



Georgia Buckeyes All-Star Cheer Handbook

These guidelines are provided to inform athletes and parents of the expectations of those participating in the Georgia Buckeyes cheerleading program. Cheerleaders participating on the team must be in agreement with these guidelines and must adhere to them during their tenure on the squad. Team members may not participate in the first official practice until this form is signed and returned to the coaching staff.

Philosophy

The philosophy of the Georgia Buckeyes cheerleading program has three major goals: (1) to be a support group for all age levels of the Georgia Buckeyes football organization, encouraging community spirit; (2) to strive to be a successful competitive program; (3) and to help our cheerleader athletes develop qualities that will enable them to achieve success in all future endeavors.

Standards for Cheerleaders

Cheerleaders by title are role-models. Remember that there are people watching everything you say and do. Because of this, the Georgia Buckeyes cheerleaders are expected to set high standards for the organization and to set a good example for their fellow athletes. To achieve these ends, the cheerleaders will:

- Sign and abide by the provisions of this contract and NWGYFL/Georgia Buckeyes By Laws and Codes of Conduct.

- Maintain academic and attendance requirements required by the NWGYFL /Georgia Buckeyes guidelines for elementary/middle school athletes.
 - Cheerleaders are **Student-Athletes**, which means you are a student first and an athlete second. We are **requiring** all cheerleaders to have a **GPA of 2.0 or higher**. We expect all cheerleaders to be leaders in and out of the classroom. We will be checking cheerleaders' grades every 3 weeks. If a cheerleader is failing a class, they will be permitted to attend tutoring until they show improvement per the teacher.
- Attend all scheduled practices/games/performances, unless it is an excused absence approved by coaching staff.
- Set an example of good behavior at all times (whether in uniform or not) in class, games, and at all community functions.
- Cooperate with each other and follow the instruction of the cheerleading coaches.

*Any violation of the rules outlined in this contract will result in one or more of the following consequences administered at the discretion of the cheerleading coach and/or Georgia Buckeyes board members: verbal warning, parent conference, temporary suspension from games, or permanent removal from the team.

Points to Remember

In this program, we plan on being an exemplary squad. Keep in mind that by nature, the time commitment and demands are great. All athletes are required to uphold their commitment to the team. Everyone must have a solid working knowledge of all cheers, chants, stunts, and routines. While we recognize absences happen, every attempt should be made to be present at all practices and games. During game suspensions, the squad member will sit in uniform with the coach/advisor. This is not a time to socialize.

Behavior

Georgia Buckeyes Cheerleader behavior should be exemplary at all times.

Every cheerleader will be put on a Demerit System. A total of 5 demerits will result in a 2game suspension. Demerits can be earned by:

- An unexcused absence of a practice or game (Attendance policy is detailed below)
- misconduct during school hours noted by parents
- misconduct during practice or games, including bullying (after 1-verbal warning, 2-verbal warning with consequence, 3-demerit),
- not being prepared for a game (leaving any part of uniform at home, not wearing proper attire on game day)
- cell phone use during practice or game
- no food or gum should be present during practice or games (food during games will be discussed on a case by case basis)

Each squad member will treat coaches, game officials, and other Georgia Buckeyes staff with respect at all times. This attitude should also extend to members of this and other cheerleading squads.

*Coaches' discretion will be final regarding inappropriate behavior or attitude.

Attendance

When joining Georgia Buckeyes or any all-star program the most important thing that you will need to understand is the commitment you are getting into! When a routine is set your athlete is now a very important part of our squad that is not easily replaced!

It is the responsibility of the cheerleader's parent to notify the coaches by phone, text or email, of any potential tardy or absence.

Members must arrive at events/practices on time, already dressed, and ready to warm-up. Unless it's an emergency or the coach is contacted, the **entire** team will run for late members.

We will consider the following acceptable reasons for missed practices, games, and appearances:

1. Injury – The member must still attend practice/games (unless physically unable), but will not participate until medical clearance has been provided. Doctor's notes must be specific in nature of injury and restrictions.
2. Illness – A member may only miss practice with a phone call from the parent (texting or email OK) verifying an illness
3. Family Emergencies/Funerals-Class requirement that cannot be fulfilled at another time.
4. Family Vacations

Practice Expectations

Football Schedule: Practice every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 6:30-8:30 pm

Each girl should always remember to bring an ample supply of water with them to every practice. Practice attire primarily includes tennis shoes, shorts, yoga pants, t-shirt, hair up in a secure ponytail. A practice uniform schedule will be provided prior to the start of the season. Bring all medical needs (inhalers, insulin pumps, etc.) to all practice and games. When girls arrive to practice, they should be fully dressed at the start of practice. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action.

Game Expectations

In the fall, football games typically occur on Saturday morning/afternoons. The season is 13 weeks long, please expect to cheer for a minimum of 2 games per week, half of which will likely be away games. Final game day schedule will be provided upon receipt from NWGYFL. All cheerleaders are expected to participate in all scheduled games.

Cheerleaders are to remain in the cheering area during the game. DO NOT socialize with players, crowd members, or parents during the game. During a game, cheerleaders will ONLY be allowed to leave the cheering area for halftime.

Competition Expectations

Georgia Buckeyes Cheerleaders will be competing in both NWGYFL and non NWGYFL competitions for the 2024-2025 season. More information on each competition will be provided during the season.

Each competition will have an arrival meet up time. Athletes will be required to stay together with their coach at competitions once meet up time has approached.

We also ask that all cheerleaders sit together after they compete as well.

Competitions are long days and we suggest that you pack your cheerleader activities and snacks. We highly recommend homework, books, and chargers.

Coach's Discretion:

All Georgia Buckeye cheerleading rules will be interpreted and carried out by the Georgia Buckeyes cheer coaches, under the guidance of the Georgia Buckeyes Administration.

These team rules will remain the same throughout the entire year and will be applied equitably to each squad member. No exceptions will be provided to any team member. These are the 2024-2025 Georgia Buckeyes cheerleading rules and regulations reviewed and approved by the Georgia Buckeyes Administration.

**2024-2025 Georgia Buckeyes All-Star
Cheerleading Contract**

We understand that the activity of cheerleading involves risk to the participant. We further acknowledge and understand that due to the nature of this activity there is a possibility that _____ may sustain physical illness or injury in connection with her participation. We hereby accept this risk and we further release Georgia Buckeyes Youth Football and Cheerleading and its representatives from any claims for personal illness or injury that _____ might sustain during participation in this activity.

We also understand that Georgia Buckeyes, Inc. has established rules and regulations pertaining to conduct, behavior, and activities of all students and cheerleading participants, by which we must abide during participation in this program, and that we will be responsible for our own failure to abide by these rules and regulations. We have been provided with a copy of the cheerleading guidelines for 2024-2025 and agree to participate in accordance with these expectations. By signing this form we have read and agreed with the Georgia Buckeyes coaching staff rules and regulations as they pertain to my daughter as a member of the Georgia Buckeyes cheer family.

Name of Cheerleader:: _____ Date: _____

Cheerleader Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____
