

**Chiefettes Dance Team Constitution
McIntosh High School**

ARTICLE 1: Preamble

This constitution, drawn up for the Varsity Chiefettes Dance Team of McIntosh High School will serve as a guide and a set of standards in order to maintain skill, consistency in discipline and positive interaction with each other, the student body, the faculty, and the public. The purpose of this constitution is to protect and ensure the integrity and reputation of the team by expecting the best from each individual involved.

SECTION 1

The purpose of the Chiefettes Dance Team is to provide an outlet for high school students to showcase their talent and passion for dance through spirit raising techniques within the school and community, and also to engage in competition within the state of Georgia. Being a part of the Chiefettes also allows the high school student to provide entertainment to the public, promote and uphold school spirit, develop a good sense of sportsmanship among students, encourage teamwork and working towards common goals, and to build better relationships between schools during all athletic events. The season begins after new team selection from tryouts and concludes for Spirit Team at the end of football season, and for the Competition team after the State Championship.

ARTICLE 2: Selection and Qualifications

SECTION 1

- A. Selections are held in the spring of each year, for the Spirit and Competition Teams. Clinics are held to learn material and receive feedback and coaching before auditions. Clinics run 1.5-2 hours in length, and auditions typically run 2-3 hours.
- B. Audition order and numbers will be given at the tryout clinic.
- C. For the clinic, candidates should wear comfortable clothing that does not impair movement. This may include dance pants, capris, or shorts, along with a t-shirt or tank top. Conservative crop tops are ok, but sports bras as a top are not allowed. Comfortable shoes must also be worn at all times (jazz or tennis shoes). Dancing in socks or bare feet will not be tolerated.
- D. For the audition, candidates must wear a black top (nothing baggy) and black shorts. Wear what is flattering for your body type. Hair for Spirit auditions should be in a low ponytail. Hair for Competition auditions should be in a low bun with a middle part. Light natural make up should be worn. Appropriate dance shoes must be worn.
- E. All clinics and auditions are closed.

SECTION 2

- A. Eligibility: Academic qualifications for members are set by the Georgia High School Association. A member is considered ineligible if she did not pass five subjects the previous semester or is not on track for graduation.
- B. All members must have a current physical on file by the first clinic.
- C. Members must carry school insurance if they are not covered under a policy held by their parent or guardian.

SECTION 3

Members shall be selected on the following:

- A. Ability- All Chiefette candidates shall demonstrate dance and technique skills and the ability to learn dance routines quickly. Showmanship is a must for Spirit Team. Execution of technical skills plays a large part in the Competition Team audition.
- B. Each candidate will be judged on showmanship, sharpness, dance technique, rhythm, confidence, physical fitness, enthusiasm, and potential.
- C. Coaching staff will judge the auditions.
- D. The determining factor for size of the dance team will be decided on the natural break in scores. Call backs during auditions may be necessary to certify scores, and judges break any ties and their decision will be final.
- E. Dancers wishing to audition for the Competition Team, must be on the Spirit Team.
- F. Scores of all candidates will be kept confidential, but those who do not make the team may email the coach for suggestions on improvement for auditions the following year.
- G. The team roster will be posted on Instagram with a time specified by the coaches at the conclusion of the auditions.

SECTION 4

Competition Selection

- A. It is important for all selected team members to maintain their dance ability and technique. Team members **may** be required to **pass off** their material before performances. If a team member is not up to the Coach's standards and their performance ability will inhibit the overall team's performance, she may be asked to sit out at a performance or competition. Should this circumstance arise, the Coach's decision is final and may not be challenged by a parent. It is imperative that dancers work outside of practice if they are falling behind on choreography or technique.
- B. The team will compete with a pom routine and a jazz routine. The number of dancers selected will be based on the audition score where the natural break in scores falls. Athletes are expected to maintain and/or improve upon skills demonstrated at try-outs. The inability to do so may result in the dancers being removed from the competition routine. Should this happen, the team member(s) will still be expected to finish out the remainder of the season. There is a chance that a dancer selected for the competition routine may be in both routines, one routine, or no routines, and anything can fluctuate during the season. Membership on the competition team does not guarantee placement on the team in following years.

SECTION 5

Spirit Selection

- A. Dancers will dance on the sidelines of football games, pep rallies, and any other spirit related activities during the fall season, and select basketball games during the winter season.
- B. This is a fall season sport only, with some summer activities scheduled. The number of dancers on the team will be determined by the natural break in scores.

ARTICLE 3: Member Responsibility

SECTION 1

Personal Conduct:

- A. Members should have pride in McIntosh High School and should communicate this conviction to other students.
- B. All members are expected to possess character that is above reproach and exhibit personal conduct, habits, and appearance that cannot be criticized. They must be a credit to their school at all times.
- C. Members must constantly strive to provide a positive role model for other students.
- D. Members should always have a genuine, natural smile, particularly when performing in front of spectators or representing their school in any way.
- E. All members will observe the following:
 - 1. They will abide by the policies and regulations established by the school administration and the Board of Education.
 - 2. They will maintain a positive attitude in their classes.
 - 3. They will remain loyal to their school and their squad.
 - 4. They will display good sportsmanship at all times.
 - 5. They will always display good manners.
 - 6. They will use no profanity or off-color remarks.
 - 7. They will be courteous to all visitors and other students at all times.
 - 8. They will not smoke, drink, use drugs, or vape/e-cigarettes at any time.
 - 9. They will be moderate in dress, make-up, and hairstyle during performance. No jewelry may be worn during performances except assigned earrings during fall season only. Ear piercings are the only facial piercing allowed.
 - 10. Nail polish may not be worn during performances unless approved by the coach.
 - 11. They will observe good health habits.
 - a. All dancers must be comfortable with their body appearance as most outfits and uniforms are short in length, and tight on the skin.
 - 12. No gum chewing during performances or practice.
 - 13. No cell phone usage during practice or a game unless given permission by the Coach.
 - 14. No public displays of affection while in uniform or any dance team apparel.
 - 15. All performance clothing MUST be removed after any games or competitions before going out in public.
- F. Hair for performances varies (up or down) so please keep this in mind when getting your hair cut.

1. Bangs and short haircuts are **strongly discouraged**.

2. Hair color that strays from “natural” colors are not allowed. Hair that is dyed, includes highlights, ombre, or tips that are unnatural colors will not be tolerated. This includes colors such as red, black, blue, green, pink, gray/silver, etc. If you have questions about your hair, you should ask the coach.

G. No tattoos or body piercing (besides ears) may be visible in any way at any time during school, practice, school activities, or team activities. Ear piercings not on the lobe of the ear should be able to be removed before any performance. Please keep this in mind with piercings. Cartilage piercings will not be tolerated during any performance, and during the winter season, no earrings are allowed at all.

H. They will be courteous and friendly to members of their squad. There will be no gossip about other members of the squad. Failure to support all other members of the squad will result in automatic benching if reported to the coach.

I. They will stand at attention during the national anthem and the pledge to the flag and remain standing at attention until the flag has retired from the field or the court.

J. Any student-athlete that is caught in possession of or under the influence of illegal drugs (not including alcohol) will be suspended from participating in athletics at McIntosh High School for the remainder of the current school-year. The suspension applies regardless of whether the student was caught on or off Fayette County Board of Education property.

K. Dancers are to be mindful of comments or pictures that are posted on social media websites. Postings, comments, or pictures should not be a bad reflection on the individual or team. If you have to think twice about it, don't post it. Any form of social media creates a DIGITAL FOOTPRINT that cannot be reversed. Be SMART in what you post/don't post on social media! Consequences can result if deemed inappropriate.

SECTION 2

Practices:

A. Members must wear designated practice uniforms at all practices and bring any required equipment such as poms and appropriate shoes, and come prepared to do whatever is required of them.

B. Practice will be held on (some) Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays during the school year from 4-6pm. Some practices will be scheduled during the summer, and some practices will be scheduled on the weekends and mornings for the Competition Team.

C. In order for any absence from practice to be excused, the Coach must be notified in advance, and a note from the parent or doctor must accompany the absence. Excused absences are defined as follows:

1. Sickness or injury that is severe enough to prevent a member from attending and watching. If you can attend class, you can attend practice. If at any time you are absent due to illness, a doctor's or parent's excuse will be required within 24 hours of the absence. Should you miss school due to sickness and are not contagious, you are encouraged to come and watch practice; not participate.

2. Death or severe illness in the immediate family. The Coach must receive either written notice or a phone call.

3. In the event of excessive absences due to injury, the member may be brought before the Coach to discuss her physical well-being and continued membership on the team.

4. Injury does not exclude anyone from practice. Anyone who is injured must still come to practice and watch to keep up with anything they are missing. Should a member sit out at practice due to an injury, a doctor's note must follow. The only way to cure an injury and speed up your recovery is to seek medical attention. A doctor's note also notifies the coach of any medical attention she should be aware of.

a. An injured member of the team is expected to carry out the same responsibilities as non-injured team members.

D. Practices shall be orderly at all times.

E. The schedule and frequency of practices will be determined by the Coach. In order to change or cancel a practice, the Coach must be consulted.

F. Members may miss one **excused** practice per performance, BUT any member who misses the practice immediately prior to any performance **will not** be able to participate in the performance.

G. The Georgia High School Association requires that a member must be counted present at school the day of a game or a practice in order to participate.

H. Members must be present and on time for school on the day following a game unless excused by illness or a death in the family.

I. Acceptance of excuses is decided by the Coach.

J. Members may not have caffeine or carbonated drinks during or before practices, games, and performances.

K. No cell phone use during practice unless given permission by the Coach.

L. All members are encouraged to participate in team conditioning. A gym membership for Competition Team is highly recommended.

M. It is **required** that Competition Chiefettes are enrolled and actively participating in at least one ballet class, and one technique class with an emphasis on dance team, during the school year.

Tumbling classes or privates are **highly encouraged**.

SECTION 3

Games and Trips:

A. Members will perform at selected pep rallies, football games, and basketball games designated by the Coach.

B. If games are rescheduled; the member is responsible for rearranging her personal schedule.

C. No member may leave the group or section without the permission of the Coach. If a member leaves the group once granted permission, the buddy system will be utilized.

D. No other person other than a team member may sit in the designated Chiefettes section.

E. The competition team will travel together to all competitions and events.

SECTION 4

Uniforms and Equipment:

A. Each member is required to have the appropriate uniforms. A member who loses or destroys a uniform must replace it at her own expense. The coach will determine the current cost of the item.

B. Each member is responsible for keeping uniforms in good condition. This includes the repair and the cleaning of uniforms regularly. Any damage to a uniform will be repaired at the member's expense. Uniforms should not be washed until given instructions by the Coach first!

C. No uniform shall be altered by cutting in any way.

D. The Coach will set a date for squad-owned uniforms to be returned. Uniforms returned late will be subject to a fine. The Coach reserves the right to hold a member's report card, diploma, and/or letter until all articles are returned. Any missing or damaged item will be replaced by the member by paying for the current cost to replace the item.

E. No uniform or part of a uniform shall be lent to any individual or organization without prior approval of a coach. This includes spirit wear. Anything that says "Chieftettes" or "MHS Dance" should not be worn by anyone except team members. Please do not allow friends to wear t-shirts and warm up jackets!

F. Uniforms should not be worn publicly outside of a performance or competition. This means change out of your uniform before hanging out with friends or going out to eat after a game.

SECTION 5

All members will be required to attend Summer Camp/Choreography, participate in the Mini Dance Camp fundraiser, and competition members are required to attend summer choreography sessions. There will be no excused absences from these events unless the Coach is notified first.

SECTION 6

In order for a member to letter, they must meet the requirements set forth by the coach which include participating in performances and activities, limited unexcused absences, and upholding the values of the team outlined within the Constitution.

ARTICLE 4: DISMISSAL AND RESIGNATION

SECTION 1

A member may be dismissed from the squad or suspended for a term to be determined by the coach for the following:

A. Smoking, drinking, and/or using drugs whether in or out of uniform.

B. Any Chieftette in possession of vapes/products, tobacco, drugs, or alcohol on school campus or a school trip/function, will automatically be dismissed from the team.

C. Scholastic average below standards for each reporting period.

D. Unbecoming conduct that reflects upon the reputation of the school, squad, or the member herself. Any issue that arises will be discussed by the Coach.

E. Not following the rules and regulations set up for the members of the squad.

F. In-school or out-of-school suspension, based on severity.

G. Excessive absences and tardies for school or practice.

H. Back-stabbing or poor attitude.

I. Not knowing a routine by the specified date given by the Coach (pass off).

J. Not meeting financial obligations on time.

K. Not completing conditioning requirements.

L. Academic dishonesty.

M. Severe injury where the team member will be out for the rest of the season.

N. Inappropriate social media pictures or posting.

SECTION 2

If a member resigns from the squad for medical reasons, she is eligible to try out for the squad at the next opportunity.

- A. The resignation must be in writing and accompanied by a doctor's note confirming the medical reason for the resignation.
- B. A doctor's note must be submitted before tryouts affirming that the medical condition that necessitated the resignation no longer exists.

A member may resign from the squad for personal or academic reasons but may be ruled ineligible by the Coach, and may not be allowed to try out for future years.

A. All financial obligations must be met prior to a member resigning and will be paid in full to the team. This includes any costs that have been factored into the budget and allocated for that team member in which it cannot be refunded (ie competition fees, uniforms, fundraisers, etc). Any amount of dues will not be refunded, and if dues still remain to be paid, they will need to be paid in full as well.

1. Example: If a member leaves the team after uniforms are purchased, the parent will be responsible for paying for the costume.

ARTICLE 5: PARENTS AND BOOSTER CLUB INVOLVEMENT

A. Each parent has a financial responsibility that must be upheld. In the event that a member's account balance should fall behind, the parent will be notified. Failure to keep the account current following the notification may result in benching from practices and performances until the account is made current. Payment plans can be made. All of these policies will be communicated at the first McIntosh Chiefettes Booster Club meeting of the season.

1. A payment plan must be established with the Treasurer.

2. If a payment plan is established, the payment plan must conclude by the beginning of Thanksgiving break for Spirit Team, and the beginning of Christmas break for Competition Team. If dues still remain after this date, the team member will not participate in any performances until the dues are paid, and a hold will be placed on the student's account at school which could inhibit purchasing a prom ticket or other items.

B. There will be events throughout the year where parents may be asked to perform extra duties such as providing lunch and snacks for the dancers, driving to events, or coordinating various occasions. Please make every effort to assist in these responsibilities. The functioning of the team relies heavily on parent volunteers!

1. Parent Committees and participants will be established at the beginning of the season by the Booster Club. This ensures that all events are taken care of ahead of time.
2. Parents serving as a committee chair should discuss all ideas with the Booster Club FIRST before planning any activities.

C. Parental support and involvement is mandatory to ensure the success of each dancer not only in dance, but also in the classroom and in day to day activities. If any time a dancer is struggling personally or academically, it is the responsibility of the parent to notify the Coach.

1. Any consequences that a parent wants to assign their child for at home/personal reasons, cannot affect the outcome of the team.

a. For example, a parent may not take away a dance team performance, practice, or event, as punishment for their child. This affects the entire team, not just the individual.

D. Each parent should pick up his/her child within 10 minutes following the conclusion of any practice or event. Please do not send your child to practice without having a ride home! Dancers are discouraged to solicit rides from other team members, especially at the end of practice.

E. If at any time a parent has a question or suggestion concerning their dancer or the MHS Dance Team program, all inquiries should be directed to the Coach by email. Team member information will not be discussed through text messaging.

1. A parent wishing to schedule a conference must contact the Coach by email and since the conference will most likely be held at school, parents must sign in at the front office and receive a Visitor's pass.

2. There will always be another adult present during a conference.

3. Any unannounced conferences will not be tolerated.

ARTICLE 6: DEDICATION

A. If a conflict occurs between a scheduled Dance Team activity and outside interest, the dance team activity takes precedence. Dance team performances, including trips, come before other performances or travel opportunities.

a. DO NOT make vacation or travel plans during seasonal activities, which include any school breaks and holidays. Practices will take place at the end of Thanksgiving break, and during Christmas break. Please advise the coach of break plans by September.

b. All ACT/SAT testing must not occur on previously scheduled practice or competition dates.

B. Summer camp, minicamp fundraiser, and choreography weekends are **MANDATORY**.

C. An itemized list of expenses will be distributed to parents once the new team has been selected.

The list will be given out at the first parent's meeting. All funds needed to run our program not covered through team dues will be compensated through fundraisers FIRST and more team dues from dancers if needed. Parents should expect to pay \$1000-2000 for the year depending on which team they are selected for. Parents pay directly for items that their dancers use and keep.

Fundraisers fund team uniforms and expenses.