

# Sylacauga Aggie Marching Band

## SHS Auxiliary (Visual Ensemble) Constitution 2017-2018

Although the auxiliary unites, both the majorettes and color guard, are an entity unto itself, it is still considered to be part of the Sylacauga High School Band Family. The following constitution is for the Majorettes and Color Guard members. It follows and includes all guidelines set up by the Sylacauga City School System, Sylacauga High School, and the Sylacauga High School Band.

### I. Purpose

The purpose of the Sylacauga High School Auxiliaries (Visual Ensemble) is to perform at designated activities related to band, athletic or school functions associated with Sylacauga High School. The ensemble, collectively and individually, will serve as representatives of Sylacauga High School.

### II. Candidate Eligibility

1. Candidates will have no grade lower than 60 in any subject, and an overall average of at least 70 for the semester preceding tryouts.
2. Candidates will have a statement of physical fitness signed by their physician.
3. Candidates will have the consent of parents/guardians and will sign stating they have read the entire constitution and are aware of their requirements and responsibilities and those of their parents and school officials.
4. A candidate who has been dismissed from or quits their respective group will be ineligible for the remainder of the performing season. The auxiliary coordinator and band director will review eligibility for the participation in future years.
5. Candidates who have been removed from a group for grades not meeting the required level will be ineligible for the remainder of the season and for one additional year to allow the student the opportunity to bring the grades up.
6. Candidates must have cleared all fees from the previous year to be eligible for tryouts.
7. As per Sylacauga City Schools Board Policy, the candidate must be a student at SHS or an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student at Nicholas Lawson Middle School at the time of tryouts.

### III. Selection Procedures

1. Clinic and tryouts will be held for a minimum of five (5) days. Participation in this clinic is required; clinic fees must be paid to participate.
2. Following the clinic, candidates will be presented to the judges and tryouts will be held.
3. A minimum of three (3) judges from outside the school community will be selected by the sponsor and band director. Minority representation must be included on each judging panel.
4. All tryouts will be closed to the general public.
5. Announcement of new members will be made as soon as all tabulations have been completed.
6. To participate in tryout clinic, students must have a copy of previous semester grades showing an overall average of 70 with no grades below 60, current physical form from doctor, consent form signed by parent, constitution statement signed by student and parent, and the \$30 nonrefundable tryout fee to hold the candidates place.
7. Students trying out are selected on a yearly basis.
8. No student is guaranteed a spot in the ensemble. Veterans to the ensemble must try out each year.

9. Candidates will be judged on appearance, attitude, clinic attendance, ability to carry out fundamentals and routines taught during clinic, showmanship, and precision.
10. The number of members selected each year will be determined by the three judges at tryouts, auxiliary coordinator, and band director based on need for that year. This number will most likely change from year to year.
11. Within the ensemble, smaller groups may be chosen for performance at different events such as civic organizations, athletic events, or competitions. These groups will be chosen by criterion set up by the auxiliary coordinator and director.

#### IV. Rules and Regulations

1. Members are to be present and on time for ALL meetings, activities, practices, and performances unless a valid reason is presented to the auxiliary coordinator with the band's Excused Absence Form **BEFORE** the absence (except in cases of emergency). Attendance requirements are valid for the entire performance year.
2. All fees and expenses, as outlined in the fee schedule for each group, should be paid on time. Students desiring alternative payment arrangements should request such through the auxiliary coordinator and band director.
3. Uniforms should be kept neat and clean. All supplies and props purchased with group general funds shall be the property of the organization and shall be turned in at the end of each year/season. Any repair or replacement costs to these items will be the responsibility of the member. Items (practice shorts, shirts, etc.) purchased with designated funds collected from the members for that purpose shall remain the property of the member.
4. Members are expected to comply with the Sylacauga City Code of Conduct, all Sylacauga High School and Sylacauga High School Band rules and regulations as well as all items listed in this constitution.
5. Members are expected to represent Sylacauga High School in a positive manner at all times. Behavior unbecoming to a member of the ensemble will not be allowed. The use of controlled substances including alcohol and tobacco on or off campus will result in dismissal.
6. To maintain eligibility, each student must adhere to the academic and remediation guidelines outlined in the Sylacauga City Academics Policy. The band director and coordinator will work with each individual member to fulfill these requirements.
7. Second semester final averages will be the first grade check for newly selected members.
8. Members of the ensemble will sit together at all events unless otherwise instructed. No one outside of the current ensemble may sit within the group without permission from the sponsor or band director.
9. Hair, make-up, and uniformity of attire will be determined by auxiliary coordinator, director, and captains. Whatever captains model in regard to attire, will need to be repeated among the entire auxiliary group.
10. All ensemble members will share in the responsibility for keeping rehearsal areas clean and organized.
11. All ensemble members shall help to promote a positive team spirit by cooperating with other ensemble members, auxiliary coordinators, directors and parents.
12. All members of the Visual Ensemble will participate in all competitions during the year. The band director will select all competitions that the Aggie Band will participate in throughout the season.
13. Membership on the Majorette Line or Guard does not necessarily guarantee the right to perform at any given performance. Each member must meet the standards set by the auxiliary coordinator and director and may be required to sit out a performance if they have not successfully learned the routine.

## V. Transportation

1. Transportation to all events will be via Sylacauga City School buses, unless otherwise specified.
2. Parents may be called upon to provide transportation.
3. Students must ride to and from events with the group unless otherwise arranged with the auxiliary coordinator or band director in advance.
4. The only person a student may leave a performance with is the parent or legal guardian. To do this, two things must be done:
  1. A letter explaining why the student has to leave early, who they are leaving with, the current date, the date the early departure is needed, and signature by guardian to be turned in three days prior to performance.
  2. The parent/guardian must come and get the student from the group in the presence of the sponsor or director and sign them out on the bus list.
5. Persons who are not members of the ensemble or parent chaperones may not ride the bus unless requested by the auxiliary coordinator or band director.

## VI. Clinics and Camps

1. Clinics and camps will be announced as soon after tryouts as possible.
2. Clinic and camp costs are the responsibility of the ensemble member and should be paid prior to attending the event.
3. Attendance at clinics and camps is mandatory unless advance permission is granted by the auxiliary coordinator or director. If an ensemble member has an unexcused absence from clinic or camp, their performance status will be reviewed by the coordinator and band director.

## VII. Absences and Tardies

1. Absences and tardies hurt not only the individual ensemble member, but also the entire ensemble. Members are expected to be present and on time at all practices and performances. Excused absences would include personal illness (a doctor's excuse or parent note is required), death in immediate family, or special circumstances that have received prior permission from the sponsor or band director. Work is not an excused absence. Work schedules must be scheduled around all practices and performances. All attempts should be made to schedule doctor's appointments around practices and performances. Excuses should be submitted in writing to the auxiliary coordinator prior to the absence or tardy, except in cases of emergency.
2. Excessive absences and tardies may result in a non-performing status.
3. On the day of a game or activity, members must be present at school at least three (3) blocks in order to perform unless otherwise approved by the auxiliary coordinator or band director.

## VIII. Grades

1. Ensemble members must maintain a 70 overall average with no grade below 60 to retain her performance eligibility.
2. If minimum grades are not maintained the student will be notified of her probationary status. While on probationary status, the member may continue to participate in all events, but is required to participate in mandatory remediation as prescribed by the Sylacauga City Academics Policy.

## IX. Captains and Co-Captains

1. Captains and Co-Captains for each group are chosen by the auxiliary coordinator and band director. The following criterion will be used when making the selection: tryout scores, leadership ability, G.P.A., attitude, character, teacher recommendations, and the routine the candidate must choreograph and perform.



2. To be eligible for captain or co-captain for any ensemble group, members must have a minimum of one year's experience with Sylacauga's majorette line/guard.
3. Captains and Co-Captains are expected to show leadership abilities by setting a positive example in all areas for the ensemble including discipline, attitude, attendance, character, and ability.
4. Captains and Co-Captains should openly support the decisions of the sponsors and band director and promote a "team spirit" between members of the ensemble and other groups including the band, cheerleaders, and student body.
5. While the Captain and Co-Captain report directly to the auxiliary coordinator, they also must work closely and support the decisions of the other sponsors and band director. This should hold true in the performance arena as well as in practice or other group activities.
6. Captains and Co-Captains should be free of excessive school disciplinary problems, which will reflect on their position and the ensemble.

#### X. Uniforms

1. Uniforms will be selected by the auxiliary coordinator and the band director with input from captain and co-captains.
2. Ensemble members must pay for uniforms before they can be issued.
3. Ensemble members are responsible for cleaning and maintaining uniforms at all times.
4. Accessories and props are like uniforms. If lost or damaged, the ensemble member is responsible for the cost of repairs or replacement.

#### XI. Fees and Expenses

1. Required Expenses include: Common Expenses, ensemble expenses for each group in the ensemble, camp/clinic expenses, uniform expenses, uniform, etc.
2. Fees and expenses must be paid as scheduled to maintain performing status.
3. Credit for fees and expenses can be earned through participation in events organized through the band boosters.

#### XII. Discipline Plan

1. The following discipline plan is in place to encourage a well-organized and proficient ensemble. This plan holds true for all members in the ensemble, including captains and co-captains.
2. Non-Performing Status-This is a probationary period. If a student reaches this status, the parents will be notified by the auxiliary coordinator. Students are required to attend all practices and functions while at that status but will not be allowed to be in uniform.
3. Dismissal- Removal from the ensemble for the remainder of the year due to a failure to meet academic or behavioral standards. Any student dismissed from the ensemble will remain ineligible for one full year. Eligibility for participation in future years will be reviewed by the auxiliary coordinator and band director.
4. Excessive disciplinary issues will be dealt with on an individual basis and can result in dismissal.
5. Major Infractions- The following infractions are considered detrimental to the guard and will result in appropriate disciplinary action, including dismissal, determined by the auxiliary coordinator, band director and administration:
  - Leaving performance/practice without permission
  - Unexcused absence from rehearsal
  - Unexcused absence from performance
  - Vandalism/disrespect of someone's property
  - Failure to pay fees
  - Failure to attend band camp or auxiliary camp
  - Failure to abide by director/sponsor decisions
  - Use of drugs, alcohol or tobacco on or off campus
  - Fighting (physically or verbally)
6. All other discipline concerns will be dealt with on an individual basis.