

BRENHAM HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADER & MASCOT CONSTITUTION AND CODE OF CONDUCT

Participation in the cheer and mascot program at Brenham High School is a privilege, not a right. We set high standards for those wishing to participate. Exemplary behavior is expected at all times, and athletes are responsible for their own actions. Being a cheerleader and mascot for Brenham High School is a year round commitment. Participating in this program means that cheerleading must come before any non school related activity. School related schedules will be set by the coaches, teachers, and administration involved.

Practices, Games & Performances

ALL conditioning must be completed before joining practices, games, or performances. Cheerleaders/Mascots will NOT participate until the conditioning is completed and/or they are in the correct attire. See "Strike System" for excessive tardies and/or absences

Not READY TO GO by our scheduled practice time - <i>READY TO GO = are on time, not wearing jewelry, and wearing the correct practice attire</i>	CONDITIONING
Unexcused absence from practice - complete before joining the next practice	CONDITIONING
Late to game or performance - including halftime for football & basketball	CONDITIONING
Not wearing complete and/or correct uniform at game or performance - <i>Including, but not limited to, hairstyle, jewelry, megaphone, poms, bow, shoes, socks, etc.</i>	CONDITIONING
Improper nail polish or nail length	CONDITIONING
Use of cell phone at practice, game, or performance without permission	CONDITIONING
Failure to follow coaches direction	CONDITIONING
Excessive mistakes while cheering at a game or performance - <i>Cheerleader will be asked to sit by coach for remainder of game</i>	CONDITIONING
Bad sportsmanship, verbal confrontations, use of foul language, and/or inappropriate gestures during practices, games, or performances	CONDITIONING
Failing a class at grade check - <i>Grade checks will take place every 3 weeks.</i>	CONDITIONING

Excused VS Unexcused Absences

Excused = Funeral, Illness, School Related Activity. A signed note from a teacher and/or doctor is required for the absence to be considered excused.

Unexcused = Any other absences not listed above. Any absence without a signed note from a teacher and/or doctor. Mandatory practices will be set at the beginning of the school year. Missing mandatory practices for any reason will result in an UNEXCUSED absence.

Strike System - Strikes are in place from the formation of the squad (April 2023), until the next tryout date.	
1 STRIKE	Losing Eligibility for Grades - <i>per UIL Eligibility Calendar & UIL Side by Side Rules</i>
1 STRIKE	Detention or ISS Assignment
1 STRIKE	Missing a required event or performance outside of class time
1 STRIKE	Non-participation during spirit days - <i>Including, but not limited to, any spirit days that are held by the cheerleaders, Brenham High School, or the community of Brenham.</i>
1 STRIKE	PDA
1 STRIKE	Not participating in fundraising activities
1 STRIKE	Community Service Hours Not Met - 10 Hours per Semester
1 STRIKE	More than THREE tardies or unexcused absences to practices in one week
1 STRIKE	More than 10 tardies per 9 weeks - All class periods
1 STRIKE	5 or more tardies to a game or performance
1 STRIKE	90% attendance is required each 9 weeks. Excessive absences, not school, family or medically related. - <i>No more than 4 unexcused absences - see attendance & tardies section above</i>
1 STRIKE	Any conduct unbecoming of a cheerleader - <i>This is at the discretion of the cheer coaches. Includes, but is not limited to: insubordination, excessive use of foul language/gestures (outside of performances, games, and practices), failure to cooperate with coaches or sponsors, negative behavior report from a classroom teacher/admin, skipping required practices, performances, events, or activities.</i>
2 STRIKES	Out of School Suspension
2 STRIKES	Bullying - <i>A single significant act or a pattern of acts by one or more students directed at another student that exploits an imbalance of power and involves engaging in written or verbal expression, expression through electronic means, or physical conduct.</i>
2 STRIKES	Sending, posting, or participating in inappropriate pictures or posts that contain nudity, anything suggestive or sexual, harassment, alcohol, tobacco, or illegal substances, using vulgar or hateful language on a public forum, social media, text message, or across any other mediums.

Immediate Removal

Being placed in DAEP, physical fighting and hazing will result in immediate removal from the Brenham Cheer & Mascot Program. Athletes removed from the program will not be allowed to participate in tryouts the following school year.

Drug testing, use & possession of tobacco, e-cigarettes, illegal substances and/or alcohol

We will follow the BISD drug testing policy for the first offense. A second offense will result in immediate removal from the Brenham Cheer & Mascot Program. The first offense will follow the athlete throughout their high school career.

Consequences for Strikes - No participation in performances or games until ALL laps are run.

- 1 Strike** **Run 100 laps within 5 consecutive school days.**
Must still attend any events/performances in uniform
- 2 Strikes** **Run 200 laps within 5 consecutive school days.**
Must still attend any events/performances in uniform
- 3 Strikes** **Removal from the Brenham Cheer & Mascot Program**

UIL State Competition Team

Team Selection

The 2024 UIL State Competition Team members will be chosen during the tryout process. There will be a maximum of 27 athletes on the mat. There will be no maximum number of alternates. If there are more than 27 members that want to participate on the UIL State team, the tryout scores will determine who makes the 2024 UIL State Team

UIL State Team Requirements

- Passing all classes - Failing a class at 9 week eligibility checks will result in being placed as an alternate.
- Must be able to practice every Wednesday night and pay the monthly tuition to Velocity Gymnastics & Cheer.
- 5 UNEXCUSED absences will result in being placed as an alternate.
- Must be able to pay monthly tuition and competition fees.

Alternates

There will be no maximum number of athletes set as alternates. Alternates will be required to attend every practice and performance. They will need to actively participate in order to learn the routine in case of a situation where they will need to be placed on the mat during the performance. Alternates will be required to pay monthly tuition and competition fees.

Practices at Velocity

Each athlete/alternate will be required to attend practice every Wednesday from 6:30-8:00 PM at Velocity. Practice days and times could change based on gym availability and athletes schedules. Since we will be utilizing their facility, a monthly tuition fee of \$100 will need to be paid directly to Velocity. Practices will start on June 7, 2023 and end on December 20, 2023. There will be fundraising opportunities to help offset these costs.

Costs

Below is a breakdown of all of the costs associated with being a member of the UIL State Team. Fundraising opportunities will be available to help with these costs. If costs are an issue, please contact Coach Gabby.

Monthly Tuition (June - December)	\$100/mon - Paid directly to Velocity
Competition Fees - 2 Local Competitions	\$150 - Paid to Brenham Cheer
Competition Shirt	\$15-\$20

Extra Events/Practices to Attend - Mandatory

Please remember that there could be dates added to this list throughout the year. Important dates will be sent out at the beginning of the school year and all dates will be considered mandatory unless otherwise stated by the coaches.

New Squad Practices - All Squads

Sports Banquet - All Squad

June Summer Practices - All Squads

Media Day - All Squads

Cheer Camp - All Squads

Home Camp - All Squads

Fish Camp - All Squads

Open House for All BISD Campuses - All Squads

Back-to-School Resource Fair - Varsity

Fall & Spring Meet the Cubs - All Squads

Chamber Tailgate - Varsity

Homecoming Parade - All Squads

Mini Cheer Camp - All Squads

Food Drive - Varsity

Fall Finals Week Practices - UIL State Team

January Practices - UIL State Team

Prideland - All Leadership

Brenham cheerleaders and mascots will be held to a high standard of moral character. Our goal is to surround ourselves with positive athletes who strive to reach both the team's goals and their personal goals. Parents should read through the following obligations with your athlete explaining each one. Both parent and athlete should sign the Code of Conduct and Constitution Agreement agreeing to uphold each standard.

EXPECTATIONS: Participating in the cheer program at Brenham High School is a *privilege not a right*. When you are selected to be a part of this program, you are held to a higher standard, as an ambassador for the program, school and community. Exemplary behavior is expected at all times and cheerleaders/mascots are responsible for their actions. Participating in this program means that cheerleading must come before any other school related and extracurricular activities. School related schedules will be set by the coaches/teachers involved. This code of conduct is in effect from April 1, 2023 to April 5, 2024.

TRYOUT REQUIREMENTS: A candidate cannot have...

- failed more than TWO CLASSES during the 2022-2023 school year.
- more than TWO ISS assignments during the 2022-2023 school year.
- been assigned to OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSION OR DAEP during the 2022-2023 school year.
- been removed from a previous school cheer program during the 2022-2023 school year.
- missed more than 10% of each class period during the 2022-2023 school year.
- an outstanding balance or invoice of 50% or more to any cheer program previously or currently involved in.

3 STRIKE SYSTEM: The Brenham High School Cheer & Mascot program follows a 3 strike system that starts April 1, 2023 and continues until April 5, 2024. All described misconduct is prohibited whether at school or away from school, and includes misconduct associated with electronic or internet communications. All strike scenarios are listed in the Brenham High School Cheerleader & Mascot Constitution.

Requirements for Cheering Once Selected for the Program:

- No visible tattoos.
- No jewelry of any kind may be worn at any time the cheerleader/mascot is in uniform, performing, or practicing.
- When in uniform, no colored fingernail polish and nails should be kept no longer than the tips of the fingers.
- We will have a set hair style for games and events. All athletes are expected to abide by this rule.
- Athletes should wear all parts of their uniform, including, shoes, bows, appropriate undergarments, etc.
- General Attendance - 90% attendance is required by the state. Less than 90% attendance will result in losing credit for the class and ineligibility to try out for the following school year.
- Game Day/Performance Attendance - MANDATORY. Except for an excused absence, a cheerleader is required to attend the designated cheer class the day of games/performances in order to participate in football games, pep rallies, etc.
- All requirements and expectations that are found in the Brenham High School Constitution or Code of Conduct.
- All cheerleaders/mascots are required to participate in fundraisers for the program.

SOCIAL MEDIA & BEHAVIOR: A cheerleader/mascot will represent the school with integrity, honesty, and morality. Cheerleaders are expected to be models of good behavior, less than admirable behavior will not be tolerated. If at any time the coach feels that a cheerleader/mascot is no longer representing herself, her squad, or her school in a manner that is unacceptable, disciplinary action will result. This includes...

- Any violations of the school rules, in or out of uniform, on or off campus.
- Behavior that negatively impacts the reputation of the squad, the school or community. This includes photos, or online postings of a suggestive, sexual, harassing, or illegal nature.
- In-squad fighting, gossiping, bullying, hazing or any other kind of disturbance that interferes with the group dynamic.

COACHES DISCRETION:

Any action that needs to be taken concerning a situation not addressed by these rules and regulations, or extreme cases of opposition to above stated policies, will be the responsibility of the coaches and/or administration discretion, a level of discipline may be altered if deemed necessary. A decision by the coach and/or administration to alter a typical disciplinary action for a violation must be accompanied by a written statement explaining the rationale and must be signed by the coach and/or administration, cheerleader, and parent or guardian of the cheerleader.

CHEERLEADER & MASCOT AGREEMENT:

1. I understand that this is a full season, one year, commitment and that a team is depending on me to fulfill my responsibilities as a team member. I will not give up or let my teammates down. I will come to practice with a positive attitude and work hard to achieve personal goals and help my team to reach the team goals in which my coaches have set. I realize that a positive attitude is contagious and I will do my best to influence my teammates in a positive manner.
2. Part of a coach's job is to know where students are at all times during practices, games, and events. Consequences will be issued for failure to follow the coach's direction or to stay in assigned areas during events.
3. Disrespect to any member of the cheerleading staff can result in immediate dismissal from the squad, practice, season or game at the discretion of the cheerleading staff. Inappropriate behavior and defiance will NOT be tolerated. I will respect my coaches and coaches' helpers at all times.
4. If I have a difficult issue I cannot solve on my own, I will seek counsel from a coach to help solve the issue and not encourage it to fester.
5. My attitude and ability to work with other different personalities must be exceptional.
6. I will demonstrate good sportsmanship to teammates, parents, coaches, judges, game officials, cheer company's staff and rival teams. This includes no bad-mouthing, spreading rumors, foul language, inappropriate actions, and speaking poorly of anything pertaining to my peers on the cheer squad, Brenham High School, or Brenham ISD.
7. Lying or fabricating the truth will not be tolerated and can result in consequences depending on the severity of the situation.
8. I will not misuse the internet, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, Tumbler, or any other social media type sites or apps, emails, or websites in relation to any Brenham student or in a way that will embarrass myself or Brenham ISD. Cyberbullying will be punished with 2 strikes.
9. I will take care of my body and show self-respect at all times. I will not use alcohol, drugs, or tobacco and will eat properly to nourish my body. All athletes are subject to random drug testing at any point in time. I understand that failing any type of drug test will result in disciplinary action.
10. I will not be on my cell phone during practices, events, or performances unless given permission by my coaches.
11. I will strive to be in top physical condition and work my hardest during my team's conditioning drills so that I can get the most out of every practice.
12. I will come to practice on time and be responsible to meet the times and days of events, performances, and activities so that I am a dedicated teammate and show accountability.
13. I realize that I am representing Brenham ISD at all times by my actions and will take that responsibility as an honor.
14. I will learn and obey the team and gym rules set forth by coaches.
15. I will wear the assigned attire to practices, events, performances, and activities.
16. I will come to games and performances with my hair, make-up, uniform and warm-up ready.
17. I will not participate in public displays of affection. PDA is never considered appropriate, especially in uniform, at games, or in school.
18. I will treat each member of the Cheer Program with respect and will not act superior to my peers.
19. I will not gossip, spread rumors, cause verbal or physical confrontations, or bully my teammates. I understand that in-squad fighting, gossiping, bullying or any other kind of disturbance interferes with the group dynamic. Bullying, whether emotional, verbal, physical, or cyber, will never be tolerated. Bullying of any kind will result in an automatic 2 strikes.
20. CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM: I will be able to accept constructive criticism. It is given to help improve the individual athlete and the team as a whole. Negative attitudes towards suggestions from coaches and teammates are not appropriate.

**2023-2024 BRENHAM HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADER & MASCOT
CONSTITUTION AND CODE OF CONDUCT AGREEMENT**

Student and parent/guardian signatures on this contract indicate that both the student and parent(s) or guardian have read, discussed, understand and agree to all of the provisions and requirements of the Brenham Cheer & Mascot Program. Considering this is a working constitution and code of conduct, changes may be made throughout the 2023-2024 school year.

By signing this,

1. I understand my responsibility to uphold the reputation of my squad and my school.
2. As a role model, I will consistently uphold the student conduct set forth by the Brenham I.S.D. provisions.
3. I will comply with the Brenham High School Cheerleader & Mascot Constitution and Code of Conduct Agreement. I understand that if I do not abide by one of the standards, consequences will be applied.
4. I will work with the group with fundraising activities that will provide financial support for the cheer and mascot program.
5. I understand that by taking part in the cheerleading/mascot activities and events, there is a possibility of injury and will carefully and consistently follow the squad safety rules and regulations.

Student Signature _____

Date _____

By signing this,

1. I have discussed the responsibilities, rules, and expectations for the Brenham Cheer & Mascot Program and any consequences for non-compliance with my son/daughter and will assist him/her in complying with those aspects of the constitution and code of conduct.
2. I/we understand there is a possibility of injury to my child taking part in cheerleading/mascot activities, and will permit my son/daughter to participate in tryout proceedings, classes, games, and performances.
3. In the event of an emergency and I cannot be reached, I hereby grant my authorization and consent to medical care, treatment, procedure, or physician consultation deemed necessary in order to ensure the health of my child.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

Jennifer Griffin - BHS Principal

Gabby Morris - BHS Head Cheer Coach

Jessica Toliver - BHS Assistant Principal

You are required to return this page by the first practice!