

**7-12**  
**BUTLER GOLDEN TORNADO**  
**CHEERLEADING**  
**HANDBOOK**  
**2020-2021**



**7th Grade Game Squad**  
**8th Grade Game Squad**  
**Junior High Competition Squad**  
**Junior Varsity Game Squad**  
**Varsity Game Squad**  
**Varsity Competition Squad**

# **BUTLER GOLDEN TORNADO CHEERLEADING**

## **2020-2021**

### **SQUAD RESPONSIBILITIES**

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#### **7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE GAME SQUAD**

##### **(Grade 7)**

##### **Events they cheer at:**

- All home 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Football games
- All home 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys' Basketball games
- No traveling to any away games

##### **Other events and responsibilities:**

- Fundraisers
- Scheduled practices
- Cheerleading banquet
- Wearing game day attire to school
- Community service projects

#### **8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE GAME SQUAD**

##### **(Grade 8)**

##### **Events they cheer at:**

- All home 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Football games
- All home 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys' Basketball games
- No traveling to any away games

##### **Other events and responsibilities:**

- Fundraisers
- Scheduled practices
- Cheerleading banquet
- Wearing game day attire to school
- Community service projects

# **BUTLER GOLDEN TORNADO CHEERLEADING**

## **2020-2021**

### **SQUAD RESPONSIBILITIES**

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#### **JUNIOR VARSITY GAME SQUAD** **(Grades 9 & 10)**

##### **Events they cheer at:**

- All home 9<sup>th</sup> Grade and Junior Varsity Football games
- All home 9<sup>th</sup> Grade and Junior Varsity Boys' Basketball games
- **\*\*\*All Girl's Varsity playoff games (home & away)\*\*\***

##### **Other events and responsibilities:**

- Pie Festival
- Fundraisers
- Meet the Basketball Players for basketball
- Scheduled practices
- Cheerleading banquet
- Wearing game day attire to school
- Community service projects

#### **VARSITY GAME SQUAD** **(Grades 11 & 12 and cheerleaders in grades 9 & 10 on the competition squad)**

##### **Events they cheer at:**

- All home and away Varsity Football games (including playoffs)
- **All home and away Varsity Boys' Basketball games (including playoffs)**  
**\*\*Only excuses excepted will be the start of spring sport activities\*\***

##### **Other events and responsibilities:**

- Meeting to decorate signs for football and basketball and/or decorate the gym/stadium
- Fundraisers
- Pie Festival
- Fall & Winter Clinics
- Meet the Basketball Players for basketball
- Scheduled practices

# **BUTLER GOLDEN TORNADO CHEERLEADING**

## **2020-2021**

### **SQUAD RESPONSIBILITIES**

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- Seniors help with next year's tryouts
  - Cheerleading banquet
  - Community service projects
  - Wearing game day attire to school
  - Attending Team Activities
- For all teams 7-12, the coaches and the Athletic Department together will decide what events we cheer at, and which team cheers at them.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>VARSITY COMPETITION SQUAD</b> <b>(Grades 9-12: All competition squad members must also be a member of the varsity squad.)</b></p>
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#### **Events and responsibilities**

##### **(in addition to Varsity Game Squad responsibilities):**

- Additional group fundraisers
- **\*\*\*ADDITIONAL FIANCIAL OBLIGATIONS LISTED IN COMPETITION SQUAD CONTRACT\*\*\***
- Parent participation in group fundraisers (clinics, etc.)
- Scheduled practices
- Scheduled conditioning
- Attending **Chestnut Lake Camp-August 19-22. As well as a 2 Day Choreography Camp in July or August**
- Attending all competitions (local, Regionals, WPIALs, States, Nationals)
- Team building and community service projects.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>JUNIOR HIGH COMPETITION SQUAD</b> <b>(Grades 7-8: All competition squad members must also be a member of game squad.)</b></p>
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#### **Events and responsibilities**

##### **(in addition to Game Squad responsibilities):**

- 3-5 local competitions. Parents are responsible for transportation to competitions as well as fees to enter competitions (Approx: \$100 in total).
- Additional practices in addition to their game squad.
- 1-2 additional practice outfits (Approx: \$35)
- Competition Music (Approx: \$20)

- Possible Choreography Fee

**JHS Competition athletes are only allowed to participate on one all star team in addition to their Butler commitments!!\*\***

## **BUTLER GOLDEN TORNADO CHEERLEADING CONTRACT**

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**The coaches take the upmost time and dedication to make sure the rules and regulations are being adhered to by all athletes within the Butler Cheer Program. Special rare circumstances may affect decisions made by the coaching staff in very unique situations. We try our very best to hold each and every athlete to the same standard, but as in life, sometimes unavoidable exceptions NEED to be made. These decisions are strictly at the discretion of the coaching staff!**

### **GAME SQUAD TRYOUTS & SQUAD SELECTION**

- The number of athletes on each Game Squad will be determined by a break in the scores at tryouts.
- **THERE IS NO SET NUMBER OF ‘SPOTS’ ON ANY OF THE TEAMS!!!!**
- Due to circumstances beyond our control this year with the Covid-19 virus, we will be conducting game squad tryouts virtually. The athletes will be required to turn in a short essay about what being a Butler Cheerleader means to them. We will also be posting a cheer and dance to be learned, as well as demonstrations of a jump, standing tumbling, and running tumbling that will also be required. We will also be posting an example of what we expect the athletes to look like when they present themselves the day of tryouts.
- Any athlete that is to be considered for any Game Squad (7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, JV or Varsity) **MUST** be able to successfully demonstrate the following skills **at the time of tryouts on the gym floor**:
  - A standing back handspring (without a spot, on command, and in the middle of a routine)
  - A round off back handspring (without a spot, on command, & in the middle of a routine)
  - Varsity only: A leap and lunge roundoff tuck is highly recommended (without a spot, on command)
  - All running tumbling is to be completed with a leap and lunge or a two-step approach, with the exception of layouts. Full twisting skills cannot be performed on the wood floor (these skills may be performed on the grass during football season.)
  - If you do not have a minimum of these skills, then you should not expect to be considered for any Game Squad. At the same time, execution of these skills does not guarantee you a spot on any of the squads.
- We do not give out tryout scores to anyone. If you are not selected for any of the squads and you would like to know what areas you need to improve on based on your tryout performance, you may request this after tryouts by emailing [goldentornadocheer@gmail.com](mailto:goldentornadocheer@gmail.com) . **This is the only form of communication that will be responded to with regards to tryout placement. Coaches will not be responding to phone calls or text messages regarding squad selection. A great deal of time and consideration goes into our decisions. Please allow at least 5 days after tryouts for a response.**

## SCHEDULING

- Other activities, appointments and **WORK** must be scheduled around cheerleading. We ask that you give a two-week's notice regarding events such as weddings, scheduled appointments, vacations, etc. so that we can make all attempts to schedule around them. If we are not able to schedule around them, then you must use an excuse for the event (see next page).
- Coaches will post a calendar of scheduled practices, games, and events on the website ([www.butlercheerleading.com](http://www.butlercheerleading.com)). Parents are responsible for making arrangements for their child to be driven to and picked up from the scheduled event. **Please be prompt in picking up your child - coaches are REQUIRED to wait with cheerleaders until they are all picked up after the conclusion of a practice/event/etc.**
- ALL BUTLER HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADING EVENTS will be included on one calendar: JV, Varsity, & Competition. JHS CHEERLEADING EVENTS will be on a different calendar: 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, as well as JHS competition. It is the responsibility of the cheerleaders to correctly identify the events that he/she needs to attend.
- If a **Game Squad** cheerleader wishes to participate in other activities such as an All-Star Squad, Indoor Track, Coaching a Midget Squad, other extra-curricular activities, etc. they will need to speak to their coach on an individual basis to make them aware of these situations. **Being involved in many activities such as these requires additional responsibility on the part of the cheerleader when it comes to time management and scheduling.** Butler Cheerleading must remain the first priority to the cheerleader. Even if a cheerleader elects to participate in activities such as the ones listed above, he/she will still need to use excuses in the event of absences due to these events, so use them wisely!
- **ALL Butler Competition Cheerleaders are NOT permitted to cheer for ANY MORE THAN ONE ALL- STAR TEAM in addition to their Butler commitments!!!!**
- **REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE REQUIRED TO CHECK THE WEBSITE WEEKLY FOR SCHEDULE CHANGES AND UPDATES!**

## ATTENDANCE

- ALL PRACTICES, GAMES AND OTHER EVENTS ARE MANDATORY! The cheerleader is required to attend all games as well as any extra events (fundraisers, pep rallies, decorating, etc.)
- The cheerleader is expected to show up properly dressed and on time for all events and practices.
- **If the cheerleader arrives late or unprepared to a game, the coach reserves the right to sit the cheerleader out of quarter cheers, halftime, and possibly the game itself.**
- **If a cheerleader is found to have been untrue about an absence, then he/she is subject to disciplinary action and possible suspension and/or dismissal from the squad.**
- Excuses **WILL NOT** be accepted from competing cheerleaders 2 weeks before a competition.
- Once the cheerleader accumulates 20 days absent from school (*regardless of reason!*) he/she will not be eligible to cheer until he/she accumulates 45 days present in school (**this is a school rule**). This carries over from year to year! Example: If you are absent 20 or more days in the spring semester, you are ineligible to cheer in the fall until you have accumulated 45 days present in the fall semester.
- You must be in school by 10:45 am in order to participate in games or practices that day.

- If you are suspended from school (in or out) you are NOT eligible to participate in anything throughout the duration of the suspension (weekends included). You must still attend the event and be dressed appropriately, but you may not participate. You will need to use an excuse for any events that you cannot participate in due to ineligibility caused by suspension or detention.
- Each athlete will be given one week (7 consecutive calendar days!!!) of excused vacation time. During these 7 days, the cheerleader will be excused from all Game Squad and Competition practices/fundraisers/events/etc. In order for this to be excused, the cheerleader must submit the PINK Excused Vacation Form ahead of time.
- 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, JV, and Varsity cheerleaders will be provided with **3 EXCUSES** for the entire cheerleading year. If the Varsity cheerleader is also a member of the Competition Squad, he/she will have an additional 3 excuses to use for competition practices/events. Junior High Competition cheerleaders will be provided with **6 EXCUSES**, 3 game excuses and 3 competition excuses.
- Being on a Butler Cheerleading Team is very time consuming. It is the cheerleaders' responsibility to manage their time EFFECTIVELY in order to attend all team activities. Athletes will NOT be excused from games and or practices due to procrastination of school work and or personal endeavors. (I.E. birthday outings, hair and or nail appointments, work, etc.).
- If the cheerleader needs to miss an event, the following procedures below **MUST BE FOLLOWED! YOU ARE EXPECTED TO KNOW AND FOLLOW THESE PROCEDURES! IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE ASK!**

# EXCUSE POLICY AND PROCEDURES

<b>ABSENCE REQUIRING AN EXCUSE</b>	<b>ABSENCE <u>NOT</u> REQUIRING AN EXCUSE</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Examples:</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Visiting colleges Family weddings Doctor's appointments Taking SATs or ACTs Not feeling well but attended school Vacations extending beyond one week (7 consecutive days) Extra-curricular and school activities Unable to participate due to suspension or detention</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Examples:</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sick from school Sent home from school sick Family funerals One week (7 consecutive days) of excused summer vacation School events <u>Required</u> for a grade (concerts, etc.)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Procedure:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The coach(es) must be informed AS SOON AS the cheerleader knows he/she will not be able to attend. <b><u>Excuses will not be accepted after the event has begun! If an excuse is not physically submitted BEFORE the event begins, then it will be considered UNEXCUSED.</u></b></li> <li>2) The parent or cheerleader must provide a written excuse that must be on a standard form (see Standard Excuse Form). <b>YOU MUST USE THIS FORM!</b></li> <li>3) Planned excuses should be turned in AT LEAST one week ahead of time.</li> <li>4) Once the cheerleader's excuses are gone, the absence will be considered UNEXCUSED (see below).</li> <li>5) You are NOT permitted to use an excuse for work or when you just feel like taking a night off.</li> <li>6) <b><u>YOU MUST ASK PERMISSION TO USE AN EXCUSE.</u></b></li> </ol>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Procedure:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The coach(es) must be informed AS SOON AS the cheerleader knows he/she will not be able to attend.</li> <li>2) If the cheerleader is absent from school, THE ATHLETE needs to <b><u>CALL</u></b> the coach as soon as possible <u>during the day</u>. Do NOT wait until 30 minutes before the activity to call your coach!</li> <li>3) If a cheerleader is abusing their "sick" misses, the coach has the right to sit he/she out based on excessive absences.</li> <li>4) One week (7 consecutive calendar days) of vacation will be excused. The vacation form must be completed and submitted as soon as the summer calendars are issued. Additional or extended vacations will require the use of an excuse for each practice or event that is missed for each squad. This will be followed strictly.</li> <li>5) For school events required for a grade, coaches must be informed at least one week ahead of time so that all attempts can be made to schedule around this event.</li> </ol>
<b>UNEXCUSED ABSENCES</b>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Examples:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When the cheerleader needs to miss an event and does not have any excuses left to use</li> <li>• When the cheerleader needs to miss an event due to work</li> <li>• When the cheerleader needs to miss an event and did not physically submit their excuse form BEFORE the absence</li> <li>• When the cheerleader does not show up for an event and did not physically submit an excuse BEFORE the absence</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Procedures Taken:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The cheerleader will sit out the next scheduled uniformed event directly following the unexcused absence. (If the unexcused absence occurs over the summer, the cheerleader will sit out of the first football game.)</li> <li>2) Cheerleaders will not be permitted to have more than 3 unexcused absences. <b><u>When the 4th unexcused absence occurs, the cheerleader will be removed from that team.</u></b></li> </ol>	



## FUNDRAISING

- Fundraisers will be designated either for all athletes or for Competition Squad athletes only.
- The 7<sup>th</sup> grade, 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and JV game squads will be required to fundraise and/or pay \$150.00. Any Varsity cheerleaders, who are not also on competition, are also required to fundraise and/or pay this amount. All Varsity athletes on the Competition Squad are required to fundraise \$225.00. This amount covers all banquet expenses and general operating expenses for our organization for the season. You may choose to pay this amount or participate in fundraisers, or a combination of both. Fundraisers will be held from May – August with the final balance due by September 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Athletes on the Competition Squad will be required to participate in additional group fundraising to cover all competition expenses. Please see the “Fundraising” section under Competition.
- Money fundraised is the property of the Butler Golden Tornado Cheerleaders’ Boosters and cannot be given to individuals or families regardless of the circumstances. The money is to be distributed according to the Parent Club agreement. If a cheerleader is removed from any of the Butler Golden Tornado Cheerleading squads, or if he/she removes themselves for personal reasons, any outstanding money that he/she owes must still be paid. Also, any money that he/she has fundraised will remain the property of Butler Golden Tornado Cheerleading, and he/she will not be entitled to any banquet gifts, etc.

## MONEY

- All money must be turned in by the required due date. **Please pay attention to due dates!!**
- All money must be submitted in the form of checks ONLY! Cash will NOT be accepted!
- All checks should be made payable to: **Butler Varsity Cheerleaders** unless noted otherwise.
- You are responsible for any fees that we are charged by our bank for checks that are returned to us.
- **When your child makes one of the teams, they will be assigned a number that will coordinate all monies due. Please check the website frequently and pay your balances promptly!!!**
- **NO ATHLETE WILL RECEIVE PRACTICE CLOTHING, SHOES, BOWS, ETC WITHOUT PAYMENT!!**
- If you need to post-date checks or divide payments, please speak to or send a note to the Treasurer to make arrangements. Payments should be made in full by the due date. Any special arrangements will be kept private between the family and the treasurer and possibly the coach.
- If you have any money outstanding at the end of the season from anything (clothing orders, fundraising obligations, lost uniform pieces, etc.), the cheerleader will not receive a banquet gift until the balance is paid and an obligation will be placed on file for you at the Athletic Office. The athlete will also not be allowed to tryout for the following cheer season until all balances are paid!!

## MATCHING OUTFITS & UNIFORM ACCESSORIES

- All cheerleaders will be required to buy some of the necessary uniform accessories for their game squad. Some of those expenses may include, but are not limited to: 2 matching practice outfit including shorts and a t-shirt, one pair of cheer shoes, briefs, a game day t-shirt, practice hair ribbons, and a game hair bow. Each cheerleader grades 7-12 will be required to purchase their own rain jacket.
- Competition cheerleaders will have an additional 4-5 practice outfits, competition practice hair ribbons, and an additional pair of tennis shoes.

- Optional items such as bags, sweatshirts, etc. will also be available for purchase.
- All cheerleaders will be required to purchase a pink bow (approx \$10) and an additional game day shirt (approx \$12) to be worn during the month of October for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.
- It is required that incoming members to the Butler Cheerleading program purchase a warm-up outfit (jacket and pants) to be worn to games and competitions. The cost is approximately \$100.
- Any item that the cheerleader will keep will be an out-of-pocket expense. Therefore, no fundraising will be done to cover the cost of these items. If any items are ordered as a group through the Butler Golden Tornado Cheerleaders, **the cheerleader will not receive any items until they are paid for!!!!**

## UNIFORMS

- All uniformed pieces supplied by the Butler Area School District are property of the Butler Area School District. They are to be taken care of and respected.
- At no time should cheerleading uniforms **(including matching outfits, warm ups and pom poms)** be lent to anyone other than Butler Golden Tornado Cheerleaders.
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Cheerleaders will have one uniform and one set of pom poms that are issued by the school district. JV and Varsity Cheerleaders will have two to three uniforms and one set of pom poms issued by the school.
- At the end of the season, all members will return all uniformed pieces, tagged with names, and cleaned. If a cheerleader fails to return their uniform on the scheduled date, then he/she will be turned in to the school for an obligation. The price set for any damaged or missing piece of uniform will be the cost at present that it takes to replace the missing/ damaged items.
- The cheerleader will not be cleared of their obligation until all outstanding money is paid to the Butler Area School District. The cheerleader will not be permitted to tryout for the 2021-2022 season unless their obligations have been fulfilled.
- **Uniforms are to be worn according to direction given by the coach.**
- **Varsity cheerleaders are to wear warm ups and tennis shoes to all away games. No Uggs, slides or Crocs allowed!! This also applies to competition cheerleaders attending competitions or any other group event!!**

## PERSONAL APPEARANCE

- Hair will be pulled up and secured off the cheerleader's face for every event and practice. Bangs must be pinned back and secured off the face!!! Shirts are to be tucked in.
- **No jewelry is to be worn. NO EXCEPTION!**
- All facial piercing must be removed or covered with a band-aid at all practices and events.
- Proper tennis shoes are to be worn at all times.
- For games and performances, the cheerleader is to wear SOLID white low-cut or high white socks depending on the team and coaches' preference.
- Nail polish must be clear or a pale neutral color for all games, performances and competitions.
- **If a cheerleader is not properly dressed and presented, then he/she will not be eligible to cheer until he/she makes those corrections.**
- Cheerleaders are to wear game day attire to school when they are instructed to. This includes wearing the designated cheerleading shirt from this season, khaki pants/shorts/capris/skirts (unless instructed otherwise) and no tennis shoes or flip-flops. The cheerleader may sit out a performance or a portion of a performance if he/she does not wear the proper attire as instructed.

## INJURIES

- If the cheerleader is unable to tumble or stunt due to injury extending beyond one week, the cheerleader must have a note from a doctor. The note must be specific and detailed as to what the cheerleader can and cannot do (stunt, tumble, jump, cheer, etc.), and it must also indicate the dates for the restriction (beginning and ending).
- If the cheerleader is injured, he/she is still required to attend all practices, performances, fundraisers and events. He/she should be dressed appropriately for the event as well.

## CELL PHONES

- Cell phones must be turned off once you arrive to all practices, games, fundraisers and events and remain off throughout the event. Abuse of this policy will result in all athletes having their cell phones collected at the beginning of event and not returned until the conclusion of said event!!!
- **Varsity** – your cell phone should be put away before you get off the bus at away games, and you should not get them back out until we are back on the bus.
- You should not be using your phone at any point during a practice or a game. **This includes reading and/or sending text messages, even during water breaks and halftime!**
- If you need to use your phone for any reason, you **MUST** ask your coach first!
- Parents, if you need to reach your child in case of emergency during a practice or a game, please call the respective coach on her cell phone.

## COMMUNICATION WITH COACHES

- Coaches' cell phone numbers and contact information are not to be distributed to anyone outside of the Butler Golden Tornado Cheerleading group for ANY reason. The coaches can be reached at [GoldenTornadoCheer@gmail.com](mailto:GoldenTornadoCheer@gmail.com) by anyone outside of the organization needing to contact one of us.
- All cheerleaders and parents must sign the Tryout Signature Page for coaches to be able to contact the cheerleader on their cell phone regarding cheerleading matters. If the parent does NOT grant this permission, they need to check the appropriate spot on the Tryout Signature Page, and will need to provide us with a parent cell phone number that we can contact instead of the athlete.
- If a cheerleader is sick from school and will be missing a cheerleading game/practice/event/etc. that evening/day, a PHONE CALL from a PARENT is required for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. For JV and Varsity, a PHONE CALL is required by the ATHLETE! Text messages and emails will not be accepted.
- Cheerleaders should not be texting coaches during the day if they are in school. Athletes should be focused on school and not cheerleading matters.
- Cheerleaders AND parents should only call/text coaches with questions/situations that require immediate attention. Appropriate examples include (but are not limited to):
  - Parent phone call when athlete is sick from school and will be missing a cheerleading event
  - Parent/Cheerleader phone call/text message when the cheerleader will be late to an event (more than 5 minutes)
  - Any other emergencies/situations that require immediate attention.
  - **It is NOT appropriate for cheerleaders to contact their coaches (via text message or phone call) regarding what time to be somewhere, what to wear, what to bring, etc. We have spent a great deal of time to make sure that this information is clearly displayed on the calendars and the website. If you are unclear or have a question, check your calendar, the website, or contact a teammate.**

- **Parents should not contact coaches questioning decisions regarding a team's routine and their child's role in it IE. Stunt/ tumbling/formation positions.**

## **CHAIN OF COMMAND**

- The following is our communication chain of command:

1. Athlete to Coach
2. Parent to Coach
3. Parent meet with Coach & Athletic Director

**The idea behind this line of communication is so the athlete may attempt conflict resolution themselves. The athlete should not feel intimidated to reach out to their coach with an issue or concern. It is a non-issue if the chain of command is not met. The relationship between athlete and coach should be one of mutual respect.**

- The cheerleader and parents will respect and follow the chain of command.
- We ask that school officials such as the Principal or the Athletic Director should not be contacted regarding cheerleading matters without first discussing these issues with the coach(es). This will ensure that the chain of command works properly.
- Coaches will not discuss individual athletes, their skills, their placement in the routine, or their status with anyone except the individual cheerleader then his/her parents.
- At no time should anything other than fundraising, outfits, schedules, banquets, competitions, or anything other than general Butler Golden Tornado Cheerleading business be discussed at a Parent's Club Meeting. At no time should a meeting be called without the knowledge and approval of the coach(es).

## **WEBSITE**

- The Butler Golden Tornado Cheerleaders have our very own website, [www.butlercheerleading.com](http://www.butlercheerleading.com). Athletes are **EXPECTED** to check the website one time per week. It will be updated by 8:00 pm each Sunday. Athletes are responsible for the information posted on the website. All calendars, general information, fundraising information, etc. are posted on the website. Athletes will be given log-in information to the secure users' area once they are selected for the squad.
- Athletes are expected to keep the website log-in information, as well as all information posted on the website, confidential.
- We understand that we are all very busy with the numerous things that we have going on in our lives. The website is designed to HELP – athletes are responsible for the information that is posted on it!
- If you do not have access to the Internet, it is your responsibility to contact someone who does at least on a weekly basis to find out what was posted on the site.
- By signing this contract, you agree to allow your photograph to be posted on the Butler Cheerleading website for cheerleading purposes.

## KNOWLEDGE OF MATERIAL & MAINTENANCE OF SKILL LEVEL

- All cheerleaders are expected to maintain a minimum of the skill level that they were capable of at tryouts.
- All cheerleaders are expected to know all necessary material by the beginning of each season (football and basketball). Game Squads only practice an average of 1-2 times per week - cheerleaders are **expected** to review their material at home if necessary.
- The coach reserves the right to sit the cheerleader out of games and performances if he/she is not consistently meeting the minimum skill requirements or if he/she does not consistently know all necessary material.
- **If a cheerleader is absent from a practice for any reason, HE/SHE is responsible for learning the material missed BEFORE the next practice.**

## TRANSPORTATION

*(Varsity squad only & JV for playoff games)*

- The cheerleader will ride with the squad to and from all events and activities. RARE EXCEPTIONS will be made ONLY IF the following procedure is used:
  - Parent provides ADVANCE notice (both a completed form hand delivered to the coach and a phone call from the parent) before we leave to go to the event.
  - No excuses will be accepted once we leave to go to the event. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
  - The proper form must be used, and can be obtained from the coach.
  - The cheerleader may only leave with one of their own parents.

## BEHAVIOR

- The cheerleader will demonstrate respect to the authority in charge of a particular event adhering to all directions given by that person (coaches, seniors, parents, etc.) Ex: Car Washes, Pep Rallies, Decorating, etc.
- The cheerleader will represent the squad in a professional, respectful, and appropriate manner and will act like a champion **AT ALL TIMES.** He/she will demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times.
- Disrespect of coaches and teammates **WILL NOT** be tolerated. If the behavior remains consistently disrespectful after addressed, the cheerleader will be removed from their team!!!!
- The cheerleader must realize that he/she is a reflection of our entire cheerleading program at all times, whether at practice or in public, whether or not in uniform.
- The cheerleader will not demonstrate any public displays of affection while in uniform.
- Cheerleaders **WILL NOT** engage in inappropriate behavior at sporting events such as yelling at refs, cursing or joining in with unsportsmanlike behavior.

## SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICIES

- All school district policies will be enforced throughout the season.
- **These rules apply to infractions that occur 24 hours a day, 7 days per week.**
- The Butler Area School District will NOT tolerate any form of hazing, harassment, bullying, racial or ethnic intimidation, or sexual harassment.
- Tobacco, alcohol, and drug violations will be handled according to school district policy.
- You must be passing at least 4 full-credit subjects as of each Friday. If you fail to meet this requirement, you will be ineligible the following Sunday through Saturday. You will remain ineligible until you are passing at least 4 full-credit subjects. Any games or practices that the cheerleader is unable to participate in during your ineligibility will require the use of an excuse.

The cheerleader should still be in attendance for practices, games and events and should be dressed accordingly for that event. Additionally, any athletes that are ineligible for academic reasons should talk to their coach to discuss ways to improve their grades such as tutoring, additional help, etc.

- Each athlete will be required to get a physical dated June 1, 2020 or later. You must get a physical by your family doctor or any medexpress type facility and have the necessary paperwork completed and submitted to the Athletic Office by a date you will be given at the first parent meeting after your child makes a team. Coaches cannot accept this paperwork. It must be turned into the athletic office. If you do not have the proper paperwork completed by the deadline, you will be ineligible to participate in any practices/games/camps/etc. until this is done. All practices missed for this reason will be unexcused. The school district also charges a \$60 athletic fee to be paid when turning in physical paperwork. Anyone receiving free or reduced lunches will have this fee waived or reduced respectively.

## **ENFORCEMENT OF RULES**

- **A cheerleader may be removed from a Butler Golden Tornado Cheerleading Squad at any time if:**
  - Any of the rules stated in this contract are broken or abused.
  - Any school rules/policies are broken or abused.
  - Their attitude is negatively affecting the team and/or his/her performance.
  - The athlete has engaged in underage drinking, smoking, or illegal drug activity.
- **If a cheerleader engages in a physical fight with another person, there will be immediate disciplinary action taken, which could be removal from their team! This is not behavior becoming of a Butler Cheerleader!!!**
- If continued violations occur, the cheerleader may sit out of events for an undetermined amount of time. If problems continue, the cheerleader may be subject to dismissal from the squad.
- The cheerleader will be given sufficient warnings regarding these discipline measures.
- As other rules or requirements are necessary, the coaches will make them known to the cheerleader. The cheerleader, will, in turn, follow these rules.
- **If a cheerleader is removed from his/her team for any rule violation, he/she may possibly not be eligible to tryout to be a Butler Cheerleader the following season!**

## **Social Media:**

There is an absolute expectation that no cheerleader is posting negative, vulgar, or defaming images or comments on social media regarding their teammates, coaches, or anything related to the Butler Cheerleading Program. This includes, but is not limited to, Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and Snapchat. It will be at the coaches discretion as to how this will be handled if an cheerleader is found to be engaging in this behavior. Keep it classy athletes!!! A social media contract is required from every cheerleader who makes a team. The cheerleader has the right not to sign the contract, however, at that time he/she will also be asked to leave the Butler Cheer program. After squad selection, every cheerleader is required to sign a social media contract and adhere to the details of the contract in order to remain on a team throughout the season. More specific details will be given in the actual contract.



# BUTLER HIGH COMPETITION SQUAD CONTRACT

**The following pertains to the Competition Squad members**  
**(in addition to information detailed in the Butler Cheerleading Contract):**

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## GOALS / INTENTIONS

- The Competition Squad will be attending Chestnut Lake Camp August 19-22.
  - The Competition Squad will attend a two-day choreography camp in July or August.
  - Our goal is to compete at 5-6 local competitions plus Nationals; however, this is subject to change:
    - Miami Valley Regional Competition, Dayton, Ohio, October
    - South Hills Showdown, Bethel Park, PA November
    - PA State Cheerleading Championships, Indiana PA, November
    - Allegheny Regional Competition, Slippery Rock University, December
    - South Park Competition, December
    - WPIAL Championships, local high school, January
    - PIAA State Spirit Championships, Hershey PA, January
    - National High School Cheerleading Championship, Orlando Florida, February
  - We perform our Nationals routine after the last home basketball game before we leave for Florida
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- The squad does not automatically participate in Regionals and Nationals or other local competitions. The ultimate decision will be made by the coaches.
  - Please keep in mind that our trip to the National Competition in Orlando, Florida is a team event. In other words, no boyfriends/girlfriends should be accompanying cheerleaders on this trip.
  - All competition practices will be closed practices unless specified otherwise. If you need to discuss something with the coach, please email the coach to set up a meeting.
  - **Please keep in mind that our trip to Nationals is not designed to be a vacation; it is a time for us to accomplish our goals that we have worked for all season. Your #1 focus and priority during the entire trip will be CHEERLEADING.**

## SQUAD SELECTION

- All athletes must decide at the time of tryouts whether they would like to be considered for a spot on the Competition Squad.
- All athletes must re-tryout each year. NO ONE is guaranteed a spot on the team regardless of grade or seniority.
- At tryouts, a Competition Squad consisting of an unspecified number of members will be selected for the competition team. This team will most likely consist of 12, 16, 20, or 24 athletes. Competing members will not be announced at the selection of the team but rather before each competition.
- There is no 'set' number of athletes that will be taken. The number of athletes selected for the team (both competing members and non-competing members) will be determined by the number

of athletes at the appropriate skill level. **These decisions will be made strictly by the coaches.**

- The coaches reserve the right to decide what division the team will compete in, and this is subject to change throughout the season based on what is best for the team.
- To be considered for the Competition Squad, individual athletes will need to meet the criteria as outlined below. **For competition purposes, there will be a main focus on tumbling and stunting technique and ability, and CONSISTENCY in ALL of the areas.**
- **ALL ATHLETES ARE TO MAINTAIN THE SAME SKILLS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AS THEY HAVE AT TRYOUTS. WE HAVE SEEN WAY TOO MANY TIMES ATHLETES PUSHING THEMSELVES TO GET SKILLS FOR TRYOUTS AND THEN STOP WORKING! THESE ATHLETES SHOULD HAVE NO EXPECTATIONS TO MAINTAIN THEIR PLACEMENT ON THE TEAM.**
- Athletes on the Competition Squad must be in grades 9-12 and attend Butler High School.
- It is **highly recommended** that any athlete that is to be considered for Competition be able to successfully demonstrate the following skills **AT THE TIME OF TRYOUTS:**
  - A standing back handspring
  - A standing back handspring back tuck
  - A standing back tuck
  - A round off back handspring back tuck (two step approach)
  - Layouts and fulls with a two-step approach are encouraged
  - If you do not have the majority of these skills CONSISTENTLY, then you should not expect to be considered for the Competition Squad.
- Athletes must be able to successfully complete advanced partner stunt skills as a back spot, main base, side base or a top. **Stunting is just as important as gymnastics!!** **Athletes may be asked to try new positions... positive attitudes and flexibility are necessary in this area – we do what is best for the TEAM!**
- **We are looking for athletes that are motivated, driven and dedicated. Athletes must be able to work together as a team and to accept constructive criticism.**
- **BUTLER COMES FIRST!!!**
  - Competition Squad members are not permitted to be a member of any other club sports teams or all-star cheerleading squads during our cheerleading season that would result in conflicts with our schedule. (Summer, Fall & Winter). It is impossible to work around every other competitive sport in the area and still conduct effective mandatory practices; therefore, missing for any other team/organization will require an excuse and follow the excuse policy outlined earlier in this handbook. When a member chooses to participate in another high school sport that may conflict with the competition team schedule, it is the athlete's responsibility to bring this to the head coaches' attention. Every effort will be made to work with the other high school coach to coordinate schedules. This requires communication skills and compromise from both coaches. It is at the head coaches' discretion to make accommodations for other Butler high school sports' teams. Competition squad members who wish to play another fall sport FOR BUTLER are not required to cheer game squad football. They ARE required to cheer game squad for basketball.



## Competing Members v. Non-competing Members

- A competition team will be announced at tryouts. All Competition Squad members will attend all practices, camps, fundraisers, competitions, and all mandatory events of the Competition Squad whether they are a competing member or a non-competing member.
- Competing and non-competing athletes will not be identified at tryouts. The coaches will announce these positions prior to each competition and reserve the right to move members on and off the mat due to the needs of the team at any given time.
- Both gymnastics ability AND stunting ability will be considered when selecting athletes to represent the team on the mat at competitions.
- If a competing member of the Competition Squad is injured, ill, etc. a non-competing member will be moved to fill that position. The coaches will determine if or when the original competing member will return to the routine and who will be removed from the routine at that time if at all.

**The coach(es) reserve the right to choose the initial Competition Squad and make changes as they see fit. This includes holding tryouts or inviting additional athletes to join the team at any point throughout the season if the need arises (injuries, athletes quitting, athletes falling below the required skill level, athletes not reaching or maintaining a certain skill level). This also includes removing athletes from the squad if their skills are not consistently meeting the required level (stunting and/or tumbling).**

## FUNDRAISING

- All fundraising will be done as a group and participation in all fundraisers is mandatory.
- If a fundraising event requires the participation of a parent (clinic, car wash, competition, etc.), athletes are required to use one of their excuses if a parent or adult is not present.
- **Possible** fundraisers are: selling water at graduation, sponsor shirts, hosting 1-2 clinics, fundraising tables at the clinics, car washes, letter writing campaign, monthly restaurant nights, spaghetti dinner, candy bars, and selling PA t-shirts.
- If our fundraising efforts throughout the season come up short of the amount that we need to send our athletes to Nationals, each athlete will be expected to pay the remaining balance out-of-pocket. If this occurs, we will decide on the amount needed per athlete and you will be given the option to participate in individual fundraisers and/or to pay this amount.
- If the cheerleader is removed from the Competition Squad due to rule violations, falling below the required skill level, or if he/she removes himself/herself for personal reasons (including injury), he/she will not be allowed to make the trip to any competitions, including Nationals. The fundraising money that he/she has helped to raise to that point is the property of Butler Golden Tornado Cheerleaders and will remain property of the Butler Golden Tornado Cheerleaders. If those individuals' parents have, at that point, paid money to the National's trip, then the responsibility of taking the trip, finding someone else to take their spot, or making cancellations, is theirs. Any money that the cheerleader owes for outstanding expenses must still be paid. The Butler Golden Tornado Cheerleaders will not be responsible for reimbursing any money that may have been lost due to disciplinary action and/ or a family's decision (for any reason) to not make the trip past deadline points where monies have been forfeited.

## OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSES

- Below are the ESTIMATED out-of-pocket expenses for the entire season for the Competition Squad. (These figures are based on new members to the team, returning members will already have some of the items.) **Please also remember that these costs are in addition to the game squad expenses!**
  - Clothing**: approx. 6 matching practice outfits (\$150 total), one pair of competition cheer shoes (\$85), briefs (\$18), warm-up (\$100), Fan Shirt (\$18), Camp outfit (\$75-\$80), 2 additional practice bows (\$5 each)
  - UCA Summer Camp**: approx. \$280 plus bus fee TBA depending on how many athletes we have and if we have another team to split expenses with.
  - Local Competitions Fees**: approx. \$100 (due in the Fall)
  - Choreography Camp**: approx. \$275...this includes choreography and music
  - Mandatory fundraising fee** - \$225...this may be paid out of pocket, or you may participate in individual fundraising to cover
- Nationals**: Airfare, hotel, competition fees, park tickets, group meal will typically be covered for each athlete (provided we meet our fundraising goals). While they are more than welcome to attend, cheerleaders are NOT required to have a parent attend Nationals!

## TRANSPORTATION

- For all local competitions the cheerleader will be responsible for arranging their own transportation. Cheerleaders are not permitted to drive themselves to any competitions (unless their parent is in the car with them.). All athletes must be driven by their own parent or another parent on the team. Athletes are NOT allowed to be driven to or from a competition by a boyfriend/girlfriend, no matter what their age may be.
- For each local competition, we will select a local meeting place to meet before we depart for the competition. All cheerleaders must meet at this location.
- The Butler Golden Tornado Cheerleaders, coaches, and the Butler Area School District are not responsible for the cheerleaders while they are in transit to and from the competitions. Supervision will begin by the coaches once the cheerleaders arrive at the event, and will end at the conclusion of the event.

## ENFORCEMENT OF RULES

- In addition to the rules outlined in the “Butler Golden Tornado Cheerleading Contract”, a cheerleader may be removed from the Competition Squad for the additional reasons below:
  - His/Her skills fall below the requirements for any of the given areas.
  - He/She is not showing improvement and/ or maintaining skills already acquired.
  - His/Her attitude is negatively affecting the team.

**DECISIONS ARE BASED ON WHAT IS BEST FOR THE ENTIRE TEAM, NOT INDIVIDUAL CHEERLEADERS!!!!**