

DRILL/DANCE TEAM

- **Academic Eligibility:** The KSHSAA academic standards and the Blue Valley School District Standard for drill team members is as follows:
 - 1) Drill team members shall have passed five new subjects of unit weight the preceding semester in school and shall be enrolled in five new subjects of unit weight during the semesters of participation. Failure to meet either of these guidelines will result in the student being ineligible for participation.
 - 2) Drill Team shall have a 2.0 grade point average or better during the quarter preceding tryouts or a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 and shall maintain that minimum grade point average during each quarter of participation in the program. Failure to maintain a 2.0 grade point averages or above will result in the student being on probation for one quarter. If the GPA isn't raised during the probation quarter the drill team member will be dismissed from the squad.
- **Physical Examination:** The KSHSAA requires each drill team member to have a valid, properly signed, physical examination form on file in the office prior to the first participation following the selection to the squad. The physical examination must be taken after May 1 each year to provide eligibility for the following year.
- **Substance Abuse:** Students participating in the activities program will not use, distribute or possess illegal substances as identified in the Board of Education #3515. Included in the policy are alcoholic and cereal malt beverages, tobacco and tobacco products, controlled substances (drugs) and improper use of legal substances, including prescription and non-prescription medications, performance-enhancing substances, drug paraphernalia, and other products.
- To be eligible for try-outs, students must meet residency requirements per Board of Education policy. Transfers must be signed off by the district prior to tryouts.
- **Drill Team Class:** All drill team members are required to enroll in the drill team class. Squads will do the majority of their practice during the class. Additional practices may be called as deemed necessary. Drill team members will be given 24 hour advanced notice of additional practices.
- **Summer Practice Sessions:** Summer practice sessions will be scheduled by the drill team coach to prepare for the summer clinic and in early August in conjunction with band camp.
- **Summer Clinics:** Summer camp is a time for the team to bond as a unit and to learn additional skills and routines which will be used throughout the school year. The entire team attends the camp as a unit. Camp dates and location will be announced at the mandatory organizational meeting prior to the clinic. Summer camp expense will be the responsibility of the individual drill team member. Drill team members are expected to attend summer camp with the squad.
- Individual candidates or their parents who have difficulty in meeting the financial obligations for drill team should see the coach or the activity director for a confidential conference. Financial constraints should not deter an aspiring drill team candidate from trying out.
- **Dual Participation:** Participation in other school activities is encouraged as long as prior arrangements are made with the coaches of the activities involved. Drill team shall be considered the primary responsibility. Participation in other activities must be subject to the constraints of the drill team program expectations.

- Selection Prerequisites:
 - 1) The candidate must have a grade point average of 2.0 the quarter preceding the tryouts or a cumulative grade point average of 2.0.
 - 2) The candidate must not have been suspended in-school on two or more separate occasions during the year in which tryouts are being held.
 - 3) A candidate who has been dismissed or resigned from the drill team squad is ineligible for future tryouts.
 - 4) Students determined ineligible under prerequisite 1, 2, 3, may appeal in writing to the coach prior to the tryout process. The coach and administration will rule on the appeal.
 - 5) Candidates must have seven (7) teacher recommendations from their current school year's classroom teachers. Four (4) of the seven recommendations must come from teachers in the core academic areas (science, math, social studies, communication arts). The sponsor will give the candidates direction on how to go about obtaining the recommendations.
 - 6) All recommendation forms will be destroyed immediately following the determination of the team and prior to the announcement of the team. This is to ensure teacher confidentiality. All students who try out for drill team must be informed in writing that all teacher recommendation forms will be destroyed. All schools must follow this guideline. Recommending teachers should not make a personal copy of the recommendation form for their records.
 - 7) All candidates must attend a mandatory organizational meeting. At the meeting all procedures and details and clinic dates will be announced. The drill team handbook will be distributed along with the agreement which must be reviewed by and signed by the candidate and his/her parent or guardian.
- Number Selected: The drill team coach and the school administration will determine the number selected, taking into consideration scoring in the selection process. All drill team members must meet or exceed a determined minimum percentage of the total points available during tryouts.
- Date for Tryouts: Tryouts will be held on one date only. All drill team members will be selected on that date by the designated judges in attendance at the tryout site. Candidates who have an injury prior to tryouts may be judged on that portion of those tryouts they are able to perform. A physician's note prior to tryouts must certify all injuries prohibiting full tryouts.
- Pre-tryout Clinics: Clinics will be held during a designated week(s) scheduled by the coaches and school administration during which all candidates will have an opportunity to learn the flag and dance routines. No student will be allowed to try out at more than 1 school during the same school year.
- Selection Criteria: Criteria for selection of drill team members include: 1) Teacher recommendations covering the areas of honesty, responsibility, cooperation, attitude, attendance, leadership, attentiveness in class, respectfulness, quality of work, and school spirit will count as 30% of the total score. 2) Skill evaluation of dance technique and equipment technique as predetermined by the coaches and varsity seniors, and taught at the clinic will count for 70% of the total score. Each school will develop their scoring forms.

- Judges:
 1. A minimum of five skill judges will be engaged to judge all drill team aspirants. Fewer judges at the selection process will result only from circumstances beyond the control of the school.
 2. No more than one of the judges may have direct relationship to the school.
 3. Judges will be selected from the following areas:
 - a. Drill team instructors from recognized colleges or universities.
 - b. Professional dance instructors or choreographers.
 - c. Current or past drill team members from colleges, universities, or professional sports.
 - d. Drill team coaches from other schools.
 - e. Drill team coaches, administrators, or teachers from the school involved in the selection process.
 4. A school administrator must be present during the selection process. He/she may or may not be one of the judges per the foregoing guidelines.
 5. Judges should be representative of the racial/ethnic population of the school
 6. Building administrators must be involved in the selection of judges.
- Rating Scale: Selection will be made by an individual ballot from each judge. The rating scale will range from excellent to poor. This rating system will be used in all categories determined by the individual high school as criteria for judging drill team performance. Each school will develop their scoring form.
- Computation and Confidentiality: Ballots will be computed by the drill team coach or designee and the building administration who will secure the ballots for safekeeping. Individual judge's ballots of students trying out will not be shared with the student or the student's parents. A student may ask for critique to determine areas to work on prior to the next tryouts. Sharing of one student's critique with another student or a parent of another student is not permissible and violates student confidentiality.
- Transportation: The drill team must follow the district transportation policy #4840 for extracurricular activities.
- Activity Attendance: Attendance is mandatory at all organized activities of the squad including games, practices and meetings. Unexcused absences from mandatory activities may result in benching or dismissal from the squad in accordance with building procedures as outlined in the buildings drill team guidelines.