

Frequently Asked Questions – Cheer

What are some of the differences between Pop Warner and American Youth Cheer (AYC)?

While there are many similarities a few of the most noticeable differences between Pop Warner and American Youth Cheer are the broad range of ages across each division, the total number of increased opportunities for exhibitions and competitions and the increase in the number of the teams that may advance. (Please see further details below and on our website.)

Will coaches require new or different training to become certified?

Yes. AYC offers both on-line and hands on training. The AYC on-line training including concussion training is required for all head and assistant coaches. Hands- on training is optional although strongly recommended especially for head coaches. CPR and first aid training is also required for at least one member of the coaching staff per squad.

We are currently reviewing the latest version of the AYC Rule Book which was released in April 2018.

What are the divisions for Cheer?

AYC divisions are aged based. Placement of participants on a cheer roster is based on their age as of July 31 of the current year. Teams may be categorized as small v. large based on the number of cheerleaders per squad, as well as, either White, Red or Blue level depending on skill ability.

Once the registration process has been completed, cheerleaders will be assigned to a squad. For informational purposes only we have also included grades to show parents and guardians how teams may be formed.

Division	Age Range	Grade	Competition/Exhibition
14u	Ages 11-14	7 th – 8 th	Competition
12u	Ages 9-12	5 th – 7 th	Competition
10u	Ages 7-10	3 rd – 4 th	Exhibition Only
8u	Ages 5-8*	1 st - 2 nd	Exhibition Only

Does AYC have Mascots and a Spirit Program?

With regards to Mascots, AYC allows cheerleaders to begin at a younger age so individuals joining at age 5 and 6 do not have to be considered Mascots and can participate fully with their squad. Mansfield Youth Cheer will register cheerleaders as early as age 6 (or 1st grade).

The Spirit Program is still available as part of Mansfield Youth Cheer. The Spirit Program provides an opportunity to be a member of a squad and cheer at all football games without the commitment of participating in Cheer competitions.

How do the age divisions for Cheer match up with the Football team divisions by grade?

We've listed grades next to each age based divisions above to help illustrate how the teams and squads match-up. In addition, AYC gives us more flexibility in aligning Cheer and Football. We will have the opportunity going forward to ensure no Football team goes all season without a Cheer squad at their games to cheer them on.

How soon will we know the dates and locations for competition and exhibition events?

We already have quite a bit of information. There are five (5) events in all beginning in early to mid-October through December. Save the dates have been posted on Mansfield Youth Football and Cheer website along with location information and squad participants.

Who will we be competing against?

Several teams from the Hockomock made the decision to move from Pop Warner to American Youth Football and Cheer including Foxboro, Franklin, North Attleboro, Attleboro, King Phillip and more. Other teams in the Bay State conference include Natick, Needham, Norwood, Newton, Walpole and more. A full list of associations in the Bay State conference of American Youth Football and Cheer may be found on the Bay State Conference website at bsyfcc.com.

Who do I contact if I have questions about the Mansfield Youth Cheer Program?

We have a new email address – please contact us at MansfieldYouthCheer@gmail.com

How can I help with Mansfield Youth Cheer?

We remain an all-volunteer organization and always need volunteers. Going into the 2018 season we are looking for coaches for 8u – our former I team along with team parents across all divisions and participation in fundraising.