

WALTER E. STEBBINS HIGH SCHOOL AFJROTC DRILL TEAM HANDBOOK



2023-2024

<http://stebbinsredberets.weebly.com>

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 2023-2024 Walter E. Stebbins High School AFJROTC OH-022 Drill Team season. This handbook is for you and your parents/guardians to use as a reference for team rules, policies, and procedures. While I tried to make this handbook all inclusive, it's entirely possible that I left something out. Therefore, this handbook may be revised as necessary. Keep this handbook in your cadet guide, or somewhere you can access it and refer to it as needed. Also check the drill team web page for updates (stebbinsredberets.weebly.com).

In 2009-2010, we were established as a recognized varsity sport.

DRILL TEAM FEES

There is \$25 for the 2023-2024 season. Make checks payable to "Stebbins AFJROTC".

PERMISSION AND PARENT AGREEMENT

You will be required to complete the Permission and Parent Agreement form (found at the end of this handbook) and must be signed by you and your parent/guardian before you may participate on the drill team. Get this form turned in as quickly as possible. The form can also be found on the drill team web page at:

<http://stebbinsredberets.weebly.com/downloads.html>

PRACTICE ATTENDANCE

Practices are generally Monday through Thursday from 6:00am to 7:00am (actual practice days and times may vary each quarter or term, so you need to be flexible with your schedule). Practices are one hour long per day. You are expected to be at practice by start time. You must attend the full hour of practice to receive credit for the practice.

Drill team practices are mandatory and all drill team members are expected to be at practice, unless excused by Lt Col Yunt or MSgt Hood ahead of time. Excused practices still count as a "zero" for attendance purposes and may impact your qualifying for the Drill Team Ribbon (see "Awards" for more information). Unexcused practices are for missing practice without a legitimate reason. Three unexcused absences during the drill team season can result in suspension or dismissal from the team. Members who are below 70 percent attendance at practices may also be removed or suspended from the team.

All unexcused absences will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and may be changed from unexcused to excused at the discretion of Lt Col Yunt or MSgt Hood. 75 percent of the team must be present at practice, or the practice will be cancelled.

Be sure to let an instructor know ahead of time if you must leave practice early, or if you will be late to practice. If leaving early, be sure to let an instructor know you are leaving. Leaving practice without permission can result in being charged with an unexcused absence.

Cadets who are involved in another school sport or activity at the same time may “split practice.” Split practices mean that you attend drill team practice every other day and the other practice the other days. Make sure you let an instructor know which days you are attending drill practice. You may also choose to participate in the other sport exclusively until the season ends, and then join drill team practices. This is acceptable, but be aware that you will be marked with excused absences and it will hurt your chances to receive the Drill Team Ribbon.

PRACTICE UNIFORM

The practice uniform is comprised of the PT shirt, sweat pants, white socks, and black uniform shoes. You may also practice in your AFJROTC uniform. If funding allows, drill team members may be issued a special drill team practice uniform.

You are required to wear the proper practice uniform. Failure to wear the proper uniform can result in your being dismissed from practice. Continued non-compliance with the uniform standard may result in suspension or removal from the team. I will not accept the excuse that your uniform is dirty. You are high school students and are old enough to be responsible for your uniforms. You should not have to rely on your parents or guardians to wash your clothes. You are old enough to wash your own clothes!

ATTITUDE AND PRACTICE ETHICS

There is no room on the team and during practice for bad attitudes and “drama.” To be successful and regain the state championship, we must all be focused and positive. The saying is “Leave your ego and bad attitude at the door when you come to practice. You may pick them up when you leave.”

When on the floor practicing a routine, you are expected to practice as if you were on the floor at a drill meet. In other words, if you wouldn’t do it during a competition, don’t do it during practice! Eliminate bad habits, such as looking around, looking down, or moving while at attention or in formation. You would lose points in a competition for doing so, therefore, don’t do it at practice!

Fighting among team members will not be tolerated and any fights between team members will result in suspension or dismissal from the team.

This is not to say you can’t have fun at practice. There are times when joking around is acceptable. It is just not acceptable when you are on the floor practicing a routine. Also, when not on the floor practicing a routine, you are expected to be at parade rest on the sidelines and not talking, or doing anything else that could distract the team on the floor.

Sitting at practice is not allowed. This is to help you build self-discipline and portrays a professional appearance at practice by not having cadets sitting around doing nothing.

CONDUCT AT DRILL MEETS

You are representatives of Walter E. Stebbins High School and the Mad River Local School District at all times, and especially at drill meets. Therefore, you are expected to conduct yourself professionally at all times while at drill meets. You will not make negative comments of any kind about any other team at any time. Anything you do that brings discredit to the drill team, AFJROTC, school, and/or district will result in suspension or dismissal from the team.

UNIFORM AT DRILL MEETS

The “fall out uniform” (i.e., the uniform you will travel in to and from a meet) could either be the AFJROTC uniform, or practice uniform, depending on where the meet is. You are required to bring *everything* to a drill meet (every uniform item you have). Be sure you have your rank, ribbons, and name tag.

Be sure you have shaved and have a proper haircut for the drill meet. You will not compete if you do not meet the grooming standards.

Invariably, uniform items are always left behind at the school after a drill meet. Leftover uniform items will be placed in the storage room for one week. Items not claimed by then will be placed back into the uniform inventory, which means you will be reissued any missing uniform item and will result in you being charged for the missing item. Civilian clothing will be turned in to lost and found in the front office.

FIRST YEAR DRILL TEAM MEMBER INCENTIVE PROMOTION

AS-1 cadets who join the drill team will be promoted to cadet airman (C/Amn). However, cadets who leave the drill team will be demoted back to their original rank of cadet airman basic (C/AB) and will forfeit his or her rank insignia. AS-2, 3, and 4 cadets who are first year drill team members may be promoted at the discretion of the SASI upon the recommendation of MSgt Hood.

DRILL TEAM COMMANDER’S DUTIES

The drill team commander (usually an AS-4 cadet) must be at least a cadet second lieutenant and approved by Lt Col Yunt. The drill team commander is in charge of the drill team and all its members, regardless of what rank he or she holds (there may be members of the team who are higher rank).

The drill team commander is responsible for instilling and enforcing discipline at practices and drill meets and must be a positive role model at all times. The drill team commander also assists the instructors and serves as the “right hand.”

The drill team commander is also responsible for room assignments at all overnight drill meets (subject to instructor approval).

The drill team commander is responsible for knowing the location of all cadets, at all times, during practices and at drill meets.

All drill team members are expected to follow the instructions and directions of the drill team commander at all times.

At the instructor's discretion, there may also be an AS-3 or AS-4 cadet selected as the drill team deputy commander.

CHAIN OF COMMAND

The chain of command on the drill team is as follows:

1. Drill Team Advisor
2. Drill Team Commander
3. Drill Team Deputy Commander (as appropriate)
4. Routine Commander

The only time the drill team commander and/or deputy commander are not in overall charge is if they are a member of a routine and not in command of the routine. When a routine is on the floor, the routine commander is in command and in charge. All routine members are expected to follow the commands and instructions of the routine command while on the floor.

ROUTINE MEMBERS

Each routine will have a commander appointed by MSgt Hood. The routine commander is responsible for choosing the members of their team. Just as with other sports programs, not everyone will be a "starter." Undoubtedly there will be members who are on the sidelines as backups. Those who are not in a routine are expected to support the team and "cheer them on." In other words, if you are not in a routine, you are still a valuable member of the team and are expected to be a positive supporter of the team. Also, if you are not in a particular routine, you may still be required to know the commands and movements in case you have to go in to replace one of the starters. Be ready!!

FOOD AT DRILL MEETS

Bringing food to practices and drill meets is not authorized. Remember, we go to drill meets "to compete; not to eat." You should plan to bring \$5 to \$10 to buy lunch at drill meets. Your evening dinner on overnight meets is paid for.

ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL ON MORNINGS OF DRILL MEETS

Make sure your parents/guardians are aware that we usually have very early report times at the school. This is due to early check-in times at the host school and travel time must be factored in.

Once you have reported to the school the morning of a drill meet, you may not leave the school grounds for any reason. So, make your McDonald's, Speedway, etc., run before you get to the school.

CANCELLATION OF MEETS AND PRACTICES

Drill meets and practices may be cancelled for weather, hazardous conditions, or for other reasons at the discretion of the school, district, or the instructors. Cancellations will be posted on Clever, Facebook, and email.

CELL PHONES, GAMES, ETC.

Cell phones ***are not*** allowed at practice. Leave your cell phone in the classroom. Cell phones, games, and other electronic items may be used on the bus trip to and from the meet. This is a privilege that can be taken away for improper conduct, etc. Also, music must not be vulgar, profane, or inappropriate. Failure to comply with this rule can result in loss of privileges.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

We will be utilizing school transportation for travel to and from drill meets. You are expected to be on your best behavior while on the bus (you should be doing this at all times anyway). The bus driver is in complete control and you are expected to follow their directions without question.

Only the bus driver is authorized to open and close the rear door of the bus. No member of the team will open or close the rear bus door at any time.

Members of the opposite sex may not sit together in the same seat. There may be occasions when the females are at the front of the bus, and the males in the back (or vice-versa).

Proper safety rules apply at all times while in the bus, and especially when the bus is in motion. You will not stick your arms and legs out of the windows; you will not stand up while the bus is in motions, and you will not make any faces out of the windows, or write on them, or put up signs.

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The bus must be cleaned to the satisfaction of the driver before you will be allowed to leave upon returning from drill meets.

SUSPENSIONS AND DISMISSAL FROM TEAM

Members may be suspended or dismissed from the team for violation of team rules and policies (many have been discussed elsewhere in this hand book). Members may also be suspended or removed for disrupting practices and/or conduct that reflect negatively on the team, school, AFJROTC and/or district.

Members can also be suspended or removed for violating rules and policies that are outlined in the Student Handbook all students receive at the beginning of the school year. Cadets suspended from school will be suspended from the next drill meet. Expelled students will be dismissed from the team.

AWARDS

All cadets on the drill team will be issued the drill team shoulder cord. This identifies you as a member of the drill team.

The following may be awarded to members of the drill team:

- a. Drill Team Ribbon – must participate in a minimum of 75 percent of all practices and meets during the season. Any cadet who has to sit out a quarter for any reason will not be eligible to receive this ribbon, regardless of percentage of participation.
- b. Special Teams Competition Ribbon – awarded to all members of the team when the team finishes in the top three overall at a drill meet.
- c. Color Guard Ribbon – awarded to members who compete in at minimum of five color guards.
- d. Varsity Letter – awarded to members who have received the Drill Team Ribbon a minimum of two years (does not have to be consecutively). Members who have received the Drill Team Ribbon at another school will receive the varsity letter if he or she receives the Drill Team Ribbon while a member of the Red Beret Drill Team. Varsity letter recipients are authorized to join the Varsity “S” Club. Any drill team member who has 100% attendance for the year will also be awarded a varsity letter. The Drill Team Advisor may also award a Varsity letter at his discretion.
- e. Certificate of Participation – awarded to all members who complete the drill season.
- f. “Red Beret” Award – awarded to cadets who command a routine during the season.

- g. “Sarge” Award – awarded to the freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior who has the best attendance during the season.

The following awards are voted on by the team members and not selected by an instructor (all receive a trophy):

- a. Most Valuable Drill Team Member
- b. Outstanding First Year
- c. Most Improved

Awards will typically be presented at a drill team function, or annual national awards ceremony.

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**STUDENT/PARENT/GUARDIAN
AGREEMENT
AND DRILL MEET PARTICIPATION PERMISSION FORM**

CADET NAME: _____

1. I have read the *2023-2024 Drill Team Handbook* and agree to follow the rules and policies outlined in it.
2. I hereby grant permission of my student to travel by school transportation to and from all drill meets during the 2023-2024 school year.
3. In the event school transportation is not available, I agree to transport my student to and from drill meets.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION

In the event reasonable attempts to contact me at (phone number): _____ have been unsuccessful, I hereby give my consent for:

a. The administration of any treatment deemed necessary by Dr. _____ (preferred physician) or Dr. _____ (preferred dentist), or, in the event the designated preferred practitioner is not available, by another licensed physician or dentist: and

b. The transfer of the student to _____ (preferred hospital) or any hospital reasonably accessible

This authorization does not cover major surgery unless medical opinions or two other licensed physicians or dentists, concurring in the necessity for such surgery, are obtained prior to the performance of such surgery.

Facts concerning the child's medical history including medications being taken, and any physical impairments to which a physician should be alerted:

Printed Name of Student

Signature

Date _____

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian

Signature

Date _____