

VII. ATTENDANCE

Cheer is a yearlong activity that requires flexibility, dedication and commitment. All cheer events are mandatory! This includes camp, summer practices, choreography days, games, practices, meetings and other events. Commitment to attendance is essential in order for EHS Cheer to be successful. We cannot create, practice and perfect routines when cheerleaders are consistently absent. Lack of attendance by just one cheerleader prevents the team from functioning as one cohesive unit. Practices and camps are very important for building relationships with cheer members and learning performance material.

Any cheerleaders who have not learned performance material will sit out of any performance until the material is learned. Performances consist of, and are not limited to, cheering during games, quarter breaks, half times, pre-games, and rallies. If a cheerleader is consistently absent he/she will lose points and it could result in removal from the team.

A. ABSENCE CATEGORIES

1. There are excused and unexcused absences. If a cheerleader is in doubt to whether his/her absence will be excused, he/she must ask the coach in advance. On game days, students must attend at least half of the school day in order to cheer/perform.
2. Students will be allowed 3 unexcused absences per year. Cheerleaders must follow proper procedures to notify coaches of the unexcused absence in advance, or point deductions will occur. After 3 unexcused absences, point deductions will occur for every absence.
3. If a student misses a significant number of practices or cheer events, regardless of whether they are excused or not, it may affect their participation in performances.
4. Examples of excused and unexcused absences include, but are not limited to the following:

EXCUSED ABSENCES: • illness • approved participation in school event/sports • extreme emergency (discretion of coach/advisor) • unavoidable doctor's appointment • unavoidable family event or trip • religious holiday

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES • vacation or trip • job • homework/studying • babysitting (even siblings) • errands • chores • shopping • date • birthday celebration • no ride to event • prior commitment • practice for wedding or family event • other dance/cheer class • church activities • hair/nail/beauty appointment • concerts • music lessons • appointment of family member

B. ABSENCE PROCEDURES

1. PRE-PLANNED EXCUSED ABSENCES

Pre-planned excused absences include: religious holiday, school business, unavoidable doctor appointment, unavoidable family event/trip

- a. Squad members must complete a **“Pre-Planned Excused Absence Form”** and turn it in one week prior to the anticipated absence from a practice or assigned event (Some requests **may not be granted** due to the reason for being absent, or the event that is going to be missed.)
- b. For appointments and school business, an additional **“Attendance Verification Form”** will be required upon return signed by the physician or supervisor of school business.
- c. Failure to follow procedures will designate the absence as unexcused and the squad member will lose points.
- d. If a cheerleader misses a significant number of practices (even excused absences), this may forfeit their participation in performances.

2. UNPLANNED EXCUSED ABSENCES

Unplanned excused absence include: illness, family emergency, death in family, funeral

- a. Squad member’s parent must call/text/e-mail coach/advisor on the day of the absence and prior to practice time. It is also acceptable for the squad member to call/text/e-mail coach/advisor to inform of the absence.
- b. Squad members must complete an **“Unplanned Excused Absence Form”** upon return.

3. PRE-PLANNED UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

- a. Squad members must complete a “Pre-Planned Unexcused Absence Form” and turn it in one week prior to the anticipated absence from a practice or assigned event.
- b. Failure to follow procedures will designate the absence as un-notified and the squad member will receive a larger point deduction.
- c. If a cheerleader has more than 3 unexcused absences, point deductions will occur.

4. UNPLANNED UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

- a. Squad member’s parent must call/text/e-mail coach/advisor on the day of the absence and prior to practice time. It is also acceptable for the squad member to call/text/e-mail coach/advisor to inform of the absence.
- b. Squad members must complete an “Unplanned Unexcused Absence Form” upon return.
- c. Failure to follow procedures will designate the absence as un-notified and the squad member will receive a larger point deduction.
- d. If a cheerleader has more than 3 unexcused absences, point deductions will occur.