

# **McAllen ISD High School Dance Team Constitution**



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*McAllen ISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, or disability in providing educational services, activities, and programs, including athletic programs in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act.*

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# **McAllen Independent School District**

## **High School DANCE TEAM CONSTITUTION**

This McAllen ISD Dance Team Constitution outlines standards of eligibility and procedure for all McAllen ISD High School Dance Team candidates and standards of conduct and behavior to which all McAllen ISD High School Dance Team members are expected to adhere as representatives of their student body and of the McAllen ISD. Acceptance of a candidate to a McAllen ISD High School Dance Team program or removal there from, shall be in accordance with this Constitution on the basis of ability, skill, presentation, or any other basis set forth, but shall not be on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, or pregnancy.

### **Preamble**

The following articles have been developed with the advice and consent of the campus dance team directors for the purpose of communicating the standards of eligibility and procedure which all candidates must meet to be eligible for try-outs and for the purpose of articulating the standards of conduct and behavior to which all McAllen ISD High School Dance Team members are expected to adhere as a condition of participation in dance team activities. Participation in extracurricular activities, including dance team activities, is a privilege, not a right, and student participants will be held to higher standards than students who choose not to participate in extracurricular activities. Failure to comply with the standards of conduct and behavior outlined in this Dance Team Constitution may subject the member to disciplinary action, up to and including removal from the squad, in addition to any consequences imposed in accordance with the McAllen ISD Student Code of Conduct.

This document may be amended at any time and does not limit a director's ability to make decisions pertaining to his or her program, consistent with the guidelines set forth herein.

### **Article I - Mission Statement**

The purpose of the McAllen ISD Dance Team programs shall be to promote and encourage team spirit, to foster fellowship and sportsmanship by example, and to engender enthusiasm and loyalty to team and school and to promote the art of dance. Members shall lead by example; shall exhibit exemplary 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 McAllen ISD.

### **Article II - Candidate Eligibility**

- 2.1** A dance team candidate should be a resident of the McAllen ISD or enrolled in McAllen ISD for the upcoming school year; however, if a candidate fails to meet the eligibility, deposits and expenses occurred will be non-refundable.
- 2.2** A dance team candidate must have passed every class with a 70 or above for the six-weeks grading period prior to tryouts. One grade of a 65-69 in an approved advanced class is acceptable if waived by the administration. Students who do not meet the above stated criteria will still be allowed to tryout if the grades for the previous grading periods (1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> six-weeks) average a 70 or above for each class in question. A student with disabilities must meet the

standards in his or her IEP at the time of try-outs for purposes of academic eligibility for try-outs.

- 2.3** A dance team candidate who has resigned or been removed from his or her squad in McAllen ISD or in any other district may not try-out in subsequent years.
- 2.4** All candidates must demonstrate exemplary attendance, behavior, and citizenship habits. Candidates must not have had more than nine absences (excused or unexcused) during the fall semester for any one class. During the spring semester, a candidate must not have more than four absences (excused or unexcused) for any one class prior to try-outs. Exceptions will be considered only if caused by circumstances clearly beyond the control of the candidate. All exceptions must be approved by the dance director and the principal.
- 2.5** Candidates must not have been suspended (excluding in-school suspension), assigned to an A.E.P., D.A.E.P., or expelled at any time during the current school year regardless of the school district or location to be eligible for try-outs.
- 2.6** A candidate who has been dismissed from a school organization for disciplinary reasons during the current school year is ineligible to try-out.
- 2.7** All candidates must be in good financial standing with the McAllen ISD. Candidates who have outstanding balances, including but not limited to fines for lost or damaged textbooks, library fees, late fees, lost or damaged uniforms, or other extracurricular fees, will not be eligible for try-outs.
- 2.8** All candidates must be medically fit to participate in dance team activities, as certified by a medical doctor. A medical history and physical examination form provided by the dance director and completed by a medical doctor possessing a current Texas medical license verifying that the candidate is in good physical condition and is able to engage in vigorous physical activity must be submitted. Furthermore, a candidate with a medical condition that may limit activities or with a prior injury must submit a written doctor's release/approval for participation.
- 2.9** Candidates must complete all requirements for try-out **prior** to try-outs, including but not limited to timely submission of application, timely submission of all required forms, and attendance at all required meetings, practice sessions or clinics as specified by the campus try-out packet. Any candidate failing to complete all try-out requirements who is otherwise eligible for try-outs will **not** be allowed to try-out, unless extenuating circumstances exist such as a death in the family or serious illness. An absence from school on the day requirements are to be completed, either excused or unexcused, does not constitute an extenuating circumstance.
- 2.10** All candidates and their parent or guardian must attend the mandatory orientation meeting(s) for their program to be eligible for try-outs. However, if unable to attend, a parent or guardian may designate, in writing, another responsible adult as a proxy to attend the meeting in his or her place. Failure of the parent, guardian, or proxy to attend the mandatory orientation meeting(s) will result in the candidate being ineligible for try-outs.
- 2.11** Any transfer student who has already been selected as a member of another high school dance team may audition for the MISD High School Dance Team Director for an opportunity to become a member of that school's Dance Team. The HS Dance Director will determine, via audition, if the transfer student will become a member of the HS Dance Team.

## **Article III - Try-out Procedures and Selection of Officers**

### **Try-out Procedures**

- 3.1** Try-outs shall be held during the spring semester prior to the school year to which the try-outs apply, preferably during the fifth six weeks. The director is responsible for organizing and administering the try-out.
- 3.2** A panel consisting of three neutral, outside judges will adjudicate the try-out. Judges are selected by the director and approved by the principal. Judges cannot be affiliated with the school district, the school, or the candidates.
- 3.3** Candidates may not try out at more than one school.
- 3.4** The try-out date and location shall be selected by the director with the principal's approval.
- 3.5** The try-out area shall be restricted to candidates, judges, director, principal or designee, and any other personnel which the director deems essential to properly administer the try-out.
- 3.6** The director shall specify the dress code.
- 3.7** Candidates shall be identified by letter or number only.
- 3.8** Videotaping is prohibited.
- 3.9** Candidates may be recalled to perform routines during the try-out.
- 3.10** If a candidate is injured at the time of tryouts, it will be at the directors and principal's discretion whether to allow an alternative tryout opportunity.
- 3.11** At least two tabulators shall process the judges' scores and shall give the result to the director for posting. One of the tabulators may be the principal or designee. The judges' decision is final except in the case of a mechanical error in the tally.
- 3.12** Results shall be posted as soon after try-outs as possible but not until both director and principal/designee determine that they are error-free.
- 3.13** The following point system shall be used in the line try-out: Judge #1 – 50 possible points, Judge #2 – 50 possible points, Judge #3 – 50 possible points, for a maximum total of 150 points per candidate.

### **Selection of Officers**

Each campus dance team may select between 3 and 5 officers depending on the size of the squad. Officer ranks, grade level specified on SKYWARD, selection criteria, and responsibilities will be established by each campus director and outlined in the campus dance team handbook. Officer candidates must have at least one year experience on the dance team.

## **Article IV - Candidate Membership and Expectations Candidate Expectations**

- 4.1** Candidates should understand that acceptance into the McAllen ISD High School Dance Team program is a privilege. Dance team members represent to the community and the public not only themselves, but their student body and the McAllen ISD and should uphold the highest moral standards.
- 4.2** Candidates should display exemplary qualities of character. Candidates should be responsible, honest, reliable, dependable, cooperative, dedicated, and loyal.
- 4.3** Candidates should be enthusiastic, self-disciplined, willing to learn, and prepared to practice to improve their performance and the performance of the squad.

- 4.4** Candidates who are accepted for membership should understand that the schedule of a dance team member will require a large time commitment and that members will be expected to put dance team above participation in all other organizations or other nonacademic activities, including after-school or weekend jobs. Conflicts with other sports or UIL competitions will be resolved between the coaches or teachers with consideration given to the best interests of the student and both programs. Every effort should be made to allow the student to participate in both events if possible.

## **Candidate Membership**

Membership in the McAllen ISD High School Dance Team programs is from the date of try-outs to the last day of school the following school year. Members must be enrolled in a McAllen ISD school. Membership numbers are subject to change based upon drastic drop-off rates or gaps between the resulting high, middle, and low scores, provided that any such change in numbers shall be approved by the director and the assigned administrator. Membership may be terminated at any time for failure to comply with the standards of conduct and procedure outlined herein.

Grade classifications named below are for the year following try-outs and shall be determined according to official school records.

In the event a member is removed, withdraws from school, or quits the squad prior to the end of the school year it will be at the discretion of the director and the principal whether the member will be replaced on the squad from the next qualifying candidate of the try-out pool. Consideration should be given to the time of year, the need of the squad and the appropriateness of the candidate in determining whether a member should be replaced.

## **Article V - Expectations for Members**

- 5.1** All members of the Dance Team must be enrolled in the Dance Team Class during the day to remain as members of the Dance Team.
- 5.2** Members shall be on time and prepared for all dance team activities. Members should be dressed in the required uniform prior to the start of the activity.
- 5.3** Members shall be neatly presented in appearance, with hair neatly groomed and pulled back from face. There will not be a requirement that greatly effects the natural texture of the members hair.
- 5.3** Members shall attend and perform all required duties at all practices, games, events, or functions, including any required camp or competition.
- 5.4** Members shall maintain their eligibility status under No Pass, No Play Rules. Members must maintain a grade of 70 or above in all classes, other than an identified honors or advanced class, to be eligible to participate. Members with disabilities must meet the standards in their IEP to be eligible to participate.
- 5.5** Members shall comply with all district disciplinary rules in accordance with the McAllen ISD Student Code of Conduct.
- 5.6** Members shall comply with all TEA-UIL Side by Side Guidelines for Dance Teams.
- 5.7** Members should be enthusiastic, self-disciplined, willing to learn, and be physically and mentally prepared for practice and performances.

- 5.8** Members shall comply with all rules and regulations outlined in their Program Handbook. Program Handbooks will specify in further detail, consequences for failure to comply with any of the above expectations. Consequences for failure to comply may include any, or a combination of the following: demerits, a bar from participation in the next scheduled function, probationary status, removal from the squad.
- 5.9** Members are responsible for the care and upkeep of their district issued uniform(s). District issued uniforms must be returned cleaned and undamaged at the end of each school year. Members who resign or are removed from the dance team are responsible for returning their district provided uniform(s) to the dance coach immediately following their removal from the squad. Members will be held financially responsible for lost or damaged uniforms.

## **Article VI – Financial Obligations**

- 6.1** Members are responsible for **ALL** financial obligations that membership will require.
- 6.2** If a student ceases to be a member of the organization whether it is voluntary or involuntary, the student is still responsible for **ALL** financial obligations. This would include any payments that are still due. There will be NO refunds for items/camps/etc. that have already been paid for.

## **Article VII - Senior Award Jackets**

- 7.1** Senior award jackets are earned through satisfactory participation in performing arts organizations. Jackets, complete with the organizational letter, are funded by MISD. Additional items such as patches, bars or lettering must be purchased by the student.
- 7.2** Only one jacket per student is allowed. Students may not receive an award jacket in more than one activity. Students who qualify for an award jacket in another sport or activity may receive the letter only.
- 7.3** Senior Award Jacket Eligibility: A minimum of two years' prior membership in a single fine arts discipline and enrollment for the candidate's senior year is required to qualify for a fine arts senior award jacket. However, based on a recommendation of the Dance Director, a dance team member may still qualify for a fine arts senior award jacket if he or she has a minimum of one-year prior membership, enrollment for the candidate's senior year, and has gone well above the minimal standards of membership the previous year.
- 7.4** Candidates must complete an application and be approved by the Dance Team Director.

## **Article VIII - Standards for Member Removal**

Due to the high level of visibility of dance team members, members are expected to demonstrate leadership, honor, and integrity both in and out of uniform. Because acceptance into the McAllen ISD Dance Team program is a privilege, not a right, members will be held to higher standards than those imposed on the general student body. Members may incur disciplinary consequences for behavior that does not constitute a violation of the McAllen ISD Student Code of Conduct, and may also incur disciplinary consequences from both the appropriate administrator and his or her director for conduct that does constitute a violation of the McAllen ISD Student Code of Conduct.

Members must comply with all standards of conduct outlined below, in addition to the standards of conduct and behavior outlined in the McAllen ISD Student Code of Conduct. Members will be subject to the standards of conduct outlined herein **at all times while attending school or school sponsored activities** regardless of when or where the conduct occurs, whether on or off school property and whether or not school is in session. Failure to comply with the standards of conduct may result in disciplinary action against the member, **up to and including removal from the squad.**

- 8.1** Members shall not engage in inappropriate behavior, including but not limited to inappropriate sexual contact, fighting, public intoxication, possession or consumption of alcohol or illegal drugs, or other criminal activity excluding minor traffic offenses.
- 8.2** Members shall not engage in behavior that warrants suspension from school, removal to DAEP, or expulsion from school. Members who have been suspended from school at least two times, removed to DAEP, or expelled from school shall be removed from the squad for the remainder of the year.
- 8.3** Members may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including removal from the squad, for any other behavior which the director deems inappropriate, including but not limited to unsportsmanlike conduct, insubordination, or lewd or profane behavior.
- 8.4** If a student is removed from the squad, they are still responsible for all financial obligations.

## **Internet/Website/Social Media/Cell Phone Usage**

Any member who utilizes the internet or a cell phone in a manner deemed to be bullying, harassing or defaming about **anyone** is subject to disciplinary consequences on their school campus and within their dance team and may be removed from the team. Any member who takes or obtains a photograph/video displaying themselves or others in an inappropriate manner and posts it on the internet, a social networking site, distributes or shares the picture/video through email/text/picture message is subject to disciplinary consequences on their school campus and within their dance team and may be removed from the team.

## **Insurance**

**McAllen ISD does not provide insurance coverage for the dance team. Each student/parent is required to provide personal insurance. It is recommended that they purchase the insurance offered through the school on their own.**