

# REQUIRED TRYOUT INFORMATION CHECKLIST :

*ALL PAPERWORK DUE BY Tryouts!*

	Information	Description
<input type="checkbox"/>	View & Sign Parent Meeting	<p>After viewing the parent tryout information video, PARENTS: please sign the form. You may also sign this at the parent meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">View Video:</a> <a href="#">Video Confirmation Form:</a></p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Online Cheerleader Application	<p>Each Candidate must complete these application forms. Interest Form &amp; Tryout Form. Please make sure to join our Band during Tryouts to learn the material.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">Interest Form:</a> <a href="#">Tryout Form:</a> <a href="#">Band- Tryout Material:</a></p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Teacher/Coach Recommendation	<p>*Candidates must complete the teacher recommendations form. *Former Athletes must turn in 2 teacher recommendations and 1 coach recommendation.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">Teacher/ Coach Recommendation Form</a></p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	SCAN: Required Physical & Insurance Documents on the Athletic Clearance Website	<p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">Athletic Clearance Website:</a></p> <p>Please follow all instructions on the following page. All physical /medical information (including insurance cards. You will need to be uploaded to the athletic clearance page. **Parents &amp; Athletes will need to create an account prior to tryouts.**</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Grades/Discipline Verification	<p>Current Booker T. High Schoolers: GPA 2.0 is required to Tryout. Coaching Staff will verify grades and discipline through focus. No scanning required. Rising freshmen will also have their focus pulled prior to tryouts.</p>

# Booker T. Washington High School Cheerleading 2023-2024 Contract

**Dear Candidate and Parent/Guardian,**

Please read all of the material in this packet in order to make an informed decision about trying out to become a Booker T. Washington Cheerleader. Thank you for showing interest in the Booker T. Washington High School Cheerleading Program! Attached, you will find all of the necessary information for a student interested in trying out to be a part of the Booker T. Washington High School Cheerleading Program. Changes have been made for the 2023-2024 season, so make sure you read the packet in its entirety. All rules and regulations as stated in the Booker T. Cheer Constitution, as well as the FHSA Guidelines, and the Booker T. Washington High School Cheerleading Program Expectations will be followed carefully. You will need to read and understand every page before making your decision to try out.

It is my mission, as the head coach, to develop strong and confident individuals who understand the importance of integrity, establish a dedicated work ethic, are willing to commit to themselves and their teammates, sustain accountability, and promote mutual respect while inspiring school spirit, school pride, and community involvement. Being a Booker T. Washington Cheerleader is a demanding sport that requires high standards- physically, academically, and morally. As a member of our program, athletes must have a positive attitude, maintain good grades, follow through with commitments, take responsibility for all actions, stay in athletic shape, and devote a great deal of time representing Booker T. Washington High School. Booker T. Washington Cheerleaders must attend all after school practices and all mandatory events as scheduled by the coach.

Rionna Wages   
HEAD COACH

## Eligibility:

1. Any student in good standing who is currently enrolled or entering as a full-time student at Booker T. Washington High School may try out to be a cheerleader. Exceptions may be made on an individual basis for out of district students who will be moving into the district and enrolling at BTWHS the following school year. Students are considered to be in good standing if:
  - a. The student has not been assigned to ILR, has not been suspended from school, or has not had more than 3 days of ISS for the present school year. *Only for certain instances will this be altered if approved by administration and coaching staff.*
  - b. The student has not been suspended or dismissed from any high school organization during the past school year.
  - c. The Student did not quit the Booker T. Washington Cheer Program at any time during the current school year.
  - d. If the student does not remain in good standing, with the above-mentioned eligibility requirements, the coach reserves the right to terminate the cheerleader's membership.
2. **The following must be completed online no later than April 28th, 2023:**
  - a. Cheer Interest Form
  - b. Signed Expectations Agreement
  - c. A Florida Athletic Clearance Account
    - i. Visit our Cheerleading page on the Booker T. Washington website for access.
  - d. Confirmation of a physical on file. If a student does not have a physical on file with the AD, the candidate must get a physical prior to the first day of the clinic (May 2nd, 2023).
3. There will be a mandatory meeting for **all candidates and at least one parent** PRIOR to tryouts. This meeting will be held in the Booker T. Washington cafeteria on **April 17th at 6 pm.**
4. **Tryout Clinic Days and Tryouts will be held May 2nd-5th.** Tryouts will be judged by a minimum of 4 experienced judges, and scores will be calculated by the Booker T. Washington Cheerleading Coaching Staff. Returning Booker T. Washington Cheerleader's scores will be a combination of the score sheet and a coach's evaluation from the previous year.
5. Candidates must be present at school each day of the week of tryouts in order to participate. All clinic days are mandatory, including the day of tryouts. The Head Cheer Coach, while working with campus administration, may adjust this requirement on a case by case basis when extenuating circumstances exist.

## **Team Makeup and Selection:**

- **Varsity Team-** Students must be scheduled to be a Sophomore, Junior, or Senior during the 2023-2024 school year.
- **Junior Varsity Team-** Students must be scheduled to be a Freshman, Sophomore, or Junior during the 2023-2024 school year. A strong roundoff or back walkover is encouraged but not required to be selected for Junior Varsity. There are no tumbling requirements to be selected for the team.

### **Booker T. Washington Cheer Discipline Policy**

A Booker T. Washington Cheerleader takes on the role of a respectful and disciplined athlete who should be a model for her/his peers at all times - in school, after school, and in the community. Along with this position comes a great deal of responsibility, good work ethic, and a spirit of cooperation with parents, coaches, fellow cheerleaders, and students. Each squad member will be held to these high standards at all times while representing the Booker T. Washington Cheerleading Program throughout the cheer and academic year. The coaches will determine all consequences based on the following prescribed discipline process and the WHS Student Code of Conduct.

#### **Minor strikes will include but not limited to:**

- Tardiness to practice, games, or non-school hour activity/event.
- Jewelry worn during cheer activities.
- Long acrylic nails at a game/cheer event
- Painted nails at a game/cheer event (*White Tip, White, or Natural Polish ONLY*)
- Untidy hair or incorrect hair style for an event
- Using cell phones during practices, games, or activities/events
- Being disruptive, talking excessively during a game, practice, or activity.
- General lack of respect towards others (teammates, student body, teachers, parents, administrators, etc.)
- Wearing the wrong assigned uniform/clothes to practice, games, and events.
- Missing a uniform piece at an event
- Insufficient knowledge of material- cheers, chants, dances, etc.

#### **Conditioning Consequences**

All minor or major strikes will receive automatic conditioning. Conditioning consequences can consist of (running, jumping jack t's, push-ups, sit ups, etc.) Each athlete has the ability to erase a minor strike by completing 45 minutes of service to the program 10 days from the day the strike was given. Conditioning consequences and service activities will be at the discretion of the coach.

#### **\*Three minor strikes of the same infraction will constitute one major strike**

#### **Major strikes will include but not limited to:**

- Insubordination/unsportsmanlike behavior towards coaches, administrator, teammate, teacher, or parent
- Inappropriate posts, tags, videos, comments, and/or photos on social media that are not fitting of a Booker T. Washington Cheerleader.
- Receiving a D or an F in any subject during Semester 1 or 2
- Improper notification of absence (school or non-school related)
- Leaving an event without permission
- Unexcused absences from practices, games, or other cheer events
- School consequence with no notification
- Assignment to ISS
- Severe violations of the WHS Code of Conduct

## **Major Strike Consequences:**

**Strike One:** Parent notification and consequences as determined by the coaches.

**Strike Two:** Parent meeting and consequences as determined by the coaches. Athletes will be placed on probation.

**Strike Three:** Parent notification and immediate removal from the team.

## **Subject to Automatic Removal:**

- Tobacco, Vape, Drugs, and or Alcohol use/promotion, and or suggestive depiction of such.
- Assignment of OSS/ILR
- Fighting inside or outside of school.

## **Booker T. Washington Program Expectations 202-2024**

• All events on the calendar are **MANDATORY**. Athletes are expected to attend all events, practices, team bonding, games, etc. listed on the calendar. Be on time to **ALL** scheduled cheer events. Do not arrive late. 15 minutes earlier than the required arrival time is best.

• Be **COMPLETELY** and **CORRECTLY** dressed upon arrival to ALL scheduled cheer events (from head to toe, shoes to bow). Do not arrive with your hair down, without shoes, jewelry on, headphones in, or halfway dressed. This includes practice. You will receive a TARDY if you are not ready to participate at the time set by the coaches.

• No jewelry. **Do not get anything pierced in the middle of the cheer season because you will be expected to remove the piercing during all events.** This includes, but is not limited to, your ears, your nose, and your belly button. Piercings cannot be covered with a Band-Aid. Jewelry checks will be conducted by captains or coaches before the start of each event.

• Hair must be worn in a secured ponytail at all times, including all layered hair pieces. Please keep extra bobby pins, hair ties and hair gel/edge control in your cheer bag at all times just to be on the safe side. Hair will not be worn in the half-up/half-down at any time, unless designated by the coach or captain. Protective styles such as knotless braids, box braids, or rope twists are allowed but may not go past the waistline. Hair must be able to all be pulled up or back at any time. Only natural hair colors will be accepted.

• Every cheerleader has earned the same right as everyone else to be a part of the Booker T. Washington Cheerleading Program Cheer program. If you are a senior for the 2022-2023 season, you will not get special privileges or be treated any differently from anyone else. The role of the senior cheerleader is to be a leader and a mentor to the other members. Seniors should make sure that all team members and all other teams feel like they belong to the program and are not to treat other squad members as outcasts.

• Profanity will not be tolerated at any time. You are a representative of WHS at all times, and using profanity does not look good for the school or our program, especially in uniform.

• As a member of the Booker T. Washington cheer program, you are a representative of the school at all times (in or out of uniform). All cheerleaders need to be cautious of all electronic means of communication-including cell phones, digital cameras, video cameras, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Tumblr, SnapChat, Google Plus, Tik Tok, etc. All cheerleaders should not, at any time, misrepresent the school when using electronic devices, including, but not limited to, inappropriate language, pictures, behavior, comments, harassment, etc. to self or others. This includes reposting or sharing inappropriate content as well.

• Once you arrive for a practice or game, you will begin to warm-up and stretch to prevent any injuries. You will not be able to participate until you have fully stretched prior to an event. If you choose not to stretch and decide to talk instead, you will be counted as being late to the event. It is important that all athletes maintain a healthy status in the program.

• Only the coach will decide when breaks occur throughout games and practices. You will not be permitted to sit down because you are out of shape or walk away from a workout/game without permission. You are expected to bring your own water containers for all practices and games. Flyers should always keep a small towel in their backpack.

• PDA in uniform will not be tolerated. You are a representative of the program at all times.

• ALL cheerleaders will CHEER/PERFORM the entire duration of all scheduled games and events unless approved

by a coach to leave early.

- During all athletic games, your focus should be on the game and the crowd. You will not be permitted to walk up to the stands/crowd to talk with friends, significant others, parents, or relatives. Also, you should not talk to people in the crowd from your track line position. Games will not be used as a photography session. All 'posing' pictures can be taken before or after a game; cheerleaders/mascots will not pose for pictures during games, unless direction is given by the coach. Parents are free to take action shots (best pictures) during the games.

- Half-time at athletic games will be used for quick restroom breaks and small snacks. The remainder of the time may be used for practice/review/performance or to support the half-time show if needed. If you run out of water or are in need of water, parents are allowed to purchase water from the concession stand and pass it to a coach to pass to the athlete. Plan on eating full meals before or after games. You may keep a small snack in your bag. All areas must be kept clean. You will be expected to be ready at least three minutes prior to the next half of the game/event. You will not be allowed to leave at the end of a game until all areas are clean and game day items have been put up. Only a coach may dismiss you. This includes returning from away games. Athletes will be assigned to groups who will be in charge of rolling out mats, hanging signs, carrying flags, and handling other equipment for each game.

## **Booker T. Washington Cheer Program Expectations Continued 2023-2024**

- Each cheerleader needs to practice, jump, tumble, and stretch on his/her own time. It should not be noticeable by the coach(s), other cheerleaders, fans, or parents that practicing is not occurring at home. ALL cheerleaders will be responsible for keeping up with the cheers, chants, and assigned material when practices are not held. Athletes may be benched for not knowing material. All members **MUST** maintain and/or improve their skills throughout the season, including, but not limited to, tumbling, stunts, jumps, endurance, and strength training.

- Stunting and Tumbling is not allowed unless the coach is present and has approved the stunt or the tumbling skill. The coach will also decide, based on what is best for the team and not the individual, each position of a stunt group, placement in the track line, and each position of a formation.

- The COACH is the only coach for the squad. Cheerleaders and parents will not coach the team. You will listen and follow all instructions given by all coaches. Everyone is welcome to offer suggestions and ideas, as long as you handle yourself politely and respectfully. You are not allowed to tell each other what to do, criticize each other, become demanding, or make anyone feel inadequate. Everyone will be treated equally no matter your talent, your team placement, or your experience. No one will receive special treatment.

- You are encouraged to participate in ALL fundraisers, community service events, and team bonding activities. You must attend ALL team bonding activities, even if it is scheduled on a weekend. ALL deadlines for fundraisers should be met. These event dates will be given out ahead of time.

- All fees are due on the due dates provided by the coaching staff. If an extension is needed, it must be requested and approved BEFORE the due date. Missing payments will result in removal from the program.

- If an athlete is removed or resigns from the program no refund will be provided. Once payment is collected it will not be able to be refunded. If your membership from the program is terminated at any time, you **MAY NOT** wear any gear associated with Booker T. Washington Cheer during the 2023-2024 academic school year.

- If you have a job or participate in ANY other activities/sport, YOU MUST communicate with your other activity/sport or job about ALL of your cheer events. It is your responsibility to get schedules and calendars turned into your other obligations. If you forget to make arrangements with your other obligations, and you miss an event, you will receive a strike. The calendar of events is issued in plenty of time to get your schedules on track. **"Work" will not be accepted as an excuse to miss scheduled practices, games, or other cheer activities.** You must also notify your coach **at least one week** ahead of time and receive approval/compromise if an event must be missed/split due to another activity. Communication is the key! Failure to communicate to your coach properly will result in a strike/conditioning.

- Everyone must attend camp. Anyone who cannot attend camp in its entirety will forfeit his/her spot in the program.
- Hazing, practical jokes, and inappropriate initiation with new members or coaches of our teams will not be tolerated.
- **Fingernails, including artificial nails, shall be kept at a length appropriate for safe participation (Sports Length).** The appropriate length means the fingernails are not visible beyond the end of the fingers when viewed from the palm side of the hands. Nails may only be white french tip, white, or natural painted colors. Anyone who arrives with nails out of guidelines at any event (practice, cheer class, games, events, etc.) will receive an automatic strike and will not be able to participate if the athlete arrives at the event violating this rule.
- ALL cheerleaders must be picked-up from a scheduled event in the appropriate amount of time, including games and practices. After three times a meeting will be held to discuss transportation.
- ALL cheerleaders will be required to cheer at the Homecoming Game, and Varsity must attend all playoff games for all sporting events cheerleaders are allowed to attend.
- You will be required to participate in ALL spirit days, homecoming themes, and game day themes, etc., including wearing the assigned attire by the coach. You will receive a strike if not in correct attire.
- You will be required to maintain a positive attitude at all times. If not, it is Coaches discretion to pull the athlete during the event. or game. You must follow all school rules and the WHS student code of conduct at all times. You are also encouraged to help maintain positive sportsmanlike behavior in the crowd. At no time should a cheerleader or mascot become disrespectful to opposing teams, coaches, crowds, or referees.
- Any cheerleader who defies the coach's authority or blatantly disrespects a team member, whether at a game, practice, cheer class, event, etc., may be instantly benched and put on automatic suspension. This includes, but is not limited to, disrespect, back-talking, walking away from the team or coach, disobeying instruction, etc.
- You are responsible for informing the coach if you receive a school warning, referral, or consequence. You are to inform your coach of such on the SAME day received. The coach should not find out about referrals or ISS on the day of assignment or after the fact. Failure to tell your coach will result in consequences. Not only can you get a major strike based on your consequence, you can also receive another major strike for not informing your coach first, even if it was just a warning, even if it was tardiness, etc.
- Drama will not be tolerated. If a conflict, situation, or problem arises between you and someone else in the program, both parties should handle it respectfully, without involving others. If both parties are unable to solve the issue, then you need to discuss the matter with your coach first so it can be mediated. Captains will not be responsible for your conflicts. You will not get other team members or other squads involved with your problem(s). Backstabbing, name-calling, or bad-mouthing your teammates or coach will not be permitted. Everyone is expected to maintain a positive relationship the entire year with ALL squad members, other squads, and coaches.
- Cell phones are not allowed to be out of your backpack during any scheduled cheerleading event, including practices, events, games, etc. Backpacks should be brought to all events in order to secure your personal items. You will not be allowed to use your phone during breaks unless given permission.
- Let the coaches know if there is a problem. Coaches are unable to fix or handle a situation if they are not made aware of what is going on with the squads or team members. Parents of cheerleaders should always keep a positive and healthy relationship with the coaches, other parents, and other squad members. If you experience a problem, please try to address it with the party involved first. If you are unable to resolve it together, then contact your coach. If you are still experiencing a problem/conflict, then you should contact Coach Rionna. If Coach Rionna is unable to resolve, then reach out to a campus administrator, but at no time should the campus administrator be involved before you have gone through all of the proper channels. Usually a simple email, BAND message, or phone call to your coach is sufficient enough to handle problems due to everyone's hectic schedule. Please understand that the coaches have open-door policies and will do the best that they can to make sure the program is successful.
- If you are part of an outside cheerleading program non-school related (i.e. all-star), you are still responsible for upholding all responsibilities of our cheer program. This includes, but is not limited to, practices, games, participation, fundraising, team bonding, choreography, competitions, etc. None of our teams can be compromised due to a scheduling conflict. We will do our best to work with anyone who is in an outside cheerleading program, but when

most outside cheerleading programs have 100s of girls to replace you for one event, we are very limited on members and time, so participation at all of our events (i.e. games, choreography, appearances, competitions, etc.) is mandatory.



# CHEER HANDBOOK AGREEMENT

## 2023-2024

I certify that I have read the Booker T Washington Cheerleading Handbook (see QR code), understand it, and agree to abide by it and its stipulations. I understand that all cheers, chants, and dances must be learned by the date the cheer coach requires. I understand that any tumbling I do at tryouts will be required weekly at practice and events. I understand this is a competitive squad and the season will not end until our last competition is over. I understand I will be a BTWHS cheerleader until the 2024-2025 squad is named. Violation of any portion of the contract will result in immediate action of the cheer coach and administration with possible removal from the squad for the remainder of the school year. Other violations that might arise that have not been specifically addressed in the contract will be handled at the discretion of the cheer coach and administration.

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Student Name

(Date)

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Parent Name

(Date)



PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE TO  
VIEW THE FULL 2023-2024  
CHEERLEADING HANDBOOK FOR  
RULES, GUIDELINES, AND MORE.