



BARTLETT HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY DANCE TEAM

Coach Talia Balijs

bhsdancers@gmail.com

BARTLETT DANCE TEAM BY-LAWS

I. PURPOSE AND PHILOSOPHY

1. To promote positive school spirit through precision dance;
2. To strengthen members' dance abilities via technique and choreography skills;
3. To help members develop good sportsmanship, self-confidence, self-discipline;
4. To encourage leadership, friendships, high morals and standards amongst members;
5. To develop the ability to work as a part of a group achieving common goals;
6. To represent the school and community in an exemplary manner; with members serving as role models for appropriate behavior and citizenship.

II. MEMBERS

1. Membership shall be open to all students who will be enrolled in Bartlett High School for the year of competition for the dance team. Placement on the team will be based on skill not grade level (or "year in school").
2. Members must be athletically eligible and remain athletically eligible the entire season in order to fully participate in the Bartlett Dance Team performances and activities. Ineligible members will still be required to attend practices and performances despite their inability to fully participate.
3. Physicals—Members of the squad must have their physicals by the end of **June**.
4. Membership on the Bartlett Dance Team is an honor and privilege, not a right. Removal is at the discretion of the coach.
5. Being a previous member of the Bartlett Dance Team in **NO WAY** guarantees placement on the squad for the following year. Every member must go through the same audition/selection process each spring. In addition to ability, each member's cooperation, effort, attitude, and general character will be considered.
6. BHS Varsity Dance Team members are selected during a competitive judged tryout.
 - a. Candidates are evaluated on proper technique, execution, showmanship and individual technical skill capabilities.
 - b. Membership selection made by the coach is final and cannot be contested.
 - c. The list of new team members is posted on the Bartlett High School Varsity Dance Team web site the day after the try-out.
 - d. Try-outs are closed to anyone not trying out. Dancers must leave once try-outs are over.
7. There will be a new team parent/student mandatory meeting following try-outs.

III. BEHAVIOR

1. Bartlett Dance Team members are expected to be a credit to the school at all times.
 - a. Be courteous and friendly to others.
 - b. Be pleasant and respectful at all times—watch all conversations.
 - c. Use **NO** profanity.

- d. Be pleasant, respectful, courteous and considerate of the members on your own squad as well as other squads.
 - e. All school rules apply—members are expected to set a good example by following the school rules in and out of class.
 - f. Keep grades up to set a good example for classmates.
 - g. Public display of affection while in uniform or half-uniform is not acceptable.
2. If you are asked to leave practice because of your behavior, it will be considered unexcused.

IV. PRACTICES

1. Practices are mandatory and begin when scheduled.
 - a. Members should arrive 5 minutes early for practices so they can begin on time.
 - b. Members must attend practices in order to perform.
 - c. Jobs and/or other extracurricular activities should not supersede a dance team practice or game.
2. If you have missed a practice, it is your responsibility to learn the routine that was taught. Waiting until the next practice is unacceptable, and you will be asked to leave.
3. It is understood that all practices are mandatory.
4. If a member misses the practice before a performance (regardless of reason) he/she will be removed from that performance and any performances between the absence and the next practice. Any exception is at the discretion of the coach.
5. If you are in school, you are to be at practice or a doctor's note must be given at the next practice. If the coach does not receive a phone call from the member BEFORE practice starts, even if the member missed school, the member is UNEXCUSED. No exceptions.
6. If a member is asked to leave practice due to behavior, the absence will be considered unexcused.
7. Appropriate behavior is expected
 - a. Members are expected to be attentive and cooperative during practice.
 - b. Constructive criticism and suggestions are necessary for improvement – members should receive them without complaining, rudeness or any form of disrespect.
 - c. Negative feelings about a routine, choreography, placement in formation, etc., should be discussed in private with the coach and not with other team members or peers.
 - d. No gum chewing or soda allowed while practicing.
 - e. Absolutely NO food should be brought into the dance room or gym at anytime.
 - f. Cell phones should be turned off during practices.
8. Practices are private. No family members, friends or boyfriends are allowed to attend.

V. UNIFORM AND DRESS

1. Each member will be supplied with the performance portion of her/his uniform. Uniforms should be returned in the same condition as issued. The member will be charged a replacement cost and be fined if an item is lost or damaged.
2. Uniforms are the property of the Bartlett Dance Team and shall not be remodeled or changed in any way without the expressed permission of the coach.
3. All uniforms should be cleaned whenever necessary in order to preserve the uniform and cleanliness.
4. The uniform must be worn at all games when the squad performs pre-game and halftime unless noted otherwise by the coach. The uniforms are not to be worn for any other purpose. Any member not dressing like the rest of the squad will not participate.
5. No part of the uniforms will be worn except when instructed by the coach.
6. Uniforms are for official members who have been chosen through formal audition process. Uniforms should not be lent out.
7. All members are required to have their hair pulled out of their face when dressed.
8. The members are required to purchase four (4) matching outfits to wear each day of summer camp; in addition to bringing the game uniform.

- a. The captains/coach will specify the outfit to be worn each day
9. A Competition Uniform will be purchased for each dancer
 - a. Performance attire is selected by the coach and includes the outfit, make -up, hair and shoes (some competitions have specific make-up and nail polish rules).
 - b. In accordance to competition rules, fingernails cannot be longer than the actual finger.
 - c. Responsibility for costs of competition attire will be determined by the Dance Team Boosters organization and coach for each routine .
 - d. Students will incur some of the costs of the performance attire.

VI. EVENTS/GAMES/COMPETITIONS/FUNCTIONS

1. Attendance at all Bartlett High School Functions is mandatory.
2. Members will be given a tentative schedule at the beginning of the season and are expected to work other activities around that schedule. An updated schedule will be posted on the website for the members and parents to view.
3. Ability to perform will be at the coach's discretion based on but not limited to the following:
 - Knowledge of routine (there will NOT be try-outs for individual games)
 - Attendance at practices
 - Attitude at practice
 - Eligibility
 - Dress
4. Team members will sit together and support the school team and/or other teams for all games and performances.
5. Each member or squad will remain with the team unless given permission by the coach to leave.
6. All members will arrive at performances at the time assigned by the coach, in the required uniform.
7. All members are required to attend performances whether they perform or not.

VII. ABSENCES

1. If you are absent for more than four class periods, or the whole day of a game, you cannot perform that evening.
2. If you are home sick from school, you **cannot** attend any portion of practice. You still need to notify your coach before practice begins. If the coach does not receive a phone call prior to the beginning of practice, your absence will be unexcused.
3. Absences are considered excused if they involve **extreme** personal illness or accident, funeral, or death in the family, or prearranged situation with the sponsor. Documentation will be required in any absence situation.
4. School sponsored activities are excused if the coach receives a written document two weeks prior to the event. (i.e. Chorus concerts, etc.)
5. If a member is asked to leave rehearsal due to behavior . . . that absence will be considered unexcused.
6. If a member is not at practice and stretching by the designated practice start time, this is considered an unexcused absence. A member will receive one warning for tardiness prior to an absence being counted.
7. The following absences are considered **unexcused**:
 - Family Vacations
 - Family Functions (i.e. parties, relatives coming to visit, babysitting)
 - Needing to do school work—you will need to manage your time.
 - Parties (of any kind)
 - Birthdays (including the members birthday)
 - Any reason other than **extreme** illness. (i.e. shopping, concerts, birthday parties, family dinners, etc., activities other than school sponsored events)
8. **Member** must notify the coach at least two weeks in advance of the absence(s), in any of the above situations. This does not guarantee that the absence will be excused.
9. A total of three unexcused absences will constitute removal from the squad.

- a. **First**—the coach will talk to the member and the member will be benched for one performance at the discretion of the coach.
 - b. **Second**—the coach will talk to the member, call the parent and the member will be benched for one performance at the discretion of the coach.
 - c. **Third**—member and parent will meet with the coach and athletic director and member will turn in all uniform parts at that time.
10. If a member is absent from a mandatory function, it is at the discretion of the coach to bench that member from an equivalent function. (i.e. Missing a basketball game and then being benched from the following basketball game.) No matter what the reason missing a mandatory function is unacceptable.

VIII. ELIGIBILITY

1. All candidates must meet IHSA eligibility requirements:
 - a. Must be an attending Bartlett High School student as of the start of the upcoming school year.
 - b. Must be passing five (5) classes weekly
 - c. Passed and received credits for the entire previous semester
 - d. Current annual physical examination on file with the school nurse (during registration), athletic department, and coach
2. The Bartlett High School Code of Conduct requirements apply to members.
3. Selected competition requirements apply to members.
4. Each member must register with the BHS Athletic Department for Fall and Winter.
5. Members must complete the Athletic Department Sports Registration Packet.
6. Members must submit a participation fee made out to Bartlett High School.
7. All new members and a parent must attend (in the athlete's first season), a TARGET meeting which addresses the prevention of drug and alcohol abuse by students.

IX. CAPTAINS

1. The coach, taking into consideration attendance, attitude, availability, ability and general character, shall choose captains or not choose captains.
2. The eligibility of the captain shall be as follows:
 - a. Captains will epitomize the image of a Bartlett Dance Team member at all times. (In class, rehearsal, performance, competition, and public.)
 - b. Captains must be on the team for at least 2 years prior to being selected.
3. The duties of the captains shall be as follows:
 - a. To see that all warm ups begin on time.
 - b. To lead proper warm-up and stretching at the beginning of each rehearsal.
 - c. To lead pre-game dances and activities.
 - d. To lead sportsmanship activities among the Bartlett High School and TDI community.
 - e. To help choreograph and teach routines at the discretion of the coach.
 - f. To be overall leaders in dancing full-out, encouraging teammates, and setting the positive tone at practice.
4. Extra time, work and responsibility are required of captains.
5. By no means does having the role of captain provide special placement in dance routines.
6. A captain is someone that is looked up to and upholds the expectations of the school and the coach. If at any time the integrity of the position is questioned a member may have the captainship revoked.

X. CHOREOGRAPHERS

1. The coach, taking into consideration attendance, attitude, availability, ability and general character, shall choose choreographers.

2. The duties of the choreographer shall be as follows:
 - a. To see that all warm ups begin on time.
 - b. To lead proper warm-up and stretching at the beginning of each rehearsal.
 - c. To lead sportsmanship activities among the Bartlett High School and TDI community.
 - d. To help choreograph and teach routines at the discretion of the coach.
 - e. To become experts at the given choreography and answer any questions that may come up.
 - f. To be overall leaders in dancing full-out, encouraging teammates, and setting the positive tone at practice.
3. Extra time, work and responsibility are required of choreographers.
4. By no means does having the role of choreographer provide special placement in dance routines.
5. A choreographer is someone that is looked up to and upholds the expectations of the school and the coach. If at any time the integrity of the position is questioned a member may have the captainship revoked.

XI. SUMMER COMMITMENTS

1. Dance Camp
 - a. All members are required to attend a dance camp chosen by the coach, at the expense of the student.
 - b. All fees and forms must be turned in prior to leaving for camp.
2. Practices
 - a. Members are to attend all summer practices, as scheduled by the coach.
 - b. Practices begin prior to camp and are scheduled by the coach.
3. Fundraising
 - a. Members are to attend any fundraisers held over the summer.
4. Performances
 - a. Members are to attend any performances held over the summer.

XII. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Attire must be clean, neat and organized at all times.
2. No jewelry is allowed with any dance attire.
3. Hair must be off neck and face – pony tail, bun or comparable hair style.
4. No gum chewing while in uniform at performances.
5. No talking or goofing around during the pre-game performance.
6. Appropriate performance make-up should be worn as determined by the coach.
7. The coach has final discretion over all uniform/attire matters.
8. All poms and personal equipment must be clearly marked.

XIII. RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Respect the all BHS Dance Team members, including the coach
2. Fulfill BHS Varsity Dance Team requirements for the entire dance team season(s).
3. Refrain from any conduct which would bring criticism to the team or discredit the school.
4. Participation in other constructive and worthwhile school activities is encouraged, so long as it does not significantly interfere with Dance Team responsibilities

5. Resignations must be in writing and signed by both the member and her parents.
6. All members must Sign and Return By-Law Agreement Form

I, the undersigned, have fully read the Bartlett Dance Team By-Laws for Performance Eligibility and understand what will be expected of me in the coming season to remain eligible to perform. I understand that it is fully at the coaches' discretion and I may be out of a performance at any time.

Dance Team Member Signature

Date

I, the parent/guardian of the above-named, have read the Bartlett Dance Team By-Laws for Performance Eligibility. I understand the coach has final say in my child /ward's performance eligibility.

Team Member's Parent/Guardian

Date

Dance Team Member Name

PLEASE PRINT

I, the undersigned, have fully read the Bartlett Dance Team Standards and Expectations and understand what will be expected of me in the coming season to remain a member in good standing. I will keep myself knowledgeable and informed of all rules, and realize that the consequences for poor behavior or inappropriate actions may be severe. I will do all I can to uphold the honor, tradition and reputation of the Bartlett Dance Team, and respect my team members, my school, and all persons associated with school spirit at all times.

I fully realize that I will be held accountable for the rules and policies stated within the aforementioned document.

Dance Team Member Signature

Date

I, the parent/guardian of the above named, have read the Bartlett Dance Team Standards and Expectations and understand all the requirements and consequences of improper actions. I understand the coach has final say in my child /ward's remaining on the team. I fully realize that he/she will be held accountable for the rules and policies stated within the aforementioned document.

Team Member's Parent/Guardian

Date