



Code of Conduct & Anti-Bullying Policy 2022-23

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 in a team or class, 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 and respect for their teammates and coaches.
- All training facilities and equipment must be treated with respect and any specific venue rules must be followed.
- Appropriate clothing and shoes must be worn at all times. Long hair must always be tied back and any jewellery/piercings taken out (or covered with tape if not possible).
- Competitive members only – most competitions will either not allow you to compete with any piercings in at all (even if taped) or will take heavy deductions for this. Please do not get any new piercings that cannot be removed before competitions. Both competition providers and Wildfire Cheer reserve the right not to allow an athlete to compete with piercings left in.
- Under no circumstances should an athlete attempt any stunt or tumbling unless specifically instructed to and supervised by a qualified coach. Please do not practice anything (other than stretching, conditioning or basic tumbling on a safe surface) outside of training.
- At competitions, athletes must show good sportsmanship and respect towards coaches, teammates, other teams and competition staff at all times. Remember that you are in Wildfire uniform and your behaviour reflects on the whole club.
- Bullying will be taken seriously – this includes abusive language, name calling, physical violence, unfriendly teasing and cyber bullying. If an athlete is causing distress to other athletes then this will be dealt with in an appropriate way.
- 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:

- All of the above rules regarding respecting others, competition etiquette and bullying also apply to parents and anyone directly involved with our 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.
- Parents are not generally permitted to watch practices. Where there are exceptions made (e.g. for a young child's first session), they must sit quietly and not attempt any 'sideline coaching'.
- Parents/guardians must not film or take photos of training in any circumstances. This is for safeguarding reasons. 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 note that in most circumstances, coaches will only respond to messages or emails during working hours (9am until 8pm on weekdays). Coaches do not generally work on weekends other than when there are training sessions or competitions on that weekend.
- All monthly fees must be paid by direct debit 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.
- Any late payment of competition entry fees may result in additional admin charges from the competition or the club.
- 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, there will be no refunds on any training fees paid. All fees up to the date of leaving must be paid in all circumstances.