IUPUI CHEERLEADING PROGRAM RULES

I. Tryouts and Squad Selection

The Head Coach will organize tryouts and graduating senior cheerleaders will assist with preparation for the tryout. The tryout typically includes the IUPUI Fight Song, sidelines, jumps (females only), partner stunts, standing tumbling, running tumbling and a short dance. The tryouts will be held once during the academic year in April for the next school year. The Head Coach may choose to hold an additional tryout in the fall, or add additional squad members.

Tryouts will be open to:

A. Full-time undergraduate students attending Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis at the time of the tryout;
B. Undergraduate transfer students from another college or university who have been accepted to Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis for the next school year;
C. Incoming freshman students who have been accepted to IUPUI, or are awaiting acceptance for enrollment beginning with either in the Summer Semester or Fall Semester. Selection to the IUPUI Cheerleading Program does not promise admittance to IUPUI;
D. Graduate students should contact the Program Head Coach separately;

For undergraduate students already attending IUPUI, a minimum 2.000 cumulative grade point average is required to try out for the next school year. Undergraduate transfer students must also meet the required GPA.

Cheerleaders will be evaluated on knowledge of cheerleading skills, tumbling, appearance, personality and enthusiasm. Academic standing may also be taken into consideration. Tryouts will be judged by a panel selected by the coach. The panel will submit its recommendations to the coach at the conclusion of the tryout. The IUPUI Cheerleading Coaches reserve the right to decline a tryout or a position on the squad for reasons of academic deficiencies, physical liabilities, past performances or any reason considered appropriate by the Division of Student Life, Athletic Department and/or the University.

If a returning Cheerleader is injured or has a University class conflict, and is unable to partake in the tryout, one or more of the following could take place:

A. A special tryout will be conducted as scheduled by the coach, and can include the next two to four best scored candidates from the April tryout;
B. If the individual cannot tryout due to inadequate healing time from injury, then the Program Coach(s) will decide who fills what positions.

II. Academic Status

Each Cheerleader must maintain 12 or more hours of undergraduate study, or 8 hours of graduate study on the IUPUI campus during each semester. An exception to this number of hours will be if a student in undergraduate study is in the final semester of the final year, and can provide documentation that less than 12 hours are needed to graduate.

The Department of Student Life or Head Coach may intermittently check student’s enrollment status and grades. Each cheerleader must provide a copy of his/her class schedule and syllabus within two weeks of each academic semester. Each member must also provide final grades at the conclusion of each semester, when requested. It is understood that you must be academically eligible to participate.
Should any cheerleader meet one or more of the following criteria, a study table program may be implemented. Sessions will be monitored by the coaching staff, or another representative as determined by the program coach.

A. First year in the IUPUI Cheerleading Program;
B. Cumulative GPA of 2.30 or less/Semester GPA of 2.50 or less with IUPUI;
C. Assigned by the Program Coach.

III. Conduct

Selection as a member of the cheerleading program is a privilege, and requires a greater responsibility than any student who is a non-member. It is expected that all cheerleaders practice appropriate conduct at all times. Proper behavior is required and earns the respect of the student body, athletes, administrators, alumni and the community. Becoming a member of this program is a commitment and should be treated as one. The role of cheerleader at IUPUI is to proudly represent the university at basketball games, university events and other community activities. Our goal is to promote school spirit, encourage good sportsmanship and to develop positive crowd participation. All members are expected to adhere to the standards of academics, athletic performance, moral conduct and responsibilities set forth in these rules as representatives of Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

Selection to the squad bears a greater responsibility as a representative of IUPUI, than a non-participant. The following rules will apply to squad members:

A. Smoking and smokeless tobacco are banned during practices, or at any function that you are representing IUPUI, in or out of uniform;
B. Underage drinking and/or false identification cards will not be tolerated. Any student who is found in violation of this clause is subject to discipline action by the Dean of Students;
C. No alcoholic beverages will be consumed the morning of an athletic event, university event, or other community activity in which you are representing IUPUI;
D. No alcoholic beverages will be consumed by the Cheerleaders while traveling to or from any athletic event, at the hotel where the squad is staying, during a pre-game reception or at the game;
E. Any member of the program who reports for departure to an event under the influence of alcohol or other substance(s) will not be permitted to attend the event, and will be suspended for one additional game following that road trip;
F. The unlawful possession, use, distribution, or manufacture of controlled substances will not be tolerated while attending any University event, or at any other time. Violation of this section will result in appropriate discipline, up to and including dismissal from the squad;
G. Abusive or profane language will not be tolerated;
H. Any activity that will cause undue embarrassment to the University will be grounds for dismissal from the squad. This includes online representation (Facebook, MySpace, YouTube, Twitter, etc.) which depicts compromising or incriminating behavior;
I. Hazing by members of IUPUI student organizations is strictly forbidden. Hazing activities are defined as “any action taken or situation created, intentionally, whether on or off university premises, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule.” Such activities may include but are not limited to the following: use of alcohol; paddling in any form; creation of excessive fatigue; physical and psychological shocks; quests, treasure hunts, scavenger hunts, road trips, or any other such activities; wearing of public apparel which is conspicuous and not normally in good taste; engaging in public stunts or buffoonery, morally degrading or humiliating games and activities; and any other activities which are not consistent with academic achievement, the regulations and policies of IUPUI/Indiana University, or applicable state law;  
J. Spirit Squad members will not represent IUPUI at camps or clinics, business or commercial, or community functions without prior approval from the coach.
Failure to abide by any of the rules listed above could result in discipline or removal from the squad at the discretion of the Coaches, Division of Student Life, Athletic Department and/or the University.

IV. Attendance

In preparation for intercollegiate athletic events, good attendance and on-time arrival is mandatory. Cheerleaders are required to attend all practices, scheduled athletic events, pep rallies, public and community events, alumni programs, and University functions as designated by the Coach.

Late arrivals will result in the following disciplinary action:

A. One lap for every minute late to practices
B. Two laps for every minute late to games/trips

Laps will be run at the end of the practice, or at the next practice following a game/trip. The coach(s) will determine if the entire team runs the lap(s), or if the cheerleader will run the lap(s) individually. The squad captain(s) will be responsible for making sure the cheerleader and/or the team runs the lap(s). Lap rules will apply for any three violations.

More than three late arrivals will result in the following disciplinary action:

A. One-game suspension after the fourth violation
B. Two-game suspension after the fifth violation
C. Dismissal from the program after the sixth violation

Any cheerleader who is suspended from a game(s) will be required to appear at the game, in formal dress, and sit in the stands in a section designated by coaching staff. Suspended cheerleaders may not invite friends and/or family to sit with them during the sporting event.

Excused absences will include:

A. Illness to the Cheerleader and/or immediate family members requiring that student's attention and travel away from campus;
B. Death in the immediate family;
C. Required class obligations (tests scheduled outside of regular class time, or mandatory lectures required for the class). Review sessions are NOT considered as excused absences from practices or games. Internships are NOT considered excused absences from practices or games.

NOTE: Any excused absence will require valid documentation. Notices of these situations, when possible, must be submitted to the Program Head Coach at least 24 hours in advance. It is recognized this surely may not be possible when it involves illness or death in the immediate family, therefore valid documentation for the absence should be submitted at the following practice or game.

Squad members must be considerate of the program as a whole. Unexcused absences from practices or events will result in suspension from the next athletic event. Repeated tardiness, unexcused absences or missed games could result dismissal from the program.

NOTE: It is your responsibility to notify the coach if you will miss practice. You may not send messages with another person. If you are injured, you are still required to attend practice. All injuries require written reports from the IUPUI athletic trainer. Work is not an excuse to miss any scheduled practices or events.

V. Health Habits and Uniforms
All squad members will practice good personal hygiene. Conduct that opposes a healthy lifestyle or eating habits will not be tolerated; especially in ways that could potentially place a person or other squad members in danger.

Hair must be a natural color, and nail polish for females will be decided by the Coaches. Males will be clean-cut in their hair styling and facial hair. Attempts to grow facial hair during season are not acceptable. Therefore, facial hair is only permitted if it was present during April tryouts, or if it is grown prior to camp in the summer. Female squad members will wear hair with sides up (from ears), or ponytails with bangs pulled or pinned out of face. Female squad members are required to wear make-up and lipstick while in uniform.

Body piercings are not acceptable during any event associated with IUPUI Cheerleading. Wrist watches, necklaces, navel rings, nose rings, tongue rings, etc. will not be permitted at any time. Policy concerning females wearing earrings will be determined by the Program Head Coach. Males may not wear earrings under any circumstance. Tattoos also must not be visible.

Cheerleaders will dress uniformly at all events. The University has contractual arrangements requiring that specific shoes must be worn. If shoes are lost, the individual responsible will purchase a replacement pair. Shoes may not be worn outside.

Uniforms that are provided by the University are owned by the University, and fundraising does not permit you to keep uniforms. A $200.00 deposit is required before members can be fitted for uniforms. Uniforms may not be loaned to anyone not affiliated with the spirit squad; this includes practice clothing, t-shirts, game uniforms, or any “squad” apparel. Any lost or damaged uniforms shall be replaced immediately at the student’s expense. Any person who fails to return all parts of the uniforms will be placed on an Administrative List which could prevent the student from registering for classes, or obtaining an official transcript. Procedure for cleaning, and returning the uniforms shall be determined by the Program Head Coach.

Participants who return all university property in useable condition, and as determined by the Program Head Coach, will be eligible for refund of the uniform deposit as follows:

A. Any participant who completes the entire season will be eligible for a full refund;
B. Participants who leave the program, by choice or dismissal, prior to attendance at UCA College Camp will be eligible for full refund;
C. Participants who leave the program, by choice or dismissal, after UCA College Camp will forfeit the entire deposit, and will not be eligible for a refund;
D. Participants who fail to fundraise the amount determined by the program Head Coach (as outlined in section VII.) will forfeit the entire deposit, and will not be eligible for a refund.

VI. Travel

The Division of Student Life and/or Athletic Director and Program Head Coach will organize travel and boarding for out-of-town events. The NCAA rules govern the squad size for pre-season and post-season tournaments. The Coach(s) will determine which squad members will travel to tournaments and/or away events. An itinerary will be prepared and distributed to each squad member scheduled to attend. The itinerary shall include departure times, arrival times, dress requirements and other pertinent information.

When the University is providing transportation to an event, alternate transportation will not be allowed; squad members must travel as a program to and from events. If a cheerleader misses provided transportation, alternate transportation is not allowed. The Program Coaches will announce any curfew while the squad is at an away event, and members must be in their rooms at that designated hour.

VII. Financial Responsibility
Each member is responsible for a $200.00 uniform deposit. The deposit is refundable given that cheer apparel is returned in good condition and within time granted (review Health Habits and Dress, Section V., regarding deposit refund requirements).

The Coach(s) will determine the budget for the program. Most expenses will be paid by fundraising, and the University. However, some costs may be the responsibility of the team member. For example, additional clinics, camps, apparel and/or travel expenses. **Fundraising is mandatory.** If a participant does not attend fundraising events, h/she will be expected to pay their portion of raised monies.

Fundraising is to benefit the IUPUI Cheerleading Program, and all monies that are raised belong to the program. Under NO circumstances will fundraising monies be refunded. Fundraising monies may NOT be used to cover the uniform deposit, and does not permit a participant to keep ANY issued items. All items that are issued to a participant belong to the IUPUI Cheerleading Program.

**VIII. Medical**

Each spirit squad member must have a physical, complete medical history and proof of medical insurance on file with IUPUI Athletic Training Office, and have clearance before they may participate.

First year students and/or transfer students are required to provide documentation of a completed physical, signed by a physician and clearing the cheerleader for activity prior to tryouts. Returning cheerleaders will complete physicals at the IUPUI Athletic Training Office each year. ALL forms located on the IUPUI Athletic Training website ([www.iupuijags.com](http://www.iupuijags.com)) will need to be signed by the cheerleader, and turned into the Athletic Training Office PRIOR to departure for UCA College Camp.

All injuries incurred while at practice or while representing IUPUI at official IUPUI functions, must be reported to the training room for examination. IUPUI will make every effort to cover cost of medical expenses after the injured person’s medical insurance has covered its allowable amount. If the proper procedure is not followed, IUPUI shall not be responsible for expenses. IUPUI will not be responsible for injuries that are incurred outside of official practices or official events.

**IX. Camp**

The Division of Student Life and Program Head Coach will make arrangements for summer camp. Program members will be asked to seek corporate support for the camp t-shirts, however, some expenses to the individual members may be incurred for clothing. Every attempt will be made to keep this expense to a minimum.

**SUMMER CAMP IS REQUIRED -- IT IS NOT OPTIONAL.**

**X. Competition**

A national competition squad(s) may be selected if the Program Head Coach determines it as a program goal. **Any national participation is not a program priority, and therefore will be viewed as an additional involvement.** The competition’s time of year and financial requirements will be taken into account for the squad’s participation.

The Program Head Coach will have the final decision over which program members are selected for the national competition. Squad(s) will be made up of any current eligible member of the Cheerleader program. Any member may opt out of participating but must make that known prior to the start of preparations. A bid for national competition will require additional fundraising and extra practices which
XI. Captain

Returning Cheerleaders may be considered for the captain positions. The Squad Captain(s) will be chosen by the Program Head Coach. If the Captain(s) are determined prior to tryouts, they will be excused from tryouts. The Squad Captain(s) serve as a liaison between the coaches and the team. They will function to relay information, keep records, and carry out task as assigned by the coaches. They will also work with the Program Head Coach and the Department Advisor in planning events and activities for the program throughout the year.

XII. General

Cheerleaders will not attempt stunting or tumbling without proper instruction, equipment, supervision and spotters. Any advanced partner stunts or tumbling must be demonstrated consistently to the Program Coach(s) before use in a game.

A strength and conditioning program for each person may be developed. Participation will be mandatory. Failure to participate will result in disciplinary action.