

# Panther Pom Constitution

## **Code of Conduct**

Members of Panther Pom should be leaders within the school, as well as upstanding role models. Panther Pom members should strive to set a good example at all times. Panther Pom members are expected to maintain good character throughout the school year as you are representatives of our program and our school. Members are also expected to participate with a good attitude and put forth 100% effort in all activities the team participates in.

- A. All rules stated in the LMS Student Handbook that apply at school and not stated herein, will apply at official practices, activities, trips, scheduled events, and performances.
- 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. The use of profanity, fighting or public displays of affection will not be tolerated.
- D. Every member shall respect the character and property of all other members and must remain in good standing with fellow team members.
- E. Fighting while involved in a school activity shall result in the member being removed from the team.
- F. Social media postings, cell phone conversations and texts 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 is to be respectful to ALL teachers, administrators and staff at LMS.
- H. Each member is to put forth 100% effort in their academics as well as team related activities.

## **Philosophy and Objectives**

- 1. Panther Pom is a student activity that is considered a privilege and high honor because you represent your school and community.
- 2. The program should aid in developing the student into a responsible, mature, and independent adult.
- 3. Panther Pom shall act as a support group for LMS sports and organizations.
- 4. Panther Pom is to perform as a team at sporting events, pep rallies, fine arts shows, community events, parades, etc.

## **Requirements**

1. Be responsible Panther Pom members and act accordingly.
2. Train during the entire school year in the art of cheer/dance, and be dedicated and committed members, putting forth 100% effort in the quest for being the best they can be.
3. Work under the UIL eligibility requirements, school policies, and strict direction from the Panther Pom sponsors and Panther Pride directors/officers.
4. Attend summer camp, a three day event in early August to learn choreography for the fall performances.
5. Wear selected practice attire/ uniform items when required.
6. Abide by the Constitution and Code of Conduct rules.

## **Membership/Attendance Requirements**

1. Panther Pom shall be comprised of current 6th and 7th grade students.
2. A parent or guardian must attend the mandatory parent meeting discussing the requirements for the following school year.
3. All potential members must be passing all classes at the 3rd nine week report card and may have no more than two office referrals this school year at the time of sign ups.
4. Any member who quits the team or is dismissed will not remain part of the team for the remainder of the school year.
5. All members will attend all practices and events unless pre-approved by the sponsors. Calendars will be issued in a timely manner for advanced notice of all events.
6. Members must attend practices as usual even if they are not able to perform.
7. The sponsors may choose additional activities or opportunities and will determine if the event is mandatory or optional.
8. Absence from any team activity is unexcused unless approved by the sponsor. This includes dentist/doctor appointments which take the member out of any practice or performance.
9. If a member is absent, a parent must contact a sponsor before the event or scheduled practice. Failure to notify the sponsor of an absence will result in the member receiving demerits.
10. Any unexcused absence from a performance will result in probation.
11. Any unexcused absence from a practice/performance/activity will result in demerits given and potential removal from the next performance.

## **Grades/Panther Pom Eligibility**

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 the principal may be applied to a Pre AP or other advanced 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 or report card.
    - i. Attend tutorials.
    - ii. Keep sponsor informed of progress.
    - iii. Attend practices unless approved for tutoring.
    - iv. May not attend any official Panther Pom performances while on probation.
6. Any member failing one or more subjects for two consecutive nine week grading periods will be dismissed from the team.

## **Uniforms and Appearance**

1. Members are to abide by the LMS dress code while at school. Demerits will be issued if a member is not in compliance.
2. All items shall be purchased in full by the members. Items will not be ordered without payment, which may cause the member to be dismissed from the team.
3. Uniforms must remain in good condition and be neat and clean in appearance.
4. 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.
5. Performance uniforms may not be worn to public places other than specified functions with the team.
6. Members may not eat, drink, chew gum while in uniform unless given permission by the sponsor.
7. Members will sit like a lady while in uniform at ALL performances.
8. Only drill team earrings may be worn, no other jewelry is allowed in uniform.
9. No colored nail polish is allowed when in uniform.
10. All hairstyles must be neat and worn as designated by the sponsor. Excessive or unnatural hair color is not allowed during performances.
11. Uniforms are to be cleaned according to the directions given by the sponsor.

## **Probation and Loss of Membership**

1. Probation shall be defined as not being able to participate in any performance, yet still attending practices. 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, UIL policy.
  - b. Receiving 10 demerits will require the member to sit out at the next designated performance.
  - c. Unexcused absence during a performance, member will sit out the next designated performance.
  - d. Any behavior deemed unbecoming by the sponsor or principal.
  - e. Violation of the Constitution or Code of Conduct.
2. Dismissal shall be defined as no participation of any kind in Panther Pom for the remainder of the school year. Loss of membership is decided with administrative advisement. A dismissed member will not participate in practices or performances. 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 policies.
  - c. Excessive absences or excessive behavior deemed unbecoming by the sponsor or principal.
  - d. An accumulation of more than 30 demerits not offset by merits.
  - e. Being sent to alternative school.
  - f. Violation of the Constitution or Code of Conduct as determined by the sponsors or principal.
  - g. Participating in any unlawful infraction.
3. Sponsors and administrators reserve the right to evaluate any situation and apply the appropriate action.

## **Financial Responsibility**

1. Each member must assume financial responsibility in the costs connected with Panther Pom.
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 Activity Director 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.
5. No uniforms will be ordered without the members payments being received. This will result in removal from the team.

## Merit and Demerit Program

1. Panther Pom will use a merit and demerit system to hold members accountable for their actions while a member of the team.
2. See the list below of infractions and possible number of demerits issued. This is a guideline and all demerits are issued at the discretion of the sponsor.
3. Accumulation of 10 demerits not offset by merits will result in probation as outlined above.
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. Merits are given at the discretion of the sponsor and can include the following:
  - a. Helping clean up after practice
  - b. Receiving a positive report from teachers, admin on campus
  - c. Straight A's on report card
  - d. Helping another member at practice
  - e. Helping sponsors during practice or performances
  - f. Extra workouts during practices to remove demerits (laps, high kicks, etc.)
  - g. Any helpful activity a sponsor sees as a merit earning item.
6. Example of demerits are listed below.

### Code of Behavior - Demerits

Misconduct Demerits	Number of Demerits Earned
Disrespectful attitude toward sponsor, directors, teachers, administrators, team members.	<b>20</b>
Talking during practice after warning has been issued	<b>3</b>
Not obeying sponsor's commands (practice or performance)	<b>5</b>
Not standing at attention/ talking during a performance	<b>10</b>
Use of profanity, not acting like a young lady.	<b>5</b>

<b>Practice Demerits</b>	
Not dressing out in correct practice attire.	<b>3</b>
Chewing gum	<b>3</b>
<b>Attendance Demerits</b>	
Unexcused absence from practice	<b>5</b>
Leaving early without permission	<b>5</b>
Late for roll call	<b>3</b>
Not communicating with sponsor before being absent from a practice/performance	<b>5</b>
Not being properly signed out	<b>5</b>
<b>Uniform Demerits</b>	
Forgetting a uniform item	<b>5</b>
Forgetting entire uniform bag	<b>15</b>
Chewing gum, eating or drinking (unless given permission to do so by sponsor.)	<b>3</b>
Wearing non designated jewelry	<b>3</b>
Wearing colored nail polish	<b>3</b>
Messy, dirty, damaged uniform	<b>3</b>
Hair worn other than specified	<b>3</b>

## Signature Page

As a Panther Pom 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 be respectful of the organization and be a hardworking member of the Pom team.

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Student Signature

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Student ID

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Printed Name of Student

I have read the Panther Pom Code of Conduct and Constitution. I have discussed the rules and regulations of the Panther Pom organization with my child/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/dependent should she fail to meet these requirements.

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Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

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Date