

# **Biola University Cheerleading** **Commitment Contract**

## **Purpose**

Biola University Cheer Team members will promote and uphold all standards of Biola University and Biola Athletics both on and off of the court. They will practice good sportsmanship and work with the community, the student body, and the athletic department to develop positive relationships that are encouraging to all involved. Biola Cheerleaders will work diligently to pursue excellence as athletes as well as performers for the express purpose of boosting morale at games and around campus. In order to be best equipped to create an atmosphere of enthusiasm, team members will be required to exhibit leadership, loyalty, love, and faithfulness in their own lives. Christ is the standard from which the Biola Cheerleading program will operate to intentionally and humbly create an environment where edification is prominent and the glory of God is magnified in and through us.

## **Eligibility**

- A. Candidates must be a female student enrolled in a minimum of 12 semester units at Biola University in both the fall and spring semesters.
- B. Candidates may also choose to be concurrently enrolled at Biola University and another Junior College, State College, or University; however they must maintain a minimum of 9 semester units at Biola while maintaining a minimum of 3 additional semester units at said institution.
- C. Candidates must maintain a cumulative G.P.A. of 2.5 in all college level units attempted, completed, and awarded a letter grade.

## **Conduct**

- A. All Cheer Team members must maintain a 2.5 GPA at all semester grade reports. Any failing grade in a single class is also unacceptable. In the event a cheerleader falls below either of these standards they will be placed on probation for a period no shorter than two weeks or until they are able to regain eligible GPA standards or raise the failing grade to a passing grade. During this time the coaches will maintain communication with the cheerleader's professor and she will be required to attend a study hall. Study hall may be required by the coaches of any cheerleader at any point that the coaches deem necessary.
- B. Biola Cheer Team members are expected and required to comply with all University standards and rules at all times.

- C. Promiscuous sexual behavior, drinking, crude language, drug use, defiant attitude, & blatant disregard for authority are all cause for immediate dismissal from the Cheer Team.
- D. Violation of this contract in any way shape or form is means for dismissal from the team
- E. Each cheerleader is expected to manage and be responsible for her own behavior and/or any conflicts she may encounter. Parents may not intervene in order to deal with a conflict that the cheerleader is having. In the instance a cheerleader is in disagreement with coaching style/decision or in disagreement with another team member it will be handled by the individuals involved and the coaches. If a parent has a concern that they feel is not being handled properly they may make an appointment to address the coach in person or contact the coach by email.

### **Attendance Requirements**

- A. Summer Camp is required. All cheerleaders must be present. Failure to follow through with this commitment will result in removal from the team.
- B. ALL PRACTICES AND ASSIGNED GAMES ARE MANDATORY. You will not be excused from practice without a coach's consent.
- C. If you are going to miss an event for ANY reason you MUST notify your captain(s) and one coach. Less than 24 hours notice will be considered half an absence.
- D. Each team member is allowed three (3) absences per semester. There is no such thing as an excused absence, so use them wisely. Two half absences will equal one absence as will two tardies. Do not be late, BE EARLY.
- E. You may not miss two practices in a single week.
- F. The coaches reserve the right to consider individual circumstances in the event of family emergency or other events that are urgent in nature.
- G. Squad social events as well as fundraising or community events will be required. These are some of the highlights of the year; you will not want to miss out!

## **Games**

- A. Game responsibility will be split between squad members. It will not be a requirement to cheer every game, but if you are not assigned to cheer for a game, you are encouraged to attend as a spectator if possible.
- B. While cheering or attending any organized event each cheerleader must remain in uniform until dismissed by a coach.
- C. Cheerleaders will remain positive at all times while cheering, and will not make comments to referees or officials. They will also ignore any and all negative comments or responses from crowd members.
- D. Uniforms will always and only be worn as instructed by your coaches &/or captain(s).

## **Captain(s)**

- A. Captain(s) will be chosen by the coaches.
- B. Captain(s) will:
  - be responsible for all game action activity.
  - be required (on occasion) to run practice un-assisted.
  - be called upon to help the coaches as an on-campus liaison.

## **Uniforms**

- A. Uniforms (shells & skirts) will be purchased by Biola Athletics and thus will be the property of Biola Athletics and will be checked out to each team member. While you are under contract your uniform becomes your responsibility. If it is damaged beyond repair or lost/stolen the team member will be responsible for replacement.
- B. Each cheerleader is responsible for her own practice wear and for being dressed in proper practice uniform at each practice.

## **Appearance**

- A. Jewelry is never worn at practices or at games.
- B. It is each team members' responsibility to be sure her game uniforms, warm-ups and practice clothes are kept in suitable condition and worn only as instructed by the coaches. Hairstyles will be uniform and decided upon by the coaches and captain(s).

- C. As cheerleaders, YOU ARE ATHLETES. Team members will be treated as and behave as athletes. This includes physical condition. You are also performers and ambassadors for Biola University. Thus you must always present yourselves in a manner fitting of this privilege. Cheerleaders will be both physically fit and aesthetically fit. Neatness and uniformity during appearances are of paramount importance.

### **Finances**

- A. In the instance that a cheerleader is financially responsible for clothing, shoes, etc., any and all payment will be required to be received in full prior to receipt of said gear
- B. In the instance that a cheerleader is financially responsible for travel expenses, she must pay in full prior to traveling.
- C. Each Cheerleader will be required to pay \$350.00 per semester. The full payments of \$350.00 are due May 30<sup>th</sup> & February 15<sup>th</sup> (2009) This covers costs of shoes (2 pair), socks, warm-ups, practice clothes, & team bags all of which will become the possession of each cheerleader, and the cost of competition choreography and UCA camp.

### **Commitment**

Cheerleading is a team sport. It requires total commitment from each and every team member. Biola Cheer Team Members will be required to follow this contract. In doing so they will exhibit as well as learn more about what it means to maintain commitment to something bigger than self. If selected as a Biola Cheerleader, you are making a commitment to your Lord, your University and to your team. With that commitment each cheerleader will be afforded the opportunity to be a part of a legacy of Faith, Virtue, & Influence. This is a year-long commitment and should a team member not fulfill their responsibility or quit prematurely she will be held responsible for any financial investments Biola University has made on her behalf.