

Pantherette Constitution

Code of Conduct

Certain standards are necessary for the integrity of any organization. Each and every member of the drill team should be a leader within the school, as well as an upstanding role model, and should set a good example at all times. Members of the drill team are expected to have and maintain a character above reproach; personal appearance and habits of which there can be no criticism are required. This is necessary, for the drill team members are constantly representing the school before the public.

- a. All rules as stated in the current St. Pius X High School Student Handbook that apply at school and not stated herein, will apply at official practices, activities, trips, scheduled events, and any additional group activities.
- b. Members are required to be courteous, polite, friendly, and have a positive attitude at all times to everyone.
- c. Every member, will at all times, conduct herself as a lady. Open displays of affection will not be tolerated, as well as the use of profanity or fighting.
- d. Every member shall respect the character and property of all other members and must remain without conflict among members.
- e. Fighting while involved in a school activity shall result in the member being removed from the team.
- f. Instagram, Facebook, any other social postings, cell phone conversations and texting will be under scrutiny if it interferes with or brings disrespect to the program or its members, at any time. Any circumstances that are deemed unacceptable or harmful may be grounds for dismissal from the team.
- g. Each member will adhere to the school drug and fighting policies.
- h. Every member is to offer utmost respect and effort to all teachers, administrators, and staff at SPX.

Philosophy and Objectives

1. Pantherette drill team is a student activity that is considered a high honor because you represent your school and community. As a student activity, the first and foremost responsibility is to support and not compromise the student's academics.
2. The program should aid in developing the student into a responsible, mature, and independent adult.
3. Pantherettes shall act as a support group for Panther sports and organizations at SPX.
4. Pantherette drill team is to serve as public relations ambassadors for SPX, appear at games, activities, functions, programs, charitable, and public causes to promote SPX, and to uphold, reflect and project the goals and ideals set forth for the Pantherettes.
5. Pantherette drill team is to perform as a team at sporting events, pep rallies, shows, community events, parades, competitions, and other events.

Requirements

1. Be responsible Pantherette members and act accordingly.
2. Train during the entire school year in the art of dance and drill, and be dedicated and committed members willing to put forth 100% effort in the quest for excellence and perfection.
3. Attend drill team summer camp and a 1 week workshop following camp.
4. Take utmost care of all school or Pantherette owned items issued while as member
5. Abide by all Constitutional and Code of Conduct rules.
6. Complete and pass any drug tests issued by SPX.

Membership

1. Pantherette drill team shall be comprised of current 9, 10, 11, and 12 grade students.
2. Pantherette officers shall be comprised of current members.
3. Any member who quits drill team or is dismissed will not remain part of the team for the rest of the year, and must re-tryout.

Grades and Eligibility-As a Member of Pantherettes

1. Each member must be passing ALL subjects in order to participate.
2. First failing grade will result in probation until eligibility is regained on progress report or report card.
 - i. Attend tutorials
 - ii. Keep director informed on progress
 - iii. Must attend all practices unless approved to miss for tutoring

- iv. No uniform or participation and sit with director during event
- 3. Failure to keep director informed of failing grade status will result in demerits.
- 4. Any attempt to deceive the director concerning grades will result in automatic dismissal.

Attendance Requirements-as a Member of Pantherettes

- 1. All members will attend all practices, athletic events, competitions, dress rehearsals, shows, and special activities unless pre-approved by the directors
- 2. Members must attend practices and performances as usual even if not able to perform.
- 3. Any activities, not on school campus and without the director, are not official. There will be no unofficial practices on any school campus.
- 4. The director may choose additional activities or opportunities and will determine if the event is mandatory or optional.
- 5. When an activity that does not require the entire team is scheduled, and a member needs to switch responsibilities with another member, that member must contact the director and make arrangements for that change.
- 6. The director reserves the right to evaluate any situation and apply the appropriate action.
- 7. All members are required to attend summer camp and work week.
- 8. Absence from any drill team activity is unexcused unless approved by the director.
- 9. The director will determine excused and/or unexcused absences from activities.
- 10. Any dental or doctor appointment which takes the member out of any practice is considered unexcused unless approved by the director.
- 11. If a member incurs any absence, excused or not, in the week of a performance, she will be removed from a performance.
- 12. Three tardies in one week count as one unexcused absence.
- 13. Members are required to ask permission for an absence at least one week prior to the upcoming absence to be considered for approval. If the absence is for a sudden cause, the director has the authority to approve or disapprove its reasoning, and may penalize the member for the absence.
- 14. If a member is absent, she must contact the director before the event or scheduled practice. Failure to notify the director of an absence will result in the absence being unexcused and demerits will be given.
- 15. Any unexcused absence from a performance will result in probation.
- 16. Any unexcused absence from practice will result in removal from a performance.
- 17. In addition to contacting the director, the member should contact her Officer for any announcements or requirements that she missed.
- 18. Members must be present for 50% of the school day in order to participate in an event the same day.

Injuries/Illness

1. If a member becomes ill or incurs an injury outside of practice that prohibits her from participating for two or more days; she must provide a doctor's note. If a doctor's note is not provided to the directors, the member will receive demerits for not dressing out for practice without permission or doctor's note.
2. Any member wanting to participate after an injury that occurs outside of drill team must present a doctor's note stating that she is cleared to participate.

Uniforms and Appearance

1. Members are expected to abide by the SPX dress code while at school. Demerits will be issued if the member is not in compliance.
2. All items shall be purchased in full by the members. Items will not be released without payment, which may cause a member to be ineligible to perform.
3. Uniform/costumes must remain in good condition and always have a neat, clean appearance.
4. Items, which are the property of the school or drill team, must be returned and cared for properly during use.
5. Members must wear all parts of the performance uniform while in public and as a group. She may NOT remove any piece without director approval while in public.
6. The performance uniforms/costumes may not be worn to public places other than specified functions with the team.
7. Members shall not drink, smoke, chew gum, or behave in an unladylike manner while in uniform or any other apparel bearing the Pantherette name.
8. Members shall not eat in uniform unless with the team and with permission from the director. You must change before going to a restaurant, etc.
9. While in uniform or any drill team apparel, displays of affection other than with family members are not permitted. This includes holding hands, kissing, hugging, etc.
10. Only drill team earrings may be worn, no other jewelry is allowed in uniform.
11. All hairstyles must be neat and worn as designated by the director. Excessive unnatural hair color is not allowed during performances.
12. Uniforms/costumes are to be cleaned only in the manner specified by the director.
13. A member shall financially replace any school-owned item damaged or lost.
14. Members may qualify for letter jackets if they meet the following criteria:
 - a. Must currently be a sophomore, junior, or senior.

- b. Must have remained in good standing and not placed on probation during the current year in which they are purchasing the jacket.
- c. Must have participated in all activities, except when optional.
- d. Must be in good standing financially.

Probation and Loss of Membership

1. Probation shall be defined as not being able to participate in any performance, yet still attending all activities and practices. Drill team members placed on probation must still practice each day, yet may not wear any performance uniform at drill team functions. A parent will be notified if a member obtains probationary status.

Infractions causing probation include, but are not limited to the following:

- a. Failing grades after a semester.
 - b. For Pantherettes, 10 demerits not offset by merits, member will sit out next designated performance chosen by the director until required meritable services have been completed to work off demerits and regain eligibility. A member must serve her probation, if she is absent from the performance she must make up her probation.
 - c. Unexcused absence, member will sit out next designated performance.
 - d. Three unexcused tardies in one week, member will sit out next designated performance.
 - e. Any behavior deemed unbecoming by the director or principal.
 - f. Violation of Constitution or Code of Conduct.
2. Dismissal shall be defined as no participation of any kind in drill team for the remainder of the year. Loss of membership is decided with administrative advisement. A dismissed member must turn in any issued items and will have her schedule changed immediately. Infractions causing a member dismissal include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Violation of the school alcohol, drug or tobacco policies.
 - b. Violation of the school fighting policy.
 - c. Excessive absences or excessive behavior deemed unbecoming by the director or principal.
 - d. An accumulation of more than 30 demerits not offset by merits.
 - e. Violation of the Constitution or Code of Conduct as determined by the director or the principal.
 - f. Participating in any unlawful infraction.
 3. Demotion shall be defined as removal from a specific office held in the organization. Demotion will take place at the director's discretion. Infractions causing officer demotion include but are not limited to the following:

- a. Accumulation of more than 15 demerits (not including merits) within one semester
 - b. Participating in any behavior deemed inappropriate by the director or principal
 - c. Failing any class at the end of the semester.
4. Directors and administrators reserve the right to evaluate any situation and apply the appropriate action.

Tryouts

1. Drill team hopefuls shall be entering the 9, 10, 11, or 12 grade and be currently enrolled at SPX to participate in any tryout activities.
2. All hopefuls must turn in all forms on time, and attend the mandatory practices prior to the actual tryouts.
3. Hopefuls and their parents shall sign consent forms with the understanding of all costs and requirements of this organization.
4. Hopefuls must be passing all classes in order to attend after school practices and tryout.
5. Current members who do not accumulate the required number of merits must re-tryout.
6. Current members that have received 30 or more demerits, regardless of merits, must re-tryout.
7. Tryouts will be held once a year, in the spring semester, held on a date designated by the director.
8. The hopeful shall have her tryout application completed and turned in by the given date and time, or tryout eligibility will be denied.
9. Tryouts will be closed to the public.
10. Hopefuls shall be selected by a panel of pre-approved judges on the basis of flexibility, high kicks, dance technique, memory, rhythm, timing, and showmanship.
11. Hopefuls shall wear all black dance attire with hair in a ponytail. Wraps and half tops are not to be worn.
12. The director will have the authority to make decisions upon ties and inadequate breaks in the number scores.
13. The judges' decisions are final. The results will be emailed after tryouts by tryout number.
14. Judges may feel the need to have callbacks in which they will request to see certain hopefuls again, the better of the two scores will be taken as the final rating.

Officer Candidate Information

1. Candidates must be a Pantherette member for the full school year prior to tryouts.
2. Candidates must have accumulated the required number of merits.
3. Candidates are not eligible if they have received more than 20 demerits.
4. Candidates may not have received any demerits for being disrespectful.
5. Candidates must be willing to stay after practice to do extra work whenever asked.
6. Candidates must be able to attend all summer camps in full.
7. As an officer you must be willing, for the unity of the team, to accept direction as well as direct others.
8. As an officer you must be willing to work closely with the directors and fellow officers.
9. As an officer you must support the director and all decisions made.
10. As an officer you must uphold the organization's rules and help enforce them.
11. As a candidate and officer you must be willing to accept criticism and set the example for all Pantherette members.
12. As an officer you must agree to hold privileged information in full confidentiality with the director.

Financial Responsibilities

1. Each member must assume financial responsibility in the costs connected with Pantherette drill team.
2. All payment deadlines must be met or the member will be removed from the organization.
3. All fees must be paid with cash or money order. No personal or business checks will be accepted.
4. If unforeseen circumstances occur causing a delay in payment, please contact Coach Dorman immediately.

Merit and Demerit Program

1. Pantherette drill team uses a merit and demerit system.
2. The following page lists infractions and possible number of demerits issued. This list is to be used as a guideline; demerits are issued at the discretion of the director.
3. Accumulation of 10 demerits not offset by merits will result in probation as outlined above.
4. Accumulation of 30 demerits not offset by merits will result in dismissal as outlined above.
5. Members may earn merits which may offset demerits.

6. Specific merit requirements are outlined to members at the beginning of the school year. Pantherettes may earn merits for school activities and involvement as well as motivational and team activities. Community service merits are also mandatory.
7. A member that does not earn the required number of merits will re-tryout.
8. A member that receives 30 or more demerits, regardless of merits, must re-tryout.

Code of Behavior-Demerits

Demerits Regarding Insubordination

1. Poor or dangerous conduct.....5
2. Unbecoming acts such as public displays of affection, hickeys, etc.....5-10
3. Use of profanity.....5
4. Talking during practice after a warning has been submitted.....3
5. Not obeying the officer's or director's commands.....5-10
6. Not standing at attention on the field at games.....5
7. Talking to the public during a performance activity.....3
8. Off task, not behaving in stands.....5-10
9. Disrespect toward Director (verbal or nonverbal).....10-30
10. Disrespect toward an Officer (verbal or nonverbal).....10-30
11. Disrespect toward fellow student.....5-10
12. Disrespect to any staff member.....5-10
13. Being suspended per day.....5
14. Participating in a fight while at school or school activity.....30
15. Eating or drinking without permission.....5
16. Any infraction not specifically mentioned.....5-30

Demerits Regarding Practice

1. Failure to wear correct attire.....3
2. Not dressing out without permission or Dr note.....5-10
3. Lack of energy/effort.....5-10
4. Chewing gum.....3

Demerits Regarding Attendance

1. Unexcused absence from practice.....10
2. Leaving early without permission.....10
3. Late for roll call.....3
4. Absent without communicating even if excused.....10
5. Not being properly signed out.....10
6. Any infraction not specifically mentioned.....5-30

Demerits Regarding Uniform

1. Chewing gum.....5
2. Eating or drinking without permission.....5
3. Wearing non-designated jewelry.....5
4. Messy or ripped uniform.....5
5. Messy hair or worn other than specified.....5
6. Failure to wear all items.....5
7. Failure to wear designated shirt or warm up.....3-5

8. Dirty boots at a performance.....5
9. Not wearing specified make-up.....5
10. Going out in public to socialize in any part of uniform when not with team.....5
11. Removing any piece of uniform in public.....5

Signature Page

As a Pantherette Drill Team member, I shall conduct myself in such a manner as to be a credit to the organization and school at all times. I will know and abide by the Constitution and Code of Conduct set forth in this handout. I will uphold the traditions and I will do everything in my power to promote drill team as a respectable and hardworking organization, as well as its members, activities and interests.

Student Signature

I have read the Pantherette Code of Conduct and Constitution. I have discussed the rules and regulations of the Pantherette organization with my daughter or legal dependent. I understand and agree to assist her in meeting all the requirements in association with the organization, as well as realize the disciplinary actions that may be taken upon my child or legal dependent should she fail to meet these requirements.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian