



Newtown Youth Cheer

2025 Cheer Team Selection Policy

NYF&C will be offering 2 options for Cheerleaders wishing to participate in our program. The Options are:

1. Grades K-2 - Hawkings
2. Grades 3-8 Nationals Track Competition Team

We will not be offering a sidelines only option for our 2025 Season - all cheer teams will cheer at Football games on Sundays.

Hawkings (Grades K-2)

Grades K-2 (Hawkings) will cheer at football sidelines on Sundays AND have opportunities to showcase a choreographed cheer routine at the Local Shoreline and CT State Cheer competitions.

National Track Competition Teams (Grades 3-8)

New for 2025 Season *

- Cheerleaders committing to a Nationals Track Competition Team in grades 3- 8 will be rostered in an AYC age appropriate category depending on registration of D8, D10, D12 or D14.
- NYF&C will decide the level 1,2,3,4 that a team will compete at based on the skills of the team and the number of girls rostered to that team (large/small). While some divisions will typically have more teams than others, this will vary year to year. NYF&C does not have prior knowledge of other teams competing in the same category/ division, NYF&C must declare at the start of each season their teams divisions based solely on the team's age, skill level and size. We can not control nor do we have prior knowledge of what other competitive teams are declaring. Nor can we guarantee a competitive landscape at any competition.
- Cheerleaders in grades 3-8 will be required to purchase a Competition Uniform. This uniform is theirs to keep and can be used for multiple years. Uniform costs are approximately \$325 per athlete. The league has committed to offset the cost of the uniforms by \$125 per athlete that is sized by June 7th. Full uniform costs will apply for athletes sized after this date. Uniform sizing and paperwork collection sessions will be held on May 27th and June 3rd at **Edmond Town Hall**, with additional dates to be announced.
- All athletes are expected to attend and participate in ALL competitions.
- Waivers to not attend a competition will only be granted for extenuating circumstances approved by the NYF&C Board. If a cheerleader does not attend a competition and they have not been granted a waiver they will be subject to suspension from the program for up to 1 year.

We compete in up to 4 competitions per season. (Locals, States, Regionals, and Nationals)

The Competitions for the 2025 Season are:

- Fun Comp 10/4 TBD (location)
- Locals 10/18 TBD (location)
- States 11/1 @ Floyd Little
- Regionals 11/8 @ Mohegan (*Team must place top 3 at States*)
- Nationals December 3-6th, 2025 @ Silver Spurs Arena Kissimmee, FL (*Teams must place top 3 at Regionals*)

***Dates are subject to change

All Nationals Track Competition Teams will compete at the Local and State Cheer Competitions. Teams who place 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in their Division at States will advance to Regionals. New England Regionals will take place in Central Massachusetts.

Teams who place 1st, 2nd, or 3rd at Regionals are required to advance to the AYC Nationals Cheer Competition. AYC Nationals Cheer Competition is held in Mid-December the exact date is still pending but estimated to be Dec 3-6 or the weekend after in Kissimmee, FL. Teams who do not comply with the AYC requirements to advance after Regionals are subject to fines and will be ineligible to compete the following season. If failure to appear at AYC Nationals the fines will be dispersed evenly among the team.

Nationals Competition

- **There is a \$150 per athlete Nationals Registration Fee for teams advancing to Nationals, in addition to the cost of travel (approx \$1,200-\$1,600). This fee is still collected even if the team forfeits their invitation to attend Nationals. Failure to pay this fee could result in a cheerleader's suspension from the program for up to 1 year. This fee will be collected at the start of the 2024 cheer season paid by check dated 12/1/2025 payable to NYF&C and will only be cashed if that team advances to Nationals. If a team does not advance the check will be destroyed.**
- Cheerleaders are required to stay in AYC approved lodging and purchase any required packages at the Regional and National levels set by the American Youth Cheerleading program.
- Regional and National competitions may require athletes to miss days of school. A letter will be provided for your school's principal and teachers.
- Cheerleaders/parents will be responsible for costs associated with travel.
- Fundraising will take place and is mandatory for every cheerleader advancing to Nationals.
- Proceeds from fundraising will be distributed to cheerleaders in a timely fashion. If a cheerleader has not participated in fundraising or if they have failed to pay their \$150 Nationals Registration fee their share of proceeds from fundraising could be withheld.



Newtown Youth Cheer

Team Declaration Statement

I have read the attached Newtown Youth Football & Cheer **2025 Cheer Team Selection Policy**. I understand the rules and regulations pertaining to the team options available for my cheerleader. I understand that there has been a change to the policy of Newtown Youth Football & Cheer Board in response to the AYC National Policy Changes for National Track Teams.

My Child will be a committed and active participant of the program described in the text above of the following NYF&C Program: (please select only 1 option)

- Grades Kindergarten - 2nd Hawklings**
- Grades 3rd - 8th - Nationally Tracked Competition Team**

Cheerleaders Name

Grade

Parent's Name

Parent's Signature

Date

2025 - AYF Code of Conduct Form

Newtown Youth Football & Cheer will not tolerate verbal abuse of its volunteer coaches from any Fan, Parent or Spectator.

This is American Youth Football, not the pros. Fans, as well as the players and coaches, are expected to abide by a code of conduct at all American Youth Football Events. While 99% of the adults in the program will abide by this code without being told, this code is being published to protect the children and volunteers (which includes all coaches and board members) from the 1%.

FANS' CODE OF CONDUCT

Fans will abide by a Code of Conduct which includes the provisions which follow. If any of these rules are broken, Newtown Youth Football & Cheer shall have the authority to impose a penalty.

Fans shall:

1. Not criticize the players/cheerleaders or coaches in front of the other spectators in the stands, but reserve constructive criticism for later, in private.
2. Accept decisions of the game officials (including referees and coaches) on the field as being fair and called to the best ability of said officials.
3. Not criticize an opposing team, its players, coaches, or fans by work of mouth or by gesture.
4. Refrain from using physical or verbal abuse or profane language at any time at the game, practice field, or other AYF functions.
5. Abstain from being under the influence of or in possession of and/or drinking alcoholic beverages and the possession or use of any illegal substance on both the game and practice fields.
6. Not be allowed on the sidelines during a game.
7. Not interfere/interrupt the coaching staff before, during or after games or at practice.
8. Not express complaints about coaches in stands or to coaches in front of or around the children (i.e. right after a game or practice).

VIOLATION

Any parent or fan who violates the code of conduct risks the further participation of the child in the program. The procedure is as follows:

1. Any fan who violates the code of conduct or becomes a nuisance will be asked to leave by the head coach and can be suspended from all team activities.
2. If the fan fails to leave upon request, the child may be suspended from further participation in team activities by the head coach.
3. The head coach along with the executive board will decide if the duration of the suspension is to be longer than one to four weeks or if the child will be dropped from the program. That decision will depend on the attitude of the parents.
4. Any parent or fan who violates the code of conduct risks the future participation of his/her children in the program. Depending on the severity of the incident the board of directors may decide to ban future participation in the program for up to three years.

CONDUCT OF ALL PLAYERS - PARENTS

All players are guaranteed 6 plays in each Jamboree, Regular Season or Playoff game. Everything beyond that must be earned in the opinion of the coaching staff whose decisions are final.

Athlete's Code

I will: emphasis the ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play. Show courtesy to my opponents and officials. Recognize athletic contests are serious educational endeavors. Give complete allegiance to my coaches who are the instructional authority for my team. Discourage fans, fellow players and parents from undercutting my coach's authority.

I will not: Use profanity or talk "trash" before, during or after any game. Use drugs, alcohol, or tobacco. Criticize my teammates. Act in any way that may incite spectators.

Parent's Code

I will: Support my child's team/squad and teach the value of commitment to the team/squad - emphasis the ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play. Help my child and American Youth Football make athletic contests a positive educational experiences. Show courtesy to opponents and officials. Direct constructive criticism of my child's athletic program to the athletic director or association officials and work toward a positive result for all concerned.

I will not: Criticize officials, direct abuse or profane language toward them, or otherwise subvert their authority. Undermine, in work or deed, the authority of the coach or administration. Intrude onto the field, stand on the sideline, or yell from the bleachers at or to the coaches, referees or administration.

Please cut along this line, sign and return to the head coach

I have read the ***FAN'S CODE OF CONDUCT*** and understand what is expected.

Child's Name (PRINT)

Team Name

Date

Parents Name (PRINT)

Parents Signature

This part of the form must be returned to the head coach before the second game to the season.

Newtown Youth Football & Cheer Anti-Bullying & Social Media Policy

NYFC is committed to providing a physically and emotionally safe environment for all our participants so they can play football and cheer in a secure atmosphere. Bullying/teasing of any kind is unacceptable on or off the field. This includes behavior during team related activities (e.g. practices and games) as well as interactions outside these activities. It also includes mean-spirited comments through texts and posts on social media. All players will be held accountable for their actions on and off the field, and are responsible for reporting bullying to their coach.

What is teasing and bullying?

Teasing and bullying are deliberately hurtful behaviors, where it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves. The three main types are physical (e.g. hitting, kicking, theft), verbal (e.g. name calling, intimidating, racist remarks) or indirect (e.g. spreading rumors, ignoring, excluding). Additionally, taunts or insults on social media are considered bullying.

NYFC Teasing/Bullying Procedures

This policy will be communicated to participants and parents at the beginning of each season. NYFC will take all reports and concerns seriously and attempt to stop the behavior. If teasing or bullying behavior occurs, it will be:

1. Investigated by a member of the team's coaching staff.
2. Addressed by the head coach with all players involved in the situation.
3. Communicated to the parent(s) by the head coach via email, with a CC to NYFC President.
4. NYFC board will meet with parent(s) of participant(s) involved in the bullying incident, and the board will determine disciplinary action.
 - ***Disciplinary actions will vary depending on the severity of the bullying incident(s) but with approval of the NYFC Board, it can include removal from the league.***
5. Member(s) of the NYFC will address the affected team.

Social Media Policy

Athletes, parents and coaches are expected to follow the same rules for good behavior and respectful conduct online as they do offline. Athletes and coaches are representing NYFC at all times during the football season. They should use good judgement when posting comments and images online. They should be particularly mindful with images that include NYFC apparel or uniforms. Misuse of social media can result in disciplinary action.

Player: I accept responsibility for my words, actions, texts and social media posts including images. I acknowledge that all forms of bullying must be reported to my coach. I understand that if I bully or tease another participant during the football season, I will be removed from the Newtown Youth Football & Cheer program.

Player's Name (PRINT) _____

Player's Signature _____

Date _____

Parent/Guardian: I have read the NYFC Bullying & Social Media Policy. I understand that my child may be subject to disciplinary actions by the coaches and the league if they are involved in bullying or the misuse of social media, including removal from the NYFC program.

Parent/Guardian Name (PRINT) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____