you agree to abide by the policies stated above.

Athlete Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Changes to Policy

The coach has the ability to revise all policies as needed on a season basis. If this happens, there will be a new signature required.