

2020 Wolcott Youth Football & Cheer Association (WYFCA)
Cheerleader Rules

1. **REGISTRATION:** When possible registration will take place each year in the spring as deemed by the WYFCA Board of Directors or Executive Board. Registration will be held online only with 2-3 paperwork collection dates.
2. **TEAM PLACEMENT OF PARTICIPANTS:** Placement of participants on a team is based on grade and age using guidelines set forth by the National organization or WYFCA governing bodies. A participant's placement on a team will be done after registration has finished. A team's roster will remain preliminary and not become final until it is reviewed by the WYFCA Board of Directors and/or Executive Board. In the case of multiple teams in a division, it is the WYFCA Board of Director's right to choose the player's method of placement on a roster.
3. **PRIMARY SPORT:** While we encourage our participants to be active in other sports, we do not recognize any other sport taking priority over WYFCA/Football program from August 1 until after the final competition of the season. The only accepted exception will be those who have a prior commitment to Little League Baseball or Softball and are involved in post-season play after August 1st. ALL cheer related obligations (practice, games, and competitions) will be viewed as priority functions over athletic or social activities.
4. **RESPECT:** (a) A child must always show respect towards coaches, teaching staff, and other members. (b) Always display good sportsmanship and manners to the organization, team members, and opposing teams.
5. **SPORTSMANSHIP:** (a) You must remember that you are part of a team representing WYFCA and should always conduct yourself in a proper manner. (b) Always display good sportsmanship and manners to the organization, team members and opposing teams.
6. **DISCIPLINE:** As a Wolcott Eagles cheerleader, use of drugs, smoking, drinking, inappropriate language, or disrespect to our staff and/or opposing towns staff will not be tolerated. Good sportsmanship and spirit of cooperation are expected at all times. Discipline problems will be dealt with immediately. If there is a situation, the Head Coach will place a call to the parents of the child(ren) involved. The parents will be required to attend the next practice with their child and speak with Head Coach and Coordinator. This will be the only warning. If the problem continues, action will be taken to rectify the situation. Hazing, bullying, and/or disrespecting a member of your squad, a coach, or another town or their members either via email, text messages, any social media platform will result in immediate dismissal from the squad.
7. **ATTENDANCE:** (a) Attendance is mandatory. Children must attend all practices, games, and other activities. In case of illness your respective coach must be notified prior to the day's affected activities. (b) There will be a limit of 5 absences for the month of August. This includes vacations and sickness. Those children going on vacation must submit the dates in writing at the first practice in August. (c) When games begin (usually the last weekend in August) there will be a limit of 2 unexcused absences. **IN THE EVENT OF A 3RD UNEXCUSED ABSENCE, THE PARTICIPANT MAY BE REMOVED FROM THE COMPETITION ROUTINE.** (d) Absences will be monitored and dismissal from the squad could occur if the child exceeds the limit. In cases of serious illness consideration will be given. (e) Pail shakes, exhibition games, scheduled games, and playoff or championship games are to be attended. Coaches will count absences from these days. (f) A committee consisting of the Head Coach, Executive Board Member, and Cheer Coordinator will deal with any infractions of attendance rule accordingly.
8. **PRACTICES:** (a) At all practices, cheerleaders are required to wear t-shirt, shorts (not denim), socks, and support sneakers. (b) All children must arrive at the scheduled time and place specified by the coaching staff/team mom. (c) Be prompt picking up your child at the end of practice. Please be considerate, coaches are volunteering their time and have families to get home to. (d) All children must stay together as a squad and must not wonder off by themselves. Coaches must be made aware of a child that leaves their squad for any reason. (e) Constant tardiness will not be tolerated. Three (3) tardies will be considered an absence. Do not take any corrections by coaches at practice personally. Practices are to correct mistakes. You will feel more confident and comfortable if you know your routine.
9. **PRACTICE DURING AUGUST:** (a) Practice will begin the first week of August. (b) Practice begins at 6pm and ends at 8pm unless otherwise specified by your coach. (c) Practice days will be announced at the first practice by your coach. They may change week to week depending on your coaches' schedule. You may be asked to practice 3-5 days per week in August. Once school has opened, practice will not exceed 3 times per week. (d) Parents are not allowed on the field during practice but may sit on the bleachers/sidelines. (e) Parking is limited. (f) Inclement weather: Coaches will make every effort to notify you by 5pm of cancellations due to rain. If it rains during practice or it starts to drizzle before practice, please show up and we will notify you at the fields if practice is cancelled. If a thunderstorm occurs during practice, please pick up your child IMMEDIATELY at the field. (g) Please use repellent on your child for ticks/mosquitoes, etc. (h) This is primarily an outdoor program. If your child has severe allergies such as asthma or has limits to physical activity, a clearance from the child's doctor is required and the head coach must be advised. We are only equipped to provide basic first aid.
10. **INDOOR/COMPETITION PRACTICES:** (a) When school is in session, we will move our practice indoors. Time and place will be announced during the season. Practice time and location will depend on the availability of schools and gym time. Schedules may change week to week and will be announced. School functions take priority, so schedules sometimes must be shuffled. All practices are closed to parents. Practices will not exceed 3 times per week once school opens.
11. **GAMES AND ACTIVITIES:** (a) Schedules for practice are released by WYFCA by the end of August, or when available from governing bodies. Games are on Saturday or Sunday. (b) Addresses will be given for away games. If you are in doubt of the address given, call the police dept. of that town. It is your responsibility to be there one hour prior to scheduled game time. (c) Parents are responsible for transportation to and from activities, games, and practices. Two (2) tardies will count as one absence and two (2) absences may result in dismissal from the squad. Tardiness for the scheduled arrival time on game day will result in benching for the first quarter. (d) use of any electronic devices recording or communications (i.e. Cameras, Video Recorders, Cellphones, Drones, etc.) is strictly prohibited on the sideline on the field.
12. **COMPETITION:** There will be competitions towards the end of the season in which all of our squads compete. Once we have started competition practice, (once we go into schools) there are only 2 unexcused absences allowed. If a child has 2 unexcused absences during this time, she may remain a game day cheerleader but may not compete. A committee will review any absence due to injury, etc. If a child is not competing, they do not have to attend competition practice. We will need a commitment at the start of competition practice. Children choosing not to compete will attend game day practice (usually 1 hour before the game or whichever day the coach designates) Game day cheerleaders must touch base with their coach for any changes in schedule, notices, or game day directions by Thursday of that week.
13. **UNIFORMS:** (a) You are responsible for keeping the uniforms clean and in good condition. (b) Uniforms are to be hand or machine-washed on the gentle cycle, hang dry. Do not iron. This material tends to burn and melt easily. (c) Uniforms are the property of WYFCA and are not to be worn outside of league sponsored functions (i.e. Halloween). Cheerleaders are NOT allowed to eat or drink (except for water) while in uniform. An oversized shirt should be brought to games and functions to be worn over uniform during breaks. (d) No alterations are allowed without permission from the Cheer Coordinator. (e) Uniforms should be returned clean at the end of the season. Uniforms not returned or returned damaged will be the financial responsibility of the participant's parent/guardian. Failure to meet this responsibility will result in the participant being ineligible for roster to a team in the future until said obligation is met.
14. **SCHOLASTICS:** (a) Report cards from the previous year must be submitted showing passing grades. (b) We encourage our participants to strive for excellence in all they do, especially scholastics. And overall average of 70 must be maintained.
15. **CLOTHING REQUIREMENTS:** Cheerleaders will be required to purchase warm-up suits, practice shorts, and T-Shirt, competition sneakers, bodysuit, socks, briefs, cheer curls and hair bow(s). (b) For game day, the following will be needed: White athletic sneakers and apparel of the cheer director and/or coach's choice for cool or rainy days (i.e. wind suit).

16. **CHEERLEADER CONDUCT:** Fighting, intimidation, use of illegal substances (including cigarettes/vaping) or disrespect for authority during practices, games or any league event will result in the following: 1st offense-Benched (must attend) from remaining games and practices for that week without participating. 2nd offense- Removed from competition. 3rd offense- Suspension from program for remainder of the year with no refund.
17. **SPECTATOR CONDUCT:** All spectators will be expected to conduct themselves in a lawful manner at any WYFCA activity. Any unlawful or unethical conduct by anyone witnessed by 2 or more members of the Board of Directors (when possible) will result in expulsion from that venue for the duration of the day's events and could possible result in the banishment for the entire season from WYFCA activities. A mutual relationship of respect is maintained between all the leagues. Any conduct that could compromise that relationship will not be tolerated.
18. **FUNDRAISING:** Any and all fundraising must be approved by the WYFCA Board of Directors. ****Absolutely NO individual unapproved fundraising is allowed.** Each cheerleader is required to participate in several fundraising events throughout the season. Pail shakes, are a big part of fundraising and will be scheduled in Wolcott & surrounding towns. Parents are required to supervise their children and turn proceeds in after completion of their session. Typically, our pail shaking will be scheduled starting in late August.
19. **POST SEASON FUND RAISING:** If a cheerleader's team has a chance to advance to a regional or national competition, that child or their parents may be required to fundraise for traveling purposes. This may include pail shakes or any other type of fundraising activity that the WYFCA Board chooses. Funds raised in said fundraising will be place in a travel fund and distributed, based on the rules set by the WYFCA Board of Directors, to any team that qualifies for regional or national competitions and any additional expenses incurred in travel not covered from fundraising are the responsibility of the participant's parent or guardian.
20. **PARENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR POST SEASON TRAVELING TEAMS:** In some cases, competitions require travel and overnight stays in hotels. All expenses incurred in travel are the responsibility of the participants under the following circumstances: 1) during practices. The same rules apply away as at home. 2) During travel on team bus. 3)When at the competition venue (during games). At all other times, parents or guardians are responsible for their child's safety and conduct.
21. **PARENT VOLUNTEERING RESPONSIBILITY:** All parents are required to volunteer for a minimum of 5 hours per season, or equivalent to 2 games. Volunteer opportunities will be made available by the Volunteer Coordinator. Head Coaches/Team moms may reach out to parents to fill these opportunities by assigning parents. All hours will be tracked.
22. **REGISTRATION REFUNDS:** ***In the event that our 2020 season is cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all registrants will be issued a full refund, minus processing fees.***
 - 100% of Registration Fee will be refunded up until July 15th, 2020
 - 50% of registration fee will be refunded up until August 1st, 2020
 - NO refunds will be refunded after August 15th, 2020

The refundable amount will be provided in a check format and mailed to the address listed on the players/cheerleader's online registration record.
Refund amount will be determined upon the date of the request and status of distribution of Raffle Tickets.
Any online registration processing fees will not be refunded! Any requested refund must be submitted in a written format and submitted as follows:

 - o Mailing Address: WYFCA
P.O. Box 6047
Wolcott, CT 06716
Attn: Player Refund
 - o Email to: registration@wolcotteagles.com Subject Line: Player Refund

****No verbal player/cheerleader refunds will be processed!****

Refunds will be considered on a case basis if received after August 1st, with reason being limited to medical or moving residence and only after August 15th, positively no refunds will be considered for any reason.

*****REGISTRATION WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT SIGNED RULES*****

I have read the 2020 Wolcott Youth Football and Cheer Association; Football Program rules and regulations and I fully understand what is expected of me as a parent/guardian in the Wolcott Football Program.

Parent/Guardian Signature and Date

I have read the 2020 Wolcott Youth Football and Cheer Association; Football Program rules and regulations and I understand what is expected of me as a participant in the Wolcott Football Program

Participants' Signature and Date