

Frequently Asked Questions - Cheer 2019

Q: What are the age requirements for the cheer program?

Players are eligible to cheer if they are entering 2nd through 8th grade.

Q: What is the cost to register and what does the fee include? When is registration?

The cheerleading registration fee is \$330 if you register by April 30. You must pay the registration fee in full by May 31st or there will be an additional \$25 fee. The cost increases to \$355 if you register between May 1 and May 31 (registration ends on 7/15). ***ALL registration is online*** - <http://www.newtownyouthfootball.org/site/> . Your child will receive a uniform for games and competitions that must be returned at the end of the season (an additional \$250 deposit check is required). They will also receive and keep bows, socks, cheer shoes and practice wear. Additional cheer apparel will be available to purchase.

Q: How and What paperwork needs to be handed in?

All paperwork needs to be handed in by July 31st. We will collect ALL completed paperwork at uniform fitting in June. We will communicate paperwork drop off opportunities in June and July for report cards. Please refer to the "NYF&C Cheer Forms Process" in the cheer tab of the website for detailed information. Don't forget report cards and medical consent with doctor's signature!

Q: When are uniform and sneaker fittings?

All fittings will be scheduled for June 4th and June 5th. Specific times will be sent out in May. Fittings are mandatory.

Q: What is the summer practice schedule?

Cheer practices will begin on August 5, 2019. For the three weeks of summer, all teams will practice Monday through Thursday (4 days) from 6:00PM to 8:30PM at Taylor Field behind Hawley Elementary School. All practices are mandatory. Please communicate with your Head Coach if you have a scheduled vacation or family commitment.

Q: What is the practice schedule once school starts?

Once school starts, we will be practicing indoors at NYA. Your practice schedule will depend on your assigned team. Practices are around 2 hours each. The younger teams practice twice per week (2nd through 5th grade). The older teams (6th through 8th grade) typically practice three times per week. Practice schedules will be finalized once teams are formed. All practices are mandatory. Practices may be added or extended prior to competitions.

Q: What is the attendance policy?

ALL practices, games, and competitions are mandatory. Cheerleading is a TEAM sport. The entire team relies on each other to learn the routine and to perform it safely. If you know your cheerleader will miss a practice, game or competition at any time during the season please let your coach know ASAP. After 3 unexcused absences it will be up to the coach and the VP of Cheer as to whether your child will be able to remain on the team.

Q: Do we cheer at games when it rains/snows?

If football is playing a game, we will be cheering. We will cheer in inclement weather. We will modify our cheers and half-time routine as necessary to ensure the safety of the cheerleaders.

Q: When and where are the football games?

Football games will start August 25th. We cheer at home games and away games depending on the football schedule. Most games are on Sundays, but some may be on Saturday. We will know the game schedule by mid-August. However, there can be changes throughout the season so flexibility is important. Home games are played on Taylor Field (behind Hawley), Treadwell, or at Newtown High School. Attendance at football games is mandatory. If your child cannot attend, you must inform the Head Coach. All cheerleaders are expected to be accompanied by an adult to football games. Please review the attendance policy.

Q: How long is the cheer season?

Football games start at the end of August and the regular season ends near the end of October. We will also cheer at any post season games and championships that continue through November, as necessary. Our competitions start in October and typically end around Thanksgiving. Our D8 team (2nd and 3rd grade) may not attend all competitions, but will still cheer for play off games. The cheer season will be extended if your team qualifies for the AYC National competition which is in Florida in mid-December.

Q: Will I need my child's original birth certificate for registration?

If your child participated in 2018, they do not need to provide a birth certificate. If your child is new to cheer, you will need to provide an original birth certificate with a raised seal AND a copy. Once the birth certificate has been validated in late August, the original will be returned to you and we will keep a validated copy.

Q: When and where are the competitions?

The 2019 Cheerleading Competition Season:

- October 19 - Shoreline Locals (North Haven High School)
- November 2 - CT States (New Haven)
- November 23 - New England Regionals (Tsongas Center @ UMASS, Lowell MA)

All cheerleaders are expected to compete unless arrangements are made in advance with your head coach. Teams must place 1st, 2nd, or 3rd at States to qualify for Regionals - D8 cheerleaders DO NOT attend Regionals.