Biola University Cheerleading Commitment Contract

Purpose
Biola University Cheer Team members will promote and uphold all standards of Biola University and Biola University Communications & Marketing both on and off of the court. They will practice good sportsmanship and work with the community, the student body, and the University Communications & Marketing 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 2.0 in all college level units attempted, completed, and awarded a letter grade.

Conduct
A. All Cheer Team members must maintain a 2.0 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. A Team tumbling class will be required once a week through the competition season. Any Tumbling class scheduled is **MANDATORY,** and missing will be treated the same as a missed practice. Tumbling will be a high priority in choosing the top 20 girls that will be on the floor for competition; missing tumbling practice is highly discouraged.

D. Practices will take place twice a week. We will confirm practice and games schedules ahead of time so that you can plan your class schedules around practice. We are willing to work with you on your class schedules; however, only in a very time sensitive situation will any exceptions be granted.

E. If you are going to miss an event for ANY reason you MUST notify your captain(s) and **email coaches.** We must have the notice in writing. Less than 24 hours notice will be considered an absence.

F. Each team member is allowed three (2) absences, total, per semester. There is no such thing as an excused absence, so use them wisely. Two tardies will equal one absence. Do not be late, BE EARLY. In the event a cheerleader passes the (2) absence limit she will consequently be benched from games and/or competitions at the coaches discretion.

G. You may not miss two practices in a single week.

H. The coaches reserve the right to consider individual circumstances in the event of family emergency or other events that are urgent in nature.
I. 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. Cheerleaders are expected to be available for all games. However, it will not be a requirement to cheer every game. Cheerleaders will be assigned based on basketball schedules for which games their attendance is required. If you are not assigned to cheer for a game, you are encouraged to attend as a spectator if possible. You must also check in and out of all games with the coach or captain.

B. While cheering or attending any organized event each cheerleader must remain in uniform until dismissed by a coach. You must arrive 20 minutes early (unless specified) in uniform with hair up and make-up done. Remember you are a professional, no touch ups during the game in front of the crowd and no eating in front of the crowd.

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).

**Competitions**
A. All competitions are MANDATORY.

B. While at competitions, girls will remain in full uniform and together as a team unless directed by the coach.

C. Sportsmanlike conduct is expected at all times.

**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 University Communications & Marketing and thus will be the property of Biola University Communications & Marketing 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, games or competitions.

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.

D. As a member of Biola University Cheerleading it is encouraged to keep all hair dying, body piercings and body art to a minimal if in clear view by audience members and/or judges. You will be asked to remove piercings and cover body art if showing is illegal per competition requirements.

**Finances/Aid**

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. Aid may be available on a year to year basis and will be awarded based on number of years on team, experience/skills, character and financial need.

D. If a cheerleader leaves mid season, she must pay for all of her practice clothes that she has been given. If a cheerleader leaves after camp, she must reimburse Biola Cheer for her cost at camp.

E. The following is the fee schedule **every girl will pay- even if awarded aid.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year on Team</th>
<th>Cheer Fees Paid July 1 and Oct 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$350 (each date)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$150</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$50</td>
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</tbody>
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Safety/Liability Release Information

A. Cheerleading involves a variety of gymnastics, motions, partner stunts, rotations and heights; therefore, participation in cheerleading involves some amount of potential danger or personal injury. I completely assume in totality all risks involved with participating in Biola University Cheer Team. I further realize that cheerleading activities could result in catastrophic injury, paralysis or even death.

B. I further agree to hold harmless Biola University and the Biola University, University Communications & Marketing Department, officers, directors, staff and cheerleading officials for any injury which I may incur by being a participant in the cheerleading season and by practicing on my own time, outside of scheduled practices. I have read the above statement and certify that I fully understand the information contained within this statement. I voluntarily consent to this agreement.

__________________________________________  __________________________
Signature                                                Date
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. 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.

I, __________________________ have read the Biola Cheer Contract and understand my responsibility as a cheerleader. I understand the physical, financial, and time commitment asked of me. In submitting this form, I consent that the information provided is true and accurate.

I, __________________________ will commit to the program for the entire year. I understand that failing to commit may cost me financially. I also understand that it effects the whole team.

I, __________________________ upon accepting a position on the team if offered all medical release forms will be due to the Cheer Coach by July 1, 2012. They are the following forms: Insurance Information, History Information and Physical forms that can be printed from the Cheer website. I also understand that my cheer fee payment is due by July 1, 2012 to the coach. Payments should be made to Biola with cheer fees and your name in the memo line.

__________________________________________________________

Applicant’s Signature                      Date