

Marietta Youth League Cheerleading
Rules and Expectations
Football and Basketball Season
(Revised July 2018)

The Marietta Youth League (MYL) Cheerleading consists of the following teams/colors: Marietta Tigers Black (Black/Orange/White) and Marietta Tigers Orange (Orange/Black/White). Outside Marietta Teams consist of Beverly Cadets (Red/Blue), Waterford Wildcats (Green/White), Lowell Patriots (Red/Blue), Warren Warriors (Blue/White), and Federal Hocking Lancers (Marron/Gray), Vienna Wildcats (Green/White).

Boundaries:

All cheerleaders will cheer will for the squad associated with school in which they attend. Special permission will be considered for siblings who attend different schools and would then cheer for a different team or a sibling playing football who would play for a different team. A letter must be written to the Marietta Youth League Board explaining the need to be placed on another team and will be voted on. The Marietta Youth League Board decision on the Letter is final.

Practices:

Practices are held at the discretion of the Cheerleading Coach. Location and practice times will accommodate the majority of the cheerleaders. An effort should be made to have the practices within the team boundaries. A practice schedule will be provided in advance to the cheerleaders by the coach.

For practices, the cheerleaders are required to wear comfortable shorts, t-shirts, sweatpants, etc. Denim is not acceptable material for cheerleading and therefore should not be worn. Sports Bras may not be worn without a shirt over top of them. Hair should be pulled back and out of the cheerleaders face. Socks and tennis shoes should also be worn. No flip-flops, jewelry, or gum. This is for the safety of all the cheerleaders as well as others who might be involved. Water or other drinks might not be available at practice so you need to send your child to practice with a drink clearly labeled with the cheerleaders name on it. Sharing of water bottles is not encouraged due to germs and sanitary reasons.

Cheerleaders are required to attend practices. Some girls are involved in other activities, but as a team, it is very difficult to practice when someone is missing. If your child is involved in other activities, hopefully a compromise will be possible. If you have a scheduling conflict please notify the coach as soon as possible. If your cheerleader cannot attend a practice, it is the cheerleader's responsibility to learn anything that they missed in their absence. If a compromise in scheduling cannot be made, a choice may have to be made by the cheerleader as to which activity she wishes to be involved in. If a cheerleader misses more than 3 practices without calling to let the coach know PRIOR to practice that they will not be there then the coach has the right to remove the cheerleader from the squad. The amount of time and

energy that goes into making up and teaching routines is valuable and if practices are missed then time is spent re-teaching and is not productive time to work on other things. In the event that a cheerleader is missing an excessive amount of practices for other activities then the coach has the right to ask the cheerleader to make a choice. It is too hard to conduct a practice when there are constant holes and people missing. Cheerleading is not an individual sport, there is no “bench” in which to pull other team members from. All participants need to be present to make it work.

Expectations:

Cheerleading is a fun, learning opportunity for all of the girls. Coaches will treat the girls and parents with respect, and they will expect the same respect in return. If there is a concern, please do not hesitate to discuss it with the coach after a practice or a game. A coach should not be addressed during a practice or a game and never in front of a cheerleader. Cheering requires a commitment involving time and dedication to yourself and to your team. Remember that a coach is volunteering their time and they are not being paid to coach.

Positive attitudes are expected during practices and games. It is expected that the girls and parents will refrain from whining, arguing, talking about another person, unkind comments, excluding others, participating in hurtful jokes, name calling, or fighting. Bad language will not be permitted by the MYL. Making another cheerleader/coach/parent feel bad will NOT be tolerated!

Cheerleading is different from most sports because all the squad members are on the field or floor at the same time in a coordinated performance. Teammates depend on each other as a whole squad to achieve success. All squad members must work together as team unity is prized above individual talent and no single individual makes a squad successful; teams become successful through the collective talents and best efforts of all the members. Squad members have the responsibility to work together with respect and support that goes beyond any personal grievance or conflict. It is understood that each girl will have stronger and weaker skills; some have previous cheerleading experience and others do not. We want to encourage and help each other to make a great team.

Teamwork will be stressed throughout the year and the girls will be expected to work together and help each other out. Even if they are not friends outside of cheerleading, once they are at a practice or game they are required to work as a team.

No parent may tell their cheerleader that they do not have to listen to a coach. If they feel this way then they should remove their child from the squad.

Parents are not to “sideline coach” their child. The squad has a coach and the cheerleaders are expected to listen to the coach. A parent yelling from a sideline can cause a safety issue by distracting a cheerleader from what is going on around them. A coach has the right to ask a parent to leave the practice or to move away from the squad if this becomes an issue.

Practices can be “open” or “closed”. An “open” practice means that parents/siblings may stay and watch. A “closed” practice means that parents/siblings are not allowed to stay and watch. It is up to the coach if

a practice is “open” or “closed”. If you have a concern about something going on at practice you should speak to your child’s coach away from others, outside of practice time.

Games:

The Marietta Youth League (MYL) Football consists of 3rd/4th, 5th/6th Grade Boys. The football season begins the end of August. The season runs for approximately 8-10 weeks depending on the number of teams. The games are on Saturdays with the exception of the First game of the season and the Championship game which can be held on Sundays. Games can be scheduled anytime between 9:00am and 7:00pm. Games can be held at Glendale Field or the upper field at MMS. The first and last games are usually held at Don Drumm Stadium. These games are played rain or shine, hot or cold, and your cheerleader is required to be there no matter what the outside weather condition is. At times it might be necessary to play a game on a different day due to scheduling conflicts at the fields. There also may be a chance that a game could be played on Trick-or-Treat. If the team you are cheering for is playing then the cheerleaders are expected to be there. Coaches may take disciplinary action against a cheerleader who does not cheer and instead goes trick-or-treating. This action may include sitting out a basketball game, some form of exercise at practice, or other punishment the coach feels is reasonable. There is a charge for spectators to get into the Football games usually around \$3.00. If you attend more than one game the same day you do not have to pay again to attend another one, you are only charged for 1 game a day.

Cheerleaders are required to sell tickets for the Preview/Championship Games. Cheerleaders may keep the money that they earn from selling the tickets in the Squad’s account to pay for things that are needed for the squad.

The Marietta Youth League (MYL) Basketball consists of 3rd/4th and 5th/6th Grade boys. The basketball games usually start in mid-November and run into February. The teams play on Saturdays and Sundays at Marietta Middle School, Waterford, Belpre, Warren, or as stated on the schedule. Those games can run between 10:00am-9:00pm. There is a minimal charge for the games at Marietta Middle School usually around \$3.00. In the event that there is more than one team within the team boundaries (i.e.: 5th and 6th teams or 2 teams for 5th grade, etc.) cheerleaders are expected to cheer for ALL games played for their teams at Marietta Middle School. Following the regular season, there will be double elimination tournament. These games can held on all days of the week or played all in one day depending on the number of teams.

Cheerleaders are to arrive at a time designated by the coach dressed and ready to cheer. The early arrival time is necessary for stretching, practice, rearrangement of formations, and forming a run through for the team if your squad does this. If your cheerleader is unable to attend a game you must notify the coach as soon as possible. If your cheerleader misses more than 3 games without notifying the coach then they may be asked to leave the squad. In the event that a cheerleader is missing an excessive amount of games for other activities then the coach has the right to ask the cheerleader to make a choice. It is too hard to show and perform the routines when there are constant holes and people missing. All participates need to be present to make it work especially since time was spent at practices developing these routines.

Full uniform is required at every game. This includes shell and skirt, socks and shoes, and hair pulled back out of the cheerleaders face. No jewelry is permitted with the exception of post earrings. Fingernail polish is at the coach's discretion. No visible tattoos (temporary or permanent) will be permitted unless completely covered by the uniform. Spirit tattoos are allowed at the coach's discretion.

Cheerleaders should make every effort to not eat during a game. The players are not allowed to eat and cheerleaders should respect that as well. Any food eaten while in uniform must be non-staining.

Cheerleaders should be cheering for the entire game. Unless being sat for disciplinary reasons or illness, cheerleaders are to be cheering and not sitting or goofing off. During the game is not the time to visit with friends, family, or parents. There is time for this before, after, or during half time.

At times parents may be asked to help out by working the gate, collecting tickets, working concession stands, or anything else asked by a coach. These are necessary to help there be a league for your child to be able to cheer for. Coaches donate their time by volunteering to teach cheerleading, they are not able to coach and do these additional things as well. If a parent does not volunteer to do these things then the cheerleaders for the squad not doing their part, will still be required to attend the game, dressed, and sitting on the sideline as a group watching the game.

Cheerleaders will not cheer for the Flag Football League for the 1/2 Graders. There will not be a 1/2 Grade Cheerleading Squad.

Uniforms:

It is strongly encouraged that each squad wears a uniform. This uniform consists of a shell and skirt as well as spankies, socks, and tennis shoes. The style and design is up to the Marietta Youth League Board Cheerleading Director when uniforms are ordered/changed unless the squad is purchasing the uniforms, then the current coach may select the uniforms. Due to cheering in all types of weather it is suggested that each squad also have a turtleneck/mock turtleneck. Hair bows are at the discretion of the coaches but are not mandatory. Warm ups, raincoats, pom-poms, Team T-shirts, Cheer Bags, etc.; are not considered part of the uniform but are "extras" that a team may choose to purchase. It is up to the coach as to what items will remain with the team and which items cheerleaders will be allowed to keep. Uniforms may not be worn to school and only at events in which the coach requires the uniforms to be worn. No alternations will be allowed to be made without prior authorization from the coach. Uniforms must be kept clean and in good shape. Under no circumstances is a cheerleader allowed to loan her uniform to a non-team cheerleader. Any uniform not returned to the squad or not returned in the condition to which the uniform was given to the cheerleader will need to be replaced at a cost to the cheerleader. Any MYL purchased uniforms are considered "squad/MYL" property and are not to be kept by cheerleaders. These uniforms are to be returned to the coaches at the end of the season or if a cheerleader quits. The coach is then required to store uniforms in a clean, dry location until the next cheer season. Uniforms should be returned clean and in good condition, any previous alterations should be removed and the uniform returned to its original state.

Coaches

Coaches (Head Coach or Assistant Coach) from the previous year will have first option to return as the coach of the upcoming season. In the event that the previous coach or coaches do not wish to continue or they are asked to not return due to one reason or another by the Marietta Youth League, any person interested in filling the open coaching position must submit a letter of interest along with a minimum of 1 Letter of Recommendation to the Marietta Youth League Board. All persons interested in coaching will then be invited to a board meeting where they will be interviewed as to their qualifications and background and the Marietta Youth League Board will then make the selection as to who they feel will best represent the Marietta Youth League Cheerleading Squads.

In the event that two squads are combined the two Head Coaches for the squads will act as Co-Coaches of the combined squad. If one coach chooses not to continue then the Head Coach remaining becomes the Head Coach of the combined squad. The Head Coach will then ask one parent from each of the two squads to help them as Assistant Coaches.

If a team combines for Football, this does not mean that the team will combine for Basketball. With the new "drafting" that the MYL has gone to for Basketball, Squads will be assigned teams to cheer for during basketball. We will do our best to have siblings cheer for siblings playing Basketball but we cannot guarantee that will happen. Cheerleading has a full year season (football and basketball) while for the boys football and basketball are separate seasons.

If a coach cannot be at a Game EVERY effort should be made to ask another Coach (if you are 3/4 ask the 5/6 Grade Coach) to fill in for them. We cannot have Cheerleaders not showing up for the games. There should be Cheerleaders at EVERY game.

This process if done is only for the squads representing Marietta teams (Tigers Orange and Black).

The teams located outside of Marietta (Cadets, Patriots, Wildcats, St Mary's, St John's, Caldwell, and Warriors) select their own cheer coaches. Some coaches are picked by the previous coach, some are voted on by the parents of the squad, some volunteer due to no one stepping up to coach. Each of those teams can decide how they want to select their coach.

Call-Outs/Try-Outs:

As a rule the Marietta Youth League (MYL) does not support try-outs for cheerleading. The MYL would like for everyone who wishes to cheer to be able to do so. A flyer will go out to all girls going into the 3th-6th grades within the MYL Boundaries either through the schools or mail, this flyer will allow the girls to come to a call out. In the event that it is not possible to get a flyer out to prospective cheerleaders then an announcement will be placed in the Marietta Times. Every effort will be made for this to be done before

the end of the school year but no later than June 30th. This call out will be used to determine who is interested in cheering for the upcoming MYL Football and Basketball seasons.

Should there be an interest that would cause a squad to have more than 20 cheerleaders on one squad, a try-out may be held to reduce the number of cheerleaders for that squad. A Try-out must be approved through the MYL Board Director of Cheerleading.

A try-out must consist of all cheerleaders trying out for the squad. Any cheerleaders who cheered for the squad in previous years are not excluded from trying out. The try-outs must be held with judges scoring the girls in various cheerleading requirements, such as; jump and sideline or cheer – to show motions and voice level etc. Judging of dance, tumbling, or other cheerleading skills are at the coach's discretion. The judges will be selected by the MYL Director of Cheerleading. The coach(es) and/or assistant coaches may not be one of the judges. The judges are to give scores for each skill being demonstrated and a total of the scores will be added up at the end. Those cheerleaders scoring the highest scores will be placed on the squad. The picking of alternates is also at the discretion of the coach and should be taken from those girls scoring the next highest scores not placed on the team.

Mascots:

It is up to the coach of each squad on if they are going to allow Mascots on their squad. A Mascot will not count in the numbers of girls on a squad. Mascots are expected to follow all rules when it comes to practices, games, uniforms, attitude, and discipline.

Fundraising:

Fundraising is permitted. All fundraising is at the discretion of the coach. Distribution of funds should be decided prior to each fundraiser if it is going to be used for the squad or individually. If the money is going to be used for the squad then all cheerleaders should make every effort to participate. It is not fair for some to work to make money and everyone benefit from the hard work of a few. The coach can ask for an out of pocket "donation" to be made to the squad by those cheerleaders that did not participate in the fundraiser if it was stated prior to the fundraiser that it was a fundraiser to benefit the entire squad. If it was stated that it was an individual fundraiser then not all cheerleaders are required to participate in fundraiser and a "donation" does not need to be made.

Fundraising money can be used for the squad's needs, recognition awards, end of the year banquet, camps, or registration for competitions. This is at the discretion of the coach.

Social Media:

Social Media – Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snap Chat, or any other Social Media site is not the place to confront a coach, cheerleader, or another parent. If a Cheerleader, Parent, or Coach is using Social Media to Bully/Threaten another Cheerleader, Parent, or Coach they **WILL** be removed from the squad. Bully/Threaten is not accepted in any way by the Marietta Youth League at any time. Any post on social media should be tasteful and respectful. Refrain from using vulgar language, suggestive pictures, or even being tagged in a post that is not appropriate. We are role models and should present ourselves as such.

Discipline:

Discipline or redirection will take place on an individual basis. Discipline may include warnings, meeting with parents, physical exercise, game suspension, permanent dismissal from the squad, or any other discipline deemed necessary by the coach. The coach reserves the right to dismiss a cheerleader from the squad should the behavior become harmful to themselves or others or cannot be corrected. The coach does need to have permission from the Director of Cheerleading prior to removal of any cheerleader/mascot from the squad once they have been considered part of the team.

Physicals/Liability:

Liability Forms must be signed and returned to the cheerleader coach before a cheerleader can participate in any form of cheerleading as a MYL Cheerleader. This includes practices or games. The cheerleader will sit out and watch until the Liability Form is returned signed to the coach.

The MYL requires that every cheerleader has a Physical every year. Physicals are to be completed prior to August 1st of each new cheerleading season. Coaches will have forms available to hand out to each girl or notify them of the web site that they may go to print off the form. The only exception to this is if the Cheerleader's previous Physical has not expired yet. Once Physical expires, Cheerleaders are expected to get a new Physical before the next game (football/basketball) in order to be eligible to cheer. Should the cheerleader not have her new Physical prior to the next game, then that cheerleader will be required to sit out until the Physical is received. The coach is required to keep track of who needs physicals or forms signed. The coach will keep these forms but must be able to present them if asked.

Checking Accounts:

A checking account is required of each squad. The checking account should be in the name of the Squad. **Two non-related signatures are required on the account.** If requested, account balance and receipts will need to be available for inspection. Any parent, guardian, Board Member, Coach, or Assistant Coach has the right to ask to see a Financial Statement. Please make sure that you keep ALL receipts, deposit slips, and bank statements. If you receive a returned check due to NSF or Closed Account from a cheerleader

or a fundraiser, you have the right to request repayment of funds plus any fees accrued by your squad because of the returned check.

Grievance Process:

All grievances must first be addressed with the coach. If there is a complaint, problem, or concern that has not been addressed adequately by the coach, you may contact the MYL Board Director of Cheerleading, Jennifer Hogue at 740-525-2008. MYL also has monthly Board Meetings that you may submit a letter of grievance as well; contact a MYL Board Member to find out when the upcoming meeting is scheduled for. **NEVER** confront a coach or MYL Board Member in the present of other cheerleaders or players. This should be done privately and respectfully.

The Marietta Youth League (MYL) is NOT affiliated with Marietta City Schools, Waterford Local Schools, Fort Frye Local Schools, Federal Hocking Local School, Caldwell Exempted Village, St Mary's Catholic Schools, St John's, Wood County Schools, or Warren Local Schools!