

Code of Conduct & Anti Bullying Policy

At Wildfire Cheer we strive to provide a safe and friendly environment where all athletes, parents and coaches are treated with respect and enjoy their time at cheerleading. Before accepting their place onto a team, parents and athletes will be asked to sign that they understand and agree to the following Codes of Conduct and Anti Bullying Policy:

Athlete Code of Conduct & Anti Bullying Policy:

- Athletes must follow all instructions from coaches and work towards the goals set with a positive attitude. Rudeness, inappropriate language or refusal to participate may result in the athlete being sat out of the practice or sent home.
- Athletes should understand that all decisions on team placements, stunt positions, training methods and routine choreography are made by coaches only. Your coaches have your best interests in mind, but also the success of the team as a whole. You are expected to put 100% into any team, stunting role or choreography.
- Appropriate clothing and shoes must be worn at all times. Long hair must always be tied back and any jewellery taken out (or covered with tape if not possible). Most competitions will not allow you to compete with jewellery in at all (even if taped).
- Under no circumstances should an athlete attempt any stunts unless specifically instructed to and supervised by a qualified coach. Please do not practice tumbling outside of training which is beyond your current ability or not on a safe surface. Please do not attempt to 'spot' your child unless qualified to do so.
- All training facilities and equipment must be treated with respect and any specific venue rules must be followed.
- At competitions, athletes must show good sportsmanship and respect towards coaches, teammates, other teams and competition staff at all times. If you haven't got anything nice to say about other teams, then please keep it to yourself! Your behaviour reflects on the whole club.
- Bullying will be taken seriously – this includes abusive language, name calling, physical violence, unfriendly teasing, snarky comments and cyber bullying. If an athlete is causing distress to other athletes, or generally behaving badly and this has been observed on multiple occasions, they may be asked to leave the club, or not be invited back next season. Any serious incidents may result in the athlete involved being asked to leave the club immediately.
- Please discuss any concerns or incidents with a coach and we will try to resolve issues between athletes and parents. We understand that children and young people do sometimes act inappropriately and fall out with each other. Often an apology and a reminder about behaviour standards will solve things.

Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct:

- Please note that all of the above rules regarding respecting coaches, competition etiquette and bullying also apply to parents and anyone directly involved with our club. Whilst we do not expect to ever be in this situation, serious incidents involving parents may result in the athlete being removed from the club.
- Most athletes participating in cheerleading are children, so it is also parents' responsibility to make sure their children are following the athlete code of conduct.
- Please try to discuss any issues between athletes with coaches first rather than approaching other parents.
- Where parents/guardians are allowed to watch practices, they must sit quietly, not too close to the mats and not interrupt the practice. Please do not attempt any 'sideline coaching', all of our club coaches are qualified and experienced. Please avoid bringing young siblings into the practice where possible as it's not a safe environment for toddlers to be running around.
- Parents/guardians must not film or take photos of training in any circumstances. This is for safeguarding reasons, but also just to make sure that all athletes feel comfortable at training. The only parents who may be allowed to do this are those we have cleared as 'official photographers' who we have a DBS check on record for. Please see our Photography and Image Policy for more details about this.
- In most circumstances it's fine for parents to take pictures and videos of their own child's team and other Wildfire teams at competitions or public performances. If you have been asked not to do this for a specific safeguarding reason however, please respect this. Please DO NOT film or photograph other teams or their athletes.
- Please respect coaches by only contacting them directly during working hours (9am to 5pm on weekdays) unless to report an unexpected absence or issue regarding training that evening. It is fine to contact coaches at the weekend if it's regarding a competition or event that weekend, however please bear in mind that they may be extremely busy and unable to reply.
- All monthly fees must be paid by direct debit or standing order on the agreed date (usually the 1st of each month). If any payments fail or are late, we will remind you, but if fees are not paid within a month, we will start to take steps to remove your child from their team. If you are experiencing unexpected financial difficulties, please get in touch as we may be able to help.
- The club will not order or give out any uniforms, merchandise or competition tickets that haven't been paid for by the agreed date.
- If an athlete leaves the club for any reason with any fees still due, these must be paid. We will seek to recover unpaid fees using legal means if necessary. There will be no refunds on any fees paid (unless in exceptional circumstances).