

**VARSITY AND JUNIOR VARSITY
EMERALD BELLE CONSTITUTION
(Last updated in January 2016)**

ARTICLE I (CONSTITUTION)

This constitution is adopted for the Emerald Belles of Carroll Independent School District on the first day of August, 1994. This constitution was last revised in January 2016.

ARTICLE II (NAME)

The name of this organization shall be the Emerald Belles or the JV Emerald Belles.

ARTICLE III (PURPOSE)

The purpose of this organization shall be to maintain and promote school spirit and to provide entertainment whenever requested in cooperation with school activities. It shall also strive to develop leadership, sportsmanship, scholarship, and high standards of conduct.

ARTICLE IV (MEMBERSHIP)

1. Refer to the attached CHS or CSHS Student Handbook Standards for District Extra or Co-Curricular Activities.
2. Membership in this organization shall be restricted to high school students who attend Carroll High School or Carroll Senior High School.
3. To be eligible for membership, a student must have a commitment to dancing, supporting athletic teams, and the promotion of loyal school spirit among the student body.
4. Each member must maintain a passing grade in all subject areas in order to participate in the drill team. (See Article VI)
5. Members must have exhibited and maintained a satisfactory attitude toward school policies and regulations of the group as stated in the Emerald Belle Constitution, Guidelines, and the Student Code of Conduct.
6. Transferring students from another school must present a letter of recommendation from her former director and participate in an informal tryout if the director decides it is appropriate.
7. Each member is required to participate in all activities in which the organization is involved. (performance, fund-raising, and school and community events)
8. Before school, occasional after school practices and summer practice sessions are required.
9. All Varsity members must be enrolled in the drill team class which is 1st and 5th block everyday.
10. **Varsity practice time is 6:45-9:00am and dress out time 9:00- 9:30am. Practices with the band during football season are on Thursdays at 3:45pm.**
11. All Junior Varsity members must be enrolled in the drill team class at Carroll High School (9-10 campus).
12. The Emerald Belle Calendar year begins the first day of summer through the last day of the following school year. All members are subject to Constitution Guidelines immediately following tryouts.

ARTICLE V (PARENT PERMIT)

Each member will submit a statement from her parents permitting her to participate in the drill team and half-time performances at football games, basketball games, contest and other performances for which the drill team may be scheduled. In addition to this permission slip, a signed medical form shall be completed and submitted to the director. The parents and members are responsible for meeting all financial obligations to the organization and the school regardless of membership status. The parents must be willing to support the member in complying with all regulations and rules of the school and organization.

ARTICLE VI (GRADE REQUIREMENT)

1. Each member must earn a 70 or above in each course. Should a member fail to obtain a 70 in all classes, she will not be eligible to perform for three weeks. (This is in accordance with U.I.L Guidelines.) The member may regain eligibility at the end of three weeks if passing **all** subjects. Should a member fail to receive a 70 or above for two consecutive grading periods, she will be removed from the drill team for the remainder of the year.

ARTICLE VII (PRACTICE PROCEDURES AND ABSENCES)

The director must be aware of any absence PRIOR to practice time. The member is required to notify her officer of the situation. If the member does not notify the director or her officer before practice, she will receive an unexcused absence and will miss a performance. The missed performance will be decided by the director.

1. If a member is more than 20 min. late to a practice or function, it will count as an unexcused absence (5 demerits).
2. All practices are mandatory for all members.
3. Practices will be conducted by the director and the officers. Members will arrive on time and stay until dismissed by the director.
4. The designated attire will be worn at all times.
5. When a member is absent, it is the member's duty to find out what she missed and be prepared the following day.
6. Members must attend four consecutive practices prior to the performance (FALL only). The member must always be present on the day of the performance for all activities in order to perform.
7. **Personal illness and death in family are the only excused absences. (Work, doctor's appointment, trips, etc. should not be scheduled during practice time.)**
8. **Two college visits will be allowed and excused as long as they do not interfere with the four consecutive practices prior to a performance or during competition practices.**
9. **ALL SCHOOL HOLIDAYS/STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS DURING THE MONTHS OF JANUARY AND FEBRUARY THE BELLES WILL HAVE MANDATORY COMPETITION PRACTICES. Trips, college visits, etc. will not be excused.**

ARTICLE VIII (PERFORMANCE PROCEDURES)

1. Tryouts will be held prior to every performance. The members will be aware of the tryout days. The director will determine whether the student will perform by evaluating the student for knowledge of the routine, dance technique, showmanship, conduct, and attitude. Seniority will not be taken into account for tryouts. Missing the tryout for a performance means the member could only tryout for an alternate position for that performance. Any member that is not in a performance must dress out and continue to workout and uphold all responsibilities as an alternate.
2. All members will attend activities in which the group is involved.
3. Any member arriving late to a performance will receive the appropriate amount of demerits.
4. Transportation will be provided to most activities. All members will be required to ride to and from all performances in the bus when transportation is provided.
5. Any member with an unexcused absence, will not be eligible to perform at that weeks performance. If the director feels that taking the member out of that week's performance would hurt the team, the director may decide to take the member out of the next week's performance.
6. If a member is unable to participate for longer than three days due to illness or injury, the member must furnish the director with a note from a doctor explaining the problem.
7. Members must attend school one-half (1/2) day in order to be eligible to attend practice or perform. (Excluding the Emerald Belles' class.)

ARTICLE IX (WORKING)

Most students cannot be enrolled in a full day of school, establish and maintain good grades, hold a job, be engaged in drill team, and maintain good health. Work will not be a reason for missing practice, being late, or leaving early from a practice or performance.

ARTICLE X (SOCIAL OFFICERS)

Candidates will tryout and be elected by the team and director. Their duties include keeping a scrapbook, arranging for team gifts, providing spirit, motivating the team, and assisting with correspondence. Other duties may be assigned by the director.

REQUIREMENTS FOR SOCIAL OFFICERS:

1. Specific rules, responsibilities, tryout procedures, etc. will be given to each candidate before tryouts.
2. All candidates must complete officer candidate information packets and turn them in on time. Packets must be signed and dated by both candidate and parent.
3. **Varsity - Must have an overall 70 or above GPA.**
4. Candidates on Varsity must have at least one year experience.
5. Candidates will be determined by team and director vote.

ARTICLE XI (DANCE OFFICERS)

The Emerald Belles Varsity and Junior Varsity will have dance officers whose duties shall be to help teach and choreograph routines, help run practices, and assist the director as she sees fit. Their specific duties will be outlined and discussed with them following auditions. All rules and regulations apply to the officers. If an officer, at any time, is not fulfilling her duties as requested by the director or is discrediting the drill team in any way, she may be removed from her officer position.

REQUIREMENTS FOR DANCE OFFICERS:

1. Specific rules, responsibilities, tryout procedures, etc. will be given to each candidate before tryouts.
2. All candidates must complete officer candidate information packets and turn them in on time. Packets must be signed and dated by both candidate and parent.
3. Varsity - Must be an upcoming Junior or Senior.
4. Must have maintained a high scholastic standing and have proven herself in leadership, character, reliability, and attitude.
5. **Must have an overall 70 or above GPA.**
6. Candidates will be determined by the judge's scores, the team votes, and the director's vote.
7. The number of officers will be determined by a break in the score.
8. The officers will help enforce rules and regulations outlined in this constitution and the Captain and/or 1st Lieutenant will keep the demerit system updated in conjunction with the director.
9. The candidate receiving the highest total score will be the captain.

***Requirements for the Junior Varsity Officers and Social Officers will be outlined by the Junior Varsity Director after team tryouts.**

REASONS FOR OFFICER OR SOCIAL OFFICER DISMISSAL:

1. Failure of a six week period
2. Insubordination to the director
3. Failure to fulfill her duties and obligations
4. Discrediting the drill team
5. A total of fifteen demerits will result in removal as an officer.

ARTICLE XII (TEAM SELECTION PROCESS)

1. There will be one audition conducted to select the new Emerald Belles Varsity and Junior Varsity. A clinic will be held prior to tryouts. 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 tryout again unless the candidate has more than 10 demerits from the current school year by the date of the Parent Tryout Meeting. The Varsity and Junior Varsity teams will be determined by the candidate's score. Either team may consist of Freshman through Seniors.
2. There will be a panel of three judges from outside Carroll ISD. Candidates will be ranked by total score.
3. Each judge is expected to give her fair and honest evaluations of each candidate based on dance technique, kick technique, flexibility, memory, timing, and showmanship.
4. No spectators are allowed at the tryouts.
5. All candidates must attend the clinic and must be present at tryouts.
6. All candidates and/or their parent(s) must attend a meeting prior to tryouts or contact the director for an appointment.

ARTICLE XIII (PROBATION)

During probation, the member will not perform, but will attend all practices. The duration of probation is 6 weeks. . Grounds for probation include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Receiving 20 demerits

XIV (PERMANENT DISMISSAL)

Permanent Dismissal for the following reasons will last throughout the remainder of the school year in which the offense occurs. If a member is permanently dismissed from Emerald Belles and wishes to be a member the following year, she must try out. The final decision will be determined by the director and the principal.

1. Receiving 30 demerits.
2. Failing any two six weeks grading periods.
3. A second offense where probation has already been used.
4. Assignment to On-Campus Suspension.

ARTICLE XV (DEMERIT SYSTEM)

1. Demerits shall accumulate from the first practice day of the summer through the last day of the school year.
2. A total of 20 demerits or more will place a member on probation for six weeks. A total of 30 demerits will terminate membership.
3. A record of each member's demerits is kept by the captain of the team and by the director.
4. Any member who receives five or more demerits in one week will be ineligible for the next performance.
5. It is the member's responsibility to keep track of her demerits. Every time a member receives a demerit, she will sign her name to acknowledge that she knows of the demerit.
6. Each member will do 100 high kicks for every demerit received.

EMERALD BELLE GUIDELINES

SUMMER PRACTICES

Practices will be announced by the director and are mandatory. Missing summer practice will result in a member missing performances and pep rallies during football season. These practices are very important and should not be missed for any reason. In addition to learning and polishing routines for the football season, girls will begin trying out to perform at games and pep rallies.

SPECIAL PERFORMANCES

Special performances will be announced by the director and are required for every girl unless specified otherwise by the director. These may include, but are not limited to; contest, clinics, basketball games, and parades. These performances will be announced as soon as possible and each member is expected to make arrangements to participate.

FUNDRAISING

It will be necessary for the Emerald Belles to participate in some type of fundraising. Each member will commit herself to fulfilling her own personal obligation and not depend on others to sell her share. Each Emerald Belle should make herself willingly available for these functions even if they should fall on a Saturday.

PERFORMANCE TRYOUTS

Tryouts will be held before every performance. All drill team members are required to tryout for all performances unless otherwise instructed. Every member must be able to demonstrate full knowledge of the routine to be included in the performance. Other factors that will be taken into consideration are technique, execution of steps and stunts, formations, and showmanship. The director will make all decisions concerning who dances and her decision is **final**. Alternates will practice with the team at all times, as they may be included in the routine at any time.

PRACTICE SCHEDULES

Practices for the Varsity are scheduled before school and continue into 1st and 5th block of everyday. Practices for the Junior Varsity will be determined by the director at a later date. During football season the Belles have a run-thru with the band on Thursday afternoons at CHS from 3:45-4:15pm. When preparing for competition or special performances, additional practices may be called if the director feels it is needed. Otherwise, the designated practices Mon-Fri should be ample time. Every effort will be made to notify the member of the extra time needed to polish the routine. Each member will be expected to adjust her schedule accordingly. If a member needs to attend tutorials or make-up a test, she must let the director know ahead of time. All Varsity members must try to schedule tutorials in the afternoon.

CONTEST

The Varsity and Junior Varsity Emerald Belles will participate in at least one contest per year. Most contests are out of town and require travel to and from the contest. Attendance is required, even if a member is not dancing. Tryouts will be held for contest numbers.

EMERALD BELLE OF THE WEEK

One girl will be chosen each week during the football season and competition season for this honor. The director and officers determine who will be selected. Selection is based on attitude, showmanship, work ethic, and enthusiasm.

ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCES

(See article VII-practice procedures)

GAME UNIFORM

Each member is responsible for taking proper care of her uniform. No alterations will be made on the uniforms without permission. Uniforms must be dry cleaned before turning in your final year.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation will be provided by the school district. All members are required to ride to and from most of the Emerald Belles activities and/or functions. Everyone will ride the bus to and from the destination. In all activities where school transportation is not provided, the members will be required to turn in the CSHS Individual Transportation Permission Form.

PHILOSOPHY

The Emerald Belles' goal and philosophy is to maintain an excellent level of performance while emphasizing and setting an example for all of Carroll I.S.D. All Belles are representing our school and our drill team whether you are in uniform or not.

STANDARDS FOR DISTRICT EXTRA OR CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

All students are expected to adhere to the Carroll I.S.D. Code of Conduct 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. Carroll I.S.D. students, staff and parents view participation in these extracurricular or 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 both school related misconduct and 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 I.S.D. Additionally, the district has imposed the following uniform consequences for misconduct by students involved in extracurricular or co-curricular activities. First, students who are suspended from school or placed in AEP for committing a Level IV offense under the Code of Conduct will be suspended from participation in all extracurricular and co-curricular activities ("activities") for the following lengths of time:

Suspensions from school:

- 1st Suspension: Suspension from all activities for a period of 30 school days from the date of suspension.
- 2nd Suspension: Suspension from all activities for a period of 60 school days from the date of suspension.
- 3rd Suspension: Suspension from all activities for a period of 90 school days from the date of suspension.

AEP Placement for Offenses:

- 1st AEP Placement: Suspension from all activities for a period of 90 school days from the date of AEP placement.
- 2nd and Subsequent AEP Placements: Suspension from all activities for one calendar year from the date of AEP Placement.

Second, students who are placed in AEP or expelled for committing a Level V offense are subject to more severe extracurricular and co-curricular activity restrictions. Such cases will be reviewed by an administrative review panel appointed by the principal.

Third, students who commit offenses outside of the school's jurisdiction for expulsion or AEP removal (i.e. conduct that is not school related) will be suspended from participation by the administrative review panel after a review of the incident.

Before an extracurricular or co-curricular activity sanction will be imposed, evidence must be presented to the administrative review panel in one of the following forms:

- ~ A report from a law enforcement agency.
- ~ Personal confession by the participation student.
- ~ Observed behavior by a school employee.

Non-School Related Level Offenses

- 1st Offense: Suspension from activities for thirty (30) school days.
- 2nd Offense: Suspension from activities for sixty days (60) school days.
- 3rd Offense: Suspension from activities for ninety (90) school days.

All listed extracurricular and co-curricular activity suspensions regardless of whether or not school related or non-school related are for "school days" and may continue into the next school year. For example if a student is suspended for thirty (30) days with ten (10) school days remaining in the school year, he/she will serve the other twenty (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 student's career on his or her respective Carroll I. S. D. campus. For each violation beyond the third, a suspension of one calendar year will be imposed.

While under suspension from extracurricular and co-curricular activities, students will continue to attend their academic classes. Additionally, while under suspension from activities, students may participate in any tryout, election, or process that would allow them to participate in an activity that begins after their suspension is lifted. Students elected or selected from an organization or team while suspended from extracurricular activities may participate only after their day of suspension from extracurricular and co-curricular activities have been completed. Notwithstanding the foregoing, students will not be allowed to participate in any tryout, election, or other process that takes place while they are assigned to AEP or suspended from school.

I UNDERSTAND AND CONSENT TO ALL THE RULES AND GUIDELINES OUTLINED IN THE EMERALD BELLES' CONSTITUTION AND GUIDELINES, POLICIES OF CARROLL SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL AND CARROLL HIGH SCHOOL, AND THE CISD STUDENT HANDBOOK.

Belle name _____

STUDENT Signature

Date

PARENT Signature

Date