

Spain Park Youth Sports Youth Cheerleading By-laws

Mission Statement

The Spain Park Youth Cheer Program is dedicated to inspiring and encouraging a fun positive experience which builds self-esteem, promotes good sportsmanship, and develops skills while fostering an environment of teamwork.

Participation in youth athletics plays a vital role in the development of children. Aspects of teamwork, dedication, discipline, self-esteem, and fair play all contribute to the growth of our youth. It is a privilege to be part of this process and our goal is to provide a quality program that aids in this development.

We believe that structure and open communication makes for a better experience in the program. All volunteers will be mentored on the philosophy of children's sports, basic skills, injury prevention, practice organization, and much more.

As adults we sometimes forget the most important thing, FUN! Children play sports to have fun! It allows them to improve their skills, find success, and experience failure in a safe environment. These experiences are what we should focus on, and it must be a cooperative effort between directors, volunteers, and parents. Through working together we can raise the standards for youth sports, and return to the notion that participation in organized sports is above all else, FUN!

Go Jags!

Allison Barton, Cheer Director
Lexie Watkins, Assistant Cheer Director

Spain Park Youth Cheerleading

I. Good Sportsmanship Agreement

By participating as a participant, parent, coach or spectator I hereby pledge to encourage youth cheer in a positive manner. I will remember that youth sports are for the kids!

II. Goals and Objectives

The goals and objectives for Spain Park Youth Cheerleading Program are:

- A. To ensure the safety of our participants
- B. To offer participation opportunities regardless of race, creed, religion, ability, or socio-economic status
- C. To teach basic cheer fundamentals and skills

III. General Participation Rules and Regulations

A. Spain Park Youth Cheerleading is a team sport designed for grades 1st-6th grades. No experience required and no tryouts to make a team.

- 1. Participants will be placed on squad according to age/grade entering fall of current year.
- 2. No participant will be allowed to cheer any level except that which they are placed.
- 3. All squads will be capped at 30 cheerleaders/NO Exceptions!

B. Head coaches and assistant coaches have been chosen and positions have been filled by the Cheer Director, Assistant Cheer Director, and Spain Park Youth Sports Board for the season. Since head coaches are accountable for all communication with the director, only head coaches will be responsible for communication with the parents.

C. Practices are held once a week and attendance is expected. If your cheerleader participates in competition there will be added practices prior to competition. Family emergencies and sickness will excuse your cheerleader from practice. Head coaches will determine practice day, location, and time.

D. Football games are once a week with some exceptions. Your cheerleader will be expected to be game-day ready on the sideline 30 minutes prior to game time. Our teams travel throughout the Birmingham Metro area. Football schedules are not released until the end of August. Games can be scheduled for Monday, Tuesday or Thursday nights.

E. Early and basic stunting skills will be introduced at cheer camp to 4th, 5th, and 6th grade participants only. They will learn the correct technique from the SPHS cheerleaders at camp.

IV. Registration

Youth cheerleading registration will begin April 1st and will remain open for 6 weeks or until a squad is capped at 30. All participants will register through hoovereast.com. Registration fee will be nonrefundable and due upon registration. This fee includes:

- a. Youth Cheer Camp
- b. Cheer Season t-shirt
- c. Pictures
- d. Medal

Each cheerleader will also purchase a megaphone through the Cheer Director. They will use the same megaphone each season, and it can be resold if they so choose.

Uniforms will be purchased through Varsity. There will also be a uniform resale. The resale will take place through Facebook. Please join the Spain Park Youth Rec Cheer Facebook page.

There will be 2 dates for uniform fittings (one in April and one in May). You **MUST** attend one of these dates if you need to purchase a new uniform and/or cheer accessories. The fittings will take place in the Hoover East Boardroom.

V. Competition Participation

Competition participation is voluntary. The 4th, 5th and 6th grade teams will be the only squads participating. These 3 squads may compete in one or two competitions during the cheer season. Competition requires extra practice and

fees. The head coach should be notified by June 1st if your cheerleader is NOT participating in competition.

VI. Participant Code of Conduct

- a. Participants will listen to their coaches and be respectful to all
- b. Participants will take care of their uniforms and park facilities
- c. Participants will avoid taunting or belittling their teammates and opponents
- d. Participants will show good sportsmanship at all times
- e. Participants will not make cheerleading a priority over schoolwork or family
- f. Participants will refrain from horseplay and dangerous activities in which they may become hurt
- g. Participants will be respectful of arrival times, practice and games
- h. CHEERLEADERS will participate for the love of cheer and competition and not to win at all costs
- i. Cell phone use is not permitted during games/practices/competitions. All cell phones should be silenced and kept in cheer bags.

VIII. Parents and Spectator Code of Conduct

In order for a program to be truly successful, it takes the cooperation of everyone involved. Parents and spectators have the following expectations when participating in the Spain Park Youth Cheer program.

- a. Parents should show unwavering support, including positive reinforcement.
- b. Parents have a responsibility to acknowledge coach's volunteer their personal time to spend it with their child. They need you to be supportive and respectful of their decisions and not undermine their efforts.
- c. It is essential that parents and spectators report abusive behavior or any other situation that needs to be addressed to the program director.
- d. Personal gain and satisfaction should not be derived from a child's performance. Competition and taunting between parents is not acceptable. Parents/spectators have a responsibility to other parents!

PLEASE REMEMBER... THIS IS FUN! THESE ARE KIDS! COACHES
VOLUNTEER!

This is to acknowledge that I have received a copy and have read Spain Park Youth Cheerleading Bylaws for the 2024 season. I understand it contains important information on the programs policies, procedures, regulations, and benefits. I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to familiarize myself with the material in the Bylaws and that my conduct will be governed by its contents.

Participant Name

Grade entering

Parent/Guardian Printed Name

Parent/Guardian Signature_____ Date_____