



2022
YAC
SPIRIT
FEST
MANUAL

Dear Coach,

We are so excited about our upcoming YAC Spirit Fest! Our goal is to run a high quality, high energy, and FUN competition for our Coaches and Cheerleaders.

This packet will provide all information needed to make Spirit Fest a success for us all. It's a great opportunity to show everyone how much *SPIRIT* your team has and gain some experience on the competition mat! Please pass this information to all your parents so they know what to expect at Spirit Fest.

The format for Spirit Fest allows us an opportunity to showcase our game day style performances. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

*Cheers!! *~o/**

Analisa Sisneros
YAC President

Nicole Brody
YAC Coaches Selection Chair

Spirit Fest Categories

There are no assigned categories of competition for Spirit Fest. Every team will be awarded in the category of their high score and competing for the session Grand Champion.

Spirit Fest Check-In

1. We will send out Spirit Fest check-in/session information via email approximately 1 week prior to Spirit Fest.
2. ARRIVE EARLY. We need all squads to arrive in a timely manner. Cheerleaders should arrive 15-20 minutes PRIOR to the check-in start time.
3. Your team will not be checked in until everyone is present.
4. Upon arrival, the Head Coach, Assistant Coach(es), and Cheer Trainer(s) along with the squad members must check in at the Event Registration Desk. There you will have your roster confirmed and receive a program with performances listed. All Volunteer Coaches must have a badge to sit with your team.
5. Only 1 coach per 5 cheerleaders ratio allowed to sit with the girls. If any Junior Cheerleader parents want to sit with the girls, the parent must be badged. Cheer trainers not included in this ratio.

Spirit Fest Routine Requirements

1. Each cheer squad is required to do a routine no longer than 2.5 minutes that includes a sideline cheer/chant and a game day dance; music portion may be no longer than 1.5 minutes.
2. Each team should prepare a sideline/chant of their choice.
3. Time will begin with the first motion, word or beat of music. If a malfunction occurs during a team's performance, the team may have the opportunity to perform their routine again at the discretion of the judges.
4. The routine should have characteristics of cheer movements, jumps, and dance. Acceptable tumbling and stunting is also allowed. NO Formal entrances. Please be creative when teaching a dance routine. A line dance is not entertaining, nor creative. Make sure it is age appropriate.

Spirit Fest Specifications

1. Each squad will be judged as a TEAM. All cheerleaders will be judged according to ability, presentation, spirit, technique, voice, jump technique, dancing technique, uniformity, etc.
2. Special emphasis will be placed on overall impression of routine and technique.
3. Judges will be informed about our junior cheerleader policy and teams with junior cheerleaders will not be "penalized" in any way if their junior cheerleader freezes up or does not perform to the same standard as other members of the team.
4. All squads will be performing on a mat.
5. Only current year YAC issued Uniforms-Shell, Skirt, and Bloomers may be worn. Body Liners, socks, and hair bows of your choice are acceptable. Uniforms that have been purposely altered in any way will not be allowed. ONLY EXCEPTIONS are adding tackle twill/embroidery/screen print of team mascot or cheerleader's name. If your full team's uniform has not been delivered, you may have your cheerleaders wear shorts and a t-shirt (no costumes).
6. YAC current year issued poms, handheld signs (no flaking glitter), flags, banners, megaphones, and pieces of cloth are the only props allowed. Props with poles or similar support apparatus may not be used in conjunction with any kind of stunt or tumbling. All props must be safely discarded out of harm's way (example: throwing a hard sign across the mat from a stunt would be illegal). Any uniform piece purposefully removed from the body and used for visual effect will be considered a prop once it is removed from the body.
7. Any Coach that does not bring their team to Spirit Fest to perform will risk 50-point deduction at Cheer Fest.

Music Requirements

1. The music you select must be age appropriate. We have instituted this policy due to lyrics laced with sexual innuendo and suggestive movements. In addition, ABSOLUTELY NO PROFANITY WILL BE ACCEPTABLE IN THE MUSIC. Make sure the music is cut correctly. DO NOT bleep out any of the words.
2. You must have a music runner. We will request music be emailed prior to competition so a playlist can be created. You should also have a backup device just in case on the day of competition (flash drive, cell phone). Music must be in MP3 format. Google search "convert to mp3" to upload your music and save it as an MP3.
3. Music can be found online using Youtube or Google "Marching Band Music."

Junior Cheerleaders

1. Junior Cheerleaders are allowed to perform at Spirit Fest.
2. Your junior cheerleader parents will be allowed to sit with their junior cheerleader provided they have a badge; HOWEVER, they are not allowed to go onto the competition floor.

Safety Guidelines

1. Hair is to be pulled up and off the face securely (No Glitter).
2. Jewelry of any kind is prohibited.
3. Nails should be cut short.
4. Socks and athletic shoes must be worn. No canvas shoes will be allowed.
5. Knee drops, seat drops, front drops, and split drops from a jump or airborne position are prohibited. Hands must be properly placed on the floor before knees/splits touch the ground.
6. Any cheerleader wearing a cast cannot be involved in stunts, pyramids or tumbling of any kind. Supports, braces and soft casts which are unaltered from the manufacturer's original design/production do not require any additional padding. Supports/braces and soft casts that have been altered from the manufacturer's original design/production must be padded with a closed-cell, slow-recovery foam padding no less than one-half inch thick. A participant wearing a hard cast (example: fiberglass or plaster) or a walking boot must not be involved in stunts, pyramids, tumbling or tosses.

Approved Stunts and Levels

You may choose to perform stunts and tumbling at defined NMYAFL Level 1 (no higher than a thigh stand/should sit), Level 2 (no higher than a half/prep level), or Level 3 (Full/Extension, shoulder stands). Please refer to your NMYAFL guidelines for stunt and tumbling information.

YAC Spirit Fest Scoring Requirements

Enclosed you will find a sample Spirit Fest score sheet and an infraction sheet. Please use them as a reference.

Absolutely no interaction of any kind is allowed with the judges. All judges scores will be added together to arrive at a total score minus any infractions. All judge's decisions are final.

1. One Grand Champion for each session will be awarded.
2. Ties will not be broken. Tying teams will share a title.
3. All teams will be announced and awarded in their highest scoring category.
4. Head Cheer Coaches will receive their squad's score sheets.

YAC Spirit Fest Score Sheet

Team/Division: _____

| CATEGORY | Max Pts. | Score | Comments: Skills/Notes/Improvements |
|---|------------|-------|--|
| <u>CHEER SECTION (40 Points)</u> | | | |
| Voice, Pitch, Use of Words | 5 | | |
| Spirit/Energy | 5 | | |
| Crowd Involvement | 5 | | |
| Signs or Poms | 5 | | |
| Motion Technique | 5 | | |
| Jumps/Tumbling/Stunts/Pyramids | 5 | | |
| Performance- Synchronization, precision & Timing | 5 | | |
| Formations/Transitions | 5 | | |
| <u>DANCE SECTION (40 Points)</u> | | | |
| Game Day Appropriate | 5 | | |
| Rhythm, Originality, Flow of Routine, Sharpness | 5 | | |
| Spirit/Energy | 5 | | |
| Motion Technique | 5 | | |
| Jumps/Tumbling/Stunts/Pyramids | 5 | | |
| Performance- Synchronization, precision & Timing | 5 | | |
| Variety, Continuity, Use of Floor, Spacing | 5 | | |
| Formations/Transitions | 5 | | |
| <u>OVERALL PERFORMANCE (20 Points)</u> | | | |
| Overall impression, Execution, Visual Appeal, Creativity, Perfection of Routine | 10 | | |
| Showmanship, Spirit, Energy | 10 | | |
| TOTAL SCORE | 100 | | |

Judge Signature: _____

YAC Spirit Fest Deduction Sheet

Team/Division: _____

| Penalty: | Deduction: | Infraction to score/comments: |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Stepping off mat (poms/hand held signs are fine off mat, no Cheerleaders) | 5 points | |
| Routine exceeding 2.5 min and/or Formal entrance | 5 points | |
| Uniforms altered in any form | 10 points | |
| Inappropriate Choreography, body rolls, etc. | 10 points | |
| Music Requirements: no profanity, vulgar lyrics, sexual innuendo | 10 points | |
| Safety Guidelines 1. No Jewelry 2. No Knee/seat/front/split drops from jump or airborne position. Hands must be placed on floor before knees/splits hit the ground. 3. No Canvas Shoes – Athletic Shoes must be worn 4. Cheerleaders wearing casts cannot stunt/tumble | 10 points per occurrence | |
| UNACCEPTABLE in all categories Stunting/Tumbling: NO Basket Tosses NO Tic Tocs (Switching from one leg to another) Backspot must maintain contact with flyer at all times. NO Free Falling – Spotters must guide flyer with arms at full length at all times (up & down) NO Aerial tumbling (no-handed cartwheels, etc.) NO tumbling with poms No tricks while dismounting (X Out while cradling) | 10 points per occurrence | |
| Unacceptable props | 10 points | |
| Hiring a choreographer | 25 points | |
| Using a Junior Cheerleader in a stunt | 25 points | |