



Water-Oak Pop Warner

Cheerleading Code of Conduct and Information

Welcome to Water-Oak Pop Warner Cheer! We seek to provide a fun, athletic, learning opportunity for children while emphasizing the importance of academic success.

Water Oak Pop Warner Cheer enables youth to:

- ✓ Promote the values of Teamwork, Friendship, and Academics
- ✓ Practice the ideals of good Sportsmanship, Physical Fitness, Self-Confidence and Scholarship
- ✓ Promote Respect and Civic Pride

You may also access information on our FaceBook page:
Water-Oak Pop Warner Football and Cheer
Or our Website:
www.wateroakpopwarner.org



WATER-OAK POP WARNER CHEERLEADING CODE OF CONDUCT

All parents/guardians and athletes are required to read through this code of conduct in its entirety. One form needs to be turned in for each athlete and needs both a parent/guardian and athlete signature on all sections. The expectations and rules are required of our athletes and families and are in place to ensure that we have a safe and successful season.

Water-Oak Pop Warner cheer is a large time commitment from August 1st until December. We expect all cheerleaders to attend and be on time to practices, games, competitions and required functions.

1. Texts or communication right before practice/game/competition that a child will be late or not attending is unacceptable and will not be excused. Excused absences include contagious illness (including COVID-19 protocol) and deaths in the family. All absences should be communicated to your head coach as soon as possible to allow for proper planning of practice/game situations.
2. For safety reasons, notification is required prior to practices/games/competition if your cheerleader will be picked up by anyone other than a parent/guardian. You must come see a coach in order to pick up or drop off your cheerleader.
3. No call/no shows and unexcused absences to practice/games will not be tolerated. All cheerleaders are required to participate in all practices and games for the entirety of the season.
4. After one (1) no call/no show or unexcused absence, your cheerleader's spot in the competition routine may be changed due to safety reasons. After three (3) no call/ no show or unexcused absences, the cheerleader will be removed completely from the routine.
5. Three (3) tardy arrivals of 15 minutes or more to practice will equal one (1) unexcused absence. Please utilize carpools to practice if you have trouble getting your cheerleader to practice on time.
6. One (1) unexcused absence or no call/no show to a game will result in removal from the halftime routine for two (2) weeks. However, your cheerleader will still be required to participate with their team on the sidelines.
7. Leaving a practice/game or arriving late to a practice/game due to another sport/activity is unexcused. Water-Oak Pop Warner Cheer must take priority over other sports and activities (other cheer teams included).
8. Absences/tardies due to religious observance or education are excused.

I have read, understood and agreed to the attendance policy:

Printed Parent/Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Printed Athlete Name

Athlete Signature

Date

COMPETITION

All members of the team are required and expected to attend all competitions. If your cheerleader is unable to attend any of the season's competitions, this must be filled out below in the Travel Acknowledgment.

1. Athletes will remain with the team for the duration of competitions, except when instructed by your head coach (i.e. after performance and before awards to get food, etc.).
2. Athletes will be in full uniform (as instructed by the head coach) for the duration of the competition. No outside shoes, bags, jackets, etc. are to be worn except those approved by Water-Oak Pop Warner.
3. Athletes will be on time for all meet times on competition day- no exceptions.

I have read, understood and agreed to the competition policy:

Printed Parent/Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Printed Athlete Name

Athlete Signature

Date

TRAVEL COST ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I, _____ hereby acknowledge the following by

Parent/Legal Guardian Name

Signing up my athlete, _____ as a member of the

Athlete Name

WaterOak Pop Warner Cheerleading program, that there will be additional travel costs and the ability/inability to commit fully to this travel will affect their position in the competition routine throughout the season. I understand that by signing this form I am expected to adhere to my choices below, and failure to do so will affect my athlete's ability to sign up for the Water-Oak Pop Warner Cheerleading program in the future. **Once signed, these options cannot be changed.** All travel is subject to team placement and advancement; however, we must plan for all options.

Please check the travel option in which you are choosing for this season:

I will only be able to travel to the two (2) local competitions in October in New Haven, CT.

I will only be able to travel to the local competitions in New Haven in October, and the regional competition in New England in November (overnight stay is optional and depends on performance times).

I will be able to travel to the local competitions in New Haven in October, the regional competition in New England in November, and the National competition in Orlando, Florida in December (minimum stay is 4 days/3 nights of hotel plus airfare. It is typically \$1000+ per person, and the athlete plus a parent/guardian must travel- \$2000+ total, due the first week of November. All athletes must stay at the host hotel provided by National Pop Warner).

Questionnaire (you will not be held to the option below; we're looking for interest!)

I am interested in the possibility of attending YCADA Globals in February 2024, typically held in Atlantic City, NJ with additional travel costs TBD.

By signing below, I understand that I am expected to commit to these travel expectations and that failure to do so will affect my athlete's ability to sign up for the Water-Oak Pop Warner Cheerleading program in the future.

I have read, understood and agreed to the Travel policy:

Printed Parent/Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian signature

Date

BEHAVIOR

1. Athletes and parents will refrain from speaking negatively about coaches, other teammates, other teams, other coaches, or the Water-Oak Pop Warner Program itself. This includes includes conversations about things both inside and outside of cheer.
2. Athletes will maintain a positive attitude throughout all team activities.
3. No foul language will be permitted from athletes or parents while team activities occur.
4. Absolutely no physical violence will be tolerated in any capacity, whether at a function of Water-Oak Pop Warner or in any school setting, as Water-Oak Pop Warner is a scholastic program.
5. Parents are to remain substance-free while in the presence of other children at team-sanctioned events (practice, games, competition performances).
6. All questions and communication will occur directly between parent and coach, following the chain of command below:
 1. Head Coach
 2. Cheer Coordinator
 3. Board
 4. President
7. No team or parent group chats are permitted without coaching staff included. Behavioral concerns will have one verbal warning that, with our Executive Board’s knowledge and approval, will result in a formal conversation between the Cheer Coordinator, Head Coach, a parent/guardian and the athlete. After the first verbal warning, if a second offense occurs, the athlete or parent in question will be removed from the program immediately and will be banned for one full season. After one-year probation, if the athlete or parent decides to return, after one offense they will be banned indefinitely from the Water-Oak Pop Warner Program.

I have read, understood and agreed to the Behavior policy:

Printed Parent/Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Printed Athlete Name

Athlete Signature

Date

SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media, such as, Facebook, Snap Chat, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, TikTok, and others are powerful tools of communication that can have a significant impact in personal reputation as well as Water-Oak Pop Warner.

1. Be respectful and thoughtful.
2. Refrain from speaking negatively about coaches, other teammates, other teams, other coaches, or the Water-Oak Pop Warner Program itself. This includes conversations about things both inside and outside of cheer.
3. Cyber Bullying will not be tolerated under any circumstance.
4. There will be no posts of our routines (either portions or in full) in any capacity until after the final competition of the season.
5. There will be no posts of our uniforms, bow, practice wear, warm-up suits, etc. until after our first game for game wear or first competition for competition wear. Please seek approval from your coach if there are any questions on this mater.
6. Think twice before posting! Privacy does not exist in the world of social media. Consider what would happen if the post became widely known, and the consequences that can arise.

Social Media concerns will have one verbal warning that, with our Executive Board's knowledge and approval, will result in a formal conversation between the Cheer Coordinator, Head Coach, a parent/guardian and the athlete. After the first verbal warning, if a second offense occurs, the athlete or parent in question will be removed from the program immediately and then will be banned for one full season. After one-year probation, if the athlete or parent decides to return, after one offense they will be banned indefinitely from the Water-Oak Pop Warner Program.

I have read, understood and agreed to the Social Media policy:

Printed Parent/Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Printed Athlete Name

Athlete Signature

Date

COST, PAYMENT AND FUNDRAISING

For the 2023 cheer season, for all athletes registering for Tiny Mites and older, there will be a \$200 registration fee and a \$150 uniform fee. This covers a game uniform (top and bottom), sneakers, socks and bows. For Jr. Tiny Mites, there will be a \$100 registration fee and a \$50 uniform fee. This does not include sneakers, however, parents have the option to purchase sneakers for an additional \$45. Uniform fees will be due in full at uniform sizing. We accept payment via cash, check, PayPal or Venmo. Uniforms cannot be ordered without payment in full.

All athletes, Tiny Mites through Jr. Varsity, will receive a competition shrug/sleeves. This item must be returned at the end of the season. Failure to return this item will result in being charged for the full amount. Failure to return the item or pay in full will result in your athlete being unable to register for the next year.

Water-Oak is a non-profit organization and runs off fundraisers and support from our community. The program recognizes the cost of being an athlete and understands the importance of raising funds to cheer.

1. All fundraising for Water-Oak Pop Warner will be done through the Fundraising Committee.
2. All Fundraisers will be submitted to Water-Oak Pop Warner for payout to the athlete.
3. There will be no personal fundraisers through GoFundMe, or those of the like, without approval via the Fundraising Committee and the Water-Oak Pop Warner Executive Board.
4. Fundraisers are made up of 3 types, which will be disclosed prior to running the fundraiser:
 1. Program Funding- goes to overall costs such as program fees, bills, supplies, etc.
 2. Program Wide- all funds raised are put together and distributed equally each athlete
 3. Personal- any funds raised by an athlete go directly back to that athlete

If you choose to opt out of fundraising, you will need to sign our No Fundraising Agreement. By signing this agreement you acknowledging that

you will cover the expenses of Nationals/Globals on your own and will receive no part of any funds raised.

You may not opt out of our beginning of the season raffle fundraiser, this is mandatory.

Further information on fundraising can be found in the FAQ's section of this packet.

I have read, understood and agreed to the Cost, Payment and Fundraising policy:

Printed Parent/Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Printed Athlete Name

Athlete Signature

Date

By signing the six sections of the Code of Conduct above, I have read, understood, and agree to abide by the Water-Oak Pop Warner Cheerleading Code of Conduct.

FAQ'S

Email us with any further questions at wateroak.cheer@gmail.com

Q: How can my cheerleader be prepared for practice?

A: Please be prompt during drop off/pick up. All cheerleaders should arrive to practice wearing sneakers, no jewelry and their hair pulled back into a high ponytail. Their coach will inform them of any other specific practice attire.

Practices will be held outside for the month of August. Please plan accordingly for the weather. Please send your cheerleader to practice with water. No food or chewing gum allowed.

Q: When will practices be held?

A: Practice begins August 1st. Head coaches will inform you of practice schedules/locations/cancellations/etc . Indoor practices begin after Labor

Day. Head coaches will inform you once they have indoor practice schedules. Each team can expect to have practice three nights a week, although Jr. Tiny Mites and Tiny Mites may differ.

Q: What is considered an unexcused absence?

A: Examples of Unexcused Absences:

1. Cheerleader attends school and does not attend practice.
2. Failure to contact the Head Coach at least 60 mins prior to practice or game regarding illness.
3. Failure to notify the Head Coach of family commitment in advance.
4. Leaving practice or game for another sport/activity (Water-Oak practice and games must take priority).

Q: Our family has a summer vacation planned after the start of the season, what should we do?

A: We understand that families make vacation plans well in advance. We do give some allowance for these situations during the month of August. However, missing the first week of practice significantly sets back both the athlete and their coach. That is the time when conditioning hours are completed before an athlete can fully participate. Outside of that and given it wouldn't be more than a week, we do allow for absences due to vacation plans in the month of August. If your athlete will be out for the first week of August or there is a vacation scheduled that would have your athlete miss more than a week of practice, you need to reconsider signing up for the season and plan for next year.

Q: Why hasn't my cheerleader been placed on the team she wanted to be on and why isn't she getting to be a flyer?

A: During our first week of practice, we will be holding an evaluation of skills. This will help Head Coaches determine their team's strengths and weaknesses, which in turn will determine what level they will compete at and how to develop a safe routine and hold a safe practice. Cheerleaders will be placed on a team by the Water-Oak Cheer Coordinator in direct compliance with the Pop Warner Rule Book. All cheerleaders are expected to perform all aspects of the sport to the best of their ability, *including but not limited to: basing, back-spotting, front-spotting, jumping, tumbling and flying*. The Head and Coordinator will determine what position a cheerleader will have on the team.

Q: What should I know about competitions?

A: October starts competition season! States and Locals both take place in October and have taken place in New Haven, CT in the past. If the cheerleaders place 1st or 2nd at Locals, they will move onto Regionals. Regionals is held in November in Massachusetts. Last year it was held at the Mass Mutual Center. Staying overnight for this competition is not required, though some families choose to do so at a hotel of their choice. If the

cheerleaders place 1st or 2nd at Regionals, they win a bid to go to Nationals. Cheerleaders are also capable of qualifying by score for Nationals. If their score is in the range of 1st or 2nd place, they may be invited. If that is the case, it is the decision of the Head Coach and Cheer Coordinator if they accept the invitation. Nationals takes place early December in Orlando, Florida. All teams will stay at the same hotel, which will be chosen in advance. The competition itself will take place at the Orange County Convention Center.

Q: Do we fundraise for Nationals?

A: Yes! Only once a team gets a bid for Nationals can fundraising begin. Things move quickly at this point and your payment for the hotel will be due shortly after Regionals. We strongly suggest saving for Nationals as early in the season as possible, as we know this is a big expense. The goal of fundraising is to help each family lower the expense of their travel and stay. We will do pail shakes at local businesses. You will be asked to visit local businesses to ask for monetary donations or items/services to be used as raffle prizes. We hold fundraising events such as Bingo nights and Paint and Sips where there are raffles. We've also done online popcorn shops. When fundraising is complete, you will receive a check before heading to Florida. All checks are of equal amounts. The fundraising committee will help guide everyone on this matter. If you do not intend on participating in Nationals/ Globals fundraising, you **MUST** sign the No Fundraising Agreement. By signing this, you agree that you will receive no funds from any fundraising and you will cover the expenses in full.