

# SHORTHORN BELLE DANCE

and

# DRILL TEAM



## CONTENTS

ARTICLE I	Organization	page 2
ARTICLE II	Eligibility	page 2 - 3
ARTICLE III	Attendance	page 3
ARTICLE IV	Uniforms	page 3
ARTICLE V	Medical	page 4
ARTICLE VI	Character	page 4
ARTICLE VII	Demerit System	page 4 - 6
ARTICLE VIII	Team Officers	page 6 - 7
ARTICLE IX	Game Requirements	page 7
ARTICLE X	Camp & Summer Practice	page 8
ARTICLE XI	Fundraising	page 8
ARTICLE XII	Lettering	page 8
ARTICLE XIII	Civility	page 8
	Constitution Contract	page 10

## **Schulenburg High School Drill and Dance Team Constitution**

### **ARTICLE I Organization**

- A. This constitution has been written and adopted for the Schulenburg High School Drill and Dance Team. The team and its constitution are governed by Schulenburg ISD and the Belles members.
- B. Henceforth, the name of the organization shall be Schulenburg Belles.
- C. The purpose of the Belles is to:
  - 1. Support and represent the school by participation at various school and community functions.
  - 2. Increase and develop character, scholarship, leadership, individual responsibility, and maintain high moral character.
  - 3. Develop and maintain a high standard of precision dance and drill to be performed at school functions approved by the director and administration. ABSOLUTELY NO “suggestive” dance will be incorporated in this organization’s routines.
  - 4. To promote school spirit and sportsmanship.
- D. A director(s) will be responsible for running daily activities of the Belles including:
  - 1. Administering all disciplinary procedures.
  - 2. Making final decisions on any routines, uniforms, or other decisions about the team.

### **ARTICLE II Eligibility**

- A. Each member must follow UIL & TEA guidelines.
  - 1. It is the practice of Schulenburg Independent School district to utilize the UIL guidelines to regulate and govern the drill and dance team program with regard to no pass/no play, eight-hour practice limitations, and all other applicable regulations. The drill team will follow the eligibility requirements as outlined by the TEA and UIL.
- B. Each member must submit a completed application form/packet and Parental Consent form **BEFORE** tryouts.
- C. The team shall consist of a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 30 team members.
  - 1. If there are less than 10 members elected for Belles, the team will not be able to hire an outside dance camp for the summer and will have to hold their own here at SISD. If less than 7 students make the team, the students will need permission from the principal and the superintendent to continue. If the decision is “no” the team will be disbanded until the following year's tryouts.
- D. There will be no more than 4 Team officers.
- E. Candidates must be entering grades nine (9) through twelve (12).
- F. Students must disclose all medical conditions that may affect the safety of themselves or others on the team. All such information will be confidential and maintained in accordance with the Schulenburg ISD Board Policies.
- G. Candidates and their families must agree to and be fully aware of the financial responsibilities associated with becoming a Belle and meet all financial obligations throughout the year. (\$200-\$400 yearly estimate) Invoices should be paid in full before the end of the current school year or a payment arrangement made with the sponsor/office.
- H. Members who have been dismissed or resigned from the previous year must have permission from the director and principal to try out.

- I. If a student transfers to Schulenburg ISD after tryouts and was in a similar organization, will have an opportunity to be accepted into the belles if:
  - 1. All spots are not previously filled
  - 2. Comply with all UIL and TEA guidelines

### **ARTICLE III**

#### **Attendance**

- A. All members are expected to attend and participate in all activities, performances, and functions in their entirety unless excused due to other school competitions/UIL events, medical notes, or other emergency. Sponsor(s) should be notified of TARDINESS or ABSENCE.
- B. All students who participate in school activities are required to be in attendance for 4 class periods on a performance day.
- C. If you will be absent:
  - 1. Notify the DIRECTOR(S) either by phone or in person, in advance.
  - 2. When the member returns, they must provide the director with a note from their parents explaining the absence. The parent note does not excuse absence, but is used for documentation and event eligibility.
- D. All members are required to attend practices whether they are performing that week or not.
- E. Band Practices- All members are required to attend practices with the band whenever the director schedules such practices.
- F. Special Practices- Any special practices held on Saturday or holidays, scheduled by the director(s) and approved by the administration, must be attended by all members, unless special permission for an absence is granted by the director(s).
- G. Unexcused Absences- Absences from ANY team activity are unexcused except for the following circumstances.
  - 1. Personal illness or accident.
  - 2. Funeral or death in the family.
  - 3. Schulenburg ISD competition events where the student is a participant.
- H. Practice begins promptly at the stated practice time. This means you should be stretched and ready to go at a given time, not stretching at assigned time. (Please show-up 10 minutes early to stretch.)
- I. **WORK** is not considered an excuse for missing any activity.
- J. **PERFORMANCES** – It is expected that each drill/dance team member realize that to attain championship performance standards the following conditions must be met:
  - 1. Tryouts will be held for all performances. The tryouts will usually be on Wednesdays and each Belle will be given one try.
  - 2. If a member does not make a routine, they are still required to attend all practices during that week. If they fail to attend any practices for an unexcused reason, they will NOT be able to perform at the pep rally the following week.

### **ARTICLE IV**

#### **Uniforms**

- A. Uniforms to be worn at the pep rally and game will be chosen by the officers, with the director(s) having final say. No arguing will be tolerated after the final decision is made.
- B. While at practice, performance, or competitions, members will wear the assigned uniform.
- C. Each member must agree to purchase the required uniforms including footwear and accessories such as makeup, ribbons, tights, etc.
- D. Each member will be required to maintain good condition and cleanliness of their uniform on a weekly basis.

- E. It is the duty of each member to know which uniform is required and to wear it properly. Each member is responsible for their own uniform, footwear, poms, etc. and will not perform when not in complete uniform and will receive the appropriate disciplinary action.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **Medical**

- A. Each member must have a complete physical exam before summer camp.
- B. A copy of the school medical form can be obtained by the director(s).
- C. A member must have completed the medical emergency form.
- D. Members must be physically able to participate in long periods of vigorous activity without undue fatigue or injury.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **Character**

- A. Since participating in extracurricular activities is a privilege and not a right, Schulenburg ISD is authorized to set higher standards for participants of extracurricular activities than for students who do not participate in extracurricular activities.
- B. A member is expected to exhibit a good attitude at all times and should not take part in or encourage complaining, griping, or "bad mouthing" the drill/dance team, director, peers, other organizations, school personnel or visiting teams.
- C. Members must follow the Schulenburg ISD Student Code of Conduct and the constitution and rules for the Drill and Dance Team.
- D. Members should be leaders within the school and set a good example at all times.
- E. Members must be respectful to the director(s).
- F. Members should not engage in inappropriate messaging, dialogue, use of content (pictures, labels, etc.) on any social networking site, email or texting and must sign the Schulenburg ISD social media agreement.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **Demerit System**

- A. Demerits will be used as a disciplinary tool.
- B. Demerits will be given **ONLY** by the director(s) at any school or drill team activity or function.
- C. Demerits will begin with the first official meeting after tryouts and will last until tryouts the following year.
- D. When a member accumulates 10 demerits the member will be placed on suspension for one week.
- E. An accumulation of 6 or more demerits within one week will result in suspension for that week.
- F. A record of demerits will be kept by the director(s).
- G. Each member is responsible for checking and knowing their demerits at all times.
- H. Demerits may be worked off in two ways:
  - 1. A service to the team, to be determined by the director(s).
  - 2. The dancer may run two laps around the track to receive half a demerit credit or a mile for one demerit credit. See the director(s) for work off days.
- I. Demerits can be given for the following:

ATTENDANCE	DEMERITS

Late to practice (More than 5 minutes)	2
Unexcused absence from practice	5
Unexcused absence from performance	10
Not calling ahead when going to be late	2
Not calling ahead when going to be absent	5
<b>UNIFORMS</b>	
Failing to bring items to practice	1 per item
Not having a clean uniform	2
Not wearing proper accessories/undergarments	1 per item
Lending uniform, sweats, t-shirts, or jackets to non-dance team members	5 per item
Attending a Belles event out of uniform and/or separate from team	5
<b>CONDUCT</b>	
Talking at inappropriate times	1
Not following instructions while in stands of formation	1
Use of cell phones or having cell phones out without permission	2
Chewing gum while in uniform	1
Eating or drinking while in uniform without permission	2
Disrespecting an officer or fellow member	3
Receiving a lunch detention	1 per detention
Insubordination or disrespect to director(s) or SISD staff	Discretion of director(s)
Office referral resulting in further discipline	Discretion of director(s)  Member will be ineligible to perform that week.

Non-Compliance with dance team rules and expectations while at school or in uniform	10
Any infraction not listed above	Discretion of director(s)

- J. Members can be **terminated or suspended** from the team for the following:
1. Use of drugs. Under NO circumstances will this be tolerated.
  2. Smoking or alcohol use while in uniform.
  3. Failure to meet conduct requirements set in the constitution.
  4. Any member's pregnancy will result in termination.
  5. Demerits as defined further in the constitution after consultation with the director(s).
  6. Truancy, suspension, ISS or DAEP. This will be reviewed by the director(s)
  7. Failure to meet the grade requirements set forth in this constitution. A member who is placed on grade probation for two consecutive 9-week periods for the same class is automatically dismissed for the remainder of the year.
  8. Missing multiple practices, performance or functions. (dismissed with 3 unexcused absences.)
  9. Any member who receives an MIP/MIC will be suspended from the team for the 1st offense and for a 2nd offense will be terminated.

A note or statement of membership termination, which specifies the general reason for leaving, must be signed by both the member and a parent/guardian.

- K. Once terminated the member must turn in all uniforms or other Belles team property and clear any outstanding balance within 30 days of termination.

## ARTICLE VIII Team Officers

- A. Officers for the Belles will be as follows:
1. Captain or Co-Captains
  2. First Lieutenant or Co-Lieutenants
  3. Second Lieutenant (optional)
  4. Third Lieutenant (optional)
- B. Officer Requirements:
1. Applicants must have been a member of the drill/dance team for at least one year prior to running for office.
  2. Each officer candidate must meet all academic and discipline requirements.
  3. Each officer candidate must attend any workouts scheduled for officer tryouts and will prepare all material requested in advance.
  4. Candidates for captain must have one year of drill/dance team experience and be a Senior with the highest score. If no Senior is eligible, a Junior with the highest score will be selected.
  5. All other officers will be of either Sophomore, Junior, or Senior classification.
  6. Officer tryouts will be held in conjunction with team tryouts.
  7. The director(s) will keep a record of the number of points received by each candidate in case of dismissal of a regular officer. The candidate receiving the next highest number of points may be asked to replace the officer at the discretion of the director(s).

## C. Duties of the officers:

1. All officers are required to explicitly follow the constitution.
  - a. Officers must attend all practices unless participating in another SISD competition event. (ie – Band, Athletics, FFA)
2. Any officer may be relieved of their office and their duties because of excessive absences, attitude, or for not performing their duties to the fullest.
  - a. If an officer accumulates 10 demerits, they will be relieved of their officer duties and become a line member.
3. Any officer placed on grade probation will return to the line as a line member if eligibility is not regained during the next 3-week period.
4. Duties of Captain:
  - a. The captain will be completely in charge of the activities, coordination and organization of the team under the direction of the director(s)
  - b. All other officers will report to the captain.
  - c. The captain will perform all duties assigned by the director(s).
5. Duties of Lieutenants:
  - a. The First Lt. will be directly responsible for the activities and organization of the team under the direction of the captain and director.
  - b. The First Lt. is responsible for ALL MUSIC used for pep rallies and practice.
  - c. Lieutenants will assist the Captain in any way possible and will take place in case of absence or emergency.
  - d. The Second Lieutenants will be responsible for all props used in performances and practices.
  - e. Lieutenants will perform all duties assigned by the director(s).
6. Duties of All Officers:
  - a. All officers are required to report to practice 10 minutes before line members so that the details of the day's practice can be discussed with other officers and director(s).
  - b. Officers are responsible for the following:
    - i. Roll
    - ii. Maintaining Discipline
    - iii. Uniform check
    - iv. Make-Up check
    - v. Providing instruction on routines
    - vi. Recording music

## ARTICLE IX

### Game Requirements

## A. Football Game Rules

1. Each member will attend all games.
2. NO FOOD will be allowed in the stands unless director(s) permits it during 3<sup>rd</sup> QTR only.
3. Each member will report to their assigned seat and remain there for the entire game.
4. No member is excused to sit with relatives, boyfriends, or friends.
5. No non-members are allowed to sit in the Belles section of the stands.
6. No member is excused to leave the game early unless given permission by director(s).
7. Each member is expected to follow officers and cheerleaders in all yells and routines.
8. NO CELL PHONES or electronic devices are allowed in the stands unless given permission.
9. If ANY part of the uniform is missing, a member will not be allowed to perform.
10. All members must keep their lines straight while standing or sitting.



11. Members may not chew gum.
12. When the members leave the stands they must move to their positions in an orderly and quiet manner. **DO NOT TALK.**
13. No purses or anything else in the stands except Belles' props or bags.
14. Members must maintain the dignity of a Belle when taking their break during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.

#### **ARTICLE X**

##### **Camp and Summer Practices**

- A. All members are REQUIRED to attend camp with the entire team. This is not negotiable.
- B. All members are required to attend MANDATORY summer practices and workouts to prepare for the season.
- C. Only excused absences accepted during this time are for mandatory summer school for grade classification. This does not include elected summer school attendance. For any conflicts please see Director(s).
- D. Any member who has an unexcused absence during summer practice/workouts will be benched one game for each day the member is absent. More than 2 days of absence will terminate a Belle's position with the team.

#### **ARTICLE XI**

##### **Fundraising**

- A. All members are required to participate in all fund-raising and will share equal responsibility with their team members.

#### **ARTICLE XII**

##### **Lettering**

- A. Qualifications for letter jacket:
  1. Must be a current Belle
  2. Must have been a Belle the previous year.
  3. Belles jackets will be ordered after a member has tried out and made the team for the following year. Orders will be placed in the spring for members to receive the jackets before the fall season. The member must make their summer camp deposit in order for their name to be submitted.

#### **ARTICLE XIII**

##### **Civility**

- A. Parents are partners with the school and are expected to support the drill/dance program, team members, and director(s) through attending performances, meeting financial obligations, and assisting in fundraising. Mutual respect is imperative, and lack of civility will not be tolerated. Individuals who speak in a demanding, loud, insulting or demeaning manner, or otherwise disrupt operations, will be directed to leave the school or District property. If you have an issue please schedule an appointment to meet with the director(s).
- B. **Anything not covered in the constitution above is at the discretion of the Director(s) and SISD Administration.**



## Schulenburg High School Belles Parent/Student Constitution Contract

Your child has been selected as a member of the Schulenburg High School Belles Drill and Dance Team. The Belles organization is a very demanding job requiring time, skill, organization, dedication and leadership. It is very important to have your support in this endeavor. Also, as a parent, we ask that you participate in ALL fundraising activities.

Please read through this constitution with your child and return this form with the requested signatures and initials. A copy will be returned to your child. All rules will be strictly adhered.

### PARENT AND BELLE PLEDGE

We have read the constitution and agree to abide by all of the rules and regulations set forth. Also, as a parent(s), we will support the team, the Director(S), and SISD Administration in all activities and decisions. We do realize that we will be asked to help 20011 with the fundraising and other activities vital to making this team a success.

Belle's Printed Name	Belle's Signature	Date
Parent's Printed Name	Parent's Signature	Date
Parent's Printed Name	Parent's Signature	Date
Director's Printed Name	Director's Signature	Date