

SPRING BRANCH INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT DANCE TEAM CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I ORGANIZATION

The names of dance team organizations of Spring Branch Independent School District shall be: The Memorial Markettes, The Northbrook Bandoleras, The Spring Woods Tigerettes, and The Stratford Spartanaires. The organizations shall wear the traditional school colors of red and white, maroon and gray, black and gold, and green, gold and white respectively.

Members of the dance team must meet all standards set forth in this constitution and the SBISD Student Code of Conduct. It is the policy of the dance teams in Spring Branch Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in admission or access to its programs and activities.

ARTICLE II OBJECTIVES

- A. To develop and refine character, scholarship, leadership and individual responsibility;
- B. To develop and maintain a very high standard of technical and creative dance;
- C. To promote school spirit and good sportsmanship;
- D. To represent SBISD at school functions and events, on and off campus;
- E. To promote interest in all school activities;
- F. To create and maintain positive relations between our dance teams

ARTICLE III LINE MEMBERSHIP

A. Application

- *Active Participant* is a current member of the dance team. All active members must audition each year for a place on the dance team for the next school year.
 - *Candidate Member* is a student who will audition for first year dance team membership.
1. Active participant and candidate member grade levels are at the discretion of each campus. Grade level audition criteria is listed in each campus appendix.
 2. Any student who is ineligible as per the "no pass no play" rule will be considered ineligible to audition.
 3. Active participants and candidate members may not have been assigned to DAEP at any time or have been assigned to ISS/OSS two or more times during the current school year.
 4. Active participants and candidate members must not have a "U" and no more than one "N" in conduct for the official grade reporting period prior to auditions. An official report card must be attached to the application.
 5. Active participants and candidate members and their parents/guardians must attend a meeting for an explanation of the time, energy, expectations and expenses of dance team membership. (Expenses are held to a minimum so that all candidates are able to try out for membership. A student not able to meet the financial obligations should consult with the director.)
 6. A completed application and a signed parent/guardian permission form are returned only to the director by the specified deadline. Late applications will not be accepted.
 7. Current members must be clear of any dance team financial responsibility with their school and/or booster club accounts before application can be accepted for auditions.

B. Audition and Selection Process

It is the responsibility of the active participant and candidate member to be aware of all announcements and posted notices regarding audition dates and the official grade reporting period that will be used to determine eligibility for auditions.

1. Auditions are held on a date designated by the director. Auditions occur once a year.
2. Active participants and candidate members are rated by a panel of three judges selected in advance by the director.
3. Active participants and candidates will be judged in criteria selected by the director.

4. The decision of the judges is final and is announced as soon as possible.
5. Auditions are closed to the public.
6. The term of a team member begins on the day the member's name is officially accepted and continues until that membership is officially terminated, or upon graduation or transfer.
7. A new member who is ineligible twice after tryouts before the end of the current school year will be removed from the team for the next school year.

ARTICLE IV ACTIVE PARTICIPANT MEMBERSHIP

- A. Active participant and candidate member grade levels are at the discretion of each campus. Grade level audition criteria is listed in each campus appendix.
- B. Able to execute specific dance techniques at all performances;
- C. Submit a signed Physical Form completed by a physician and dated after April 1st of the current school year;
- D. All students must adhere to the "no pass no play" academic eligibility standards;
- E. Follow all guidelines set forth in the SBISD Code of Conduct and the SBISD Dance Team Constitution.

ARTICLE V UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

The school will furnish the dance team performance uniforms and props. The props are to remain at school unless checked out by the director. Each member is held responsible for the care and return of members' uniform and props. The member will pay for any damaged uniform or prop, or any uniform not cleaned at the end of the school year. Dance attire and other accessories, and any other items designated by the director, must be purchased by the members.

A. Attire

1. Dance team uniform/performance attire must be kept clean and in good condition.
2. Dance team performance attire may not be worn other than when specified the director.
3. Dance team practice/performance attire will only be distributed to members who have paid in full.
4. Attire specified by the director is required to participate in any dance team rehearsal or performance.
5. All required dance team attire may only be worn by the current member.
6. Any member who is dismissed or resigns from the team is required to return all school issued uniforms and accessories within seven school days. Failure to comply with this directive will place student on the "not clear" list on the campus.

B. Equipment

1. All school property issued to any dance team member will be kept in good condition and returned to the director as it was originally issued. Replacement costs will be at the expense of the member.

ARTICLE VI RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Attendance

1. Dance team programs practice, perform and compete during the entire school year and attend rehearsals/camps during selected summer months.
2. All members are required to attend all summer camps/rehearsals/performances set by the Director. Consequences for missing camp will be addressed by each campus in the appendix.
3. All members, if eligible, are required to attend all performances scheduled by the director.
4. Absence from any dance team activity is unexcused except for the circumstances listed: personal illness or accident, death in the family or a prearranged special activity with director approval.
5. Any member absent from school or a performance is responsible for contacting another member to obtain all information given to the team during the absence.
6. A member who is not performing must be in attendance and in appropriate attire at all practices and performances with the team.

7. Team members who have intermittent conflicts with other SBISD sponsored activities are eligible to perform with prior permission from the director. Notice must be provided to the director with a minimum of seven calendar days before the day of absence.
8. Any absence from practice may result in the removal from a performance.

B. Performance Seasons

Dance team performance seasons consist of: football, contest, spring show, and special community performances throughout the year. Each season may have variances between guidelines which will be provided by the director. The following guidelines will be adhered to for all seasons:

1. Members must remain at all activities for the duration of the event.
2. Members must ride the bus to and from any team event. In the event of an extenuating circumstance which prevents the student from riding the bus, a request and appropriate forms must be submitted to the director five days prior to the event.
3. Auditions may be held for each performance. The date and time will be designated by the director.
4. Members who do not make the performance auditions will be an alternate. Alternates must attend and participate in all practices and functions.
5. Any member unable to dance for an extended period of time must attend all practices, performances or activities (unless specified by the director). Failure to attend will result in demerits and/or possible dismissal from the team. A doctor's note is required after three consecutive days of non-participation.

C. Expenses

1. Projects for financing this organization will be sponsored throughout the school year.
2. If a check is returned due to "insufficient funds" once, the remainder of all payments and all returned fees must be made in cash or money order.
3. If a member is dismissed or no longer going to be a part of the dance team the member is still responsible for all monies owed.
4. All monies paid towards the dance team are non-refundable.
5. All monies pertaining to fundraising are non-refundable.

ARTICLE VII AUDITION PROCEDURES – DANCE & SOCIAL OFFICERS

A. Application

1. Officer candidates must be active team members and have a minimum of one year experience on that school's dance team.
2. Officer candidates must be passing all subjects in the grading period prior to auditions.
3. Academic, financial and discipline requirements must be in good standing as defined by the director.
4. The number of officers and positions will be allocated at the discretion of the director.
5. Officer candidates must have filed the appropriate application of intent form and must have met all deadlines set by the director.

B. Audition

1. It is the responsibility of the officer candidate to be aware of all announcements and posted notices regarding audition dates and the official grade reporting period that will be used to determine eligibility for auditions.
2. Officer candidates must try out on the date designated by the director. Auditions occur only at the designated time. Requests for second auditions will not be granted.
3. Officer candidates are rated by a panel of three judges selected in advance by the director.
4. Selection criteria will be determined by the director.
5. The decision of the judges is final and is announced as soon as possible.
6. Auditions are closed to the public.

C. Responsibilities

1. Officers must comply with all guidelines that apply to dance team members.

2. Officers are required to attend an officer camp designated by the director. If an officer does not attend officer camp, they will be moved to line member status.
3. Each director will determine the duties of the officers.
4. All officers will be required to perform all officer responsibilities and be present at all practices, meetings, performances and functions. Failure to complete the duties will result in being moved to line member status after consultation with parents, directors and principals.

ARTICLE VIII MANAGERS

- A. Objective – Managers will support the director with organization duties and record keeping.
- B. Managers will be optional for each individual school and the selection criteria will be set by the director.
- C. Selection of managers will be held on a date designated by the director.
- D. Each director will determine the membership number and duties of the managers.
- E. Each member will complete all duties of a manager as specified by the director. Failure to complete the duties will result in dismissal as a manager after consultation with parents, directors and principals.

ARTICLE IX DISCIPLINARY SYSTEM

A. Electronic Media

Any dance team member representing themselves, or their organization, in an unfavorable, questionable or illegal manner through electronic media (i.e. social media accounts, text/group messaging, websites, blogs, text messages, chat rooms or similar websites/files accessible through a server or internet) or using electronic communication devices in such a way as to bring discredit, dishonor, or disgrace on their organization or members of any other school organization including themselves (i.e. camera phones, digital photos, electronic descriptions) will be subject to the disciplinary actions determined by appropriate school officials and/or the directors including probation or dismissal from the team.

B. Disciplinary Expectations

1. Members who participate in any SBISD Dance Team will comply with the following documents and procedures at all times:
 - a. SBISD Dance Team Constitution
 - b. SBISD Student Code of Conduct
 - c. Directives given by the dance team director- written or verbal
2. Members who do not comply with the above documents/directives will result in the issue of one or more of the following: demerits, probation, suspension, and/or loss of membership for the remainder of the school year.
3. Repeated violations of school policy will be subject to dismissal from the team based upon the recommendation of the director and school administration.

C. Demerit/Merit Systems

Each director will provide the members with a written set of expectations for the demerit and merit system in the appendix of the constitution.

ARTICLE X LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP

A. Definitions

- *Probation*: defined as a member will not be able to perform in any performance of the dance team BUT must attend all practices, fundraising events, and meetings.
- *Loss of Membership*: defined as a member who will not be permitted participation in any activity of the dance team for the remainder of the school year. A dismissed member must turn in their performing uniform(s) and any other issued items. The student will be removed from the dance team class and placed into the appropriate class/subject with the guidance of the counseling center.
- *Forfeiture of Membership*: defined as a member who voluntarily forfeits their membership on the team

B. Loss of Membership

1. Any member who makes below 70% in any non UIL exempt course in a 9 weeks report card will be placed on probation for the next three weeks. (Exception: first eligibility check due to UIL on the first 6 weeks progress report.) The probation period begins as indicated by the UIL eligibility calendar.
2. Any member who is ineligible for any two 9 week report cards, or the first 6 week progress report check, will be dismissed from the team for the remainder of the school year.
3. Any member who receives a "U" in conduct from any teacher will be dismissed from the team for the remainder of the year. Any member who receives more than one "N" in a school year will not be allowed to letter.
4. Any member who is dismissed or resigns from the team during a school year and is eligible to audition for the team for the upcoming school year will only receive privileges given to a first year member
5. Any member leaving the team for any reason will remain out for the remainder of the school year.
6. Any member assigned to ISS/OSS will be placed on probation from participation in all team performances for 15 school days starting on the first day of the ISS/OSS assignment. Students on probation must be in attendance for rehearsals. Any member assigned to ISS/OSS for a second time in the same school year will result in dismissal from the team. Receiving ISS/OSS twice makes a student ineligible to audition for team membership for the upcoming school year.
7. Any member who receives a second probationary offense will be removed from the dance team for the remainder of the school year. The student will be removed from the dance team class and placed into the appropriate class/subject with the guidance of the counseling center.

C. AUTOMATIC DISMISSAL from Dance Team

1. Possession/use of tobacco, drugs, or alcohol on campus or at any dance team function.
2. Any infraction that results in placement at the District Alternative Education Center and/or OR participates in district mandated counseling. The student will not be allowed to audition for team membership for the upcoming year.
3. Bullying or hazing
 - a. This includes any member who organizes or participates in a hazing incident.
 - b. Any assumption of authority by a student whereby another student suffers or is exposed to any cruelty, intimidation, humiliation, embarrassment, hardship, oppression, or is required to perform exercises to excess, to become sleep deprived, to commit dangerous activities, to curry favor from those in power, to submit to physical assaults, to consume offensive foods or alcohol, or the threat of bodily harm or death, or the deprivation or abridgement of any right. (Section 484 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 [51 U.S.C. 20 U.S.C. 1091])

D. Alcohol/Drugs (Off Campus Incidents)

1. First offense – alcohol/drug use at events or activities where drug/alcohol use is occurring, including, but not limited to: M.I.P, P.I., D.U.I, removal of outside school, non-dance team related functions, etc. will result in a six week probation (20% of the year). During probation, the member is not allowed to participate in any dance events/performances, but attendance for performances and practices is mandatory.
2. Second offense – dismissal from the team.
3. Dance and social officers who are placed on probation for alcohol/drug related incidents will automatically be removed from their office.
4. In addition, a dance team member may be dismissed from the team, as determined by administration and the director(s), if found guilty of any of the following:
 - a. Using undesirable language or unacceptable behavior (as judged by the director(s))
 - b. Defacing of property
 - c. Fighting
 - d. Being suspended, being expelled, or being assigned homebound instruction.

ARTICLE XI SCHOOL SPECIFIC APPENDIX

Each school will have an individual appendix for merits/demerits and other miscellaneous policies specific to each program.

Memorial High School Markettes

Appendix A

Article I Demerit System - Line Members

1-10 Demerits	No penalty	
11 Demerits	Probation - sit out 2 performances/or sections of contest pieces.	Attend all practices/events in full performance attire Sit out designated performances
17 Demerits	Dismissal from team for the remainder of the school year	

1. A record of demerits received by each member will be maintained by the director.
2. Demerits received during summer rehearsals/activities will not be part of the permanent record and will be worked off prior to the start of the first official school day. Any demerit not worked off by the first day of school will be added to the student's permanent demerit record for the school year.
3. Starting on the first official school day, demerits received will remain on record until the end of the current school year.
4. At the end of each practice, officers will record demerits. If a member received a demerit they will sign for the demerit on Fridays.
5. Any member who receives 3 or more demerits in one week during the contest/spring season will be removed from a section of one contest/spring show routine. Any member who receives 5 or more demerits in one week during contest/spring show season will be removed one dance in its entirety. Director discretion as to which performance.

A. Tardies/Absenteeism

1- not notifying directors and officer of absence by 6:10 am

1- late to practice, 19 minutes or less late (1 grace)

2- excessive tardiness, more than 20 minutes (0 grace)

3- unexcused pre-planned absence (director discretion)

4- unexcused/no show to practice or performance (**must be here by 7:45 or it is no show**)

*once your grace demerit has been used, additional tardies will count toward probation

*What is being on time: you arrive early enough to put belongings in the locker room, jewelry is off, phones are in the locker room and you have water, turners, poms, boots, belt, hat, paperwork ect. In your spot at 6:30. The officers should not have to tell you company lines, you are in your spot when practice begins.

*If you sit out you must sit into the center near the directors and take notes during practice. Notes will include placement and formation changes, and placement errors during the dance.

*If you are sitting out, you will need a doctor's note after the 3rd day.

Tutorials

We value your need to attend tutorials, however we expect each Markette to reach out to your teacher about the possibility of attending tutorials after school.

If you are re-testing, you must forward the email from your teacher stating you may not attend after school or you are not allowed to retest with another teacher from the same subject. Most teachers allow you to retest with another teacher. This takes planning on your part, you will need to reach out to your teacher since they will get the material to another teacher. Another option is taking your test in the detention center after school.

B. Infractions

1. Minor Infractions

Minor demerit infractions will receive 1 demerit. Some examples of minor infractions are but not limited to: not wearing correct practice/performance attire, turning paperwork/payments/supplies in late, failure to pick up after one’s self, talking during practice, talking on the field, chewing gum during practice or performance, wearing jewelry during practice or performance, having cell phone in the classroom/gym during practice and at non-designated times, eating or drinking in uniform, not arriving to call time performance ready (dance officers need cell phones due to music on phones)

2. Major Infractions

Major demerit infractions will receive multiple demerits for one infraction. Some examples of major infractions are but not limited to: Insubordination, acts unbecoming of a Markette, inappropriate language, inappropriate use of social media (not only damaging pictures or language but can also include anything that damages the team), use of alcohol or drugs (dismissal), smoking or possessing tobacco at any school or Markette function (dismissal), assigned to AEP (dismissal)

Social media is considered any popular platform: Instagram, Twitter, TikTok, SnapChat etc but also includes band app, text messages, group chats etc.

**Article II
Demerit System - Dance and Social Officers**

1-10 demerits	No penalty	
11 demerits	Demoted to line member	Attend all practice/performance at a line member All officer privileges have been removed
13 demerits	Probation - sit out 2 performances/or sections of contest pieces.	Attend all practices/performance in full performance attire NO performance privileges
15 demerits	Dismissal from team for the remainder of the school year	

**Article III
Dance Hours During the School Year**

1. Summer dance opportunities can be found on our website. **EVERY Markette is required to take a minimum of 8 dance hours over the summer and turn them in on the first day of school (directors may assign additional**

hours to specific people if needed). Failure to turn in hours will result from being benched from football games, director discretion on how many games. Class must be dance technique based; jazz, ballet, contemporary, leaps and turns etc.

2. Each Markette is required to participate in **8 dance hours** during the school year (1st day of school-Spring Break). The officers will conduct sessions each month or you may take from your dance studio. These classes must be technical, it cannot be yoga, pilates, fitness or conditioning classes. **Failing to achieve your 8 hours will prevent you from trying out for Markettes, seniors will forfeit the right of participating in the senior dad/daughter dance.**
3. Dance Officer Candidates will be required to submit 24 hours during the school year (1st day of school- spring break).
4. Social Officer Candidates will be required to submit 8 hours during the school year (1st day of school- spring break). Social Candidate hours can be cleaning the dance room, locker room or loft or you may choose to participate in leadership classes/seminars including topics about team building, team morale and implementing and following through with ideas.

Article IV

Line Member Audition Procedures

1. Active participants for the varsity dance team must be in grades 9-12.

Appendix B

Article I

Additional Rules and Regulations

1. If you have a pre-planned APPROVED absence, please send the directors a reminder email the night before your absence.
2. All college visit absences must be approved a minimum of 2 weeks before the absence.
3. No college visit absences are allowed during the months of January and February.
4. A member may be cut from a performance if they are absent from practice.
5. A student who participates in school activities (pep rallies, football games etc.) must be in attendance for half of the school day (3 periods) the day the activity is scheduled.
6. If requesting a conference via email/phone you must let the directors know what you wish to meet about.
7. If a Markette misses a performance and it is **not** an excused absence the following will result:
 - a. Sophomores and Juniors will not be eligible to audition for officer
 - b. Seniors will not be in Senior Dad Dance or Opener.
8. **If a Markettes misses any part of team camp the following will result:**
 - a. If you miss 4 hours or less: 2 hour of conditioning/technique, director will provide details
 - b. If you miss 4-7.5 hours: 4 hours of conditioning/technique, director will provide details
 - c. For every 2 full days of camp missed you will sit out 1 halftime performance, of the director's choosing, plus the 4 hour conditioning/technique requirement for each day missed, director will provide details

*re-addition to missed performance routines is at the discretion of the director for any repeated routines throughout the year.

Extenuating circumstances will be looked at on a case by case basis. Director discretion with administrative approval.