

YOUTH CHEERLEADING RULES / POLICIES

SECTION A: PURPOSE

1. The purpose of the SCPRD cheer program is to provide a wholesome recreational activity for girls between the ages of 5 – 12, that will help them to learn the basic fundamentals of cheering. This program is designed for the following purposes:
 - a. To help participants to learn very elementary skills of cheering. As they progress through the age divisions, their skills should improve to the point that many of our older cheerleaders should be ready to cheer at the middle school level.
 - b. To help participants develop self discipline and build positive attributes such as teamwork, respect for authority and good sportsmanship
 - c. To teach the benefits of positive attitudes and lifting the spirits of others no matter the odds.
2. The SCPRD is the governing authority for the cheer program. Mrs. Priscilla West is the Cheer coordinator and a full-time employee of the SCPRD. The rules below define our local program.

SECTION B: COACHING REQUIREMENTS

1. A cheer coach should be a person of high moral character and a respected member of the community. All potential cheer coaches must pass a criminal background check before becoming a cheer coach.
2. A cheer coach should have the basic knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of cheerleading.
3. Cheer coaches should be available for practices every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 5:30 – 7:00 throughout the season.
4. A coach should conduct themselves in a manner that is exemplary and should NEVER use profanity, alcohol or tobacco in the presence of their cheerleaders.
5. A cheer coach must never incite participants or parents by criticizing game officials, the opposing team, departmental staff or a judge.
6. A cheer coach should try, to the best of their ability, to keep all cheerleaders interested in the program by establishing fun, organized, informative practices. They should at all times allow everyone on the squad to be involved in the activity and show each member of the squad an equal amount of attention.

SECTION C: LEAGUE RULES / REGULATIONS

1. The age divisions for cheer are: 6 & Under, 8 & Under, 12 & Under. The age control date is September 1st of the current year. A cheerleader's age on August 31st is her cheer age for the season.
2. It is required that all cheer squads cheer at each of their teams events or games.
3. All uniforms will be purchased by the SCPRD. No team may alter or improve upon their uniform in any way.
4. Practice sessions should never last more than 90 minutes. Practice times are available on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30PM – 7:00PM. Teams should schedule their practices during these times. The SCPRD requires that all teams practice at least twice per week. The SCPRD also does NOT allow practice on Wednesdays.
5. ALL participants MUST be registered through the SCPRD and the waiver form must be signed by the parent or guardian.
6. Any coach discovered to have an illegal participant will be suspended for the remainder of the season.
7. Any coach who's behavior is inappropriate or who does not promote positive morals will be suspended from the program.
8. Teams will be assigned by the cheer coordinator. The only trades allowed after the team assignments will be to correct any office errors of placing a sibling on the squad that cheers for another sibling. There will be no considerations given for carpool reasons, neighborhoods, schools, etc.
9. All cheers must be positive in nature. No profane language or gestures are allowed.
10. Dance moves should be in good taste and reflect positive moral values.
11. Any dispute or concerns should be directed to Mrs. Priscilla West; Cheer Coordinator.

SECTION D: CHEER COMPETITION

- 1. A local cheer competition shall be held each year, prior to the Turkey Bowl in Tifton. All Cheer Squads are required to participate in this competition. Other areas may be invited to participate as well.**
- 2. The winner of the cheer competition will be eligible to participate in the cheer competition at the Turkey Bowl if they so desire.**
- 3. Rules and format of the cheer competition can be obtained by contacting the cheer coordinator.**
- 4. Every effort will be made to get judges for the cheer competition who are respected members of the community and who have no affiliations with individual cheerleaders.**