

# 2025-2026 Guidelines for the Bellaire Belles Dance Team

## Objectives:

1. Increase and develop character, leadership, scholarship, self-worth, and community involvement, while exemplifying high moral character.
2. Promote school spirit and good sportsmanship.
3. Promote community spirit.
4. Represent Bellaire High School at athletic events, school functions, competitions, and community activities, on and off campus.
5. Encourage and support interest in all areas interrelated to education, including but not limited to academic clubs, athletics, and fine arts as well as other outstanding organizations within the school setting.
6. Develop and maintain a high level of dance training in various areas of dance and styles.

### 1) PERFORMANCE TRYOUTS

- Tryouts are held prior to most performances.
- The director(s) may define tryouts as a formal auditioning process or general observation of the members.
- Each member is required to participate in tryouts. Provisions for auditions may be made for excused absences on the day of formal auditions.
- Members must be in correct practice uniform to participate in the tryout.

### 2) ATTENDANCE

- All members are required to attend all practices and performances whether performing or not. Tutoring sessions, doctor's appointments, work, and other extra-curricular activities must be scheduled outside of dance team practice (usually Mon-Thurs)
- Excused absences follow the students' guidelines for excused school absences with documentation provided to the directors.
- Dancers must either call/text their dance officer and leave a message in the GroupMe or they must email the director before the practice explaining why they are going to be late or absent. Absences without a phone call are considered unexcused and will be subject to grade deduction and/or removal from performances. Additional guidelines pertaining to attendance and performance may be established by the director(s) to prepare for upcoming performances.
- Members will be allowed 2 excused absences from practices for the semester without penalty. Excessive absences, even though excused, may result in the loss of a position in a performance.
- Absence from a dance team function due to detention is considered unexcused.
- Members are expected to travel to and from dance team functions with the team if a bus is provided. A member may leave a function only with his/her parent/guardian (or a designated adult) if a note is received in advance. Members may not leave with friends.
- Members are expected to be in attendance for the entire event except in the case of an emergency. We will announce the departure time for Thursday night games.
- Members may be removed from dances due to absences.
- Students who have a major event planned for the fall may be excused from one game during the football season if the director(s) have a note stating the event's time, place, and

reason for attending by Labor Day Weekend. After this date, no absence will be excused. Unexcused game absences may result in removal from the following game or performance.

- 4 unexcused absences (class, practice, or performance) during football season or 3 during competition season may result in removal from the team.
- Leaving early or missing a portion of practice will be considered an absence.
- If a member is absent when a dance is taught, then it is that member's responsibility to learn the choreography outside of official practice time.

### **3) EXPENSES/COSTUMES**

- Each member is responsible for paying for practice uniforms, shoes, warm-ups, and any other apparel the group may need. Any travel expenses are also the responsibility of the member.
- The field uniform and team contest costumes are furnished by the Belles and the Belle Booster Club. Each member is responsible for the maintenance of these uniforms and costumes. Any missing or damaged pieces will be paid for by the member to whom the uniform/costume is issued. Before costumes are issued, a deposit of \$150.00 will be collected. This deposit will be held until all costumes are returned in good condition and clean. Costumes must be washed/cleaned, have no visible stains and no bleeding of colors on fabrics. When costumes are returned, the deposit is voided & returned.
- To keep costs as low as possible, there will be fundraising events. Fundraising events will benefit the team in general. Each member is expected to participate fully. Failure to pay dues or participate in Fundraising Activities may result in dismissal from the team.
- Each member is expected to remit payments for balances according to the due dates given. If dues are not paid by the final deadline, Belles will not be allowed to participate in any practices, performances or other Belle activities. Communication about late payments must be made with the Director before the deadline.

### **4) GRADE & CONDUCT REQUIREMENTS**

- A member must meet all grade requirements as outlined by the State Board of Education, Texas Education Agency, the University Interscholastic League (UIL) and state law.
- Any student who receives a grade lower than 70 during a six-week period will be ineligible and will be placed on probation. The member must participate in practice, but he/she may not perform with the dance team or attend its performance functions. Uniforms may not be worn to games while on probation.
- Any member who is placed on grade probation will be assigned an alternate position. Once the member has regained eligibility, he/she may audition for the dance.
- All Belles should maintain E average in conduct. Insubordination will lead to dismissal.
- Belles' conduct in classes, hallways, and anywhere on campus will be highly satisfactory, and expected to abide by rules and regulations of HISD.
- Infractions of rules or minor conduct infractions shall be handled at the discretion of the director(s) and may result in a strike or possible dismissal from the team.

### **5) PERFORMANCES**

- Members are expected to arrive at performances in costume and make-up (ready to perform). Anyone who is late will sit in the back.
- Everything needed for a performance will be carried in the Belle backpack.
- Members who are wearing unacceptable, incomplete performance attire will not be allowed to perform.

During football games, talking is allowed in the stands, but turning around in the stands is not permitted.

- Members must use the restroom before we are seated in the stands at the beginning of the game or during the third quarter when belles go to the concession area.
- During a football game, members must keep lines straight with bags and poms lined up as directed by the officers.
- Members may not talk nor text on cell phones during the game until directed to notify their transportation of pick-up times.
- Only water may be consumed in the stands. During the third quarter break students may have clear drinks and non messy food such as popcorn. No nachos or chili.
- Members should make all arrangements with parents before the game or during the third quarter break.
- Students may not have visitors in the stands during the game.

## **6) CLASS PROCEDURES**

- Members should arrive 5 minutes after the tardy bell in correct attire and shoes.
- Members are expected to sit with their company in designated area for roll call member not dressed correctly (including shoes) will be penalized one point from his/her final grade each day.
- During class time, grades on dance performance (memory/technique) will be given weekly.
- Participation is required each day. Do not ask to sit out. If you are sick, you should be at home. Only doctor's notes will be accepted for non-participation. Dressing out is still required for injured belles. They must still stretch and do what they can during class to receive credit for the class.
- Members who are repeatedly tardy, not dressed, or displaying a lack of effort will be removed from the team.
- The designated end time of practice is when belles are dismissed from the cafeteria.
- Finally, members do not make excuses, but strive to improve and grow as dancers. Ask for help if you need assistance with a dance or technique.

## **7) COMMITMENTS**

### **A. Summer camp & Practices**

- June/July are considered vacation months. The month of August we will be starting back up with Varsity & JV camps as well as practices to get ready for football season.
- All members must attend August practices and camp See Calendar for schedule.
- Failure to attend summer practices without prior permission from director(s) may warrant a strike or probation from team sponsored activities as determined by director.
- Any student with an unexcused absence during summer practices/camp may receive probation from team activities for each day missed.

### **B. Football and Contest Season Commitments**

- All members are expected to attend and participate in all activities, fundraisers, classes, practices, performances, and functions.
- Missing any part of class or practice during the season may result in a member being placed as an alternate to a given dance.
- Doctor's appointments should be scheduled for non-practice days. Emergency situations should be handled prior to the appointment and must have director's approval.

- If a member is absent, it is expected that contact be made with the director prior to the class period and/or practice.
- If a member is absent, it is his/her responsibility to acquire information, announcements, or routines taught during any absence.
- Any practices held on Saturday or holidays scheduled by the director(s) and approved by administration must be attended by all members.

#### **8) TERMINATION OF OFFICERS/SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

- Failure of an officer/social committee member to set a proper example and follow the guidelines of the dance team constitution, officer/committee contract and the HISD code of conduct may result in demotion to a line member or removal from the team.
- Officers/committee members will be removed from their office with the accumulation of the 15<sup>th</sup> grade/conduct deduction (see #9) and her parent/ guardian will be notified of the demotion.

**9) GRADE/CONDUCT DEDUCTIONS** – list below includes, but not limited to, behaviors which would require grade and/or conduct deductions. The amount deducted will be determined by the director(s).

- Tardiness to practice, game, or non-school hour activity/event.
- Showing disrespect towards officers, his/her teammates.
- Leaving a performance, game, practice, or activity/event early without permission.
- Inappropriate language or behavior.
- Failure to adhere to grooming and uniform expectations for a game, practice, or activity/event.

**10) STRIKE POLICY** – Members will be under a 3-strike policy, list below includes but not limited to behaviors which would require strikes:

- A. Disrespect towards director(s)/teachers/administration.
- B. Documented inappropriate conduct while displaying membership.
- C. Unexcused absence from performance or required function (no notification)
- D. Tobacco and/or vape use.
- E. Refusal to work or pay attention at practice.
- F. Unsportsmanlike conduct at game or performance.
- G. Consecutive tardiness, improper uniforms, absences, and/or misconduct.
- H. Strike policy:
  - STRIKE ONE: parent notification and possible probation of team sponsored activity.
  - STRIKE TWO: parent notification, conference with parent, and possible probation of two team sponsored activities.
  - STRIKE THREE: Parent notification, conference with parent and student, possible probation from team activities and/or immediate dismissal.

#### **11) MERITS**

- Merits are given to a Belle for going beyond what is required.
- A certain number of merits are required to move up to Varsity (determined by Directors)
- Merits are used in determining the selection of honor corps, cadets and officers.
- Senior achievement award goes to the senior that has accumulated the most merits as a Belle.