

**Wythe County Parks & Recreation Department & Town of Wytheville Parks & Recreation
Cheerleading Rules and Regulations
2015**

- Cheerleading is open to all qualifying youth in third (3rd) through sixth (6th) grades.
- The number of cheerleading teams per school/location shall equal the number of football teams, with an exception that no cheerleading team shall have fewer than six (6) members per team.
- All waiver forms must be signed by a Parent or Legal Guardian before the participants may practice or participate in a game.
- **ALL ROSTERS, WAVIER FORMS, and BIRTH CERTIFICATES** (County & Bland teams **ONLY**) are due into the Department office **NO LATER** than 5:00 P.M. on **Thursday, August 8th.** Rosters **ONLY** for Town of Wytheville teams (Town Recreation Department will be responsible for collecting registration/waiver forms as well as birth certificates).
- Any child suspended from school grounds will not be allowed to participate in practices or games at any school location until the suspension is completed.
- Participants are encouraged to attend all practices in order to learn cheers and chants for games. Coaches need to check on participant(s)
- If practice attendance becomes a weekly issue. Please note that participants are excused from practices to attend doctor appointments, illness, or other scheduled school activities.
- If games are canceled due to inclement weather, the Wythe County Parks and Recreation Department will notify each Booster Club President or Athletic Director, and that person will be responsible for contacting each coach.
- The Wythe County Parks and Recreation Department does have a Facebook page, Twitter account and a cancellation line(276-223-4139); updates to schedule changes will be posted or recorded in these instances. We recommend all coaches sign up to follow us on Facebook and Twitter announcements.
- The Town of Wytheville Parks and Recreation Department will notify all coaches, who will notify all players, update cancellation hotline (276)223-3599.
- All coaches and participants must understand that games may be played on hot, cold, rainy, and/or snowy days. The Recreation Departments will take players health and safety into consideration in determining whether or not games will be played. If games are being played, all teams/squads should be in attendance. Should a team have an extenuating circumstance that prevents their team from attending, they should contact their respective Recreation Department for approval.
- Please keep your team members in a designated area during game. Participants are not permitted to wander around the field or stands during the game.
- At all games parents/spectators are to remain in the stands or designated area. **No one** other than football players, cheerleaders, coaches, officials, rescue squad, and Parks and Recreation staff are permitted on the field. Newspaper employees need to speak to Parks & Recreation Staff prior to entering the field.
- When games are held at the locations of Fort Chiswell, Rural Retreat and George Wythe High Schools, the **HOME** side stands will be **ONLY** used. Fans that enter the VISTOR stands will be asked to leave the area.
- Cheers and chants with vulgar statements or actions are **NOT** allowed. Cheers and are to be of a positive nature and not derogatory of other players or teams.
- All participants cheering, including coaches, must conduct themselves in a well behaved manner. Any profanity, unsportsmanlike conduct towards other players, coaches, officials or staff will cause the

participant to be removed from the facility. If instructed by County and Town Parks Recreation Department, a ten (10) minute warning will be given to vacate the premises.

- The Junior Varsity squad is limited to waist high pyramids.
- The Varsity squad is limited to shoulder high pyramids; however, a shoulder high pyramid or prep can be used to extend/lift a cheerleader above the head. This includes basket tossing and cradling during the cheers or competition. Please note that proper safety needs to be utilized when doing stunts, lifts, basket tosses and cradles. Adult spotters are needed when performing these stunts.
- When cheering at football facilities with paved track, no stunts are to be performed on track. Stunts may be performed with spotters on football fields.
- **Practices may begin for the season on the first day of August.** Prior to the first game, practice is limited to four (4) days per calendar week, one (1) session per day, two (2) hours maximum per session; this does not include the Jamboree. After games begin, practice will be limited to three (3) days per calendar week, one (1) session per day, two (2) hours maximum per session. If teams/squads have two (2) games in one calendar week (Sunday-Saturday), the practice will be limited to two (2) sessions per week, two (2) hours maximum per session.
- No more than three (3) coaches per team. A coaching application and background check is required. Each coach is to notify the Parks & Recreation Department if changes have occurred after a background check has been completed. Failure to do so will result in dismissal from coaching.
- Cheerleaders and coaches **ONLY** are allowed on the field and track during games.
- **Influenza Policy:**
 - If Wythe County Public Schools are closed or dismissed early due to influenza or similar issues, then the Wythe County Parks & Recreation Department games will be postponed at a later date. No practices may be held until children return to school.
 - Due to pandemic flu concerns, coaches shall not allow players or cheerleaders
 - diagnosed with influenza to practice or play until they have received a doctor's
 - permission to return to school.
- **NO EXCEPTIONS: NO WEAPONS, PETS or USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS.** All public school locations are non-smoking/tobacco free facilities.
- **ELIGIBILITY**
 - **Junior Varsity:** 3rd Graders & 4th Graders; cannot turn eleven (11) years of age prior to October 1, 2015. If 4th grader exceeds age limit, they may participate on the Varsity level.
 - **Varsity:** 5th Graders & 6th Graders (4th graders who exceeds age limit): cannot turn thirteen (13) years of age prior to October 1, 2015.