



355 Harlem Rd. West Seneca, NY 14224
716-821-7581 716-821-7365

Winter **DRAFT** 2024-25 Cheer Handbook

Fall Publish: Published 8/13/24
Winter Publish: Update before 11/1
*Subject to changes

www.nysphsaa.org

<https://nysphsaa.org/sports/cheer>

State has a link for Game Day - Fall & Competitive - Winter

www.section6.e1b.org

<http://www.section6.e1b.org/Cheer>

Items in Red are are new for this season

Table of Contents

Page No.

2024-2025 Cheer Calendar	3
Cheer Advisory Committee	4
2024-25 Combining of Schools	4
Section VI Cheer Sectionals Results	4
Cheer History & Past Champions	4
Cheer Classifications 2024-25	5
Game Day Cheer Classifications approved July 2023	5
Competitive Cheer Classifications approved July 2023	5
NYSPHSAA link with all information	5
Sectional Competition Admission	5
2024-25 Qualifications for Team Sectional Participation	5
Waiver of minimum number of contests for sectional participation - Link here	5
Coaches' Responsibilities	6
Schools' Responsibilities	6
Competitive Cheerleading - Full Implementation	7
NYSPHSAA Sport Standard Cheerleading	7
Definition of a Scrimmage	8
Section VI Policies	8
Contingency Plan for Sectional Competition (weather or illness)	8
All-WNY Scholar Athlete Cheerleading Team	8
Section VI AED Policy	8
Section VI Policy on Travel to State Competition	9
Regulations Regarding Senior All-Star & Outside Agency Contests	9
Sportsmanship Philosophy & Code of Conduct Philosophy	10
UPDATED Sportsmanship Standard & Pledge	10
Section VI Cheer Sectionals Results Cheer History & Past Champions	10
New information from State July 2024 Meeting about Safety	10

Forms

[All Forms on Cheer Website](#)

All-WNY [Scholar Athlete Nomination Form](#) (on-line application)

[Waiver of minimum number of contests for sectional participation](#)

2024-2025 Cheer Calendar

EVENT	SITE	DATE
FALL SEASON - Game Day Cheer		
Fall Practice Begins		8/26/24
Number of practices to represent school: Fall	6 (individual)	
Game Day Sectional Registration	on Website https://www.section6.e1b.org/cheer https://forms.gle/raixAicVoA2JAoSv7	August 26th Opens October 1st closes
Game Day Sectional	Frontier HS Performance Schedule	Sunday, November 3rd 8 AM <i>Note Home Buffalo Bills game at 1 pm - may effect traffic</i>
Game Day State Championship	Hudson Valley Community College in Troy	Sun, 11/10
Game Day Fall ALL-WNY Scholar Athlete Deadline	on-Line only https://www.section6.e1b.org/SA	Monday, 12/9/24
WINTER SEASON - Competitive Cheer		
Winter Coaches League Mtg	your league 11/13/24	
Winter Practice Begins		11/18/24
Number of practices to represent school: Winter	6 (individual)	
Competitive Cheer Sectional Registration	on Website Registration CLOSES 12/1/24	Opens 11/18/24 Closes 12/1/24
Competitive Cheer Sectional	Starpoint High School Performance Schedule will be added here	Saturday March 1
Competitive Cheer State Championship	Visions Veterans Memorial Arena, Binghamton (IV)	Saturday March 8
Competitive Cheer ALL-WNY Scholar Athlete Deadline	ONLY https://www.section6.e1b.org/SA	Monday, 3/17/25

Cheer Advisory Committee

Committee voting privileges:

As per the Section VI Constitution item 7.6, "The representative members on each sport committee will be appointed by each league and have only one vote per league. Other non-voting members may be selected by the Sport Chairperson. Federated sport representative members that are appointed by their division, league or school will have only one vote. The Sport Chairs of Federated Sports that have divisions will verify that among division representatives each participating league is represented. The Sport Chair may only vote when the vote is tied. A Sport Chair who also represents a league can serve in both capacities but will have only one vote."

Sport Chair **Justina Grudzinski 716-913-7592** Sec6cheerleading@gmail.com

Committee Members/ League Representatives:				
Buffalo Schools	CCAA	ECIC	NFL	NO
Genah Lasby	TBD	Jill Manka - OP	Jackie Lockport	Eric Valley Medina

LINK TO STATE Website: <https://nysphsaa.org/sports/cheer>

[NYSPHSAA Link for Game Day Cheer Championships](#)

[NYSPHSAA Link for Competitive Cheer Championships- subject to change](#)

2024-25 Combining of Schools

FALL <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1txRjAg3DbrqvBTbfGqJ4KL a5sX7bKKpL/edit?gid=237666144#gid=237666144&range=A18>

<u>East Aurora</u>	Holland	V	460	C	ECIC	5/15/24 AC
<u>Eden</u>	North Collins	V, 7/8/9	308	C	ECIC	3/20/24 AC
<u>Franklinville</u>	Ellicottville & West Valley	V, 7/8/9	211	C	CCAA	3/20/24 AC
<u>Portville</u>	Cuba Rushford	V	299	C	CCAA	3/20/24 AC
<u>West Seneca West</u>	West Seneca East	7/8 ONLY	1122	A	ECIC	5/15/24 AC

Winter <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1txRjAg3DbrqvBTbfGqJ4KL a5sX7bKKpL/edit?gid=237666144#gid=237666144&range=A117>

<u>East Aurora</u>	Holland	V	5/15/24 AC	460	C	ECIC
---------------------------	---------	---	------------	-----	---	------

Section VI Cheer Sectionals Results [Cheer History & Past Champions](#)

Cheer Classifications 2024-25

Game Day Cheer Classifications approved May 2023

Class A 849+	Class B 479-848	Class C 0-478
-----------------	--------------------	------------------

Competitive Cheer Classifications approved May 2023

Class A 1025+	Class B 555-1024	Class C 250-554	Class D 0 - 249	Coed One Class
------------------	---------------------	--------------------	--------------------	-------------------

“Section VI Game Day Cheer Page Link”

<https://www.section6.e1b.org/Page/1375>

2024-25 NFHS Spirit Rule Changes

<https://www.nfhs.org/articles/spirit-rules-changes-2024-25/#:~:text=Rule%201%20%2D%20The%20definition%20of.participant%20in%20a%20nugget%20position.>

NYSPHSAA link with all information

<https://nysphsaa.org/sports/cheer>

Sectional Competition Admission

Admission: TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED on GOFAN CASHLESS ticketing only

(Preschool children are admitted free 5 & Under)

OPENING ROUNDS, PRE-QUARTERS through SEMI-FINALS at a home school site: All expenses (Administrative and officials fees) will be incurred by home school and admission charge is optional,

CASHLESS ticket sales ONLY. Purchase tickets on-line & pay price below, if you insist on paying with cash all tickets will be \$10. Watch HOW TO Video guide <https://get.gofan.co/digital-ticketing-guide>

FINAL (Neutral Site) On-line [ONLY BUY tickets Fall](#) Game Day GATE: \$7.00

FINAL (Neutral Site) On-line [ONLY BUY ticket Winter](#) Competitive Cheer GATE: \$7.00

Regionals Hosted by Section VI \$8

STATES GATE: \$11.50 *state link will be added when available see [state website](#)

All Section VI Finals will have the GOFAN Box Office ticketing device to allow spectators to purchase tickets with bank/credit/Apple pay or Google pay at the door.

Section VI Admission Prices: <https://www.section6.e1b.org/Admission>

Passes - Only those individuals presenting a Section VI, Section VI Honorary, or N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A., Inc. pass will be admitted free of charge.

Practice at Championship Venue

Typically 30 minutes prior to performance.

2024-25 Qualifications for Team Sectional Participation

For Competitive Cheerleading, a student must be an eligible participant for a minimum of two (3) sanctioned competitions.

[Waiver of minimum number of contests for sectional participation - Link here](#)

Coaches' Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the winning coach of each division to upload a photo and roster to MaxPreps <http://www.maxpreps.com/state/new-york.htm> . Coaches can contact their Athletic Director for code for team page. Media are listed on page 10 of the Section VI Directory or on Section VI website:

<http://www.section6.e1b.org> On the Main page under Shortcuts, click on Media or click here [MEDIA LINK](#)

Schools' Responsibilities

Registration for Sectional Championships. It is the team's responsibility to register for the Sectional Championship by the cut off date. Failure to do so, will result in no spot at Sectionals. When teams register, they identify the two Section VI approved events that they attended during Winter Season prior to Sectionals. If this changes, please Contact Chair **Justina Grudzinski 716-913-7592** Sec6cheerleading@gmail.com

NYSPHSAA 2024-25 Cheerleading Championship

(For date and location, see [Calendar](#) page 3)

Contact Chair with any questions **Justina Grudzinski 716-913-7592** Sec6cheerleading@gmail.com

Qualifying Process: Section VI will send the winner of each division to the Championship event Game Day Class A, B & C. 3 winners will represent Section VI at the state competition.

Championship event Competitive Cheer Class A, B & C, D & Coed. 5 winners will represent Section VI at the state competition.

Championship Format: a preliminary round for all divisions/classes in the morning and then a final round for the top 5 teams.

Section VI Cheer Judges

Officials are to be paid as per the Officials Agreement [2022-2027 Fee Schedule](#) on the Section website: www.section6.e1b.org click on Officials, Fee Schedule.

COMPETITIVE CHEERLEADING

Level	# Officials	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27
Varsity	*	159.00	164.00	169.00	174.00	178.00

- * 2 Judges / 1 Safety Judge – for dual meets only
- * 4 Judges / 1 Safety Judge
- * 6 Judges will be used for Sectionals

1. Base Pay Rate Competitions - 0-5 hours
\$35.00 for each additional hour

Competitive Cheerleading - Full Implementation

Traditional Cheer vs. Competitive Cheer:

The NYSPHSAA Cheerleading Committee is recommending any Cheerleading Squad that stunts or tumbles (see definitions below, as per AACCA) be considered a Competitive Cheer Squad and would be subject to all SED and NYSPHSAA rules and regulations. A team that does not stunt and tumble would be a traditional squad and NOT subject to SED and NYSPHSAA rules and regulations.

- Stunt: One or more persons supporting one or more top persons off of the ground.
- Tumbling: Gymnastic skills that begin and end on the performing surface, including rolls, inverted extended skills (cartwheels, handstands, walkovers, handsprings, etc.), aerials, twists and flips. NOTE: Jumps, leaps and side rolls on the performing surface are not considered to be tumbling.

NYSED Regulations:

All NYSED regulations (Age, Grade, Bona Fide Student, Duration of Competition, Health Exam, etc.) will be followed along with the regulations listed below:

- Mixed Competition and Selection Classification as outlined by SED in the Fall 2015
- Coaching Certification: All Competitive Cheerleading coaches will have to have the following to be certified coaches as per SED regulations: All non-certified teacher coaches will have to apply for a temporary coaching certificate. Any outside clinician that works with a team more than 5 days during the season will also have to apply for a temporary coaching certificate.
 - First Aid and CPR/AED
 - Fingerprinted
 - Child Abuse Course
 - Violence Prevention Course
 - Concussion Management Course
 - DASA Training (if applying for a temporary coaching license)
 - AACCA Safety Course (this is being recommended by the cheerleading committee and will be voted upon by the Executive Committee in October)
 - All non-PE coaches will have to begin to take the three required courses (Philosophy and Principles of Coaching (first year), Theories and Techniques (by 3rd year) and Health Science (by 3rd year).

NYSPHSAA General Eligibility:

All current NYSPHSAA eligibility rules (including the transfer rule) will be enforced for all Competitive Cheerleading Squads. Two of those regulations are highlighted below:

- Fall Cheerleading and Winter Cheerleading: students/teams are allowed to compete in both seasons. The NYSPHSAA Championship events will be held only in the winter season.
- Interstate Sanctioning: Teams will have to follow the sanctioning process if they are attending an out of state event or hosting an event that has out of state schools competing. NY Schools may only compete against member/approved schools.

NYSPHSAA Competition Standards:

- Minimum Practice Requirement: 6 practices
- Maximum number of Contests: 12
- Nights Rest: 1 night per competition. Note: Cheering or performing during a sport event is not considered competition.
- Spirit Standards: NFHS Spirit Rule Book
- Limitations per Day: 1 competition per day
- Competition Standards: Routine - 2 minutes and 30 seconds must include Cheer and Dance.

NYSPHSAA Sport Standard Cheerleading

https://s3.amazonaws.com/nysphsaa.org/documents/2023/8/21/NYSPHSAA_Handbook_082123.pdf#page=66

Definition of a Scrimmage

A scrimmage is a practice that is a **SIMULATED CONTEST**. In scrimmages: (a) both squads use the same field simultaneously with both coaches making corrections and giving instructions, (b) **GAME RULES MUST BE ALTERED – SEE SPORT SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS NYSPHSAA HANDBOOK, [NYSPHSAA Handbook LINK](#)** (c) no official score is kept, (d) time period(s) are defined in the Sport Standards section of the NYSPHSAA Handbook , (e) no admission is charged. The use of officials would be permitted and encouraged whenever possible for the purpose of instruction regarding the rules and proper application of rules.

Section VI Policies

Contingency Plan for Sectional Competition (weather or illness)

1. Contests will be postponed only if a participating school is officially closed due to weather or illness.
2. It is the responsibility of the Athletic Director (or designee) to notify the Sport Chairperson that the school has been closed due to weather conditions (or illness) as soon as he/she becomes aware of such action. Officials and the media will be notified by the Chairperson (or designee).
3. In the event that a school is closed on the day its playoff contest is scheduled, the decision to play shall rest with the District Superintendent.
4. In the event that weather conditions reverse themselves prior to game time, the game may be played with the mutual consent of the participating Athletic Directors and the approval of the Sport Chairperson.
5. When a contest is at a non-school site: If the competition facility and the roads to that destination are open, then the competition will go on as scheduled. If either the roads or the facility are closed, then the competition will be canceled. Under NO CIRCUMSTANCES is a site contracted by Section VI available for practice when a competition is canceled.
6. The Sport Chairperson will notify the Executive Director of any postponements.
7. PLEASE NOTE: It is up to the individual leagues to recognize the potential for snow days, power outages, etc. that may cause cancellations and problems. The individual leagues should schedule their last league contest at least one or two days prior to the seeding meeting, allowing for a make-up league contest(s) prior to the seeding meeting if necessary. The storm in Feb. 2006 that closed schools the day before the seeding meeting bears this point out.
8. Any health and/or safety threat, confirmed or unconfirmed will supersede any existing policy and will be up to the discretion of the involved member school approved 11/13/19 AC Mtg

All-WNY Scholar Athlete Cheerleading Team

Coaches and Athletic Directors are encouraged to nominate athletes for selection to the All-WNY Scholar Athlete **Cheerleading** Team. Applications must be completed on-line. Deadline **Fall 12/9/24 & Winter 3/17/25 before 5 pm** . The team will be honored by both Section VI and the Buffalo News. Click for the [selection criteria and on-line application](#)

Section VI AED Policy

(Effective Feb. 2003)

The game site-chairperson will be responsible for securing an AED for the certified trainer's use at all sectional contests, and at all regional and state contests that are hosted by Section VI. The certified trainer will be provided by an orthopedic group contracted by Section VI, at all postseason contests held at **neutral sites**. **Note:** If a school suffers loss or damage to an AED that is being used for postseason contests, the Section will be financially responsible.

Section VI Policy on Travel to State Competition

For the complete policy click on #310 in the [Policy Manual](#)

Summary for Team Sports

Member schools participating in state competition will be responsible for all costs related to that participation. Section VI responsibility for member school participation in state championships is outlined below.

SUPERVISION:

One or more certified coaches are required to travel with the student athletes from their school and must be present on any Section VI contracted bus, as well as the location where the athletes are housed, state competition where the athlete(s) will compete and all related events.

TRANSPORTATION:

- a) Schools will make their own transportation arrangements for their athletes involved in state competition in team sports. Schools will be responsible for all transportation costs.
- b) Section VI will apply to NYSPHSAA for the allowed reimbursement of **\$1.35*** per mile on the state grid (for one bus per team) and will forward this reimbursement to the schools upon receipt of funds from the state.

LODGING:

The Sport chair will advise participating schools if accommodations are to be arranged by the state or by the schools. School will be responsible for all lodging costs.

MEALS:

Schools will be responsible for the cost of athletes' meals at state competition.

* State approved 5/09

Regulations Regarding Senior All-Star & Outside Agency Contests

(updated October 2013 NYSPHSAA Executive Committee)

- All Senior All-Star and Outside Agency contests **MUST** be approved by Section VI. In addition, Senior All-Star contests must be approved by NYSPHSAA. The forms required are posted on the section website*
- All Senior All-Star and Outside Agency contests must be conducted within the season dates approved by the Section VI Athletic Council for that sport. The calendar of approved season dates for all sports is posted on the section website*
- Only seniors who have completed their secondary school eligibility in that sport may compete in these contests.
- *A contestant **may participate in any approved senior all star athlete contest in the same sport during the school year.** (approved October 24, 2013, NYSPHSAA Executive Committee Meeting).*
NOTE: A Senior All-Star contest by NYSPHSAA standards, is one in which an athlete's participation is based solely on outstanding performance as a member of a high school team. If open-tryouts are held, the contest is NOT a NYSPHSAA All-Star contest. *www.section6.e1b.org Click on *Forms Scroll down to Senior All Star*, or call the Section office 821-7581.
- **NOTE:**
 - Section VI will approve one (1) Outside Agency and one (1) League competition on the same day. This is to ensure that Officials are available for each competition.
 - For Outside Agency contests, the host school is responsible for payment of officials as per their contract.

SECTION VI - NYSPHSAA Sportsmanship Philosophy & Code of Conduct Philosophy

1. We believe that interscholastic athletics is an important part of education and support the ideals and values embodied in good sportsmanship.
2. We believe that sportsmanlike behavior is essential if interscholastic competition is to contribute usefully and constructively to the broad goals of education and to the quality of life of those involved.
3. We pledge ourselves individually and collectively to encourage and support the development and maintenance of a sportsmanlike atmosphere for athletic competition.

CODE OF CONDUCT

1. A genuine interest in and enjoyment of interscholastic competition requires conduct that reflects the understanding that contests as a part of an overall school program are intended to be enjoyed. Behavior that reflects a winning at all cost attitude violates this standard.
2. Interscholastic competition provides valuable lessons and learning experiences that are not possible in the regular classroom setting. All involved must support the need to develop the ability to compete with enthusiasm and to accept winning with grace and losing with dignity.
3. Coaches, players, and fans should know that participation is an honor and privilege which requires them to conduct themselves in a manner that brings honor and pride to their school and community.
4. Respect for the cultural and ethnic diversity of one's opponents, their school, and community is a fundamental tenet of wholesome athletic competition. This standard suggests that planned activity is needed to demonstrate a warm and friendly welcome, mutual respect, and a genuine readiness to participate in a sportsmanlike manner.
5. Players should demonstrate both knowledge of the rules and respect for game officials and their decisions. Coaches and school officials have the responsibility to teach and encourage these attributes.

***** SPORTSMANSHIP STATEMENT REMINDER *****

The following statement will be read over the public address system just prior to the pledge to the flag. If there is no public address system, the statement will be read to both teams by the site chairperson or his representative:

"Welcome to Section VI (name of sport). Athletic competition can provide everyone with a sense of accomplishment and pride, if all of us - players, coaches and spectators - abide by the rules of good conduct. We ask that you enjoy the performance of our outstanding athletes in a spirit of sportsmanship and appreciation of competition."

UPDATED Sportsmanship Standard & Pledge

https://s3.amazonaws.com/nysphsaa.org/documents/2023/8/8/x2023_24_Sport_Coordinator_Manual_FINAL.pdf#page=41

Section VI Cheer Sectionals Results [Cheer History & Past Champions](#)

New information from State July 2024 Meeting about Safety

Approved at State Central Committee meeting 7/30/24

9. (A) Consider approval to update the additional required coaching course to reflect the replacement of the ACCA Safety course and the new NFHS Cheerleading Rules course. (Pg. 111-112) CARRIED

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oEW2tYTVfAm38PZ4BDP45UkTXbzyN2Jz/view?usp=drive_link