



Spirit Organization Member Guidelines

2020-2021

Mission Statement:

The spirit groups of Comal ISD are committed to creating, promoting and supporting school spirit while providing growth in dance and athletic skills. Membership and participation in the spirit organization provide opportunities for performance experience and leadership.

Overview of Programs:

Spirit groups include middle school and high school dance and cheer teams, including school mascots.

Helpful Links:

Dance Website: [Comal ISD Dance Website](https://www.comalisd.org/apps/pages/dance) <https://www.comalisd.org/apps/pages/dance>
Cheer Website: [Comal ISD Athletics Website](https://www.comalisd.org/apps/pages/athletics) <https://www.comalisd.org/apps/pages/athletics>
UIL Cheer Website: <https://www.uiltexas.org/spirit> <https://www.uiltexas.org/spirit>
TDEA Website: [Texas Dance Educators Association](http://www.tdea.org/) <http://www.tdea.org/>
Volunteer Information: Parent and family volunteers help make these organizations run smoothly. Please complete the form online at: [CISD Volunteer Website with Link to Form](https://www.comalisd.org/apps/pages/volunteer_information)
https://www.comalisd.org/apps/pages/volunteer_information
Tickets: Sport events have an online ticketing option at our [Comal ISD Athletics Website](https://comal-isd.brushfire.com/).
<https://comal-isd.brushfire.com/>
[Local Board Policy](https://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Code/326?filter=FM) <https://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Code/326?filter=FM>
[CISD Student Handbook](https://4.files.edl.io/348c/07/02/19/125814-87271b68-5e81-4b34-b200-dcc050a56d53.pdf) <https://4.files.edl.io/348c/07/02/19/125814-87271b68-5e81-4b34-b200-dcc050a56d53.pdf> (This includes Appendix C Extra Curricular Code of Conduct)
[CISD Student Code of Conduct, Appendix B](https://4.files.edl.io/1302/11/11/19/141425-f385f7de-6b88-4aa4-83cb-5e4cb86ef13f.pdf) <https://4.files.edl.io/1302/11/11/19/141425-f385f7de-6b88-4aa4-83cb-5e4cb86ef13f.pdf>

Eligibility: Participants selected to represent a CISD school extracurricular program, agree by signature of parent and student, to comply with the behavior guidelines as set forth in the CISD Student Code of Conduct, Extracurricular Student Activities Code of Conduct, and the individual extracurricular program codes of conduct. (Appendix C of Parent Student Handbook)

All Spirit participants are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic achievement. UIL policy mandates that any student who has a failing grade after the first (6) weeks of school, or any regular grading period after that point, loses eligibility to participate in extracurricular activities for a minimum of three weeks. They may resume participation if they are passing all classes after the three-week progress report (plus grace period) issued after the failing grading period. If the student is not passing all classes after three weeks, they must wait to regain eligibility for another three weeks. An eligibility calendar is available at the beginning of every school year with specific dates.

Financial responsibility for spirit participants is expected to be paid by participant, their parent, or guardian. For example: uniform, camp, practice attire, etc. Full payment of participation fees must be received by the director's specified date to be disclosed as part of the try out paperwork.

Grade Level Eligibility:

- Middle school spirit organizations can be seventh or eighth grade students.
- High school varsity teams can be freshmen through twelfth grade students.
- JV teams can be freshmen through twelfth grade students.
- Freshmen teams can be ninth grade only.

Some campuses may choose their varsity teams to not allow freshmen, with JV or freshmen teams as an option.

Tryout Procedures:

Tryout meeting:

At least one week prior to tryouts, all interested candidates and a parent/guardian will be required to attend a mandatory tryout meeting. A Tryout packet will be distributed at this meeting. It will include a tryout eligibility rubric, specific team handbooks, tentative schedules, projected costs with due dates for fees. Each candidate and a parent/guardian will sign and return the tryout packet, spirit handbook and team handbook. **Failure to attend the meeting or return the paperwork by the deadline which is prior to tryouts will result in ineligibility to tryout.**

Tryout Process:

Tryout procedures and the calendar for the various extracurricular activities are determined by the individual activity directors in partnership with CISD guidelines. Dates vary for each program tryouts. The tryouts are closed events; there are no spectators. Candidates are eligible to tryout regardless of report card eligibility; however, if a candidate is ineligible according to UIL guidelines on the day of tryouts and makes the squad, then the member will receive one probation point to start the year due to the ineligibility. Upon completion of the tryout procedure for the extracurricular activity, the sponsor will notify all participants of their membership status. The results of tryout procedures are final and cannot be appealed.

If a parent wishes to view his/her student's individual tryout documents, the parent may pick up a copy from the officiating administrator one week after tryouts where proof of identity can be verified. They may also make an appointment with the officiating administrator if desired during this same week. Parents are allowed to view only their student's individual documents. **Parents are not allowed to view any other student's documents, nor the tally sheets. Break points will not be discussed.**

(Appendix C of Parent Student Handbook)

General Rules of Conduct and Student Expectations:

Students who participate in extracurricular activities shall:

- Show respect for CISD officials and staff;
- Participate in every practice, competition, performance, game, tournament, and event required by the coach/director, unless the coach/director has granted an excused absence;
- Arrive promptly, properly attired, for every practice, competition, game, tournament, etc., unless the coach/director has granted an excused absence/tardy;
- Adhere to the grooming standards established by the individual activity sponsor's code of conduct.

- Demonstrate a sportsmanlike behavior;
- Demonstrate a positive attitude;
- Be polite to others.
- Exemplify honesty in all school work;
- Maintain good conduct in their classes.
- Demonstrate appropriate behavior while engaged in school-related travel, any school activity, on or off campus.
- Expect to be held accountable for actions and behavior that may not necessarily take place at school or a school related activity to include social media.

Students who receive poor conduct reports in class may also be subject to suspension or dismissal from extracurricular activities.

Attendance and Tardies: Students engaged in extracurricular activities are expected to participate in all practices, performances, competitions, games, tournaments, and other events identified by the coach/director. The coach/director will communicate a schedule for the season at the beginning of the program activity; however, the coach/director has the discretion to modify the schedule as needed.

Student Travel: Transportation to out of district events will be provided by the school district. Members are required to ride to and from games/functions/activities in the provided transportation. An exception can be made by the coach/director or administration with the written request from the parent to release the student to the parent or to another adult designated by the parent. All adults on trips will serve as sponsors when traveling with a group. Students will be expected to treat them with respect at all times.

All members are required to attend assigned camp and all pre-camp/summer practices. Probation points will be acquired at coach's discretion for missed events, which could lead to dismissal. Teams will participate in local, state and national competition events. Students who represent Comal ISD Spirit Programs are expected to maintain very high standards in every respect at all times.

In the event of overnight trips, they are expected to be in their rooms at the times designated by their sponsors. Each student will be responsible to one or more faculty sponsors who will supervise the activities of the student for the trip. Negligence in attending sessions, in meeting curfew requirements, or in failing to maintain our standards of conduct may make it necessary for the sponsor to send the student home at his/her own expense.

Students who are involved in a serious disciplinary offense, such as the use, possession of, or being under the influence of illicit drugs, tobacco, or alcohol, stealing, violence, going in the room of a member of the opposite sex, or some other serious offense will face disciplinary action which may include one or more of the following:

1. The student will be sent home from the trip at the parents' expense.
2. The student will be held liable for damages to property.
3. The student may be removed from this school activity as well as other school co-curricular activities.

4. The student may be placed in In-School-Suspension (ISS), Off-Campus-Suspension, or Alternative Education Placement.

Extra- Curricular Activity Conflicts: Activities Sponsored by CISD: In the case of a conflict between CISD sponsored student activities, extracurricular or otherwise, coaches/directors will work together to accommodate the student to participate in all activities to the extent possible. UIL and other CISD sponsored performances, games, or competitions will take precedence over clinics and/or practices. Students involved in multiple CISD sponsored activities shall not be penalized by a grade reduction or limitation on further participation based upon such a conflict. (Appendix C Parent Student Handbook)

Activities Sponsored by Outside Organizations: In the case of a conflict between CISD-sponsored student activities and student activities sponsored by outside organizations, UIL and other CISD sponsored performances, games, competition, clinics and/or practices will take precedence over the activity sponsored by the outside organization. Absences or tardies to CISD extracurricular activities due to schedule conflicts with activities sponsored by outside organizations will be unexcused. Consequences for unexcused absences or tardies due to participation in outside organizations will be at the discretion of the CISD coach/director. (Appendix C Parent Student Handbook)

Extra- Curricular Absences in a School Year:

A student shall be allowed in a school year a maximum of ten extracurricular absences not related to post-district competition; however, a student shall be allowed unlimited absences for participation in post-district, state, or national competition. The campus principal shall have discretion to approve student absences beyond the maximum of ten extracurricular activity absences not related to post-district competition. [FM (LOCAL)]

Disciplinary Infractions and Loss of Extracurricular Privileges:

All members must adhere to the rules set forth in the CISD Student Code of Conduct as well as the Cheer/Dance Constitution, handbook, or other rules set forth by the director or coach. Each member in grades 6-12 must also comply with the *Extracurricular Student Activities Code of Conduct*. The principal and Director of Fine Arts/Athletics shall make all final disciplinary action decisions. Coaches/directors may take disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the activity, against a student who violates any required standard of conduct.

Probation Policy:

When a student is not meeting the expectations set forth by the coach/director, the coach/director reserves the right to issue a probation point.

The following infractions will result in an automatic point(s):

1. Leaving the group/sponsor/chaperone without permission
2. Unexcused absence from classes/truancy/game/performance
3. Serving ISS
4. UIL Ineligibility due to grades (3rd offense will result in automatic dismissal from the squad). An additional point will be given at the failure of any UIL Grade Check

5. Conduct that has an incidental negative impact on the squad
6. Inappropriate use of social media
7. CDC Placement (automatic 2 points)
8. Expulsion (automatic 3 points and removal from the team)

In order to ensure that the student fully understands the disciplinary actions taken under the guidelines of the spirit organization, the following procedures will be followed:

- The coach/director and the principal or designee will hold a conference with the student (and parents if they are available) to discuss the infraction, the penalty, the consequences for additional infractions, and to sign acknowledgment of this information using the Comal ISD Probation Policy for Spirit Organization Probation Agreement form. If the parents are unavailable for the conference, the coach/director will notify the parents of the infraction.
- If the terms of the Probation Agreement are not met, the coach/director, with administrative approval, may not allow the student to participate in any Spirit Organization activities or performances until the terms of the agreement are met.
- If a student receives three (3) probation points within one participation season, the student will be removed from the spirit organization and will not be eligible for the remainder of the current school year. They may be allowed to tryout the following school year with written permission from the sponsor/coach.
- Any Captain/Team Leader who does not uphold the behavior expectations during one participation season, as noted in the Spirit Organization Guidelines are subject to a probationary period for receiving one (1) probation point, demotion of their leadership status for receiving two (2) probation points, and removal from the organization after receiving three (3) probation points. Any Captain/Team Leader with three (3) probation points in one participation season may be eligible for participation for the following spirit organization season with written permission from the sponsor/coach.

Statement of Transfer: At the discretion of the coaches, directors and administration, new-to-school students may be eligible for an individual tryout. A school enrollment deadline may be in place for tryouts with individual programs. Any student transferring within the Comal Independent School District, who is under suspension, investigation, or who has been found guilty of violating the Extracurricular Student Activities Code of Conduct will be assessed the same penalties as prescribed by the campus in which the infraction occurred. (Refer to UIL guidelines regarding eligibility on transfer.) Students transferring from outside of CISD will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. (Appendix C Parent Student Handbook)

Equipment: Any District equipment issued to a student is the financial responsibility of the student and for the student's use while participating in a school-related activity/organization. Students must care for District-issued equipment as if it were their own. Equipment must be properly stored, in the proper location, and shall be kept clean and maintained. Students who lose or damage District equipment will be required to pay for the cost of replacement. All District equipment must be returned at the end of the season or school year, as directed by the

coach/director. Individually owned equipment is the sole responsibility of the student; CISD will not be responsible for any loss or damage that occurs to student-owned equipment. If uniforms are required for an activity/organization, the student shall be required to ensure that the uniform is worn only at appropriate times and is neat and clean for the practice, performance, competition, or game/tournament. A fee for the maintenance, dry cleaning, or laundering of the uniform may be collected. (Appendix C Parent Student Handbook)

Letter Jacket Requirements: All varsity Spirit members are eligible for a letter in a spirit organization activity. Spirit members may also be eligible for a letter in a spirit organization if they are selected and compete in a varsity UIL or varsity national spirit competition.

Comal Independent School District

Spirit Guidelines Acknowledgement

I have been provided a copy of the CISD Spirit Guidelines. I understand and consent to the rules, responsibilities, and standards of conduct outlined in the Comal Independent School District Spirit Guidelines. I agree to adhere to all of these rules and regulations. I also understand that non-compliance to these rules and regulations will result in disciplinary action and possible removal from the Spirit Program.

Student (print)

SCHOOL

Student Signature

DATE

Parent Signature

DATE