

# ***NEW RIEGEL HIGH SCHOOL***

***CHEERLEADING CODE OF CONDUCT***

***GRADES 7-12***

***2011-2012***

## I. Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be: to promote and uphold school spirit; to develop a sense of good sportsmanship among the students; and to better relationships between schools during all athletic events.

The most important goal is to provide every participant the opportunity to grow mentally, morally, physically and emotionally. To insure that the program can provide these opportunities, a degree of self-discipline is required of each participant. Self-discipline involves compliance with rules and regulations concerning personal behavior. Rules and regulations promote order and safety, and assist participants in reaching their maximum performance potential.

The Board of Education, administration, and staff feel strongly that high standards of conduct and citizenship are essential in the cheerleading program. Due to their high visibility participants have a strong influence on members of the student body as well as in the community and are seen as a direct reflection upon the standards of the school.

With this belief, the following code of conduct and policy is set forth as a minimum standard fitting within the rules and regulations of the New Riegel Board of Education.

It must also be remembered that participation in activities at New Riegel is not a right, but a privilege that will be regulated.

## II. General Requirements of Participation

- A. Adherence to all provisions as stated in the Student Handbook.
- B. Adherence to any additional rules established by the cheerleading advisor.
- C. All cheerleaders in grades 7-12 are expected to follow the prescribed rules and regulations, which are in effect 24 hours every day during basketball season.
- D. Cheerleaders must complete a Physical Exam Card. Cheerleaders must complete the Emergency Medical Authorization Form, which must be turned in to the cheerleading advisor before participation.
- E. Financial obligations resulting from equipment fees, replacement of lost or stolen equipment, and/or unpaid balances from sales projects, must be paid prior to participation in cheerleading.

## III. Academic Eligibility

- A. Eligibility (7-12) for cheerleading is determined by the preceding nine-week grading period. All cheerleaders must earn a 1.50 or better GPA during that

period. Any cheerleader (7-12) declared academically ineligible may participate in practices only with permission from the advisor, administration and parent. Written parental permission must be received before an academically ineligible cheerleader may participate during practice. A cheerleader declared academically ineligible at the beginning of each nine-week grading period may become eligible at the midterm of the current grading period provided s/he meets the above requirements.

- B. A student enrolled in the first grading period after advancement from the eighth grade must have passed a minimum of five of all subjects carried the preceding grading period.

#### IV. Tryout Regulations

- A. Cheerleaders will be selected through a tryout process. Tryout scores will be ranked in order based on each individual's abilities. From these scores, the cheerleaders will be announced.
- B. Participants must be present on the tryout date to be considered for the squad, unless excused in advance by the advisor. In this event the principal and advisor will determine whether the participant will be given an extra tryout date.

#### V. School Attendance and Discipline

- A. Cheerleaders are required to be in school attendance by 10:00 a.m. and finish the remainder of the school day to be eligible to practice or participate on any given school day unless pre-excused by the principal.
- B. Any cheerleader suspended or expelled from school is also denied participation from activities including practices and contests.
- C. All cheerleaders assume responsibility for regulating their personal life in such ways as will make them an efficient member of the squad and a worthy representative of New Riegel School. Any cheerleader may be denied from participating in practice or at games for a period of time, designated by the administration, for an infraction of school rules and/or regulations or any other unacceptable conduct in or out of school.

#### VI. Stopping Participation

- A. Any cheerleader leaving the squad for any reason may not go out for another activity (including organized conditioning and/or weight room) during

basketball season unless consent of the cheerleading advisor and principal is given.

- B. If any cheerleader is denied participation because of a violation, s/he is not eligible to join another activity (including organized conditioning and/or weight room) during basketball season or until such time as the denial of participation is over.

## VII. Conduct and Consequences

Any individual representing the District and found in violation of this policy will be penalized accordingly.

In the case of a student coming from another school district; any violations from that school district will be carried out at New Riegel. This applies to any open-enrollment students or students who have recently moved into New Riegel School District.

### A. Tobacco

The use, possession or purchase of tobacco in any form (cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, snuff in any form etc...) is prohibited.

1. 1st Offense – Denial of participation for 20% of the basketball season with carry-over penalty into the next season in which the cheerleader participates (as cheerleader or athlete).
2. 2nd Offense – Denial of participation for the remainder of basketball season and no local post-season awards.
3. 3rd Offense – Any other offense during the same school year will result in denial of participation from cheerleading and athletics for one calendar year.

### B. Alcohol, Mind-Altering Chemical and Body-Altering Chemicals

The use, possession or purchase of alcohol in any form, mind-altering chemicals and their related paraphernalia or build-altering chemicals is prohibited.

1. 1st Offense – Denial of participation for the remainder of the basketball season and no local post-season awards.
  - a. In the case of alcohol violation, if the cheerleader agrees to go through an alcohol rehabilitation program approved by the school administration, and to follow the program recommendations, the denial of participation will be reduced to 40% of the contests in basketball season with carry-over penalty.

\*Notification of an athlete's intention to participate in an alcohol rehabilitation program shall be given in writing to the principal

within 5 calendar days of receipt of the written notification of intention to deny participation.

Self-Referral Policy: If a cheerleader seeks assistance for dealing with an alcohol problem by self-referral to the advisor or administrator and agrees to participate in an alcohol rehabilitation program approved by the school administration and agrees to follow the program recommendations, there shall be 20% denial of participation and the self-referral will be considered as a first violation. An athlete may give a once a year self referral, which may be done only twice in 4 years.

- b. In the case of drug violation, if the cheerleader agrees to go through a drug rehabilitation program approved by the school administration and to follow the program recommendations, the denial of participation will be reduced to 60% of the contests in basketball season with a carry-over penalty.

\*Notification of an athlete's intention to participate in an alcohol rehabilitation program shall be given in writing to the principal within 5 calendar days of receipt of the written notification of intention to deny participation.

Self-Referral Policy: If a cheerleader seeks assistance for dealing with a drug problem by self referral to the advisor or school administrator, and agrees to participate in a drug rehabilitation program approved by the school administration and agrees to follow the program recommendations, the denial will be 20% of the remaining season with carryover policy and the successful completion of the rehabilitation program. An athlete may give a once a year self referral, which may be done only twice in 4 years.

2. 2nd Offense – Denial of participation for one calendar year and no local post-season awards.

**Any combination of three (3) offenses or violations from sections A & B will result in a denial of participation for one calendar year with no reduction in the consequences or penalty.**

- C. Alcohol, Mind-Altering Chemicals and Body-Altering Chemicals  
The sale, supplying or transmitting of alcohol in any form, any mind altering chemicals is prohibited.

1. 1st Offense – Denial of participation for one calendar year and no local post-season awards.
2. 2nd Offense – Denial of participation indefinitely/permanently.

D. Criminal activity or violations of the law is prohibited

Recognizing the varying degrees of severity of violations (misdemeanors vs. felonies), consequences for involvement may result from a minor reprimand to the denial of participation for a calendar year, depending upon the nature of the offense.

E. All cheerleaders are expected to behave in a manner, which reflects positively on the school and their team. Unacceptable behavior or conduct is prohibited. This would include, but is not limited to, such offenses as:

1. Repeated truancy from school or class.
2. Act of immorality, theft, vandalism or physical abuse of persons or property.
3. Repeated infractions of school rules, disrespect or chronic incorrigible behavior.
4. Abusive language, gestures or profanity.
5. Disrespectful behavior or unsportsmanlike conduct at school sponsored events.

F. All cheerleaders shall abide by all the following curfews during basketball season:

1. Any curfew set forth by communities in which the cheerleader resides.
2. Any curfew set forth by advisors.

Any exception to the curfew may be granted by the cheerleading advisor on receipt of a written request from the parent(s)/guardian when the cheerleader will be with the parent(s)/guardian.

VIII. Denial of Participation and Due Process

A. In the event of a violation of this Code of Conduct and/or the training policy established by the coach, the following procedure will take place:

1. The principal will inform the cheerleader (in writing) of what the violation is and what discipline might take place.
2. The principal then will conduct an informal hearing to allow the athlete to explain his/her actions.
3. If the principal denies the cheerleader the opportunity to participate, he/she shall send written notice to the athlete and his/her parents of the fact within two workdays of the informal hearing.

4. The cheerleader and his/her parents shall be informed that they may appeal the decision to the superintendent within 24 hours of written notification of denial of participation.
5. If appealed, the superintendent will meet with the cheerleader his/her parents and the coach to hear the issue. A representative of the cheerleader's/parent's choosing may attend this hearing with the cheerleader, his/her parents or a representative in his/her place. The superintendent will then decide to uphold, vacate or modify the decision. The superintendent will send written notice of his/her action on the appeal to the cheerleader and his/her parents. There shall be no further appeal.

**SIGNATURE PAGE  
2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF CHEERLEADING HANDBOOK**

**PLEASE DETACH THIS PAGE AND RETURN TO YOUR COACH or PRINCIPAL**

Parent/Guardians must understand and agree to the conditions for involvement for their son or daughter in order for them to participate in cheerleading.

The parent (s) or guardian (s) shall read all of the enclosed material and acknowledge understanding of the cheerleading eligibility rules and policies. The parent (s) or guardian (s) shall sign and return the Responsibility Acknowledgement Agreement to the cheerleading coach or principal prior to participating in any practice or contests.

I have read the New Riegel School District Cheerleading Code of Conduct including the rules, regulations and policies. I fully understand its meaning and consequences and support its enforcement by persons responsible.

**Assumption of Risk/Athletic Training Policy**

**Checking this box does not release the school from any negligence. However, with your checking of this box it verifies you are aware various injuries do occur while participating in cheerleading. "We do understand and assume that there is always the risk of a possible injury to our son/daughter in cheerleading." Our son/daughter will participate in the basketball cheerleading for the 2011-2012 school year.**

Please sign and return to your coach or principal. This form will be kept on file in the principal's office. Thank you for your cooperation and support. You may not participate in cheerleading until this form is signed and returned to your coach.

\_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE OF CHEERLEADER

\_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN

\_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE OF COACH

\_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE OF PRINCIPAL

Received by the Office \_\_\_\_\_ (Date)