

Alton High School Dance Team Bylaws

The *purpose* of the Alton High Dance Team is to perform as a sideline, halftime, and competitive dance performance group, and to represent Alton High School at school functions, community events and dance competitions.

Our *mission* is to educate and develop dance team members into strong dancers/performers. We desire to inspire self-confidence, discipline, and respect for the art of dance, all while demonstrating excellent behavior and striving for academic success.

Dance Team Membership:

1. The dance team must take priority over all other extra-curricular activities including jobs and dance studios.
2. Academic success should be a priority to remain in good standing as a dance team member. Team members will be expected to be passing at least 2.5 credit hours or the equivalent of 5 classes each week. If a member is not passing at least 2.5 credit hours this will lead to them being benched from performances.
3. Team members represent the school; therefore, model behavior is mandatory at all functions where the members are recognized as representatives of the Alton High Dance Team. Team members should strive to be a role model at school, in the community, and at home.
4. Each team member must go through the same tryout process every year. In addition to dance ability, each member's cooperation, effort, attitude, and ability to get along with other team members will be considered.
5. Please know that being on the dance team one year in no way guarantees placement on the team for the following year.
6. The coach(es) will select captains based on maturity and leadership skills displayed in previous years and input from veteran dance team members.
7. Captains must have completed one year on the team prior to being named a captain. No captain shall be chosen solely based on number of years on the team or experience.

Attendance:

1. All practices, team events and performances are mandatory.

2. Notification of any absence must be submitted by the parent via phone call, text, email, etc. to the head coach prior to the start of practice.

3. All work, appointments, etc. should be scheduled around dance team practices, performances, and team activities.

Work, hair, nail appointments, dance lessons, voice lessons, boyfriend/girlfriend issues, not having a ride, are not excused reasons for missing practices/performances.

Team members will receive three demerits for unexcused absences.

4. A total of 4 excused absences from practices and/or performances will be allowed during the dance season. At the 5th excused absence from practice and/or performance, the team member, head coach, and parent/guardian will need to have a meeting to discuss the team members future on the dance team.

Note: Excused absences are defined as: an absence in which a parent or guardian has informed the coach of the absence due to illness, funeral, family emergency or medical emergency (must have physician's note).

5. No call, no shows to practices and/or performances are unacceptable and may result in strict disciplinary action and/or dismissal from the team.

Practices:

1. As stated above, all practices are mandatory.

2. Proper attire is required: dance shoes, practice clothes, poms, and running shoes. Hair must be pulled off face.

3. If a team member is more than five minutes late to practice, they are considered tardy and will receive one demerit.

4. Any dancer absent from practice is expected to learn any new information or material taught before the following rehearsal. This is to be done outside of regular practice time. Failure to take responsibility for this will result in consequences up to the discretion of the coach(es).

5. Members are expected to be attentive and cooperative when learning. Repeated disruptions, especially during the same practice may result in the team member receiving demerits and/or being sent home.

6. If a team member misses the last practice before a performance, except for a severe illness, funeral, or unforeseen circumstance, the team member will be expected to sit out of the next performance.

7. Any team member may be benched for not knowing the routine(s) well enough to be performed at the coach's discretion.

Because you are a member of the dance team that does not automatically guarantee that each member will perform for every game or event. If a member is not performing at a level deemed necessary, then that member will be benched from a performance. No Discussion.

8. Team members that are benched for not knowing the routine, disciplinary reasons or any other reasons are still required to attend all games and practices and be dressed appropriately.

Uniforms/Appearance:

1. Performance uniforms will be provided through team fundraising and will be the property of the Alton High School Dance Team.
2. Each member will be required to maintain their uniform in good condition.
3. Damage or loss of uniforms will result in a replacement fee.
4. No dance team uniforms of any type will be worn to school or any activity unless it is assigned.
5. Footgear and accessories (bows, tights, make-up, etc.) will be purchased by each member.
6. Appropriate make-up and assigned hairstyle shall be worn at all performances.
7. At performances fingernails must be cut short with either no polish, clear/nude polish, or short French tip nails.
8. During the dance season, hair color must be a natural color (i.e., blonde, brown, black, or red). No extreme hair colors or coloring is permitted. Failure to comply with this policy may result in being benched/dismissed from the team.

Fundraising:

1. All team members are expected to take part in fundraising events. We ask that all parents take an active role in supporting the team.

Demerit System:

A system of demerits will be used as a corrective action to ensure all team members stay on task. Discretion of demerits will be determined by the coach(es) and at the suggestion of the captain(s).

- Four (4) demerits = removal from a performance
- Eight (8) demerits = removal from second performance and probation

- Twelve (12) demerits = dismissal from the team

One demerit will be given for: Poor attitude, bad sportsmanship, excessive talking, not wearing appropriate attire for practices/performances, failure to bring poms or required accessories to practices/performances, improper conduct, tardy to practices or team events.

Three demerits will be given for: Disrespectful behavior and/or a lack of cooperation with captains, coaches, or other team members, and unexcused absences.

Please understand that all incidents cannot be covered in any document; the coach(es) holds the sole right to make decisions concerning any situations not covered.

Alton High School Dance Team Agreement

I, _____, member of the Alton High School Dance Team, have read the AHSDT bylaws and agree to follow all rules set forth by the coach(es) and school administration. I also understand that failure to follow these set rules will result in the proper consequences.

Dance Team Member Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date