

KNOX COUNTY SCHOOLS

**Criteria for Cheerleaders, Pom Pon Squads and Dance Teams  
2017-18 - Selection and Participation**

The following procedures are a matter of Knox County Board of Education records and must be adhered to exactly as written.

- Section 1      Students may participate only at the school where he/she is enrolled and in regular attendance. (Tryout Included) Students must attend school 3.5 hours to participate in tryouts or games.
- Section 2      The principal of each middle/secondary school shall select a sponsor(s) to coordinate the selection and function of each team the school sponsors.
- Section 3      Eligibility Rules
- A. Middle School and High School
1. A student who engages in practice or try outs with a school in which the student is enrolled shall be ineligible to cheer the following season if the student enrolls in another school without a corresponding change in the residence of the student's parents.
  2. Faculty recommendations or approvals are not permissible.
- B. Middle School
1. A student shall have three consecutive years to participate from the date he/she is first enrolled in the sixth grade
  2. No student shall be eligible to participate during any school year if he/she becomes fifteen years of age on or before August 1<sup>st</sup>.
  3. A student shall have been promoted academically to the next higher grade.
  4. Academic Eligibility
    - a. Students must have a "C" average the prior nine-week grading period to tryout.
    - b. Students must maintain a "C" average each nine-week grading period to be eligible to participate.
      - All subjects are included in determining grade point average
      - Averages are not to be rounded up.

- A grade report form with all participants shall be sent to the Athletic Specialist office each grading period during season.

### C. High School

1. The student must earn five credits the preceding school year if less than **24 credits** are required for graduation or six credits the preceding school year if 24 or more credits are required for graduation. All credits must be earned by the first day of the school year. Academic eligibility for a student is based on the requirements of the school the student was attending at the conclusion of the previous school year. Knox County Schools requires 28 credits for graduation.
2. No student shall be eligible to participate during any school year if he/she becomes nineteen years of age on or before August 1<sup>st</sup>.
3. A student shall be ineligible to try out if he/she attended a secondary school, or schools, for eight semesters. Attendance of forty school days of any semester shall be regarded as a “semester” under this rule. If a student participates during a period of attendance, any number of days less than forty, he/she shall be charged with a semester of attendance.
4. A student who registers for two or more ninth grade subjects after having completed one school year in the eighth grade shall be classified as a high school student for participation purposes.

### Section 4      Tryout Procedures

- A. Students interested in trying out for the cheerleading squad/pom pon squad/dance team shall turn in their names to the sponsor prior to a date specified by the sponsor and cleared by the principal. The sponsor shall refer these names to the guidance department for certification of scholastic, attendance, and age eligibility as evidenced by the cumulative record cards.
- B. Before tryouts, each student shall turn in to the sponsor a signed and dated parent permission form stating that they understand the selection criteria, school policies and that they agree to permit their son/daughter to try out. This form shall be kept on file in the principal’s office for three years from date signed. The sponsor shall keep a copy of this agreement for three years from date signed.
- C. Students must have a medical examination by a licensed medical doctor prior to try-outs. Any known medical condition, which might interfere with active participation, should be recorded on the medical form (ex. Asthma, heart condition, epilepsy, diabetes, etc.) These physicals are good for one full year from the date the physical occurred.
- D. Selection of cheerleader squads, pom pon squads and dance teams shall be by selection committee.

- E. If more than one cheerleader squad is selected, students shall declare before tryouts which squad he/she will be a candidate if required by the school principal.

Section 5 Selection criteria by selection committee

- A. The selection committee shall be composed of a minimum of three and a maximum of five members that have no connection with the immediate school or students trying out. These members, selected by the school's sponsor, shall each have a minimum of two years' experience as a college cheerleader/pom pon squad member, dance team member, cheerleading sponsor/pom pon squad sponsor/dance team sponsor or instructor in a national cheerleader/pom pon squad/dance team association camp. Schools that have a minority enrollment equal to or greater than the system average must have a minimum of one minority judge.
- B. The selection committee shall score each student independently of each other. The candidates will be judged on criteria developed by the Knox County School System.
- C. Scoring and tallying shall be supervised by a school administrator. All scores and tallies are to be kept on file in the principal's office for three years from the date signed. Scores and tallies are confidential and may be released only at the direction of the Superintendent or his/her designee.

**Section 6** *A maximum of sixteen members are allowed on the court or mat during the game except at halftime. Keep safety in mind, less than sixteen (12) is recommended for gyms with limited space.*

Section 7 Selected members shall serve only one academic year unless they are reselected for future participation.

Section 8 A progressive discipline policy is to be established at each school by the sponsor and approved by the principal detailing squad/team requirements, discipline and a progressive methodology regarding disciplinary actions. The policy shall include the process for removing a participant from the squad/team. Parents are to be given a copy of these rules and discipline policy before tryouts begin.

- Section 9      Transportation to games, practices and camps shall be the responsibility of the students' parents, unless furnished by the individual school, and under the supervision of the principal's designee.
- Section 10     Team/squad members are REQUIRED to participate in the Knox County Schools' athletic insurance program.
- Section 11    *All fund raising and expenditures shall be supervised by the sponsor and approved by the principal/school board.***
- Section 12     Only selected squad/team members are required to be involved in squad/team fund raising.
- Section 13     Uniforms
- A.      High School
- All cheerleader uniforms and paraphernalia are property of the Knox County Schools. The cost of cheerleading and uniforms will be treated as any other non-revenue sport in each school. Parents will be responsible for the cost of their child's personal items only (cheerleading camps, shoes, socks, jacket, etc.). Parents will not be responsible for any fees or uniform cost unless items are lost or damaged through irresponsible use or care. Only selected cheerleaders are to participate in fund raising for cheerleading purposes. School principals are to insure that personal item costs will not become cost prohibitive for any student.
- B.      Middle School
- School principals shall insure that the cost of being a cheerleader does not keep any qualified student from being eligible.

Knox County Schools

Middle School Cheerleader Judging Form

Judge # \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate's Number \_\_\_\_\_

Scoring: 1 (low) to 5 (high)

I. Individual Cheer

a.	Entrance – Enthusiasm – Spirit - Gymnastics	0	1	2	3	4	5
b.	Appearance and Smile	0	1	2	3	4	5
c.	Incorporation of Jump	0	1	2	3	4	5
d.	Projection - Voice Clarity	0	1	2	3	4	5
e.	Poise and Confidence	0	1	2	3	4	5
f.	Sharpness	0	1	2	3	4	5
g.	Gymnastics	0	1	2	3	4	5

SUBTOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

II. Jumps

a.	Required	0	1	2	3	4	5
b.	Required	0	1	2	3	4	5
c.	Optional	0	1	2	3	4	5

SUBTOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

III. Dance

a.	Synchronization	0	1	2	3	4	5
b.	Motions	0	1	2	3	4	5
c.	Knowledge of Routine	0	1	2	3	4	5
d.	Eye Contact – Facial Expression	0	1	2	3	4	5
e.	Incorporation of Jump	0	1	2	3	4	5
f.	Overall Performance of Dance	0	1	2	3	4	5

SUBTOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

# Middle School Cheerleader Judging Form

Judge # \_\_\_\_\_

## IV. Group Chant

a.	Projection	0	1	2	3	4	5
b.	Poise and Confidence	0	1	2	3	4	5
c.	Sharpness	0	1	2	3	4	5
d.	Synchronization	0	1	2	3	4	5
e.	Group Awareness	0	1	2	3	4	5

**SUBTOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

**Judge's Signature on File**

Judge's Number \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Knox County Schools  
High School Cheerleader Judging Form

Student's Number \_\_\_\_\_

Judge's Number \_\_\_\_\_

- |      |                                    |       |
|------|------------------------------------|-------|
| I.   | <b>Entrance</b>                    |       |
|      | a. Jumps and Gymnastics            | _____ |
|      |                                    | 0-10  |
|      | b. Spirit and Enthusiasm           | _____ |
|      |                                    | 0-10  |
|      |                                    |       |
| II.  | <b>Jumps</b>                       |       |
|      | a. Required                        | _____ |
|      |                                    | 0-10  |
|      | b. Required                        | _____ |
|      |                                    | 0-10  |
|      | c. Optional                        | _____ |
|      |                                    | 0-15  |
|      |                                    |       |
| III. | <b>Chant</b>                       |       |
|      | a. Projection                      | _____ |
|      |                                    | 0-10  |
|      | b. Poise and Confidence            | _____ |
|      |                                    | 0-10  |
|      | c. Sharpness / Motion              | _____ |
|      |                                    | 0-20  |
|      | d. Synchronization                 | _____ |
|      |                                    | 0-10  |
|      |                                    |       |
| IV.  | <b>Dance</b> (female)              |       |
|      | a. Synchronization                 | _____ |
|      |                                    | 0-10  |
|      | b. Sharpness / Motions             | _____ |
|      |                                    | 0-20  |
|      | c. Knowledge of Routine            | _____ |
|      |                                    | 0-10  |
|      | d. Eye Contact – Facial Expression | _____ |
|      |                                    | 0-10  |
|      | e. Incorporation of Jump           | _____ |
|      |                                    | 0-10  |
|      | f. Overall Performance of Dance    | _____ |
|      |                                    | 0-10  |

# High School Cheerleader Judging Form

Student's Number \_\_\_\_\_

Judge's Number \_\_\_\_\_

## V. Cheer

- |    |                                       |       |
|----|---------------------------------------|-------|
| a. | Appearance                            | _____ |
|    |                                       | 0-10  |
| b. | Eye Contact / Expression / Confidence | _____ |
|    |                                       | 0-10  |
| c. | Projection / Voice Clarity            | _____ |
|    |                                       | 0-10  |
| d. | Sharpness / Motions                   | _____ |
|    |                                       | 0-20  |
| e. | Jump                                  | _____ |
|    |                                       | 0-10  |
| f. | Incorporation                         | _____ |
|    |                                       | 0-15  |

## VI. Stunts (male)

- |    |       |       |
|----|-------|-------|
| a. | _____ | _____ |
|    |       | 0-10  |
| b. | _____ | _____ |
|    |       | 0-10  |
| c. | _____ | _____ |
|    |       | 0-10  |
| d. | _____ | _____ |
|    |       | 0-10  |

**TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

**Judge's Signature on File**

Judge's Number \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_