

**THE CONSTITUTION OF THE
STAR STEPPER DANCE TEAM
OF BANDERA HIGH SCHOOL
'REVISED'**

The Star Stepper Dance Team will be composed of students from Bandera High School, and will be under the supervision of the director, designated by the administration of the school. All activities of the organization will be coordinated through the administration and the director.

The purpose of this organization shall be to promote school spirit and give full support to all school activities designated by the administration and the director. This organization will also encourage scholarship and good conduct and develop leadership and self-initiative among members.

ARTICLE I

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Membership is open to any student entering the 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grade who is able to meet and maintain the requirements for membership.

- Section 1: Candidates who have voluntarily left BHS Dance Team, or Cheerleading Squad after being selected during the tryout process or have been removed from one of these teams for any reason are not qualified to tryout for this team.
- Section 2: For initial eligibility in this spirit organization, the student must have been promoted to the next respective grade level at the end of the school year.
- Section 3: During the school year immediately preceding application, the student should not have committed a major policy violation. Past experience has proven that if students have discipline referrals, frequent absences, grades of Ds and Fs, or unsatisfactory conduct marks, then they usually do not complete the year in a spirit organization. Parents should consider this prior to tryouts since the financial and time obligations of dance team are often much more than other extracurricular activities.
- Section 4: Screening of prospective members will be limited to those approved by the school principal, athletic director(s) or his or her designee, certifying academic eligibility and citizenship in accordance to criteria listed in this constitution.
- Section 5: Parental permission is required. Parents need to be aware that there will be additional financial obligations for uniforms, camp, and other expenses.

- Section 6: The student must be able to participate physically and emotionally. A commitment is required and expected. Students must learn to balance their time between school, homework, family and other activities. Dance Team requires commitment and may require the student to choose not to participate in other activities.
- Section 7: Parent/guardian and student signatures are required to acknowledge that they understand and accept the rules set forth by this constitution.

ARTICLE II

REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP/TRYOUTS

- Section 1: Tryouts will be held in the spring of the year prior to membership. A qualified panel of judges will select the members. Judges are chosen by the administration and are not affiliated with BISD.
- Section 2: All candidates will be required to attend a mandatory tryout meeting prior to the clinic and tryouts. At that time, the candidate will receive a 'tryout packet' outlining projected costs, tentative schedules and a copy of the constitution.
- Section 3: All members must tryout every year to be a member. All potential members must be registered for the upcoming school year and have all tuition account status up-to-date prior to tryouts.
- Section 4: To establish eligibility for tryouts, a candidate must submit the constitution acknowledgement and acceptance form (last page), proof of personal insurance, a physical (before camp) and provide a copy of their most recent report card.
- Section 5: All candidates for dance team must attend the required clinic. Exceptions to this policy are: students who are unable to attend due to grade probation; and students who are involved in another school related activity with administrative approval. Prospective members that miss any days of clinic should contact another student who has been in attendance to receive any information or material missed.
- Section 6: The number of members chosen for the squad will be determined by the panel of judges and indicated to them by a natural break in scores.
- Section 7: If a student will be transferring to BHS, the student may tryout for the dance team, as long as the new student meets all requirements for tryouts, and must tryout in the spring of the year prior to membership. No special tryouts will be held.
- Section 8: Absolutely no form of hazing is allowed during any initiation proceedings into this spirit organization.

ARTICLE III

REQUIREMENTS DURING MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1: Members are required to turn cell phones off and put them away during all scheduled practices from start to finish. During events, cell phones must be turned off and put away except during your scheduled break time and when we get back to the bus.
- Section 2: All members of the squad will attend required practices. There will be at least two practices every week during football and contest seasons, the number of weekly practices will be decided by the director for all performances throughout the year as she sees fit. This includes summer practices.
- Section 3: All members must attend summer camp at your own expense. Failure to attend camp will result in dismissal from the organization.
- Section 4: Members must attend all varsity football games and any other event designated by administration and/or director.
- Section 5: Members must participate in all fundraising activities.
- Section 6: If a member is unable to attend a required practice or function she/he must have a valid, written excuse from parent and must be presented to the director beforehand. (Extenuating circumstances excluded)
- Section 7: Excused absences are personal illness and death in family. The director will determine extenuating circumstances. Family vacations will not be excused (except for during the summer practices).
- Section 8: If a member is absent or leaves early from school on the day of a performance, she/he will not be allowed to perform. If a member is absent for more than one practice during the week of a performance, the director may or may not allow the member to perform.
- Section 9: Members must be present the day following a game, unless excused for illness.
- Section 10: A member will wear her/his uniform only at designated functions, and uniforms must be worn properly.
- Section 11: Any member who does not attend a required function with the group, but attends on their own, out of uniform, will be placed on probation for a time period to be determined by the director.

Section 12: A member may have no more than ten excused or three unexcused absences from meetings, practices, and activities for the entire year. Absences exceeding these limits for the year will be grounds for probation and/or dismissal from the organization. Cases of prolonged absence may receive special consideration when presented to the director in writing.

Note: Vacations, jobs and family events will not validate an excused absence for missing a scheduled event (or an unscheduled playoff game).

Section 13: When a member is absent, it is his/her responsibility to call a fellow member to find out what was missed and what is required upon her return. This applies to all missed classes, practices and performances.

ARTICLE IV

PERFORMANCE/GAMES

Section 1: All members shall attend all varsity football, assigned basketball, and all other designated events. Competition beyond the district level will necessitate further participation. (Administrative approval required)

Section 2: An unexcused absence from a performance/game will result in demerits and/or probation.

Section 3: In order to promote school unity, all dance team officers & line members are encouraged to ride the bus home with the team and director after all away games and/or performances. Only in cases of extenuating circumstances will a student be allowed to leave a game or function with her parent/guardian. Student would be required to bring a parent note to school two days before event to be signed and approved by director and an administrator.

Section 4: Each member will audition for each routine. All candidates are required to audition.

Section 5: Those members who fail to receive an adequate score will be designated as alternates for that particular performance and will continue to practice as scheduled with the team. No one will be allowed to sit out of practice except for medical reasons or injury.

Section 6: While student officers may be used to assist the director with auditions, under no circumstance will they have the responsibility of determining who will or will not perform.

ARTICLE V

OFFICERS

The role of any officer position is considered a leadership position and requires commitment and total cooperation of all rules set forth by this constitution. The sponsor reserves the right to determine the need of officer's of the team per year.

- Section 1: For initial eligibility for officer positions, the student must have passed all subjects the first semester and be passing all classes at the time of tryouts. Officers must maintain passing grades at all times.
- Section 2: The officers may be selected from among the qualified candidates by a combination score consisting of: a leadership assignment given and scored by the director; a solo performed and critiqued by the tryout judges; and an interview with the tryout judges.
- Section 3: Team Captain of the Star Steppers shall be an upper classman (Senior or Junior) who has the highest officer score. This student must have at least one year experience on the dance team the year prior. She must currently be in good standing in the organization. The duties of the captain shall be to lead the Star Steppers during performances and appearances, to serve as a representative of the group, and to assist the director in choreographing and teaching routines.
- Section 4: The Co-Captain of the Star Steppers shall be a Senior, Junior or Sophomore with the second highest officer score. This student must have at least one year experience on the dance team the year prior. She must currently be in good standing in the organization. His/her duties will be to assist the Captain in leading the Star Steppers during performance and appearances, to serve as a representative of the group, and to assist the director in choreographing and teaching routines.
- Section 5: The Lieutenants may be Seniors, Juniors or Sophomores. The number of lieutenants for the upcoming year will correspond to the number of girls that made the team for that particular year.
- 1 Lieutenant for 10-15 members
 - 2 Lieutenants for 16-20 members
 - 3 Lieutenants for 21 or more members

Lieutenants must have been on the team at least one year immediately prior and be in good standing in the organization. Their duties are to assist in all organizational and dance responsibilities, as well as assisting the director as needed.

Section 6: The Social Officer must be a member who has served on the team at least one year immediately prior and is in good standing with the organization. Responsibilities of the social officer include but are not limited to:

Lining up and assisting with fundraisers

Advertising of local performances for team, school and community

Plan and decorate for team parties

Plan and organize 'Step Brother/Sister' gift reminders and events

Putting together and bringing opposing dance team gift bag to games

Plan and organize football, basketball (g&b), soccer (g&b), baseball, softball, volleyball, tennis and golf buddies

Plan and organize team birthdays

Thank-you cards

Solely responsible for the current year's scrap-book and keepsakes

Photos for the yearbook

Assisting the director with calendars

The Social Officer(s) should be responsible, creative and organized; one who is an academic leader and is able to offer extra time with the above mentioned items.

The Social Officer(s) is selected from among the qualified candidates by a combination score consisting of: a leadership assignment and creative assignment given by the director and critiqued by the sponsor and tryout judges as well as an interview with the judges at tryouts.

The Social Officer(s) does not interfere with any Captain responsibilities.

Section 7: All officers must attend camp at their own expense. Officer camp is mandatory. Missed officer camp may result in removal from position.

Section 8: Removal from an officer position may result should a member not fulfill her obligations or fails a class.

Dance team members are not allowed to hold more than one officer position at the same time. However, they are allowed to audition for both Military and Social Officer positions at tryouts. The panel of judges will determine the final outcome of all officer positions.

SQUADS AND SQUAD LEADERS

In the event that there are no qualified officer candidates another form

of leadership will be put in place. This is intended to be an opportunity for squad leaders and other members to prepare for an officer position the next qualifying year.

- Section 1: During the course of summer practices and camps members will be observed and divided into squads. One leader for each squad will be determined by the director based on qualities outlined in this constitution, leadership skills, preparedness and overall character.
- Section 2: A member may decline the request of being squad leader in which case the next qualified member will be chosen.
- Section 3: Each squad leader will be expected to be mini-captains to their squads and work in full cooperation with other squad leaders to insure efficiency and quality of team functions. Squad leaders may be asked to delegate responsibilities among their squad at the request of the sponsor.
- Section 4: All members will fill the role of social officer and complete those tasks at the request of the sponsor or squad leader.

ARTICLE VI

UNIFORMS

- Section 1: The director must approve all uniforms. This includes performance uniforms and practice uniforms the members will wear while representing the school at competitions, camps, etc.
- Section 2: The member must purchase all uniforms. The school does not pay for any part of the uniform that members keep.
- Section 3: When wearing a performance uniform at school functions and/or in public, the ONLY jewelry that can be worn is a watch and your own class ring. NO jewelry will be worn during any performance unless it somehow related to the uniform and approved by the director.
- Section 4: Uniforms may not be worn to school during the day, unless the director has given prior permission with approval from administration.
- Section 5: All members will wear the same hairstyle to be determined by the director (in advance).
- Section 6: All members must purchase the same make-up (brand and colors to be decided by director).

Section 7: Inspections of uniform, make-up, hair and shoes will be held before any performances. The director and/or Captain will do this.

Section 8: In the event that any part of a member's required uniform (performance or practice) is lost, stolen or damaged, the responsibility to replace it promptly lies with the member.

ARTICLE VII

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS:

Dance Team membership requires that the students meet various financial obligations. Costs associated with uniforms, competitions, travel and performances may be substantial. While fund-raising serves to minimize the direct cost to participants, students will still be faced with out-of-pocket expenditures associated with being a member of the Dance Team.

Students and parents must understand that failure to meet financial obligations and payment deadlines can jeopardize participation in Star Stepper competitions, performances and tryouts. Students and parents must also understand that resigning, withdrawing or being removed from the organization does not absolve them from meeting financial obligations that accumulated during active membership. Failure to meet all financial obligations can result in the withholding of semester exam exemptions, uniforms, grades and transcripts.

ARTICLE VIII

MERITS/DEMERITS

Any spirit member is permitted no more than a total of 9 demerits per school year. Ten demerits will result in permanent dismissal from the squad.

Section 1: All merits and demerits will be given by the director and will be in effect for one semester. At the end of each semester, the slate will be wiped clean and all will start from '0'. A student may cancel demerits by acquiring merits during any semester for all demerits issued except those demerits for insubordination/non-compliance. The cancel ratio is three merits to one demerit.

Section 2: Merits:

Merits may be given at the discretion of the sponsor. Merits may not cancel out demerits given for conduct problems.

Straight 'A' report card	3
Special assignments by the director	1-5
Super spirit	1
Perfect attendance for 6 weeks	3

Section 3: Demerits:

Demerits are issued for improper conduct. Demerits will not affect the grade but will affect active status in the organization. One demerit can be cancelled by earning three merits during a semester. Demerits accrue beginning the first day of summer vacation through the last day of the school year.

Excused legal absence from school	0
Unexcused absences from practice	2
Unexcused absence from performance	4
Tardy for practice or game	1
Chewing gum at practice or game	1
Leaving during a game (unexcused)	5
Cutting class without permission or truancy	5
Insubordination to director or faculty member	10
Undesirable language or behavior	10
Not having any appropriate practice attire	2
Incomplete or incorrect attire at practice	1
Un-sportsman like conduct	3
Smoking/drinking or in possession of tobacco/alcohol at any time	10
Failure to fulfill assignments or instructions given by the director	1-5
ISS/Suspension/AEP	5
Expulsion	10
Disrespect, talking back or being argumentative with director at practice, in class, or at a performance/organization event	DR +5

Demerits for certain discipline problems not listed above may be given at the discretion of the director.

Demerits may also be given for missed deadlines (i.e. Assignments, financial deadlines, routine memorization, etc.)

Section 4: Rewards and Consequences

- A. A member accumulating 5 or more demerits during a semester will be placed on probation.
- B. A member accumulating 10 or more demerits during a semester will be dismissed from the organization and may be denied future participation. Participation in extracurricular activities represents a position of recognition and often bestows the position of role model upon the student participants. For this reason high standards of behavior are expected from students participating in extracurricular activities. Students participating in extracurricular activities who do not meet these standards of appropriate behaviors could be denied participation in the activity.

- C. In order to be eligible for district end-of-the-year awards, attendance must be in accordance with the Constitution and the member must be in good standing.

ARTICLE IX

PROBATION

Section 1: Scholastic Probation

Receiving one or more failing grades in any six-week grading period will constitute scholastic probation. This probationary period will coincide with state law. The student must be passing all classes as indicated on the progress report at the three-week period in order to be reinstated to normal participation. The member will participate in practices, including before and after school practices, but will not be allowed to perform while on probation. They will not wear the uniform and will not travel with the team during this probation period. This type of probation will affect the student's membership in a spirit group. Receiving a failing grade in any two six weeks periods during the semester will result in dismissal from the spirit group.

Section 2: Demerit Probation

When a member is placed on probation, the member and his/her parents will be notified.

- A. The length of probation is 3 weeks or 15 school days
- B. A student must within the fifteen-day probation period complete an assignment as specified by the director that must be signed by the parent acknowledging the demerit status.
- C. A member violating this probation will be dismissed from the organization.
- D. When on probation, the member will not be able to participate actively in the group (perform or serve as officer or squad leader) but must attend all group functions including all practices. The member will not be allowed to wear the team logo or uniform during the probation period.

ARTICLE X

REMOVAL FROM THE SQUAD

The members of this squad will respect and support the rules and policies of Bandera High School and Bandera ISD. The sponsor reserves the right to enforce disciplinary action for any violation of regular school rules not listed in this constitution.

- Section 1: A member can be removed from the squad if he/she is put on probation more than two times for failing grades on academic checks or report cards.

- Section 2: A member can be removed from the squad if she/he shows disrespect to the director, any school official, or any other person affiliated with Bandera ISD while they are a member of the squad, in or out of uniform.
- Section 3: A member who is found using, selling, distributing, transmitting, being under the influence of and/or being in possession of an alcoholic beverage, tobacco, and/or any narcotic drug (as defined by law) at any time or location shall be removed from the organization.
- Section 4: Removal from the squad voluntarily or involuntarily will result in the disqualification of any further involvement in the organization.
- Section 5: Removal from the squad voluntarily or involuntarily will result in the member receiving an 'F' for that semester and losing the fine arts half credit accumulated during a successful semester. (Extenuating circumstances established in a conference between parent, director, and administrator may void this consequence)

ARTICLE XI

LETTER JACKETS

Members qualify for a letter jacket during the spring of their second successful year or during the spring of their first successful year if that member is a senior. All jackets will be ordered in the spring and paid for by the school. All patches must be purchased by the member.

BY-LAWS

MEMBERSHIP

Members must maintain a minimum of 70% in every subject (electives included). Failure to maintain passing average will result in suspension from the squad until the next grade check. If a student receives a waiver, the student may attend functions until the next grade check. Only one waiver per member per semester will be allowed. At the three week progress report he/she must have a 70% average or better to return to full participation in activities.

No more than 2 probations resulting from these grade checks will be allowed per semester. If a third probation is issued, the member will be removed from the squad.

Dance team membership is not considered a hobby, but a dedicated practice that requires much physical demand on the body. A physical release is required from each member and is required to be turned in before attending summer camp.

Talking to any non-squad member during events, other than on authorized breaks, is not allowed.

Under all circumstances in and out of school, during dance performances, in-stand and while on breaks at games, all member's behavior must be a reflection of school and personal pride.

Any necessary medication must be issued to member by the director and will be done only with written parent authorization.

CHARACTER

All members should display these qualities at all times...

- A. Honesty
- B. Willingness to display school spirit
- C. Good sportsmanship
- D. Graceful and ladylike manner
- E. Good/positive attitude
- F. Good hygiene and grooming
- G. Ability to rise above instigating or being pressured to participate in any behavior that would be degrading to the member his/herself, Bandera High School or Bandera ISD

PRACTICES

Practices will be held weekly. There will be at least two practices per week in preparation for any performance during after school hours. If a practice day or time changes, the members will be notified with as much advance notice as possible. Students will be responsible for making transportation arrangements themselves.

Only members, managers, director, or persons determined by the director (i.e. Choreographers or volunteers who have been through appropriate district criminal background check) are allowed in the dance hall during practice.

PARENTS

Cooperation with supporting the rules of this constitution and any decisions made by the director and/or administration is a must.

Most of the dance team's preparatory work in developing skills and routines is done during the summer months. The development of the teamwork necessary for an efficient dance team unit requires much time and effort on the part of students, the sponsor, and support of the parents.

All members must be at the designated event or departure site 20-60 min. before starting time or before departure time as determined by sponsor. Please plan on picking up your student promptly after events, you will be given approximate return time from away events. Transportation is provided for away events to and from BHS, in some cases a stop may be made in Pipe Creek. The sponsor is not always in control of whether or not a stop in Pipe Creek will be made.

PROCEDURE FOR PROBATION AND/OR SUSPENSION

The director will write a letter of notification to the principal and parents of the member in question on the accumulation of demerits or deed(s) listed as reason for probation and/or suspension. Acknowledgment from the parents and or conference will be required and probation and/or suspension will begin immediately.

If no immediate betterment or change in character is shown by the member in question, a second letter, written by the sponsor to the principal and parents will acknowledge that the member may then be removed from the squad.

AMMENDMENTS

The director, principal, and a 2/3 vote of the members must approve amendments to the constitution.

**THE CONSTITUTION OF THE
STAR STEPPER DANCE TEAM
OF BANDERA HIGH SCHOOL
ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND ACCEPTANCE**

I (parent), _____ have read The Constitution of the Star Stepper Dance Team of Bandera High School and here by acknowledge and accept its contents. I do give my son/daughter permission to tryout and if accepted, participate in this program for the 2009-2010 school year. We (my son/daughter and I) are willing to cooperate to the fullest with all functions promoted by Bandera High School, and Star Stepper Director. I understand that I am financially responsible for all costs that will incur while my child is a Bandera High School Star Stepper.

I understand that Bandera Independent School District, Bandera High School and their employees cannot be held liable for any injury that might occur while my son/daughter is a dance team member.

By signing this acknowledgement, I also give BHS and the Star Stepper Director permission to provide transportation for my student member to and from all scheduled events.

I understand that I am obligated to provide a physical, and proof of insurance.

I understand that my son/daughter must be covered by personal insurance. I give permission for my daughter to receive necessary medical attention.

Parent/Guardian:

Print _____

Signature _____ Date _____

I have read the Constitution and fully understand my commitment and responsibility to the Star Stepper Dance Team. I understand that the Dance Team requires a yearlong commitment that will begin the summer after tryouts.

Student:

Print _____

Signature _____ Date _____

I give administrative permission for this student to tryout and participate in the BHS dance team.

Assistant Principal:

Print _____

Signature _____ Date _____