

General Cheerleading/Spirit Groups FAQs

1. Are cheerleading sponsors and/or coaches subject to the requirements for CPR, First Aid, AED and Safety Training?

Yes. Each of the laws that created the trainings/certifications mentioned above included cheerleading coaches and/or sponsors as individuals required to complete the training.

2. Who governs try outs and/or selection procedures?

The local school district adopts its own procedures. The Texas Education Agency and UIL do not monitor, recommend, nor prescribe the process of selecting cheerleaders or drill teams. Any concerns regarding those procedures should be addressed within the local district.

3. Are teacher or other school personnel comments that may be used as a part the selection process of cheerleaders and drill team members subject to disclosure if a parent requests to review the comments?

Yes. Under the Family Education Right to Privacy Act (FERPA), an educational agency or institution shall give full rights under the Act to review the educational records of a child to either parent unless circumstances exist that revoke these rights (such as a court order related to divorce, separation, or custody issues). An educational record is defined under FERPA as "...those records that are directly related to a student; and maintained by an educational agency or institution or by a party acting for the agency or institution." Parents have the right to review records that only pertain to their child, not the children of other parents.

4. How does the one contest per school week apply to cheerleaders?

It would not be a violation for cheerleaders to cheer at a double header (two contests at same site on one school night) or to participate in a pep rally prior to a contest and also lead cheers at the contest even though both occur during the school week. However, cheerleaders are not permitted to lead cheers for contests held on separate school nights during the school week unless an exception allowed under §76.1001 (cited above) applies to one or both of the contests.

5. Can an ineligible student who has failed a class try out for cheerleading or drill teams?

If the actual participation does not occur until the next school year, it would not be considered a violation if the district chooses to permit currently ineligible students to participate in the tryout performance. This response does not require schools to allow academically ineligible students to try out for cheerleaders, but it permits schools to do so.

6. May practice for drill team and cheerleading be conducted during tutorial time, study hall time, or during homeroom time? No.

7. May a cheerleader or other student enroll in two physical education substitution classes - one for cheerleading and one for athletics?

The Texas Administrative Code does not prohibit a student from enrolling in any number of state approved courses. However, UIL rules specifically prohibit students from being enrolled in more than one physical education and/or athletic class; Exception (with local school approval): PE Class: Adventure/Outdoor Education; PE Substitute: JROTC, Cheerleading, Drill Team, Marching Band.

8. May ineligible students attend pep rallies?

All students may attend. Only eligible students may be in uniform and actually take part in pep rally performances, leading cheers, participating in dance routines, playing in the band, giving speeches, etc.

9. May school dismiss early for a pep rally?

If the district has submitted a letter with the waiver division at TEA that it will be scheduling up to six early release days during the school year, the district may decide for what purposes the early release days will be used.

10. May ineligible drill team members and cheerleaders travel with their group to a competitive activity?

No.