

## **ARTICLE XIV. CHEERLEADING**

The purpose and aim of the cheerleading squad are to inspire the participating youth of Linwood to practice ideals of sportsmanship, fairplay, and physical fitness and also to better train and prepare the participants for high school cheerleading.

### **A. Leadership**

1. The head varsity cheerleading coach will be responsible for all activities directly related to the cheerleading squads and their coaches pursuant to Article V of the Linwood Panthers by-laws. The head varsity cheerleading coach does not have to participate as an actual on field coach but must still perform duties necessary for the cheerleading squads to properly function.
2. The coaches for the various squads will be chosen at the discretion of the head cheerleading coach. Coaches will be responsible for teaching cheers to squads, enforcing rules, and leading activities during practices and games. The head cheerleading coach will provide a list of coaches to the board prior to the season.
3. Any resolution of problems or interpretation of rules regarding cheerleading will be handled by the head cheerleading coach. This does not preclude an individual from taking any matter to the Linwood Panthers Board of Trustees.

### **B. PARTICIPATION**

1. The Linwood Panthers cheerleading Squad shall follow and adhere to the rules and by-laws set forth by the Atlantic County Junior Cheerleading Association.
2. The squads will consist of varsity, junior varsity, pee-wee, and taxi. The taxi squad may be excluded if lack of participation warrants and at the sole discretion of the head cheerleading coach.

- a. No squad will have more than 25 members.
  - b. Mascots are permissible at the discretion of the head cheerleading coach and the approval of the board of trustees. Mascots must be 7 years of age and are not permitted to cheer in County League activities.
3. Ages of Jr. Varsity and Varsity cheerleaders shall be 10-14. Anyone turning 15 prior to September 30 is not eligible to cheer that year. No cheerleader may be attending high school. Pee-wee and taxi cheerleaders shall be 8 or 9. The head cheerleading coach may lower the age to 7 at her sole discretion.

#### C. RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. All members must adhere to the rules set forth by The Atlantic County Junior Cheerleading Association.
2. Local rules regarding conduct during games and practices, participation requirements, and dress codes will be determined by the head cheerleading coach. A copy of the rules and regulations will be given to each member prior to the season.
3. Attendance and absences. All cheerleaders are expected to be at all functions. Due to the possibility of injury occurring during cheers and stunts it is imperative that all members attend all practices and events. It is recognized that emergencies do arise.
  - a. Excused absences: Religious holidays, religious instruction, illness, and family emergencies are the only excused absences. All other absences are deemed unexcused.
  - b. Each member is allowed one unexcused absence with no consequence.

- c. If a member has a second unexcused absence, that member may not cheer at the game.
- d. If a member has a third unexcused absence, that member will be expelled from the squad.
- e. If a member has an absence from a practice, either excused or unexcused, that member may not participate in those portions of the following game involving stunts for safety reasons.
- f. The head cheerleading coach shall determine any special circumstances regarding an absence being deemed excused on a case by case basis.
- g. Any girl may appeal her dismissal to the Panther Board. The appeal must be in writing and in a timely fashion.

#### D. UNIFORMS

1. The Linwood Panther Association will provide team sweaters and skirts to all members.
2. All other clothing (shoes, turtleneck, socks, etc.) will be the responsibility of the member. Members will be advised before tryouts of this responsibility.