



Carroll High School Color Guard

Constitution

2020-21

**Carroll High School and Carroll Senior High School
COLOR GUARD CONSTITUTION
2020-21**

This constitution is designed to serve as a set of general guidelines for administrators, sponsors, parents/guardians, and student Color Guard members. The purpose of the constitution is to communicate these guidelines in order to help the members of the Carroll ISD Color Guard Program be the best possible representatives for their school. Good judgment and common sense will be used when events are not covered in the constitution. The interpretation of all articles in this constitution is the responsibility of the sponsor and administrator(s). Any changes in this constitution will be communicated in writing to all color guard members and their parent/guardian prior to going into effect.

ARTICLE I - PURPOSE

The purpose of the CHS Junior Varsity and CSHS Varsity Color Guard is to act as an ambassador of Carroll ISD through such activities as Pep Rallies, Football Games, Competitions, Parades, and other school-related performances or appearances. They are a fully functioning component of the Carroll Dragon Band and have the task of being positive role models in their community at all times.

ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP & COMMITMENT

Prior to seeking membership on the team, students must understand that self-discipline, self-confidence and dedication are necessary on and off the field. Members will be expected to participate in every guard activity. **Employment, homework, discretionary tutorials, and serving detention or other forms of student discipline are not acceptable excuses for missing an activity.** Students who are members of the CHS/CSHS Color Guard must attend assigned Carroll ISD events if there is a scheduling conflict with other club activities.

Color Guard members are required to participate in any and all activities as referred to in this document. Example activities include:

- games
- camps
- practices
- performances
- decorating
- sign-making events
- fundraisers
- competitions
- other organized

- social events
- parades

- playoffs

events assigned by
the sponsor

These activities may include events on school nights and weekends.

All members of the team must be enrolled in the required class effective post auditions. Those new to guard would need to replace an elective to enroll in the class which may cause a rearrangement of schedule. To remain as an active member of the team, a member must maintain a passing grade in each class (as defined by no-pass/no-play guidelines outlined for UIL participation), maintain minimum level of Color Guard skills and performance (specifically the ability exhibited at auditions and required for the show), and follow all guidelines established in the constitution and code of conduct as well as any verbal directives given by the sponsor. Members must exhibit and maintain a satisfactory conduct grade at all times during the school year.

If a member chooses to quit the team, he/she will be required to drop the Color Guard class immediately. Once a member chooses to quit the team, he/she will not be granted membership again for one team year. A team year is defined as the time period from 'audition to audition.' Example: Student chooses to quit during spring semester of their freshman year. They are not permitted to join the team until they attend try-outs for their junior year.

ARTICLE III - GENERAL OPERATING PHILOSOPHY

A Color Guard team is only as good as its members and organization. Color Guard members will set a good example for their peers and community. Color Guard members will display the following characteristics on and off the field:

- Work (and practice) diligently
- Be honest, truthful, and kind
- Be excellent role models
- Positive school spirit
- Good sportsmanship
- Positive attitudes toward one another and the Carroll ISD Band and Guard Program

ARTICLE IV - PARENT COMMITMENT

Parent/guardian commitment and involvement are vital to the success of each Color Guard member and the team. It will be a parent(s)/guardian(s) responsibility to help in various activities when deemed necessary. This includes involvement and participation in any and all activities.

Prior to auditions, each Color Guard team member must submit the following documents requiring his/her parent/guardian to permit him/her to participate in all Color Guard activities:

- Agreement of Compliance/Statement of intent
- A signed medical release form
- Signature acknowledgement and acceptance of Band and Guard Handbook
- A signed Standards for CISD Extracurricular Activities Discipline Policy Statement

In addition, parents must be willing to make the monetary commitment necessary to fulfill obligations related to the duties and responsibilities associated with being a member of the team. Payment plans may be set up or certain fees may be waived if a student qualifies for free or reduced lunch.

ARTICLE V - MORAL AND ETHICAL EXPECTATIONS

Certain standards and expectations are necessary for the integrity and reputation of the Color Guard in the CISD. Color Guard members should be leaders within their school and set a good example at all times. Color Guard members are expected to have and maintain a character above reproach and to exhibit personal appearance and habits that will reflect a positive image. The Color Guard is constantly representing the school before the public; they are to abide by the Band and Guard code of conduct.

These expectations apply at all times, not only when present at school functions. All infractions shall be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the Standards for CISD Extracurricular Activities and in the Student Code of Conduct. Guard members must never put themselves in a compromising position. If others around the member are not acknowledging the proper social or moral standards and values outlined in these expectations, the guard member will be expected to remove herself/himself from the situation immediately.

ARTICLE VI - AUDITION PROCEDURES

Candidates must meet all UIL and CISD Board policies and the following requirements:

- Each member must be enrolled in a Carroll ISD school at the time of auditions.
- At least one parent or guardian must attend the start of season meeting. (June/July/August)
- All candidates must have a signed Agreement of Compliance, medical release, and Standards for CISD Extracurricular Activities Discipline Policy Statement, and Signature acknowledgement and acceptance of Band and Guard Handbook on file prior to the June Camp to be eligible to try out for the Carroll ISD Guard Program.

- Each candidate must be in good financial standing with the Carroll ISD Band and Guard Program.

There will not be a set maximum for how many members are on each team. Varsity candidates who do not make the Varsity team may elect to be on the JV team if they meet the JV minimum score.

Current members have the opportunity to be exempt from a large portion of the audition procedures. If they meet the following requirements, they are not required to attend the official audition process. Requirements include:

For Fall Audition:

1. The candidate must have completed a full year of Color Guard for the current school year. Fall and spring semester.
2. The candidate has not failed a class for a grading period, semester, or year during the current term.
3. The candidate is in good financial standing with the Dragon Band and Guard Program.

For Spring Audition

1. Varsity- A student that has completed two years of Varsity Winter Guard consecutively can rejoin the Varsity team without going through the formal audition.
2. JV- A student that has completed one year of JV Winter Guard, can rejoin the JV Winter Guard team without going through the formal audition.
3. If a JV member wants to be on the Varsity team, they will need to go through the audition process.

Winter Guard Selection Process

1. There will be one audition conducted to select the Varsity and Junior Varsity Guard. A clinic will be held prior to the audition. Candidates will be taught the routines on which they will be judged. Returning members who wish to remain on their current team do not have to audition again unless the candidate has more than 10 demerits from the current school year from previous audition. The Varsity and Junior Varsity teams will be determined by the candidate's score.
1. There will be a panel of judges, from outside Carroll ISD. Candidates will be ranked by total score.

2. Each judge is expected to give her fair and honest evaluations of each candidate based on general color guard knowledge
3. No spectators are allowed at the auditions.
4. All candidates must attend the clinic and must be present at auditions.

A conduct/attendance check of the school year in which the auditions are held will be used to determine 10% of the total score for each Color Guard candidate. For this portion of the selection process all candidates will start with a score of 15.

- 10 points will be deducted for any discipline offense that results in DAEP placement.
- 9 points will be deducted for each discipline offense that results in suspension from school.
- 8 points will be deducted for each Level IV discipline offense.
- 7 points will be deducted for each Level III discipline offense.
- 3 points will be deducted for each Level II discipline offense.
- 2 points will be deducted for tardiness and late to schools that result in disciplinary procedures (2 points per occurrence).
- 1 point will be deducted for each Level I discipline offense (except tardiness and late to schools).
- 1 point will be deducted per demerit issued to a student over the course of the year (from audition to audition).

If a conduct/attendance calculation score results in a negative number, a zero will be entered in this portion of the selection score. Conduct scores will be discussed with candidates prior to the auditions.

- A candidate who does not make the team may elect to privately view his/her own individual judges' audition score sheets. The score sheets may be reviewed in an administrator's office by appointment and may not be removed from the school. The statute of limitations concerning viewing scores is 10 school days following the audition.
- In case of injury or serious illness during the time of auditions, a video may be allowed in place of requirements unable to be performed. This video must be received by the sponsor at least 1 week prior to minimum skills via email, jump drive, or DVD. A video will only be allowed with the treating physician's documentation (doctor's note) proving that the skill is unable to be performed. The video needs to show the skill that is currently able to be performed and,

meaning that the skill can be currently performed when healthy. The video must clearly show the candidate performing the skill. The video must have been recorded within the last year. The video must have prior approval from both the sponsor and administrator.

FORMULATION OF TEAMS

- The Varsity team will be made up of students grades 9-12.
- The JV team will be made up of students in grades 9-12.

MINIMUM SKILLS AUDITION

On the first day of the audition clinic, all candidates must pass a minimum skills audition before at least two qualified (experts in the field) judges. The candidates will be judged on their ability to complete the skills (determined by staff) competently and safely. If needed, candidates will receive two opportunities to successfully complete the minimum skills. Candidates will be informed at the conclusion of the minimum skills audition of the results. Only candidates who pass the minimum skills audition will continue with the audition process.

AUDITION CLINIC AND AUDITIONS

Minimum skills and training will be held on day 1. In the event of inclement weather causing a school closure, date changes will be communicated to candidates and parents via Dragon Band Website. Attendance during the entire audition process (minimum skills, training, and audition) is mandatory. If a candidate misses any part of the audition process, they may be disqualified and unable to complete audition.

ARTICLE VII - COLOR GUARD CLASS

Color Guard is a full-year course, and the member is expected to commit to activities and practices during both the fall and spring semesters. **A guard member will receive 1 credit of physical education. Following one year of physical education credit, he/she will earn 1 fine arts credit for each full year, per TEA Guidelines.** Each member will receive a numerical grade average on all grade reports. The numerical grade will be based on overall participation at all required activities and assignments

ARTICLE VIII - ACTIVITY PROCEDURES

All guard members will attend every required activity whether performing or not. Transportation will be provided to most activities. Everyone will ride to and from the activity with his/her team as required by the district. Only the principal or sponsor can make exceptions to the transportation requirement and written documentation must be provided by the parent. A travel release form must be turned in to sponsor and pre-approved by administration at least 1 week prior to the activity.

Color Guard members must never leave the group without permission when at the activity. Color Guard members must be ready for the game when they get off the bus. Color Guard members must not eat on the field or in stands or use a cell phone on the field or in stands. Color Guard members must wait until after halftime to eat during games or make a necessary phone call. Color Guard members must always exhibit appropriate behavior.

The team will be expected to attend **all football playoff games and competitions.**

Each guard member is responsible for knowing the departure schedule for each activity. Missing the bus is considered an unexcused absence and will result in a zero and possibly sitting out at the next game with the sponsor.

When using a bus for transportation, certain rules should be followed:

- Be courteous to the bus driver.
- Headphones must be used with electronic devices.
- State law prohibits standing up on the bus.
- State law prohibits placing anything in the aisle of the bus.
- Do not hang out the windows, yell or communicate in any way with other motorists or pedestrians.
- Do not throw anything out of the bus.
- Do not eat on the bus unless permission has been given by the sponsor.
- Roll up the windows before leaving the bus.
- Clean up after yourself before leaving the bus.
- Do not leave the bus before permission has been given by the sponsor.

ARTICLE IX - ATTENDANCE AND TARDY POLICY

1. All activities are mandatory, and attendance is required. Any absence, from any activity or rehearsal if considered unexcused, will result in ten demerits (performance), five demerits (practice) and could result in sitting out the next performance.
2. A guard member who is absent (excused) for all or part of a rehearsal or performance day will perform at the discretion of the sponsor/coach. Members are required to notify their sponsor of any absence via email prior to an absence(s).
3. Spring and summer practices and camp are mandatory.

4. Failure to attend practice may result in removal from a performance.
5. Consequences of any absence from a guard activity resulting from participation in another school or school-related activity will be given at the discretion of the sponsor and administration.
6. A person who skips Color Guard or any other class, for any reason, is subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the CISD Student Code of Conduct as well as demerits.
7. Work will not be an excusable reason for missing, being late, or leaving early from any Color Guard activity.
8. Juniors or seniors may take up to two days for a college visit as long as permission is given in advance by the sponsor and the visit is in accordance with school policy. College visits cannot be taken during any scheduled design day or competition. The member must obtain the college visitation form from the attendance office and show the completed form to the sponsor the following day.
9. Any person who is one to fifteen minutes late to any Color Guard activity will be considered tardy. Tardiness will result in demerits.
10. Physician's documentation will be required for a guard member whom is unable to perform due to an injury. Where possible, the member need attend the event in uniform and sit with the sponsor or team.

ARTICLE X – GUARD MEMBER OF THE WEEK

One student will be chosen each game during the football season for this honor. The sponsor and staff determine how the student will be chosen. Selection is based on attitude, showmanship, work ethic, and enthusiasm.

ARTICLE XI - LOCKER ROOM AND DRESSING OUT

Color Guard must dress out every day according to the uniform schedule provided by sponsor and leadership. This is including class and after school rehearsals.

Color Guard must lock all belongings in their locker or bring belongings to class during practice. Members must not assume that personal property will be safe in the guard room. Color Guard must not eat in the closet and must keep the room neat and clean.

ARTICLE XII - SAFETY

Any members who are injured will receive medical attention immediately. If a parent cannot be reached, an ambulance will be called if necessary. A medical release form must be signed by the parent prior to the audition clinic and taken to all activities by the sponsor.

Camp is mandatory because safety instruction is an integral part of the band camp days. Failure to attend summer camp may result in demerits and loss of placement in competition show. Safety guidelines will be enforced. Students are instructed not to attempt a stunt until having gone through proper training from instructors and given permission.

ARTICLE XIII - DEMERIT and MERIT SYSTEM

The demerit system is designed to provide a management system for the sponsor/coach. Only the sponsor/coach/directors may issue demerits. The system provides demerits and penalties for rule violations. Demerits begin as soon as the team is announced and continue until the audition of the next year. Sponsors will issue demerits within 5 class periods of the infraction. Guard members are required to initial the demerit sheet, acknowledging that they are aware when they have received a demerit.

When a guard member accumulates 20 demerits, he/she will be placed on probation or become an alternate. When sitting out a performance, a member must still attend the event in uniform and will sit in a place designated by the sponsor. When a member accumulates 30 demerits, he/she may be permanently dismissed from the team.

Demerit assignments include, but are not limited to, the following:

1 Demerit

- Any item left behind at an activity
- Hair not pulled up in uniform or at practice
- Wearing jewelry at practice or games
- A visible tattoo at practice or games
- Wearing incorrect practice shirt, shorts, or stirrups'
- Tardy (1 – 5 minutes)
- Not wearing shoes during practice (marching), not wearing correct footwear (winter)
- Not having hair ribbon or incorrect hair ribbon when assigned
- Not fulfilling responsibilities with a positive attitude

2 Demerits

- Not following bus rules, including drinks without screw top lids
- Failure to return to positions on time after halftime or between games
- Not returning items by due date (demerits given each day the item is late)
- Incorrect/incomplete uniform
- Incomplete/incorrect hair or makeup (including nail polish)
- Inappropriate talking at practice or games
- Chewing gum/eating during practice and/or games without permission
- Tardy (6 – 10 minutes)

3 Demerits

- Poor sportsmanship including but not limited to, opposing school, all those involved.
- Not riding the bus to or from an event without proper documentation. 3 demerits each way.
- Unexcused absence from any playoff or spirit event
- Tardy (11 – 15 minutes)

5 Demerits

- Unexcused absence from practice
- Uncooperative, disrespectful, or defiant behavior
- Improper or excessive use of cell phones at practice or games
- Improper behavior on field/bus/court
- Not cleaning up after activity, or after game
- Detention assigned by any administrator (for Level I Offense)
- Unexcused Missing of Summer Band (per day)

10 Demerits

- Unexcused absence from a performance
- Detention assigned by any administrator (Level II Offense)
- Missing June Camp, Unexcused
- **Inappropriate postings on social media (5-10) (i.e. cursing, derogatory comments, inappropriate pictures, etc.)**
- Disrespect to officers, staff, director, band directors, boosters, principals, etc. *Any of these demerits will result in immediate removal from rehearsal or field for that day.

20 Demerits (also constitutes automatic probation)

- Inappropriate behavior anytime, anywhere as outlined in Article XVI
- “U” in conduct in any class
- Disciplinary procedures in school (Level III Offense or greater)

- Insubordination
- Violation of safety rules
- First violation of the Student Code of Conduct and Standards for Extracurricular
- Activities, unless otherwise dismissed

***Administration and/or sponsor reserve the right to remove a member from any activity if deemed necessary.** (Example: Guard member refuses to follow directions during a game, sponsor will enforce a specific “sit out” time period, during said game. The member will remain seated for the specific time period).

MERITS:

Merits can be used to offset demerits. Merits can be earned by performing an outside service for band or guard, or can be given by the sponsor. (Merit service must be pre-approved by sponsor)

1 service hour = 1 merit

- 3 merits for straight A’s on report card – grades must be submitted to sponsor within one week of report cards
- Merits earned must be submitted within 5 school days of activity

ARTICLE XIV - PROBATION

Any member who accumulates 20 demerits will be placed on probation for 15 school days. During this probationary period, the member will not perform, but will attend all activities in uniform and sit with the sponsor. Both the member and the parent/guardian will be informed when he/she has received 15 demerits placing him/her in the “danger zone.”

Grounds for probation will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Accumulation of 20 demerits
- An occurrence when 20 demerits are given. This may include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - Using profane or obscene language or gestures
 - Public display of affection
 - Bullying: FFI LOCAL, Student Welfare Freedom from Bullying,
 - Harassment
 - An offense where suspension is rendered
 - Cheating for which an administrator has received documentation
 - Truancy
 - Vandalism

- Insubordination to any school personnel
- Violation of safety rules
- Failure of a course. (UIL/TEA guidelines will be followed in the event of a failed academic course. A guard member who is ineligible due to failure of an academic course(s) will not be permitted to attend any event.)

ARTICLE XV - PERMANENT DISMISSAL

Permanent dismissal from the team will be determined by the sponsor and the principal. Once a guard member has been dismissed from the team, he/she will be required to immediately have a schedule change out of the class. Reasons for dismissal will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Receiving 30 demerits during the school year
- Failing two UIL grading periods during the season which consists of the time period from audition to audition
- A second probation level offense where probation has already been given
- Assignment to DAEP
- Second violation of the Student Code of Conduct and Standards for Extracurricular
- Activities, unless already dismissed

ARTICLE XVI - STANDARDS FOR CISD EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

All students are expected to adhere to the Student Code of Conduct and Band and Guard Handbook as it applies to school-related or school-sponsored activities. Students involved in extracurricular and co-curricular activities are expected to exhibit the highest standards of ethics and conduct. CISD students, staff, and parents view participation in these extracurricular and co-curricular activities as a privilege and not a right. Therefore, the teachers, sponsors, coaches, and directors of these activities may develop and enforce codes of conduct that will take into consideration conduct that occurs outside of the school's usual jurisdiction, regardless of time or location. This would include any misconduct that would reflect negatively upon Carroll High and Carroll Senior High School. Students involved in major disciplinary infractions (including, but not limited to, drugs, alcohol, violent behavior, and other illegal offenses) or who violate the Student Code of Conduct resulting in a DAEP assignment will be suspended from participation in all extracurricular and co-curricular activities for a specified length of time. Offenders may be suspended from participation by the Carroll High and Carroll Senior High School administrative panel after a review of the incident. Evidence must be presented to the administration in one of the following forms:

- A report from a law enforcement agency
- Personal confession by the participating student
- Observed behavior by any school personnel

When such evidence is presented to the administration, the student and parents(s) or guardian(s) will be notified of the offense. The student and/or parent(s) or guardian(s) will be afforded the opportunity of a meeting with the administrative panel to discuss the offense. After this meeting, the following penalties may be rendered:

- 1st Offense: Suspended from activities for 30 school days
- 2nd Offense: Suspended from activities for 60 school days
- 3rd Offense: Suspended from activities for 90 school days

Penalties are for “school days” and may continue into the next school year. For example, if a student is suspended for 30 days with 10 school days remaining in the school year, he/she will serve the other 20 days at the beginning of the following school year. These penalties are not subject to appeals or reviews by the district’s hearing officer.

These penalties are cumulative throughout the high school career of a student. For each violation beyond the 3rd, a suspension of one calendar year will be imposed. While under suspension from activities, a student may not participate in any audition, election, or process.