



## Cougar Cheer Attendance Policy

**In an effort to be as safe and as fair to all team-members as possible, we are updating our attendance policy in 2024. This policy will apply to all cheerleaders.**

It is very important that cheerleaders attend all practices and games. It is incredibly difficult for the entire team to learn new cheers, routines, stunts, and formations with missing cheerleaders. If there is a reason a cheerleader cannot attend a practice or a game, the head coach should be notified. Some examples of excused absences are doctor notes, funerals, etc.

### **Unexcused Absences**

3 unexcused absences - Sit out first quarter of a game

4 unexcused absences - Sit out 1 half of a game

5 unexcused absences - Not eligible to participate in Cheerfest

### **Unexcused Tardies**

A cheerleader is considered tardy if they are 5 or more minutes late to practice.

A tardy will equal 0.5 unexcused Absences

### **Other Sports and Activities**

#### **NEW THIS YEAR:**

- Your cheerleader will be excused from attending a full or partial practice up to **ONE time a week** for other sports/ activities.
- If they will miss more than one time a week for other sports/ activities, those absences are unexcused (even if they are for another sport or activity that has been excused in previous years).
- The two weeks prior to competition will be **mandatory** - no exceptions. Other sports and activities **will not** be excused during that timeframe.

When a Cheerleader reaches 5 unexcused absences, they are ineligible to compete in Cheerfest, per SMYFA League rules.

*NOTE: If you are going to miss more than 1 day of practice a week through the season for another sport's practices/games, you can absolutely still join cheer (We'd love to have you!) & you may participate in all games, **but you will be ineligible for participation in Cheerfest.***