

WARREN TOWNSHIP CHEER & POM, N.F.P. CONSTITUTION

Article 1 Name and Purpose

I. Definition

Cheerleading/Dance is a unique combination of Athleticism, Entertainment and Leadership

II. Mission

Warren Township Cheer and Pom (WTCP) is dedicated to offering the opportunity to develop skills regardless of ability, to encourage friendships, teamwork and spirit, while promoting a positive self-image and attitude.

III. Government

The government of WTCP, N.F.P. shall be under the supervision of the Board of Directors. The WTCP Board of Directors shall meet monthly on the second Wednesday of each month. Duties of the Board of Directors are as follows:

To monitor execution of the By-Laws and Constitution, to create, oversee and amend policies.

Article 2 Membership

I. Squad Members

- Open to anyone in grades K through 8 with no limitations to race, creed, color, sex or national origin.
- Priority will be given to those residing in Warren Township and Warren Township High School District #121.

II. Junior Coach

- Any individual entering high school or older, interested in being a Junior Coach for a cheer/dance squad must submit an application by April 1st of the current year.
- All interested individuals may obtain an application from any member of the Board of Directors or from our website www.warrencheerandpom.org. Recommendations and interviews may be required.
- Selections for Junior Coach positions will be made by the Board of Directors in a closed executive session of the board.

III. Team Manager

- Any individual over the age of 21 interested in the position of Manager (Team Parent) must submit an application by April 1st of the current year.
- All interested individuals may obtain an application from any member of the Board of Directors or from our website www.warrencheerandpom.org. Recommendations and interviews may be required.
- Selections for Team Manager positions will be made by the Board of Directors in a closed executive session of the board.

IV. Registration

- A child of a current WTCP Board member, in good standing, interested in participating will automatically be placed in the program.
- Priority Registration will be offered to squad members from the previous year in good standing, excluding those who may have forfeited their spot from the previous year or have violated a WTCP policy. This process will only guarantee the child a spot in the program, but will not guarantee that they will be placed on the same squad Cheer or Dance as the previous year. All squad vacancies will be filled in the order they are received at Priority Registration. All siblings of Squad Members in good standing at the end of the previous season may also register for WTCP during Priority Registration.
- A copy of a birth certificate is required to participate.
- A lottery will take place to fill open positions which are not filled through priority registration. Those not chosen in the lottery will be placed on a waiting list in the order drawn at the lottery and will be contacted in that order in the event a vacancy occurs.
- All squads will be considered closed two weeks before uniform fitting.
- Maximum squad capacities are chosen by the Board of Directors according to available practice facilities and are subject to change.
- All Squad Members and their families are required to participate in WTCP's annual fundraiser or fundraiser buy-out option for the current season. **All fundraising obligations must be fulfilled by the date designated in order for the participant to be able to attend competitions and be considered for Priority Registration for the following season.**

V. Squad Divisions

Squads will be determined based on grade level, IRCA guidelines and demand.

Article 3 Attendance

The WTCP program is based on a full squad participation system. Participants who are consistently absent or tardy for practices risk the safety of other participants and will have their position within the squad reallocated. Any participant that misses more than 6 practices during the season OR more than 2 games during the football season will become ineligible to compete with their squad during the current competition season as well as lose their priority registration for the following season.

Each participant must also turn in any required documents and fulfill their fundraising commitment, as well as any outstanding monies owed to WTCP by the designated date to be able to compete in the current season and to be considered for Priority Registration for the following year.

Article 4 Practices and Games

I. Practice Expectations (Squad Members/Junior Coaches/Managers)

- Practice is required
- Never leave their squad without permission and escort
- Accept constructive criticism with a positive attitude
- Give 100% effort at every practice and game
- Water only. No other food, beverage or gum
- No friends/siblings/parents/coaches' (team manager') children at practices

II. Practice Attire (Squad Members/Junior Coaches)

- Practice attire will consist of an approved t-shirt and shorts. All participants will wear spankie shorts under their practice shorts.
- No jewelry of any kind
- Hair must be pulled up and off of face
- Athletic/Dance Shoes required at all practices. WTCP approved shoes for the current season **must** be worn once indoor practice begins.
- If a Junior Coach is coming from or going to work or school function before or after a WTCP function, the Junior Coach may dress according to their work/function dress code.
- All attire is subject to approval of the WTCP Board of Directors.

III. Games (Squad Members/Junior Coaches/Team Managers)

- Games are mandatory.
- All Cheer and Pom Squads are to arrive 15 minutes prior to the game start time.
- Be in Full Uniform. Socks must match the color of the appropriate game shoe. Hair needs to be securely up and off the face with bow in hair. No jewelry, no long nails.
- If a squad member is deemed to be unfit to perform by a Junior Coach, Team Manager or Board Member whether due to injury, inadequate knowledge of cheers or dance, or any other issue the member may not perform at the discretion of the Junior Coach, Team Manager or Board Member.
- Wear proper cold or rainy weather attire when needed. Solid Warren blue or black pants may be worn under the uniform skirt.
- **We will cheer in the rain unless conditions make it unsafe for the squad members.**
- No food, gum or drinks while cheering. Water can be consumed during scheduled breaks given at the game. This is mandated by WTHS for use of the football field.
- Cheerleaders/Pom athletes must not talk to or distract the football players during the game.

IV. Tardy/Absenteeism- All Squad Members, Junior Coaches and Team Managers are expected to attend all practices and games and to be on time.

- Anyone arriving more than 5 minutes after the designated beginning practice time will be considered late. Squad members must stay for the entire practice in order for the practice to count towards Competition and Priority Registration.
- Fifteen minutes before the designated game time is considered being on time. Anyone arriving less than 15 minutes before the designated game time will be considered late. Squad members must stay for the designated time of the game that the entire squad is cheering in order for the game to be counted towards Competition and Priority Registration.
- Any Squad Member picked up more than 10 minutes after the end of a practice or game is considered a late pick up.
- Parents of the Squad Members **must** contact the Team Manager if their daughter is going to be late or absent from a game or practice.

V. Infractions of Rules for Practice, Games, and Tardy/Absenteeism

- 1st Occurrence = Director and/or Team Manager/Squad Member and Parent discussion, Incident Report sent home and documented by the Manager.
- 2nd Occurrence = Director and/or Team Manager/Squad Member & Parent discussion, Incident Report sent home and documented by the Manager.
- 3rd Occurrence = Possible loss privilege(s) at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Loss of practice/game where the infraction occurred being counted towards Priority Registration.
- All Incident Reports must be signed and returned before participant continues to participate in practices or games.

VI. Infractions of Rules for Practice Attire

- 1st Occurrence: Child will receive an Incident Report with a warning and documented by the Manager.
- 2nd Occurrence: Child will be given the appropriate piece of clothing to wear and the family will be billed for the cost with an Incident Report documented by the Team Manager.
- 3rd Occurrence: Child will receive an Incident Report and will be removed from competition.

Article 5 Code of Conduct

I. Squad Members

- Must abide by the rules and regulations of WTCP and follow the Warren Township Code of Conduct for Players of Youth Sports.
- All Squad Members must respect safety as their highest priority.
- Must accept the position given in the routine with dignity, take your position seriously, know your teammates are counting on you, and do your best.

The following infractions will result in permanent dismissal from the program:

- Gross insubordination or lack of respect to authority including Junior Coaches, Managers and Directors.
- Fighting with physical contact of any kind or the threat of any type of violence.
- Theft
- Use/Possession of cigarettes, alcohol or drugs.

II. Junior Coaches

- All Junior Coaches are required to sign and agree to the Coach Code of Conduct for Warren Township Youth Sports.
- Must abide by the rules and regulations of WTCP.
- Be on time and be prepared. Meet deadlines for practice progression and competition
- Do not leave practice early.
- Attend all scheduled practices including extra competition practices, parades and pep rally.
- Attend all scheduled games including assigned playoff and championship.
- Must contact the Manager for the squad if you are going to miss practice

The following infractions will result in permanent dismissal from the program:

- Gross insubordination or lack of respect to authority including Team Managers and Directors.
- Fighting with physical contact of any kind or the threat of any type of violence.
- Theft
- Use/Possession of cigarettes, alcohol or drugs.

III. Team Managers

- All Team Managers are required to sign and agree to the Coach Code of Conduct for Warren Township Youth Sports
- Must abide by the rules and regulations of WTCP.
- Be on time and be prepared. Meet deadlines for practice progression and competition.
- Do not leave practice early.
- Attend all scheduled practices including extra competition practices, parades and pep rally.
- Attend all scheduled games including assigned playoff and championship.

The following infractions will result in permanent dismissal from the program:

- Gross insubordination or lack of respect to authority including Junior Coaches and Directors.
- Fighting with physical contact of any kind or the threat of any type of violence.
- Theft
- Use/Possession of cigarettes, alcohol or drugs at a WTCP function.

IV. **Parents**

- Must sign Warren Township's Code of Conduct policy before your child can participate with WTCP.
- Must abide by the rules and regulations of WTCP.
- Will respect practice and game time schedule; tardiness and late pick-up is unacceptable and disrespectful to our volunteers!
- Will walk athlete to practice space and game and will make direct contact with Team Manager when picking up athlete from practice or game before leaving the area.
- Will contact a Team Manager if their child will not be attending a practice or game.
- Will inform Junior Coaches and Team Managers of any physical disability, or ailment that may affect safety.
- Will encourage following the rules and resolving conflicts without hostility.
- Will encourage respect of Junior Coaches and Team Managers authority during all practices, games and competition.
- Will refrain from coaching squad members during practices and games. Any concerns should be privately relayed to a Team Manager or Director as to not disturb the squad.
- Will turn in required forms, paperwork and/or funds etc on time. If you fail to comply, your athlete may be asked to sit out of practice/games until paperwork or funds are returned to a director.
- Will refrain from approaching a Junior Coach with their concerns. Parents may discuss concerns with the Team Manager and/or Director for their squad. **Failure to follow this procedure will result in your child missing the next practice and game (counting as an absence) with the possibility of permanent dismissal from the WTCP program.**
- Must volunteer a minimum of one event per child during each season. If WTCP hosts a competition, parents will be expected to volunteer an additional amount of time for this event. Those who wish not to volunteer will be assessed an annual volunteer fee.
- **COMPETITION ETIQUETTE:** No parent may approach an official during or after an IRCA sanctioned event. If a parent has a question, concern or complaint about the team's performance, they **MUST** contact a WTCP Board Director(s) with their question/concern/complaint. The WTCP Board Director(s) will then contact the IRCA Tournament Director about the question/concern/complaint. Failure to follow this chain of command puts the entire WTCP program in jeopardy of disqualification, suspension or banning of our organization with the IRCA.

The following infractions will result in permanent dismissal from the program:

- Gross insubordination or lack of respect to authority including coaches, team parents and directors.
- Fighting with physical contact of any kind or the threat of any type of violence.
- Theft
- Use/Possession of cigarettes, alcohol or drugs at a WTCP function.

Participation may be terminated by action of the Board of Directors, by a majority vote, of those Directors present at the duly constituted meeting. All Board Members shall have the authority to discipline, eject, or suspend any participant on the spot when the conduct of such person is considered detrimental to the best interest of the squads and the organization. If a participant is terminated or withdraws voluntarily from the WTCP program, no refunds of any funds paid to WTCP will be given to said participant and/or family.

Adopted August 2017