

1055 S. WASHINGTON ST.
VAN WERT, OH 45891



PHONE: (419)238-9270

VAN WERT COUNTY FAIR

35th Annual Cheerleading Invitational | Wednesday August 30th, 2023 @ 6:30pm

RULES

Schedule/Divisions: The invitational will begin promptly at 6:30pm on Wednesday August 30th, 2023. This year's invitational will include the following divisions: Mini All Star, Youth All Star, Little Leaders Tumbling, Little Leaders Non-Tumbling, Junior High, Varsity, Junior All Star, and Senior All Star. Grade levels are dependent on the 2022-2023 school year. Once established, the order of performance will not be altered without the approval of all participating squads in the division.

Mini All Star: Non School Squads Grade 3 and below that mount

Youth All Star: Non School Squads Grade 6 and below that mount

Junior All Star: Non School Squads Grade 9 and below that mount

Senior All Star: Non School Squads Grade 12 and below that mount

Little Leaders Tumbling & Non-Tumbling: School and Non-School squads ages 5-12 NO mounting

Junior High: 7th grade squad, 8th grade squad, or combined 7th & 8th grade squad, NO mounting

Varsity: Varsity squad or combined Varsity/Junior Varsity Squad NO mounting

Routine Details: Each squad must incorporate dance and at least two (2) cheers into their performance. A squad's entrance, transitions between cheers, and exit may consist of any combination of dances, cheers, tumbling, or side chants. Performance time is limited to four (4) minutes. Judging and timing will begin at the first beat of music or first motion and will end at the last motion or beat of music. Any entrance cheers on or off the mat, WILL be included in your four (4) minute time limit. A one (1) point deduction for each second over the time limit will be taken from the judges' combined score. There is NO penalty for placing pompoms, props, or signs prior to a performance or removing them immediately following a performance. **NEW THIS YEAR FOR JR. HIGH SQUADS AND LITTLE LEADERS-** you can use your school fight song for your dance portion of your routine. This will not require a copyright waiver or fees and will allow the crowd to show their school spirit.

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Performance Area: Please note that the performance area may be covered with at least 8 tumbling mats approx. 48 wide by 42 long. There is NO penalty for squad members stepping out of the performance area, there is also NO penalty for designated persons entering the competition area during a squad's performance to remove pompoms, props, or signs.

School Squads: PROHIBITED Mounts, partner stunts, toe pitches, and mini-trampolines are NOT permitted. Partner stunts are defined as one or more squad members lifting one or more members off of the ground for a length of time OR one or more squad members throwing one or more members in the air. Members MAY temporarily jump through or over each other. Mascots are encouraged to attend and participate in the grandstand; however they are NOT permitted on the competition field. Pompoms, props, and signs are permitted. Squads are welcome to bring their own mats for use in practice areas.

All Star Rules: Mount must be no higher than two and a half persons high. If you have a stunt that may be questionable, please contact the coordinators to see if it will be allowed. Any mount over shoulder level must have a back spot. No mini-trampolines. Triple twisting dismounts are not allowed. Single and double full twisting dismounts are allowed.

*Mounting teams must provide their own spotters!

*Spotters may not support or help lift the mount in any way as if they are a part of the mount. The spotter's job is to help catch a flier in a falling stunt and prevent injury.

*A team will be disqualified if spotters are not provided. Mounts should be perfected and stable! Spotters should be dressed in different attire than the competing squad members.

Music: The grandstand sound system is set up for you to plug your phone into the board. Squads should test their music on the sound system during designated practice time and determine a desirable volume. Squads are recommended to bring two copies of the music to be used just in case. Also put your phone on AIRPLANE mode to prevent calls/texts from interrupting your music. A coach or their designee will be responsible for starting and stopping the music.

Warm-Up: Each competing squad will receive a three minute designated practice time on the grandstand racetrack. The order of practice will be the same as the order of performance unless otherwise noted - see additional information section below- Please arrive early on the day of the invitational to ensure you do not miss your warm up time. Teams that miss their allotted practice time will be denied the opportunity to practice to ensure the invitational begins promptly at 6:30pm.

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Awards: Teams: If three or more squads are entered in a division, first place will receive \$75, second place \$50, and third place \$25. The checks will be mailed to the address listed on your application if not further specified by coaches at the end of the invitational. Trophies MAY be presented to the top three squads in each division.

Judges: Staff members from area cheerleading associations or recent college/university cheerleaders will be asked to serve as judges. Due to the holiday weekend, if such judges cannot be secured, present or former coaches who do not have a squad entered in the invitational may serve as judges. Judges' rulings are final.

Admission to the Fairgrounds: Coaches, squad members, and bus drivers will be admitted into the fairgrounds on the day of the invitational free of charge. Participants and coaches will only enter the west end of the grandstand and must have uniforms on. Parents are NOT allowed to enter this gate. Spectators must pay to enter the fairground and have a ticket to enter the grandstand. You can buy presale tickets for the invitational at the Fair Office or on the fairs website prior to the start of the fair. General admission and reserved seating available, visit www.vanwertcountyfair.com or the fair office. Spectators/parents may only enter through the east end of the grandstand with appropriate ticketing after gates open. No spectators/parents are allowed into the grandstand under any circumstances before the gates open. If you have young children on your squad we suggest meeting as a group outside of the west end gate of the grandstand and then entering together as a team.

Liability: The Van Wert County Fair, Invitational Coordinators and personnel, and anyone else associated with the event will NOT be responsible for accidents, injuries, or loss of property. Coaches are urged to clearly explain this to all squad members and parents. Squad members should have insurance. An Athletic Insurance Waiver Form MUST be completed, signed, and returned for each squad member before they will be allowed to participate. These forms are available online at www.vanwertcountyfair.com

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Entry: Entry fee of \$35.00 per squad, application, and all insurance waivers must be post marked no later than August 14th, 2023. Entry fee checks make payable to Van Wert County Ag Society and can be mailed with application and insurance waivers to 1055 S. Washington St. Van Wert, OH 45891. *any checks returned for insufficient funds must be paid in cash PLUS a \$30 returned check fee.

*Competition coordinators and/or fair board members have the final say on any and all rules and decisions.

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