

TRYOUT POLICIES 2017 - 2018 GEORGIA TECH SPIRIT PROGRAM

I. INTRODUCTION

This statement is intended to inform potential spirit squad members and parents of the various policies regarding our philosophy and purpose, squad composition and selection of the Georgia Tech Spirit Program.

All Cheerleaders, Goldrush members and Mascot squad members as outlined herein are considered to be part of the Georgia Tech Spirit Program ("Spirit Program") and are under the guidance and authority of the Head Cheerleading Coach, Assistant Cheerleading Coach and/or Dance Coordinator (the "Coaches"). The following rules and policies set forth are upheld by the Coaches with the full support of the Director of Marketing and Sport Administrator.

II. PHILOSOPHY AND PURPOSE

The Georgia Tech Spirit Program is a student activity. As a student activity, its first and foremost responsibility to the student is to support and not to compromise the student's academic career. Secondly, the program should aid in developing the student participant into a responsible, mature and independent adult. Specifically, the program is a means of improving the student's mental and physical wellbeing. Cheerleading and Goldrush are activities where the student will be provided leadership training, develop the ability to make decisions, enhance the ability to respond to life's situations, will contribute to social development and generally will maximize the opportunity for student growth, change and maturity.

The primary purpose of the spirit squad members is (1) to be a member of the team, which has as its goal the support of intercollegiate athletics and Georgia Tech, and (2) to serve as public relations ambassadors of Georgia Tech; to uphold, reflect and project the goals and ideals of the Institute; to promote Georgia Tech and specifically, the Georgia Tech Athletic Association. All Members are recognized as a part of GT athletics and are expected at all times to exhibit good sportsmanship as well as good moral and ethical behavior.

The support is directed into two major areas, as follows: (1) Cheerleading Squads: to lead the cheers; to raise the level of fan support for intercollegiate athletics; to lead in positive local support for the team; to project that support and solicit that support from Yellow Jacket fans and to participate in the athletic activity known as cheerleading by performing partner stunts, motions, pyramids, and gymnastics; (2) Goldrush: to lead cheers; to raise the level of fan support for intercollegiate athletics; to lead in positive local support for the team; to project that support and solicit that support from Yellow Jacket fans and to support the cheerleaders in cheerleading activity and to perform the activity known as dance; to perfect this athletic activity for keeping the crowd attention/direction focused on the field/floor where the intercollegiate activity is taking place, and for entertainment purposes during pregame, timeouts, halftimes, and other

appropriate times and for competitive purposes. Cheerleaders, Goldrush members, and mascots serve as public relations ambassadors of intercollegiate athletics and the Georgia Tech, to uphold, reflect and project the goals and ideals of Georgia Tech; to appear at Institute activities, functions and programs, at charitable and public causes and to promote intercollegiate athletics and the Georgia Tech.

Overall, the purpose of the spirit program is to develop and promote school spirit, to increase crowd involvement at athletic contests and pep rallies; to lead cheers.

III. COMPOSITION OF THE SQUADS

A. Gold/White Cheerleading: This team is composed of up to 44 regular members, male and female GTAA student athletes. The head coach can select alternates or alternate couples after tryouts based on the following: consideration to the physical size, general composition of the squad, academic grade point standing, placement in tryouts and needs of the squad. The head coach may name other alternate squad members in accordance with needs for additional members.

i. In the fall, new members may be named by the director and coach based on the squads need for additional members. This program is similar to the “walk on” opportunity used by most football teams and may include new transfer students or students who were unable to attend the spring tryout. ☒

ii. Cheerleading will be organized into two squads:☒ 1. Gold Squad, a membership distinction based on high skill level, weight room testing, stunting position and general composition of the squad, leadership, attitude, academic grade point standing, placement in tryouts and needs of the squad. ☒2. White Squad, members who meet the minimum skill and attitude requirements, academic grade point standing, placement in tryouts and needs of the squad. ☒

B. Navy (Appearance) Squad: This squad is composed of up to 20 regular members, all female. Members of this squad are NOT considered GTAA student athletes, and are chosen at tryouts in consideration to spirit based skill, interview, the physical appearance, general composition of the squad, academic grade point standing, and needs of the program. ☒

C. Goldrush: This squad is composed of up to 18 regular members. The coach may select two alternate members based on general composition of the squad, academic grade point standing, tryout score and needs of the squad. ☒

D. Buzz: The mascot squad consists of 5 - 8 regular members, considered GTAA student athletes, who must meet certain height and physical fitness requirements to wear the Buzz costume.

II. ROLE OF THE SQUADS

A. Cheerleaders: Cheerleaders will cheer for all home and away football games, bowl games, home and post season men's and women's basketball games, all pep rallies and charity events/appearances. The cheerleader's main responsibility is to lead the fans and student body in cheers and school spirit. Cheerleaders will be responsible for a number of appearances throughout the year, and expected to willingly sign up for any non- mandatory appearance for which he or she is available. ☒

B. Appearance Squad: will cheer for portions of home football games, and the entirety of some men's and women's basketball games and volleyball games, pep rallies and charity events and appearances. The cheerleader's main responsibility is to lead the fans and student body in cheers and school spirit. Members are responsible for a number of appearances throughout the year, and expected to willingly sign up for any non- mandatory appearance for which she is available. ☒

C. Goldrush: Goldrush will perform at all home football games, all home basketball games, all home women's basketball games, all pep rallies and charity events/appearances. During the basketball season the squad will prepare and perform 6 – 8 specialty halftime and time out routines. Members may be requested to travel to select away football games and basketball tournaments. ☒

D. Mascots: The role of the mascots is to help promote school spirit by performing mime, dance, skits and other routines at all Georgia Tech men's football, basketball, selected baseball games, all pep rallies, all women's basketball, selected volleyball and softball games, and other Georgia Tech public relations events. Buzz's primary purpose is public relations, meeting and greeting fans, taking pictures, etc. ☒

E. Competition Squads: Spirit Program members must be willing to participate on the competition squads (exceptions to be made by the coaches with due consideration to unforeseen issues). The coaches will make the decision as to which squad members are selected to the squads. All Gold and White members are expected to support the competition squad and attend competition-related events such as the Southeast Cheer Showcase and NCA College Nationals competition. Navy members are expected to attend all home competition-related events and encouraged to attend away competition related events.

III. SELECTION/TRYOUTS

A. Tryouts will be held in the spring after the basketball team has completed the season. ☒

B. All full time enrolled Tech students may participate in tryouts. High school seniors (incoming freshmen) and transfer students may participate in tryouts with proof of acceptance. ☒

i. Transfer students who have not yet been accepted may participate in tryouts under the following conditions: (1) consent of the head coach; (2) discussion with the head or assistant coach of transfer criteria including (but not limited to) major requirements, GPA, current enrollment in a university, SAT or ACT score; and (3) under alternate status only – upon gaining official acceptance into Georgia Tech, the alternate status may be turned over into full time squad member status.

C. Tryouts will consist of a live personal interview/evaluation and a skills demonstration. The Coaches can interview/evaluate all those participating in tryouts. They will evaluate the applicants' poise, appearance, interpersonal skills, communication skills, grades attained to date, understanding of the time commitment required, and willingness to represent the Spirit Program, the Athletic Association and Georgia Tech in a positive fashion. One round of skill selection/elimination will be conducted prior to formal tryouts. Those not meeting the minimum requirements will not be invited back for formal tryouts on technique. For formal tryouts, there will be one panel of judges, that may consist of coaches. The panel of judges will evaluate applicants based on the following: stunting and tumbling skill level, technique, ability to incorporate skills into fight song, performance, athletic appearance, energy and enthusiasm for Georgia Tech. Additional judges outside of the coaching staff will be selected based on their knowledge, experience, and expertise in the areas of cheer and dance.

D. All persons participating in cheerleading tryouts, and all dance team squad members, shall have read and understood the policies and procedures with respect to the Georgia Tech Spirit Program.

i. The signed agreement page to this contract signifies participants full understanding of team selection and agreement with team policies and procedures. ☒

ii. The tryout selections as designated by the Coaches, based on tryout scores, are supported by the GTAA, the Director of Marketing and the Sport Administrator. ☒

iii. The panels will consider the following general areas when selecting each squad:

a. Gold and White Squad Cheerleaders: ability to lead a crowd, appearance and poise, spirit and enthusiasm coordination and rhythm, motions/technique, partner stunts, sideline chant, tumbling, personal interview, attitude and a mile run.

b. Appearance Squad Cheerleaders: ability to lead a crowd, appearance and poise, spirit and enthusiasm coordination and rhythm, motions/technique, partner stunts, sideline chant, tumbling, personal interview. ☒

c. Mascots: ability to involve crowd, spirit and enthusiasm, dance ability, pantomime utilization of the suit, a good understanding of mascots duties, physical fitness test of pushups, the Buzz flip, personal interview. ☒

d. Cheerleading and Mascots: all applicants must be in good health and capable of performing all skills of cheerleading and dance safely. Each prospective member must have and document a physical examination dated within one year before participating in tryouts.

e. Goldrush: appearance and poise, spirit and enthusiasm, coordination and rhythm, kicks, splits, turns, leaps, dance technique, ability to quickly learn and perform choreographed dances.

d. Goldrush: all applicants must be in good health and capable of performing all skills of dance safely. Each prospective member must have and document proof of insurance before participating in tryouts.

vi. All: Public relations, friendliness, positive attitude, willingness to help others and school spirit and enthusiasm are musts for those who are selected as members of our spirit squads.

E. The judge's scores will rank the applicants in regard to skill and Coaches will then select the squad members and assign them to squads with due consideration and regard to their personal interview/evaluation. ☒

F. Examples of all scoring sheets, copies of all forms, procedures, etc. will be posted at every session during the tryouts and the clinic preceding the tryout. All participants are required to read all forms and are urged to ask questions or seek clarification of any part they do not understand. The coaches are always available to help. ☒

II. QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

A. All students must be enrolled as fulltime students at the Georgia Tech. A transfer student may tryout if they have been admitted to the Georgia Tech and transferred with a 2.0 GPA. ☒

B. High school seniors may tryout for Cheerleading squads in the spring of their senior year for participation their freshman year. Any student that has been accepted to Georgia Tech will be eligible for tryouts. ☒

C. All squad members will have read and understood the policies and procedures outlined herein, providing proof of understanding by turning in the signature page at the end of this document. ☒

D. All squad members must be enrolled in and pass 12 hours each semester with a minimum 2.0 GPA to participate. Should a squad current squad member fail to pass 12 hours (with minimum 2.0 GPA) in the fall semester they will be put on probation and allowed to complete the spring semester. ☒Eligibility for tryouts for the following year will be determined by the coaches.☒

E. Failure to maintain all qualifications will result in dismissal from the squad:

i. All decisions to dismiss a squad member shall be based on failure to comply with squad qualifications and regulations and shall be made by the coaches for any reason verbalized or outlined herein at the discretion of the Coaches with the support of the Director of Marketing and the Sport Administrator. ☒

ii. A member that is dismissed or leaves the squad can tryout again, only with permission of the coach. This permission being granted after due consideration of the reason for leaving or being dismissed from the squad. This permission will be decided on an individual basis. ☒

2017- 2018 Spirit Program Tryout Agreement

These rules and regulations have been set, but are subject to change at any time at the discretion of the coaches, with the approval of the Sport Administrator.

By signing this agreement, I acknowledge my understanding of the tryout policies and qualifications for membership, my consent to participate in the GT Spirit Program, and agree to comply with the final tryout decision and squad compilation. I understand that making the squad is based on scores, including those from the judge(s) and the coaches' scores.

I acknowledge that I have reviewed the score sheet posted online at gtcheer.com and that I have opportunity during tryouts to review with the coaches.

I acknowledge that when the 2017- 2018 squad roster is released via social media the decision is final, and that I am in agreement with the tryout policies and procedures.

I acknowledge that by participating in tryouts May 5 - 7, 2017, that I am trying out for either Buzz or Cheerleading; if Cheerleading, I acknowledge that my placement on Gold, White, or Navy squad is a result of my scoring during tryouts and I thereby accept that placement. I understand the duties and responsibilities of each squad member and their respective squad roles within the Spirit Program and I have ample time to speak to the Coaches with questions.

I also acknowledge that my graduation date and all other information provided is as accurate as possible given my current status as a student at Georgia Tech, and that my graduation date will be used throughout planning for Georgia Tech Cheerleading and by Georgia Tech Athletics for purposes of lettering as a student athlete.

Name: _____ (sign and print)

Graduation Date: _____

I understand that Cheerleading is a dangerous sport. There are several injuries involved, including paralysis, even death. I promise to be on alert and safe at all times in order to prevent any accidents from happening. This includes spotting, paying attention during the tryout clinics, and listening to the coach and prospective candidates.

Should I make the squad, my commitment to the Georgia Tech Spirit Program begins at 2017 tryouts held May 5 - 7, 2017 and ends at 2018 tryouts held on or before May 8, 2018.

_____ Athlete Signature _____ Date

_____ Coach Signature _____ Date