

# CONSTITUTION OF THE FOSSIL RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL SUN DANCERS

Each member of the Sun Dancers must adhere to the following articles. It must be understood that as a member of this organization you will represent Fossil Ridge High School and the Keller Independent School District. Each member of the Sun Dancers must maintain high moral and ethical standards.

## ARTICLE I: Purpose

The purpose of the Fossil Ridge Sun Dancers shall be to perform and entertain audiences through precision dances and to boost the morale and spirit of the school. The purpose shall also be to develop character, leadership, self-discipline, sportsmanship and individual responsibility in each member, while maintaining high moral standards. It is the drill team members purpose to represent Fossil Ridge High School in a manner that will reflect credit upon the school, as well as upon the members of this organization. Each member agrees to abide by the rules and regulations set forth in this constitution.

## ARTICLE II: Membership and Eligibility

Section 1. Anyone who meets the set qualifications will not be discriminated against because of race, gender, creed or educational handicap.

Section 2. Prospective members shall be entering grades nine (9) through (12).

- **Must not have been academically ineligible for two or more 6 week grading periods during the application school year.**
- Must have no days of DAEP assignments during the application school year.
- Must not have missed more than 10% of school days as set by the state standard.
- All financial obligations to any KISD affiliated programs must be cleared unless approved by campus administration.

*A prospective member must reside with his/her parent/guardian within the attendance zone of the High School they choose to attend or show proof of future KISD residency (house contract) within the appropriate attendance zone or has an approved transfer on file with the KISD. Students attending a high school out of their attendance zone are not eligible for tryouts in the first year of their transfer. Any student not currently attending a KISD high school must submit an official record of academic and citizenship grades.*

Section 3. Conduct Grade

A candidate who has received more than one "N" prior to tryouts and is selected as a member will enter the organization on probation status. If she/he receives another "N" or "U" in any grading period for the remainder of the year, she/he will be placed on a suspension status.

Section 4. Additional Probationary Considerations:

Tryout eligibility of a candidate who has been dismissed or has resigned from the Dance Team organization for any reason will be at the discretion of the Director(s) and administration. Any candidate allowed to audition under these circumstances will enter the Dance Team with a signed probationary contract as determined by the Director(s) and Principal.

- Section 5. Mandatory Orientation Meeting:  
All new prospective candidates and a parent/guardian must attend a tryout orientation meeting or contact the Director(s) for an appointment prior to the due date of application forms. Failure to attend or meet with the Director(s) prior to this date before the audition will result in the candidate's loss of ability to audition.
- Section 6. Returning Members:  
Those returning members who have remained in 'good standing', have met the required 70% performance rate, and have not been placed on probation or suspension during the current membership year will not be required to re-audition. Returning members will be required to participate in the audition workshop each year at the discretion of the Director(s).
- Section 7. Early Graduation:  
Candidates or returning members who plan to graduate at midterm (December) may not audition or retain membership on the Dance Team.
- Section 8. Required Forms:  
All forms must be complete and on file prior to or on the designated date in order for a candidate or returning member to qualify for membership.
- A. Application Form
  - B. Travel/Emergency Information and Medical Release Form: *Requires Notarization*
  - C. Student/Parent/Guardian Constitution Contract: *Requires Notarization*
  - D. Current Report Card
  - E. Keller ISD Extra Curricular Code of Conduct

### **ARTICLE III: The Tryout Workshop**

- Section 1. Attendance:  
A candidate must attend all tryout practice sessions. The Director(s) will determine extenuating circumstances.
- Section 2. Candidates are expected to attend school all day in order to be eligible to participate in the tryout week.

### **ARTICLE IV: The Audition**

- Section 1. Adjudication:
- A. The audition will be held on a date designated by the Director(s).  
Each candidate will perform the splits, three dance combinations, and the required skills designated by the director in groups of 3-4.
  - B. The director's evaluation will be 100% of the candidate's overall try-out score and the team will be determined by the director(s). The director will score each candidate on the following categories:
    - Technique
    - Energy and Commitment
    - Knowledge of Routine
    - Performance
- Section 2. Audience: Auditions are closed to spectators. Those eligible for attendance include the Director(s) senior/member assistants, and Administrator(s). All spectators must remain outside the building during auditions.

- Section 3. Announcement of New Team:  
The new team results will be posted three hours after the audition process has ended and everyone has left the building. New team results will be posted by audition number.
- Section 4. Viewing the Evaluation:  
A candidate, not selected for the team, may elect to view his/her individual evaluation sheets following the audition. An appointment must be made with the administrator in charge of the audition. The candidate may only view his/her personal score sheets. The score sheets may not be copied or removed from the Administrator's office. Statute of limitations concerning viewing is 5 (in-school) days following the audition.
- Section 5. Appealing Tryout Decisions:  
Statute of limitations concerning appeals must be scheduled within 7 days following the audition date. The candidate must file a formal appeal with the school administration at Fossil Ridge High School. After this time period, the decisions of the director(s) will stand.

### **ARTICLE V: Participation Requirements**

- Section 1. Members must participate in all activities in which the organization is involved, pending eligibility status. Failure to participate may result in discipline actions.
- Section 2. Members may not leave any function for any reason other than illness, injury or death in the family. In the event that a member has been given approval to leave by the Director(s), she/he may depart with a parent/guardian only. Prior to departure, a written note must be submitted 24 hours in advance to the Director(s) and must state that the Director(s) and the Keller ISD is released of all responsibility.

### **ARTICLE VI: Grades**

- Section 1. Academic Eligibility:  
Dance/Drill Team Director(s) will conduct grade checks at the times designated by the official KISD Eligibility Calendar and Guidelines as set forth by the University Interscholastic League. Any member whose recorded grade average in any course at the time of an eligibility grade check is less than "70" will become ineligible to participate in any team event as set forth by the UIL eligibility calendar. Ineligible students must continue to fulfill fundraising requirements and practice requirements.
- Section 2. Academic Ineligibility (UIL Grade check):  
The second occurrence of academic ineligibility, at any time during the school year, will result in dismissal from the Dance Team organization. Ineligible periods do not have to occur consecutively.
- Section 3. Citizenship Grades:  
Members are expected to maintain a citizenship grade of "S" or higher in all classes for each grading periods. Each member will turn in each report card to the director(s) to check citizenship grades. Unacceptable citizenship grades will result in disciplinary action.

## ARTICLE VII: Attendance

- Section 1. Excused Absences:  
The status of an absence or tardy will be determined by the Director(s) as defined by Texas State law. Drill/Dance Team members must limit their number of excused absences, as performance privileges may be revoked for excessive absences. Absence or tardiness from any Drill/Dance Team activity or event will be unexcused except for the circumstances defined by the Keller ISD. Chronic absences can affect performance eligibility and/or result in discipline action.
- A. Personal illness or accident
  - B. Death in the family
  - C. Special school activities with advanced approval from the Director(s).
  - D. Outside College Courses or dual credit classes. A copy of the student's schedule and note to the director from the Professor will be required.
- Section 2. Unexcused Absences:  
Absences for reasons other than listed above will be unexcused. Work, doctor/dental appointments **must not interfere with practice or performances and will be considered unexcused.** Any unexcused absence can affect performance eligibility and/or result in suspension or dismissal.
- Section 3. Unexpected Absence Procedures:  
In the unexpected event of an illness, accident or death in the family, **a parent must contact the Director(s) prior to class/practice.** Leaving a message with an officer or secretary **will not** be sufficient. A parent note and/or doctor's note must be submitted to the Director(s) upon the Drill Team members return to school or practice. Two consecutive absences will require a doctor's note.
- Section 4. Expected Absence Procedures:  
At least two weeks prior to an event and/or a practice, squad members must submit a written request for an expected absence. Two weeks' notice is considered procedure and a courtesy to the director; it does not excuse an absence.
- Section 5. School Attendance:  
Members are expected to attend school all day in order to maintain eligibility for participation in an organizational activity. Any member who is absent from practice or school for any reason other than school business may not be permitted to participate at a scheduled event on the day of the absence unless prior approval has been given from the Director(s).
- Section 6. Injury or Illness:  
Members who suffer injuries or illness must consult a doctor and/or trainer within 24 hours. If an injury or illness hinders or limits a member's performance and/or practice capabilities, that member will be required to provide a doctor's/trainer' note outlining the specific limitations. The Director(s) reserves the right to place the member on reserve if she is unable to perform to the best of her ability. The injured member will continue to dress out, assume all normal responsibilities and attend all practices.
- Section 7. Failure to comply with absence policies, chronic absences, falsifying reasons for absences, or trancies/unexcused absences will result in forfeiture of a performance, probation, suspension or dismissal.

## **ARTICLE VIII: Rehearsal Sessions & Class Requirements**

- Section 1. **All practice sessions are mandatory for all members.**
- Section 2. Members must arrive on time to rehearsal sessions, wear specific practice attire and stay until dismissed by the Director(s).
- Section 3. All tutorials, make-up tests, etc. shall not be scheduled during a rehearsal or class session.

## **ARTICLE IX: Performance Auditions**

- Section 1. Football Season:  
A routine evaluation will take place prior to all performances or at the Director's discretion. A member unable to meet the standards set for a performance will be an alternate. The Director(s) will make the final decision concerning the evaluation. If a member is absent during any portion of the week or routine evaluation, she will become an alternate for that performance.
- Section 2. Contest Season  
Members who miss a total of three rehearsal sessions during contest season may be subject to becoming an alternate for that performance. Depending on when the team first competes depends on the number of absences members will be allowed and it is at the director's discretion to revoke performance privileges due to those absences.
- Section 3. All members will audition for every routine unless injured or ill.
- Section 4. Choreographers (as deemed by the Director) and costumes shall be overseen and chosen by the Director(s).

## **ARTICLE X: Uniforms and Equipment**

- Section 1. Each member will be supplied the following: a field uniform, pom poms and a rain cape. The member is responsible for the upkeep of each item listed and will be held financially responsible for the item if damaged or lost.
- Section 2. Members are responsible for purchasing workout uniforms and other necessary clothing and accessories as required. All personal items must be labeled with the member's name.
- Section 3. Members will appear at designated activities with proper or designated uniforms and must wear all parts of designated uniforms while at an event/performance. The tote bag is considered a part of the uniform and will be used to carry all items on the "pack" list.
- Section 4. Uniforms will not be worn anywhere other than schedule events. The Director(s) must approve the use of any part of the Sun Dancers' uniform, clothing and supplies.
- Section 5. All Dance/Drill Team clothing, uniforms, jackets, etc. are to be worn by current FRHS Sun Dancers only. Members may not loan out any FRHS Sun Dancer apparel to any non-Dance/Drill Team person. Students who have been dismissed or voluntarily

removed from the squad may not wear any Dance/Drill Team apparel in public under any circumstances.

## **ARTICLE XI: Transportation and Travel**

Section 1. All members are required to ride to and from all activities by bus unless extenuating circumstances occur, which require approval from the Director(s).

## **ARTICLE XII: Finances and Fundraising**

Section 1. Financial Obligations:

Under the supervision of the Director(s), policies and expectations shall be made known at the Mandatory Orientation Meeting. Failure to make timely payments may result in probationary status or suspension and could lead to dismissal.

Section 2. Camp and Clothing:

All financial obligations for camp and clothing must be concluded prior to attendance at camp or receipt of clothing. A deposit will be due at the first team meeting following the audition.

Section 3. Fundraising:

The Director(s) will organize fundraisers to help defray team expenses. Members of the Drill Team organization will be required to participate in team fundraisers. Their parents will be strongly encouraged to participate in team fundraisers. Opportunities for each member to raise additional funds to offset personal costs will be made available when possible.

Section 4. Activity Account:

Monies profited from team fundraisers will be held in the FRHS Drill Team Activity Fund to offset the expenses incurred by the team during the school year. The dispensing of these monies is at the discretion of the Director(s).

Section 5. Individual Account

Personal accounts will be set up for each member in which deposits/payments toward uniforms, equipment, coaching, etc. will be entered. Each member will have the opportunity to raise funds for this account by participating in individual fundraising events and depending upon the need for team funds, may be awarded a percentage of profits earned through team fundraisers. Profits may be used for any individual expense incurred while a member of the Drill Team organization. All monies earned will be deposited to the "General Fund" and will be designated to that member's personal account.

Section 6. If a member resigns, is dismissed or graduates prior to the utilization of funds earned through fundraising, she/he will forfeit the profit money and it will become a part of the Sun Dancers' activity account. Individual refunds from fundraising will not be made.

Section 7. Insufficient Funds

- A. If a check is returned insufficient, it will be the team member's responsibility to pay any necessary bank charges and pay by cash or money order.
- B. Returned checks will be handled in one of two ways:
  1. Only a cashier's check will be accepted for future payments after the receipt of a returned check.
  2. If it is a fund-raising event, it is the member's responsibility to collect the funds due or the amount due will be deducted from his/her personal profits.

## ARTICLE XIII: General Conduct

Certain standards are necessary for the integrity and reputation of any organization. Each member should be a leader within the school and should set a good example at all times. Members are expected to have and maintain a character above reproach. Personal appearance, habits and actions of which there can be no criticism, are required as each Dance/Drill Team member represents the Keller Independent School District before the public at all times. *Membership may be terminated at any time for unacceptable standards and/or conduct.*

All Dance/Drill Team members will abide by the Keller ISD Extra Curricular Code of Conduct, FRHS Student Handbook, the Dance/Drill Team Constitution and the Dance Team Procedures and Expectations Handbook. Students must also follow the written and oral directives of all KISD employees.

KISD rules will be strictly applied whenever the team is officially representing KISD, while attending a school-sponsored activity or while on a school sponsored trip. Each member must be aware that his/her conduct off-campus reflects on the team image and that any member who is guilty of engaging in any inappropriate illegal activity will be subject to dismissal.

Any inappropriate actions that do not uphold the standards and expectations of the Dance Team may be subject to disciplinary actions by the Director(s).

## ARTICLE XIV: Probation, Suspension, Dismissal, Resignation and the Appeal Process

*\*Disciplinary action does not necessarily go in the order listed below. It is at the discretion of the director to decide what is appropriate for each situation.*

### Section 1. Probation

Probation is a designated period of time in which the member may participate in limited organizational activities as determined by the Director(s). A probation contract will be written for the member and the member will be notified of his/her probationary regulations. Reasons for probation are at the Director(s)'s discretion.

### Section 2. Suspension

Any suspension deemed necessary by the Director(s) or KISD Extra Curricular Code of Conduct will be outlined by the Director(s) in a meeting with the student, parent, Director(s) and Administrator.

### Section 3. Dismissal

Dismissal involves the loss of membership from the Drill Team organization. **All equipment and uniforms must be returned and all financial obligations must be cleared within one week of dismissal.** Once a member has been dismissed, all privileges of the Drill Team organization are lost. **The former Drill Team member will be held financially responsible for any and all items ordered. No refunds will be made.**

### Section 4. Appeal Process

The order in which a parent/guardian or team member should follow concerning the appeal of a discipline decision should be.

1. Reference to the Dance/Drill Team Handbook and Constitution.
2. Contact or conference with the Director(s).
3. Contact or conference with the Assistant Principal or Principal.

4. The Principal will advise to the next procedure according to district policy. Time limitations involving the appeal of a decision will be followed according to "School Board Policy FOD".

Section 5. Resignation or Electing Not To Return.  
Resignation shall be defined as a choice made by the individual member that she/he no longer desires participation in the Dance/Drill Team organization. Resignation procedures involve a conference with the Director(s) and a letter of resignation from the resigning member, signed and dated with the parent/guardian signature. **All uniforms, clothing, and equipment must be turned in and financial obligations must be cleared at the time of resignation.** Students may not wear any part of the FRHS Dance/Drill Team uniform or additional clothing, jackets, etc. in public. **The member will be held financially responsible for any and all items already ordered. No refunds will be made.**

Section 6. In the event of dismissal or resignation during mid-semester, the student will be assigned to P.E.

Section 7. Upon resignation or dismissal, the former member loses all privileges of being a member and may not be a guest at Dance Team or affiliated functions.

### **ARTICLE XV: Disciplinary System**

Section 1. A record of disciplinary offense(s) will be kept at the Director's discretion and will result in disciplinary action as deemed necessary by the Director(s).

Section 2. Disciplinary action may include but is not limited to physical exercise, probation, suspension or dismissal.

Section 3. Officers may be utilized to monitor team behavior and to provide record for the Director(s).

Section 4. Membership may be terminated at any time for unacceptable standards of conduct.

### **ARTICLE XVI: Miscellaneous Information**

Section 1. Rules changes may be submitted to the Director(s). Any request for a constitutional amendment by a team member must be submitted in writing for consideration. The recommended change or changes may or may not be acted upon as determined by the Director(s) and the Principal.

Section 2. The constitution is subject to change at any time, due to policy changes by the Texas Education Agency, the Keller ISD School Board, and the Principal or with approval from the Director(s) and the Principal.

Section 3. At any time, additions may be made to the Expectations and Procedures Handbook with the approval of the Director(s) and Principal.

### **ARTICLE XVII: Veto/Interpretation Clause**

The interpretation of this Constitution shall be determined by the Director and the Principal. Together, the principal and dance/drill team director may interpret and utilize the constitution in the best interest of the organization. This Constitution is designed and utilized with the intent to be a basic operating instrument and is not intended to cover every operating policy.