

# MANHATTAN PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

## Youth Cheerleading – By-Laws

The Manhattan Parks and Recreation Department, hereafter referred to as MPRD, Youth Cheerleading leagues are governed by rules designated to meet the following goals:

1. All participants will be given an opportunity to participate.
2. Sportsmanship will be promoted by participation in the league.
3. Player's health and safety shall be promoted at all times.

### Age/Grade:

1. Participants in the SPIRIT CHEER shall be those in grades 1 and 2 of the current school year.
2. Participants in the POM CHEER shall be those in grades 3 and 4 of the current school year.
3. Participants in the PYRAMID CHEER shall be those in grades 5 and 6 of the current school year.
4. Participants must play in their respective grade division with the exception that participant may play up in age group if approved by the participants guardians and the Recreation Supervisor if currently eligible.
  - a. Participants may NOT play down an age group for any reason.

### Team Organization

1. Before any child is permitted to participate in the cheerleading program, they must be registered with the Parks and recreation Department. A registration period will be established before each season begins. A participant who does not sign up during this period will be placed on a waiting list and assigned to a team as spots become available. Exception: A participant who moves into the Manhattan area will be assigned to a squad by the MPRD staff.
2. Once a squad is established, each participant will remain on this squad. No participant may switch squads under any circumstances except when approved by the MPRD staff person in charge of the program.
3. Family members who are eligible for the same league may be placed on the same squad for family convenience.
4. Coach Assignment Policy: Only one person will be designated as Head Coach for each squad. Head Coaches will be assigned to the squads on which their daughters/sons have been placed.
5. A participant is not eligible for participation until all of the following occur:
  - a. A registration form is completed, signed by a parent/guardian and submitted to the Parks and Recreation offices during regular business hours.
  - b. The registration fee is paid.
  - c. The participant is approved for participation and assigned to a squad by the Recreation Supervisor in charge of the program.

### Equipment

1. Pom Poms shall be provided by MPRD.
2. Uniforms will consist of a team shirt provided by MPRD. Appropriate bottom wear (i.e. skirt, shorts, etc.) should be worn (MPRD will not provide).
3. Tennis shoes must be worn for all Cheer related activities. A participant may not wear open ended shoes or boots.
4. Equipment will not be replaced until the damaged item is returned.

### Coaches and Officials

1. Harassment of the football officials by coaches and participants will result in ejection from the game.
  - a. If ejected, the coach or participant must leave the vicinity, "sight and sound" in a reasonable and timely manner.
2. The use of tobacco products is not allowed on or near the playing area.

### Rules

1. Squads will cheer for both football teams in the game (**first half for one team and second half for the other team**). Squads will rotate teams on a weekly basis as scheduled by MPRD.
2. Halftime Performances are optional, but encouraged. If using music, coaches must provide their own sound equipment.
3. No cheer will be used that will encourage competition between squads. Cheers should be in good spirit and should be encouraging to the squad's team. No derogatory comments or language shall be used at any time.
4. NO STUNTS SHALL BE PERFORMED for the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grade divisions.
5. Thigh stands can be done for the 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade division squads only.
6. The cheer squad may not be in or around the flag football team area. The cheer squad must confine themselves to the designated cheer area and to the area near the bleachers.
7. Routines shall be appropriate per the team you are cheering for. Coaches shall have final say on the routine.