
SBU Spirit Squad Constitution

2009-2010

SBU is a Christ-centered, caring,
academic community preparing
students to be servant leaders in
a global society

Mission:

The mission of the Southwest Baptist University Spirit Squad is to promote school spirit and athletic traditions, motivate and lead crowd participation and serve as ambassadors for the University while fostering Christian commitment and care.

Section 1

A. Duties and Behaviors

1. The Spirit Squad will promote spirit and represent the students, alumni, faculty administration and friends of Southwest Baptist University while they support the endeavors of athletes who represent the University.
2. The Spirit Squad will work with other organized spirit groups to promote school spirit and traditions at athletic events and other University activities. The Spirit Squad will be called on at various times throughout the year to promote spirit and represent the University at community or public relations appearances as directed by the Director of the Spirit Squad.
3. The Spirit Squad will properly represent the University at home games and designated away games. Anyone smoking, drinking, or behaving improperly while representing the University will be subject to immediate disciplinary action from the Director of the Spirit Squad and may be further disciplined by the Director of Athletics and Dean of Students.

As stated in the SBU Student Handbook, "...Southwest Baptist University takes a position of abstinence, whether on or off campus, regarding the issue of alcohol. The student will be subject to disciplinary action if behavior is found to be inconsistent with the stated position of the University. The University alcohol policy prohibits consumption, possession or distribution of alcoholic beverages on or off campus. It is unacceptable for any person to be under the influence of alcohol while attending SBU."

B. Responsibilities

1. The Spirit Squad is responsible for performing at all home football and basketball games and tournaments as directed by the Director of the Spirit Squad. The squad will also perform at all pep rallies and spirit events as well as represent the University at various civic and community functions.
2. The mascot will attend all home football and basketball games, tournament games, and other activities as directed by the Director of the Spirit Squad. The mascot will also perform at all pep rallies and spirit events as well as represent the University at various civic and community events.

NOTE: SBU has a number of home conference games over winter break. The squad will be scheduled to cheer at games on January 19 and 23 even though class is not in session. A squad member's responsibilities to the squad will take precedence over personal vacation plans.

NOTE: The South Central Regional Tournament is generally scheduled proximate to SBU's Spring Break. A squad member's responsibilities to the squad and the tournament will take precedence over personal vacation plans.

C. Qualifications for Squad Members

1. **Full-Time Student** – All candidates for the Spirit Squad and mascot must be full-time Southwest Baptist University students at the time of their candidacy. Transfer students must be admitted to SBU for the fall of 2009. Incoming students must also be admitted to the University prior to the selection process.
2. **GPA Requirement:** Students must have and maintain a current and cumulative minimum grade point average of 2.00 in order to participate in the selection process and to maintain membership in the program.
3. **Transfer Students-** In order to serve as a member of the Spirit Squad a student who is selected must be fully admitted to SBU with a current and cumulative grade point average of 2.0
4. **Former Squad Members** – A candidate who has formerly been selected as a member of the SBU Spirit Squad must have satisfactorily fulfilled all obligations to their squad. This includes completion of the term to which they were selected along with fulfillment of specific duties. Any member who does not fulfill these responsibilities (i.e., resigns from the squad) must have returned all clothing, shoes, and other items given to her and will have to petition to the Director of the Spirit Squad to be reinstated for try-outs.
5. **Term Commitment** – Candidates must commit to one year. One year term will begin at the time of the selection process and will end at conclusion of the men's and/or women's basketball season. Candidates planning on graduating at the end of the fall semester must petition the Director of the Spirit Squad for a waiver before trying out and will not be eligible for a leadership position.
6. **Eligibility** – Each candidate will have 8 semesters of eligibility and will have to petition the Director of the Spirit Squad for an extension.

D. Meetings, Practices and Performances

1. The Spirit Squad will meet and/or practice two to three times each week in addition to scheduled performances. The Director of the Spirit Squad will determine meetings, practice and performance schedules. **Meetings, practices and performances must take precedence over all other activities.** The only excused absences will be for academic related activities, death in the family, illness, or injury (must have a doctor's note if you are missing more than one event). Members are expected to be at all practices unless they have an illness that is contagious. Unexcused absences from a practice, game, or event may result in being benched from an event as determined by the Director of the Spirit Squad, who has the final say in individual situations.
2. Every effort is made to schedule meetings, practices and performances well in advance so members can make arrangements around the scheduled events. However, circumstances often dictate changes in the schedule of events. Members are expected to remain flexible in their planning to accommodate changes such as those caused by the weather, game schedules, and pre-or post-

seasons tournaments. As in all cases, the interests of the squad must supercede the interests of individual members.

3. If a Spirit Squad member is suspended for a game, they must attend that game and report to the Director of the Spirit Squad, and/or captains who may ask for their assistance.

NOTE: If a squad member needs to miss a game, practice or scheduled event due to the death in the family, illness, injury or family obligation, or for any other reason, that member must notify the Director of the Spirit Squad prior to the event by email and phone.

E. Summer Time Commitment

All Spirit Squad members will be required to attend pre-season camp August 16, 17, and 18. Pre-season camp obligations will not interfere with Welcome Week activities, and Spirit Squad members are not to plan any other activities on the mandatory camp dates.

F. Uniforms and Equipment

1. All uniforms, warm ups, pom poms, etc. purchased by the University are property of the University and must be returned upon completion of the member's term. Members that leave the squad before they have completed their one year term commitment will have 48 hours to return all University issued items clean and in good condition. It will be the responsibility of the member to pay full price for any lost, damaged or dirty or misplaced items at the time they are due. Failure to do so within the 48 hours will result in a financial hold being placed on the participant's account. Spirit Squad members are the ONLY individuals who are to wear and/or use items purchased by the University.

G. Travel

1. **Traveling is a privilege.**
2. All Spirit Squad members may travel to the MIAA Conference Tournament in Kansas City March 4-7, 2010. Travel to the tournament shall be coordinated by the Director of the Spirit Squad and Director of Athletics with respect to tournament regulations, equity, and availability of funds.
3. The Director of the Spirit Squad will determine whether or not the Spirit Squad will travel to the South Central Regional Tournament, and will make all travel arrangements.

NOTE: ALL Spirit Squad members will travel together to and from all away games. Members will travel in accordance with arrangements made by the Director of the Spirit Squad. Squad members may be signed out to ride home with parents only, but these arrangements must be approved at least 48 hours prior to departure.

H. Selection Process

In addition to specific selection process procedures in the following sections of the Spirit Squad Constitution, each person desiring to become a member of the SBU Spirit Squad will fulfill the following responsibilities:.

1. **Tryout Fee and Application**- A non-refundable \$10.00 fee to cover tryout expenses will be required of all candidates before workshop training begins. Please make checks payable to Southwest Baptist University. Applicants must be admitted as full time students to SBU and have submitted a housing contract by May 7, 2009. . A signed physical examination completed within one year of try out is required of each applicant. A copy must be included in the application materials mailed to the Director of the Sprit Squad. All application materials must be mailed to the address provided and postmarked by April 29, 2009. In addition each applicant must provide a copy of his/her Fall 2009 class schedule or proof of an appointment to enroll at the time of his/her personal interview
2. **Mandatory Clinic**- It is mandatory that all candidates for Spirit Squads attend clinics on May 8 and 9. These workshops will be used to teach tryout requirements and other skills useful to the specific squads.
3. **Interview**- Each candidate will be interviewed by the Director of the Spirit Squad. Interviews are a mandatory part of the selection process. Interviews will take place on May 7 for current SBU students and May 8 for incoming students. Interviews can be scheduled by contacting Jennifer Carter at (417) 328-1694 or jmcarter@sbuniv.edu.
4. **Skills Evaluation**-Skills will be evaluated for each candidate by a panel of judges that may include the following; outside evaluator(s), Director of the Spirit Squad, Director of Athletics, Senior Women's Administrator.
5. **Squad Selection**-The selection process will conclude after the skills evaluation with a panel of judges. They will use information from each step of the process that may include the interview and skills evaluation to determine the best fit for the squad. The overall attitude and ability to work with others as demonstrated through this process along with the potential to be an outstanding ambassador for SBU will also be contributing factors in the final decision making process. **All decisions are final.** The entire selection process is closed to the public and may not be recorded in any way. Results will be posted on the South doors of the Meyer Center approximately one hour after the conclusion of the skills evaluation.
6. Conflicts with the tryout date will be dealt with on an individual basis before April 15, 2009. Contact Jennifer Carter at jmcarter@sbuniv.edu or 417-328-1694 to discuss arrangements.

I. Fitness and Appearance

1. No body piercing jewelry may be worn during any games, events, practices, and or performances. Spirit Squad members may not acquire additional body piercings after they are selected.
2. Spirit Squad members may not have tattoos exposed during any games, events, practices and or performances. Spirit Squad members may not acquire additional tattoos after they are selected to be a member of the SBU Spirit Squad.
3. Spirit Squad members must keep personal appearances in a professional manner for all games, events, practices, and/or performances.

Section II Selection of Captain and Co-Captain

1. A captain and co-captain will be selected to serve in leadership capacities in cooperation with the Director of the Spirit Squad.

2. To apply for positions of captain and co-captain, candidates must meet the following requirements:
 - A. Have one year experience on the squad
 - B. Apply for Leadership
 - C. Interview with the Director of the Spirit Squad
 - D. Receive a favorable ranking from current squad
 - E. Available to meet with coaching staff during summer months
3. The captain and co-captain will meet throughout the summer to help plan for upcoming activities/events and meet weekly throughout the season with the Director of the Spirit Squad.
4. The captain and co-captain are expected to be at all scheduled events/games 15 minutes before the team to prepare.
5. The captain will serve as the leader during all athletic events on the field or floor and should be respected as the authority in those situations. The co-captain will assist the captain and will be ready to lead in the absence of the captain.
6. The captain and co-captain's behavior inside and outside of "team time" should be exemplary and represent the same values that they would expect from their team. They should conduct themselves at the highest standard while representing Southwest Baptist University.

The Director of the Spirit Squad and the Director of Athletics reserve the right to add/delete or amend the above policies at any time.