

# RYFC CHEER ATTENDANCE POLICY



The Richmond Youth Football & Cheer Program has established this Attendance Policy to ensure the safety, preparedness, and positive experience of all participants. Football and cheerleading are physically demanding activities requiring consistent practice and instruction to minimize the risk of injury and to maintain the integrity of team play. This policy applies to all participants and must be strictly followed.

## Practice & Game Attendance

Consistent attendance is critical for the safety and development of each participant and their teammates. Proper practice ensures that all participants are adequately prepared for the physical and technical demands of football and cheerleading.

**Unexcused Absences:** A unexcused absence is defined as the failure to attend a practice or game without notifying your team parent, or head coach in advance. The absence must be justifiable (i.e. illness, or family emergency) and approved (i.e. family vacations, educational commitments or religious observances).

**Tardiness to Practice:** Tardiness is defined as being 15 minutes or more late to the start of practice or a game. Approved tardiness must be communicated to team parents or head coaches in an appropriate amount of time.

Excessive unexcused tardiness to practice will result in disciplinary actions as stated above under "unexcused absences".

**Excused Absences:** Absences will only be excused for legitimate reasons, such as illness, injury, family emergencies, or unavoidable conflicts. Parents/guardians must notify the coach or team parent as soon as possible in such cases.

**Communication:** Parents/guardians are responsible for communicating with coaches and team parents any changes that may affect the athlete, or the athletes ability to participate. Lack of communication from a parent/guardian can affect a coaches ability to prepare practice or game materials, and affect other athletes. If an athlete becomes unreliable in attendance of games or practices with no previous communication, that athlete may be omitted from the roster.

**Timely Game Day Arrival:** Arrival times for games are set to ensure participants are prepared and have sufficient time for warm-ups. Adherence to these times ensures the smooth operation of the program and compliance with league requirements.

**Late Game day Arrival:** Unless pre-determined, and appropriately communicated with a team parent or head coach, the following disciplinary action may result if an athlete is late to a game.

15 minutes late or more: The athlete may not be eligible to participate in part or all of that days sideline cheer. Disciplinary action will be up to the head coach, and will take into account previous unexcused absences and tardy arrivals.

## Disciplinary Policies and Absence Policies for Football Program

1. A coach may take a teammate out of competition following four (4) excused absences and/or two (2) unexcused absences in the three (3) weeks following up to a competition to ensure the team has the amount of knowledge needed to make their physical contact during the routines safe.

2. A coach is permitted to pull a child out of a game or practice due to misconduct, poor sportsmanship or incorrect attire.

Practices focus on sideline chanting and preparing routines for competition. Each stunt group consists of four athletes, and if a single teammate is absent, the entire group must refrain from practicing stunts to comply with safety rules. **Repeated absences not only impact the individual but also leave the entire group unprepared for competition.**

## Acknowledgment of Attendance Policy

By enrolling your child in the Richmond Youth Football & Cheer Program, parents/guardians acknowledge their understanding of and agreement to this Attendance Policy. These policies are designed to prioritize the safety, preparedness, and enjoyment of all participants while maintaining the integrity of the program.