

# Oak Lawn Outlaws Cheerleading Attendance Policy

## ATTENDANCE POLICY – SIDELINE

Sideline cheerleading involves performing routines, chants, and cheers as a team. To achieve synchronization and unity in movements and chants, all cheerleaders need to practice together regularly. Regular attendance allows cheerleaders to practice and improve their skills consistently.

Coaches assist the athletes with warm-up and preparation prior to every game. If your athlete is more than 15 minutes late for the designated meeting time, this will result in your athlete sitting out during halftime. They will still cheer during the game.

Closer to competition time, or at any time during the season, coaches may enforce a mandatory attendance policy to ensure the team's preparedness. Additionally, mandatory attendance may be required at any point during the season if it is deemed beneficial to the team's success.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY – COMPETITION

**ALL Choreography Sessions, Competitions are MANDATORY for any cheerleader who chooses to participate on the Competition Team. In addition, any practices the week of competition ARE MANDATORY. If your child will be unable to attend any of these choreography dates, competitions or State, we kindly ask that you reconsider registering.**

### Confirmed Choreography Dates

Sunday July 27, 2025

Monday July 28, 2025

Tuesday July 29, 2025

Wednesday July 30, 2025

Athletes **MUST** attend all (4) choreography dates. Exact choreography times will be determined at a later date, but sessions will be scheduled in 2-hour blocks.

### Competitions

- SWMFL Local Competition - Sunday November 2, 2025

The following competitions and dates are NOT finalized, however all dates **MUST** remain open until they are confirmed. We intend to register for (3- ICA competitions) Competition dates will NOT be confirmed until August 4, 2025 or later pending a finalized football schedule.

- Cheercago - September 6th and 7th - Location TBD
- Cheer Rodeo - September 20 and 21 - South Elgin High School
- Cosmic Clash - October 4 and 5 - Location TBD
- Cheer Pink - October 18 and 19 - Dundee Crown High School, Carpentersville
- Spirit Spooktacular- October 25 and 26 - Location TBD
- STATE - November 15 and 16 and November 22 and 23 - NIU Convocation Center  
\*Athletes will compete on either Saturday or Sunday during the first weekend and will compete on the same day the following weekend. For example, if an athlete competes on Saturday during the first weekend, they will also compete on Saturday the second weekend.
- Oak Lawn Outlaws Cheer Showcase - Friday November 7, 2025.

In order to provide a safe and effective routine, coaches will need all athletes at practice. Attendance is very important. Each cheerleader plays a vital role on a team and missing someone prevents their teammates from practicing safe and effective stunting, formations, etc. Absences impact the entire team as cheer is a team sport. Our cheerleader's stunts and routines involve the entire team, therefore if one cheerleader is missing, the entire team is affected.

### **Absences**

ALL practices will be **MANDATORY** beginning Monday July 21, 2025. Please note that we do not observe Monday holidays or other school closure days. Practices/events will continue as scheduled unless otherwise communicated.

- Cheerleaders will be allowed a total of three (3) absences— and one (1) excused absence for a documented school function. Exceeding this limit will result in forfeiting your position on the ICA Competition Team without a refund.
- Illness with a doctor's note and once in a lifetime events will be considered excused absences.
- Once in a lifetime events will be as follows: weddings, funerals, religious ceremonies, graduation. Any other requests will be reviewed by the Head Coach with Cheer Board approval.
- ALL final decisions will be reviewed by the Head Coach with Cheer Board approval.

If a cheerleader's family has a pre-scheduled summer vacation, those dates **MUST** be submitted via text to: Gail Stearns-Hussein, at (708) 212-8848 within 3 days of registration to be considered excused. These dates may not conflict with a competition or the week prior to a competition. Additionally, vacation absences may not exceed 3 practice days—any additional missed practices due to vacation will count toward regular absences.

### **Tardy Policy**

- More than 15 minutes late is considered tardy.
- Leaving practice or a game early more than 15 minutes from the conclusion is considered tardy.
- 3 Tardies will be considered one absence.

### **GAME ATTENDANCE:**

Coaches assist the athletes with warm-up and preparation prior to every game.

- If your athlete is more than 15 minutes late for the designated meeting time, this will result in your athlete sitting out during halftime. They will still cheer during the game.
- Cheerleaders are allowed to miss (2) games, including playoffs. If a cheerleader misses more than (2) games, they will forfeit their position on the Competition Team.

### **INJURED ATHLETE POLICY**

- If an athlete cannot participate in practice due to an injury, a parent or guardian must communicate with the Head Coach.
- If an athlete requires medical attention for an injury sustained during the cheer season, and will miss more than one practice, a signed doctor's note must be submitted to the Head Coach.
- Injured athletes are required to attend practices and games unless their physician explicitly states otherwise.
- Before resuming any cheer activities, a signed doctor's note clearing the athlete to return must be provided to the Head Coach.
- If an athlete is unable to participate in practice due to injury within three (3) weeks prior to any competition, they will not be allowed to participate in the upcoming competition.