

AYFL Cheerleading - Code of Conduct

Cheerleading should be fun for athletes, coaches, and parents.

All of our children should be allowed to develop a love for each sport they participate in while also learning the value of sportsmanship. With this in mind, AYFL Cheer firmly believes that all parents and coaches play an important role in our programs, and that young athletes learn valuable lessons by watching the behaviors and attitudes of the adults who supervise their activities. Conversely, AYFL Cheer also recognizes that sports are competitive by nature. Therefore, the AYFL Cheer Program and Board pledges to create a positive learning experience where our children learn the importance of teamwork and good sportsmanship, while at the same time learn to cheer, stunt, tumble, dance, and respect the sport.

The "Practice Good Sportsmanship Policy" are in place to help support our players, coaches and parents.

Parents and Coaches Code of Conduct:

I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care and encouragement for my child, and other children, participating in youth sports by following this Parents' and Coaches' Code of Conduct. I also understand that this is a "Zero Tolerance" policy.

- 1. I will have my child arrive on time for all games and practices and let the coach know in advance if my child will be absent, arriving late or leaving early. Missing all practices prior to a game will result in your child missing the game.**
- 2. I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, and officials at every game, practice, competition, or other youth sports event.**
- 3. I will not engage in any type of physical or verbal abuse of any official, player, coach, spectator, or judge at any time.**
- 4. I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my child, and other children, ahead of my personal desire to win, and keep in mind that the game is for our children - not for adults.**
- 5. I will insist that my child, and other children, play in a safe and healthy environment.**
- 6. I will support coaches and officials working with my child, in order to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for all.**
- 7. I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and will refrain from their use at all youth sports events.**
- 8. I will insist that my child treat other players, coaches, fans, and officials with respect, regardless of race, sex, creed, or ability.**
- 9. I will first contact the Coach and report any type of physical or verbal abuse or non-fair play that I witnessed. If I believe that our Coach has not corrected the situation I will reach out to the Cheer Director.**
- 10. Any concerns about how the league is run, how coaches are coaching or how referees are officiating should be referred to the Cheer Director first, and if not satisfied, then to the AYFL Board.**
- 11. I understand that I will allow a 24 hour cool off period if a situation arises that I am unhappy with. After 24 hours I will first contact the Coach; if the issue is not resolved then I will contact the Cheer Director.**

12. I understand that any harassment, verbal, physical, mental or emotional abuse to any volunteer and/or Coach will result in my (and possibly my cheerleaders) immediate discharge from the program. There is Zero-tolerance for this behavior. Once discharged from the program you will not be eligible for reimbursement and will not be allowed to re-register in future seasons.

13. I understand that if my child misses practices that she/he may not cheer in the upcoming game(s).

I have read and understand the Code of Conduct as described above. I am aware that any failure to abide by this Code of Conduct will subject myself (and my child) to suspension or discharge permanently from all AYFL Cheer activities. I agree that all decisions in these matters made by the AYFL Board are final and binding.

In addition, I understand that failure to accept this Code of Conduct will make my child ineligible to participate in any AYFL Cheer activity for the calendar year.

Parents and Cheerleaders:

The following is a list of general rules that we expect cheerleaders to observe. Please read them carefully. Most of these rules are established for the safety of the cheerleaders, and the remainder instituted in the interest of fairness to all participants. We want the girls to have fun being cheerleaders, and we will also teach them commitment and responsibility toward a TEAM effort.

Any questions, problems or concerns are expected to be addressed in a private setting, at an appropriate time, with your child's coach. It should not be done during practice, game, or competition, and not in front of any other child or parent. Please see 24 hour Cool Off above in the Code of Conduct section.

PRACTICES

Your Cheer Coach will be using their preferred method to communicate. Please use this method to communicate back to them. Once all practice and game schedules have been finalized they will be given to you by your squads coach.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is critical to the success of each team. Routines/stunts cannot be learned and performed if the full squad is not in attendance from the first practice on. Cheerleaders are encouraged to come to practice even if they cannot cheer due to an injury or minor illness. This will enable the athlete to still learn what's new and not have a recorded absence.

Missing practices the week of/prior to a game will result in your cheerleader sitting that game out. Practices that are canceled due to weather do not count. It is critical that your child attends practices in March (for Spring) & August (for Fall) (this is the time they learn their routines and are placed appropriately for various stunts). If you foresee a problem, speak to your coach immediately. A phone call is required to the coach if your child is going to miss practice or games.

PRACTICE AND GAME RULES

- Cheerleaders should bring water only to practices and games (**no food, chewing gum** or other beverages).
- Practice time – Practice will begin promptly. Coaches and staff appreciate prompt drop off and pick up. Again any missed practices will/could result in your cheerleader not cheering in an upcoming game(s).
- Please check with your cheerleader after practice for any news coming home.
 - No jewelry, tattoos, nail polish or artificial nails or glitter at games or competitions.
 - Hair should be pulled back off the face securely and should be off the shoulders for all practices, games and competitions.
- Anyone wearing glasses must have them secured to their head using a short elastic band. This is a required piece of safety equipment.
- Siblings are not allowed to participate in practice or games. It is neither safe nor fair for the children on the squad. Please refrain from allowing siblings to distract the squad (children should not be running in practice area).
- Parents should also refrain from interacting with their child during practice and games. • Anyone caught fighting or stealing is subject to dismissal.
- Alcohol, tobacco and drug use is prohibited. Violators are subject to dismissal.

GAME DAY RULES

Cheerleaders are required to cheer at football games. Game schedules include games on Saturdays or Sundays (depending on the season). Attendance is monitored and will impact the ability of both the individual cheerleader and the squad as a whole, to participate in any or all competitions.

- Call your coach to report an absence at least 2 hours prior to the game
- Cheerleaders must arrive early to games; Squad Coaches will determine the times. At any function all cheerleaders are required to stay with their coach and team at all times. Once reporting to your coach you may never leave the team without permission. ZERO TOLERANCE WILL APPLY. You must wear your complete uniform to all games
- Hair should be pulled back and off shoulders. Glasses secured with elastic strap.
- No jewelry.
- Please show courtesy and respect toward all people. Should you encounter a problem, notify your coach immediately.
- Cheerleaders will kneel or squat when a player from either team is hurt on the field.
- Cheerleaders will not talk during the National Anthem
- Cheerleaders will always give 100% of their attention to their coach and the game.

ATTIRE

T-shirt, shorts and cheer shoes (or Solid white sneakers) are required for EVERY practice. Adjustments for weather are allowed. Full AYFL uniform required for EVERY game, event and/or competition.

ATTITUDE

Cheerleaders are expected to demonstrate courtesy and cooperation to spectators, opponents, opponents' coaches, volunteers and each other at all times. Should a cheerleader display an attitude contrary to the one stated above, a squad coach will approach them in private. If after this discussion their attitude doesn't improve, they will meet with the Cheer Director and their parents for a possible solution. Should there be no change; the situation will be brought before the AYFL Board for discussion of probable cause for dismissal from the squad.

Please print, sign and return this portion of the form at Uniform Pick Up

My child and I have read the 2022 AYFL Cheer Code of Conduct together. We understand the guidelines and expectations and agree to .

Athlete's name _____

Team _____

Parent's name (print)

Parent's signature _____

Date _____