

Allen County Fair High School & Jr. High Cheerleading Competition

OFFICIAL RULES

All contestants must be currently enrolled in an accredited High school (9th-12th grade) or Jr. High school (6th - 8th grade) to be eligible to compete. ONLY students who will be enrolled for the '26-'27 school year will be permitted to participate. Contestants may be male or female. Contestants must be CHEERLEADERS and members of their school's cheerleading squad to compete in the Cheerleading Competition. Each school may enter one (1) squad in the High School Division and one (1) squad in the Junior High Division only. Each squad must have a minimum of four (4) members. No individual cheerleader may compete in more than one division. In the High School division, a small and large varsity team may be created after the application deadline, depending on the number of entries we receive. If not, enough schools enter to create a large and small varsity division, all schools will compete in one division. Only one school mascot can perform with their squads. All contestants shall be certified by the school's superintendent or principal. Entry blanks shall be signed by the Superintendent or Principal as well as the Cheerleading Advisor. All cheerleaders, including alternates, must sign a Release of Liability form to be eligible to participate. These rules can be modified at any time by the Allen County Agricultural Society, Allen County Fair Staff, Directors, Competition Coordinator, Competition Cheer Mat Rental Business, and/or General Manager at their discretion.

ENTRIES

An entry fee of \$10/squad/division is required to enter the contest. Entry fee must accompany the entry form. Entry forms will not be accepted without an entry fee. Please make checks payable to Allen County Fair. **Entries must be received by the deadline of Monday, July 20, 2026.** The Allen County Agricultural Society has sole discretion to modify the number of accepted entries and the deadline of accepted entries at any time. Mail entries to Allen County Fair Cheerleading Competition, 2750 Harding Highway, Lima, Ohio 45804.

SAFETY

The overall safety of the performance of each squad shall be evaluated by the judges. The use of mini-tramps, knee drops, slam splits, drop splits or toe pitches are NOT permitted. ABSOLUTELY NO PYRAMIDS OR MOUNTS ARE PERMITTED. Individuals may not stand or sit on another's shoulders or support another individual in any type of mount. Any school doing a mount as part of their routine will be automatically disqualified. NO JUMPING OR TUMBLING OVER OR UNDER OTHER CHEERLEADERS. NO JEWELRY. NO TUMBLING WITH POM POMS. If, in the opinion of the judges, any portion of the performance is considered hazardous, a maximum of up to twenty (20) points may be assessed by each judge. Emphasis should be on cheer ability. Tumbling and gymnastics are permitted. Due to safety regulations, banners, balloons, streamers, foam fingers, confetti, posters, cow bells, air horns, etc. are not permitted in the grandstand. If these items are seen or heard they will be confiscated, and you will be removed.

PERFORMANCE

Each squad will be assigned an estimated appearance time. All squads will be advised as to this time prior to the competition. Order of performance is determined by drawing. Since there is a possibility of squad cancellation on the day of the competition, time schedules may be moved ahead. All squads should be ready to perform if called early that day. Squads not appearing when called upon are eligible for a ten (10) point penalty. **The contest will begin at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, August 26, 2026.** In case of inclement weather, it may be necessary to start early, change order of competition, remove competition cheer mat, or cancel this competition. All squads must register when they arrive prior to the contest starting time. An adult must remain with the squads. All contestants must appear in the appropriate uniform of their respective schools. The contest will be in the staged area located on the track directly in front of the grandstand, weather permitting. A 60' X 60' staging area will be marked; however, squads are not required to remain in this area during their performance. Weather permitting, a regulation floor cheer mat, 42'x42' approximately will be used or an outdoor carpet 42'x42'. AN X WILL DESIGNATE THE MIDDLE OF THE MAT. HEAD COACH WILL OK MUSIC/SOUND/QUALITY BEFORE COMPETITION BEGINS. Total performance time shall be a maximum of four (4) minutes. **Timing will begin at the start of the music for the fight song. Schools failing to perform their fight song will be disqualified.** Nothing done prior to the beginning of the fight song will be judged. Time will stop when the team captain gives an ending signal, or the final formation is held. A spirited exit is allowed and will not be timed or judged. Props may be put in place as soon as the squad performs before you have left the staging area. There will be a one-point penalty for each second over the four (4) minute time limit which is deducted from the final total score. At least one cheer must include the school's name, abbreviated name, or team name. All routines should be appropriate for family viewing. Any vulgar or suggestive movements, words, or music will result in a score deduction. No tear-away uniforms or removal of clothing are allowed.

MUSIC

All squads are required to begin with a routine performed to their school fight song. Failure to do so will result in your team's disqualification. An additional pom-pom/dance routine is permitted. Music for this year's Cheerleading Competition must be on your cell phones. You may want to bring your own cord/adaptor, or the sound man will try to have one there. You will be able to better control your music this way. A sound system will be provided, and music will be played through the grandstand speaker system. Each group must furnish one (1) person to start and stop the music. The representative must remain at the table during the performance. The Allen County Agricultural Society or its representatives will not be responsible for any malfunctioning music of poor sound quality. Routine choreography and music selection must be suitable for family viewing. Any inappropriate choreography/music will result in a score deduction.

JUDGING

The contest will be judged by a panel of (3) qualified judges. Each judge will score all areas of the competition. The total score of all (3) judges will be added together to determine the final placings. In the case of a tie within the top placing squads, those whose scores are tied will be asked to repeat their performance for review by the judges. All ties shall then be broken by the judges. The judges may confer from time to time during the judging of the competition. The decision of the judges will be final. All tabulations of scores will be done by two official tabulators to ensure accuracy of the scores.

WINNERS & AWARDS

Placings of the top three (3) squads for the Junior high division and the top five (5) squads for the high school division will be announced as soon after the completion of the contest as scores can be tabulated. Placings may be changed at the discretion of the Allen County Fair depending on the number of entries for the competition and will be adjusted accordingly. Trophies and Ribbons will be presented. A Spirit Award will be given to the most spirited school as determined by the judges. A copy of each squad's score sheets will be available after the awards presentation.

ADMISSION

Cheerleaders and advisors ONLY will be admitted to the fairgrounds free of charge on the day of the competition. All others must pay fair gate admission (\$10) and Cheerleading Competition grandstand admission (Ages 7 & over \$5/Under 6 is Free).