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**2024 ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Attendance is essential to the success of each season. Cheerleading is a TEAM sport and a huge commitment. This is not an individual sport where when you miss a day, you are only hurting yourself. If you miss a day, this negatively impacts your teammates (Examples: If a flier is missing, who is your stunt group going to hold and practice to ensure they are gripping correctly to prevent injury? If you are missing a base, the flier cannot be lifted). Each cheerleader’s 100% commitment is required as each position on the squad is important and each position is dependent on one another and there are no substitutes in cheerleading. When one cheerleader is absent, it places hardship on the entire squad and it can also become a safety issue. It is for these reasons that each cheerleader and parent(s)/guardian(s) must be advised of the importance of compliance with this Attendance Policy.

Attendance is mandatory at every practice and every game. If there is a conflict with another activity in which you participate, it is expected that SLYC will come first. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each practice, game or event. It will be recorded and monitored throughout the entire season. Each cheerleader is expected to be present at the onset of practice and remain present throughout the entire practice, and from the time designated by the coach pre-game and throughout the entire game.

In August we hold multiple days of choreography camps & stunt clinics, which often fall on a weekend day(s). These days are mandatory for every cheerleader as they provide the foundation to our competition routines. As we get closer to competition season, some practices may be deemed mandatory and/or some additional mandatory practices may be added. Any cheerleader who misses one of these mandatory days may be removed from the competition team.

We understand that things may come up throughout the season. For that reason, each cheerleader is allowed three (3) **unexcused** absences. **NO ABSENCE IS ALLOWED AFTER NOVEMBER 1st.**

**Excused absences are: Medical, School functions, Family emergencies.**

**We do not expect any issues with attendance. However, if a cheerleader exceeds the three (3) unexcused absences allowance, then the following will take place:**

After the third (3rd) unexcused absence, a conference will be held with the cheerleader, parent(s)/guardian(s), the Head Team Coach and the SLYC Executive Board. At this time we will revisit this Attendance Policy and will review the consequence of the fourth (4th) unexcused absence.

After the fourth (4th) unexcused absence, the cheerleader will be removed from the competition team and will only be allowed to sideline cheer.

**It is important to note that excessive tardiness will be counted as unexcused absences.** Head Team Coaches will make the determination and a conference will also be held if necessary.

If a situation occurs that may cause a violation to this policy, please notify the SLYC Executive Board and the Head Team Coach as soon as possible for special consideration. Each situation will be handled on a case by case basis.