

**C. E. BYRD HIGH SCHOOL SPIRIT JACKETS
CONSTITUTION**

ARTICLE I. NAME: The name of this organization shall be the C.E. Byrd High School Spirit Jackets, composed of C.E. Byrd Schools Marching Band, Color Guard, Twirlers, Stingerettes, Highsteppers and Cheerleaders.

Article II PURPOSE: The purpose of this organization is to promote school spirit, exhibit good sportsmanship while representing C. E. Byrd High School. It shall also strive to develop leadership, cooperation, and high standards of conduct.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP:

This group will be composed of students from all grade levels at C. E. Byrd High School. Each group, except Pep Squad, is for a term of one year and all candidates need to reapply and tryout for subsequent years. The term of one year will begin the day of selection and extend through the end of the following year.

Section I. Prerequisites for Membership

- A. Must have a cumulative, unweighted 2.0 GPA at semester from their SA12, remain eligible under Caddo Parish School Board Policy, and be in good standing in their organization.
- B. Must be able to bear all personal expenses related to the Spirit Jackets (uniforms, pom poms, ect.)
- C. Must submit an application form signed by both himself/herself and his/her parent or guardian.
- D. Must plan to be enrolled in class designated unless permission is granted by the Sponsor/Director.
- E. Members who have been suspended during the current year are not eligible to tryout.
- F. Members trying out for Varsity Cheerleader, Junior Varsity Cheerleader, Highsteppers, Color Guard, Twirlers, Band and Mascot must:
 1. Hold current membership in a spirit group in order to receive a recommendation score from his/her current sponsor. Those students who are not member of a spirit organization will be at a disadvantage when they tryout as they will not have a sponsor score.
 2. Will receive a score from all their past and present teachers. These scores will be averaged into the final scores at tryouts.

Section II. Transfer Students:

A student transferring from another school must meet grade level requirements, camp attendance requirements, present a letter of recommendation from his/her former director, and may be required to participate in an informal tryout to determine his/her abilities and proper placement within a spirit group.

Section III. Loss of Membership:

A member will be dropped from the C. E. Byrd High School Spirit Jackets if:

- A. Member acquires ten (10) demerits in one school year
- B. Member fails to meet Caddo Parish School Board eligibility
- C. Member fails to maintain a 2.0 grade point average
- D. Member violates the Code of Conduct as recommended by the Spirit Jacket Governing Board
- E. Member acquires three (3) unexcused absences from activities or performances.
- F. Member has an out of school suspension for disciplinary reasons
- G. Member placed on Spirit Jacket probation more than once per year.

Each individual organization has the authority to make rules specific to that organization as long as those rules don't conflict with the Spirit Jacket Constitution.

Section IV. Suspension/Probation

A. Grade Suspension

Members under suspension will be unable to attend or participate in the group's activities, and may not wear its uniform.

- 1. Members will be placed on suspension if they have one F in any subject on a nine-weeks or semester report card.
- 2. Members must turn in weekly progress reports due at the discretion of the director/sponsor.
- 3. If the student has not removed the F by the next grading period or progress reports, the student remains on suspension for the remainder of the grading period.

B. Spirit Jacket Probation

Members placed on probation are required to attend all activities, but may not perform with the group. Uniform will not be worn to school, but worn to the activity.

- 1. The length of the probation is set by the Spirit Jacket Governing Board.
- 2. A member violating this probationary status will be dismissed from the organization.
- 3. If serving as an officer, you will be removed from that office for the remainder of year.

Section V Rules and Regulations

- A. All members will be expected to be present for the full activity of the group and must be present for all scheduled activities.
- B. All members will be expected to be on time.
- C. All members will be expected to be in proper uniforms.
- D. All members will be expected to be cooperative participants.
- E. All members will be expected to be responsive to instruction of officers, sponsors, instructors, and participating parents.
- F. All members will be expected to adhere to the Code of Conduct which states:
 - 1. Conduct yourself at all times according to high personal standards. Members must be conscious of their social media conduct including but not limited to, texting, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, MySpace, etc.
 - 2. Be honest, kind and helpful to others

3. Be respectful and courteous
4. Follow all school rules.
5. Profanity, dishonesty, discourtesy, use of drugs, alcohol or tobacco, unbecoming behavior or failure to follow school rules by members of the Spirit Jackets while in uniform or at school sponsored events will result in a disciplinary referral to the school's administration and the appropriate number of demerits will be issued by the sponsor. Spirit Jacket probation or dismissal from the group goes into effect immediately. (Refer to sec IV.)

Section VI Merits / Demerits (For Stingerettes)

All merits and demerits received by the student will be approved by the director/sponsor. A student may cancel demerits by acquiring merits during the current school year. The ratio is one merit for each demerit. Demerits are issued in writing and it is the student's responsibility to notify the parents.

A. Merits

- 3 merits all A's on report card (9 weeks)
- 1-5 merits special assignments by the director
- 1 merit a super spirit or yelling
- 3 merits perfect attendance record for 9 weeks in both school and spirit group activities

B. Demerits are issued for improper conduct. Demerits will not affect the grade but will affect active status in the organization. Violation of school rules will be referred for disciplinary action and further action will include demerits. All demerits issued must have director/sponsor approval, and will be in effect for one year. Demerits will be given in a timely manner and the member has one week from the time received to work it off. One practice demerit can be canceled by earning one merit. No more than three performance demerits per year. Only one performance absence can be made up.

C. Misconduct Demerits

- 10 demerits any members found possessing, using, transmitting, or to be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, alcoholic beverage, toxicant inhalant or other intoxicant **WHILE IN UNIFORM OR WHILE REPRESENTING THE ORGANIZATION.** (Automatic Dismissal)
- 6 demerits disrespect, insubordination, or profanity
- 3 demerits unexcused game or performance/activity
- 3 demerits public display of affection
- 2 demerits unexcused practice/meeting
- 2 demerits talking to outsiders during designated activities
- 2 demerits lack of transportation each 15 minute interval after the end of the activity
- 2 demerits not wearing uniform
- 1 demerit tardy/late from half-time
- 1 demerit missing part of uniform

- D. Discretionary Demerits (assigned at discretion of sponsor)
Director/sponsor may assign demerits for failure to follow directives, assignments, or procedures not listed above.

Section VII Consequences

- A. A member accumulating ten or more demerits during the current year will be dismissed from the organization.
- B. A member accumulating six demerits will be placed on Spirit Jacket Probation and will not be allowed to participate until demerits are reduced. (Stingerettes Only).
- C. Members may be referred to the executive board for disciplinary action for any of the following reasons:
1. Failure to be a cooperative participant
 2. Failure to be respectful, courteous and honest,
 3. failure to respond to instructions of officers, sponsors or designees.
- D. Members will be suspended from performing but will be required to attend the activity for the following reasons:
- A. missing the practice immediately preceding the performance,
 - B. failing to be properly groomed and in proper uniform,
 - C. failing to meet the performance skills level as deemed by the sponsor and captain.
- E. Appeals
Members who feel they were treated unfairly or would like to request consideration for special circumstances may request an appeal.
1. Members have one week to file an appeal upon notification of probation, suspension, demerits, or extenuating circumstances. Late appeals will not be considered.
 2. The appeal will be heard by the governing board and can only render a decision when at least 2/3 of its members are present.

ARTICLE IV GOVERNING BOARD: The Spirit Jacket Executive Board is composed of the captains or a designee of each C. E. Byrd High School Spirit Groups, directors/sponsors from each group, and the principal or his/her designee.

- A. The board meets as appeals and issues warrant.
- B. The board will hear all appeals from its members and answers those appeals.
- C. The board will sit as a disciplinary board when issues involving violation of the code of Conduct and Rules and Regulations are involved.
- D. The board, by majority vote, will render decisions when two-thirds of its members are present.
- E. The board may recommend the following disciplinary actions
 1. Dismissal - student is dismissed from the spirit group
 2. Suspension –student is suspended for a time period and is unable to attend Or participate in the group’s activities, or wear its uniform.
 3. Probation –student is placed on probation and is required to attend, but May not perform, with the group. Uniform will not be worn to school, but Worn to the activity. (When on suspension or probation (grade or spirit Jacket), you are not in good standing with the organization. You may not Vote, perform, try-out for officer, or remain as an officer.) (Stingerette

- Only)
4. Special circumstance decisions.
The board may render a decision with modified actions based on individual circumstance.
- F. Appeals of the decisions of the board may be made to the principal.

ARTICLE V. UNIFORM

- A. Purchase of uniform
 1. each member is required to purchase the uniform by the deadline set by the sponsor; demerits will be issued for every day late.
 2. Failure to purchase the uniform will result in dismissal.
- B. Use of uniform
 1. performance uniforms are worn to school on game days, to ball games and at other assigned times
 2. the uniform or any part of it is NOT to be worn at any time unless authorized,
 3. the uniform must be maintained for neatness and good repair; any unauthorized alterations will result in repurchasing of uniform
 4. Performance or Spirit uniforms may be worn only by current members.

ARTICLE VI. ATTENDANCE

- A. Members must participate in all assigned activities
 1. Excused absences will be granted with a doctor's excuse, for a death in the family, a school activity, or other event as confirmed by the faculty sponsor (Excused absences are the same as excused absences from school)
 2. if a member is absent from school on the day of a performance (except a school-related activity) he/she may not attend.
 3. If a member checks-in or checks-out for reasons other than the six outlined by the Caddo Parish School Board, the member will NOT be allowed to practice or participate in any scheduled school-sponsored events
 4. Summer camps are mandatory.

ARTICLE VII OFFICERS

- A. All captains have one year experience
- B. Other officers will be selected as needed and determined by the sponsor
- C. Members desiring to serve as officers should file an *Intent to Run* form with the sponsor. A member must have less than three demerits in the current Spirit Jacket organization, no more than one unexcused absence, the recommendation of the sponsor, and be in good standing in the organization.
- D. Officers must reapply and try-out for subsequent years
- E. To qualify to vote for officer, a student must be a member and in good standing of the squad for whom the officers will serve their term.

ARTICLE VIII RESPONSIBILITIES

Section I. Student Responsibilities

- A. Follow all rules regulations and procedures
- B. Attend designated football games
- C. Attend designated home basketball games
- D. All varsity squads shall perform in two designated competitions during the school year.

- E. Attend designated winter/spring/freshman, junior varsity, or varsity contests.
- F. Serve as the schools service organization
- G. Bring excuses for absences to the instructor and/or sponsor no later than two days after the absence or two days after the return to school. Excuses will not be requested.

Section II. Parent Responsibilities

- A. Assist student in meeting the member's obligations.
- B. Assist in making sure the member has transportation home no more than fifteen minutes after the time announced for the event to be over. Failure of a student to have transportation within fifteen minutes after an activity ends may result in the member being suspended from attending such activities thus jeopardizing his/her membership and /or two demerits.
- C. Assist member to meet the financial obligations in a timely manner.

Section III Travel Procedures:

- A. Each group must ride to and from each activity, including out-of-town trips, on designated mode of transportation, determined by the sponsor.

ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS

The Spirit Jackets' constitution may be amended by two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee. Amendments may originate in the Executive Board or by petition of twenty percent of the current membership. The Executive Board has the responsibility of interpreting the constitution and its intent and granting exceptions in cases of appeals with extenuating circumstances.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and understand the Spirit Jacket Constitution and will abide by the guidelines presented. Furthermore, I understand that I have a responsibility to myself and the organization to which I have made a commitment

Student Signature/ Date

Parent Signature/Date

Approved and Amended
March 2013