



## **MID-MARYLAND YOUTH FOOTBALL & CHEER 2011 Cheerleading Standard Operating Procedures**

### **Article I. CHEERLEADING BY-LAWS**

- A. All programs must follow rules and bylaws of the MMYFCL and General Rules (Standard Operating Procedure for Football and Cheerleading).
- B. MMYFCL Cheerleading includes cheerleading squads, pompon squads and dance squads.

### **Article II. MEETINGS**

- A. Regular cheerleading meetings shall be held monthly, at a time and place to be determined by the Board or VP of Cheerleading. All meetings shall be conducted in accordance with parliamentary procedures.
- B. Meetings minutes must be made available to all Programs prior to the next meeting.

### **Article III. VOTING**

- A. The Vice President of Cheerleading may call for votes on cheer-specific issues outside of the meeting via email. Seven (7) days must be provided to programs to respond and cast a vote. Results must be provided to the Cheerleading directors, Program directors and MMYFCL Executive Board.
- B. All programs in good standing and with voting status may vote on all cheerleading issues.
- C. Each program may cast one vote.
- D. Motions and issues presented to the MMYFCL Cheerleading VP/Board shall be voted on by the Program Directors or Cheerleading Area Directors only.
- E. Majority is required for motions to carry. In the event of a tie the VP of Cheerleading, Co-Presidents or a designee will rotate the responsibility of casting the deciding vote.
- F. Any motion that has been brought to vote cannot be brought to the floor again until the following year unless it is an emergency situation or unless more than 2/3 of programs agree to entertain the motion. These specific motions can only be raised at Cheerleading meetings and may not be raised via email for voting.

#### **Article IV. COACHING REQUIREMENTS**

- A. Head Coaches must be at least 18 years of age.
- B. All coaches, trainers and other team representatives are expected to stress courtesy, friendship, spirit, teamwork and good sportsmanship at all times.
- C. Cheerleading Area Directors and coaches are encouraged to complete safety certification.
- D. Cheerleading Area Directors and Head Coaches must follow the National Federation High School Spirit Rules Book and American Association of Cheerleading Coaches and Administrators (AACCA) safety guidelines. When dealing with younger children, the guidelines are expected to be modified to further assure the safety of the children.

#### **Article V. REGISTRATION AND CERTIFICATION**

- A. Cheerleading roster certification is only needed if teams are participating in league-sponsored cheerleading competitions. Dates of cheerleading certification will be determined by Cheerleading Board/Area Directors to occur at least two (2) weeks prior to competition.
- B. All registered cheerleaders may participate in competitions.
- C. Official certification for MMYFCL competition to be addressed in Article XIII.

#### **Article VI. CHEERLEADER SAFETY**

- A. Safety of cheerleaders, pom poms and dancers is highest priority and supersedes all other rules.
- B. Every program must purchase annually and comply by the National Federation of High School Associations Spirit Rules Book.
- C. Every AD should have this book in their possession during all cheer activities, including practices, games and competitions.
- D. The 6-8 level and younger are required to have a front spot for prep level and above stunts.
- E. Stunting should only occur in appropriate weather and good ground conditions.
- F. For the safety of both players and cheerleaders, no stunting should occur on the sidelines while the ball is in play.
- G. Spotters should be on the field with cheerleaders, at younger ages and older ages, if stunting is advanced for the ability of the cheerleaders.

#### **Article VII. ELIGIBILITY**

- A. All programs affiliated with MMYFCL may have cheerleaders (pom or dance squads) participate with their football programs at both home and away games. Outside organizations may not cheer for any MMYFCL team if their program is not part of the league. To be considered part of the league, you must also compete in the official MMYFCL cheer competition (unless you do not participate in any cheer competitions).
- B. Parental consent for each player must be kept on file by each program.
- C. Sideline cheerleading, pom poms and dance squads have no age restrictions for squads, but it is recommended that they follow the age and squad requirements as outlined in Article IX to provide cheerleaders with similar squads for which to cheer and participate in halftime shows as appropriate.
- D. Youth ages 4 – 14, as of August 1 may participate in MMYFCL cheerleading.

- E. Cheerleaders must meet age and squad requirements as outlined in Article IX to participate in league-sponsored cheerleading competition.
- F. All programs should offer an instructional level if they agree to participate in the MMYFCL competition. This squad does not compete but may participate at competition as an exhibition team.
- G. No cheerleader shall be a member of more than one squad They must not cheer for a high school or All Star team during the MMYFCL season if they will be a registered member of a MMYFCL cheerleading squad. . The MMYFCL season is defined as the beginning of practice to either the in-league Cheer competition or the Super Bowl, whichever is later.
- H. No cheerleader may participate in the MMYFCL while living in or being housed in a juvenile detention facility.
- I. Programs are to remember that the MMYFCL is a Recreation program. Sideline cheerleading and programs who sponsor squads for recreation cheerleading competitions are not to hold try-outs for squads.
- J. Cheerleaders are not to be turned away for lack of experience, skill or disability. All programs will follow the Equal Rights provisions followed by all County Recreation Councils.
- K. Sideline cheerleading squads larger than regulations for competition must fill their competition roster based on registration date, filling the competition roster with the names in order of their registration date.

## **ARTICLE VIII. RECRUITMENT**

- A. Active recruitment of cheerleaders or coaches from another MMYFCL program's current or previous year's roster is prohibited and will be deemed a rules violation which will be subject to a Rules Committee review which could result in suspension, game forfeiture, playoff ineligibility, and expulsion for all involved parties. Cheerleaders are defined as cheerleaders, pom poms or dancers
- B. If a head coach and/or assistant coach changes programs within the MMYFCL and plans to coach in any capacity for the new program in the next MMYFCL season, the only player(s) who played in the former program during the preceding season that may play for the new team he is now coaching, without restriction, is (are) the daughter(s)/son(s) of the transferring coach(es). Any other player wishing to leave the former program and play for the coach's new team must request and obtain written permission from the former program and make a request of waiver from the MMYFCL Board. This restriction will expire after one full season at the new program.
- C. Recruitment violations are described as;
  - 1. Telephone calls, personal home visits or meetings with the individual cheerleader, coach, or family member to discuss the benefits of joining your program.
  - 2. Emails or letters to the individual cheerleader, coach, or family member to discuss the benefits of joining your program.
  - 3. Giving unsolicited cards or contact information to individual cheerleaders, coaches, or family member to discuss the benefits of joining your program.

4. Extending targeted invitation via email, mail or personal handout to a cheerleader, coach, or family member for a program's sponsored event at which the benefits of joining your program will be discussed or promoted.
5. Public announcements via newspaper advertisement, signs, or posted fliers will not be deemed as recruiting, however the sending of these items to a targeted individual cheerleader, coach, or family member will be deemed as recruiting.
6. When a former coach leaves a program, the coach may send an email to their former cheerleaders informing them that they will not return to the program. The coach can not mention the new organization they are coaching for with his former cheerleaders.

**Article IX. UNIFORMS**

A. All cheerleaders must be equipped as follows:

1. Cheer top/jumper
2. Cheer skirt
3. Bloomers
4. Crop tops may be worn under cheer tops
5. Tennis Shoes or Cheer shoes

B. All cheerleaders must wear uniforms modestly and not reveal cleavage or undergarments. Skirts should not be worn below belly button.

C. Cheerleaders who are not appropriately covered may not sideline cheer.

D. In cold weather, cheerleaders may wear extra items, however they may not stunt if clothing is too loose or ill-fitting.

E. Competition dress code is discussed in Article XIII.

**Article X. PRACTICE, PRESEASON COMPETITIONS, SQUAD SIZE**

A. For programs that only participate in sideline cheering and do not attend the in-house MMYFCL competition may practice or participate in any preseason or post season activities they wish other than cheer competitions.

B. For programs who attend the in-house MMYFCL competition must follow the outlined criteria to assure equity in competition and continue to foster a recreational enjoyment and experience for all cheerleaders:

- a. A program/squad may attend an outside-run camp outside the regular season ~~with prior MMYFCL board notification.~~
- b. Programs may run or contract to run, any camps, conditioning programs, or clinics prior to the beginning of the official season, ~~provided:~~
  - i. ~~the Exec. Board is notified of the camp,~~
  - ii. ~~the camp is open to the public, and~~
  - iii. ~~all other MMYFCL programs are notified of the camp two weeks prior to the start. (Notification may consist of email to Cheer ADs and listing on program website.)~~
  - iv. ~~The camp is not run by Head or Assistant coaches with their proposed squad members.~~

- ~~e. All program sponsors camps, conditioning programs and clinics must accept registration by other program participants. The registration fee and any give aways to registrants must be the same as those in the sponsoring program.~~
  - ~~d. Programs that want to compete with their existing squads may participate in off-season events (Eg. competitions) given the event's registration is open to the public and the Board is notified about the program's participation in the event.~~
  - e. Programs may attend outside rec-level competitions during the season and prior to the MMYFCL in-house competition as long as they participate in the MMYFCL competition.
  - f. A week is defined as seven days from a Monday to Sunday.
  - g. To assure that academics remain a priority for cheerleaders, practice hours are limited to no more than eight (8) hours during preseason with duration of no longer than two (2) hours per practice. Practice is limited to Six (6) hours a week in-season. Up to six (6) weeks prior to competition, each team may choose 2 weeks where practice hours are unlimited. Selected weeks will be reported to the VP of Cheer.
  - h.
  - ~~C. For programs who have specific squads at the "all-star" level (holding try-outs), the following rules apply:~~
    - ~~a. Outside competitions are permissible~~
    - ~~b. Age groups and squad size may follow rules outside of MMYFCL, only if they do not participate in the in-house MMYFCL competition.~~
    - ~~e. "All-star" squads may not compete at the in-house MMYFCL competition.~~
  - D. Squad size is unlimited for sideline cheering.
  - E. There is no minimum number of cheerleaders for a squad.
  - F. Competition squad sizes are outlined in Article XIII.
- An All Star Cheer team is defined as a Cheerleading squad not associated or affiliated with a school or sanctioned by a rec program

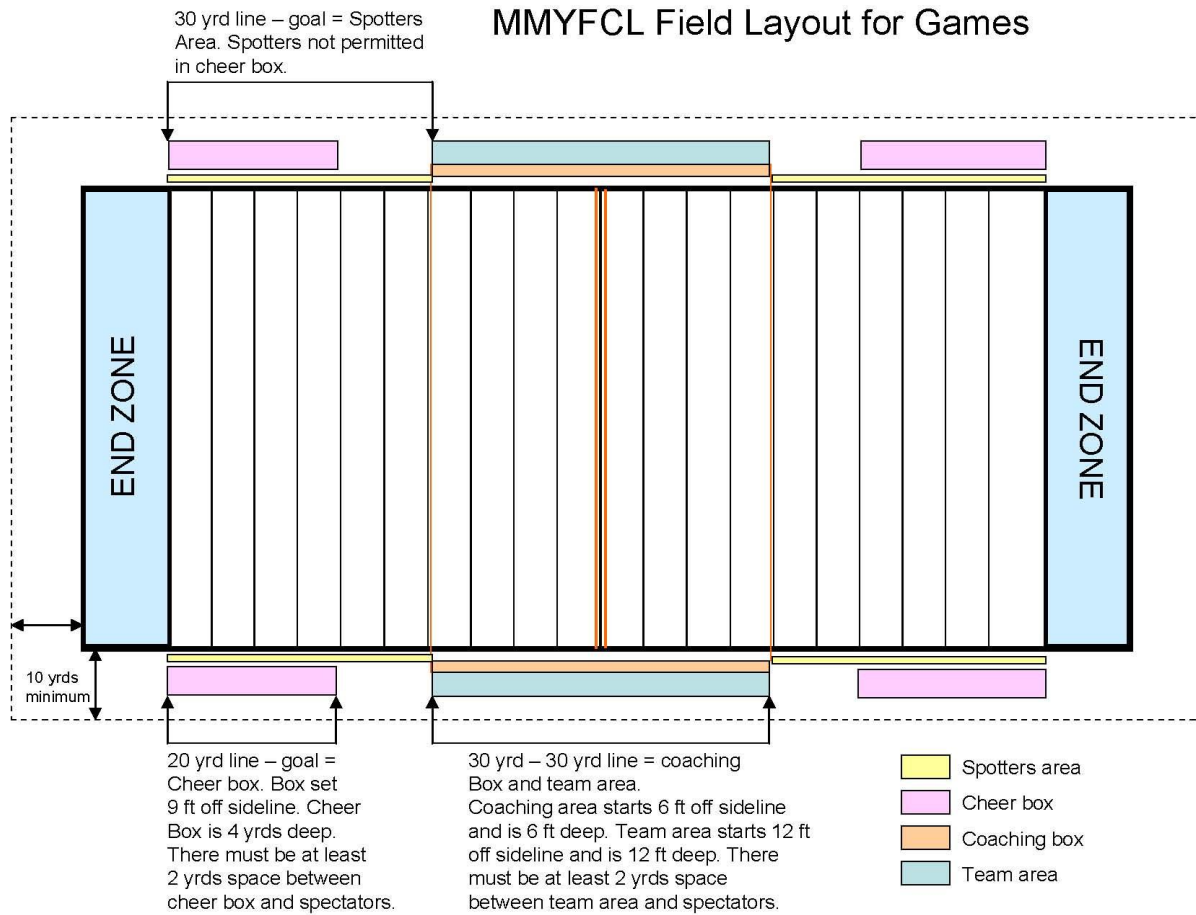
## **Article XI. OFFICIALS**

- A. Officials must be respected and their instructions followed at all games.

## **Article XII. HOME TEAM RESPONSIBILITY**

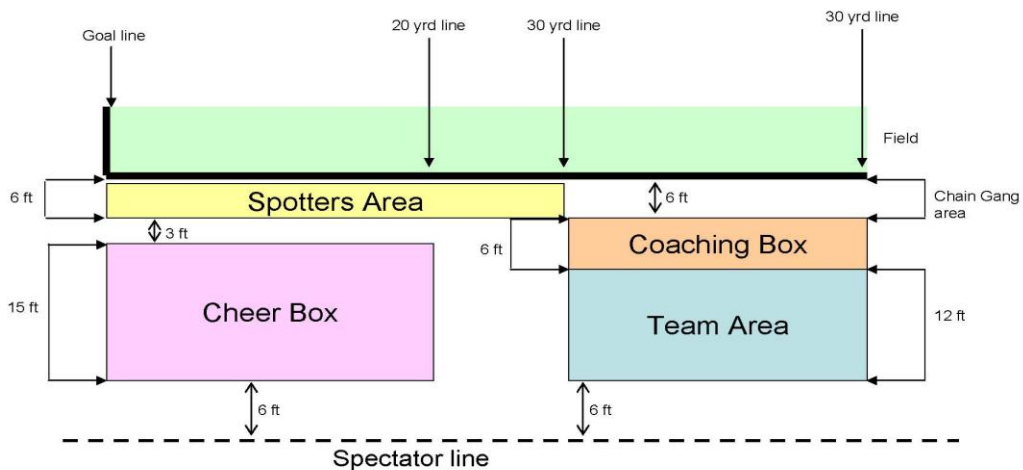
- A. The Home team must provide a space for cheerleaders of both the home and away teams on the sideline and in front of or in close proximity of spectators for all games. (see Figure 1.1 ) Should a field not permit spectators on both sides of the field, cheerleaders are to be provided space to cheer on the same side as their fans. This space should measure no less than four (4) yards deep and seven (7) yards long and be separate from the football coaches and player area on the sideline. If a field has less than 10 yards from sideline to spectators (e.g. turf fields or high schools) cheerleaders are to be provided a reasonable space in proximity of spectators. This space will be marked with tape so that football coaches and players refrain from entering the area. It is recommended that cheerleading areas be approximately one (1) yard off the sideline to provide a small safety buffer between football players and cheerleaders.

**Figure 1.1 – MMYFCL Field Set Up**



**Figure 1.2**

**MMYFCL Guideline for Game Day Field Personnel**



## MMYFCL Field Set-Up

- B. The field must be roped off for crowd control from back of end zone to back of end zone on each side of the field. The rope shall be at least ten (10) yards back from the sidelines and at least two (2) yards back from cheerleading spaces. A field does not have to be roped off if the field cannot be accessed by fans, such as a high school field. Any field not properly roped off, by game time, as indicated above will result in a forfeit for the home team. The only people allowed behind each end zone will be two camerapersons per team. The board may approve exception to the crowd control rule based on the layout of fields. Camerapersons are not allowed in coaching area of the opposite team and must yield to individuals on sidelines (referees, coaches, players, chain crew, spotters, cheerleaders.)
- C. The home team must greet each visiting football and cheerleading team and show them their sideline/cheer space, area to warm-up, restroom facilities, and location of concessions. Cheer AD or cheer head coaches of the home team should greet the visiting team prior to the start of the game.
- D. Rosters for all cheerleading squads should be provided to home team Field Director, Cheer Area Director or announcers so that if time permits, cheerleader's names may be announced at halftime.
- E. Halftime Procedures
  - a. At halftime, cheerleaders have priority use of the field for halftime shows. Football players, coaches, spectators or others should not be using the field during halftime shows. Cheerleading halftime shows will take place at or around the 50 yard line of both the home and visiting teams, or be centralized to spectator viewing areas. If announcements or music is played at games, this should not occur during cheerleading halftime shows, unless it is part of the halftime performance. Halftime shows for each program are to be limited to three (3) minutes each for a total time of six (6) minutes combined for the entire halftime period. Programs with more than one squad performing at a halftime of one game must split their time to not be longer than three (3) minutes total. Half-time performances will be strictly limited to 3 minutes or less.
  - b. First the visiting team will perform for the visiting side, with the home team watching; then the home team will perform for the home team side with the visiting team watching.
  - c. Stunting may occur at halftime shows, provided ground and weather conditions permit.
  - d. Squads should show good sportsmanship by applauding or positively supporting the opposing squad at the completion of their halftime show.
  - e. During PitBull and flag football games, half time intermission is 10 minutes. Cheerleaders may perform a halftime show at PitBull and Flag football games.
- F. Sideline Cheering procedures:
  - a. For the safety of both players and cheerleaders, no stunting should occur on the sidelines while the ball is in play.
  - b. Coaches and cheerleaders must stay inside the cheerleading area. They may under no circumstances be on the playing area of the field.
  - c. Coaches and cheerleaders must give way to football spotters and politely inform them if they intrude in cheerleader areas.

- d. It is recommended that large or especially loud squads refrain from cheering prior to the snap and beginning of play to allow all youth football players to have a positive experience in the game as well.
- G. End of game procedures:
- a. Squads should show good sportsmanship by applauding or positively supporting the opposing squad at the completion of the game and support both football teams at the end of the game, regardless of the outcome.
  - b. Squads will not participate in post-game hand shake with football teams.
  - c. Squads may participate in end of game cheers to thank the opposing squad or support their football team. They may participate in their own team tunnels. On turf fields, tunnels must be held outside the fence.

### **Article XIII. MMYFCL REC COMPETITION**

#### **A. Squad Sizes & Eligibility**

- a. The maximum size of any squad is 30 cheerleaders. All registered cheerleaders may participate in competition.
- b. All programs will vote to define small and large division squad size based on the certified rosters. This quorum meeting/vote shall occur one (1) week after certification and the motion will be passed based on simple majority. Small size squads will be capped at 20 girls.
- c. Each squad must cheer for a minimum of five (5) regular season football games to be eligible to participate in MMYFCL Rec Competition.
- d. Programs must not have more than 1 large or 1 small squad per age group.

#### **B. Age Guidelines**

- a. Programs should offer an instructional level that does not compete but may participate in competition at the exhibition level.
- b. Exhibition Squad – No age restrictions (instructional/Pee Wee)
- c. 6-8 Squad – 6 to 8 years of age
- d. 7-9 Squad – 7 to 9 years of age
- e. 8-10 Squad – 8 to 10 years of age
- f. 9-11 Squad – 9 to 11 years of age
- g. 10-12 Squad – 10 to 12 years of age
- h. 11-13 Squad – 11 to 13 years of age
- i. The 11-13 Squad may include a maximum of five (5) cheerleaders aged 14 years old, as of August 1. These cheerleaders may turn 15 years old between August 1 and December 31.
- j. Cheerleaders participating in competition may not be in any All Star Cheer, High School cheer, dance or pom pon squad during the season.

#### **C. Roster Certification & Fees**

- a. All programs must notify the Cheerleading Vice President of their intent to participate in competition by August 1. A listing of expected squads that will participate in competition is due at least two weeks prior to certification.
- b. All squads participating in competition must have their roster certified at the specified meeting for certification.
- c. The roster must include squad level, number of members, names of all coaches, squad administrators and squad members in alphabetical order. It must also include their age and date of birth.

- d. The following will constitute an official roster: All members on the roster must meet the age for the specific squad, all information must be completed on the form, all forms must be typed and emailed to MMYFCL, and finally it must be approved by the MMYFCL official on sight.
- e. The roster must be accompanied by verification of age for each cheerleader. Only a valid MVA photo identification card or MMYFCL ID (with approval by MMYFCL Exec. Board) will be accepted.
- f. All rosters must be submitted electronically to Cheerleading Vice President one week prior to official certification. Each program must bring two (2) copies of their roster with them to the certification meeting.
- g. Programs or squads that hold try-outs for members may participate in competition as exhibition squads.
- h. Exhibition, pom pons and dance squads must be certified to participate in competition. These squads should indicate "Exhibition Squad" as their level on their roster.
- i. Once a roster is certified, competition squads are final. Upon certification, no new members may be added to or moved among squads. Members may be deleted.
- j. Competition fees will be applied to any program who participates. The cost will be determined by the competition committee and established to defray the cost of the competition expenses incurred by MMYFCL.
- k. Competition fees will be assessed for each squad participating.
- l. Competition fees are to be made payable to MMYFCL and are due at certification.

#### D. Venue & Event Requirements

- a. Competition will be held at an indoor venue.
- b. Mats must be provided measuring a minimum 54' x 42'.
- c. Appropriate first aid kit, certified First Responder or appropriate individual with CPR and First Responder training will be on premises for the duration of the competition, including set-up and clean-up.
- d. A minimum of five (5) judges are required for competition: Three (3) to judge cheer/dance and overall routine and at least Two (2) to judge safety. Judges will be compensated for their official services.
- e. At least one individual is required to monitor timing of routines and schedule throughout the day.
- f. Bleachers or appropriate seating for spectators is required.
- g. An area up by the mat is required for each squad coaching staff, trainers and judges.
- h. A warm-up, practice area is required for all squads. Practice/ warm-up times will be offered to each squad (in equal amounts of time) for them to prepare.
- i. An area for cheerleaders to approach the competition mats is needed. This area must not interfere with performing squads or be in front of spectators while squads are performing routines.
- j. Concessions must be offered .
- k. MMYFCL officials will be required to help monitor crowd control, close spectator areas during routines and take care of issues.
- l. Vendors wishing to sell products or services may only attend event if they provide a portion of their sales or pay a fee to MMYFCL.
- m. MMYFCL may offer commemorative or spirit wear at the competition.

- n. A hospitality room should be offered. When possible, light fare and refreshments should be provided. Judges should be provided meals.
- o. MMYFCL decorations and event materials shall not promote any particular program. Materials will remain unbiased and be for the benefit of all.
- p. If competition is filmed, Area Directors must be notified in advance of competition so that they may have the opportunity to purchase a video.

#### E. Safety & Spotters

- a. There will be no less than two (2) safety judges. These judges will determine the safety with which the competing squads perform their cheer routines.
- b. All stunting and tumbling must be fully executed on the mat.
- c. Each squad may allow up to three (3) adult spotters on the mat during the routine. Adult spotters are defined as parents, coaches or trainers.
- d. Spotters may not be wearing a cheerleading uniform.
- e. Spotters will in no way touch or assist in any part of the competition routine, except to aid in the safety of a cheerleader in the event of injury or fall from a stunt.

#### F. Costumes & Props

- a. The competing squad must wear their official team uniform, consisting of a skirt/jumper, shirts, sweaters, vests and cheerleading shoes.
- b. Long hair must be pulled up and out of eyes.
- c. No jewelry, body or hair glitter may be worn during competition.
- d. Props are defined as any item that is held in one's hands.
- e. Props for competing squads must be carried on and off the judging mat ("deck") by the performing cheerleaders. Props for exhibition Squads may be carried on an off by coaches.
- f. No extra time will be provided for arranging props.
- g. Each team is responsible for clearing the floor of their props and miscellaneous items in a timely manner.
- h. For competing Squads, one (1) point deduction overall will be given if props are not carried on or off the floor by cheerleaders.

#### G. Routine Rules

- a. Routines may be no longer than 2 minutes, 30 seconds in length. There is no minimum time limit.
- b. For exhibition levels, coaches/trainers may walk cheerleaders onto the floor and may help to physically place them for their routines. No additional time will be allowed for placing cheerleaders.
- c. For competing Squads, coaches/trainers may walk cheerleaders onto the floor but may not physically place them for their routines.
- d. For exhibition levels, coaches/trainers may do competition routine motions during the competitive routine.
- e. For competing Squads, imitating, guiding or miming the routine motions during the competitive routine is strictly prohibited. A deduction will be incurred off the final score and these individuals will be removed from the proximity of the competition area as well.

#### H. Judging

- a. The competition score sheet and deduction sheet will be provided to Cheer Area Directors prior to competition.
- b. Score sheets will be available at the end of the day for each organization. The Area Director for each program must retrieve their squads' sheets. A separate sheet containing all other organization scores will be provided to show how program squads places relative to each other.
- c. Judges will be selected from an outside area high school, college or organization. They each must meet the following criteria:
  - i. Have three (3) or more years coaching experience in cheerleading,
  - ii. Be certified by an accredited organization to judge
  - iii. Be willing to meet MMYFCL representatives prior to competition to review our league rules, guidelines and standards.
  - iv. Not have any affiliation with any competing squad. (Affiliation is defined as relative on a squad, teaching/coaching/close friendship with any coach or cheerleader in any participating organization.)

#### I. Awards

- a. MMYFCL will provide medals for competition awards.
- b. For divisional levels with less than seven (7) squads competing, the following placement cheer awards will be distributed: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> place.
- c. For divisional levels with eight (8) to ten (10) squads competing, the following placement cheer awards will be distributed: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> place.
- d. For divisional levels with over ten (10) squads competing, the following placement cheer awards will be distributed: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> place.
- e. All other cheer squads receive Honorable Mention.
- f. The MMYFCL Vice President of Cheerleading or a designee from the MMYFCL Exec. Board will present the awards and the spirit stick at the end of each session.
- g. One (1) spirit stick for EACH award ceremony will be awarded to one program to recognize crowd participation.
- h. The competition committee will select an impartial person to serve as judge for spirit stick awardees.
- i. Awarding the spirit sticks will be based on program fans' overall enthusiasm, participation and sportsmanship.

### **Article X COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT**

- A. Uphold all rules and regulations of Mid Maryland Youth Football and Cheer.
- B. Assure that each coach and organizational official has access to and has read all league regulations.
- C. Assure that each participant knows and obeys the Players Code of Conduct.
- D. Any coach or team official that knowingly allows an ineligible cheerleader to participate in a game will be subject to disciplinary action by the Executive Board.
- E. It is deemed proper ethics that anyone that knows in advance or has strong suspicions of an ineligible cheerleader should contact the Executive Board; Vice President or any member of the Executive Board as soon as possible.
- F. Gracefully accept decisions of the game officials on the field or at competition.
- G. Together with game officials, be jointly responsible for the conduct and control of team fans and spectators. Any fan that becomes a nuisance and is out of control is the responsibility of the coach and should be removed from the area.

- H. Do not criticize cheerleaders in front of spectators, with gestures and loud noises, but reserve criticism until a more private situation arises.
- I. Do not criticize cheerleaders, an opposing team, its players, coaches or fans, by word-of-mouth or by gestures.
- J. Refrain from using abusive and profane language to anyone connected with the game, as a spectator, player, opposing coach or game official.
- K. Do not deliberately incite unsportsmanlike conduct.
- L. Abstain from drinking of alcoholic beverages and smoking on both game and practice fields.
- M. Assure that no cheerleader practice or cheer at a game without proper shoes, under garments (if wearing uniforms) or with jewelry or other items that could injure cheerleaders.
- N. Remove from a game or practice, any cheerleader or trainer when slightly in doubt about her health, whether or not a result of injury, until competent medical advice is available.
- O. Assure that a cheerleader's or trainer's scholastic achievement does not suffer because of participation in MMYFC.
- P. Any coach who actively solicits a cheerleader from another organization by either making telephone calls or visits will be penalized.

#### **Article XIV CHEERLEADER'S CODE OF CONDUCT**

- A. No fighting or hitting, kicking, striking or otherwise abusing opponents, football players, or squadmates at any time before, during or after a practice, game, scrimmage or competition.
- B. No verbal or physical intimidation by making gestures such as, victory laps, "number one" chants or other "bring down" or demeaning actions will be allowed.
- C. No disrespectful behavior or derogatory comments aimed at cheerleaders, referees, football players or fans are permitted.
- D. Report to your coach any knowledge of an ineligible cheerleader on your team or another team.
- E. No sexually-explicit or illegal cheerleading or stunting techniques will be allowed.
- F. No talking back to officials, teammates, opposing squads or coaches.
- G. No profanity or inappropriate displays of temper will be allowed at games or practices.
- H. Disciplinary problems at school or unsatisfactory classroom performance will not be tolerated.

#### **ARTICLE XV. PARENTS CODE OF CONDUCT**

- A. I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care, and encouragement for my child participating in youth sports by following this code of ethics.
- B. I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, cheerleaders, coaches, and officials at every game, practice, or other youth sports events.
- C. I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my child ahead of any personal desire to win.
- D. I will insist that my child play in a safe and healthy environment.
- E. I will provide support for coaches and officials working with my child to provide a positive, enjoyable experience for all.
- F. I will demand a drug, alcohol, and tobacco-free sports environment for my child and agree to assist by refraining from their use at all youth sports events.
- G. I will remember that the games and competition is for children and not for adults.
- H. I will do my very best to make youth sports fun for my child.

- I. I will ask my child to treat other players, coaches, fans, and officials with respect regardless of race, sex, creed, or ability.
- J. I will always address any issues with my child's coach in private.
- K. I will promise to help my child enjoy the youth sports experience within my personal constraints by assisting with coaching, being a respectful fan, providing transportation or whatever I am capable of doing.

**NOTE: IF YOU VIOLATE THESE RULES, YOU WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM PARTICIPATION AT A MINIMUM OF A FULL GAME FOR THE FIRST VIOLATION AND SUBJECT TO SUSPENSION FOR THE SEASON FOR THE SECOND VIOLATION. ANY DECISION BY THE BOARD WILL BE FINAL. HEAD COACHES WILL IMMEDIATELY REPORT CHEERLEADER EJECTIONS TO THE PROGRAM'S CHEERLEADING AREA DIRECTOR AND PROGRAM DIRECTOR.**