

Buckeye Local School District



*Buckeye Local
High School
Junior High School*

STUDENT CHEERLEADER HANDBOOK

*For Years
2022-2023*

Board Adopted: 2-28-2022

CHEERLEADING RULES AND REGULATIONS

BUCKEYE LOCAL ELIGIBILITY RULES: The Buckeye Local School District has adopted a 1.25 minimum grade point average and passing of five one credit courses, or the equivalent, which count toward graduation (high School) and passing of 75% of the courses (junior high level) the preceding grade period.

A reassessment of the G.P.A. after four weeks of eligibility during the grading period will be permitted and should a student have raised his/her grades to a level at or higher than the district's G.P.A. standard, the school may reinstate the student's athletic eligibility providing the student meets all other provisions of OHSAA Bylaw 4-4-3 prior to attempting to regain eligibility. Summer school classes, if provided/approved by the district, may also be used to meet G.P.A. standards not met during the final grading period of each year if completed prior to the beginning of the next school year.

1. A 1.25 over-all grade point average is required to be eligible for try-outs. Once a cheerleader becomes a member of a squad the Buckeye Local eligibility rules above will apply. Eligibility lists will be completed each 9 weeks. (Incompletes may disqualify a student from trying out or from participation until grade is made up)
2. Up to twelve Varsity cheerleaders who reach the minimum score of 200 points will be considered for the high school. This will include sophomores through seniors. Up to twelve reserve cheerleaders who reach the minimum score of 200 points will be considered for the high school. This will include freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors. A mascot will be chosen by the advisor and building principal for the varsity squad. Due to lack of numbers squads may be eliminated and cheerleaders may be moved to different squads regardless of what grade the Cheerleader is in (7th, 8th, Freshmen, Sophomore, Junior or Senior).

Up to twelve (12) 8th grade cheerleaders will be chosen and up to twelve (12) 7th grade cheerleaders will be chosen. All cheerleaders must have the number of required points, which is 175, to be considered for the squad. If there is a lack of numbers, students who score below 175 may be considered for the Junior High squad. A change in the number on a squad must be initiated and determined by the Administration. The Junior High cheerleaders shall attend/cheer at football games and boys basketball games; Due to lack of numbers, squads may be eliminated and cheerleaders may be moved to different squads regardless of what grade the cheerleader is in (7th, 8th, Freshmen, Sophomore, Junior or Senior).

3. A second cheerleading tryout will **NOT** take place if a student does not make the desired squad.
4. The advisor will determine cheering practices. The average practice shall be 1 1/2 to 3 hours in length, as needed. Pre-season practices shall be substantially longer and more frequent at the advisor's discretion. Practices for competitions will be held, as the advisor deems necessary in order to be properly prepared. This may

include Saturday practices. The advisor may make changes in days and times. The advisor will determine practice schedules. Cheering practices will be held at the school unless the principal approves another site. ATTENDANCE AT ALL IN SEASON PRACTICES IS REQUIRED. A doctor's excuse is required for any missed practice due to an appointment or injury. Cheerleaders or their parents are responsible for transportation to and from all cheering practices.

No practice shall be held without an advisor being present. Only the advisor shall have the authority to excuse a student from practice. The advisor and other conflicting coaches must agree upon a shared practice time, in order for practices to be excused.

A one week vacation will be counted as an excused absence from practice. It is recommended that vacations be taken prior to August 1.

5. INCLEMENT WEATHER: When the Buckeye Local School District does not have school because of weather or other calamity, the school buses will not be operating for any school activity and regularly scheduled contests and events such as class plays, concerts, and interscholastic events will be cancelled. An exception will be a State OHSAA or OVAC Tournament. The principal must communicate with the Central Office concerning the final decision.
6. All cheerleaders will attend athletic events, practices, and activities designated by the advisor. All members must participate in projects to promote school spirit. High School cheerleaders perform at all football and basketball games, both home and away. Junior High cheerleaders perform at all home football games, and home boys basketball games. Performing at away games for football season will be determined by the advisor and approved by Administration. They are also responsible for tournaments at the close of the season. There may be as many as thirty-five nights of cheering, which includes, at times, two basketball games per week, some being on school nights. For high school cheering, all cheerleaders are to be present for both varsity and reserve basketball games and shall remain for the entirety of the games, which conclude around 10:00 p.m. When not performing, cheerleaders will sit as a group, remain in uniform and cheer with the cheerleaders that are performing. Reserve cheerleaders will not cheer at all varsity football games. The advisor will determine when they are needed.

A competition squad will be chosen by the advisors from the JV and Varsity squads. Up to 15 can be chosen (OVAC numbers). The Varsity squad can be chosen to participate in the Jefferson County Fair competition if there is a lack of numbers for a competition squad. The competition squad will consist of Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors.

7. The school will provide transportation to away games. Transportation to and from the school to ride the bus for away games is the responsibility of the cheerleader / parent. All cheerleaders are to ride the bus to and from the game unless emergency occurs and alternate arrangements must be made through the advisor or principal. All cheerleaders must ride together on the bus to and from events, and will be chaperoned, at all times, by a school official. Exceptions may be made with the

advisor's approval. Approval to leave a game will only be given if the student is leaving with his/her parent or guardian. In the event that the cheerleading advisor is not present at a game due to illness, etc., the cheerleaders will not participate unless a school official approved by the principal accompanies them. [Exceptions to this may be made only at the discretion of the principal.] Cheerleaders riding a team bus will not be permitted to sit with players. The bus may return from away games as late as 11:00 p.m., sometimes later. Transportation to and from home games is the responsibility of the cheerleader/parents. Transportation to and from practices and activities other than games is also the responsibility of the cheerleader/parent. The Advisor, with the approval of the building principal, will arrange transportation for competitions.

8. The cheerleading program is independent from the school athletic program. Although there will be money-making projects planned to raise funds for the program, there may also be a financial obligation to be assumed by the cheerleaders. Cheerleaders will not purchase any item without the permission of the office. If parents or cheerleaders arrange for any purchases, pictures, uniforms, etc., they will assume total responsibility for all costs. Only those items purchased directly by the participant with his or her own monies will not be the property of the high school. The final decision on the purchase of any new uniforms will be in the hands of the advisor, with the consent of the principal.
9. Cheerleaders are responsible for all uniforms assigned to them. Cheerleaders will return uniforms and equipment when requested by the advisor. If not returned, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th graders will not be permitted to tryout and delinquent obligations will be submitted to the office. Seniors will not receive their diploma until all obligations are met. Uniforms and equipment may only be used for authorized purposes.
10. ALL CHEERLEADERS ARE REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE AND COMPLETE ALL FUND RAISERS. Cheerleaders are responsible for all materials sold or unsold for money making projects and for the money collected through the sale of such materials. Cheerleaders who do not fulfill fundraising responsibilities may have an additional financial obligation depending on what funds are being raised for. Money raised from these projects will be directed first to the squads which each cheerleader represents. Additional monies will be used for all cheerleaders as needed.
11. Each cheerleader selected is required to have a medical examination yearly as a precaution to make sure that cheerleading will not be harmful to the health of the student. A physical is **mandatory** and proof of the physical must be given to the advisor before permission will be given to practice or cheer. *Check with advisor for information on physical. Proof of physicals must be turned in by August 1st. Also a waiver form must be returned, signed by parents prior to any practice or activity. All students who participate in a club or athletic team must be drug tested prior to the start of the activity. Students who fail to comply with the drug testing will not be eligible to participate. If an injury occurs throughout the season, the advisor must receive documentation from a doctor's office verifying the injury and recommended

restrictions.

12. During the school year the following specific squad regulations will be in effect at the Advisor's discretion:

- a. The Junior High, Reserve, and Varsity squads will attempt, as much as possible, to use the same cheers.
- b. All squads for the benefit of the fans will share cheers.
- c. The cheerleaders will attempt to devise cheers that the crowd or fans can participate in and keep dance routines to a minimum that are not motivational for the fans.
- d. The Advisor will decide uniforms worn for specific contests. The Advisor will also decide all tournament uniforms. The Advisor will also decide how the squad hair will be worn.
- e. Varsity, Reserve, and 7th and 8th Grade Cheerleaders: Please give serious consideration to cheering for only one sport if you are involved in other extra-curricular activities. This gives more students the opportunity to participate and prevents you from becoming stressed from too many obligations. Once you become a cheerleader in Buckeye Local, cheerleading will take priority over other activities.
- f. Cheerleading can be expensive. There will be fees for camps, shoes, socks, turtlenecks, jackets, etc.
- g. Cheerleaders, who are not in attendance on the school day of an activity, will not be permitted to cheer that evening. Special circumstances may be considered by the building principal. In the event of an early dismissal, the cheerleader shall obtain a memo from the principal to give to the advisor or the cheerleader will not be permitted to cheer at the evening activity. If a cheerleader is in school, they are expected to be at practice. Any late arrival or absence from an event or practice will be considered unexcused until documentation is provided.
- h. Cheerleaders shall come to all games in uniform and remain in uniform until they leave the game. When representing Buckeye Local as a cheerleader, the following guidelines must be followed:
 - HAIR: Will be worn as Advisor decides.
 - CLOTHES: clean, neat, pressed, fit well, and plain white sports bra
 - MAKE-UP: **not excessive**
 - JEWELRY: NONE (including body piercings; ALL jewelry, including belly button rings and body piercings, MUST be removed for games and practices. NO clear pieces or bandaids)
 - SHOES: Clean with clean laces

- NAIL POLISH: Clear only (no glitter, etc.)
- ARTIFICIAL NAILS: NONE (exceptions will be made for Homecoming and formal dances only and can be worn on the day before the dance)
- TATTOOS: All tattoos MUST be completely covered for games and events

Complete uniform includes:

Uniform as decided by Advisor; designated cheering socks; cheering shoes, designated hair ornament, bows, briefs, poms; CHEERLEADERS NOT APPEARING IN COMPLETE UNIFORM AS REQUIRED SHALL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PERFORM THE EVENT UNLESS CORRECTIONS ARE MADE PRIOR TO START OF EVENT.

Cheerleaders should dress appropriately for practices: cheer shoes, hair pulled back and gym clothes.

- i. For game days, it will be decided by the Advisor what the cheerleaders will wear to school; all squad members shall dress alike. Full uniforms must be worn at pep assemblies.
- j. All cheerleaders shall attend summer practices. This includes cheerleaders who cheer one season only.
- k. HIGH SCHOOL ONLY: The Mascot is considered a member of the cheering squad and shall follow the same rules and regulations as the cheerleaders with the Mascot Costume being the uniform of the Mascot.

NOTE: The Buckeye Local Drug and Alcohol Policy as adopted by the Board and as appearing in the **Student Handbook** will apply to Cheerleaders.

RULES FOR CHEERLEADER TRY-OUTS

ELIGIBILITY

- A. A student must have at least a 1.25 overall cumulative average at the end of the first semester to be eligible to try out. If selected as a cheerleader, he/she must pass five (5) full credits, or the equivalent, of work to be eligible to cheer during a 9-week period in grades 9-12 and 75% of the courses taken must have a passing grade in grades 7 & 8 as well as the Buckeye Local eligibility rules noted previously. (Incompletes may disqualify a student from trying out). A student may tryout for any Buckeye Local activity if they meet all the requirements established for each activity and he/she is a student enrolled in the Buckeye Local School District prior to the tryouts or his/her parents are

legal residents of the district and that child will enroll in the Buckeye Local School District. Eligibility will follow the OHSAA guidelines and rules for grades 7-12. For resident students being educated elsewhere eligibility will be determined as per the Ohio Revised Code.

- B. A cheerleader who is dismissed from the squad as a result of enforcement of the squad rules may try out again the following year.

A cheerleader may be released from his/her cheerleading duties by the advisor, after correspondence with the Administrator in charge, due to physical injury or other special circumstances and will be eligible to try out the following year.

- C. Sophomores through seniors may cheer on the varsity squad.
- D. Freshmen through seniors may cheer on the reserve squad. Unless lack of numbers and then underclassmen can be moved to varsity squad.
- E. The District requires pre-try-out practices. 100% attendance is suggested at all scheduled pre-try-out practices.
- F. Mascot will be chosen by the advisor and principal. Students in grades 9-12 (for the following school year) will be considered as the mascot.
- G. You cannot cheer and play basketball, participate in dance line, play volleyball or compete in cross country in the same season.
- H. All candidates must attend the day of the tryouts to be considered for team membership.
- I. All students must be in good academic and behavioral standing in order to participate in tryouts, which will be evaluated by the Cheer Advisor and Administrator
- J. Any student who transfers into the Buckeye Local School District after the tryouts, may be added to the competition, football, or basketball squad that has an equivalent qualifying score from their previous school or an experienced cheer judge as space allows and at the advisor's discretion

JUDGES FOR TRY-OUTS

- A. A designated cheering advisor shall contact and secure three (3) judges for their respective try-outs (high school and junior high levels). The judges shall not be currently employed by the school district. The head home school Advisor shall coordinate the try-outs but is not to be in the judging area at any time during tryouts. (If only 2 judges are present, scores will be adjusted accordingly, 2/3.)

- B. Judges will be rating candidates on the areas of appearance, pep and enthusiasm, voice projection and clarity, crowd conduct, coordination - timing and smoothness, motion quality, jumps and stunts.
- C. High School and Junior High tryouts will be held on the same day and at the same location

NUMBER OF CHEERLEADERS ON THE SQUAD

Up to twelve Varsity	WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE ADMINISTRATION
Up to twelve Reserve	
Up to twelve 8 th Grade	
Up to twelve 7 th Grade	

Changes in numbers on a squad may be necessary due to special circumstances.

All changes are to be initiated and determined by the Administration.

All cheerleaders must have the number of required points, which is 200 out of a possible 300 to make the squad. A reasonable gap in scores will determine the divide between the Varsity and Reserve squads. This will be determined and approved by the administration. In the event of a tie ONLY, participants will be judged again on the cheer portion of tryouts.

DATE AND TIME OF CHEERLEADER TRY-OUTS

Try-outs will be held the first week in March (weather permitting). The time and place shall be left to the discretion of the cheerleader advisor. Details shall be posted so that all girls/boys wishing to try-out will have the opportunity. Once try-outs are set, only under extreme circumstances will the time or date be changed.

A form must be submitted to the Central Office indicating the try-out date and judges that will be present.

- A. Tabulators will tally the tryouts scores. A sealed copy of the scores will be sent to the Central Office.
- B. Numbers matched with names will be submitted to building principal the same day as try-outs. All forms will be submitted to the principal's office immediately following try-outs and will include only the number of the candidate and total score.
- C. Participants who make the squad will be notified as soon as practical after tabulations have been completed.

- D. Only the participant will view his or her own individual score if they do not make a squad. No one will be able to see each other's scores.

CHEERLEADER DEMERIT SYSTEM

All cheerleaders are responsible for their conduct at all times. The failure to follow all rules and polices set forth by the Buckeye Local School District shall result in the enforcement of the following demerit system.

DEMERITS

Immoral Conduct (referred to and handled by the Administration according to student discipline code.	-20
Smoking, drinking, use of drugs (even if not in uniform) (referred to and handled by the Administration according to student discipline code.	Removal from the squad or --20 demerits
Fighting – Physical (referred to and handled by the Administration according to student discipline code.	-20
Failure to meet grade requirement	Ineligible
Incomplete is not a passing grade	Ineligible
Disruptive Behavior	-5
Disrespect to an adult or insubordination	-10
Profane language	-5
Unexcused absence from practice	-3
Unexcused absence from required event	-5
Leaving an event unexcused	-10
Untidy or incomplete uniform or appearance	may be benched -3
Insufficient knowledge of cheers at games or events by first game or event	may be benched -3
Chewing gum during an event	-3
Excessive conversation with crowd, team or each other	-3
Arrival to game more than 5 minutes late from the time expected (unexcused)	-3
Not keeping up with cheering responsibilities and duties (Examples: calling sidelines, pep assemblies, signs, etc. weekly)	-3
Arriving to practice more than 5 minutes late (unexcused)	-3
Late to floor after half-time break	-3

Wearing jewelry to games or practice (This includes body piercing jewelry)	-3
Wearing nail polish while in uniform	-5
Failure to turn in fund raising money when due (Everyday late refer to Administration)	-5
Failure to turn in monies for equipment when due (deposits, body suits, etc.)	-5
Inappropriate clothing for practice sessions (Cheer shoes, t-shirts, shorts, etc.)	-5
Public display of affection	-5
Not responding to emails, texts about events, games and/or practices when asked	-3
Unauthorized use of cell phone during practices and/or games	-5
Negative and/or inappropriate social media posts or pictures	-10
 *Missing more than 15 practices (this includes excused and unexcused absences)	 -10
 *Negative interference by parents	 -3

10 demerits	Benched 1 event
15 demerits	Benched 2 events
20 demerits	Referral to the Administration (benched 5 events unless it conflicts with the Extracurricular Code of Conduct
25 demerits	Referred to Administration / Removed from Squad

If a cheerleader is not permitted to perform at an event, they will sit in uniform with the advisor for the entirety of the event.

The advisor/administrator of the school has the authority to take corrective disciplinary action against any behavior, whether covered

specifically in this written cheerleader demerit system, which is found to be unbecoming of a Buckeye Local cheerleader.

Demerits will be accumulated over time; From May 1 through Basketball season.

**Buckeye Local School District
Cheerleader Try-Out Judging Form**

5 - Excellent 4 - Very Good 3 - Good 2 - Fair 1 - Poor 0 - No Attempt

PRESENCE (5)

General Appearance (Hair up, no jewelry or nail polish, clean shoes and white sport bra) 0 1 2 3 4 5

GROUP SIDELINE (15)

Overall Technique (precise motions & timing) 0 1 2 3 4 5

Voice (loud and good enunciation) 0 1 2 3 4 5

Facial expressions and enthusiasm 0 1 2 3 4 5

GROUP DANCE (15)

Ability (rhythm/precision) 0 1 2 3 4 5

Facial expressions and enthusiasm 0 1 2 3 4 5

Overall knowledge and execution 0 1 2 3 4 5

INDIVIDUAL CHEER (20)

Overall Technique (precise motions & timing) 0 1 2 3 4 5

Voice (loud and good enunciation) 0 1 2 3 4 5

Facial expressions and enthusiasm 0 1 2 3 4 5

Overall knowledge and execution 0 1 2 3 4 5

JUMPS (30)

Toe Touch 0 1 2 3 4 5

Hurkie 0 1 2 3 4 5

Hurdler 0 1 2 3 4 5

Pike 0 1 2 3 4 5

Double Toe Jump 0 1 2 3 4 5

Jump Sequence 0 1 2 3 4 5

TUMBLING/OPTIONAL-(10)

Tumbling/Optional 0 1 2 3 4 5

Tumbling/Optional (Degree of Difficulty) 0 1 2 3 4 5

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS (5)

Given all categories, rate the candidate's overall effectiveness as a cheerleader. 0 1 2 3 4 5

JUDGE'S INITIALS _____

TOTAL SCORE _____

BUCKEYE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
CHEERLEADERS
INTENT TO DENY PARTICIPATION

Buckeye Local School District

School _____ Date _____

Name of Cheerleader: _____

This is to notify you that it has been recommended to the building principal that you not be permitted to participate in Cheerleading for the remainder of the sports season for the following reasons: (beginning on the date stated above)

Advisor

Principal

BUCKEYE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
CHEERLEADERS
REMOVAL FROM PARTICIPATION FORM

Buckeye Local School District

School _____ Date _____

Name of Cheerleader: _____

This is to notify you that, beginning on the above date; you will not be permitted to participate in Cheerleading for the following reasons:

If you desire it, you are entitled to a private, informal meeting with your advisor to state your side of the story and discuss the problem.

If you are not satisfied with the results of the meeting you may ask to arrange for an interview before the advisor and principal. You may be accompanied or represented by the adult of your choice at the appeal.

After hearing all facts, the principal will make a decision on the removal. The decision of the building principal shall be final.

Building Principal

