



Elk Grove Youth Cheer Program Guidelines

Approved: June 2025

Preamble

The Elk Grove Youth Cheer Program (EGYC) is a program operated by the Elk Grove Park District. The Board of Commissioners of the Elk Grove Park District appoint volunteer Advisory Board members to assist with operational decisions and tasks for these leagues and programs.

Mission Statement

Elk Grove Youth Cheer Program, hereafter referred to as EGYC, will provide a safe and instructional cheer program by staying current with all IHSA and Illinois Cheer Association (ICA) Rules, for youth participants from the ages of 5 through 14 (non-High School), teaching fundamental skills in a positive environment, while stressing sportsmanship and above all safety. EGYC will strive to give all participants an enjoyable, memorable team experience and skills to serve them at the next level.

Program Registration

All registrations will be done through the Elk Grove Park District.

Registration Forms and Waivers

All participants must complete a registration form and sign the waiver. These forms will be provided to the Advisory Board by the District Liaison. It is the responsibility of the Advisory Board to provide the Resident fee for all levels of their program. The District Liaison will then provide the Non-Resident fee along with a PDF copy of the registration form that can be posted on the Advisory Board's website. Hard copies will be provided for in-person registrations.

Refund Policies

Withdrawal/Refund Request forms are available at the Pavilion and Al Hattendorf Center customer service counters.

Character Counts Pledge - ADDENDUM A

All participants, coaches, parents, spectators must abide by the Park District Code of Conduct and Pledge. EGYC will not tolerate any abuse of any member of EGYC or the Illinois Cheer Association. Everyone is expected to abide by the Park District Code of Conduct and Pledge. Any violations may result in suspension, removal, or dismissal. Social media posts concerning EGYC must be ethical and appropriate. Inappropriate posts may result in a Code of Conduct and Pledge violation.

Board Vacancies

Nominations

Those individuals showing interest in running for a board position, which is considered open by term limits or vacancy, must submit a letter of intent to the President before the November board meeting. Individuals can only be considered for one position. Upon review of all requests, those applicants meeting the requirements as defined in these guidelines will then be nominated by the Director at the December board meeting.

Election

If an election becomes necessary, sitting board members will vote at the beginning of the January board meeting. The EGYC Advisory Board is responsible for holding a fair election. The Election

chairperson will be the Director. The Competition Coordinator will preside if the Director position is up for election. All newly elected Board Members must complete an Elk Grove Park District Youth Athletics Advisory Board Application, mandatory background check and complete board member orientation through EGPD.

Terms of Office

Positions available are based on the Even/Odd calendar. A term in office is defined as two years* and all newly elected officers will begin their two-year term in February*. The fiscal year will be from February 1st to January 31st. All Board members must declare their intent to remain in their position before the October board meeting. Terms beginning Odd Years Terms beginning Even Years*

Competition Coordinator Director* Secretary Program Coordinator* Marketing/Fundraising Manager

*In the inaugural season only of the EGYC Advisory Board, Director and Program Coordinator will serve a 3-year term to ensure smooth advisory board transitions from season to season.

Vacated Positions - Mid Term

If a member should vacate a position prior to the end of their term and they would like to return to the board at some point, it will be subject to board approval. In the event of a board vacancy, except for the President, where the Competition Coordinator succeeds, the Board will appoint by majority vote a successor to serve out the term of said vacancy.

Committees

Committees will be appointed, as needed, each year by the Advisory Board.

Cheerleading

General

1. All team coaches must abide by the code of conduct set forth by the EGPD Code of Conduct, Character Counts Pledge, and participating league.
2. All cheer coaches must complete a background check a minimum of 10 days prior to the first day of practice.
3. All participants must abide by the EGYC and ICA policies and procedures, including but not limited to Code of Conduct and EGYC Attendance Policy
4. All Cheer Coaches will stress sound scholastic standings, sportsmanship, conduct, and try to provide character building experience for all cheerleaders.
5. All information containing personal information of our participants is to be kept in the strictest of confidence. Personal information must not be shared with anyone outside of the league and immediate coaches and board members.
6. Head Coaches will follow up on injuries and report to the President who will then report to the District liaison within 24 hours.

7. If a cheerleader was held out of practice due to a Doctor's note, they will not be able to return to practice until they provide a Doctor's release to return. Releases must be given to the President and District liaison.

Objectives

1. To provide an opportunity for all children ages 5-14 (Non high school) to participate in an organized sideline and no tryout competitive recreational cheerleading program.
2. To teach fundamentals of cheerleading.
3. To encourage good sportsmanship
4. To follow IHSA and ICA rules for safety

Organization

1. Competition Squads are determined by grade level and registration numbers. Up to three (3) grade levels may be combined, with a minimum of 6 cheerleaders and a maximum of 36. Squads will compete at the level according to the oldest grade level represented on the squad. Final squad rosters will be determined at close of registration by the President and Competition Coordinator. In the event of excessively high, or low, registration numbers at a certain grade level, squads may be slightly different than advertised for the season. All Competition Squads will also sideline cheer for EGYF Football Teams
2. Sideline only squads are determined by grade level and will be determined by the President and Program Coordinator at the close of registration.
3. Sideline Only Squads and Competition Squads will be assigned to EGYF Football teams by the President and Program Coordinator after football teams have been determined by the EGYF Board.
4. Cheerleading participants and teen (junior) coaches follow basic rules of conduct and are subject to disciplinary action, which may limit their cheerleading/coaching time as determined by agreement of the EGYC Board.
5. The President and Coordinators shall approve practice times.
6. Practices may not be cancelled without President and/or Coordinator approval.
7. Adult Coaches are the liaison between junior cheer coaches and parents and/or football coaches.

Amendments

The EGYC Advisory Board and District liaison must approve Program Guideline changes. The Guidelines may be amended by majority vote and will be reviewed yearly.

ADDENDUM A



Character Counts Pledge

Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Citizenship, Caring

- Treat players, other parents, coaches, and referees with the utmost respect at all times.
- Do not force your children to play sports, but support their desire to play their chosen sport. Children are involved in organized sports for THEIR enjoyment. Always make it FUN.
- Be a positive role model. Be gracious in victory and accept defeat with dignity; display emotional maturity.
- Use positive encouragement to increase confidence and build self-esteem in your children and foster a respect and appreciation for the sport. Stress the importance of the team play over personal statistics and recognition. Encourage your children to develop good practice and game habits in an effort to continually improve their skills.
- Foster the development of good character by teaching, enforcing, advocating, and modeling high standards of ethics and sportsmanship.
- Encourage your children to learn the rules of their sport and abide by them at all times.
- Recognize the effort put in by volunteer coaches. Communicate with and support them in any way that you can.
- Be responsible for guests you bring.
- Respect the facilities. Without them, there would not be a place to play.

I have read and understand the above Character Counts Code of Conduct and understand that it is my responsibility to provide positive support, care, and encouragement for my child. I also understand that violation of this code of conduct could result in my being forbidden from attending games or practices.

Participant Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Coach Signature _____ Date _____