

## **Welcome To MCYA Football / Sideline Cheerleading**

Our mission is to promote, encourage, direct, and operate athletic programs for the children and youth of the Madison County Community. The Association strives to promote good sportsmanship through its athletic programs and activities. MCYA goals include the teaching of proper skills and techniques, instructing the principle of good sportsmanship, emphasizing physical fitness, providing an opportunity for fun and enjoyment, developing a teamwork attitude, promoting pride in one's sense of accomplishment, recognition in one's shortcomings, the acceptance of defeat, and the joys associated with winning.

The Madison County Youth Association (MCYA) football and cheerleading programs field football and cheerleading teams from 6U through the 7th grade. MCYA participates in the North Georgia Youth Football Association (NGYFA) and adheres to the rules as set by the NGYFA. The cheerleading program is focused on teaching the fundamentals of cheerleading while instilling good sportsmanship, character, and team work in a fun, supervised environment. To ensure the success of the MCYA cheer program we need the support of parents and volunteers. All MCYA board members and coaches are volunteers, and are not compensated for their time. To make your child's cheerleading experience the most enjoyable, we encourage you to help our coaches and team moms provide a positive experience and atmosphere for all of our participants. A positive environment with positive role models will benefit your child and instill confidence. We hope your child has a great cheerleading season!!

The MCYA Board

Updated 3-16-2026

## Important Dates

All important dates will be passed along by your Head Cheer Coach. Registration is during the April 1st to May 15th time frame. Uniform fittings will be released when you sign up on the website [mcyaredraiders.com](http://mcyaredraiders.com), MCYA will also share this on the MCYA Facebook page. August 3, 2026 marks the beginning of the 2026 season and practice will begin. Stunt clinic will be held Aug 15, 2026. Jamboree is at the end of August. Cheerleading will not participate in Jamboree, and the first games will be on around the first week in September 2026. All NGYFA games are played on Saturdays. Cheer-Bowl is on a Sunday in October. Cheer-Bowl will be the Sunday following the last regular season Game for NGYFA. Regular season games conclude in October 2026 and play off games start in October 2026 and can go until the end of November 2026.

## Registration

MCYA cheerleading is open to all cheerleaders ages 5 to 13 (13 and in 7th grade). All individuals who register to participate in cheerleading prior to the cut-off date will be accepted, unless we have more than 32 cheerleaders in each age group . There will be no registrations after the cut-off date due to inability to acquire uniforms by the opening season date. The MCYA cheer registration fee can be found at [mcyaredraiders.com](http://mcyaredraiders.com) and is due at the time of Fittings. No late registrations will be allowed after the cut-off date. The registration fee is NON-REFUNDABLE. We ask parents to make sure they are aware of the money and time commitment before registering for cheerleading because MCYA has a no refund policy and will not refund any fees paid at the time of registration. The following items are included in the registration fee: NGYFA fees, MCYA Insurance fees, stunt clinic, Uniform (Shell, Skirt, Bloomers and Bow), Sweatshirt (End of season gift). Once the order of uniforms is placed with the vendor, no fees will be refunded and parents are responsible for the sizes they write on the sizing form. MCYA does not take any responsibility for sizes and orders exactly what is written on the form is what you will get.

## Parent Responsibilities and Rules

1. Parental support is required in order for your team to have a successful season. The coaches, team mom, and MCYA cannot provide everything your child needs to have a successful season.
2. A parent or guardian must be present for all games and NGYFA sponsored events.
3. Parents are expected to allow their coaches to coach. Please do not interfere with the instructional time of practice or at a game. Your coach will ask if they need assistance from parents. Parents are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship on and off the field, during practice and games.
4. Parents are expected to have their child at practice and READY to practice at the specified practice time. This includes proper attire. No cheerleader will be able to practice without tennis shoes and proper practice attire. \*\*\* **No jewelry** \*\*\* Do not get ears pierced before or during the season. No earrings can be worn - even on newly pierced ears. No cheerleader can take the field without proper full uniform - MCYA cheer shoes, white no-show socks, skirt, bloomers, shell, bow, and poms **(No nail polish, fake nails and no jewelry)**. Failure to have the full uniform will result in the cheerleader sitting in the stands during the game.
5. Parents are expected to have their child at their game at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled game time or the time provided by the head coach. Failure to do so will result in the cheerleader sitting in the stands during the game.
6. Use of ANY tobacco products or alcohol is NOT allowed in designated football and cheerleading practice/game areas.
7. No gum or sunflower seeds are allowed on or around the fields at Madison County High School.
8. Any participant who is ejected from a game or practice during a season is subject to suspension or ejection from the NGYFA and MCYA without a refund. Pending the offense, the family account may not be eligible for participation in MCYA sponsored activities in the future. Profanity or any threatening, abusive language towards the coaches, parents, teammates or MCYA officials will NOT be tolerated. Anyone found violating this rule will be asked to leave the confines of the playing area. Any spectator who is asked to leave the confines of the playing field area and then refuses will be escorted out of the park by Madison County authorities or local authorities if at an away game. Further incidents of this kind will be documented and if upon approval of the MCYA Board of Directors, the child of the parent involved can be dismissed from the MCYA and no refund will be given. Future application of this child into the Association would be upon the approval of the MCYA Board of Directors. The decision of the MCYA Board is final. No refunds will be given for any child/parent dismissed from the association for behavior issues.
9. Parents are not allowed on the practice or game fields - certified coaching staff only.

## How Parents Should Handle Issues and Concerns

When a parent has a complaint, the following procedure should be followed to attain resolution:

### Step 1

Communicate the problem to the Head Coach and attempt to come to a resolution. In order for there to be resolution, no complaint should ever be communicated without a proposed solution accompanying it. Pick a time that is appropriate to talk calmly, privately, and candidly with the coach. The coach or parent may, however, ask one other parent or coach to join the conversation as a witness. Please keep in mind that due to the emotional aspects prior to and immediately following a game or practice, this is NOT an appropriate time to have an objective conversation with the coach regarding any problems or issues you may have.

### Step 2

If the problem cannot be worked out with the coach, the parent/coach needs to communicate the issue to the cheer director.

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The problem must be submitted in writing with the results from step 1 documented. The MCYA Cheer Director will NOT address any issue until step 1 has been completed and the results are documented in writing. MCYA reserves the right to refuse any child based on history of non-conforming to established rules set by MCYA and NGYFA. The MCYA Board will make every attempt to resolve all matters as they deem fit or necessary. The MCYA Board's decision is final on all matters relating to MCYA Cheerleading.

## Disciplinary Action

1. First Offense: Discussion via email of the complaint, policy that was broken, action listed and noted on file for an official warning.
2. Second Offense: Board Meeting must be held to discuss action and suspension of 2 practices or 1 Game.
3. Third Offense: Removal from the MCYA Program.

## Physicals

MCYA and NGYFA cheerleading does not require physicals.

Certain medical conditions on the medical history form may require a release from your child's Dr to participate in football or cheerleading.

## Birth Certificates

Per NGYFA rules, to verify a cheerleader's age, we are required to have a **copy** of the cheerleader's birth certificate with a raised seal before July. Birth Certificates will be verified and uploaded on the [mcyaredraiders.com](http://mcyaredraiders.com) website at any time. Any cheerleader without a birth certificate on file with MCYA WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY MCYA EVENT/PRACTICE UNTIL A BIRTH CERTIFICATE IS ON FILE. NGYFA cheerleading is age based.

## Uniforms

MCYA changes cheer uniforms every year. They may be found on the website. Optional items are subject to change each year. Parents pick out the size they desire for their child and payment is expected before ordering. No refunds are available on uniforms because MCYA purchases them from an outside vendor and orders them upon receipt of payment from parents. There are set times for uniform fitting dates available; these dates can be found on [mcyaredraiders.com](http://mcyaredraiders.com) or the Facebook page. All uniforms must be ordered on this date - no exceptions can be made in order to allow for an August delivery date. Parents are completely responsible for the sizes they order. No order can be changed once it is submitted. No uniform can be refunded once it is ordered.

Mandatory items include: shell, skirt, briefs, poms, white sideline cheer shoes, white no show socks, and bow. Optional items will be offered on a link on the web site.

Parents Purchase: White sideline cheer shoes and White no show socks

Registration Covers: Top (Shell), Skirt, Bloomers, Pompoms and Bow.

## Squad Division

MCYA tries to divide cheer squads by the cheerleaders age and experience. Any request to move up forms must be approved by the MCYA board.

## Dress Code

Appropriate attire is required by cheerleaders. Shirts and shorts/pants should meet at the waist. The wearing of just sports bras or crop tops is not allowed. Athletic shoes must be worn to avoid injury. If your child arrives wearing any **kind of jewelry** they will be asked to leave the cheer line and take their jewelry to a parent. **Absolutely no long or artificial nails are allowed.** Game attire includes shell, skirt, bloomers, white cheer bow, white sideline cheer shoes, and white no show socks. If necessary please have your cheerleader wear a white sports bra under the uniform. If an under shirt is necessary please provide your child with a white long sleeve shirt or body liner. Cheerleaders are expected to have pom poms at every practice and game.

## Physical Fitness

If at any time a coach or board member has serious questions regarding a child's physical condition, MCYA may require the parent to secure a doctor's consent before the child is able to continue in the MCYA programs.

## Restroom Breaks

Please make sure your child visits the restroom prior to practice and games. There are no scheduled restroom breaks at either function. This takes away from the limited time we have with the squad. If your child needs to go to the restroom during practice or game the coach will allow your child to go with their parents. Practice will continue and your cheerleader will be responsible for learning whatever is missed.

## **Practice**

Once your child has been selected to a team, the coach will contact you to let you know which team she has been selected to, what time practice will begin, and where practice will be held. The head coach sets the practice dates and times. Parents are asked to make sure their cheerleader is not involved in any additional extra-curricular activities that will conflict with MCYA cheerleading. Since our coaches volunteer their time and are expected to be at every practice and game, all girls are required to attend practice in order to participate in games. School activities, sickness, family emergencies, and religious holidays are the only excused absences. Failure to attend practices will result in sitting in the stands on game days. In the event of inclement weather your coach or team mom will contact you to inform you if practice has been canceled, delayed, or rescheduled. Practices are NOT optional. Timely and regular attendance at practice is crucial to the success of the squad. Teams will begin scheduled practices the week of August 3, 2026. A practice shall be no longer than 1 hour and 45 minutes per day, 3 days per week. Practices may be set on any days Monday thru Friday. Cheerleaders should drink plenty of water on practice days. It is required that each cheerleader bring water to practice and games. Cheerleaders should use the restroom before practice. Cheerleaders are expected to be in attendance from the beginning to the end of practice. Breaks are up to the discretion of the coach.

## **Games**

Game schedules are provided by NGYFA. MCYA does not create the game schedules or locations. Travel will be mandatory for assigned games. The game schedule will be provided to each team once MCYA has received them from NGYFA. Normally this will be provided about 2 weeks before the first Game.

## **31 Cheer-Bowl**

NGYFA has a cheer-bowl cheerleading competition each year. It usually takes place in October. MCYA only allows current MCYA cheerleading participants that are enrolled in the 6U thru 7th grade teams to participate. The costs for each squad to participate is Free of charge with there NGYFA fees that are paid in registration. Spectators are charged a fee to attend. The charge is \$5.00 for adults, sixty-five and over, eighteen and under are free. Cheerleaders compete against other associations in the North Georgia Youth Football League.

MCYA now offers this NGYFA competition to our Youth Cheerleaders to experience a gameday type of competition. Our Madison County High School now has a Gameday competitions team and this will prepare our upcoming youth cheerleaders for what to expect in high school.

## **Additional Expenses**

MCYA wants to provide each person with an idea of the additional expenses that may be incurred during the football Cheer season. The information is estimates only:

Team and individual pictures are available for purchase ranging from \$35.00 - \$125.00 depending on the package you select.

Banquet Meal -

Banquet tickets should not exceed more than \$20.00 per person.

**Please Sign Below and Return to your Head Coach**

I have reviewed the contents of this MCYA Cheerleading Parents Handbook and I understand my responsibilities as a Parent / Cheerleader.

Cheerleader's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature:

Mom: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dad: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_