

Windham Youth Cheerleading Coach Code of Conduct

As a coach for the Windham Youth Cheerleading program (hereinafter referred to as “WYC”), you play a vital role in fostering a positive and supportive environment for our cheerleading squad. Your conduct, both on and off the field, sets the tone for sportsmanship, integrity, and respect inside and outside of practices and games. The following code of conduct outlines the expectations and responsibilities that accompany your role:

Respect for Cheerleaders:

- Treat all cheerleaders with dignity, fairness, and respect, irrespective of their skill level, background, or performance.
- Encourage and support each cheerleader's individual development, both as athletes and as individuals.
- Cultivate an inclusive and encouraging team atmosphere where every cheerleader feels valued and empowered to contribute.

Sportsmanship:

- Lead by example in demonstrating good sportsmanship at all times, whether in practice or at competitions.
- Emphasize the importance of fair play, honesty, and respect for fellow teams, judges, and teammates.
- Discourage unsportsmanlike behavior, including negative chants, disrespectful gestures, or any form of disrespect towards others. Coaches are accountable for the behavior of their cheerleaders, ensuring respectful interactions with referees, opposing coaches, cheerleaders, and spectators.
- Coaches should refrain from confronting officials or challenging decisions in a disrespectful manner, as this may result in expulsion from events.

Safety:

- Prioritize the safety and well-being of cheerleaders above all else.
- Adhere strictly to safety guidelines and protocols provided by WYC (including the MYCCA rules and regulations), ensuring proper equipment and safe stunting techniques are followed.
- Educate cheerleaders on proper techniques and spotting methods to minimize the risk of injury.
- Follow any doctor's orders regarding cheerleader injuries and limitations.
- Do not leave practice or games until all cheerleaders have been released to a caregiver responsible for the athlete.
- Provide active supervision for all cheerleaders.

Positive Coaching Approach:

- Adopt a positive and constructive coaching style that focuses on encouragement, motivation, and skill enhancement.
- Provide constructive feedback and guidance in a supportive manner, fostering growth and confidence.
- Avoid harsh criticism, belittling, or any form of emotional mistreatment. Verbal, physical or emotional abuse will not be tolerated. Coaches exhibiting such behavior may face disciplinary action, including suspension or removal from coaching duties.'
- Coaches will not show any preference or favoritism among cheerleaders. All cheerleaders will be treated equally and roles/placement in routines will be given based on skill.

Communication:

- Maintain open and transparent communication with cheerleaders, parents/guardians, association officials, and fellow coaches.
- Address concerns or conflicts promptly and respectfully, seeking resolution through constructive dialogue.
- Keep cheerleaders and parents/guardians informed about practice schedules, expectations, and any relevant updates using the communications methods provided by WYC.
- Share information with assistant coaches about practice and event plans at least 2 days in advance.

Respect for Parents/Guardians:

- Treat parents/guardians with respect and gratitude for their support and involvement in their children's cheerleading endeavors.
- Listen attentively to parents/guardians' concerns and feedback, responding with empathy and understanding.
- Collaborate with parents/guardians as partners in their children's development, fostering a positive and cooperative relationship built on mutual respect.

WYC Equipment

- Coaches may be given WYC equipment, such as speakers, microphones, or poms to be used in practices and/or at games.
- All equipment must be maintained appropriately throughout the season and coaches will be responsible for any damage or loss to the equipment.
- Upon the end of the season, or sooner if requested by WYC, equipment will be returned to WYC in a timely manner in the condition in which it was distributed.

WYC Investigation and Discipline Process:

- Failure to uphold this code of conduct may lead to disciplinary measures by the association and/or relevant governing bodies, potentially including suspension or loss of coaching privileges.
- If a coach has a complaint against a parent, other coach, or cheerleader, the complaint must be timely reported to WYC at [insert email address].

- In the event of an allegation that a coach has violated this Code of Conduct, WYC will form a subcommittee of the Board of Directors to review the complaint. The subcommittee may interview involved parties, collect evidence, or suggest mediated discussions as the subcommittee sees fit to investigate the complaint and/or resolve the issue.
- All information collected by the subcommittee shall be kept confidential.
- Any decisions made by the subcommittee shall be final.

I, _____, acknowledge that I have read and agree to adhere to the Coach's Code of Conduct outlined above.

Coach's Signature: _____

Grade Level: _____ Date: _____