

Panther Pride/JV Drill Constitution

Code of Conduct

Certain standards are necessary for the integrity of any organization. Each and every member of the drill team should be a leader within the school, as well as an upstanding role model, and should set a good example at all times. Members of the drill team are expected to have and maintain a character above reproach; personal appearance and habits of which there can be no criticism are required. This is necessary, for the drill team members are constantly representing the school before the public.

- a. All rules as stated in the current LHS Student Handbook that apply at school and not stated herein, will apply at official practices, activities, trips, scheduled events, and any additional group activities.
- b. Members are required to be courteous, polite, friendly, and have a positive attitude at all times to everyone.
- c. Every member, will at all times, conduct herself as a lady. Open displays of affection will not be tolerated, as well as the use of profanity or fighting.
- d. Every member shall respect the character and property of all other members and must remain without conflict among fellow Panther Pride and JV Drill members.
- e. Fighting while involved in a school activity shall result in the member being removed from the team.
- f. Internet, facebook, any other social postings, cell phone conversations and texting will be under scrutiny if it interferes with or brings disrespect to the program or its members, at any time. Any circumstances that are deemed unacceptable or harmful may be grounds for dismissal from the team.
- g. Each member will adhere to the school drug and fighting policies.
- h. Every member is to offer utmost respect and effort to all teachers, administrators, and staff at LHS.

Philosophy and Objectives

1. Panther Pride/JV Drill is a student activity that is considered a high honor because you represent your school and community. As a student activity, the first and foremost responsibility is to support and not compromise the student's academics.
2. The program should aid in developing the student into a responsible, mature, and independent adult.
3. Panther Pride/JV Drill shall act as a support group for Panther sports and organizations at LHS.
4. Panther Pride/JV Drill is to serve as public relations ambassadors for LISD, appear at games, activities, functions, programs, charitable, and public causes to promote LISD, and to uphold, reflect and project the goals and ideals set forth for Panther Pride/JV Drill.
5. Panther Pride/JV Drill is to perform as a team at sporting events, pep rallies, shows, community events, parades, competitions, and other events.

Requirements

1. Be responsible Panther Pride/JV Drill members and act accordingly.
2. Train during the entire school year in the art of dance and drill, and be dedicated and committed members willing to put forth 100% effort in the quest for excellence and perfection.
3. Work under the UIL eligibility requirements, school policies, and strict direction from the Panther Pride/JV Drill Directors and Panther Pride officers.
4. Attend drill team summer camp and a 1-2 week workshop prior to and following camp.
5. Wear selected uniform items to school on Friday's and other assigned days.
6. Take utmost care of all school or Panther Pride/JV Drill owned items issued while as a member.
7. Abide by all Constitutional and Code of Conduct rules.
8. Complete and pass any drug tests issued by LISD.

Membership

1. Panther Pride drill team shall be comprised of current 10, 11, and 12 grade students.
2. JV Drill team shall be composed of current 9, 10, and 11 grade students.
3. Panther Pride officers shall be composed of current 12 grade students.
4. Panther Pride social officers and Senior Sergeants shall be composed of current 12 grade students.
5. Any member who quits drill team or is dismissed will not remain part of the team for the rest of the year, and must re-tryout.

Grades and Eligibility-As a Member of JV Drill or Panther Pride

1. Each member must be passing ALL subjects in order to participate.
2. According to UIL, a student must be passing all subjects in order to participate in extracurricular activities.
3. All consequences start at 3:45pm on the Friday after the progress/report card is received.
4. A one-time waiver from administration may be applied to a Pre AP/AP class for participation only. This is at the discretion of the principal. A waiver does not make you eligible for tryouts or keep you from being dismissed from the team.
5. If the grading period is a UIL eligibility period, the UIL rule of no pass no play will apply.
 - a. First failing grade will result in probation until eligibility is regained on progress report or report card.
 - i. Attend tutorials
 - ii. Keep director informed on progress
 - iii. Must attend all practices unless approved to miss for tutoring
 - iv. No uniform or participation and sit with director during event
6. Any member failing one or more subjects for two consecutive nine week grading periods will be dismissed from the team.
7. Failure to keep director informed of failing grade status will result in demerits.
8. Any attempt to deceive the director concerning grades will result in automatic dismissal.

Attendance Requirements-as a Member of JV Drill or Panther Pride

1. All members will attend all practices, athletic events, competitions, dress rehearsals, shows, and special activities unless pre-approved by the directors. Calendars will be issued in a timely manner as well as sports schedules.
2. Members must attend practices and performances as usual even if not able to perform.
3. Any activities, not on school campus and without the director, are not official. There will be no unofficial practices on any school campus.
4. The directors may choose additional activities or opportunities and will determine if the event is mandatory or optional.
5. When an activity that does not require the entire team is scheduled, and a member needs to switch responsibilities with another member, that member must contact the director and make arrangements for that change.
6. Directors reserve the right to evaluate any situation and apply the appropriate action.
7. All members are required to attend summer camp, lil drill camp, and work week.
8. Absence from any drill team activity is unexcused unless approved by the director.

9. The director will determine excused and/or unexcused absences from activities.
10. Any dental or doctor appointment which takes the member out of any practice is considered unexcused unless approved by the director.
11. If a member incurs 2 or more excused absences or 1 unexcused absence in the week of a performance, she will be removed from a performance.
12. Three tardies in one week count as one unexcused absence.
13. Members are required to ask permission for an absence at least one week prior to the upcoming absence to be considered for approval. If the absence is for a sudden cause, the director has the authority to approve or disapprove its reasoning, and may penalize the member for the absence.
14. If a member is absent, she must contact the director before the event or scheduled practice. Failure to notify the director of an absence will result in the absence being unexcused and demerits will be given.
15. Any unexcused absence from a performance will result in probation.
16. Any unexcused absence from practice will result in removal from a performance.
17. In addition to contacting the director, the member should contact her Officer for any announcements or requirements that she missed.
18. Members must be present for 50% of the school day in order to participate in an event the same day.
19. Members with excessive unexcused absences from school will be removed from performances. If the truancy issue persists, members may be removed from the team.

Injuries/Illness

1. If a member incurs an injury during practice that prohibits her from participating, she must see the LISD athletic trainer and upon his/her recommendation she may return to practice accordingly.
2. If a member becomes ill or incurs an injury outside of practice that prohibits her from participating for two or more days; she must provide a doctor's note. If a doctor's note is not provided to the directors, the member will receive demerits for not dressing out for practice without permission or doctor's note.
3. Any member wanting to participate after an injury that occurs outside of drill team or after a pregnancy must present a doctor's note stating that she is cleared to participate.
4. Should a member find she is pregnant, it is her responsibility to inform the director of her health status and present a doctor's note immediately. The member will be moved to inactive status. Inactive status means the member is still a part of the organization but is not actively participating. The inactive member must attend Panther Pride class period during the school day but may not participate or dress in any team attire. The member may not earn merits while on inactive status. The member will not attend any

performances as a Panther Pride member. The member may return to active status after the pregnancy with a medical release from her doctor.

Uniforms and Appearance

1. Members are expected to abide by the LHS dress code while at school. Demerits will be issued if the member is not in compliance.
2. All items shall be purchased in full by the members. Items will not be released without payment, which may cause a member to be ineligible to perform.
3. Uniform/costumes must remain in good condition and always have a neat, clean appearance.
4. Items, which are the property of the school or drill team, must be returned and cared for properly during use.
5. Members must wear all parts of the performance uniform while in public and as a group. She may NOT remove any piece without director approval while in public.
6. The performance uniforms/costumes may not be worn to public places other than specified functions with the team.
7. Members shall not drink, smoke, chew gum, or behave in an unladylike manner while in uniform or any other apparel bearing the Panther Pride/JV Drill name. Members shall not let non-team members wear any part of their uniform.
8. Members shall not eat in uniform unless with the team and with permission from the director. You must change before going to a restaurant, etc.
9. While in uniform or any drill team apparel, displays of affection other than with family members are not permitted. This includes holding hands, kissing, hugging, etc.
10. Only drill team earrings may be worn, no other jewelry is allowed in any type of uniform or costume.
11. No colored nail polish is allowed when in uniform.
12. All hairstyles must be neat and worn as designated by the director. Excessive unnatural hair color is not allowed during performances.
13. Uniforms/costumes are to be cleaned only in the manner specified by the director.
14. A member shall financially replace any school-owned item damaged or lost.
15. Members may qualify for letter jackets if they meet the following criteria:
 - a. Must currently be a re-run or senior.
 - b. Must have remained in good standing and not placed on probation during the current year in which they are purchasing the jacket.
 - c. Must have participated in all activities, except when optional.
 - d. Must be in good standing financially with Panther Pride.

Travel

While attending out of town trips, the LISD Administration Policy will be followed. All participants will ride the bus to the scheduled event. Members will be permitted to ride home from out of town trips with parents or other adults. If riding home with another adult, a written note is required from the member's parent prior to the event. Honor Guards must ride the bus home to unload. Members must be signed out prior to dismissal from the game/event. Failure to be signed out correctly will result in demerits. Only Panther Pride will travel to out of town football games until Playoffs begin. JV Drill will travel to out of town Playoff football games.

Probation and Loss of Membership

1. Probation shall be defined as not being able to participate in any performance, yet still attending all activities and practices. Drill team members placed on probation must still practice each day, yet may not wear any performance uniform at drill team functions. A parent will be notified if a member obtains probationary status.

Infractions causing probation include, but are not limited to the following:

- a. Failing grade at first 6 weeks or any 9 week report card, L policy
 - b. For Panther Pride, 10 demerits not offset by merits, member will sit out next designated performance chosen by the director until required meritable services have been completed to work off demerits and regain eligibility. A member must serve her probation, if she is absent from the performance she must make up her probation.
 - c. For JV Drill, 20 demerits not offset by merits, member will sit out next designated performance and not be able to perform until meritable services have been completed to work off demerits and regain eligibility.
 - d. One U or more than one N in conduct from a teacher, member will sit out next designated performance.
 - e. Unexcused absence, member will sit out next designated performance.
 - f. Three unexcused tardies in one week, member will sit out next designated performance.
 - g. Any behavior deemed unbecoming by the director or principal.
 - h. Violation of Constitution or Code of Conduct.
 - i. Excessive unexcused absences from school
2. Dismissal shall be defined as no participation of any kind in drill team for the remainder of the year. Loss of membership is decided with administrative advisement. A dismissed member must turn in any issued items and will have her schedule changed immediately. Infractions causing a member dismissal include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Violation of the school alcohol, drug or tobacco policies.
 - b. Violation of the school fighting policy.

- c. Excessive absences or excessive behavior deemed unbecoming by the director or principal.
 - d. An accumulation of more than 30 demerits not offset by merits.
 - e. Being sent to alternative school or after a campus enrollment change.
 - f. Violation of the Constitution or Code of Conduct as determined by the director or the principal.
 - g. Participating in any unlawful infraction.
3. Demotion shall be defined as removal from a specific office held in the organization. This applies to dance officers as well as Senior Sergeants. Demotion will take place at the director's discretion. Infractions causing officer demotion include but are not limited to the following:
 - a. Accumulation of more than 15 demerits (not including merits) within one semester
 - b. Becoming pregnant and placed on inactive status
 - c. Participating in any behavior deemed inappropriate by the director or principal
 - d. Failing any class in a nine week grading period
4. Directors and administrators reserve the right to evaluate any situation and apply the appropriate action.

Tryouts

1. Panther Pride hopefuls shall be entering the 10, 11, or 12 grade and be currently enrolled at LHS to participate in any tryout activities.
2. JV drill team hopefuls shall be entering 9, 10, or 11 grade and be currently enrolled at LMS or LHS to participate in any tryout activities.
3. All hopefuls must turn in all forms on time, and attend the mandatory practices prior to the actual tryouts.
4. Hopefuls and their parents shall sign consent forms with the understanding of all costs and requirements of this organization.
5. Hopefuls must be passing all classes with a 70 or above, per UIL eligibility, in order to attend after school practices and tryouts. Grade waivers will not be given for tryout purposes.
6. If a hopeful receives three or more discipline referrals, she will not be eligible to tryout.
7. Hopefuls should understand that participation in other extracurricular activities might result in scheduling problems and absentee conflicts. Please see directors for further information.
8. Current members who do not accumulate the required number of merits must re-tryout.
9. Current members that have received 40 or more demerits, regardless of merits, must re-tryout.

10. If a student is placed in alternative school during the tryout process, they will not be allowed to tryout.
11. Tryouts will be held once a year, in the spring semester, held on a date designated by the director.
12. The hopeful shall have her tryout application completed and turned in by the given date and time, or tryout eligibility will be denied.
13. Tryouts will be closed to the public.
14. Hopefuls shall be selected by a panel of three pre-approved judges on the basis of flexibility, high kicks, dance technique, memory, rhythm, timing, and showmanship.
15. Hopefuls shall wear all black dance attire with hair in a ponytail with a white ribbon or bow. Wraps and half tops are not to be worn.
16. The director will have the authority to make decisions upon ties and inadequate breaks in the number scores.
17. The judges' decisions are final. The results will be posted after tryouts by tryout number on the LHS website.
18. An administrator will be present during the tryouts and tallying of scores.
19. Judges may feel the need to have callbacks in which they will request to see certain hopefuls again, the better of the two scores will be taken as the final rating.

Officer Candidate Information

1. Candidates must be a Panther Pride member for the full school year prior to tryouts.
2. Candidates must have accumulated the required number of merits.
3. Candidates are not eligible if they have been placed on probation during the year or have received more than 20 demerits.
4. Candidates must have an overall B average, with no failing grades for the year.
5. Candidates cannot have received lower than an S in conduct from any teacher during the year.
6. Candidates may not have received any demerits for being disrespectful.
7. Candidates must be willing to stay after practice to do extra work whenever asked.
8. Candidates must be able to attend all summer camps in full.
9. As an officer you must be willing, for the unity of the team, to accept direction as well as direct others.
10. As an officer you must be willing to work closely with the directors and fellow officers.
11. As an officer you must support the directors and all decisions made.
12. As an officer you must uphold the organization's rules and help enforce them.
13. As a candidate and officer you must be willing to accept criticism and set the example for all Panther Pride members.

14. As an officer you must agree to hold privileged information in full confidentiality with the directors.

Financial Responsibilities

1. Each member must assume financial responsibility in the costs connected with JV Drill and Panther Pride.
2. Scholarships are available for those who qualify. A limited amount of scholarship money is available and not all scholarships are funded. Applications are available from the Principal of Student Activities and are due by the designated date.
3. All payment deadlines must be met or the member will be removed from the organization.
4. All fees must be paid with cash or money order. No personal or business checks will be accepted.
5. Fundraising conducted by the Pride Provider Booster Club allows members to raise money to help defray the cost.
6. For Panther Pride, upon selection, a \$200 deposit is required by May 3. A second payment will be due on May 20. Total fees must be paid in full by August 9.
7. Once the \$200 deposit is made your remaining bill will be divided in half. The first $\frac{1}{2}$ payment is due May 20 and the remaining balance is due August 9th. Scholarships will not be applied to your account until the August payment.
8. For JV Drill, upon selection, a \$300 deposit is due by May 3. The remaining balance is due on August 3.
9. If unforeseen circumstances occur causing a delay in payment, please contact the LHS Student Activities Director as soon as possible.

Honor Guard Selection

1. Honor guard shall be current senior students only.
2. Honor guard candidates shall complete and turn in the given application to the director by the specified date.
3. Honor guard candidates will have an interview with the Panther Pride Director and the Director of Student Activities.
4. Selection is made by the Panther Pride Director and the Director of Student Activities and will be announced on a designated day.
5. Honor guards must be passing all classes to be eligible for selection. Any candidate with three or more discipline referrals will not be eligible for selection.

Honor Guard Duties

1. Honor guard members must maintain passing grades (UIL) in order to participate.
2. Honor guard members are required to wear t-shirts and uniforms associated with Panther Pride and the estimated cost is \$100-150.
3. Honor guard members are required to carry equipment and load/unload the buses.
4. Honor guard members are to serve as official escorts for LHS and will represent our organization at various school functions.
5. Honor guard members will help with Christmas Spectacular and Spring Show.
6. Attendance is mandatory, as well as riding the bus home from football games.
7. Honor guard members may be released from their position due to poor conduct, attitude, grades, or violation of the LHS student handbook policies.
8. Directors and Administrators reserve the right to evaluate any situation and apply the appropriate action.

Manager Selection

1. Manager hopefuls must be incoming 10, 11, or 12 grade students for Panther Pride. Manager hopefuls may be incoming 9, 10, 11, or 12 grade students for JV Drill.
2. Selection shall be the decision of the Drill Team Director.
3. Manager hopefuls shall complete and turn in an application by the date designated.
4. Manager hopefuls must be passing all classes to be eligible.
5. Manager hopefuls cannot have received three or more disciplinary referrals.

Manager Duties

1. Wear required uniform on specified days with Panther Pride/JV Drill.
2. Abide by all rules set forth in this constitution.
3. Responsible for maintaining costumes, accessories and music, equipment.
4. Responsible for paperwork requested by the directors.
5. Responsible for keeping the drill team room and closets clean and organized.
6. Must maintain a good working relationship with directors.
7. Shall represent the organization in any function or school activity as well as participate in fundraisers.
8. Required to attend all drill team practices, performances, and other committed activities unless otherwise excused by director.
9. A manager may be released from her position due to poor conduct, attitude, excessive absences, and violation of the Constitution/Code of Conduct or accumulation of demerits.
10. Directors and administrators reserve the right to evaluate any situation and apply the appropriate action.

Pride Providers Booster Club

The booster club is established to support the LHS drill team program. Membership is open to all persons interested in supporting and encouraging the LHS drill team program. The organization will be guided by its established constitution and by-laws. The club will aid in fundraising and any activity deemed appropriate by the membership. It will work within the established rules and regulations set forth by LISD and UIL.

Merit and Demerit Program

1. Panther Pride and JV Drill use a merit and demerit system.
2. The following page lists infractions and possible number of demerits issued. This list is to be used as a guideline; demerits are issued at the discretion of the directors.
3. Accumulation of 10 demerits not offset by merits will result in probation as outlined above, 20 demerits for JV Drill.
4. Accumulation of 30 demerits not offset by merits will result in dismissal as outlined above.
5. Members may earn merits which may offset demerits.
6. Specific merit requirements are outlined to members at the beginning of the school year. Panther Pride/JV Drill may earn merits for school activities and involvement as well as motivational and team activities. Community service merits are also mandatory.
7. A member that does not earn the required number of merits will re-tryout.
8. A Panther Pride member that receives 40 or more demerits, regardless of merits, must re-tryout.

Code of Behavior-Demerits

Demerits Regarding Insubordination

1. Poor or dangerous conduct.....5
2. Unbecoming acts such as public displays of affection, hickeys, etc.....5-10
3. Use of profanity.....5
4. Talking during practice after a warning has been submitted.....3
5. Not obeying the officer's or director's commands.....5-10
6. Not standing at attention on the field at games.....5
7. Talking to the public during a performance activity.....3
8. Off task, not behaving in stands.....5-10
9. Disrespect toward Director (verbal or nonverbal).....10-30
10. Disrespect toward an Officer (verbal or nonverbal).....10-30
11. Disrespect toward fellow student.....5-10
12. Disrespect to any staff member.....5-10
13. Being placed in ISS per day.....10
14. Participating in a fight while at school or school activity.....30
15. Eating or drinking without permission.....5
16. Any infraction not specifically mentioned.....5-30

Demerits Regarding Practice

1. Failure to wear correct attire.....3
2. Not dressing out without permission or Dr note.....5-10
3. Lack of energy/effort.....5-10
4. Chewing gum.....3
5. Wearing jewelry.....3
6. Hair not pulled back.....3

Demerits Regarding Attendance

- 1. Unexcused absence from practice.....10
- 2. Leaving early without permission.....10
- 3. Late for roll call.....
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- 4. Absent without communicating even if excused.....10
- 5. Not being properly signed out.....10
- 6. Any infraction not specifically mentioned.....5-30

Demerits Regarding Uniform

- 1. Chewing gum.....
.....5
- 2. Eating or drinking without permission.....5
- 3. Wearing non-designated jewelry.....5
- 4. Colored nail polish.....
5
- 5. Messy or ripped uniform.....5
- 6. Messy hair or worn other than specified.....5
- 7. Failure to wear all items.....5
- 8. Failure to wear designated shirt or warm up.....3-5
- 9. Dirty boots at a performance.....5
- 10. Not wearing specified make-up.....5
- 11. Going out in public to socialize in any part of uniform when not with team.....5
- 12. Removing any piece of uniform in public.....5

As a Panther Pride/JV Drill Team member, I shall conduct myself in such a manner as to be a credit to the organization and school at all times. I will know and abide by the Constitution and Code of Conduct set forth in this handout. I will uphold the traditions and I will do everything in my power to promote the drill team as a respectable and hardworking organization, as well as its members, activities and interests.

Student Signature _____ Student ID _____

I have read the Panther Pride/JV Drill Code of Conduct and Constitution. I have discussed the rules and regulations of the Panther Pride/JV Drill organization with my daughter or legal dependent. I understand and agree to assist her in meeting all the requirements in association with the organization, as well as realize the disciplinary actions that may be taken upon my child or legal dependent should she fail to meet these requirements.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian _____
Date _____