



## OCONEE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT Cheerleading – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



### **What age group will my child cheer in?**

Ages 6-13

Divisions: OCHS/NOHS - 7U, 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade/12U (U = Under)

*The age control date is August 1, 2023. Age on that date determines league.*

### **Are exceptions made to the age control date?**

Occasionally, age divisions are merged together based on low registration totals. Approval from the Program Coordinator is required before a child can be placed in a different age level.

### **What do I need to wear/buy?**

Practice: comfortable clothing and athletic cheer or running shoes.

Games: A uniform will be provided. Includes top, skirt, a pair of briefs, crop top liner, and (2) poms.

We offer two **mandatory** fitting dates. All cheerleaders must attend **one fitting**. Fittings are held at Oconee Veterans Park in the Community Center.

#### **Fitting Dates:**

**Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am-12:00 pm**

**Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 4:00-7:00 pm**

### **Can I request a specific squad or coach for my child to be placed with?**

Team placement requests are not considered. Cheerleaders are placed by their age and high school they are zoned. Head Coach's child(ren) and sibling(s), are the only guaranteed placements.

### **Where will practices and games be held?**

Practices are held at Oconee County Parks. Games are held in High School stadiums at North Oconee, Oconee, and other locations within the NGYFA.

### **What days of the week will my child's squad see activity?**

There is no guarantee to any team/league on a specific weeknight. Practices are primarily held on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and/or Thursday. The games are on Saturdays. Game start times will vary, ranging from 9:00 am through 6:00 pm. The youngest-age football divisions typically play first.

### **How many cheerleaders are on a squad?**

The roster size will be 6 to 20 cheerleaders. Total numbers fluctuate based on registration numbers.

### **Will my child make a squad? Will there be "Try Outs"?**

There will not be a "tryout". Every Cheerleader registered will be assigned to a squad.

### **Does OCPRD coordinate end-of-season trophies?**

OCPRD does not coordinate for trophies or end-of-season awards. NGYFA will award trophies to the Super Bowl Champions, Super Bowl Runner Up, **and their Cheerleaders**. All squads are encouraged to arrange a post-season celebration on their own.

### **Is there a role other than coaching where I can help?**

Yes! Most coaches need a parent(s) for photography, end-of-season activities, snacks, etc.

### **What is the NGYFA?**

North Georgia Youth Football Association is the league we participate in. North Oconee teams are in the NFC Conference and Oconee teams are in the AFC Conference. Visit [www.ngyfa.org](http://www.ngyfa.org) for schedules and information related to the league.

### **What is PAYS Requirement?**

PAYS stands for the Parents Association of Youth Sports and is part of the National Association of Youth Sports. At least one parent/guardian of each youth participant is required to complete the online PAYS program:

- Go to <http://www.nays.org/parents>
- Select blue "Sign Up!" button
- Completing the PAYS program: click "Get Started"
- Contact Information: Complete contact info, then click "Next"
- Program affiliation requirement: click "Yes"
- Navy affiliated sports program: click "No"
- League/Agency: select "Oconee County Pks & Rec Dept" and then click "Next"
- Payment Information: NO PAYMENT OR DONATION REQUIRED, simply click "Confirm"
- Confirmation: Click "Process"
- Thank You for Registering page appears, click "Next"
- Click "Start the NAYS Parent Course"
- Click on video to begin course
- Answer required course questions to complete

### **How do I volunteer to coach or to be an assistant coach?**

- Register as a volunteer coach online at <https://register.communitypass.net/OconeeCounty>
- Complete and pass an online background screening: [OCPRD Background Screening Form](#)
- Head Coaches must be approved by the OCYFL Executive Board.
- Complete the NYSCA Training.
- Complete free online CDC Heads Up: Concussion in Youth Sports training (1 time only)
- Complete Darkness to Light (1 time only)