



TEACH Cheer Code of Conduct Handbook

TEACH Guardians Athletic Department



TEACH Athletic Mission Statement

The mission of our TEACH Guardians Athletic Program is to teach our student athletes the benefits of competition and understand its redemptive value. While TEACH Athletes will be taught to win, we must have a higher purpose in competing: glorifying Christ by using our gifts, having self discipline, developing Godly character and displaying good sportsmanship and teamwork.

TEACH Athletic Philosophy

TEACH Athletics believes sports are an integral part of the educational process. We believe that when teamed with an academic education as well as spiritual guidance, athletics is an important portion of the growth and development of young people. Academic performance will take precedence over performance on an athletic court. While we invite all students to participate in many of our athletic programs, athletics is not required nor is it a right; participating in athletics is a privilege and should be viewed as such. We will strive to be the most competitive athletic program we can be. This means that physical ability to perform athletic tasks will be a major factor in determining the makeup of our teams as well as the amount of playing time a student athlete may receive at any given time. However, physical ability is not the sole determining factor that coaches will use in shaping teams and allowing playing time. Hard work, loyalty, dedication to the program and being coachable are just a few more factors a student athlete should focus on.

TEACH athletic program is not run as a recreational program. We will be competitive at the highest level possible. We will not sacrifice moral values, Christian principles or safety in order to be more successful, but we will make every effort to build a successful program at every level.

Cheerleader Handbook Purpose

The purpose of the TEACH Cheer handbook is to familiarize the TEACH community, cheerleaders and parents of the direction of our cheer program. The guidelines within the handbook are important and will be followed. Responsibilities and rules of conduct for cheerleader and parent are defined within. This code is established by the cheer coaches and TEACH Athletics. Each student presenting herself as a candidate to cheer as well as her parents must agree to abide by this code

Role of Cheerleaders

Cheerleading is a team sport! Each and every cheerleader is important to their team. Being a part of a team is a privilege for each student. An important purpose of TEACH cheerleaders is to promote and uphold school spirit, unity and pride, to represent TEACH Guardians to the highest degree.

Attitude is everything. Players should have the attitude that the team is bigger than themselves. Players should exhibit 100% commitment and effort. Sportsmanship is expected both on and off the court. TEACH Cheerleaders represent not only themselves but the entire TEACH organization.

Therefore, cheerleaders agree to uphold the following ideals:

- I will conduct myself in a Christ-like manner in regards to my coaches, teammates, and others. This includes in my speech, actions, and attitude. This includes at games and practices as well as community and online.
- I will be a positive role model and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for my teammates, coaches, officials, players and spectators at every game, practice, or other sporting event.
- Pay attention at practice and listen to coaches, always follow directions and strive hard to learn the cheers. Practice is not a social time but a time to give 100% to the team and coaches.
- Arrive on time to games in complete uniform, ready to warm up and remain in uniform until exiting gymnasium. Unless otherwise instructed by coaches, cheerleaders should arrive 30 minutes before the game.
- If an issue arises, I will follow proper chain of command in contacting my coach. I will never question or confront coaches on the game court, but rather will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
- Practice is mandatory. If I miss practice when new material is presented, I realize I may have to sit out the next game.
- I recognize that possession of drugs, alcohol, tobacco and/or any type of electronic nicotine delivery system or weapons is prohibited at all TEACH functions
- I will not use a cell phone during practice or during games without receiving permission from coach.
- I will not chew gum during practice or during games.
- I will support and endorse all the rules, policies and procedures discussed in the rest of this handbook.

Role of Cheer Parents

A very important goal of middle school and high school athletics should be to make the athletic experience a positive one for the athletes, the coaches, the parents and those who choose to watch our teams perform.

Parents play a key role in this process, not only by their behavior at sporting events, but also in how they support these beliefs at home. Parents and other spectators at athletic events are expected to show good sportsmanship. We should strive to exhibit Christ-like behavior, keeping in mind the influence we have not only on our youth, but also on other spectators, who may or may not know Christ. Pray with us that this team experience will be beneficial for your student and that the Lord will be glorified in the attitudes and actions of their team.

Parents, as role models, should lead by example in order to teach our young ladies how to carry themselves as ladies both on and off the court. Parents and family members agree to uphold the following ideals:

- As a parent I recognize that it is vital that I support the efforts and decisions of the coaching staff.
- As a parent I agree to conduct myself in a manner consistent with the dictates of good sportsmanship at all games/practices by showing respect and courtesy to all cheerleaders and coaches. I will refrain from criticizing the efforts of the cheerleaders and the coaches.
- Attendance at practice is a priority for all team members. As a parent/guardian of a team member I will make every attempt to assure that my child will be able to attend all practices and contests. Cheerleaders may sit the bench during games for missing practices.
- TEACH athletics is a volunteer-driven, nonprofit organization and parents are expected to cheerfully volunteer with concessions, fundraising, helping with home game Gate Admission or any other support necessary to run the athletic program.
- I will respect the coaches, TEACH board and athletic coordinators and their authority. I will never question, discuss or confront coaches or board/committee members at a game or practice. If something occurs with which I disagree, I will calmly follow the proper chain of command. I understand instigating or participating in a confrontation in front of any child is never appropriate and will not be allowed.
- I recognize that possession of drugs, alcohol, tobacco and/or any type of electronic nicotine delivery system or weapons is prohibited at all TEACH functions
- I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others. If any physical ailment prevents my child from practices or games, I will provide a doctor's signed letter of release allowing athlete to return to cheer.
- I will support and endorse all the rules, policies and procedures discussed in the rest of this handbook.

Prerequisites and Participations

- Be a TEACH member.
- Submit signed Statement of Commitment agreeing to contents of Student Handbook
- Submit student online Registration/payment/required forms
- Sport Physical after April 15th of the current season and prior to cheering in games.

Risk Factor in Sports

There is an inherent risk involved when participating in sports. Please be aware of this risk and ways to help prevent injury. It is extremely important to report any injury to your coach immediately and to your doctor as soon as possible.

Chain of Command

In the event that there is a question concerning your child, NEVER confront coaches at a game or at practice. Rather, contact the coaches by texting or email in order to set up a predetermined time to meet. Please follow the chain of command in order to solve any issue.

The chain of command is as follows:

1. Player to Coaches
2. Player/Parent to Coaches
3. Player/Parent to Athletic Coordinators
4. Player/Parent to TEACH Board

Player Fees

Families will be assessed a player fee which helps cover costs incurred by TEACH athletics to run an athletic program.

Practices/Games Commitment

Cheer practices and TEACH Guardian games will be posted on the TEACH calendar. PLEASE be aware all practice dates/times as well as game dates/times are SUBJECT TO CHANGE. Cheerleaders are committing to the cheer season running from around Sept/Oct to the end of February.

Disciplinary Policies

Violation of any of the rules and regulations found within this document can jeopardize the privilege of any student to participate in TEACH athletics programs. Punishment is at the discretion of the coaching staff and TEACH athletics.

Leaving a Team

Individuals leaving a squad without the coach's permission or because of Athletic Code of Conduct Rule violation forfeit all awards, banquets and fees paid. Such individuals may not participate on any other athletic team that same sport season and may be prohibited from playing during the next season as well.

Cheer Appearance

PLEASE NOTE, For safety purposes--NO EXCEPTIONS:

No jewelry of any kind at games or practices.

This includes but is not limited to: earrings, bracelets, necklaces, rings, watches or body jewelry
Fingernails must be sport length: no long or fake/acrylic nails

Uniforms

TEACH Guardians does not provide cheer uniforms/equipment. Cheerleaders are expected to purchase any uniforms/equipment which are required by the Cheer coaches.

Required: **Please make payments through PayPal. TEACH athletics: teachguardians@gmail.com

- Shell top
- Body liner
- Trunks
- Skirt
- Cheer shoes
- Pom poms
- Game bow

Optional items may be offered: **These items must be paid for in advance.

Practices-- Arrive at practice dressed in appropriate practice wear with hair up in a ponytail, bun or braid.

Games--Arrive at games dressed in full uniform which includes:

- Shell top
- Body liner
- Trunks
- Skirt (unless otherwise instructed by coach)
- Appropriate socks (MUST be white no show socks unless otherwise instructed by coach)
- Hair in a PONYTAIL with game bow in hair (unless otherwise instructed by coach)
- Make up, if worn, must be applied before arriving.
- Nail polish, if worn, must be green, white, black, silver, or French manicure

Cheer Shoes--Cheer shoes are only to be worn inside during practice or games. ALWAYS wear different shoes to and from practice and games.

Cheer Attendance Policy

- Cheer practice will be held once a week and will begin by the first week of October.
- This is the only time to learn the new cheers. One person being absent affects the entire squad. It is important not to inconvenience the practice time of the entire squad by being absent.
- All HOME games are mandatory.
- AWAY game attendance is optional. Once the basketball schedule has been released, we will notify parents of which away games we would like to attend. Please notify the cheer coach if you will not be attending an away game.

Qualifications for Cheer Captain

- Middle school: 8th grade/High School: 12th grade (unless none available or willing to take the position)
- If multiple qualified girls wish to Captain, tryouts will be held. Selection to be made by coaching staff.

Role of Cheer Captain

- Lead warm up in practice and before games.
- Communicate with squad members.
- Call Cheers at games.
- Learn and teach new cheers at practices.
- Act as the squad's ambassador by greeting and making visiting squads feel welcome.
- Be a peacemaker among the squad.
- Be a good role model and set an example for the squad.
- Help coach organize fundraisers and recruit participation.
- Be dependable, punctual and mature.
- Communicate with the coach and follow her lead.

Students involved in extra-curricular activities are held to a higher standard. Cheerleaders in uniform or wearing any item of squad or team identification represent TEACH cheer, TEACH Athletics and TEACH Homeschool group. Therefore, team members must always conduct themselves in a manner which aims to display a purpose greater than themselves: glorifying Christ.

We have outlined in the TEACH Cheer Code of Conduct the expectations for behavior of student athletes and parents. It is our desire to provide a positive Christian example in practice and during athletic events. We expect TEACH athletic programs to allow students to develop spiritually by demonstrating clear Christ-like behavior.

It is expected and required that, at the beginning of each season, all players and parents review and sign this parent/cheerleader code of conduct agreement consent form. Signed copies will be maintained on file with TEACH Athletics.

