

## Richland High School

### The Richland Pride Spirit Team Constitution

The Richland Pride organization aims to develop a positive attitude and character within the student body while promoting school spirit by actively supporting Richland High School varsity groups and encouraging crowd involvement with quality performances at events. Furthermore, The Richland Pride acts as ambassadors to our community through outreach programs and events with our BISD feeder schools.

#### I. MEMBERSHIP

Members of The Richland Pride are expected to be role models and mentors for their peers and community. The following are characteristics that should be demonstrated by all members of The Richland Pride team at all times:

- Positivity
- High Moral Standards
  - Always do the right thing, especially when no one is watching
- Willingness to give freely of their time
- Promotion of **BISD & RHS CORE values**
  - Responsibility
  - Empathy
  - Kindness
  - Honesty
  - Acceptance
  - Courage

#### II. TRYOUTS

Eligible Pride member hopefuls will tryout in the spring semester of their sophomore and/or junior year.

##### A. Eligibility

Candidates must meet the following requirements for the **current** school year in order to be eligible to try out to become a member of The Richland Pride:

- Attend school full-time at Richland High School for at least 2 of the 3 preceding 9-week grading periods immediately prior to tryouts, one of which **MUST** be the 9-week grading period immediately preceding tryouts.
  - Students new to RHS due to change of residency from outside of the district, or who live in the district and are transferring from private school are eligible, providing all other eligibility standards are met.
- Grades that meet or exceed the academic standards set forth by Birdville Independent School District.
  - No semester failures
- No conduct scores of U for any 9-week grading period
- No more than **two** assignments to detention (by office referral), in-school suspension, or Saturday school.
- No expulsions, suspensions, or assignments to DAEP.
- Adhere to guidelines published in the BISD Secondary Student Handbook for Extracurricular Activities (p.27)

Those who have relinquished their position as a Richland Pride member or have been dismissed from the team in prior years are ineligible for tryouts.

##### B. Process

- Round One – Video application & Citizenship Score
  - Applicants will be selected by a judges' panel score and citizenship score to advance
- Round Two – Skit Day & Personal Interview

The Richland Pride will be appointed based on judges' scores from rounds one and two in addition to a citizenship score (Teacher recommendations, grades, discipline & attendance). Candidates with the highest scores will be appointed.

Sponsors will not act as judges in the tryout process, but will determine the number of members accepted, usually 12-18 members.

**The following items must be submitted to sponsors in order to be considered:**

- Online Application Form
- Most recent report card
- 5 Current Teacher recommendations (turned in electronically by teacher)
- Signed Richland Pride Commitment
- Signed Honor Code Acknowledgment
- Candidate Discipline Form
- Medical Information
- Richland Pride Waiver Form
- Transportation Permission

### **III. MAINTAINING ELIGIBILITY**

Once selected, members of The Richland Pride must satisfy the following eligibility requirements.

#### **A. Academics**

- Maintain a 70 or higher (in a non-weighted), or the equivalent of a 70, (in a weighted), in each class for each 9-week grading period and semester, per UIL rules.
- Receive full credit for each class, each semester. (No NC or Incomplete)
- Receive no conduct scores of U and no more than 1 conduct score of N in a 9-week grading period.

Failure to comply with eligibility requirements will immediately result in a three-week academic probation which prohibits the wearing of uniforms, shirts, shoes etc., participation in performances and other Richland Pride activities.

Members of The Richland Pride on academic probation must meet eligibility standards in accordance with UIL rules by the end of the three-week probationary period. If the student has not met the eligibility requirements by the end of the three-week probationary period, they will be immediately dismissed from the team.

#### **B. Behavior**

The Assistant Principal will investigate allegations of behavioral misconduct warranting

dismissal from the team which includes any of the following:

- Assignment to a district alternative program for discipline (DAEP)
- Possession or use of drugs, alcohol, or nicotine at any time, under any circumstances
- Severe behavioral or other problems on or off campus which may/may not lead to at-home suspension or expulsion
- On the third assignment to detention (by office referral), in-school suspension (ISS), or Saturday school

**Please see section VIII: Behavioral Expectations for further information to maintain eligibility.**

#### IV. ATTENDANCE

##### A. Excused Absences

- Personal Illness
- Funeral / Death in the family
- Other circumstances with a completed absence form no less than **one week** prior to the absence

##### B. Absence Guidelines

C. A member who is able to attend school, but unable to participate in a performance/event must provide a note from their parent.

- This note will be honored for one day only
- Two or more days will require a doctor's note for non-participation

D. Any member who is absent from school on the day of a mandatory performance/event cannot participate in the event

B. More than 3 excused absences will be reviewed by the sponsor(s) and assistant principal to determine team status, unless absences are a part of a prearranged UIL/school-related commitment to another school organization.

C. Jobs will not be considered an excuse for being tardy to or absent from a performance/meeting/event that have been schedule in advance. It is the Richland Pride member's responsibility to communicate their schedule and availability to their job supervisor before shifts are assigned.

- **It is the Richland Pride member's responsibility to inform the sponsor(s) of an absence from meetings, practices, or performances due to illness as soon as possible.**
- **Additionally, the sponsor(s) must receive an e-mail or phone call from a parent or guardian within 24 hours of the absence or the absence may not be excused.**
- **If the mandatory event is announced "last-minute", the notification to and approval by the sponsor(s) must take place prior to 12pm the day of the event.**
- **Notification of any absence to the sponsor(s) does not necessarily mean the absence will be excused.**

#### V. Participation Expectations

A. Adherence to The Richland Pride Constitution

B. Loyalty to Richland High School and its athletic teams (including cheer, drill team, and band), administrators, teachers, sponsors, and fellow Richland Pride members.

C. Good judgment and avoidance of compromising situations

D. Good academic standing and citizenship

E. Respectable appearance

- Neat and well-groomed
- Honoring dress code at school and all school-related events

F. Maintenance of The Richland Pride uniform and flag

- These items may not be loaned to any non-member without the approval of sponsor(s)

G. Punctual attendance at all mandatory events

- Paint week
- Leadership/Team Building
- Games
- Meetings
- Practices
- Pep Rallies
- Other events deemed necessary by sponsor(s) or administration

#### H. Dress-up Day Check-In

- Members must check in with the sponsor(s) before the school day begins at 7:30 am. This can be done by either in-person check-in or a picture uploaded to the Photo Circle Group.
- If a member has 1<sup>st</sup> period off, must be done when they arrive prior to the start of 2<sup>nd</sup> period.

#### I. Report Card Check-In

- Sponsors will check Skyward at the end of each reporting period (progress and term) their to verify eligibility.

#### J. Participation in service projects and assisting other varsity groups and campus organizations

- Painting & hanging posters
- Set-up & clean-up for pep rallies
- Student registration
- Fish camp
- Richland Pride fundraisers

### VI. Meeting Expectations

Our organization relies on time outside of the school day to accomplish its tasks. Therefore, it is imperative that commitment is given to the organization and its members by attending all meetings. Prompt attendance at all meetings is expected; not optional.

- Arrive on time and stay until the meeting is adjourned
- Come prepared
- Stay focused on tasks at hand and refrain from having extraneous conversations
- Keep electronic devices, such as phones, put away unless otherwise directed by captain(s) or sponsor(s)

### VII. Game/Event Expectations

A. Prompt arrival to team dinners, games & buses with all necessary supplies.

#### B. UNIFORM

- Jumpsuit or Team Shirt & Team shoes
  - If wearing an undershirt, it must be navy
  - If wearing a sweatshirt, it must be team designated color
- Cone
- Flag
- Modest jewelry—stud earrings, necklaces tucked into collar
- No electronic devices

#### C. PEP RALLIES

- Be on time – leave class and go straight to the gym
- **Be in uniform/costume – no jewelry – this is a safety concern!**
- Be prepared – flag, cone, and any props necessary for skit are in place
- Be excited! especially as students enter the gym
- Clean up – all props returned or stored neatly in the Studio

#### D. FOOTBALL

SET-UP	DURING	BREAK-DOWN
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hanging posters &amp; banners</li> <li>• Assembly of bust-it</li> <li>• Set up cones &amp; flags</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be engaged</li> <li>• Be excited</li> <li>• Chant</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take down posters &amp; banners</li> <li>• Disassemble bust it</li> <li>• Clean up – no trash left behind</li> </ul>

**\*The above expectations extend to any and all events and performances.**

### VIII. Behavioral Expectations

As a highly visible organization, both in the community and on campus, it is necessary to maintain high standards. Sponsors will be monitoring and documenting each member's behavior during all meetings and events as well as maintaining contact with all members' teachers for behavioral updates. The following behaviors may jeopardize member eligibility:

- Any unexcused absence from a mandatory event
- Discussing Richland Pride matters outside of the Richland Pride organization
- Lying to sponsor(s) or captains
- Copying work/cheating in class
- Assignment to detention (by referral), in-school suspension (ISS), or Saturday School
- Disrespect to the sponsor(s) or captains, or any other coach or teacher
- Bickering or questioning (in an unkind way) the decisions of the sponsor(s) or captains
- Conference with a principal concerning the Richland Pride
- Refusal to participate
- Failure to cooperate fully with responsibilities (clean up, hanging posters, wearing the correct uniform, wearing uniform only when instructed, checking in for dress-up days before 1st period, fundraising projects, bringing things needed for performance, etc.)
- Inappropriate use of social media (could also be an Honor Code violation)
- Public use of profanity or obscene language
- Flag or megaphone brought to an event in disrepair – includes coming to an event with a broken flag pole
- Inappropriate behavior or unsportsmanlike conduct

- Being tardy to a scheduled event (definition of tardiness: arriving with less than 15 minutes before the start of any activity or later than the assigned time.)
- Failing to return from half-time or break at a specified time
- Chewing gum while in uniform
- Excused absence, not due to illness, family death, or school business
- Failing to complete assigned tasks on time
- Failing to pay attention to the game and/or not engaging with the team
- Lack of cooperation with captains or sponsor(s)
- Personal conversations causing failure to pay attention at games
- Wearing an unclean, torn, or unzipped uniform
- Other circumstances, as per sponsor's discretion

## X. Probation & Dismissal

### A. Academic

Failure to comply with academic eligibility requirements (III.A) will immediately result in a three-week academic probation which **prohibits the wearing uniforms, shirts, shoes etc., participation in performances and other Richland Pride activities.**

- Richland Pride members on academic probation must meet eligibility standards in accordance with UIL rules by the end of the three-week probationary period.
- If the student has not met the eligibility requirements by the end of the three-week probationary period, they will be immediately **dismissed** from the team.

### B. Behavioral

Failure to comply with behavioral eligibility requirements which lead to investigation by sponsor(s) and administration may result in probation or dismissal as determined by all parties.

- **Disciplinary measures will be applied during the school year only, so if earned during the summer, probation will begin on the first day of school.**
- **During a probationary period a member of the Richland Pride must still attend all activities, dressed in sponsor approved attire, and sit in a sponsor designates location for the duration of the activity. Electronic devices will not be permitted and the Richland Pride member should be engaged in the event.**
- **Probationary period are Non-Negotiable**

### C. Dismissal

- Any team member dismissed from the Richland Pride organization will have three days to return their flag, jump suit, team shirts and any other equipment or apparel purchased by the organization. Failure to do so will result in the cost of these items being placed on the RHS fines and fees list.
- A member of the Richland Pride dismissed for academic or behavioral reasons are ineligible for any future tryouts.

XI. Lettering

The Richland Pride member meeting all eligibility requirements and fulfilling a one-year commitment are eligible for a letter jacket / letter, rewarded during his/her senior year.





