

## **Chandler High School – Spiritline Constitution**

### **Article I – Objectives**

- A. To support Chandler High activities.
- B. To build and maintain school spirit amongst the student body.
- C. To represent Chandler within the district and community.
- D. To be positive role-models to their fellow peers and are expected to be examples of school policy regarding attitude, attendance, academics, and sportsmanship.

### **Article II – Membership Requirements**

#### **Eligibility**

- A. Members must be students registered at Chandler High School.
- B. Members must maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA with NO failures and a minimum of 6 classes. The 6-class requirement will only be waived for seniors. The letter grades and eligibility will be determined by report cards and progress reports.
  - a. Tutoring, test make-ups, school events/activities should be utilized outside of practice times if possible.
  - b. An F on a progress or report card will render the student ineligible. The student must attend athletic study hall for 5 consecutive days to become eligible. Student is not eligible until notified by the athletic department. This is a CUSD policy.
    - i. If an athlete does not attend study hall due to work, other activities, forgetting, or choosing not to go, they will be placed on probation and then dismissed.
- C. Varsity members may consist of freshmen, sophomores, juniors, or seniors. Junior Varsity members may consist of freshmen, sophomores, or juniors. The freshman team will only consist of freshmen.
- D. In the event that a replacement is needed, the position will be filled by the runner-up, based on the spring tryout results.
- E. All Junior Varsity, Varsity Pom, and Varsity Cheer members must be enrolled in the Spiritline class.
- F. The freshman team will not be a class; their practices will be before or after school.
- G. Prior to the first practice, the parent/guardian must complete all the necessary paperwork for their child to participate. (Eligibility packet, current physical, constitution signature form, etc.)
- H. Athletes must be fully cleared by a medical professional in order to participate in games, performances, etc.

- I. All team members will need coach approval to perform in any routine, sideline cheering, school performances, or any other spiritline event.
- J. The final decision on the membership of any team and eligibility to perform in routines is made by the coach(es)/choreographer.
- K. If an athlete forfeits the privilege of being on the team (quits or dismissed), no refunds will be provided.
- L. All members are responsible for the financial cost to be part of the program.

### **Tryouts**

- M. Members are selected by official tryouts.
  - a. If a member has been dismissed from the team at any one time while attending Chandler High, they will be eligible to tryout again but will be issued a one time provisional contract upon being selected for the team.
  - b. If a member has been dismissed a second time from the team while attending Chandler High, they will NOT be eligible to tryout again.
  - c. If a member of the Spiritline team quits the team, they will NOT be eligible to tryout again for the period of one school year unless health reasons forced the student to withdraw.
  - d. Any member who is trying out must have all their dues from the previous year paid off. If not, they will not be able to try out.

## **Article III – Membership Responsibilities**

### **Attendance/Participation**

- A. Each member will be required to give of his/her time to participate in the various Spiritline activities throughout the year. No one should have a job, or participate in other activities that will interfere with those activities. Missing a practice or performance for a job or other activity not approved by coaching staff prior **will not be considered an excused absence**.
- B. All members are required to attend all athletic events, practices, activities, and competitions designated by the coaches. Members will participate in projects to promote school spirit and fund-raising activities.
  - a. Any member who has one absence from practice, either excused or unexcused, will be responsible for learning any missed material to be eligible to perform in that week's performance. If the member is absent the day before or the day of a performance, that member may be removed from the performance.
  - b. Any member that does not meet performance expectations during practice will be excluded from the following performance.
  - c. Members who are excluded from performing due to grades, behavior, etc. to a maximum of THREE weeks – may be recommended for dismissal upon the third week.

- d. Any member who is not properly dressed for practice will not be allowed to participate in practice; therefore, they may not perform in the next performance and the student's grade will be affected.
- C. A member may not have more than 2 unexcused absences from any of the scheduled activities (including practices and fund-raisers). Unexcused absences in excess of 2 for the school year will be grounds for a recommendation for dismissal from the Spiritline team. Please remember, the quality of the squad's appearance depends upon unified practices.
  - a. Excused absences may include:
    - i. Personal illness (too sick to attend school)
    - ii. Funeral or death in the family
    - iii. Special required school activities approved in advance
    - iv. Religious holiday or observance
    - v. Wedding in the family
  - b. In order to receive an excused absence from a practice or performance, the member must be excused by a parent/guardian.
  - c. Doctor appointments, dental appointments, work, homework, babysitting, home punishment, alarm didn't go off, physical therapy, etc. do not count as excused absences.
  - d. If you miss practice, but attend school the same day, the practice absence is considered unexcused.
  - e. In case of sudden illness, the parent/guardian must notify the coach immediately.
  - f. An unexcused absence will be given automatically if a note or e-mail is not presented to the coach at the next practice. This may affect that member's continued membership on the Spiritline team. This will affect the student's grade.
  - g. Any member absent the day of or before (if it is a Saturday event) a performance/game will be unable to participate at the event per district policy.
- D. Members must be at designated functions, practices, and activities at the specified times.
  - a. Tardies will result in additional running, stadiums, or other consequence at the end of practice determined by the coach. This means if they are tardy, they may have to stay late after practice to make up for being late.
  - b. Habitual tardiness may result in a benching from a performance or event to being on probation and/or dismissed.
  - c. Tardies will be reflected in the student's grade.
- E. Only in cases of extenuating circumstances will a student be allowed to leave an away game or event with the parent/guardian. If this is necessary, the following procedures must be followed:

- a. A transportation waiver must be presented to the coach. It must be completely filled out including the member's name, date, reason for not traveling with the team in district transportation, and a parent/guardian signature.
- b. The parents/guardians must take responsibility for the member by meeting the coach before leaving the event with their child.
- c. If these procedures are not followed, the member must ride back to Chandler High School with the rest of the team.
- d. The coach and an administrator must approve any exceptions to these procedures.

### **Non-Participating Members**

- A. Members who cannot participate due to conditions, injuries, grades, etc. are required to attend all practices/games/events.
  - a. They are required to be in uniform with the required hairstyle/make-up and following the expectations of their coach.
  - b. They will not utilize their phone.
  - c. They may be asked to complete an assignment.

### **Alternates**

- A. Alternates need to have the required team skills by the end of the first quarter or they will be dismissed from the team or placed on a different team.
- B. Alternates will be required to know the routine/material, so they can be utilized if needed for the performance, etc.
- C. They are to utilize practice to learn skills, improve skills, practice the routine, etc.

### **Required Notes**

- A. If an athlete goes to the doctor/trainer, dentist, etc. for any injury, condition, or procedure, a note is to be provided from the professional.
  - a. If the athlete does not have a note, they will be unable to practice until a note is provided.
  - b. If a note is emailed during practice, it will apply for the following practice.
  - c. If the parent/athlete refuses to get a doctor's note then the athlete may be dismissed.
- B. Chronic symptoms (anxiety, headaches, migraines, etc.) need to have a doctor's note to be excused.
- C. Athletes who have notes that say that they need to do gradual play or are returning from concussions, must do the gradual play through the trainer after school to be cleared.

### **Grading System**

- A. The following grading system will be implemented to ensure that students are held accountable for both practices and games. Their effort, work ethic, behavior, punctuality, leadership, etc. will be accounted for in their grade:

- a. Practices-5 points regular bell schedule and 10 points block bell schedule (If a student is more than 15 minutes late, they are considered absent and will receive a 0 for practice).
  - b. Football (30 points) and basketball games (50 points for scheduled time)
  - c. Playoff games-50 points
  - d. Grade Checks- 5 points
  - e. Competitions-50 points
  - f. Mile Test- 50 points
  - g. In order to make up points, if excused, students will need to complete an alternate assignment on the Chandler High Spiritline website in order to make up those missing points. If unexcused, the student will receive a zero in the gradebook.
- B. Athletes who are unable to participate will be required to do written assignments.
- C. If a member has below a 70% at the end of each quarter, they will be removed from the Spiritline program and will require a schedule change.
- a. The Spiritline class is considered a PE course in which athletes receive credit.

#### **Article IV – Leadership Responsibilities**

##### A. Coaches

- a. The coaches will have the authority to uphold all rules and regulations of this organization for the 4 squads within the guidelines provided by the National Federation, the AIA, the Chandler School District, Chandler High School, and the Chandler High School Spiritline Constitution as they deem to be in the best interests of all participants. Additional specific responsibilities of the coaches are to:
  - i. The coaches will instruct the team to its best possible showmanship
  - ii. Supervise the organization at practices, performances, competitions, and other team activities
  - iii. Plan, arrange, and supervise tryouts
  - iv. Arrange transportation and/or check to see if arrangements have been made
  - v. Maintain all records, rules, consent forms, and other official documents of this organization
- b. Coaches will communicate during school hours and will respond within 48 hours (not including the weekend).
- c. Coaches are not responsible for items that belong to the athletes. The items are the athlete's responsibility.
- d. Formations/placements are determined by coaches; positions are non-negotiable.

##### B. Parents

- a. Parents should discuss any concerns or questions with the coaches first.

- i. Make sure to follow proper hierarchy
  - ii. Please wait 24 hours after incident to then discuss with coach
- b. Parents are expected to volunteer to help with at least one fundraiser or event during the school year.
- c. Parents are required to attend ALL mandatory parent meetings.
- d. Parents are to be respectful to all members of Spiritline including but not limited to coaches, athletes, etc.
  - i. Repetitive occurrences could result in dismissal from the team.
- e. Parents are to follow the expectations of the Parent Behavior Contract.

### **Article V – Behavioral Expectations**

- A. Members must abide by all the rules and laws of the following organizations:
  - a. Chandler Unified School District
  - b. Chandler High School administration and student body government
  - c. AIA
  - d. The Spiritline Constitution

#### **Appearance**

- B. All members shall follow the rules of the student body dress code at ALL school functions (even when not cheering). All members shall maintain their appearance in a neat and clean manner. The following items are mandatory concerning appearance and safety:
  - a. Members must keep their fingernails trimmed at all times.
    - i. Nails are not to be visible beyond the end of the fingers when viewed from the palm side of the hands.
  - b. Members must have their hair pulled back and up off their shoulders at all practices and performances.
  - c. Members are not allowed to wear jewelry at any practices or performances.
    - i. Members will be provided a warning for the first offense. Habitual jewelry wearing can lead to not practicing to being benched.
    - ii. Members are not to get new piercings during the school year as they cannot participate with jewelry.
  - d. Members will wear athletic shorts, tank tops (not camisoles) or T-shirts, socks, spunks (compression shorts for boys), dance shoes (pom) and cheer shoes to all practices.
    - i. These outfits must be school appropriate.
  - e. Members are not allowed to wear excessive make-up
  - f. Members are not allowed to eat, drink (other than water or sports drinks), or chew gum during practices or performances.

- g. Cell phones will not be permitted during practice or game times.
- h. Members are to wear spandex shorts underneath shorts and skirts at all times.
- i. Members not wearing the designated game day outfit to school will be benched.
- j. Members not dressing up the day of/before competition will be benched.
- k. Athletes are expected to follow the appearance expectations for games/competitions. Athletes will be asked to change their hair, make-up, etc. to match their teams. Inability to change may result in consequences.

### **Demeanor**

- C. Athletes are expected to have a positive attitude, strong work ethic, and to improve on a daily basis. They are expected to be professional.
- D. There shall be no public display of negative emotion, or signs thereof, at any event or practice surrounding this organization. In the event that this may occur, depending on the severity of the offense, the member may be dismissed from the team.
  - a. Any incident of disrespect/defiance can lead to being benched from an event to probation and/or dismissed.
  - b. Profanity may result in strength/conditioning. Continuation may result in being benched.
- E. All members are to be kind and respectful to anyone in connection to CHS Spiritline.
  - a. If a member threatens to drop another athlete or purposely harm another teammate in any way, the child may be dismissed from the team pending an investigation.
- F. Initiation/hazing is not allowed. It is a violation of school policy and may result in dismissal from the team.
- G. There will be no public display of affection before, during, or after performances, activities, or at any time wearing ANY Spiritline clothing or uniform (this includes the warm-up jacket or Spiritline bag). In the event that this may occur, depending on the severity of the offense, the member may be benched or dismissed from the team.
- H. If a member is caught using or possessing any type of illegal substance, alcoholic beverages or tobacco, they may be dismissed from the team.
- I. If any student willingly participates in a physical fight on campus or at any school function, they may be dismissed from the team.
- J. Members who ditch any class will result in a consequence. 3 classes ditched in a semester can result in dismissal.
- K. Members are expected to be leaders in the classroom. Any negative feedback from teachers may result in a consequence.
- L. While attending games/events, athletes are expected to conduct themselves in a positive and well-behaved manner as they are representatives of this program.

- M. Athletes are expected to go “full out” during practice. No “marking” moves are allowed unless instructed to do so by the coach. Inability to go “full out,” may result in consequence.

### **Social Networks**

- A. Members are not permitted to directly write negative or inflammatory comments about other members of the Chandler Spiritline Team.
- B. Members are not permitted to imply anything that may be interpreted as negative or inflammatory about a Chandler Spiritline member.
- C. If a member is being negative about a teammate, they will be given a warning. If it happens again, the member will be dismissed from the team.
- D. All members should be aware that they are responsible for their words and implied actions on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and/or other popular social networks. Questionable activities will be investigated and may result in dismissal from the Chandler Spiritline Team.
  - a. Members need to be aware that any posting of themselves in Chandler Spiritline gear that represents the team in a negative light will result in consequences.
  - b. Appeals: due process procedures will be followed.

### **Article VI – Tumbling/Dance Expectations**

- A. The tumbling/dance skills you demonstrated at try-outs must be shown at every practice, game, performance, etc.
  - a. Consequence: Athlete will be benched from the next main event (games, competitions, assembly, etc.). \*\* If you miss more than 3 events due to skill probation, you may be dismissed from the team.
- B. Varsity members must give 100% effort at tumbling/dance practices. The coaches will determine if you are not giving 100% effort.
  - a. Consequences: *First and second offense* – If you are not giving 100% effort, as deemed by the coach, then you will be asked to leave tumbling/dance practice and will be required to run until that portion of practice is over. *Third offense* - You will be put on probation and cut from the next performance. \*\* If you miss more than 3 games due to probation, you may be dismissed from the team.
- C. You will be evaluated on your progress of your tumbling/dance form and skill level.
  - a. Consequences: If no progress in level or technique or form, you will be put on probation, placed as an alternate, and cut from games until improvements are made. \*\* If you miss more than 3 games due to probation, you may be dismissed from the team.

- b. At the end of each quarter, each athlete must score at least an 80% or higher on the evaluation or they will become an alternate (unable to participate in games, competitions, and assemblies).
- D. You must attend all assigned tumbling practices for your team. If you miss a squad tumbling practice, you MUST attend one of the make-up tumbling sessions.
  - a. Consequences: *First and second offenses* – warning. *Third offense* - - You will be put on probation and cut from the next performance. . \*\* If you miss more than 2 games due to probation, you may be dismissed from the team.

### **Article VII – Uniforms and Equipment**

- A. Members will be required to purchase cheer shoes, socks, bloomers, shorts, T-shirts, and other accessories that are not provided by the school.
- B. Members will be issued a performance uniform from the school. The uniforms are school property.
- C. Members shall return the uniforms and any equipment in the same condition it was in at the time of distribution when called for by the coaches and/or an administrator. If the items are lost or damaged, the cost of replacing the items will be assessed to the student and/or parents.
- D. Uniforms and/or equipment may only be used for authorized purposes. The coaches shall give authorization.
- E. Members shall be responsible for the care and maintenance of the uniforms. (Cleaning, any needed alterations)
- F. Members will NOT wear pieces of the uniform with other articles of clothing. They will wear all aspects of the uniform together.

### **Article VIII- Varsity Letters**

- A. Members of the Varsity Spiritline teams are eligible to earn Varsity letters.
- B. Members must participate in a minimum of 75% of the Varsity games and competitions to earn a Varsity letter.
- C. Members that are dismissed or quit the team will not earn a Varsity letter.

### **Article IX – Competition Teams**

- A. Varsity Cheer, Pom, Jazz, and JV will be required to compete.
- B. Competition members may have no more than 3 excused absences per quarter and no more than 1 unexcused absence per quarter to remain on the competition team. Members who don't meet this requirement will be moved to an alternate position and may not travel with the team.
  - a. Each member of the Chandler High Competition Pom and Cheer Team is important to the team's success. Being a part of the team is a privilege for

responsible members. Attendance, punctuality and a positive attitude are all vital to be a productive member of the team.

- b. 15 minutes or more late constitutes an absence.
- C. Athletes are able to go home with an approved parent/guardian after competition, but must wait until the competition has been concluded.
- D. All Spiritline members on the competition squad are expected to be present every day 2 weeks prior to a competition. If a practice during this time-frame is missed, whether excused or unexcused, the athlete may be asked to not participate in the upcoming competition.
- E. If an athlete misses a competition, whether excused or unexcused, an alternate will take their place in the current event and possibly future events.
- F. While attending a competition, athletes are expected to conduct themselves in a positive and well-behaved manner as they are representatives of this program.
- G. Nationals
  - a. Varsity Cheer and Pom will compete at nationals if they qualify.
  - b. Individuals will not be able to attend if they do not follow the expectations for the competition team, they are on probation, they have referrals, or have disrespect/defiance incidences.
  - c. If an athlete does not abide by the rules while attending nationals, they will be picked up by their parent/guardian within 24 hours. Failure to do so, could result in dismissal and ineligibility to try out for the following year.
  - d. Members will be required to cover the financial cost for nationals.