

**MIAMI SOUTHRIDGE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
CHEERLEADING CONSTITUTION**

A Southridge Cheerleader represents our school at all times and must uphold the highest standards of character and conduct. Every action reflects on the squad, so cheerleaders should always act with courtesy and professionalism. Cheerleaders take on their responsibilities with enthusiasm and unwavering spirit, remembering that the success of the squad always comes before individual desires.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Cheerleaders must promote school spirit, set an excellent example, and uphold the standards outlined in the constitution.
- B. Cheerleaders are responsible for all squad activities and must participate in all duties and major school spirit events with enthusiasm and without reminder.
- C. Each cheerleader must attend the designated summer clinic.
- D. Cheerleaders must attend the mandatory weekly meetings.

GRADES

- A. Cheerleaders must maintain a cumulative 2.0 GPA and earn a “C” or higher in scholarship in every class.
- B. Cheerleaders must not have a conduct grade lower than a “C” or an effort grade lower than a “2” in any class.
- C. Grades will be reviewed every 4½ weeks.
- D. Any cheerleader who falls below the required academic, conduct, or effort standards will receive a warning and a specified time frame to correct the deficiency. **Failure to meet the required standard within that time will result in expulsion from the team.**

CONDUCT

- A. A cheerleader:
- B. Shall maintain orderly behavior and obey all school rules while in school or at any school-related function.
- C. Shall avoid excessive personal contact during school hours or while representing the school, in or out of uniform.
- D. Shall not smoke, vape, consume alcohol, or use illegal drugs.
- E. Shall uphold the highest standard of conduct and is responsible for all actions in and out of school.
- F. Shall keep personal issues separate from school and school functions.
- G. Shall not post or share any social media content that reflects negatively on the individual cheerleader or the squad.
- H. Violation of any conduct rule, or any report of misconduct from a faculty member, **will result in expulsion from the team at the sponsor’s discretion.**

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

- A. Cheerleaders may NOT accumulate more than 10 absences (excused or unexcused) for the school year.
- B. Cheerleaders may NOT accumulate more than 20 tardies (excused or unexcused) for the school year.

APPEARANCE

A Cheerleader:

- A. Shall not wear excessive makeup or extreme hair styles while in uniform. (This includes unnatural hair colors).
- B. Must dress according to the school dress code.

PRACTICES

A. TIMES: (Approximate and can vary)

1. Football- 1.5 hours, 4 days a week.
2. Basketball & Other Sports - 1.5 hours, 2 times a week.
3. Competition- If attending a competition, practices will be scheduled as needed.

B. ATTENDANCE: (A cheerleader must be present at all practices)

1. Excused Absence = $\frac{1}{2}$ **cut**
 - a. Death in family, illness, other extenuating circumstances.
 - b. Must have appropriate documentation (doctor note, etc.).
 - c. A written excuse must be turned in the day you return.
2. Unexcused Absence = **1 cut.**
3. Tardy to practice results in $\frac{1}{2}$ **cut.**

C. UNIFORM

1. Practice Shirt (purchased through sponsor).
2. Black Shorts
3. White socks.
4. White tennis shoes.
5. Only small stud earrings permitted.
6. Out of uniform to practice results in $\frac{1}{2}$ **cut.**

GAMES

A. FOOTBALL

1. Southridge Cheerleaders will cheer at **ALL** regular season games and play-off games.
2. Missing a game = **2 cuts** (regardless of reason).
3. Tardy to a game = **1 cut**
4. Out of uniform = benching for that game and **1 cut.**

B. BASKETBALL

1. Southridge Cheerleaders will cheer at **ALL HOME** games, special away games, and **ALL** play-off games.
2. Missing a game = **2 cuts** (regardless of reason).
3. Tardy to a game = **1 cut.**
4. Out of uniform = benching for that game and **1 cut.**

PERFORMANCES

- A. Includes pep rallies, competitions, and any other event outside of regular games and practices.
- B. Missing practice during the preparation period for a performance will result in removal from that performance.
- C. If a cheerleader is removed from a performance, they are still required to attend all scheduled practices.
- D. Missing a performance—for any reason, including removal due to missed practices—will result in **2 cuts.**

UNIFORMS

ALL UNIFORMS ISSUED TO EACH CHEERLEADER ARE THE PROPERTY OF THE SCHOOL!

A. Hall Uniform

1. Hair may be worn down. No hair ornaments unless distributed by sponsor.
2. Only clear nail polish.
3. Only small stud earrings and class rings are permitted.
4. Out of Hall Uniform = **1 cut**

B. Game & Performance Uniform

1. Hair- pulled back in a single ponytail. No hair ornaments unless distributed by sponsor.
2. Only clear nail polish
3. Only small stud earrings and class rings permitted.
4. Out of Game/Pep Rally Uniform = benching and **1cut**

C. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

1. A cheerleader may not wear uniform to any other function other than those specified by the sponsor.
2. Must change to street clothes after a game (if not going home).
3. May not wear uniform shopping, to dinner, or in public unless with the squad.

DISCIPLINE

A. CUTS

1. Cuts are used to monitor a cheerleaders conduct.
2. **10 Cuts** results in expulsion from the team.

B. ATTENDANCE INFRACTIONS

1. Practice:
 - a. tardy or leaving early = $\frac{1}{2}$ **cut**.
 - b. excused absence = $\frac{1}{2}$ **cut** (must have note).
 - c. unexcused absence = **1 cut**.
2. Game:
 - a. tardy or leaving early = **1 cut**
 - b. absence (regardless of reason) = **2 cuts**.

C. INFRACTIONS RESULTING IN 1 CUT

1. Out of uniform at practice ($\frac{1}{2}$ **cut**).
2. Out of Hall Uniform.
3. Out of uniform at game (**benched and 1 cut**).
4. Chewing gum at practice or games.
5. Use of your cellular phone at practice or game.
6. Failure to practice properly.
7. Failure to follow instructions given by the sponsor, or officer.
8. Not turning money in on time.
9. Not participating in spirit functions.
10. Missing deadlines.
11. Missing meetings.
12. Late pick up or not being picked up from designated area.
13. Other behaviors may result in disciplinary actions as deemed fit by the cheer sponsor(s).

D. INFRACTIONS RESULTING IN 2 CUTS

1. Missing a game.
2. Breaking a school rule.
3. Irregular attendance to classes.
4. Disorderly conduct.
5. Disrespecting a staff member (may result in expulsion).
6. Behavior problems at practice.
7. Behavior problems at game (**benched and 2 cuts**).
8. Talking back to any officer or sponsor (may result in expulsion).
9. Other behaviors may result in disciplinary actions as deemed fit by the cheer sponsor(s).

E. BENCHING

1. Sponsor will have ultimate authority to bench a cheerleader.
2. A cheerleader is to be present at all athletic contests at the specified time and place.
3. A cheerleader is not excused from being present while benched.

F. EXPULSION

A cheerleader may be expelled from the squad at the sponsor's discretion or for any of the following:

1. Accumulating 10 cuts.
2. Failure to meet academic, conduct, or effort requirements within the specified corrective time frame after receiving a warning.
3. Violation of any conduct rule, including but not limited to disorderly conduct, disrespect toward staff, excessive personal contact, or behavior that reflects negatively on the individual, the squad, or the school, in or out of uniform.
4. Use or possession of alcohol, tobacco, vaping devices, or illegal drugs, or being under the influence while in uniform or while representing the school.
5. Fighting, physical altercations, or threats of violence.
6. Excessive school attendance violations, including exceeding the maximum number of allowed absences or tardies.
7. Misuse, lending, or unauthorized wearing of uniforms or cheer equipment without sponsor approval.
8. Failure to comply with sponsor directives, squad rules, or constitution requirements, including repeated infractions or insubordination.
9. Any incident deemed harmful to the reputation, safety, or integrity of the cheerleader, the squad, or Miami Southridge Senior High School, following review and investigation.
10. Once a cheerleader is expelled or voluntarily quits the squad, the individual may not return or try out for the following school year.

G. PRIORITIZE CHEERLEADING

1. While participation in other sports or clubs is allowed, cheerleading must take priority over all other extracurricular activities.
2. Missing scheduled cheerleading events (such as meetings, practices, games, etc.) due to involvement in other activities will result in appropriate cuts.

OFFICERS

A. VARSITY CAPTAIN

1. Must be a second-year varsity member.
2. Must not carry over more than 6 cuts from previous year.
3. Appointed by the sponsor.
4. In charge and responsible for the conduct of the squad at all times.
5. May recommend disciplinary actions to the sponsor.
6. Must organize and plan all activities of the squad with the sponsor.
7. Must always keep pace with all the other duties.

B. VARSITY CO-CAPTAIN

1. Must be a second-year varsity member.
2. Must not carry over more than 6 cuts from previous year.
3. Appointed by the sponsor.
4. Must assist captain in fulfilling all activities and duties.
5. Will become captain of the divided groups during sports outside of football season.
6. Will be in charge and responsible for the squad in the absence of the captain.

C. SECRETARY

1. Must be a second-year varsity member.
2. Appointed by the sponsor.
3. Helps sponsor with attendance.
4. Along with the sponsor, keeps track of cuts, absences, notes for absences, and service points.
5. May become captain of the divided groups during sports outside of football season.
6. Will be in charge and responsible for the squad in the absence of the captain or co-captain.

FUND RAISING

- A. Participation in all squad fundraising activities is **mandatory**. Each cheerleader is responsible for raising the required funds to meet the financial needs of the squad.
- B. All fundraising activities will be determined by the sponsor and the activities director.
- C. The required fundraising amount will be communicated at the beginning of the school year.

SERVICE POINTS

- A. 100 service points must be obtained to receive a letter.
- B. Service points will be given for:
 1. Sales above and beyond the required amount.
 2. Cheering extra for sports other than football.
 3. Any other service over and beyond the call of duty

CHEERLEADING PARENTS

- A. Communication with parents will be done via the cheerleaders; the cheerleading sponsors are not responsible for conveying information to the parents, that is the job of the individual cheerleader.
- B. Parents may make an appointment to speak with the cheerleading sponsors. Please call 305-238-6110 and leave a message. The sponsor will return your phone call in a timely manner. You may also email the sponsor to request an appointment.
- C. Conversations about issues WILL NOT take place during events.
- D. Parents may not be within 100 feet of cheerleading squad during practice and/or games.
- E. Parents are not allowed to speak to cheerleaders during practices and/or games.

CHEERLEADER TRYOUTS

- A. Each candidate will be informed of and must meet the requirements of the cheerleader constitution.
- B. The number of cheerleaders on the squad will be mutually agreed upon by the cheerleader sponsor, the activities director, and the principal.
- C. All cheerleaders must agree to all rules and regulations stated in the Miami Southridge Cheerleading Constitution which binds them through the entire school year.