



CHEERLEADING

OFFICIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

Revised for 2012

Article I: CHEERLEADER ELIGIBILITY

SECTION 1: League Participation and Cheerleader Eligibility

1. The age requirements for cheerleading participants must meet the guidelines set by the Rules and Regulations of the FBYFL Executive Board, specifically Section 2. Participants must be in the 6th grade or under, ranging in age from 5 years to 12 years old by September 1st of the current season (**as of 11:59 pm on September 1st of the current year**). It is at the discretion of each franchise to enlist cheerleaders under the required age of those Rules and Regulations for the sole purpose of cheerleading. No cheerleader, who is 13 years old as of September 1st of the current season, or in the 7th grade, will be allowed to cheer for any FBYFL franchise. Violation(s) of this policy will result in a fine of \$500.00 per cheerleader involved and will be payable to FBYFL Executive Board immediately upon validation by - Executive Board. (**See FBYFL Executive Board Rule 13.12 for penalties governing violations of this rule.**)
2. All participants must be registered on the FBYFL approved application. Failure to use the league approved application will result in a \$250 fine to the applicable franchise.
3. All participants shall provide a Birth Certificate. For returning participants this may be a copy of the previous year's Certificate form.
4. All senior level participants who are 11 and 12 years of age respectively **must** provide a league approved Final Report Card showing the grade the applicant will be in August/September of the current year.
5. It is at the discretion of each franchise as to which games and with which squads each participant will cheer. Participants are not required to cheer at the FBYFL registered participation level as designated by the football criteria.
6. For the purpose of the weigh-in, each franchise is under the obligation to the FBYFL to submit a combined registration book and maintain a duplicate registration book within their franchise that includes each participant's application, birth certificate, photo, and report card organized for each division level. FBYFL Executive Board Rule 3.8 which governs the process and penalties concerning weigh-in requirements applies to all cheer applicants.
7. All FBYFL Executive Board rules and penalties, Section 3, governing registration apply to all cheerleading participants, specifically and not limited to 3.9, 3.10, 3.11, 3.12.

SECTION 2: Extravaganza - Participation by all FBYFL franchises in the Annual Cheer Extravaganza Showcase is required. Failure to comply will result in a non-participatory fine of \$250.00 per franchise. This fine will be made payable to the FBYFL Board immediately after the closing of the registration deadline (deadline to be determined prior to start of season) for the Cheer Extravaganza. (Reference Executive Board Rule 13.12) Extravaganza guidelines, eligibility, and deadlines for showcase and competition for the current season shall be formed

1. Participation Eligibility

- a. **Participant eligibility in the FBYFL Extravaganza** is determined by eligibility as a FBYFL participant in the current season as governed by the FBYFL Executive Board rules - contained herein.

- b. **Participant eligibility at the franchise level** is determined by a franchises internal guidelines and subject to the franchises own policies governing the eligibility of the cheerleader.
- c. **Franchise eligibility** is determined by the franchise adherence to all required deadlines, and guidelines as required for participation in the Extravaganza.
- d. **Violations** - If it is found that a franchise has included participation of an ineligible cheerleader (as herein defined) in any portion of the Extravaganza, showcase or competition, the squad will automatically be stripped of any awards inclusive of their rankings. Additional penalties shall be imposed if necessary, by the FBYFL Board of Directors. Possible sanctions may include but not be limited to expulsion or suspension of any franchise Cheer Director, Coach, participant or other responsible party for the current and/or following/upcoming season.

2. Extravaganza Competition Participation Eligibility

- a. **Participant Eligibility in the FBYFL Extravaganza Competition** is first determined by eligibility as a FBYFL participant in the current season as governed by the FBYFL Executive Board rules contained herein.
- b. **Participant eligibility at the franchise level** is determined by a franchises internal guidelines and subject to the franchises own policies governing the eligibility of the cheerleader.
- c. **Franchise Competition eligibility** is determined by the franchise adherence to all required deadlines, and guidelines as required for participation in the Extravaganza.
- d. **Competition Book Check** - All competition franchises and participants shall be subjected to participation in a book check of the FBYFL registration book for the purpose of verification of the Competition participant's identity and verification of adherence to FBYFL participation eligibility requirements before the franchise competition team is allowed on the field. If a violation occurs at the time of book check, the participant shall not be allowed to enter the field to participate in the Competition at that time. The officials governing the book check may, at their discretion, determine that a violation has occurred and summon the FBYFL Executive Board who is empowered to decide if the franchise Competition team, as a whole, is allowed to continue it's participation in the Competition or be removed from the Competition. Violations of this regulation will call for the immediate suspension of the individual from participating in any FBYFL Cheer-Related Competitions for the current season and following/upcoming season. Violation of this regulation will also disqualify the franchise from participation in the Competition for the current season and following/upcoming season.
- e. **Violations** - If it is found that participation of an ineligible cheerleader (as herein defined) in any cheer-related competition, the squad will automatically be stripped of any awards inclusive of their rankings. Additional penalties shall be imposed if necessary, by the FBYFL Board of Directors. Possible sanctions may include but not be limited to monetary fines of a minimum of \$100 per infraction and a maximum of \$3000, expulsion or suspension of any franchise Cheer Director, Coach, participant or other responsible party for the current and following/upcoming season.

NOTE: Items/Issues not specifically addressed in this Section will be superseded by FBYFL Executive Board Rule 2.1 and 2.1a and 13.12.

ARTICLE II: CHEERLEADER AND GAME ETIQUETTE AND GUIDELINES

SECTION 1: Purpose - The purpose of the Cheer Etiquette and Guidelines is to promote and uphold community pride and spirit at FBYFL events and develop and maintain sportsmanship and camaraderie amongst all FBYFL cheerleaders.

1. The etiquette/game day guidelines are set forth by the FBYFL Board of Directors. Any guidelines listed below shall not conflict with the Rules and Regulations of the FBYFL Executive Board.
2. In addition, the Rules and Regulations of the FBYFL Executive Board shall supersede these guidelines in the event an issue is not covered within these cheer rules.

SECTION 2: Etiquette - Each cheerleader must always:

1. Display sportsmanship at all times
2. Show respect for all participants and volunteers within all franchises
3. Maintain a positive attitude at all times
4. Refrain from negative cheering
5. Exhibit behavior becoming of a FBYFL cheerleader at all FBYFL sanctioned/sponsored events
6. Refrain from the use of foul or negative language or derogatory facial expressions
7. Set a good example for all youth in the community

SECTION 3: Game Guidelines

1. The Home Team is considered the Hosting Franchise,
2. Prior to the start of each game the franchise Cheer Director/Cheer Coach(es) should discuss the halftime performances and spirit/gift exchanges,
3. Prior to the start of each game it is the sole responsibility of each respective franchise Cheer Director/Cheer Coach or appointee to turn in the roster of cheerleaders and music needed for halftime performances to the press box representative,
4. The visiting and home cheer squads will perform during half-time intermission of the game. The maximum length of each performance will be 5 minutes.
5. The visiting team should always perform first and the home team should perform second,
6. All halftime performances will be performed on the 50 yard line and facing the home side/press box side of the field.
7. Spirit/gift exchanges should take place immediately following the halftime performances any deviations from this should be discussed by the respective Cheer Director/Cheer Coach or appointee prior to the start of the game,
8. The home team should go to the visitor's side first and perform 1 or 2 cheers/chants and then the home team should escort the visitors back to the home side where the visitors will perform 1 or 2 cheers/chants and then return to their respective side for duration of game,
9. When there is an injured football player down on the field or sideline, all cheerleaders must kneel down until confirmation of the player's condition,

10. All Cheer staff must be in franchise staff attire including but not limited to Directors, Asst. Directors, Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Youth Cheer Assistants, and Team Moms etc...

ARTICLE III VIOLATIONS OF CHEER Rules, ETIQUETTE AND GUIDELINES

All violations will be brought to the attention of the Cheer Director. The Director or Cheer Director of Operations will investigate alleged violation by communicating directly with the Cheer Director(s)/Cheer Representative(s) for the franchise(s) involved determining the merit of proposed allegation(s). If allegation(s) prove(s) to be valid, the Cheer Director will bring it forth at the very next Executive Board meeting to ensure acknowledgement by President of franchise involved and fines/sanctions/penalties will be issued accordingly. If the violations prove to be flagrant and unsportsmanlike as defined by the FBYFL Executive Board By-Laws – any fines to be imposed will be at the discretion of the Executive Board of Directors accordingly.

SECTION 1: Special Circumstances

1. Under special/certain circumstances such as violent behavior, drug possession and/or under the influence, it will be the discretion of the Cheer Executive Board Officers to seek immediate action inclusive of notifying the appropriate security authorities. Certain behaviors may warrant expulsion for the remainder of the season to include *Cheer Extravaganza and any other FBYFL sanctioned events*.

SECTION 2: Weigh-In and Roster Books

1. **League-Sanctioned Weigh-In** - All Cheer Directors of each FBYFL franchise will be required to turn in a copy of their finalized roster of registered cheerleaders to the Cheer Director of Cheer Operation at the FBYFL's League-Sanctioned Weigh-In (Date to be determined by FBYFL Executive Board). FBYFL Executive Board Rule 3.8 which governs the process and penalties concerning weigh-in requirements applies to all cheer applicants.

The Cheer Director will present 2 roster books:

- a. 1 book that will be retained by - FBYFL (Original White Copies) until the end of the current season, and
 - b. 1 book (Copy) that will be stamped and kept by the franchise.
2. **Roster Books** - The following will dictate the roster book processing; the original and a copy of the franchise roster books shall consist of copies of the following information and in the following order:
 - a. Cover sheet with a listing of Cheerleaders (1st and last name) by squads per level,
 - b. FBYFL Approved Current year's completed application (Original White Copy) front & back,
 - c. Current year's report card for 11 and 12 year olds respectively,
 - d. Birth certificate, and
 - e. Current photo
 3. All submitted information should be in a 3-ring binder and separated by squads (i.e., Flag, Freshman, Soph, etc...). Failure to comply with the aforementioned criteria will result in a fine of \$300.00 per franchise made payable to the FBYFL at the very next Executive Board meeting. **NOTE: Allowances for exceptions (i.e., a late registration) must be presented to the FBYFL for approval as soon as the**

Franchise has registered a new cheerleader – so that they can be stamped and included in the roster book.

ARTICLE IV: ADDENDUM as it pertains to current seasons Extravaganza guidelines, eligibility, and deadlines for showcase and competition.

ARTICLE XII: CONCLUSION - These Rules are intended to be a supplement to the Rules and Regulations of the FBYFL. Executive Board to the extent that they are not in conflict with these By-Laws. The Rules and Regulations of the FBYFL shall have overall control and supersede any Section of these Rules.