



2025 Attendance Policy

- A Competition team cannot have effective practices or perform successfully with absent participants. Due to the nature of the sport, a practice missed by one cheerleader has a significant impact on the squad; particularly on that cheerleader's stunt group, who are unable to stunt without every member present. In addition, when the coach must re-teach material to those who have been absent, the whole squad's practice time suffers. As a result, attendance at all practices is required. If absences become excessive for any reason, and deter from, the overall squad's success, a cheerleader may become an alternate and/or forfeit their opportunity to perform at competitions. Should these circumstances arise a meeting with the Carol Stream Board, the family and the coaches will take place to determine if alternate status is warranted.
- All practices and games are **MANDATORY**. The only **excused** absences from practices are the following:
 - Religious Education Commitments
 - Illness (fever, vomiting, contagious) Coaches reserve the right to ask for a doctor's note due to excessive absences.
 - Injury requiring medical attention
 - School related functions (must be giving in a timely matter – week or day of unexcused)
 - Pre-scheduled vacations
- **Unexcused** absence includes, but not limited to:
 - Last minute/unplanned vacations
 - Birthday parties or birthday
 - Sleepovers
 - Family dinners
 - Other Sports, Clubs, Activities or Games
 - Any other absences not communicated in advance to the coaches
- Practices begin mid-May and go to Mid – November. ICA State (November). Practices are 2-3 times per week, in the evening, and may include additional weekend practices. Competition teams practices are held indoors at Panther's Practice facility. Sideline Cheer Program practices are held at a Park District facility, organized by Carol Stream Panthers Cheerleading Association. Practices may be increased/lengthened as deemed necessary by the coaches & Cheer Board. All practices scheduled are mandatory including additional practices added by coaches to the set schedule.

- Coaches must be notified by phone (i.e., call or text message) or in writing/email if your athlete will miss practice or a game. Include the athlete's name and reason why they are missing.
- Any unreported absence is also considered **UNEXCUSED**. Participating in another sport or activity is NOT considered an excused absence.
- Athlete's committed to SPRING sports/activities will get an additional (3) unexcused to use from May 15, 2025 to June 30, 2025. These absences if not used DO NOT carry over. Documentation of commitment to Spring sports can be requested.
- After (2) unexcused absence the coaches can request a meeting with parents, and coaches to evaluate attendance issues.
- Repeated unexcused absences are a safety concern. After three (3) unexcused absences the athlete may be removed from stunting, mat position, squad, and/or routine for safety reasons. This policy is in effect for Spring Sports absences as well.
- A disciplinary notice form will be given for unexcused absences. The Coach will ask you to sign and date a disciplinary notice form after each unexcused absence. After three (3) disciplinary notices, the coach will set up a meeting with Carol Stream Cheer Board, family, and Coaches to determine if the cheerleader is allowed to compete or even remain in the program. If a child is removed from a squad due to unexcused absences no refund will be given.
- Attendance is mandatory during the week of competitions. Any unexcused absences the week leading up to a competition have potential for the athlete to be removed from stunting, mat position, and/or routine for safety reasons.
- Athletes are expected to attend and arrive on time at all practices during the season. Full attendance is important, and excessive tardiness will not be tolerated as team members that arrive late or leave early disrupt and distract practice. Consistent tardiness (arriving late or leaving early by 10 or more minutes) for THREE practices will result in one (1) unexcused absence.
- Competitions are mandatory for everyone. Missing a competition may result in removal from the program. Although the board will not approve an athlete missing a competition due to a vacation, any other conflict with competition weekends must be brought to the coach at the time of registration for review. Failure to present conflicts prior to May 1, 2025, will result in removal from the program without a refund.
- All prearranged excused absences must be into your coach by May 1, 2025. Any additional absences after May 1, 2025, may result in an unexcused absence.
- Carol Stream Panthers understands custody agreements between parents that might cause absences. We ask that you provide any dates/documents of schedule absences due to custody agreements to coaches as well as the CSP board at the beginning of cheer season. Please discuss dates that your athlete will miss due to custody agreements with your coaches prior to the start of the season.