Cheerleading Constitution

MISSION STATEMENT: The mission of the Taylor University Cheerleading squad is to be ambassadors of Jesus Christ and Taylor University athletics by enthusiastically supporting its athletic teams and boosting fan morale while upholding the values as listed in Taylor’s Life Together Covenant.

PURPOSE: Taylor University Cheerleading’s chief responsibility is to unify the university and its sports teams by fostering school spirit and cheer at Taylor athletic events. The presence of a cheerleading squad improves the athletic game experience and raises the interest of these events for students and faculty. The cheerleading squad encourages student and fan involvement in athletic events by leading organized cheers, chants, and dances at sporting events and showing support on and off the field or court. Professionalism and elite athleticism are required by all Taylor University Cheerleaders in order to provide excellence in the field of cheerleading. As ambassadors of the university, cheerleaders are expected to be in good academic, emotional, social and physical standing. As examples of Jesus Christ, cheerleaders should strive to be like Christ in everything they say and do. Taylor’s unique, renowned sense of community is demonstrated in offering a cheerleading squad to students as an opportunity to participate in an extracurricular activity.

SUSTAINABILITY: The continuation of the Taylor University Cheerleading squad is of utmost importance. Taylor’s cheerleading squad is envisioned to become a deeply rooted part of Taylor University.

By creating a prominent, positive presence at the university and in the community, the Taylor cheerleading squad is anticipated to become an embedded part of university campus life traditions and history. The program will also attract new students to attend the university. Taylor Cheerleading will enhance established traditional events like Silent Night or the first football “Game Day” by bringing new elements and traditions. Taylor Cheerleaders will make appearances amongst the student body and the surrounding community.

Alumni and supporters of Taylor University will be contacted to grow support for the cheerleading squad and its continuation. By making investments in the Taylor Cheerleading squad, alumni and supporters will be honored by the team through advertisement and recognition. Each spring semester, a team captain will be elected by the coach to lead the group the following year. If a new captain is elected, the current and future team captain will work together to select next year’s cheerleaders by conducting tryouts.
VISION: An impression of legitimacy and professionalism must be established for the new cheerleading squad at Taylor University. This impression must be accomplished by the professional appearance of the cheerleading squad, the elite athleticism of the squad, and the communications promoting the professional standards of the squad. A positive reputation will help the program achieve its vision of creating a turnkey system for fluid turnover in leadership and squad membership, which will help sustain the Taylor cheerleading squad for years to come.

Once support has been raised for the cheerleading squad, more opportunities can be taken. These will include cheer camps, new uniforms and a distinguished standing at Taylor University.

SQUAD ORGANIZATION AND LOGISTICS:

POSITIONS & RESPONSIBILITY: The cheerleading squad may consist of a coach, student coach, captain, and squad members. The coach plays an active role in management of the cheerleading squad as well as running practices. The student coach and captain are intimately involved with the team. The student coach is a co-leader of practices. The captain of the cheerleading squad exemplifies leadership skills and takes care of the details by communicating between the coaches and the team.

TRYOUTS: Tryouts for the upcoming school year will be held in late spring. These will be available only to current and incoming students of Taylor University. Participants must attend two training clinics prior to tryouts. There they will learn the material performed during cheerleading tryouts, which are held a week after the clinics. All cheerleaders are required to wear modest length athletic shorts and Taylor University t-shirt. All hair must be tied up and off the face with a ribbon/bow.

Tryouts consist of the following:

- A cheer;
- Chant of choice;
- Sideline dance;
- Individual tumbling;
- Required jumps;
- Jump of choice; and
- Stunting skills, which will be evaluated at the clinics.

Expert judges in the profession of cheerleading will be brought in to assist in the tryout evaluations. Results of the tryouts will be sent via email to the participants.

CHEER CAMP: All cheerleaders will arrive early on campus before classes start. Attendance by all cheerleaders is vital in preparing for the first game of the season and building a stronger team. Cheer camp will consist of daily cheer clinics that teach material used during the athletic season, such as cheers, chants, sideline dances and stunts.

GAMES & TRAVEL: Cheerleaders will cheer at all home football events and the home basketball events. Taylor cheerleaders will also travel to competitions.
COMPETITIONS: Taylor is a part of the NAIA Crossroads League Conference and all cheerleaders are expected to compete in all the competitions.

SQUAD EXPENSES:

GEAR: The following items are part of the squad uniform.

- Shell
- Midriff
- Skirt
- Spandex briefs
- Cheer shoes
- Poms
- Warm up jacket and pants
- Backpack
- Bows

The shell and skirt will be purchased through the cheerleading program funds and will be returned to the university after the athletic program is over, prior to the end of the academic school year. A list of optional team gear will be available for purchase.

CHEER CAMP: Cheer camp expenses include cost for residing in the dorms, cost of meals, and cost of the clinic. The clinic includes the attendance of a professional guest instructor who will assist in the development of excellent cheerleading squad material and stunts.

TRAVEL: The cheerleading program funds will cover any transportation costs associated with traveling to competitions.

FUNDRAISING:

MINI CHEER CAMP: To compensate for the remaining squad costs not covered, Taylor cheerleaders will host cheer camps for youth once a semester. These cheer camps are welcome to children grades K-5. Taylor cheerleaders will teach the students proper cheerleading techniques and skills. Students will receive awards of excellence and show off their hard work at the end of the camp with a public performance for friends and family at an athletic home event.

ONLINE DONATIONS: Online funding accounts such as GoFundMe are used to gather financial support for the development of the squad.

CAR WASHES: The student body and Taylor community can donate to the squad through a car wash held on campus and hosted by Taylor Cheerleaders.

BAKE SALES: Bake sales will be hosted to make money as well as grow support for Taylor athletic events. Cheerleaders can sell baked goods that are Taylor athletic themed.
APPAREL: The Taylor Cheerleading Squad sells cheerleading t-shirts to the public in order for advertisement of the squad and to make a profit. These shirts can list the names of sponsors and also be a part of a recruiting process.

SPONSORS: Sponsors are sought to support the cheerleading squad. By making investments in the Taylor Cheerleading squad, sponsors are honored by the team through advertisement and recognition, such as being named in sports programs.

GUIDELINES AND EXPECTATIONS:

ATTENDANCE: Cheerleaders are expected to be prompt and punctual to all games, practices, and competitions, and are expected to attend practices, games, and competitions as scheduled. If mildly sick or injured, cheerleaders must sit in on practice. Absences are only excused for extreme illnesses, family emergencies, or other cases that are discussed with the coach and captain. If a member misses an event or practice with an unexcused absence, that member will be benched from cheering at the next football or basketball game at the captain’s discretion. Benching consists of sitting and watching the squad with no use of technology.

CONSEQUENCES:

Tardiness: (more than 5 minutes late to practice)
- Offense 1- firm warning
- Offense 2- (extra conditioning after practice)
- Offense 3- Sit one quarter of game

Absence:
- Offense 1- Sit one quarter of game
- Offense 2- Sit ½ of game
- Offense 3- Sit entire game & additional punishments at captain’s discretion

The coach and captain will decide anything further than offense three for either tardiness or absence.

PRACTICE: Practices will be held outside when weather permits, Odle gymnasium, the Old Well, the KSAC Fieldhouse, or the KSAC aerobics room, depending on availability. Practices are held three times a week for ~two hours.

ATTIRE: When practicing, all cheerleaders must wear modest length athletic shorts, a t-shirt/tank, and cheerleading shoes. Hair must be tied up and off the face. Earrings, belly button piercings and jewelry of any kind are forbidden.

GAME DAY ATTIRE: Cheerleaders must follow all game day attire guidelines as stated previously by the coach or captain. Failure to do so may result in benching.

BEHAVIOR: As fellow Christian athletes, it is expected that cheerleaders show respect to one another, their coach, student coach, and captain. The team should strive to behave like Christ. If any member fails to meet the standards in the Life Together Covenant, suspension or removal from the squad will follow, based on the discretion of the coach, student coach, and captain.
“5,6,7,8, Go Trojans!”