



Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City ISD

High School Dance Team Constitution

revised February 2019

Preamble

The SCUCISD Dance Program Constitution outlines the standards of eligibility and procedure for all SCUCISD Dance Program candidates and standards of conduct and behavior to which all SCUCISD Dance Program members are expected to adhere as representatives of their student body and of SCUCISD. Acceptance of a candidate to the SCUCISD Dance Program or removal therefrom, shall be in accordance with the Constitution. All members are expected to adhere to the Constitution as a condition of participation in SCUCISD Dance Program activities. Participation in extracurricular activities, including Varsity and JV Dance Teams, is a privilege, not a right. The Extracurricular Code of Conduct outlines additional expectations of behavior and standards for members of this program.

Mission Statement

The purpose of the SCUCISD Dance Program shall be to promote and encourage team spirit, to foster good fellowship and sportsmanship by example, to engender enthusiasm and loyalty to team and school, and to excel and represent at any performance level. Members shall lead by example; shall exemplify outstanding qualities of character; and shall uphold the highest moral standards in their service to the school and the community as representatives of their student body and of the SCUCISD.

General Candidate Eligibility

Acceptance into the SCUCISD Dance Program is a privilege, not a right. Varsity and JV Dance Teams are representatives in the community and the general public. They will be required to uphold the standards outlined in the Constitution and the Extracurricular Code of Conduct.

Membership on the Varsity and JV Dance Team is from the date of auditions to the last day of school of the following school year.

All candidates must be in good financial standing with the SCUCISD. Candidates who have outstanding balances or other extracurricular obligations will not be eligible for auditions.

Candidates must try out at the school which they are registered to attend during the next school year. A student may try out for the following year's line at only one SCUC ISD school.

All candidates must be medically fit to participate in dance activities, as certified by a medical doctor. If students do not have a current physical on file, they may sign a waiver in order to participate in the audition process. All new and current members must have a new physical by a deadline provided by the Director at the audition meeting.

Any candidate who has resigned or been removed from his/her previous team due to disciplinary reasons may not audition for the following year.

Varsity membership is open to any student in tenth to twelfth grade who is a current Varsity Dance, JV Dance, Cheerleader, Color Guard Member, or is currently enrolled in Dance I or II and may not have been removed from the team or class for any reason. Only one year off is allowed to maintain eligibility to audition.

JV Team membership is open to an unspecified number of ninth to twelfth grade students.

All dance program candidates must have the following to be eligible to audition:

- **Overall average of 75 or higher in all core classes from the first semester of the current year.** (Core classes include ELA, math, Scienc, and Social Studies courses.)
- **No more than 3 office referrals submitted for the current school year.**
- **No more than 2 ISS placements for the current school year.**
- **No DAEP placements for the current school year.**
- **All current financial obligations to the school/district must be cleared prior to tryouts.**

Varsity Dance Team Officers

Officers will be elected according to the Officer Audition Packet, which will be distributed by the Director.

- It is recommended, though not required, that the Colonel of Varsity Dance Team be a senior and at least a one (1) year member with the highest score. It is recommended that he/she is a current officer, if available. He/She must be currently in the organization.
- The Lieutenant Colonel of the Varsity Dance Team must be at least a one (1) year team member with the second highest score.
- Majors of Varsity Dance Team shall be at least a one (1) year team member with the next highest score(s).
- All officers will attend officer camp. This is to be paid for by the individual officer.
- Officer candidates will be eligible to audition for officer if they meet requirements to receive the Honorable Merit Award. (See Award section below)
- Officers will be responsible for added expenses of supplies.
- Any officer who fails any nine-week period, or does not fulfill his/her duties will be removed from office by his/her Director.
- Each officer must uphold the standards of a separate officer contract. Any violation of that contract will remove him/her from office.

Varsity Dance Team Social Officers

Social Officers are elected according to the Social Officer Tryout packet, which will be distributed by the Director following team auditions.

- The highest ranking will be Head Social Officer. It is recommended that he/she be a current Social Officer.
- Social officers will be responsible for some added expenses of supplies.
- Any officer who does not fulfill his/her duties may be removed from office by the Director.

JV Dance Team Officers

It is not a guarantee that JV Dance Team Officers will be selected each year. The decision to have JV Dance Team officers will be dependent upon the number of team members and the number of eligible and interested candidates. The decision will be made with approval of an administrator.

If chosen, officers will be elected according to the Officer Audition Packet which will be handed out by the Director.

- If chosen, the Captain of the JV Dance Team shall be at least a one (1) year member with the highest score. It is recommended that he/she is a current officer, if available.
- If chosen, the Co-Captain of the JV Dance Team shall be at least a one (1) year member with the second highest score.
- If chosen, a Lieutenant shall be at least a one (1) year member.
- If chosen, all officers may attend officer camp, at the Director's discretion. This is to be paid for by the individual officer.
- If chosen, officers will be responsible for an added expense of supplies.

- Any officer who fails any nine-week period, or does not fulfill his/her duties will be removed from office by his/her Director.
- Each officer must uphold the standards of a separate officer contract. Any violation of that will remove him/her from office.

Audition Procedures

To establish eligibility for auditions, a candidate must:

- Attend an audition meeting with a parent/guardian for the program. However, if unable to attend, a parent/guardian must set up a meeting with the Director to receive and review the audition packet and procedures.
- Complete all requirements **prior** to auditions, including but not limited to timely submission of application and all required forms, and attendance of all required meetings, practice sessions or workshops. Any candidate failing to complete all audition requirements who is otherwise eligible for auditions **may not** be allowed to audition, with the exception of extenuating circumstances as determined by the Director/Administrator.
- The candidate is expected to attend the audition workshop and a mock audition. If a candidate misses the mock tryout session, he/she may be withdrawn from tryouts.
- All days of the audition process will be closed to the general public.

The Dance Program audition process is based on meeting eligibility requirements (see General Candidate Eligibility above), and auditioning in front of a panel of impartial judges.

Judges will evaluate each candidate based on a rubric for each team, which will be handed out to candidates at the Audition Meeting. JV and Varsity team evaluations are done separately. For JV auditions, each judge will recommend if each candidate should be on either team (YES), should not be on either team (NO), or if that candidate should return for a CALLBACK. Should a candidate's results determine he/she will receive a CALLBACK, the judges will re-evaluate the candidate. Upon callback re-evaluation, the judge will select YES or NO. All candidates that are not selected will have notes from the judges explaining their decision.

- Some candidates that received a result of YES may be randomly selected to do a CALLBACK for comparison purposes. These candidates will NOT be re-evaluated. Their original evaluation will stand.

The table below specifies the result of any combination of Judge responses:

JUDGE 1	JUDGE 2	JUDGE 3	RESULT
YES	YES	YES	YES
YES	YES	CALLBACK	YES
YES	YES	NO	YES
YES	CALLBACK	CALLBACK	CALLBACK
YES	CALLBACK	NO	CALLBACK
CALLBACK	CALLBACK	NO	CALLBACK
YES	NO	NO	CALLBACK
CALLBACK	NO	NO	NO
NO	NO	NO	NO

Candidates who are only eligible for the JV team will only be judged with the JV rubric.

Candidates who are eligible for both Varsity and JV will be judged on both the Varsity and JV rubric. A candidate may not meet Varsity standards, but may qualify for JV standards.

Transferring Students

If a student is transferring from another school during the summer, he/she must meet grade level requirements, camp attendance requirements (either with his/her previous team, or with the SCUCISD team), present a letter of recommendation from his/her former Director, and participate in an informal tryout with the Director to determine his/her abilities and proper placement within the dance organizations.

If a student transfers during the school year, they must present a letter from their Director within 10 days of enrollment stating they were a current member in good standing with their previous team. They must then participate in an informal tryout to determine his/her abilities and proper placement within the two teams.

Regardless of application deadlines, to the extent the child or dependent is otherwise qualified; children or dependents of active military (uniformed services) shall be afforded the opportunity to audition for inclusion on the appropriate team provided they make application no later than within 10 school days of their enrollment in an SCUC ISD school. After administration consults with the UIL in accordance with the Texas Military Compact, a military child who is otherwise qualified will be afforded an audition within ten school days. This provision does not apply to children or dependents of (1) retired members of the uniformed services, (2) inactive members of the National Guard and military reserves, (3) veterans, or (4) other U.S. Department of Defense personnel and other federal agency civilian and contract employees not defined as active duty members of the uniformed services. If a student who is eligible under the Texas Military Compact should apply at any time other than during the spring auditions, the student shall audition before a panel consisting of the Dance Director of his/her school, the campus administrator, and one other District school Director, if available.

Team Member Expectations and Responsibilities

Due to the high level of visibility of SCUCISD Dance Program members, members are expected to demonstrate leadership, honor, and integrity both in and out of uniform. Because acceptance into the SCUCISD Dance Programs is a privilege, not a right, members will be held to higher standards than those imposed on the general student body.

Dance Program members are expected to work at their fullest potential at all rehearsals, events, and performances. Failure to do so may result in exclusion from participation in upcoming performances or events, at the Director's discretion.

The Director reserves the right to hold auditions for any team performance, including halftime routines and pep rallies. Dancers may be pulled from performances for disciplinary reasons, with the approval of an administrator.

All dance team members must attend and complete the designated summer camp. The director will decide which camp will be attended. Camp dates will be determined after tryouts and after the school calendar for the following year is approved.

Students must be academically eligible to participate. Academic eligibility means that a student is or will be enrolled fulltime at the campus at which he/she is trying out. The student is not academically eligible if, during the current grade evaluation period the student receives a grade lower than the equivalent of 70 on a scale of 100 in any academic class other than an exempt course (an advanced placement or international baccalaureate course, or an honors or dual credit course in the subject areas of English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, economics, or a language other than English). When a student in an exempt course is failing a said course, the student must get a signed waiver from the high school principal approving the student to participate.

Members will comply with all rules and regulations outlined in the Student and Extracurricular Code of Conduct.

Extracurricular Code of Conduct

SCUCISD provides comprehensive extracurricular programs for the benefit of district students. The underlying belief is that participation in extracurricular programs provides students the opportunity to learn and develop responsibility, dedication, leadership, work ethic, discipline, tenacity, respect for rules, respect for authority and many other positive qualities. Regulations are established to promote these qualities and to help build and maintain high quality programs. All participants must understand that some of the expectations for students involved in extracurricular activities exceed the expectations for the general student body. These students are expected to follow district policies and all program-specific guidelines and procedures set by the Director/sponsor, school, district, University Interscholastic League, and state. Violations of the rules will result in corrective

and/or disciplinary action. The facts and circumstances will be taken into consideration when determining consequences for rule violations.

It is the desire of SCUCISD Directors and sponsors to educate and counsel our students on the harmful effects of a violation of the Code of Conduct and the potential consequences inflicted upon themselves, their families, and their respective teammates should they choose to breach the Extracurricular Code of Conduct. It is also the intent of the Extracurricular Code of Conduct to provide a clearly defined course for our students to follow and instill a belief that a one-time infraction need not result in a permanent pattern in life.

In all instances of an alleged violation of the Extracurricular Code of Conduct the student will be provided due process. The process for determining a violation of the Extracurricular Code of Conduct will be established by the Director/sponsor in conjunction with school administration. Any student involved in an extracurricular activity who is found to be in violation of any of the infractions mentioned below will face disciplinary action.

- No extracurricular participant shall, while on or off school premises, use, possess, distribute or be under the influence of tobacco.
- No extracurricular participant shall, while on or off school premises, sell, give, deliver, use, possess or be under the influence of alcohol.
- No extracurricular participant shall, while on or off premises, sell, give, deliver, use, possess, or be under the influence of any controlled or illegal substance.
- No extracurricular participant will be involved in theft on or off campus.

Maintaining a higher standard of conduct will also include ensuring that Steele's extracurricular participants' personal electronic communication is appropriate. The internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible form of communication. Any communication including, but not limited to, MySpace, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, blogs, photo sharing, inappropriate texting that is published or appearing on the internet is public domain even if it is marked private. Extracurricular participants will be held responsible for their texts and other electronic communication on the internet through their personal websites as well as posting on other students' websites. The areas of appropriateness will include, but are not limited to, language (abbreviated or alluding to negative, lewd, vulgar or obscene comments about any individuals and/or any extracurricular programs), pictures, suggestive poses or clothing, and reference to alcohol, drugs, or tobacco. Published communication on the internet or by electronic means by extracurricular participants which cause disruption or damage to any school property or equipment are also considered unacceptable behavior.

Any member of an SCUC ISD extracurricular program who is involved in posting comments, pictures or statuses on any social networks such as, but not limited to, blogs, MySpace, Twitter, Instagram, or Facebook which are inappropriate, disruptive, negative, lewd or obscene may result in suspension or dismissal from the extracurricular program.

Students must remain aware that being a part of an extracurricular activity is considered an honor and a privilege and not a right. Therefore, it requires observance of all discipline policies whether or not a student is at school or school-related activities. The discipline consequences for violation of the Extracurricular Code of Conduct may include suspension or dismissal of the student from the extracurricular program. A behavioral contract may be used following any infraction of the rules and regulations set forth by the extracurricular program or the Extracurricular Code of Conduct. Consequences for some rule violations may be addressed by Directors/sponsors through discipline within the extracurricular program. Additional disciplinary consequences may also be imposed by the appropriate school officials for conduct or behavior that violates the District's Code of Student Conduct.

Attendance

Varsity and JV Dance Team members will be required to attend all rehearsals as scheduled in advance by the director.

Varsity and JV Dance Team members will attend all varsity football games, assigned varsity basketball games, (including playoff and holiday games), participate in booster club and fundraising events, competitions and clinics, and any other special assignments and events designated by the Director.

If a member misses a practice, it is at the discretion of the Director if the member will be allowed to perform in that week's routine.

Varsity and JV teams will practice at least once per week with the band throughout the football season. Failure to attend this rehearsal may result in removal from that week's performance.

Students are notified of mandatory events as soon as possible. It must be understood that some events come up suddenly (i.e. community performances, playoff games for any sport, pep rallies, etc.) Only students with extenuating circumstances will be given an excused absence from these mandatory events, as deemed by the Director with approval of the administrator. In order for an excused absence to be considered, as much advanced notice as possible must be provided to the Director via email or written note from the parent.

A member will be required to attend another event as a make-up for an absence from a previous event. The Director will determine the event.

Cases of numerous absences may receive special consideration when presented to the Director in writing or via email in a timely manner. They will be taken on a case by case basis at the discretion of the Director, with approval of the administration when necessary.

Excused absences may include, but are not limited to:

- Personal illness or accident. (Doctor's note will be required for extended illness or injury.)
- Funeral or death in the family.
- School activities, approved in advance by the Director.
- Religious holidays
- Weddings in the immediate family
- *****NOTE***** Out of town trips, vacations, Driver's Ed, and work are **NOT** excuses for missing required activities. Doctor's appointments are to be made outside of practice time; any missed practice due to doctor's appointments may result in an unexcused absence.
- In order to receive an excused absence from any activity, a member must present a written note or email (from a parent/guardian) to the Director either prior to, or immediately following the absence. The note must include the member's name, date, reason for absence, a parent/guardian signature, and phone number.
 - In case of illness, a parent/guardian must notify the sponsor by telephone or email prior to, when possible, or immediately following the practice or performance with the information stated above.
 - If a student is absent from school on the day of the event due to illness, a parent note provided prior to the event stating the student is ill will excuse the student. If the student is present at school, a student must present a doctor's note dated the day of the event in order to be excused, except in the case of catastrophic instances.
 - An unexcused absence is automatically given if a note is not presented to the sponsor. This may affect the student's future performances, or continued membership on the team.
 - When a member is absent, it is his/her responsibility to call his/her officer to find out what was missed, and what is required upon his/her return (proper uniforms, meeting, deadlines).
 - Any member, who misses practice, whether excused or unexcused, may be removed from the next scheduled performance at the Director's discretion.

Only in cases of extenuating circumstances will a student be allowed to leave a game or function with his/her own parents/guardians. Members are only allowed to leave with a parent/guardian from **one** game per year. (Football playoffs will be evaluated on a case by case basis.) The following procedure must be followed:

- The member must present a written note or email (from a parent/guardian) to the Director **at least 24 hours prior to the event from which the member is leaving**. The note must include the member's name, date, reason for leaving early, a parent/guardian signature, and phone number.
- Parents/Guardians must personally take responsibility for the member by meeting the Director at the end of the game. If the adult who is to take the

member does not follow this procedure, the member must return on the bus with the group, or will receive a strike for not following policy.

- Anyone not returning on the bus must find someone to be responsible for any items they carried to the game. The member will be financially liable for any items that are lost as a result of irresponsibility.
- Any exceptions to this procedure must be approved by the Director and an administrator.

Uniform Guidelines

Team members will be provided with specific uniform expectations for each event, performance, and competition. Our goal is to present a uniform look without any individual distractions. Examples of individual distractions include, but are not limited to, unnatural hair color, temporary or permanent tatoos, nail polish, piercings, etc.

Competition

The Varsity Dance Team will attend competition in the Spring Semester. The competition will be designated by the Director. The JV Dance Team may be invited to participate in competition, at the discretion of the Director.

Auditions will be held for every routine for competition.

A competition contract must be signed by the student and parent. The contract will specify requirements including expectations, rehearsal dates and times, and competition dates.

Discipline Management

The SCUCISD Dance Program will maintain a disciplinary system based on OFIs (Opportunity For Improvements) and a strike system.

OFIs will be issued for minor infractions. For every set of three OFIs issued, the member will accrue a single discipline STRIKE.

When a team member receives THREE total strikes, he/she will be placed on Spirit Probation. If a member receives a total of FIVE or more strikes during or following the probationary time, he/she will be subject to removal from the team upon review by administration.

Examples of OFI Offenses

Late to a practice

Failure to wear proper uniform to practice

Continued talking during practice or a game/event following verbal warnings

Cell phone use without permission during practice or in locker room areas.

Failure to turn in payments or other required materials by deadline (as deemed by the Director)

Disrespect to team members

Any other actions deemed inappropriate by the Director or administrator

BAND RUN-THROUGHS -

2 OFIs for Tardiness, but still make it in time to run-through

Examples of ONE Strike Offenses

Late to a formal event (games, performances, team events, pep rallies, competitions, etc)

Failure to wear proper uniform to a formal event

Failure to follow instructions given by Director or officers

PDA in uniform at formal events (Public Display of Affection)

Cell phone use without permission at a formal event

Any student who is picked up more than 30 minutes after an event ends, or after arriving on campus from an event

Violation of Extracurricular Code Of Conduct regarding Social Media

Unexcused absence from a practice

Unexcused absence from band run-through – also results in being pulled from that week's halftime routine

Cursing or use of inappropriate language

One Day of ISS

Any other actions deemed inappropriate by the Director or administrator

Examples of TWO Strike Offenses

Disrespect or insubordination to Director or other faculty/staff

Major Violation of Extracurricular Code Of Conduct regarding Social Media (as deemed by the Director)

Unexcused absence from a formal event

Bullying

More than one day of ISS

Any other actions deemed inappropriate by the Director or administrator

Academic and Spirit Probation

A member will be placed on Academic Probation when he/she fails any course with a grade lower than a 70, with the exception of successfully waived courses.

Academic Probation will continue until the student has regained his/her eligibility during an eligibility check. (This grading policy is outlined in the 'Member Expectations' section above.)

A member will be placed on Spirit Probation when he/she has earned three total strikes.

Spirit Probation will last 15 school days. During that probationary period, the member will be required to attend all practices, activities, and events in uniform, but will not be allowed to perform.

Grounds for Member Removal

Dance Program members are held to a higher standard than students who do not participate in extra-curricular activities. Failure to comply with the student standards of conduct may result in disciplinary action against the member, **up to and including removal from the team.**

- Members shall not engage in inappropriate behavior, including but not limited to inappropriate sexual contact, fighting (verbal or physical), public intoxication, possession or consumption of alcohol or illegal drugs, or other criminal activity.
- Any violation of the extra-curricular code of conduct may result in the removal from the team
- Members who have been suspended from school, moved to DAEP, or expelled from school will be removed from the team.
- A Dance Team member who is ineligible for any two consecutive 9-week grading periods will be dismissed from the team, regardless if the member regained eligibility during the nine-weeks.
- Members may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including removal from the team, for any other behavior which the Director deems inappropriate, including but not limited to conduct unbecoming, insubordination, disrespect, or non-compliance to set rules and regulations.
- Any member receiving more than five strikes may be removed from the team upon review by administration.

Financial Responsibilities

It is understood that participation in any extra-curricular activity requires purchases of uniforms, accessories, etc... A detailed order form is provided at the team audition meeting. Students will incur additional costs for competition, spring show/production, team gifts, tshirts, etc.

All payments are required to be paid in full by the specified due dates unless a parent has spoken to the director to set up a payment plan. Failure to meet payment deadlines will result in the member sitting out of performances and events until financial obligations are met.

Once a team order deposit is made (usually in early May), the student is responsible for paying the ENTIRE BALANCE IN FULL by the given due date. Quitting the team WILL NOT excuse a dancer from the amount owed for camps, uniforms, etc...

Students are also required to have SCHOOL-COLORED (black, gray, silver, white) personal items to wear at outdoor events when it is cold (i.e. jackets, shoes, scarves, gloves, etc.) Specific styles are not required.

In the event of team member dismissal for academic, disciplinary, or any other reason, the student WILL NOT be financially reimbursed. Any current outstanding payments will still be due. The student will be placed on the campus obligation list if payments are not made by the given deadline.

Honorable Merit Award/Distinguished Merit Achievement Award

Each year, in order to promote team members to make positive choices, assist the Dance Program, and take an interest in community service, the SCUCISD Dance Program will present the Honorable Merit Award and the Distinguished Merit Achievement Award to deserving students at the end-of-the-year banquet.

Honorable Merit Award

This award will be given to team members who earn a minimum of 100 merits. No less than 30 of the 100 merits must be for services rendered outside the dance studio. Awarded students will be presented with a patch at the end-of-the-year Dance Banquet.

Specific opportunities for merits will be outlined in the team handbooks. The Director may also present opportunities throughout the year. The time to earn said merits will be from tryouts for the current year to tryouts of the following year.

Officer Candidates for the following year will be REQUIRED to earn the Honorable Merit Award.

It is the responsibility of the member to submit a Merit record sheet to the Director outlining the member's activity for which he/she earned merits. The Director will determine how many merits the student will receive, and keep record for the year.

Distinguished Merit Achievement Award

The student who earns the most merits for the year will also be presented with the Distinguished Merit Achievement Award.

Letter Jackets

Varsity Dance Team

- Varsity Dance Team members are required to purchase a letter jacket as part of their uniform. Ordering information will be provided following auditions.
- Members must pay for their own letter jacket, and it can only be ordered through the Director. It must be the color and design that is designated by the Director.

JV Dance Team

- Only returning Senior JV members are eligible to purchase a letter jacket.
- Eligible members must pay for their own letter jacket. It must be the color and design that is designated by the Director.
- If a student was removed from the team the year prior, he/she is not eligible to purchase a letter jacket.

Concerns

Any member or parent who has a concern must follow a chain of command to resolve any concerns with the coach or organization.

1. Director
2. Vice-principal assigned to dance
3. Principal

Veto Clause

Since the Director is directly responsible to the principal for the welfare of this organization, he/she shall have the authority to make any decisions necessary for the welfare of the organization. Any action that needs to be taken concerning a situation not covered by this Constitution or, in extreme cases, in opposition to stated policies will be the responsibility of the Director(s), with consultation of the administration.

Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City Independent School District does not discriminate against any student on the basis of sex, race, creed, or financial status in the educational programs of extra-curricular activities, which it operates.



**Varsity and JV Dance Team
PERMISSION & PLEDGE
CONSTITUTION AGREEMENT**

I, _____, will adhere to all rules and regulations specified by the SCUCISD Dance Program Director and this constitution. I will accept the position I earn at team auditions and will accept the responsibilities of being a representative of my school.

STUDENT SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

I grant permission for my child to participate as a SCUCISD High School Dance Program Member. I accept the financial responsibilities and understand the rules which will govern my child. I understand that once the audition process is complete, all decisions are final. I understand that in the event of student removal from the team for any reason, refunds will not be given, and I will be held accountable for any currently due payments.

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____