

# **POLICIES OF THE WOODLANDS HIGHSTEPPERS**

The following policies shall serve as a guideline and shall govern all activities of The Woodlands Highsteppers.

## **PRACTICE POLICY**

- I. Mandatory Practice
  - a. There will be daily after school practice sessions during football and contest seasons.
  - b. There may be numerous after school work sessions between the conclusion of football season and the Christmas break, however, not on a daily basis.
  - c. There will be summer work sessions: usually beginning the first of August until the start of the school year.
  
- II. Practice Conduct

Discipline will be administered for the following conducts according to the offense and at the discretion of the Director/Principal.

  - a. Excessive lateness for practice
  - b. Excessive talking during any practice, including practice with the band.
  - c. Missing any part of practice uniform, including proper shoes.
  - d. Chewing gum or eating food at restricted times/places.
  - e. Leaving the practice area without permission
  - f. Conduct/Actions/ or Language unbecoming of a young lady

## **PERFORMANCE POLICY**

- I. Any member arriving for a performance without her complete uniform may be excluded from the current or following performance
- II. Absence from school on game day may automatically exclude the member from the game performance
- III. Untidy hair or uniform may exclude the member from the current or next performance
- IV. Unexcused absence from practice will exclude the member from the next performance
- V. Chewing gum during a performance will exclude the member from the next performance
- VI. Any member missing the practice immediately prior to a performance may not be eligible for that performance
- VII. Any member attending an event following a performance must change to appropriate clothing. Uniforms shall not be worn anywhere except to which activities which the group is designed to perform

## GENERAL POLICY

- I. If a member feels that another member, officer, or director is unfair, or becomes involved in a situation which she disapproves, she should take the matter up with the Director, Major, and should not be heard "airing gripes"
- II. Members of the Highsteppers represent TWHS and therefore a member found guilty of conduct unbecoming to this organization shall be released from the group. Any inappropriate behavior in ANY Highstepper clothing is automatic grounds for dismissal.
- III. Members of the Highsteppers must demonstrate outstanding leadership and breakage of any school rules or policies shall be grounds for dismissal.
- IV. If for any reason the Director\Principal feels a member is not representing herself and her school in a wholesome manner, she may be suspended or dropped from the organization.  
**\*\*\*\*This includes inappropriate photos or language on a Facebook or MySpace webpage.\*\*\*\***
- V. Our prime objective is to promote school spirit and support by becoming involved in our various school sports and activities. Any conduct prohibiting this involvement is not tolerated.
- VI. Excessive lateness to an academic class will not be tolerated.
- VII. If a member misses 3 practices during the full year, unexcused, she may be dropped from the team.
- VIII. Use of the Directors name or of the Highstepper Organization as a false excuse to enter a class tardy, to be excused from a class or assignment, to obtain a hall pass, etc. may be grounds for immediate dismissal.
- IX. If a member has 1 unexcused absence from a performance she may be dropped from the team.
- X. Attendance in ISS/RA may automatically result in removal from the team.
- XI. See below:

\*\*\*Athletes are expected to be alcohol and drug free throughout their sports career. Consequences for ANY violation of this expectation, regardless of the offense, may include suspension, loss of leadership role, or removal from the program\*\*\*

\*\*\*If a member of the team is removed from the team for not abiding the Policies and Procedures of the TWHS Highsteppers during the middle of the marking period, they will be placed in ISS for the remainder of the marking period.\*\*\*

## Nondiscrimination Statement

The Conroe Independent School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, or disability in providing education services, activities, and programs, including vocational programs, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

## **ABSENCE POLICY**

**Excused:** Only granted when note of explanation from parent or teacher is received. Granted for illness usually but with discretion of director may include make-up assignments, family commitment, etc. Even excused absences may jeopardize participation or membership if habitual or the absence affects the team.

**Unexcused:** Any absence that has not been excused through the director or any lack communicating absence to the director. Three unexcused absences will be grounds for dismissal from membership.

\*\*\*Removal from practice by the Director for disruptive or disrespectful behavior counts as an unexcused absence and may result in suspension from performance. Habitual continuance of poor behavior may result in removal from the team.

**Absence for Academic Reasons:** (re-test, make-up, projects, tutorials, etc.) Excused only with note from requesting teacher. Even an excused note may result in removal from performance.

**After School Detention:** Unexcused

**Tardy:** Lateness is only excused only with communication with the director and may still result in removal from a performance. Habitual lateness will not be tolerated.

**Advanced Notice** to the Director is requested, if possible, when:

1. Conflict/Illness/Injury etc. prevent attendance
2. Entering or Leaving Practice other than normal times
3. Present but unable to participate.
4. Circumstances other than normal.

## **HIGHSTEPPER LETTER JACKET POLICY**

**Letter Eligibility:** 4 year members: Sophomore, Junior and Senior Year (must purchase freshman year)

**Jacket Eligibility:** 4 Year members: end of sophomore for beginning of junior year  
3 Year members: end of junior for beginning of senior year  
2 Year members: beginning of senior year because they are seniors on a Varsity Level sport

**“W” versus shoe letter?** The Highstepper shoe letter was voted on as the official Highstepper letter but “W”s may be purchased by the member. The exception is members receiving Jackets will have to purchase that year's shoe as the “W” comes with the jacket

**Purpose of Letter and Jacket Policy:** Most Varsity Level groups are comprised of Juniors and Seniors with a minimal number of underclassmen. This is the best way to do it without having to count the number of times a member has danced or participated in solos and ensembles, etc. All Highsteppers are valued for their hard work and dedication NOT their level of ability.