

DEER CREEK HIGH SCHOOL

**CHEERLEADING, POM, & MASCOT
2013-2014 CONTRACT AND GUIDELINES**



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I. MISSION

The Deer Creek High School Cheerleading and Pom program will be a collaborative effort of cheerleaders, dancers, sponsors, choreographers, specialists, and administrators emphasizing promotion of school spirit and dedication to excellence.

II. PURPOSE

It is the purpose of the spirit squads to:

1. Promote and uphold school spirit.
2. Set an example of good behavior at all times (whether in uniform, or not), including games and all school functions.
3. To support our school's athletic teams and compete at competitions.

III. ELIGIBILITY

The squads first and foremost responsibility is to its academic achievement. Eligibility for participation will be determined weekly using OSSAA guidelines. Students that are ineligible will attend and participate at all practices, but will not perform at any games, pep rallies, or competitions. Long term ineligibility (more than four weeks or at sponsor's discretion) will result in dismissal from the cheer/pom program to allow the student to concentrate on school.

IV. SQUAD PARTICIPATION and REQUIREMENTS

Varsity cheer and pom may consist of 9th -12th graders (9th graders will be looked at for varsity depending on the need(s) of the team), Freshmen cheer/pom may consist of 9th graders only. There will not be a specific number of students from each grade and all grades do not have to be represented on a squad.

<u>Freshmen Cheer*</u>	<u>Freshmen Pom*</u>	<u>Varsity Cheer*</u>	<u>Varsity Pom*</u>
Maximum of 16 members.	Maximum of 12 members.	Maximum of 20 members	Maximum of 16 members.
participate at All HOME football and basketball events, and away playoffs, finals, or other important games or events, as deemed necessary by the sponsor	participate at All HOME football and basketball events, and away playoffs, finals, or other important games or events, as deemed necessary by the sponsor	participate at HOME and AWAY football, basketball, events, and away playoffs, finals, or other important games or events, as deemed necessary by the sponsor	participate at HOME and AWAY football, basketball, events, and away playoffs, finals, or other important games or events, as deemed necessary by the sponsor
Competitions as decided by the sponsor on yearly basis.	Competitions as decided by the sponsor on yearly basis.	Required to compete at Regional and State competitions.	Required to compete at State competitions.
*National competitions for all squads will be decided on a yearly basis, but will be required if sponsor decides the squad will compete at Nationals. Which National Competition and Division (size and level) will be decided on by the sponsor/coach. Who competes or is an alternate will be decided upon by the coach/sponsor.			
*Varsity sponsor has the right to pull up members of the Freshman squad to Varsity and/or the competitive team as needed for games, competition, or other events.			
*All squad members are encouraged to take outside classes. (cheer = tumbling classes, pom = dance classes)			
*All squads member are required to attend summer camp(s). (please see tryout packet for dates)			
* All squad members are responsible for all expenses. (please see expense sheet attached)			

Mascot Participation – The Mascot(s) must be available to participate in all of the following:

- All Pep assemblies and other school functions or assemblies.
- All HOME football and basketball events.
- Cheer and Pom elementary clinics.
- Charity events, as deemed necessary by the sponsor.

The mascot will be under the direction of the cheer program.

V. ATTENDANCE

- See participation list above
- Each pom/cheer member will also be allowed two free absences per school year. A free absence may be used for anything, however, **must be cleared** with the sponsor at least one week prior to the event. Failure to notify the sponsor will result in the absence as being counted as unexcused. The sponsor also has the right to deny the request at his/her discretion (peak season of playoffs, competitions, etc.) Free absences are approved on a first come, first serve basis.
- All sickness related absences must be called in to the sponsor.
- In case of an absence for an emergency, the cheer/pom parent should notify the sponsor immediately via phone. Failure to notify the sponsor will result in the absence as being counted as unexcused.

****Unexcused absences are given to students who do not come to practice/games etc. without following proper procedures/guidelines. ****

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE- On game days or pep assembly days, cheer/pom members must attend at least ½ of the school day to be eligible for participation at the event.

OTHER EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- If a cheer/pom member is involved in another Deer Creek High School sport or extracurricular activity; he/she must realize that those schedules may conflict with those of cheer/pom. If these activities go toward a letter grade, they are considered excused. However, cheer/pom members will be expected to divide time equally between these activities.
- Work, dance/tumbling classes, or all-star practices are NOT an excused absence. Refer to your calendar when planning jobs, church, family, or extracurricular activities.

VI. PRACTICES

Practice attendance is required for all members in the cheer/pom program. Practices may be called last minute and are still mandatory.

PRACTICE ATTIRE - Poms, jazz shoes, cheer shoes, proper workout attire (school appropriate)

INJURIES- Must be accompanied by a doctor's note specifically stating the injury and what extent of activity the student will be allowed to do, as well as a date of release/return. **Injured member must attend all practices, games, and other events or it will result in an unexcused absence.**

VII. CLASS GRADE

Cheerleading/Pom/Mascot is a class. Members will receive a letter grade. Grade is based on Attendance/Participation. If a student is dismissed or leaves the program prior to the end of a grade period, his/her grade will be based on policies outlined by the Deer Creek High administration.

VIII. CONDUCT

Membership in the Deer Creek High School Cheer/Pom/Mascot program is a privilege and students are expected to demonstrate appropriate and respectful behavior.

The cheer and pom programs will follow the school board policy on drug and alcohol use.

****Because all circumstances cannot be identified in these guidelines, the sponsor reserves the right to determine acceptable behavior as he/she sees fit. *****

All squad members will have natural colored hair while on the squad.

GAME BEHAVIOR

- Members will pay attention to the entire game.
- Members will refrain from excessive talking and horseplay.
- Members will not talk during the national anthem.
- Members will not sit down, lie down, or leave during a game without permission from the sponsor.
- Members will not eat, chew gum, or drink while cheering at the game.
- Members will refrain from making derogatory remarks or sounds such as booing that demeans opposing teams, fans, or other spirit squads.
- Members will refrain from engaging in verbal confrontations with fans, and spectators from other squads, teams, and schools.

GAME ATTIRE

- Member's hair will be pulled back neatly.
- Bow in hair (if possible)
- NO Jewelry of any kind, except Pom earrings
- Neat, clean, correct uniform

DISCIPLINE

Cheer/Pom/Mascot members are to be respectful of all teachers, sponsors, administrators, choreographers, specialists that come in to help the squad, parents, other students, and other spirit squad members at all times. Disrespect will result in running laps, being benched from games and/or practice, or receiving demerits.

DEMERITS: Demerits will be given for minor offenses by the sponsor. 5 demerits will result in an automatic benching. 10 demerits will result in dismissal from the squad. Squad members will be allowed to make up a maximum of 5 demerits through various activities at the sponsor's discretion.

<u>Behavior</u>	<u># of Demerits given</u>
Unexcused absence	5
Leaving during a game, event, or practice	2
Improper uniform	2
Jewelry or improper hair at game, event, or practice	1
Improper practice attire or equipment	1
Tardy (up to 15 minutes)	1
Tardy (over 15 minutes)	2
Profanity or verbal outbursts	3
Disrespect to authority figure or adult	5
Public display of affection in uniform	3
Excessive disruption at practice	3
Excessive talking or horseplay at game or event	3
Overdue paperwork	1
Improper conduct*	*At the discretion of the sponsor

BENCHING: Benching is the removal of a cheer/pom member from one or more performances, games, or other events. Members may be benched for the following:

- 5 demerits
- Attitude or behavior problems
- Disrespect to adult or authority figure
- Misconduct or actions that are damaging to the reputation of the program
- Any other reason the sponsor feels necessary

While benched, a cheer/pom member must attend all practices and will attend games in uniform at the sponsor's discretion.

DISMISSAL FROM THE SQUAD: Should a cheer/pom/mascot member quit or be dismissed from the squad, he/she will not be allowed to tryout the following year, unless approved by administration.

Reasons for dismissal may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Academic ineligibility for longer than four weeks
- 10 demerits
- Violations of Deer Creek Cheerleading, Pom, & Mascot Guidelines/Contract
- Uncooperative attitude or behavior

Any suspension (ISS/OSS) from school will not be tolerated and may result in demerits, being benched, or dismissal from the squad.

ALL BENCHING AND DISMISSALS WILL BE ENFORCED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE SPONSOR. THE SPONSORS RESERVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE DECISIONS FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHEER/POM PROGRAM AS THEY SEE FIT, EVEN IF THE CIRCUMSTANCE IS NOT CLEARLY STATED IN THESE GUIDELINES.

Squad members may be dismissed at any time without warning, for misconduct with any necessary disciplinary action taken by the sponsors and principal. Behavior, both in school and out, that could harm the reputation of the cheer/pom/mascot squads could serve as grounds for immediate dismissal.

IX. COMMUNICATION

Parents and cheer/pom/mascot members are requested to follow the chain of command in the event of questions or concerns: Squad members/ parents – sponsor – principal

X. TRAVEL

Travel throughout Oklahoma and/or the United States will be expected of all members in the Deer Creek Cheer/Pom program at different times during the year. While traveling specific guidelines must be followed:

- Squad members/Mascot will be accompanied by the sponsor or school-certified personnel.
- All squad members are required to ride school provided transportation, when available.
- Squad members will be released to ONLY THEIR parents after away games. Parents must sign off with the sponsor AT THE EVENT.
- Transportation to home games/activities is the responsibility of the squad member.

*****School policy as well as Deer Creek Cheer/Pom/Mascot program view travel as a privilege. Failure to abide by the above guidelines or misconduct on a trip will result in disciplinary action.*****

XI. UNIFORMS

The uniform is the property of the school. It is the member's responsibility to keep up with all uniforms. If a member loses a uniform or piece of a uniform, the member will owe money to replace it. If a uniform is damaged then the squad member is responsible for the cost to repair or replace the damaged uniform. Their class grade will be held as Incomplete until this is done. It is also the member's responsibility for all alterations and cost of alterations. Members will be responsible for purchasing all other accessories and uniform pieces required by their sponsor.

XII. TRYOUTS

*****Please see the tryout packet for more information on tryouts and times and dates of all tryout activities.**

XIII. FUNDRAISERS

Squad members are required to participate in all school sanctioned fundraisers. All monies earned by any student through these fundraisers are to be used for Deer Creek Cheer/Pom purposes ONLY.

**Deer Creek High School
Cheerleading, Pom Pon, & Mascot Contract of Agreement**

ADMENDMENTS: Any amendment to this constitution can be made by the school board, school principal, and/or sponsor at any time throughout the year if administration sees fit.

If selected to be a part of Deer Creek High School Spirit Program, I understand and agree to the following:

- I understand that the Deer Creek High School Cheerleading, Pom Pon, and mascot program overview and guidelines, Deer Creek student handbook policy, and OSSAA regulations regarding eligibility will apply to my participation.
- I understand that I will be responsible for personal costs outlined for this program. I received the cost estimation outline at the pre-tryout meeting and have read it.
- I will uphold the Deer Creek Cheerleading, Pom Pon, and Mascot guidelines and serve as a respectful and dedicated member of the squad.
- I understand that violation of the program guidelines may lead to temporary suspension or permanent dismissal from the squad.

Student's Signature

Date

As parents/guardians, we understand that membership in the Deer Creek Cheer/Pom/Mascot program is both an honor and a commitment to hard work and dedication. We have read and understand the expectations set forth in the Deer Creek High School Cheerleading, Pom Pon, and Mascot Guidelines. We understand that our child will be expected to abide by these rules. If our child is selected, we will make every effort to support him/her and the sponsor throughout the year. We understand that if our child violated the program guidelines, he/she will risk the consequences of temporary suspension and/or permanent dismissal from the squad.

EXECUTION CLAUSE

I, the undersigned parent or guardian, hereby authorizes the Deer Creek High School of Edmond, OK to use photographs of my student (minor), and/or publish the same with a name, real or fictitious, for any purpose of publicity, illustration, commercial art, or in the advertising of the activities of Deer Creek High School. Further, I, in allowing my child to participate in Cheer/Pom/Mascot, understand that he/she is participating and using the facilities of Deer Creek High School at his/her own risk. Deer Creek High School and the staff shall not be liable for any damage arising from personal injuries sustained by my child in or about the premises. I assume full responsibility for all injuries and damages which may occur in or about the premises, and we do hereby, full and forever release and discharge Deer Creek High School and the staff from any and all claims, demands, or rights of action, present or future, resulting in, from, or arising out of my child's use of the school and/or its facilities.

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Date