

Stingers Cheer Welcome Letter

Welcome to the Wayne Highlands Youth Football Organization (WHYFO) cheerleading program. Please review this entire document with your child. When you enroll your child in our program she/he will become part of a team that depends on everyone to be successful. Be sure that you and your child can make this commitment. We count on your child to be at practices, games, clinics and competition. Because it is time consuming, this sport may not be for everyone. However, if your child loves to cheer, loves to have fun, and wants to be an integral part of a team, then this is the right program for her/him. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Heather Reining, Cheerleading Coordinator at (570)209-4147, or Cassie Miller, Assistant Cheerleading Coordinator at (570)840-1874, anytime throughout the season. We look forward to an exciting and fun-filled season with you and your child!

INFORMATION:

All information to keep you up-to-date such as schedules, directions to fields, fundraising, and any upcoming events can be found on our website: leagues.bluesombrero.com/whyfo or on our Facebook Page: Stinger Nation. We will also be using the GroupMe App for individual squad information.

TEAM PLACEMENT:

The grade of your cheerleader as of September 1, 2023 will determine which squad she/he will be placed in and is set forth by the ACCJFL by-laws. I-squad is K-2nd grade, C-squad is 3rd & 4th grades, B-squad is 5th & 6th grades, and A-squad is 7th & 8th grade.

UNIFORMS:

WHYFO provides a uniform consisting of a vest, skirt, warm up jacket, one pair of socks, and one bow. Any lost or damaged pieces will be YOUR financial responsibility. You are responsible to keep your uniform CLEAN!! (Wash & hang dry) You will be required to purchase the following items to complete your uniform: cheer sneakers, cropped top, bloomers/black bike shorts, black leggings; additional socks and bows may also be purchased (sneakers, socks, and bows are yours to keep) Uniform handout dates are June 10th and June 24th. Uniform hand-in date is TBA, depending upon the playoff schedule.

FUNDRAISING:

Each child is encouraged to actively participate in all WHYFO fundraising functions. This enables the organization to keep the registration cost down for your children to participate in the sport.

COMPETITION:

All squads will be attending the annual ACCJFL Cheerleading Competition, this is a MANDATORY competition for all organizations. This year Old Forge will be hosting and the competition date is Saturday, September 23rd with a rain date of Saturday, September 30th. We realize that some families have vacations planned well in advance, if this is you, and your child will be unable to attend the competition, we ask that you make your child's coach aware as soon as possible! All practices 2 weeks prior to competition are MANDATORY and additional practices may be added, up to 5 nights and Saturdays if needed, this will be done at the discretion of the coaches and coordinator. This pertains to all squads. More information regarding competition will be available following the start of the season.

PRACTICES:

It is extremely important to attend all practices and games! If one person is missing it throws the entire squad off. However, we do realize emergencies/illnesses occur and in that case we ask that you please contact your child's coach immediately so we do not worry about them and we can account for their absence for routines. Cheerleaders are to arrive within 10 minutes of the start of practice and in

appropriate attire, ie. athletic shorts/leggings, t-shirt/wide-strapped tank top, sneakers. (no jeans, jewelry, flip flops, crop tops or "spaghetti strap" tank tops) Hair must be pulled back, fingernails kept at sport length, cheer sneakers on and come with plenty of water. No gum or candy allowed!

Parents are asked to arrive within 10 minutes to the end of practice to sign your child out and get any pertinent info from the coach or team mom. If someone other than yourself will be picking up your child please let the coach know. (Only an adult may sign a child out)

Practices will be held behind the track by the softball field until the start of school. After school starts practices will be held on our practice field above the HHS parking lot next to the Stinger Shed (red building). Please see your coach for all practice times.

First day of practice will be Monday July 17th. Practice times and location will be announced prior to July 17th.

ATTENDANCE:

As stated above, attendance at practice is crucial, especially as we start working on stunts. We realize that emergencies and life situations happen, and we will be as accommodating as possible. In the event that your cheerleader misses a night of stunt practice, she/he will still be able to cheer, but will not be able to stunt (base, back or fly). This is for the safety of the individual and the squad as a whole. If your cheerleader misses more than 1 night of practice in one week for a non-emergency, without prior notice, she/he will be benched for that weeks game.

GAMES:

Cheerleaders should arrive 30 minutes prior to their game time. They must be in full uniform with hair up (all extra gear is to be in their cheer bag with them at all games) Please be sure your child eats prior to the game as eating during the game is highly discouraged. Cheerleaders must come with plenty of water. All cheerleaders and their parents are asked to help work at the concession stand and/or sell 50/50 raffle tickets for home games. In the event we do not have an A-team for football the A-squad cheerleaders will be cheering with the B-squad. Please see your coach or team mom for all arrival and game times.

CLINICS:

The choreography clinic is mandatory for everyone participating in competition on C, B, and A squads. This is when they will really nail down their routine for competition. The I-squad (K-2nd) will learn their routine during the week at practice, an additional day or 2 of practice may be added for a week or so just until they learn the routine. The choreography clinic date is Saturday August 26th. More information regarding the clinic will be available at a later date.

CHEER CAMP:

Stingers cheer camp is optional, but strongly encouraged! The date for cheer camp this season is Saturday July 22nd from 10 am - 2 pm and will cost \$20 per participant. More information about cheer camp will be available separately.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION:

We will use the "3 strikes and you're out" policy. Following a verbal warning, your child may receive a strike for any of the following reasons but is not limited to: disrespect towards coach/teammates, inappropriate/forgotten practice wear/uniform for any event, having a bad attitude, use of inappropriate language, unsportsman-like conduct, gossip about fellow teammates, or disruptive behavior. Any use of drugs, alcohol and/or smoking will result in immediate dismissal from the program.

This season is going to be great, and it couldn't happen without all of our players and cheerleaders!