



## 2026 Hardin County Fair Cheerleading Competition

Sponsored By: Hardin County Agricultural Society, Ohio State University Extension, Hardin County Family YMCA, Ohio Northern University, and Hempy Water

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WHEN: Sunday, September 13, 2026

WHERE: Hardin County Fair Grandstand

*Rain location: Kenton High School*

TIME: Competition Begins @12:30 pm

WHO: SchoolSquads  
USASF All Star Squads

### COMPETITION CATEGORIES

*Participants can compete in more than one category.*

COMPETITION ROUTINE (3 minute limit)

GAME DAY (3 minute limit)

*\*\*Must Include Fight Song, Crowd-Leading and Band Dance w/transitions\**

FIGHT SONG ONLY (1 minute limit)

JUMP-OFF \$5 per person  
*registration day of event, cash only*

TUMBLE-OFF \$5 per person  
*registration day of event, cash only*

TUCK-OFF \$5 per person  
*registration day of event, cash only*

\$50 per squad for 1 category  
\$10 per squad for each additional  
category

\$5 per person Jump- Off

\$5 per person Tumble-Off

\$5 per person Tuck-Off

### AGE DIVISIONS (2026-2027 Grades):

Tiny- 2nd grade and under

Mini- 4th grade and under

Youth- 6th grade and under

Middle School- 8th grade and under

Small Varsity- Less than 10 squad members the mat - 9th-12th grade

Large Varsity- 11 or more squad members on the mat - 9th-12th grade

USASF All Star Teams will follow USASF levels and age grids.

SUPER SENIOR (High School Graduate and above) for Jump Off, Tumble Off, Tuck Off ONLY

Please complete the enclosed Squad Registration Forms and have them postmarked by **August 1, 2026**. **All entry fees must be prepaid and sent with registration forms, waivers, and squad rosters.** Entry fees are non-refundable. If you would prefer to pay via VENMO, please contact Jami Dellifield.

Registered squad members and 2 named coaches per team will receive entrance into the Hardin County Fair and the grandstand.

## **AWARDS**

The TOP 3 squads in each category will be given a trophy.

The highest scoring squad for the day in each awards ceremony (regardless of category) will be named GRAND CHAMPIONS! GRAND CHAMPION squads receive a trophy and \$50.

Fair admission for spectators is \$15 per person ages 9 and up.  
Grandstand admission is \$5 for ages 5 and up.

<b>TIMELINE</b>	11:45 a.m.	Grandstand Opens for Squads and Coaches
	11:50a-12:15 p.m.	Team Registrations and Sound Check
	11:50a - 12:20p.m.	Scheduled Warm-Ups (by School)
	12:00 p.m.	Grandstand Opens for Spectators
	12:20 p.m.	Competition Warm-Ups Begin on Mat 2
	12:20-12:25 p.m.	Open Tumbling on Mat 1
	12:30 p.m.	Competition Begins

There will be 2 awards ceremonies for the event. One at the completion of Tiny, Mini, and Youth divisions and one at the completion of the MS/HS divisions.

Jump, Tumble, and Tuck Off will happen before each awards ceremony.

The competition is open to school and community squads and All-Star teams.

Participants can compete in more than one category.

Payment should be made in the form of a check or money order. VENMO can be used by contacting Jami Dellifield.

Checks should be made payable to: **Hardin County Agricultural Society**

Forms and Payment should be mailed to: Jami Dellifield, c/o OSU Extension, 1021 West Lima Street Suite 103, Kenton, OH 43326

## **COMPETITION CATEGORIES (Category Guidelines are Provided Later in The Document)**

*\*\*all categories will have tumbling/non-tumbling & stunting/non-stunting divisions \*\**

*Participants can compete in more than one category*

COMPETITION ROUTINE (3 minute limit)

GAME DAY (3 minute limit) **\*\*Must Include Fight Song, Crowd-Leading and Band Dance w/transitions\***

FIGHT SONG ONLY (1 minute limit)

JUMP-OFF (will begin with best jump)--\$5 per person, registration day of event, cash only

TUMBLE-OFF (will begin with best tumbling pass diagonally across the mat)--\$5 per person, registration day of event, cash only

TUCK-OFF--\$5 per person, registration day of event, cash only

\*\*\*Three or less teams in any category or age division may be combined at the discretion of the competition organizers.\*\*\*

Competition will take place on the track of the grandstand

Performance Area - 52' x 42' Cheer Mat

Practice mats will be available (each team will be scheduled on this directly before their competition.)

No Outside Food/Drink or Coolers are Permitted

*Rain location will be Kenton High School.*

Registration for Jump-Off\*, Tumble-Off\*, and Tuck-Off\* will take place the day of the event.

Cash Only. *\*Individuals do not have to be a part of a registered squad to participate in these jump-off, tumble-off, tuck-off events.\**

### **AGE DIVISIONS (2026-2027 Grades):**

**Tiny-** 2nd grade and under

**Mini-** 4th grade and under

**Youth-** 6th grade and under

**Middle School-** 8th grade and under

**JV/Freshmen** 9th-11th grade

**Small Varsity-** Less than 10 squad members the mat - 9th-12th grade

**Large Varsity-** 11 or more squad members on the mat - 9th-12th grade

**USASF All Star Teams** will follow USASF levels and age grids.

**SUPER SENIOR** (High School Graduate and above) for Jump Off, Tumble Off, Tuck Off ONLY

### **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

All teams must have at least 3 members. No limit on squad size except Small Varsity which is 10 members or less. Mascots are allowed to compete, however they will be counted as a squad member. All participants must be in uniform.

### **DRESSING ROOMS AND PERSONAL BELONGINGS**

Locker rooms will NOT be available, but restrooms will be. It is expected that teams arrive game day ready and in uniform. The Hardin County Agricultural Society accepts no responsibility for lost or stolen items. We recommend that each team designate someone to keep an eye on possessions.

### **PERFORMANCE MUSIC**

All teams will either need to supply their music on an iPod / MP3 music player. All coaches must bring their own DONGLE adaptor to connect it to the aux chord attached to the sound systems provided in the practice room. Please do not bring CD's.

*DIGITAL MUSIC*– You will be able to plug your device directly into the sound system to play your routine music. A coach or team representative MUST remain at the music table to push play and manage the music. You will be provided the necessary cables, but we ask that coaches bring their own dongle adaptors. Be sure to follow these steps below prior to your performance:

- Set up a playlist for each routine
- Turn OFF any equalizer, sound check, notifications, and/or volume limit
- Turn your volume up to 100%
- If using a phone, make sure it is in airplane mode to avoid incoming calls during performance

## **MUSIC PROOF OF LICENSING**

**Squads must include the enclosed music waiver in order to compete.**

• Teams must be able to provide proof of licensing (if music is not performed by the local HS band), in the form of a printed copy, during registration at the event they are attending.

This may include:

- o Proof of purchase from a preferred provider
  - o If using a single song, receipt from purchase of single song
  - o If using an editor, the editor does not have to be a preferred provider; however, they must be able to provide you with proof of purchase from a preferred provider and proof of licensing for all sound effects and voiceovers included in the mix
  - o If using a non-commercial music provider, documentation that assigns all applicable rights to the team
- If a team does not have the required paperwork, they will be given the option to count the routine verbally.
  - If a team does not have the required paperwork and chooses not to count the routine, the team will be disqualified from the competition and not be allowed to perform.

## **CATEGORY ELEMENTS AND GUIDELINES**

### **COMPETITION CATEGORY**

- 3-minute time limit. Time will begin at first motion or first beat of music.
- Organized entrances that involve cheers or run-ons with jumps, tumbling or stunts are not permitted. Cheerleaders should enter the performance area in a timely fashion.
- Timing will end with the holding of the final movement, pyramid, or stunt.
  
- Partner stunts and pyramids are permitted if entered in the stunting category.
- Routines should be choreographed so that the routine flows from one segment to the next.
- Gymnastics and jumps are permitted and encouraged by level guidelines.
- There are to be no props used in the routine with the exception of signs, pompons, flags, and megaphones.
- All routines should be appropriate for family viewing. Any vulgar or suggestive movements, words, or music will result in a score deduction. No tear-away uniforms or removal of clothing is allowed.

### **GAME DAY CATEGORY**

**\*\*Incorporating Fight Song, Crowd-Leading and Band Chant w/transitions**

The routine will consist of the following Game Day elements.

- 3-minute time limit. Time will begin at first motion or first beat of music.
- There should be no “organized” entrances when taking the floor for any of the performances.
- Teams cannot build stunts or execute skills off the performance floor prior to the beginning of the routine—all skills must be executed DURING the routine and on the mat.

### **FIGHT SONG**

### **BAND DANCE:**

Marching band music or drum cadence performance that encourages crowd interaction.

### **CROWD LEADING CHEER and/or CHANT:**

Sideline cheerleading that engages crowd response

## FIGHT SONG CATEGORY

- One-minute time limit. Time will begin with the first beat of music or organized movement.
- Traditional school fight song performed to recorded marching band music
- Added skill (stunts, jumps and/or tumbling) --up to three CONSECUTIVE eight-counts may be incorporated with stunts, tumbling and/or jumps. The three 8 counts of added skills (incorporation) can at any point in the routine. Because many fight songs repeat, the incorporated skills can be repeated but IF repeated, the incorporation must repeat exactly as initially performed.
- To properly count your incorporation, start counting the 8-counts with the “dips” of the added skill(s)—the dip to jump, dip to tumble, dip of top person to load stunt, etc
  - Standing tumbling is limited to one skill at a time.

## GUIDELINES FOR ALL CATEGORIES

- **Squads will be given 10 minutes of warm-up time on a second mat prior to their competition.**
- Teams/Individuals may spirit only while being introduced next to the mat. When they take their positions, they will walk quickly onto the mat, place their signs/poms and go to their starting position.
- You may enter and exit from anywhere on the cheer floor.
- Time will begin with the first movement or word by a team member, or the first note of music, after the announcer says, “You may now begin your competition”.
- Time will end after the last motion of the routine is held for two seconds. Squads should quickly exit off themat upon completion of routine. You will be penalized 1 point for each second over the time limit.
- Signs, poms, flags, banners, and megaphones are permitted. **Use of any other prop is prohibited (includes hats, gloves, pieces of material, etc.)**
- Routine choreography and music selection must be suitable for family viewing. Inappropriate choreography/music will be penalized-10 point deduction per judge.
- The coach or coach appointed representative will be responsible for running their music during the competition. The Hardin County Agricultural Society will not be responsible for technical problems. In the event your routine is interrupted because of failure of our equipment, facilities, etc., or in the case of a serious injury and your routine needs to completely stop, you will be permitted to restart your routine from the beginning or continue from where you stopped-your choice. If an interruption occurs due to your coach or appointed representative, your music, your team/individual must continue on withtheir performance with time running or withdraw from the competition.
- Each team/individual competitor must be accompanied by a coach or adult 18 years or older. Only two coaches per squad and one coach per individual/duo will be admittedinto the competition free of charge. Cheerleaders must be in uniform for admittance.
- **NO GLITTER-includes spray-on glitter!** Glitter in hair, on uniforms, or on signs is prohibited due to issues with clean-up. Eye glitter is acceptable. Teams/individualsusing glitter in any other way will be immediately disqualified and asked to leave the event.
- Stud earrings will be permitted for non-stunting squads. No other jewelry allowed. Belly button jewelry must be removed. Tattoos must be covered. 10-point penalty per member will be assessed if not followed.
- All participants must have a signed **waiver form** completed and turned in at team registrations the day of the event. All coaches should have Emergency Information Sheets for all squad members with them the day of the competition in case of accidents or emergencies. NO exceptions.

- Coaches will receive a confirmation packet by email no later than September 2, 2022 after the registration deadline, which will include schedule. Please be sure to include an email address on your registration form. Performance order will be determined by the date your registration is received. **(First registration in, last squad to compete in your division, and so on).**
- Performance area will be a 42' x 54' Cheer Mat. There will be no out of bounds. However, we suggest that all tumbling/stunting be performed on the mat for safety reasons.
- All squads will be issued a warm-up time prior to taking the competition mat.
- Open tumbling will be held from 12:45-1:15 p.m.
- Trophies will be awarded to the first, second, and third place teams/ individuals in each division. The top score of the over-all school competition in each age division will determine Grand Champions and they will a trophy and \$50.
- No coolers or outside food and drink will be permitted.
- There will be three qualified judges scoring the competition on a 100-point system per judge. If entries are high we will use six judges, where three judges will alternate judging and will judge their respective divisions throughout the competition. All judging and rule interpretations are final.
- In case of a tie, the team/individual with the highest crowd appeal/ showmanship score will be declared the winner.
- Late registration may be accepted after the deadline. Late registration will be subject to a \$15 late fee and team name may not appear on the shirts. The Hardin County Fair Cheer Competition organizers have the right to add, change, delete, or combine divisions.



**2026 Hardin County Fair Cheer Competition REGISTRATION FORM**  
**Please provide ONE registration form and roster PER SQUAD.**  
**Registration Deadline: POSTMARKED BY August 1, 2026**

SQUAD Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mascot: \_\_\_\_\_

Coach(es): \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide an e-mail address as confirmation packets, warm-up times, & fair entry passes sent via e-mail. Checks should be made payable to: Hardin County Agricultural Society

Registration Forms and Payment should be mailed by August 1, 2026 to:  
 Jami Dellifield, c/o OSU Extension, 1021 West Lima Street Suite 103, Kenton, OH 43326

**\*\*Registration is not confirmed until payment and registration paperwork is received. No fair entry or grandstand passes will be mailed without payment**

**COMPETITION CATEGORY**

*Squads may compete in more than one category.*

Please check COMPETITION DIVISION(S) you will be competing in.

\_\_\_\_\_ COMPETITION Division

\_\_\_\_\_ GAME DAY Division

\_\_\_\_\_ FIGHT SONG Division

**CIRCLE ONE:                      NON-STUNT                      STUNT**

**CIRCLE ONE:                      NON-TUMBLE                      TUMBLE**

**Please check team division -determined by the highest grade on the team.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Tiny (2<sup>nd</sup> grade and under)

\_\_\_\_\_ Mini (4<sup>th</sup> grade and under)

\_\_\_\_\_ Youth (6<sup>th</sup> grade and under)

\_\_\_\_\_ Middle School (8th grade and under)

\_\_\_\_\_ Small Varsity-10 or less (9th - 12th)

\_\_\_\_\_ Large Varsity-11 or more (9th-12th)

\_\_\_\_\_ USASF ALL STAR (Division \_\_\_\_\_)



# SQUAD ROSTER

SQUAD NAME \_\_\_\_\_

	Name	Age	Grade	Waiver
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

**PAYMENT ENCLOSED**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**\$50 per squad for 1 category**

**\$10 per squad for each additional category**

**CATEGORY #1 - COMPETITION**

**CATEGORY #2 - GAME DAY**

*\*\*Incorporates Fight Song, Crowd-Leading and Band Chant w/transitions*

**CATEGORY #3 - FIGHT SONG ONLY**

**Checks should be made payable to: Hardin County Agricultural Society**

**Registration forms and payment should be mailed by August 1, 2026 to :**

**Jami Dellifield, c/o OSU Extension, 1021 West Lima Street Suite 103, Kenton, OH 43326**



**PLEASE COPY THIS FORM FOR EACH SQUAD MEMBER**

**Hardin County Fair Cheerleading Competition Participant Waiver Form**

Participant: \_\_\_\_\_

School and Squad Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, parent/legal guardian (herein after parent) of the above named participant, desires and consents to have my child participate in the Hardin County Fair Cheerleading Competition. The parent understands the scope of this activity and agrees all risk of injury resulting to child, whether from participation in the said activity, transportation to and from the activity, and any portion of the activity held on school grounds.

The parent agrees to and shall indemnify and hold harmless and forever discharge competition organizers, the Hardin County Agricultural Society, Ohio State University Extension, volunteers and agents from all liability, claims, demands, damages and costs of any kind, including but not limited to attorney's fees incurred in defending against any such claim arising out of the child's participation in the activity, whether caused by the negligence of its organizers, participants, employees or agents, or otherwise.

**Photo and Video Release**

I give permission to the Hardin County Agricultural Society and Ohio State University Extension to record and edit photographs my likeness, and to use all or parts of the photographs in print or electronic materials for the Hardin County Agricultural Society and Ohio State University Extension to promote any and all public awareness for the program(s) and event in which I am involved.

In witness whereof, the parent has executed this indemnity agreement/waiver form this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ (month) \_\_\_\_\_ (year).

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

All participants must have this waiver form signed, completed, and turned in to Event Organizers prior to the competition. Waiver Forms will be accepted the day of the event.

**Hardin County Fair Cheerleading Competition Music Copyright Certification**

This form must be completed by each team, individual/duo competing/performing at the Mindi Justice Winter Cheer Extravaganza.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, being the head coach of \_\_\_\_\_ cheer team(s), have read, understand and will comply with the directives outlined in the Music Copyright Education Initiative promoted by the USA Federation for Sport Cheering [www.usacheer.net/presssafety/music](http://www.usacheer.net/presssafety/music) and that proper permissions were obtained regarding our team's use of music at the Hardin County Fair Cheer Competition. With this, I releasethe Hardin County Agricultural Society, Ohio State University Extension, event organizers, and volunteers of all liabilityfor copyright infringements.

\_\_\_\_\_  
School Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Division

\_\_\_\_\_  
Head Coach

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# JUDGING SHEET

Squad Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Division: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge # _____
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Cheerleading Fundamentals	Maximum Points	Points Scored	Comments
<b>Group Techniques</b> Synchronization/Timing and Rhythm	15		
<b>Jumps</b>	10		
<b>Tumbling/Stunting (if applicable)</b>	10		
<b>Use of Floor/Transitions</b> Formations/ Spacing/Variety	10		
<b>Motions</b> Precision/Unity/Technique	10		
<b>Projection/Excitement</b>	10		
<b>Execution of Routine</b> Originality/ Creativity	10		
<b>Degree of Difficulty</b> Level of Skill/ Pace/Performance	10		
<b>Overall Effect/Crowd Appeal</b> Performance Impression	15		
		<b>DEDUCTIONS</b>	
<b>ROUTINE TIME:</b>			<b>FINAL SCORE</b>

### Penalties/Deductions

- 10 points per judge for inappropriate music/moves
- 10 points per squad requirement violation/safety
- 10 points per member wearing of jewelry/glitter, visible tattoo
- 1 point per second over time limit (3:00/team, 1:00 Fight Song/Crowd Leading/Band Dance)