



HANDBOOK
2026 - 2027

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PHILOSOPHY & PURPOSE

The Queen City Belles is a premier drill and spirit organization within San Felipe Del Rio CISD (SFDR-CISD) dedicated to representing the district and community. Our mission is to develop drill, dance, and leadership skills while promoting school spirit, tradition, and positive ambassadorship. Members are expected to exhibit leadership, teamwork, confidence, creativity, responsibility, and professionalism both on and off campus.

GOALS & EXPECTATIONS

Queen City Belles members are expected to be physically and mentally prepared to perform at a high level and to represent SFDR-CISD with professionalism and leadership both on and off campus. Members must prioritize academics, demonstrate respect for all individuals, and fully commit to teamwork, accountability, and maintaining a positive attitude.

Members are required to:

- Follow all district, school, Student Code of Conduct, and Queen City Belles policies consistently.
- Maintain academic eligibility and remain in good standing throughout their membership.
- Show respect toward administrators, teachers, staff, fellow students, coach(es), teammates, and community members in all interactions.
- Attend and actively participate in all required practices, performances, events, camps, competitions, and appearances.
- Communicate promptly, respectfully, and in advance regarding any absences or conflicts that arise.
- Uphold the image and reputation of the Queen City Belles, both in and out of uniform.
- Maintain ongoing development of required skills and remain “game / performance ready” at all times.
- Place team responsibilities and success above personal preferences, demonstrating dedication to the group’s goals.

ELIGIBILITY, TRYOUTS & COMMITMENT

Eligibility

Candidates for Queen City Belles must:

- Be enrolled in SFDR- CISD and maintain academic eligibility with good behavioral standing throughout participation.
- Submit all required medical clearances annually, including a physical examination as mandated by the district.
- Attend all scheduled tryout clinics, mock tryouts, informational meetings, and submit all required paperwork by designated deadlines.
- Meet all financial obligations related to program participation.
- Be enrolled in the Queen City Belles course (unless excused by coach(es) for graduation requirements).

Military Transfer Students

Children or dependents of active military personnel who qualify may audition within ten (10) school days of enrollment regardless of standard application deadlines, in accordance with UIL Texas Military Compact policies. The administration will consult with UIL to offer timely audition opportunities.

Eligibility & Tryouts Requirements

- Tryouts are evaluated by a panel of qualified judges using a standardized rubric considering technique, performance quality, skill execution, and presentation.
- Final team placements are determined by the Queen City Belles coach(es) and campus administration based on fair and objective assessment.
- Team size, structure, and the number of leadership positions (Captain, Co-Captain, Officers) will be determined annually based on program needs.

Commitment

Selection to the Queen City Belles is a year-long commitment starting the date of selection and continuing through the school year's end (including summer sessions as required).

Members are expected to:

- Fully participate in all practices, rehearsals, performances, competitions, camps,

athletic and community events, and scheduled appearances.

- Engage in required physical conditioning, skill development, and routine preparation activities as part of program expectations.
- Attend additional rehearsals as scheduled for choreography cleaning and event readiness.
- Prioritize Queen City Belles commitments above non-school extracurricular activities, jobs, personal events, or vacations, unless exceptions are granted in advance by coach(es) and campus administration.
- Maintain consistent availability for all programmed activities, including evenings, weekends, holidays, summer, school breaks, and other times outside regular school hours.
- Stay flexible for schedule changes or added events (e.g., playoff games, pep rallies, community performances), which will be communicated when possible.

LEADERSHIP ELIGIBILITY, RESPONSIBILITIES & ROLES

Leadership Eligibility and Selection

Leadership positions are reserved for returning team members who demonstrate good conduct, academic standing, and leadership potential. Captain candidates are typically upperclassmen with previous leadership experience. Students with a history of insubordination toward coach(es), staff, or teammates may be deemed ineligible.

The selection process for leadership roles includes a comprehensive evaluation that may consist of:

- Interviews assessing communication skills and attitude.
- Creation and performance of an original routine or movement sequence.
- Teacher or staff evaluations regarding behavior and teamwork.

Final decisions rest with the coach(es) and campus administration.

Leadership Responsibilities

Leadership members are expected to:

- Arrive at least ten (10) minutes prior to all scheduled practices, events, and calls.
- Attend all mandatory practices, summer workouts, performances, events, and

leadership meetings.

- Assist coach(es) with organizational tasks such as attendance tracking, event preparation, and team communication.
- Aid in choreography instruction and routine preparation as assigned.
- Model professionalism, respect, reliability, and a positive attitude at all times.
- Foster open communication and encourage teamwork among all members.
- Report any concerns, conflicts, or issues directly to the coach(es) in a timely manner.
- Refrain from bullying, hazing, misuse of authority, or any form of leadership abuse.
- Fulfill additional responsibilities as directed by coach(es).
- Communicate updates or concerns to coach(es) when necessary.

Leadership Roles

Captain:

- Assists with planning practice structures and schedules under coach(es) guidance.
- Provides input on performance concepts, uniforms, and event planning.
- Leads organization of pep rallies, game-day activities, and member responsibilities for events.
- Supports choreography development for performances.
- Communicates team information as requested by coach(es).

Co-Captain:

- Supports the Captain in all duties.
- Assumes Captain responsibilities in their absence.
- Aids in planning and organizational support for performances and events.

Lieutenants:

- Assist Captains, Co-Captains, and coach(es) with assigned duties.
- Support attendance monitoring and practice organization.
- Help enforce practice expectations regarding attire, preparedness, and conduct.

Accountability

Leadership members must consistently demonstrate exemplary behavior, academic responsibility, and positive representation of the program. Failure to meet these expectations may result in:

- Probationary status.
- Reassignment or demotion from leadership roles.
- Removal from the leadership position by coach(es) and administration.
- Ineligibility for future leadership opportunities.

ATTENDANCE & ELIGIBILITY

Queen City Belles members are required to attend all scheduled practices, rehearsals, performances, fundraisers, camps, competitions, and team events. Consistent attendance and punctuality are essential for safety, skill development, team cohesion, and overall success

Members must:

- Arrive on time, prepared, and ready to participate fully.
- Communicate all absences or tardiness in writing to coach(es) *prior* to the start of practice, event, or school day.
- Attend all mandatory summer camps and designated workouts; failure to do so may result in removal from seasonal performances and related activities.
- Participate fully in all assigned fundraising and team-related events.
- If absent unexcused from school, members may not attend practice or perform on the same day.

Excused Absences

Absences considered excused include:

- Personal illness or injury (may require a doctor's note).
- Death or family emergency.
- School-approved activities with prior approval.
- Pre-approved academic obligations.
- Religious holidays or significant family events.

To qualify as excused, members must provide:

- Advance written notice when possible.
- Documentation including student name, date, reason, contact information, and signature from a parent/guardian or a US healthcare provider as applicable.

Medical & Appointment Guidelines

- Members should schedule appointments outside practice times whenever possible.
- Medical absences require supporting documentation from a U.S. licensed healthcare provider.
- Absence from school due to illness or appointments disqualifies members from participating in practice or events that day unless cleared with appropriate documentation.

Unexcused Absences

Absences will be considered unexcused if:

- Vacations or out-of-town trips
- Work or scheduling conflicts
- Social events or parties
- Non-school-affiliated activities
- Appointments not approved in advance

Any absence without proper notification. Members remain responsible for learning missed material and maintaining performance readiness despite absences.

Attendance Consequences

- Two unexcused absences or no-call/no-show incidents result in removal from the next scheduled performance or event.
- Six unexcused absences lead to dismissal from the Queen City Belles program and loss of end-of-year recognitions including lettering, awards, and banquet participation.
- Three tardies equal one unexcused absence and may negatively impact performance eligibility.

Performance Eligibility

Eligibility to perform is contingent upon:

- Consistent attendance and punctuality.
- Maintaining academic and behavioral standards.
- Demonstrating full performance readiness as judged by coach(es).
- Absences, whether excused or unexcused, that result in decreased readiness may lead to removal from specific performances at the coach(es) discretion.

Communication & Review

Parents/guardians will be notified of attendance concerns—including unexcused absences, no-call/no-show incidents, or patterns of tardiness.

- Communication may occur prior to or alongside disciplinary consequences as a courtesy and to support student success.
- All attendance consequences are subject to review in extenuating circumstances at the discretion of coach(es) and administration.

Medical Clearance & Injury Policy

All members must have current medical clearance prior to participation, including an annual physical examination.

- All injuries, regardless of severity, must be reported immediately to the coach(es). Failure to do so may result in restricted or denied participation.
- Coach(es) reserve the right to limit or remove members from practice, performances, or events if medical conditions pose a safety risk.
- Injured members shall not participate without written release from a U.S.-licensed medical professional. Members must fully comply with medical recommendations and any modified participation guidelines.
- Final decisions about participation related to injury and safety rest with the coach(es) and campus administration.

PERFORMANCE & APPEARANCE STANDARDS

Queen City Belle members are expected to present a polished, uniform appearance and demonstrate performance readiness at all events. These standards ensure consistency, professionalism, and quality representation of the program.

Performance Readiness

- Execution accuracy and mastery of routine elements.

- Effort and consistent preparedness at rehearsals and practices.
- Confidence, energy, and appropriate expression during performances

Members who do not meet established performance standards may be removed from routines or performances at the discretion of the coach(es).

Appearance Standards

Members must maintain a polished, uniform appearance aligned with guidelines set by the coach(es) for rehearsals, competitions, performances, and other official functions.

Appearance standards include, but are not limited to:

- **Hair:** Styled and secured as directed by the coach(es); unnatural or non-traditional colors are prohibited while representing the team.
- **Makeup:** Applied according to coach(es)-established performance guidelines to ensure uniformity.
- **Uniforms/Costumes:** Must be clean, complete, properly fitted, and worn exactly as issued without unauthorized alterations.
- **Accessories:** Only items approved by the coach(es) are permitted.
- **Jewelry:** Not allowed unless specifically authorized by coach(es).
- **Nails:** Must comply with length, color, and style requirements set by the coach(es); acrylic or colored nails not meeting standards are prohibited.
- **Tattoos & Piercings:** No visible tattoos or body piercings (including face, tongue, and belly) are permitted during participation or appearances.

Failure to comply with appearance requirements may lead to demerits, removal from performance or event participation, and other disciplinary consequences as determined by the coach(es).

Uniforms and Equipment

All uniforms, costumes, poms, jackets, equipment, and related materials issued to members remain the property of SFDR-CISD. Members must:

- Maintain all issued items in good condition and return them upon request or at the end of their membership.
- Not loan, sell, transfer, or permit use of issued items by non-members.

- Wear Queen City Belles apparel and uniforms only as directed and in a manner that positively represents the organization; they are not to be worn in public outside official activities
- Understand that costs for repairs, alterations, or replacements due to negligence or misuse will be charged to the member responsible.
- Refrain from eating or drinking anything besides water while in uniform; if consuming food or beverages, use an appropriate cover-up as directed.
- Change out of uniforms immediately following performances unless otherwise instructed.

EVENT & GAME DAY EXPECTATIONS

Queen City Belle members are expected to maintain focus, discipline, and professionalism during all athletic events, games, performances, pep rallies, and community appearances. Adherence to these expectations is essential to uphold the organization's reputation and ensure smooth, safe event operations.

Events

This section applies to all events including but not limited to:

- Athletic events (football, baseball, softball, soccer, basketball, volleyball, etc.).
- Community events, school functions, parades, and other appearances where the Queen City Belles represent the district.

General Conduct

- Members must remain fully engaged, attentive, and prepared to perform or support the team at all times during events.
- Socializing, distraction, or disruptive behavior during events or performances is prohibited.
- Members should model positive sportsmanship and support for teammates, school groups, and staff.
- Respectful behavior toward coach(es), staff, fellow members, opponents, officials, and the public is mandatory.

Sideline & Event Behavior

- Members must stay within designated team areas during events unless explicitly excused by the coach(es).
- Cell phone use is prohibited during performances or when actively participating unless the coach(es) grants permission.
- All directions given by coach(es), staff, or designated student leaders must be followed promptly and without dispute.

Performance Participation

- Members are expected to attend all scheduled events on time, fully prepared in the appropriate uniform or attire.
- Even when not actively performing, members must attend and remain engaged in the event unless excused in advance by the coach(es).
- Failure to meet behavior, attendance, or participation expectations can lead to removal from the current event and may affect eligibility for future events or performances.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Demerit System

Membership in the Queen City Belles requires adherence to a higher standard of conduct than the general student body. Violations of school, district, Fine Arts, or Queen City Belles policies may result in disciplinary action including demerits, conditioning, event suspensions, probation, or removal from the program.

Demerits accrue cumulatively from the first instructional day of the school year through the last day of the first semester; totals reset to zero at the start of the second semester. Captains and Co-Captains may recommend demerits, but ultimate approval lies with the coach(es).

Offense	Demerit	Demerit Removal Opportunities
Tardiness (more than 3 mins)	1	Extra conditioning
Jewelry	1	Extra conditioning
Chewing gum/eating	1	Extra conditioning

Cell phone use	1	Extra conditioning
Late / incomplete forms	1	Extra conditioning
Leaving practice early	2	
Posture (stands / events)	2	
Incomplete / incorrect uniform	2	Automatic performance suspension
Not cheering or performing stand routines	2	
Acrylic / colored nails / incorrect length	2	
Inappropriate socialization during events	2	
Unexcused absence	3	Attend alternate event designated by coach(es)
Language / attitude issues	3	Attend alternate event designated by coach(es)
Public display of affection	3	Attend alternate event designated by coach(es)
Insubordination	4	Potential Suspension
No show	5	
Visible piercings (face, tongue, belly) or tattoos	5	Automatic performance suspension

Disciplinary Milestones

- **10 Demerits:** The member will be suspended from two consecutive games and two pep rallies (or two other major events designated by coach(es)). The member must attend all practices and activities in full uniform but will not perform or travel with the team.
- **15 Demerits in One Semester:** The member will be immediately removed from the Queen City Belles program for the remainder of the school year.

Grounds for Immediate Evaluation

Certain behaviors bypass the demerit system and are grounds for immediate evaluation and potential removal from the team by coach(es) and administration. These include:

- Inappropriate sexual contact, physical or verbal fighting.
- Public intoxication or possession/consumption of alcohol, tobacco, vaping products, or illegal drugs.
- Any incidents of bullying, hazing, intimidation, or harassment.
- Suspension from school, placement in Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP), or expulsion.

- Accumulating two performance suspensions or three academic probations within one school year.

All disciplinary decisions consider the severity and nature of the infraction and are subject to the discretion of the coach(es) and campus administration.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

End of Year Banquet

The Queen City Belles program may host an annual End-of-Year (EOY) Banquet to recognize the accomplishments, service, leadership, and contributions of its members.

- Attendance at the EOY Banquet is limited to members in good standing. Good standing includes, but is not limited to, satisfactory attendance, participation, conduct, academic eligibility, and compliance with program expectations.
- Members who are on probation, suspended, removed from the program, or otherwise not in good standing at the discretion of the coach(es) may be deemed ineligible to attend the banquet.
- Attendance at the EOY Banquet is not required for membership in the organization.
- The Queen City Belles Booster Club, in collaboration with the coach(es), may provide financial support for the banquet and assist with planning and recognition activities.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Members and their families are responsible for all financial obligations related to participation in the Queen City Belles program. These costs include, but are not limited to:

- Uniforms (practice, performance, and competition attire)
- Camp and clinic fees
- Accessories and equipment
- Travel expenses and related event costs
- Any additional approved program fees or costs

Payment and Refund Policy

- No refunds will be issued for dismissal, resignation, withdrawal, or any other

reason once fees have been paid or items purchased.

- All outstanding balances must be paid in full before a member is eligible to try out for future seasons or receive senior clearance.

Uniform and Equipment Care

- Members must properly maintain and care for all issued or purchased items, including uniforms, costumes, accessories, and related equipment, throughout the year.
- If any portion of a required uniform or costume is missing, members may be prohibited from participating in performances or events until the item is presented.
- Members are financially responsible for any lost, damaged, or unreturned items as determined by the coach(es).

Required Purchases

- When purchases of specific items such as shoes, apparel, or accessories are required, members must obtain the exact item(s) specified by the coach(es).
- Substitutions, alterations, or alternative brands are not permitted and may result in ineligibility to perform.

Fundraising

- School-sponsored fundraising opportunities may be available to help offset costs.
- Participation in fundraising activities does not guarantee full coverage of expenses or fees.

The handbook may be amended as needed by coach(es) and administration.

Unaddressed situations will be handled individually, respecting confidentiality. Texas law and SFDR-CISD policies supersede this document.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT PAGE

By signing below, both student and parent/guardian acknowledge that they have read and understand the Fine Arts **and** Queen City Belles Handbooks for 2026–2027 school year. They agree to follow all guidelines and understand that participation is a contingent upon compliance with school, district, and program expectations.

Name: _____ ID#: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Coach Signature: _____ Date: _____

Coach Signature: _____ Date: _____