

**EMS ISD DANCE/DRILL TEAM CONSTITUTION**  
**2020-2021**

**Article I: PURPOSE**

**Section 1:** The purpose of the EMS ISD Dance/Drill Team is to promote school spirit and sportsmanship at school functions and to serve as a performing group representing the high school throughout the community, state and nation.

**Section 2:** Instructional and performance activities are affirmatively directed toward development of individual member improvement, resulting in a highly skilled performance group. Each student selected must be cognizant of the time commitment and individual dedication demanded in striving for personal improvement and teamwork through responsibility and discipline.

**Section 3:** Students are exposed to teaching, practice and performance opportunities that result in the development of responsibility and self-respect that encourage honest effort in striving for excellence. These opportunities also develop character, teamwork and pride in quality performance and physical fitness by emphasizing the maintenance of high standards.

**Article II: DEFINITION**

**Section 1:** Dance/drill team Year: The rules and procedures outlined in this constitution are in effect from the time the student is selected to the dance/drill team squad until the last day of the following school year.

**Article III: TEAM SELECTION**

**Section 1:** Requirements for team tryouts. A candidate must meet the following criteria for the academic year of the tryouts:

1. Must have an overall grade average of 75 calculated on six weeks grades of all reporting periods completed in the current school year prior to auditions. Weighted grades for advanced classes will be recognized.
2. Must have no ADC school placement during the current school year.
3. No more than 1 placement in ISS/SAC. The director's discretion will be used on ISS/SAC placement due to tardies.
4. No more than 1 placement in OSS.
5. Must be in attendance compliance and enrolled at the time of auditions.
6. Must be cleared through both the attendance and administrator's offices before being eligible to tryout.

**Section 2:** Candidates must attend all audition practices in order to be eligible for final auditions unless there are extenuating circumstances approved by the director.

**Section 3:** The constitution must be read. The contract must be signed by both parents/guardians as well as the candidate, and it must be returned to the director by the given deadline.

**Section 4:** Parents must be fully aware of the time commitment and financial obligations of the dance team as well as committing to meet these obligations.

**Section 5:** Auditions will be closed to the public. Only judges, directors, officers, and administrators will be allowed to attend.

**Section 6:** Auditions will be judged by 2 or 3 qualified judges. Criteria to be judged will be determined by the director. Judges' selection is final.

**Section 7:** Members must audition each year for a place on the team. Members who have resigned or been dismissed from the team for any reason during the current school year may tryout upon permission from the director and campus principal.

**Section 8:** Returning members must have met all financial obligations from the previous year in order to audition.

**Section 9:** An incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade student who is currently attending a middle school on an approved transfer shall select one high school campus in which to participate in dance team tryouts. The student can either select his/her home zoned high school campus or a high school campus that is open for transfer request applications. A cheerleader, dance team member, or fine arts member who wants to participate in athletics must attend his/her home zone campus per Board Policy FDA and FDB (Local) and other applicable UIL and district regulations. <https://www.emsisd.com/Page/193>

A high school student, current 9<sup>th</sup> and above, may only tryout at the school for which they are enrolled and have submitted the corresponding tryout packet. A student must be enrolled in the EMS ISD school system to tryout.

#### **Article IV: Officer Selection**

**Section 1:** Candidates for varsity dance and social officer must have been a varsity dance team member for at least one full year immediately preceding officer auditions.

**Section 2:** All requirements for team membership also apply to officer selection.

#### **Article V: ELIGIBILITY AND MAINTENANCE**

**Section 1:** In order to be eligible for any six-week period following the initial six-week period of a school year, a student shall not have a recorded grade average lower than a 70 on a scale of 0-100 in any course for the preceding six-week period. The principal may waive grade probation if the failing class is identified as pre-ap or advanced placement class, as per EMS ISD policy.

**Section 2:** A student who regains eligibility at the end of a six-week or three-week period will regain eligibility according to the UIL calendar.

**Section 3:** Students on academic probation must continue to attend classes and all practices, must sit out of all performances, and may not sit with or ride with the team to appearances or performances. Students on probation are not allowed to wear the team pep rally or performance uniform.

**Section 4:** A dance/drill team member who becomes academically ineligible two times during one school semester will be automatically dismissed from the team.

#### **Article VI: Standards of Conduct**

**Section 1:** Members are expected to uphold a high standard of behavior that is necessary for the integrity and reputation of the organization. Members should be leaders in the school and should set a good example at all times. Members are expected to have and maintain a character above reproach.

**Section 2:** Proper manners should be used at all times to address adults and team officers. Mutual respect and politeness toward fellow members within the group are basic elements and contribute to the total success of the team.

**Section 3:** The following are expressly forbidden: assault or harassment of directors or team members, theft of team or individual property. At the first infraction of either of these rules, the student will be removed from the team and may serve consequences at the campus level.

**Section 4:** Any member failing to abide by published school rules relating to the conduct, use of drugs, alcoholic beverages, or other illegal activities will result in immediate dismissal from the team and may serve consequences at the campus level.

**Section 5:** Dance/drill team members will wear practice and performance uniforms as designated by the director.

**Section 6:** Dance/drill team members will not participate by P.D.A. (public display of affection) while on campus and at all school related functions.

**Article VII: ATTENDANCE** (these rules govern all practices and activities, including those not during school hours)

**Section 1:** All members must register for and participate in dance team class for the first and second semesters. Attendance at all dance/drill team activities and practices is mandatory unless otherwise decided by the director.

**Section 2:** An absence is recorded if the student is more than 20 minutes late.

**Section 3:** Absences

- A. Excused absences/tardies are limited to: personal illness, school related activities, religious holidays, death in the family or funeral --must have a phone call or email from the parents
- B. Unexcused absences/tardies include: Work, vacation, any appointments interfering with practice, non-school related extracurricular activities.

**Section 4:** Unexcused absence from practice will result in the student being put on performance probation for the next performance. Students absent on the day of auditions will be allowed to tryout at a later time at the discretion of the director.

**Section 5:** Any approved school-related absence will not be recorded as an absence.

**Section 6:** A parent/guardian must contact director prior to practice/performance if their student is going to be absent. Failure to do so will result in demerits.

**Section 7:** A doctor's note is required for absences due to illness.

**Section 8:** Outside employment is not an excuse to miss any part of dance/drill team activities. Doing so constitutes an unexcused absence and results in demerits.

**Section 9:** Students who are absent from school on a performance day for more than half a day are ineligible to perform. Students who miss morning Band practice are ineligible to perform. (Exception: school-related absences)

## **Article VIII: PROBATION AND REMOVAL**

**Section 1: Probation – Disciplinary:** A dance/drill team member may be placed on *disciplinary* probation for indicated periods of time as described in the Regulations and Policies and Attendance sections of this document.

- Any dance/drill team member placed in ISS or SAC for disciplinary reasons will receive 10 demerits and will automatically be placed on probation.
- A dance/drill team member on disciplinary probation will not be allowed to travel with the team for any reason.
- The member will not be allowed to wear the uniform.

- During the probationary period, the student must attend class and practices as scheduled during and before/after school hours.
- A dance/drill team member on disciplinary probation will not be allowed to participate in auditions or performances of the team.
- Probation will impact a dance team member’s ability to participate in any trip or activities. Probation will also impact any payment spent on a trip or function. The money will not be reimbursed if the district is unable to have the money reimbursed.

**Section 2: Removal** - A dance/drill team member may be removed from the team at the discretion of the dance/drill team director for violation of the **Standards of Conduct** or **Regulations and Policies** sections of this constitution.

- A dance/drill team member may be removed from the team after accruing 20 demerits.
- A dance/drill team member who is placed in Out Of School Suspension will receive 15 demerits which automatically results in probation. A second placement will result in automatic dismissal from the team.
- A dance/drill team member who is placed in the alternative school will be automatically removed from the team, effective on the date of placement.
- If a student is removed from the team and has paid for an upcoming trip or function, money will not be reimbursed.
- Students who have been removed and those who voluntarily resign from the team retain no rights to team awards, recognitions, etc. They lose all privileges associated with varsity dance/drill team membership, including attending exclusive dance/drill team events, using dance/drill team facilities, and wearing dance/drill team attire. A student schedule change will be immediately requested.

**Article IX – BEHAVIORAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

**Section 1:** A Demerit System is used to track regulation and policy infractions. Demerits are strictly used to determine disciplinary probation periods and are not used for grading purposes. Demerits accumulate for one school year. At the beginning of the next school year, each member’s record is cleared. The only exception is if a disciplinary action (benching, probation) has been determined in the previous year but not yet activated. In this case, the disciplinary action will become active on the first day of school of the next year, and then that student’s record will be cleared.

**Section 2:** Disciplinary action will be taken according to the following chart for demerits.

# of Demerits	Disciplinary Action
5 demerits	Performance Probation
10 demerits	3 week probation

15 demerits	6-week probation
20 demerits	Dismissal

**Section 3: Performance Probation:** The member attends functions in uniform but will not take part in the team performance. With regard to football or basketball games, the member may perform in the stands with the team but may not perform in the pre-game, half-time, or post games performances or festivities.

**Section 4: Probation (3 Week or 6 Week):** The member is not allowed to participate in auditions or performances of the team.

The member is required to travel with the team in attire designated by the director. The member may not wear the dance/drill team uniform. The member must continue to attend classes, work periods and practices as scheduled during and before/after school hours.

**Section 5: Demerits v. Permanent Demerits.** Demerits can be worked off per the director’s discretion. The following examples: high kicks, burpees, running etc. Permanent demerits cannot be erased by earning merits and will be permanently recorded.

Below is a list of rule violations. This is not an all-inclusive list. Demerits may be issued for other violations at the discretion of the director.

## Demerit System

### Non-Permanent Demerits

1. Incorrect Practice Uniform 1
2. Late item returned (per item/per day) 1
3. Failure to pick up personal belongings 1
4. Moving or talking in victory line or performance 1
5. Unapproved items in practice or locker room 1
6. Wearing jewelry to a performance 1
7. Chewing gum during a practice or performance 1
8. Not following instructions for stand behavior 1
9. Unexcused tardy to practice, performance, or function (up to 10 minutes) 1
10. Lending uniform, t-shirts, jackets, or other items to a non-member 1
11. Not calling or e-mailing prior to absence from practice or function 1
12. Excessive talking/misbehavior in practice or function 3
13. Incorrect uniform or missing pieces for a performance 3
14. Wearing uniform to non-team function 3
15. Unexcused absence from practice 3
16. Unexcused practice from performance or any function 5

### Permanent Demerits

1. Inappropriate behavior in uniform (ex. PDA) 5
2. Leaving any team function without permission from the director 10
3. Non-compliance with given directives 10

4. Misuse of social media which violates standards of conduct	10
5. In-school suspension	10
6. Out of school suspension	15
7. Physical Altercation (ex. Fighting)	20
8. Smoking/Vaping/Dab pens, or other illegal substances	20
9. Drinking/Alcohol use	20
10. Use of obscene language or behavior	20
11. Extreme disrespect to directors or teachers (ex. Threatening or aggressive language)	20

**Ways to work off demerits:**

In order to work off a demerit, members must perform a conditioning drill within one week as assigned by the director. Examples of conditioning drills shall include but are not limited to:

50 high kicks = 1 demerit

100 sit ups = 1 demerit

2 minutes of jump ropes = 1 demerit

3 sets/1 minute plank = 1 demerit

Attend Dance Tutorials =1 demerit

Those members that are injured or have an illness with a doctor’s note will be assigned an alternative activity to work off 1 demerit. If the demerit is not worked off within one week it becomes a permanent demerit. Members have one calendar week to work off a demerit starting from the time it is signed for by the member. Members are allowed to work off up to 5 demerits per week on the day designated by the director.

**Section 6: Merits.** The merit reward system is setup to reward members for exceptional behavior, good deeds, and following the rules. The following is a list of activities (but not limited to) for which merits may be received. Merits may be used to work off non-permanent demerits at the director’s discretion.

- Non required service to team/school (signed note from teacher)
- Participating in outside studio dance classes (monthly signed log)
- Tutoring another student (signed note from teacher)
- Service to community (signed documentation)
- Spirit or Dancer of the Week
- Service in another school organization (one time only)
- Attending non-required school events (signed documentation/proof)
- Spirit Signs/Banners/Posters (full poster board)-Director approval
- Acts of Random kindness observed by Director\Faculty
- Team Community Service
- Parent attending monthly/ Booster Club meetings
- Bringing designated supplies requested by the director

**Article X: DANCE/DRILL TEAM PRACTICE AND PERFORMANCES**

**Section 1:** Dance/drill team members MUST be picked up from all dance/drill team activities within 15 minutes of dismissal.

**Section 2:** Dance/drill team members must attend all practice sessions.

**Section 3:** Dance/drill team members who have an unexcused absence during a performance week will automatically be removed from that week's performance. They must also re-tryout for the following week's performance.

**Section 4:** Students should use discretion in their commitments to multiple extracurricular activities.

**Section 5:** There will be tryouts for each performance. The director will judge routines. The director will have the final say as to who makes the performance. Students unable to execute the routine to the expected standard will not be chosen to perform.

**Section 6:** If a member is removed from the performance due to tryouts, absences, illness or injury, that member must continue to attend practices and team performances in uniform unless the illness or injury prohibits from doing so.

**Section 7:** A student may only perform if in correct and complete uniform at the time of performance.

**Section 8:** Practice times are scheduled by the Director. It is up to the discretion of the Director to determine when the team, officers, or select squads should or should not practice. All dance/drill team members will be notified of any additions or changes to the practice schedule unless a special circumstance arises that is out of the Director's control.

#### **Article XI: SUMMER CAMP**

**Section 1:** All members are required to attend line camp. Vacations should be planned accordingly. Dates are given prior to the team tryout.

**Section 2:** Dance officers must attend a separate officer camp in addition to separate summer practices and line camp.

**Section 3:** Social officers must attend all trainings scheduled by the director.

#### **Article XII: COMPETITIONS AND OTHER DANCE/DRILL TEAM SPONSORED FUNCTIONS**

**Section 1:** All members are required to attend all competitions. Failure to compete at any designated competition, (for any reason), will result in the dance/drill team member being placed as an alternate for all contest routines.

**Section 2:** All members are required to attend all dance/drill team sponsored activities including, but not limited to dance clinics, contest show-offs and spring shows.

#### **Article XIII: COMMUNICATION**

**Section 1:** *Address any concerns to the Director.*

- All student members are responsible for arranging a time to meet with their Director if there are any questions or clarifications needed before their parent becomes involved. Students are responsible for attempting to resolve questions and issues with their Director.

**Section 2:** In the event that a parent conference should become necessary:

- The parent, member, and Director should meet to discuss the problem. The parent must notify their dancer's Director through email to request a conference and it will be scheduled at an appropriate time.

**Section 3:** The parent, member, Director, and an administrator should meet to resolve the problem. *This is the final step, not the first step, to be taken.*

#### **Article XIV: Uniforms and Supplies**

**Section 1:** Certain parts of the dance team uniform and equipment will be purchased by the member and will remain the property of the member. This financial obligation must be met to remain a member of the team.

**Section 2:** Certain parts of the uniform and the equipment will be provided by the school district. These will be issued to the member at the beginning of the season and returned to the school at the end of the season. The member will pay to replace any lost or damaged articles.

#### **Article XV: Student Transfer**

**Section 1:** Fall Semester: A student transferring from another school district with current dance team membership and good standing may have the opportunity to audition at the time of transfer. A recommendation will be required from the former director. Students transferring with no current dance team experience must wait until regularly scheduled team member auditions in the spring.

**Section 2:** Spring Semester: All transfer students during the spring semester must wait until regularly scheduled team member auditions.

#### **Article XVI: Managers' Duties**

**Section 1:** Managers are chosen by the director.

**Section 2:** Managers are subject to the same rules of this constitution as other team members in the areas of: attendance, trips, discipline and grade probation as well as the demerit system.

#### **Article XVII: Trips**

**Section 1:** Members must ride the bus to and from all out of town games, competitions or other events. Only parental permission in written form will release the member to ride home with that parent.

**Section 2:** Members are responsible for their uniforms/costumes for the duration of the trip.

**Section 3:** Members must conduct themselves appropriately and responsibly on all trips as representatives of EMS ISD.

#### **Article XVIII: Lettering Policy**

**Section 1:** Team members are eligible for lettering after completing one full year and upon earning membership for their second year on the team.

**Section 2:** A first-year senior member is eligible on December 1 providing he/she is a team member second semester.

#### **Article XIX: Changes**

**Section 1:** The constitution is subject to change at any time, due to policy changes by the Texas Education Agency and the EMS ISD School Board.

**Section 2:** Revision of the constitution after annual review shall follow the steps outlined in the Administrative Guidelines for Student Organization Constitutions.