

Goerge Mosan Athletic Depratment

Official Fan Cheer Guide

This Cheer Guide has been reviewed, vetted and approved by the following Mason community stakeholders:

- Office of the President
- Office of Assistant Vice President, Director of Athletics
 - Every sub-department within the Department of Athletics as well
- Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Multicultural Education
- Many others too numerous to expand on further this one page cheer sheet

Diversity Disclaimer

Achieving Mason's commitment to the personal and intellectual growth of our students, teaching excellence, and innovative research is only possible through a diverse population of students, faculty, and staff. Exchanging a broad range of ideas and sharing a multitude of experiences and perspectives sustains our commitment and builds a community in which everyone thrives. While cheering is a great way to give your team a home court advantage, it must be done in a way that is consistent with our views on diversity. This guide should not be considered as supporting only the Men's Basketball Team. It should be used to support all the student athletes of George Mason University.

Cheer Don'ts

- Don't say anything derogatory towards or about Women or anything that could be construed as denigrating women in any way
- Don't say anything that "People of Color" might find offensive
- Don't say anything that might be considered offensive to those in the LGBTQIA (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, Questioning, Intersexual and Asexual) community
- Don't call a student athlete Queer (While this was once a perfectly fine adjective to use as it meant "odd", it has become NOT OK to use this word as people who don't like binary gender labels who now identify as Queer assumed using this word for any other purpose is an insult towards them. So, as of this week, though, it is OK to use this word in some situations, and actually preferred to use as that is what this diverse group calls themselves Queer but it is not appropriate to use it in a cheer. The status of the use of this word may change at any moment. Stay tuned for the next cheer guide for further guidance)
- Don't use "the N word". (Even though some people of color frequently call themselves and others in their diverse group "the N word" and frequently use "the N word" in music, it is not appropriate for anyone who lacks color to use this word. And, even if you are quoting them using this word, or singing their songs, it is still not appropriate in a cheer.
- Do not block the view of other fans, particularly our season ticket holders as they are quite elderly. We are not sure that they are actually fans, either as they may just need a place to sit. We fear some of them may actually be suffering from dementia as they wander around the concourse at times and don't always leave the stadium between the games. If you recognize any of the season ticket holders, please claim them and return them home.

Cheer Do's

- Stand, occasionally, but, no more 3 times during a single game and no more than 15 seconds at a time. These limits will be enforced strictly in season ticket holder sections
- Cheer at a moderate volume, but only in short bursts and no more than 5 times during a single game
- It is Okay to make fun of straight, white, males at any time as long as you don't call them things that could be considered offensive to other protected groups, ie, don't call a student athlete Gay (in this context it is bad unless he/she/other identifies as being Gay), don't call a student athlete Queer (in this context it is bad, unless he/she/other identifies as Queer, then it is OK).

Approved Cheers

While conforming to the guidelines listed above, please use the following approved cheers to inspire our Student Athletes to victory:

- "Play Well Patriots of George Mason University"