

# Wethersfield Cheer Policies. 2026

## 1. Attendance

Cheerleaders are required to attend all practices and games for the ENTIRETY of the season. Carpooling is a great way to ensure timeliness for your cheerleader. As you know, we often have to roll out mats or set up equipment so please plan to arrive 5 minutes in advance to start time. Additionally, all cheerleaders should be picked up no later than 5 minutes after practice ends. Children should NOT be left at any practice facilities without a coach or pre-assigned team parent present.

Excused absences include contagious illness (fever, flu) and death in the family. If your cheerleader is experiencing discomfort (headache, stomachache, etc.), we ask that they attend practice but sit out to be present for potential changes to routines/performances. Outside of that, all other vacations/planned/anticipated absences must be reported prior to August 3<sup>rd</sup> commitment date. 15 mins late to practices/

games for 3 occurrences = 1 unexcused absence. Two unexcused absences/no call no shows

will result in change of position in competition routine due to safety precautions, and/OR sitting for halftime at the football game. After three unexcused absences, there will be a one-on-one parent meeting and discussion of removal from competition routine as a safety precaution.

Additionally, arrival to games more than 15 minutes late will lead to removal of that day's

half time routine. Your cheerleader will still be required to cheer on the sideline.

*\*\*Texts or communication right before practice/game/competition that a child will be late or not attending is unacceptable and will not be excused. All absences should be told to*

*your head coach as soon as possible to allow for proper planning of practice/game situations.*

## 2. Games

Cheerleaders will be expected to be with their team for the entirety of the game they are cheering at and will not be released to parents until after the game is finished.

Under no circumstances should children be sitting on the bleachers or sidelines with their parents. After their halftime performance we will find a designated area where children can relax for a minute and parents are welcome to greet their children in that area but again will not be able to take them away from the team at that time. Children will also not be permitted to go to concession stands and order food during this time. If you would like to purchase something for your child before their break you may, but it needs to be eaten within the break timeframe and cannot get the uniforms dirty.

### 3. Fundraising

Wethersfield Pop Warner is a non-profit organization and runs off fundraisers and community support. The program recognizes the cost of being an athlete and understands the importance of raising funds to cheer. Due to past inconsistencies with fundraising between players/teams we are now requiring cheerleaders/families to fundraise a minimum of \$200 this season to receive any disbursement of funds. This may be for (but is not limited to) things like team apparel or to offset travel expenses. Various opportunities to fundraise will be communicated throughout the season. If you cannot commit to fundraising, we ask that your family donate in lieu of raising the funds or devoting the time otherwise.

### 4. Team Parent

Each team is required to have at least one parent volunteer as team parent. Our coaches volunteer hours of their time during the season and the purpose of the team parent is to allow the coaches to focus on progressing the cheerleader's skills and training while creating a fun routine.

Required duties will include:

- Coordinating volunteers for home football games and competitions
- Helping coaches/league communicate fundraisers
- Assist in communicating important information to parents
- Collecting required paperwork

\*\*As a bonus for being our team parent, we will be registering/training team parents so that they can join the team on competition day. This means sitting with the team and not having to purchase your ticket.

**5. Pop Warner Expectations:** In addition to sideline cheer for our Nutmeg football teams, Wethersfield Youth Cheerleading is part of Southern Pop Warner Cheer Association. Being a Pop Warner team has its own requirements as does any other league. It is to be expected that if you participate in our cheer program you are also required to abide by the rules and expectations of Pop Warner.

*These expectations are outlined below.*

- a. Our A & B teams are competitive cheer squads. The expectation for a competitive team is to participate in all competitions local and National. Beginning this year, we are requiring a commitment for competitions no later than August 3rd.
- b. Pop Warner volunteering is required by each family within the league. There will be multiple opportunities to volunteer and each town needs to bring volunteers to these events. These opportunities include volunteer time at each competition as well as the semi-final Pop Warner Football game. Without volunteers for these we will lose our \$1000 travel voucher as well as risk the ability to stay in Pop Warner.

## 6. Competition

Competitions will be held on two Saturdays in October, Regionals are typically the first weekend in November and Nationals the first-second week of December. It is imperative coaches know who will be at competitions to allow them to form stunt groups/positions in choreography accordingly.

Children are expected to arrive for competition at the time determined by the coaches (released the week of competition based on performance time) and will not under any circumstances be released to parents until competition is over.

At no point during the competition will children be allowed to go off and sit with their parents - they will remain with the coaches in their designated seating area and be brought to the bathroom, to concession, and any other requirements by the coaches/team parent.

## TRAVEL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I \_\_\_\_\_ hereby acknowledge the following by signing up my athlete \_\_\_\_\_ as a member of the Wethersfield 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 Wethersfield Pop Warner Cheerleading program in the future. All travel is subject to team placement and advancement; however, we must plan for all options.

### **Please initial that you are choosing the below for the 2026 season:**

\_\_\_\_\_ I will be able to travel to the local competition October, the regional competition in Massachusetts in November, and the National Competition in December held in Charlotte, NC (minimum stay is 4 days/3 nights of hotel plus airfare).

\_\_\_\_\_ I will be able to travel to the local competition October, the regional competition in Massachusetts in November but **not** the National Competition in December held in Charlotte, NC (minimum stay is 4 days/3 nights of hotel plus airfare).

\_\_\_\_\_ 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 Wethersfield Pop Warner Cheerleading program in the future.

## 7. Overall expectations:

Cheerleaders should be cautious of what they are posting on social media. Privacy does not exist in the social media world. Remind athletes the potential consequences of posting online and the possibility of their post became widely known.

Bullying or negative comments from athletes or parents towards other teammates, families, coaches, or the Wethersfield Pop Warner program as a whole, will NOT be tolerated – this includes both things inside and outside of cheer. This includes cyber bullying as well. Any reports of this type of behavior will result in disciplinary action including but not limited to:

- Extra conditioning
- Verbal warning
- Removal from practice or games
- Removal from program completely for one season
- Permanent ban from program

Our coaches are required to take extensive training to evaluate the skill level and appropriateness and positioning of athletes. With that being said, we will not tolerate any politics regarding formations and stunting positions of specific children. We will evaluate the skill levels of each athlete as we get to know them and do what is best and

safest for the entirety of the team - we will not cater to any specific child based on wants. If they want additional work or practice to learn how to get themselves to a level to fit a certain position, we will be happy to assist with that.

At no point throughout the season should athletes cheer or participate in stunts or performances/routines without a certified coach present. Failure to do so may result in removal from the program. Additionally, participation in any other competitive cheer squad while the Wethersfield Cheer season is in progress is prohibited.