MASCOT POLICY

PURPOSE

The LSUS mascot, Pete the Pilot, represents Louisiana State University in Shreveport and the Athletic Department of LSUS as an ambassador and entertainer at sporting and other approved events.

The mission of the mascot is to promote crowd interaction and school spirit.

Being a Mascot is a major personal commitment of one’s non-academic time and must be treated as a top priority. Necessary arrangements with work or other extra curricular expectations of one’s time must be made immediately following selection.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Enthusiasm
- Creativity
- Good physical condition
- Good interaction with children
- Responsibility
- Spontaneity
- Discipline

ELIGIBILITY

1. Enrolled as a full-time student (12 undergraduate credits or 10 graduate credits and must maintain this status while serving on the mascot team)
2. Maintain a 2.0 GPA at all times; progress may be checked by the Mascot Advisor at any time
3. Be in good physical condition
4. Be at least 5’8” and no taller than 6’4”
5. If at any time a member does not meet these qualifications, their membership may be terminated. If a Mascot is removed from the team for disciplinary reasons or voluntarily quits he/she will be ineligible to participate in tryouts for the following year’s team.

SELECTION PROCESS

1. Complete a mascot application
2. Interview with the Mascot Advisor and/or selection committee
3. Report to the HPE Building on the designated try-out date to be posted at the end of each Spring Semester.
a. Attire: Please wear a t-shirt (females may wear a sports bra), athletic shorts and athletic shoes under the costume for the performance. If your hair is long, it must be put up and secured.

b. Mascot candidates will perform a short skit to music. Props can be used; however, they must be approved by the Mascot Advisor. Candidates should incorporate music and characterization. Do not use any negative gestures in the skit – the idea is to boost the image of our mascot.

4. Candidates chosen to participate on the mascot team will be posted and/or notified.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE
1. The Mascot Advisor will oversee the Mascot program.

EXPECTATIONS
1. Athletic Functions
   a. Members of the mascot team will be present for all home basketball games.
   b. One mascot may travel to postseason championships.
   c. One mascot will be present at a designated number of other athletic sporting events to include; soccer, baseball, tennis and other sports that may be added.
   d. Special events – Special appearances may be made by a mascot at approved athletic functions.

2. Community and Campus Events
   a. The mascot may appear at; Week of Welcome, Fall Fest, Spring Fling, Tailgate Bash and other approved events.
   b. Paid appearances may be made by the Mascot, but all scheduling must be approved by the Mascot Advisor. Members of the Mascot Team may NOT volunteer for events without prior written approval.
   c. Charitable functions will be scheduled to enhance the image of the Mascot, but in strict moderation to avoid overwork.

3. Other Commitments
   a. Bi-weekly Meetings – All mascots will attend meetings with the Mascot Advisor every other week to build morale, develop consistency within the Mascot Program, schedule events and address issues or concerns.
   b. Mascots are required to attend a formal training session during the summer.
   c. Practices – A schedule for practices with the Pilot Line Dance Team will be established.

UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE
1. Because of the expense of the costume, team members should treat the costume with the utmost care at all times and properly clean the costume. Specific rules of care will be provided to all mascots at the beginning of the season.

2. Under absolutely no circumstance may the costume (or pieces thereof) be used for personal or recreational use. Violation could result in dismissal from the Mascot team.

3. If the costume is lost or damaged (beyond the normal wear-and-tear expected), the team member will be held responsible for the cost of the repairs and/or replacement.

4. The LSUS Student Activities office will be responsible for any costs associated with the upkeep and care of the Mascot costumes, Mascot uniforms and/or props.
ATTENDANCE
1. Participation in all practice sessions, team meetings, team projects, pep rallies, games, and all other activities as designated by the Mascot Advisor are required.
2. Unexcused absences will result in a warning, and if continued, may lead to a dismissal from the team.
3. If for any reason a mascot is unable to attend a function to which they are committed, he/she is responsible for finding another team member to replace them; the trade must be approved by the Mascot Advisor at least 24 hours prior to the event.

CONDUCT
1. Mascots serve as public relations ambassadors of Louisiana State University in Shreveport and must act accordingly. Any swearing, spitting, crude gesturing, fighting or otherwise lewd and inappropriate behavior will NOT be tolerated and may be grounds for suspension or immediate dismissal from the team. Mascots must NEVER initiate any inappropriate behavior.
2. Mascots may NOT, under any circumstance, consume alcohol or illegal drugs while in costume or within 24 hours of a performance. Conversation about alcohol or drug use while in uniform or while representing the University at a game/event is strictly prohibited. Violation will result in immediate dismissal from the team.
3. All NAIA and/or NCAA regulations regarding Mascots and game operations must be obeyed at all times.
4. The Mascot’s identity should be kept a secret at all times.
5. While in uniform, the mascot is not to speak under any circumstance.
6. The mascot will make every effort to be outgoing and friendly and to allow observers and fans to have a great time.

LIABILITY
1. Members must carry personal medical and vehicle insurance coverage. Proof must be submitted to the Mascot Advisor at the beginning of the season before the Mascot is declared eligible.
2. Excessive or risky stunts, as well as all props, must be cleared by the Mascot Advisor before an event.

I HAVE READ THE ABOVE POLICIES AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE REGULATIONS SET FORTH.

____________________________________________  Date________________