



CHEER POLICY

2023

Section 1. Cheerleading Eligibility Rules

- A. The age of the participants, ages 4 through 13, shall be their age on or before August 1st of the year concerned.
- B. Try-outs for Cheerleading are not permitted.

Section 2. Cheerleading Rules

- A. Michigan High School Athletic Association Cheerleading Safety Rules shall apply except as hereinafter noted.
- B. The rules of the League will be binding on all members without exception.
- C. The assigned head coach, assistant coach and/or team mom should be present at all practices and games.
- D. The use of the opposing team's name in a negative manner in a cheer, banner or poster is prohibited.
- E. Cheerleaders are NOT to cheer when a football player is injured. Cheerleaders must kneel until the injured player leaves the field, or until otherwise directed by head coach.
- F. The sportsmanship and conduct of the cheerleaders, directors, coaches and/or designated persons will fall under the same rules, guidelines and penalties as the football players, unit directors and coaches.
- G. Cheerleading head coaches must be at least eighteen (18) years of age, must be approved through TAFL which requires a background check, completion of required training, and approved by the community director and/or cheer director. Assistant coaches can be under 18 but cannot assist without the head coach or other adult assistant coach present. No one will provide oversight, instruction, or supervision without approval.
- H. When teams are located on the same side of the football field, the cheerleading squads must be positioned between the 10 and 30 yard line on opposite ends of the field unless approved otherwise by the community football or cheer director.
- I. Cheerleaders shall be positioned between the 10 and 30 yard line during game play. Unique circumstances to cheer in another location should be approved by the TAFL community football or cheer director.
- J. Attendance-If two or more practices are missed in a week or 50% of practice time, an athlete is ineligible to participate in that week's game unless these absences are emergent and/or have a written order from a physician, and are excused by the coach/cheer director. If a cheerleader misses 5 or more practices in a season, they are ineligible to participate in competition, if they miss two or more practices or 50% of practice time in the two weeks prior to competition, they are ineligible to participate in competition. Repeated excessive tardiness will also be treated as an absence at the coach's discretion. If an athlete misses 50% of practice time in a month it is expected that the athlete will be an automatic termination from the program. Whenever possible, absences, late arrivals, and early departures should be communicated to the coach in advance of the event they will be tardy or missing. The attendance policy should be as consistent as possible throughout each community. The attendance policy may have an opportunity to change at any time and hold immediate with review and approval from community directors.