

2025-2026 School Year
VARSITY AND JUNIOR VARSITY
EMERALD BELLE CONSTITUTION
(Last updated in January 20, 2024)

ARTICLE I (CONSTITUTION)

This constitution was adopted for the Emerald Belles of Carroll Independent School District on the first day of August, 1994. This constitution was last revised in January 2024.

ARTICLE II (NAME)

The name of this organization shall be the Emerald Belles or the JV Emerald Belles.

ARTICLE III (PURPOSE)

The purpose of this organization shall be to maintain and promote school spirit and to provide entertainment whenever requested in cooperation with school activities. It shall also strive to develop leadership, sportsmanship, scholarship, and high standards of conduct.

ARTICLE IV (MEMBERSHIP)

1. Refer to the attached CHS or CSHS Student Handbook Standards for District Extra or Co-Curricular Activities.
2. Membership in this organization shall be restricted to high school students who attend Carroll High School or Carroll Senior High School.
3. To be eligible for membership, a student must have a commitment to dancing, supporting athletic teams, and the promotion of loyal school spirit among the student body.
4. Each member must maintain a passing grade in all subject areas in order to participate in the drill team. (See Article VI)
5. Members must have exhibited and maintained a satisfactory attitude toward school policies and regulations of the group as stated in the Emerald Belle Constitution, Guidelines, and the Student Code of Conduct.
6. Transferring students from another school must present a letter of recommendation from her former director and participate in an informal tryout if the director decides it is appropriate.
7. Each member is required to participate in all activities in which the organization is involved. (performance, fund-raising, and school and community events)
8. Before school, occasional after school practices and summer practice sessions are required.
9. All Varsity members must be enrolled in the drill team class which is 1st and 5th block everyday.
- 10. Varsity practice time is 6:45-9:00am and dress out time 9:00- 9:30am. Practices with the band during football season are during Belles block**
11. All Junior Varsity members must be enrolled in the drill team class at Carroll High School (9-10 campus).
12. The Emerald Belle Calendar year begins the first day of summer through the last day of the following school year. All members are subject to Constitution Guidelines immediately following tryouts.

ARTICLE V (PARENT PERMIT)

Each member will submit a statement from her parents permitting her to participate in the drill team and half-time performances at football games, basketball games, contests and other performances for which the drill team may be scheduled. In addition to this permission slip, a signed medical form shall be completed and submitted to the director. The parents and members are responsible for meeting all financial obligations to the organization and the school regardless of membership status. The parents must be willing to support the member in complying with all regulations and rules of the school and organization.

ARTICLE VI (GRADE REQUIREMENT)

Each member must earn a 70 or above in each course. Should a member fail to obtain a 70 in all classes, she will not be eligible to perform for three weeks. (This is in accordance with U.I.L Guidelines.) The member may regain eligibility at the end of three weeks if passing **all** subjects.

ARTICLE VII (PRACTICE PROCEDURES AND ABSENCES)

The director must be aware of any absence PRIOR to practice time. The member is required to notify her officer of the situation. If the member does not notify the director or her officer before practice, she will receive an unexcused absence and will miss a performance. The missed performance will be decided by the director.

1. If a member is more than 20 min. late to a practice or function, it will count as an unexcused absence (5 demerits).
2. All practices are mandatory for all members.
3. Practices will be conducted by the director and the officers. Members will arrive on time and stay until dismissed by the director.
4. The designated attire will be worn at all times.
5. When a member is absent, it is the member's duty to find out what she missed and be prepared the following day.
6. Members must attend four consecutive practices prior to the performance (FALL only). The member must always be present on the day of the performance for all activities in order to perform.
7. **Personal illness and death in the family are the only excused absences. (Work, doctor's appointment, trips, etc. should not be scheduled during practice time.)**
8. **Two college visits will be allowed and excused as long as they do not interfere with the four consecutive practices prior to a performance or during competition practices.**
9. **On most school holidays/staff development days in the fall, the Varsity Belles will have practice.**
10. **ON ALL SCHOOL HOLIDAYS/STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS DURING THE MONTHS OF JANUARY AND FEBRUARY, THE BELLES WILL HAVE MANDATORY COMPETITION PRACTICES. Trips, college visits, etc. will not be excused.**
11. **Belles will be allowed ONE college visit day during the months of January and February.**

ARTICLE VIII (PERFORMANCE PROCEDURES)

1. Tryouts will be held prior to every performance. The members will be aware of the tryout days. The director will determine whether the student will perform by evaluating the student for knowledge of the routine, dance technique, showmanship, conduct, and attitude. At times, the director may bring in outside judges to help her with tryouts, especially for contest routines. Seniority will not be taken into account for tryouts. Missing the tryout for a performance means the member could only try out for an alternate position for that performance. Any member that is not in a performance must dress out and continue to workout and uphold all responsibilities as an alternate.
2. All members will attend activities in which the group is involved.
3. Any member arriving late to a performance will receive the appropriate amount of demerits.
4. Transportation will be provided for away football games and most spring performances.. All members will be required to ride to and from all performances in the bus when transportation is provided.
5. Any member with an unexcused absence, will not be eligible to perform at that week's performance. **If the director feels that taking the member out of that week's performance would hurt the team, the director may decide to take the member out of the next week's performance.**
6. If a member is unable to participate for longer than three days due to illness or injury, the member must furnish the director with a note from a doctor explaining the problem.
7. Members must attend school one-half (1/2) day in order to be eligible to attend practice or perform. (Excluding the Emerald Belles' class.)

ARTICLE IX (WORKING)

Most students cannot be enrolled in a full day of school, establish and maintain good grades, hold a job, be engaged in drill team, and maintain good health. Work will not be a reason for missing practice, being late, or leaving early from a practice or performance.

ARTICLE X (SOCIAL OFFICERS)

The Emerald Belles Varsity and Junior Varsity will have social officers. Their duties include keeping a scrapbook, arranging for team gifts, providing spirit, motivating the team, and assisting with correspondence. Other duties may be assigned by the director. There will be a separate tryout procedure for Social Officers. Candidates will try out and be elected by the team and director. All rules and regulations apply to the social officers. If a social officer, at any time, is not fulfilling her duties as requested by the director or is discrediting the drill team in any way, she may be removed from her social officer position.

REQUIREMENTS FOR SOCIAL OFFICERS:

1. Specific rules, responsibilities, tryout procedures, etc. will be given to each candidate before tryouts.
2. All candidates must complete the social officer candidate information forms and turn them in on time. Forms must be signed and dated by both candidate and parent.
3. **Varsity - Must have an overall 70 or above GPA.**
4. Candidates on Varsity must have at least one year experience.
5. Only rising juniors and seniors are eligible to try out.
6. Candidates will be determined by team vote, teacher recommendations, demerits, CISD discipline and judges scores.
7. Social officers may enroll in the officer block during 6th block.

ARTICLE XI (DANCE OFFICERS)

The Emerald Belles Varsity and Junior Varsity will have dance officers whose duties shall be to help teach and choreograph routines, help run practices, and assist the director as she sees fit. There will be a separate tryout procedure for Officers. Their specific duties will be outlined and discussed with them following auditions. All rules and regulations apply to the officers. If an officer, at any time, is not fulfilling her duties as requested by the director or is discrediting the drill team in any way, she may be removed from her officer position.

REQUIREMENTS FOR DANCE OFFICERS:

1. Specific rules, responsibilities, tryout procedures, etc. will be given to each candidate before tryouts.
2. All candidates must complete officer candidate information forms and turn them in on time. Forms must be signed and dated by both candidate and parent.
3. Varsity - Must be an upcoming Junior or Senior.
4. Varsity - Must be enrolled in the officer block 6th block.
5. Must have maintained a high scholastic standing and have proven herself in leadership, character, reliability, and attitude.
6. **Must have an overall 70 or above GPA.**
7. Candidates will be determined by team vote, teacher recommendations, demerits, CISD discipline and judges scores.
8. The number of officers will be determined by a break in the score.
9. The officers will help enforce rules and regulations outlined in this constitution and each officer will keep the demerit system for their squad updated in conjunction with the director.
10. The candidate receiving the highest total score will be the captain.
11. It is at the judges discretion to name a First Lieutenant.

***Requirements for the Junior Varsity Officers and Social Officers will be outlined by the Junior Varsity Director after team tryouts.**

REASONS FOR OFFICER OR SOCIAL OFFICER DISMISSAL:

1. Insubordination to the director
2. Failure to fulfill her duties and obligations
3. Discrediting the drill team
4. A total of fifteen demerits will result in removal as an officer.

ARTICLE XII (TEAM SELECTION PROCESS)

There will be one audition conducted to select the new Emerald Belles Varsity and Junior Varsity. A clinic will be held prior to tryouts. Candidates will be taught the routines on which they will be judged. Returning members who wish to remain on their current team do not have to try out again unless the candidate has more than 10 demerits from the current school year by the date of the Parent Tryout Meeting. The Varsity and Junior Varsity teams will be determined by the candidate's score. Either team may consist of Freshman through Seniors.

1. There will be a panel of three or four judges from outside Carroll ISD. Candidates will be ranked by total score.
2. Each judge is expected to give her fair and honest evaluations of each candidate based on dance technique, kick technique, flexibility, memory, timing, and showmanship.
3. No spectators are allowed at the tryouts.
4. All candidates must attend the clinic and must be present at tryouts.
5. All candidates and/or their parent(s) must attend a meeting prior to tryouts or contact the director for an appointment.
6. If a candidate is injured at the time of tryouts, a doctor's note must be provided and a video may be submitted. It is in the candidate's best interest to do as much of the tryout dances as possible. Judges will be informed of any injury accompanied by a doctor's note.

Article Xiii (Probation)

During probation, the member will not perform, but will attend all practices. The duration of probation is 6 weeks. Grounds for probation include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Receiving 20 demerits

XIV (PERMANENT DISMISSAL)

Permanent Dismissal for the following reasons will last throughout the remainder of the school year in which the offense occurs. If a member is permanently dismissed from Emerald Belles and wishes to be a member the following year, she must try out. The final decision will be determined by the director and the principal.

- Receiving 30 demerits.

ARTICLE XV (DEMERIT SYSTEM)

1. Demerits shall accumulate from the first day of the summer through the last day of the school year.
2. A total of 20 demerits or more will place a member on probation for six weeks. A total of 30 demerits will terminate membership.
3. A record of each member's demerits is kept by the officers of the team and by the director.
4. Any member who receives five or more demerits in one week will be ineligible for the next performance. The missed performance will be decided by the director.

5. It is the member's responsibility to keep track of her demerits. Every time a member receives a demerit, she will sign her name to acknowledge that she knows of the demerit.
6. Each member will do 100 high kicks for every demerit received.

ARTICLE XVI (DEMERITS)

	<u># Of demerits</u>
1. Incorrect practice uniform	1
2. Wearing jewelry	1
3. Chewing gum	1
4. Tardy to practice	1
5. Not meeting deadlines given by director	1
6. Excessive talking	1
7. Not obeying stand rules at games	1
8. Nail polish at a performance	1
9. Hair incorrect	1
10. Eating or drinking without permission in uniform	1
11. Not having on performance makeup	1
12. Incorrect uniform or costume	5
13. Not dressing out	5
14. Unexcused absence from a practice or performance	5
15. Leaving a practice, performance, or function without permission	5
16. Conduct unbecoming an Emerald Belle	5
17. Inappropriate postings on social media	10
· Inappropriate language (ex. Music, wording, language)	
· Derogatory comments towards yourself or others	
· Bullying in any sort of way	
· Inappropriate pictures of yourself or others	
18. Disrespect to director, officers, teachers	10
19. Insubordination to director or teacher	10
20. Behavior that discredits the team	20-30

* Carroll ISD Extra Curricular Standards : (See excerpt from the Carroll ISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct)

- 1st offense – 30 day suspension
- 2nd offense – 60 day suspension
- 3rd offense – 90 day suspension

ARTICLE XVII (RULES AND REGULATIONS)

The interpretation of this constitution is the sole right of the director and the principal. The director has the right to add or change those things which she feels must be changed for the benefit of the organization. These rules will be observed by all members at all times. **This constitution will be the basis on which all decisions are made.**

EMERALD BELLE GUIDELINES

SUMMER PRACTICES

Practices will be announced by the director and are mandatory. Missing summer practice will result in a member missing performances and pep rallies during football season. These practices are very important and should not be missed for any reason. In addition to learning and polishing routines for the football season, girls will begin trying out to perform at games and pep rallies.

SPECIAL PERFORMANCES

Special performances will be announced by the director and are required for every girl unless specified otherwise by the director. These may include, but are not limited to, contests, clinics, basketball games, and parades. These performances will be announced as soon as possible and each member is expected to make arrangements to participate.

FUNDRAISING

It will be necessary for the Emerald Belles to participate in some type of fundraising. Each Emerald Belle should make herself willingly available for these functions even if they should fall on a Saturday.

PERFORMANCE TRYOUTS

Tryouts will be held before every performance. All drill team members are required to try out for all performances unless otherwise instructed. Every member must be able to demonstrate full knowledge of the routine to be included in the performance. Other factors that will be taken into consideration are technique, execution of steps and stunts, formations, and showmanship. The director may bring in outside judges to help her judge tryouts for a routine, especially for contest routines. The director will make all decisions concerning who dances and her decision is **final**. Alternates will practice with the team at all times, as they may be included in the routine at any time.

PRACTICE SCHEDULES

Practices for the Varsity are scheduled before school and continue into 1st and 5th block of everyday. Practices for the Junior Varsity will be determined by the director at a later date. When preparing for competition or special performances, additional practices may be called if the director feels it is needed. Otherwise, the designated practices during the Belle block should be ample time. Every effort will be made to notify the member of any extra time needed to polish the routine. Each member will be expected to adjust her schedule accordingly. If a member needs to attend tutorials or make-up a test, she must let the director know ahead of time. All Varsity members must try to schedule tutorials in the afternoon.

CONTEST

The Varsity and Junior Varsity Emerald Belles may choose to participate in at least one contest per year. Most contests are out of town and require travel to and from the contest. Attendance is required, even if a member is not dancing. Tryouts will be held for contest numbers.

EMERALD BELLE OF THE WEEK

One girl will be chosen each week during the football season and competition season for this honor. The director and officers determine who will be selected. Selection is based on attitude, showmanship, work ethic, and enthusiasm.

ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCES

(See article VII-practice procedures)

SCHOOL ISSUED UNIFORMS AND COSTUME PIECES

Each member is responsible for taking proper care of her uniform. No alterations will be made on ANY school issued uniform pieces without permission. Belles will keep all school issued uniform pieces until their final year. Uniforms must be dry cleaned before turning in your final year.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation will be provided by the school district or Booster club to most activities. All members are required to ride to and from most of the Emerald Belles activities and/or functions. Everyone will ride the bus to and from the destination. In all activities where school transportation is not provided, the members will be required to turn in the CSHS Individual Transportation Permission Form.

PHILOSOPHY

The Emerald Belles' goal and philosophy is to maintain an excellent level of performance while emphasizing and setting an example for all of Carroll I.S.D. All Belles are representing our school and our drill team whether you are in uniform or not.

Excerpt from the Carroll ISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct...

No extracurricular participant shall, while off-campus, sell, give, deliver, use, possess, or be under the influence of alcohol or any controlled substance. In addition, no extracurricular participant shall participate in an event that violates the student code of conduct. If a student finds himself or herself in this type of situation, the student should remove himself or herself immediately.

Consequences for Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)

In-Season and Off-Season Offenses

Students who are suspended from school will be suspended from participation in all extracurricular and co-curricular games, contests, performances, banquets, and team transportation.

1st Offense:

1. Suspension from the specified activities for a period of 10 school days from the date of OSS.
2. Two counseling sessions with campus counselors.
3. Complete four community service hours approved by campus administrators.

2nd Offense:

1. Suspension from the specified activities for a period of 30 school days from the date of OSS.
2. Four counseling sessions with campus counselors.
3. Complete six community service hours approved by campus administrators.

3rd Offense:

1. Suspension from the specified activities for a period of 90 school days from the date of OSS.
2. Six counseling sessions with campus counselors.
3. Complete eight community service hours approved by campus administrators.

*** If the specified activity involves physical activity, the student will be required to make up any conditioning or skills missed during the suspension. This will help ensure the student is prepared to safely return to the physical activity once the suspension has ended.

Consequences for DAEP Placement

In addition to the other consequences listed below, students who are placed in DAEP will be suspended from participation in all extracurricular and co-curricular activities, including, but not limited to, practices, team meetings, games, contests, performances, banquets, and team transportation for the following lengths of time:

1st Offense:

1. Suspension for a period of 45 school days from the date of DAEP placement.
2. Complete six counseling sessions.
3. Complete six community service hours approved by campus administrator.

2nd Offense:

1. Suspension for a period of 90 days from the date of DAEP placement.
2. Complete eight counseling sessions.
3. Complete ten community service hours approved by campus administrator.

3rd Offense and subsequent DAEP placements:

1. Suspension for one calendar year from the date of DAEP placement.

Consequences for Non-School-Related Offenses

Students who commit non-school-related offenses may be suspended from participation in extracurricular and/or co-curricular activities by the campus behavior coordinator. Before an extracurricular or co-curricular activity sanction will be imposed, the campus administrator shall thoroughly investigate the matter to gather all relevant information, including information from a law enforcement agency.

In addition to the other consequences listed below, students who commit a non-school-related offense will be suspended from participation in extracurricular and co-curricular games, contests, performances, banquets, and team transportation for the following lengths of time:

1st Offense:

1. Suspension from specified activities for thirty (30) school days.
2. Complete four counseling sessions.
3. Complete four community service hours approved by campus administrators.

2nd Offense:

1. Suspension from specified activities for sixty (60) school days.
2. Complete six counseling sessions.

3. Complete eight community service hours approved by campus administrators.

3rd Offense:

1. Suspension from specified activities for ninety (90) school days.
2. Complete eight counseling sessions.
3. Complete ten community service hours approved by campus administrators.

*** If the specified activity involves physical activity, the student will be required to make up any conditioning or skills missed during the suspension. This will help ensure the student is prepared to safely return to the physical activity once the suspension has ended.