

Constitution of the Weatherford High School Blue Belles

Article I Purpose

The purpose of the Weatherford High School Blue Belle Dance Team shall be three-fold: 1) to perform and entertain audiences through precision dance; 2) to boost the morale and spirit of the Weatherford Kangaroos; and 3) to develop, increase, and promote character, responsibility, and leadership in its dancers. Each Belle agrees to abide by the rules and regulations set forth in this constitution.

Article II Qualifications and Requirements

- A. Membership in this organization is restricted to Weatherford High School Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors.
- B. Annual auditions for the squad will be held in the Spring of each school year.
- C. Prospective members shall meet the qualifications detailed in the tryout information packet. (i.e. Grades, citizenship, dance skills and ability)
- D. Each member must be willing to meet the financial obligations of uniforms, camp, etc. by payment or fundraising during the elected year.
- E. A student transferring to WHS from another school district who has been a member (in good standing) of another dance team has the option of requesting membership in Belles.
- F. Members must try out each year for a position on the team.

Article III Personal Qualifications

- A. You must WANT to be a Belle!
- B. You must be willing to abide by the rules and regulations.
- C. You must enjoy learning and performing dances.
- D. You must demonstrate responsibility at all times.
- E. You must have good coordination.
- F. You must have normal rhythm—to be able to move with the music.
- G. You must learn to act and project showmanship. Most important!
- H. You must be willing to participate in fundraising activities/service projects.
- I. You must understand that any decision made by the director is in the best interest of the team and its individual members.
- J. Belles are interested in physical fitness and striving to look and be “fit”.
- K. You must have perfection as a goal and understand that the schedule and discipline of a dance team member demands a high degree of determination, hard work, strength, dedication, responsibility, and self motivation.
- L. You must have a desire to cooperate—be a member of a “team”.

Article IV Membership

- A. There will be no set number of Belles on the team. Membership depends on number of students who tryout and achieve the minimum score requirements.
- B. Members will participate in all activities planned for the year.
- C. Members must exhibit and maintain exemplary behavior in school.
- D. All members must attend summer dance camp.
- E. Membership is from tryout selection through May of the following year.
- F. Letter jackets may be purchased in the Fall of each year.
- G. Members must pass each of their classes each six weeks. House Bill 72, “No Pass, No Play” rules apply. If a student fails a class for the six weeks, they are placed on grade probation whereupon they cannot perform, but must still be active in class and practices. A student may be reinstated at the 3 week progress report period with a passing eligibility in ALL classes.
- H. A member’s resignation will be accepted only after a member initiated conference. Following the conference, the resignation will not be complete until all financial obligations are met, uniforms returned, and parent permission has been given to the director and counselor.

Article V Parental Permission and Responsibilities

- A. Parents must give their permission for participation in Belles.
- B. Parents must be willing to meet all financial obligations involved in Belles. Payment options and fund-raisers are available to help defray the costs.
- C. Parents are responsible for arranging transportation to all activities except when transportation is provided by the district.
- D. Parents act as a support group by promoting the dance team through the Blue Belle Parent Club. Meetings are held the 1st Tuesday of each month.
- E. Parents should be willing to participate in various *Belle Parent Club* activities.

Article VI Practice Session Responsibilities

- A. Belle classes are 1st period each day during the school year.
- B. PE and/or Fine Arts credit is given for the class towards graduation.
- C. Before school and after school practice sessions are required but do not exceed the 8 hour limit per week. (7:30 am practice each day and Tuesday after school). Summer practices are scheduled as needed and are announced in the Spring.
- D. Calendars are given a month in advance and updated periodically as events change. Weekly announcements appear on the Blue Belle bulletin board.
- E. Members will arrive on time and stay until dismissed by director.
- F. Members must attend school a minimum ½ day to be able to practice or perform on that day.
- G. It is the responsibility of each member to notify the director or her squad officer of an absence before class or practice.
- H. Work cannot interfere with scheduled practice sessions.

Article VII Routine Evaluation and Performance

- A. For each performance, there will be a routine evaluation. Each member must demonstrate knowledge of the routine, projection, and skill assessment. If a member does not meet one or more of the criteria, the member will not be placed in the routine. (The director determines standards for

evaluation). A member unable to perform must still attend the performance in uniform and assume her responsibility to the team.

- B. Any member who misses routine evaluations will become dance alternates for that performance. Alternates will be utilized to fill “holes”.
- C. If a member misses a practice AFTER she has been placed in a routine, the “hole” will be filled with a dance alternate. Only exceptions occur when member has prior permission from director to be late or miss. Communication is KEY with the director. A team is dependent on all its members and dance performances are VISUAL. “Holes” do not look pleasing to an audience!
- D. Inability to perform:
 - 1. Any member suffering from illness or injury will be excused from workouts and/or performance. Parent contact or doctor note needed.
 - 2. Grade probation: House Bill 72 requires “No Pass, No Perform” Grade check will be initiated at the 3 week period and if the member is passing all classes, they will be reinstated as a performer. During the probationary time, the member will attend all practices and workout.
 - 3. Any member not performing must continue to dress out and practice.
- E. A complete uniform check will be held 30 minutes prior to a performance. This includes hair and make-up.
- F. While sitting in ranks, the members are not allowed to talk to visitors or eat.
- G. Visitors are not allowed to sit in the dance team section.
- H. No part of the uniform may be removed during the game unless instructed by the director.

Article VIII Absences and Tardies

- A. Every member must be present for all practice sessions, games, camp, pep rallies, etc. Only excuses approved by the director will be accepted and handled on an individual basis.
- B. Acceptable absences include: Personal illness or accident, funeral or death in a family, school related activities. Work, doctor appointments, etc. need to be handled outside of the scheduled practice time. If an emergency arises, contact the director.
- C. Make-up work is the responsibility of the member.
- D. Being late to practice or performance is discouraged. Students are responsible for make-up work missed. Please call if you are running late!
- E. See WISD “Standards for Participating in Extra-Curricular Activities” for further explanation on excused and unexcused absences.

Article IX Grading and the Demerit/Merit System

- A. Grades given to Belles are based on effort, attitude, performance, responsibility, and achievement. The demerit/merit scale will be used to evaluate each student.
- B. Demerits are used during the school year. Demerits are governed by the director. Dance and Social officers may give demerits for tardies, incomplete uniforms, jewelry, etc. Behavioral demerits are given by the director only.
- C. Merits are the rewards for working OFF demerits. A student may receive a “Clean Slate” each six weeks by working off demerits.
- D. Demerits/Merits may be given/rewarded in and out of drill team class.
- E. A demerit/merit is worth 2 points each on a six weeks grade.
The following examples are reasons for receiving demerits (but not limited to):
 - 1. Tardy to class or practice (1) Performance (3)
 - 2. Chewing gum in class, practice, uniform. (1)

3. Not dressing out properly (1—missing piece of uniform; 5—non-suit)
 4. Forgetting props, equipment, uniforms, paperwork (1)
 5. Uniform:
 - a. Not clean (3)
 - b. Equipment not clean (1)
 - c. Wearing jewelry (1)
 - d. Eating/drinking in uniform w/o permission (1)
 - e. Failure to wear designated piece of uniform (1 each)
 6. Attitude:
 - a. Talking while at attention or in ranks (1)
 - b. Misconduct; poor attitude, language (3)
 - c. Showing disrespect to director/fellow members (5)
 - d. Failure to cooperate with director or officers (5)
 7. Showing lack of spirit/participation (stand routines/cheers) (1)
 8. Allowing someone to wear a Belle uniform (or item) not on team (5)
 9. Being late for 4th quarter (1)
 10. Not being in assigned seat at game, etc. (1)
 11. AC assignment for any reason (5)
 12. PDA (1-5)
- F. Demerit Scale for determining grades:
1. 0-5 demerits 100-90
 2. 6-10 “ 88-80
 3. 11-15 “ 78-70
 4. 15 Dismissal
- (Demerits start over each six weeks!)
- G. Demerit scale for probation:
1. 5 accumulated demerits = suspension from 1 performance
 2. 10 accumulated demerits = 2 week probation
 3. 15 accumulated demerits = Dismissal
- H. Merits may be earned to “erase” demerits. Merits must be earned during the week following the demerit. After the week, the points are deducted from the six week grade. Merits must be earned outside of practice time.
- I. Merits may be earned (but not limited to) the following: (1 each)
1. Physical Fitness:
 - a. 1 set of Power kicks
 - b. 4 laps around gym (running)
 - c. 100 crunches or 50 push-ups
 2. Tutorials: ½ hour (must have signed note by teacher with time)
 3. Donations for events (2 liter drinks, cookies, etc.)
- J. Service Hours are the means by which a Belle may be rewarded for her extra service to the organization. Belles and parents may accumulate hours. These hours are used for Banquet tickets and WISD volunteer hours. A parent club volunteer will keep track of the service hours, but it is the responsibility of the Belle and parent to validate correctness each month. Hours will be verified at
- J. monthly parent club meetings and Belle class. 2 months after the event, the hours stand as recorded.
- K. Service Hours are NOT given to the Belle if earning \$ toward account.

A. General probationary considerations

1. Failure to comply with any regulation as stated in the constitution may result in probation for the member until the reason for probation is corrected to the satisfaction of administrator and director.
2. A member on probation may not participate in performing activities, but is required to fulfill all other responsibilities.

B. Grade Probation:

1. If a student fails a class (below 70 average), they are put on 3 week probation. (House Bill 72)
2. 3 week progress reports are checked and if student is still failing they will remain on probation for the remainder of the six weeks.
3. Student must attend tutorial sessions in failed class. (Min. 1 per week)
4. Student must attend & participate in all practice and class sessions.
5. Student may participate in social and fund-raiser events.

Article XI Conduct

This constitution sets standards which are necessary for the integrity and reputation of the Blue Belle organization. The Belles are considered leaders in the school and community and should set a good example at all times. Members of Belles are expected to maintain a character beyond reproach. The team concept is imperative to a successful year and each individual member is a reflection of that team's reputation. Belles take pride in each other and the accomplishments achieved!

1. Drill team members actions requiring any disciplinary procedure by an administrator (such as tardies, dress code, PDA, truancy, misconduct, etc.) will result in the following:
 - a. 1st offense: 5 demerits = suspension from a performance
 - b. 2nd offense: 10 demerits and 2 week probation
 - c. 3rd offense : 15 demerits – dismissal
2. Probationary status, as well as dismissal from drill team may be given to members for the following reasons: smoking, pregnancy, use of alcohol/drugs, fighting, etc.. (See WISD Standards for Extra-Curricular Activities)

Article XII Uniforms

- A. WISD will purchase Belle field dress uniforms, props, and equipment.
- B. Members must purchase practice clothes and pep rally uniforms.
- C. All financial obligations regarding uniforms and camp must be concluded by the end of the Fall semester.
- D. Uniforms are worn at Belle functions only.
- E. Uniforms are to be kept clean and in good repair.
- F. Members must wear assigned uniforms to practice. (Names in each)
- G. Each member will be assigned a field uniform. The member assumes full responsibility for the care and upkeep of that uniform and is responsible financially for replacement and repair costs of damaged or lost parts.
- H. Belle uniforms may be worn only by Belles!
- I. Homecoming mums cannot be worn on the field uniform.

Article XIII Transportation

- A. Transportation to and from events will be provided by WISD. All Belles are required to ride to and from the events with the team.
- B. Parents may request to pick up a Belle from an event with the director's permission. PARENTS only!
- C. Belles will conduct themselves appropriately on all trips.
- D. Members will abide by bus regulations and keep the buses clean.

Article XIV Managers

- A. There shall be one or more managers who are of 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grades.
- B. Managers will be selected by director.
- C. Managers will uphold all duties, rules, and regulations as members.
- D. Managers are non-performing team members.
- E. Managers will attend all practices, events, and performances.
- F. Managers are totally responsible to the director.

Article XV Officers (Dance and Social)

- A. Officers will be selected by a panel of qualified judges, team, and teachers.
- B. Officers must work closely with the other officers, line members, and director.
- C. Officers must set a good example for the team at all times.
- D. The director may remove an officer if that officer does not uphold her position and responsibilities.
- E. Officers are responsible for their individual squads and members.
- F. Officers will tryout for every performance.
- G. Officers must attend every practice and designated school function.
- H. Officers must pass every class. If an officer fails more than 2 six weeks in a year, they will return to the line.
- I. The Captain is responsible to the director for the performance of the team. The Captain is in full charge in the event that the director is not available. The Captain is responsible, along with the director, for the choreography and teaching of material. Other officers may assist. The Captain must work closely with the other officers, line members, and director. The Captain must set a good example for the members to follow.
- J. The Lieutenants are responsible to the Director and Captain for the performance of their squads. They are to assist the Captain in the perfecting of all performance routines. They will also assist in choreography. The lieutenants must work closely with the other officers, line members, and the director. It is their responsibility to set a good example for the members to follow.
- K. The Social Officers are responsible to their director and dance officers for the motivation of their squad. Social Officers are in charge of the annual awards banquet, social functions, and team building activities throughout the year. They are responsible for initiating and planning these events. One social officer will be elected for each squad.

Article XVI Director and Constitutional Changes

- A. The constitution is subject to change at anytime due to Texas Education Agency rule changes, WISD policy changes, or administrator directive.
- B. If necessary, the director may alter rules in the constitution according to the safety and well-being of the member. (i.e. a member becomes sick at an out of town event and allows the member to ride home with another Belle family after obtaining parent permission).

- C. The director may enforce other rules as they become necessary during the school year in the best interest of the organization.

Article XVII Awards and Special Recognitions

- A. **Forever Belles:** All former Belles are invited to become a member of the *Forever Belle* organization—a non-profit group that supports the current Belles and reunites every 5 years at the annual Spring Show. 2000-2001 marks the 20th year for the Weatherford High school Blue Belles Dance Team under the direction of Nika Orm Carter.
- B. **MA & PA Belles:** The Blue Belle Parents who dance, support, and work in the annual Spring Show
- C. **Blue Belle Memorial Scholarship:** A scholarship is given every year to a Senior(s) who have demonstrated outstanding service to Belles. Dr. & Mrs. George Orm are trustees of this fund. It was established to honor the memories of the Blue Belle “Drill Team in Heaven”.
- D. **Belle Buddies:** This is a sisterly relationship between Belles to help motivate and assist throughout the year. Special recognition is given at camp, 1st football game, Homecoming, holidays, contest and Spring Show.
- E. **Kick Club:** A Belle may try out for “Kick Club” any time during the year. All members will receive a pin to wear on their field hat and may be asked to perform as an ensemble at special functions.
- F. **Sunrise Ceremony:** Held the weekend before the first football game to celebrate the end of summer practices and the upcoming performance season.
- G. **DROP ceremony:** Can be held at any time throughout the year to celebrate perfect performances.
- H. **Belle & Spirit Girl of the Week:** Voted each week by the team to be recognized at football games for outstanding attitude and dance performance.
- I. **Teacher of the Week:** Voted each week by the team to recognize outstanding teachers who support the Belles.
- J. **Clean Slate:** Earned by those Belles who receive demerits and yet work them off each six weeks with merits.
- K. **Gold-Dust:** Belles who receive no demerits throughout the year.
- L. **Star Belle:** Special recognition given at any time by the directors for service to the organization above and beyond the required duties of a member.
- M. **Banquet Awards:** Voted on by the membership and awarded at Banquet each year. These awards are:
- 1) Most Outstanding Freshmen, Sophomore, Junior, and Senior.
 - 2) Most Improved Rookie
 - 3) Best Line Member
 - 4) Most Positive Contributing Person
 - 5) Best Dancer
 - 6) Best Choreographer
 - 7) Best Officer
 - 8) Belle of the Year
- N. **Texas All State Dance Team:** Voted by the team in the Fall to represent Belles at the annual All State Dance team in January.

We, the undersigned, have read and discussed the Blue Belle Constitution and Handbook and realize the obligations of all concerned.

Also, being a credited course in school as well as an extra-curricular activity, we agree not to take our Belle out of a Dance Team activity as a form of personal punishment due to her responsibility and importance as a team member. If the need arises, we will discuss options with the director.

We accept the challenge, obligation, and responsibility of being an award-winning Weatherford High School Blue Belle!

Belle Signature

Parent Signature

Date _____