



SHOWTIME ELITE CHAMBERSBURG

**2023-2024 Competitive Season
Informational Handbook
Half Year Teams**



WHY CHOOSE SHOWTIME ELITE?

Over the last two seasons, our program has been competitive with the best and largest in our industry. While our success on the mat is important, the life lessons that our athletes learn by being a part of our program far supersede any trophy, banner or jacket.

The industry success could not be achieved without an amazing staff. While pushing our athletes to be the very best, we take pride in offering the safest environment possible. Our energetic and experienced coaches are passionate and professional about their jobs. All staff maintain all clearances to work with children in the state of Pennsylvania, go through multiple federal background checks, and any team coach must be able to maintain a Green Light status with the USASF.

The most direct way that we help the athletes in our program is by improving their skills and helping them reach their athletic potential; but we also believe our program serves a higher purpose. Throughout their lives, our athletes will be put in situations where they must work together with others to achieve common goals. Life lessons such as work ethic, responsibility, accountability and teamwork help build character. No other sport builds self-esteem for youth better than all-star cheerleading. The hours, weeks, months, even years of work that go into improving stunts, tumbling, jumps, and motions will improve their fitness and skills. More importantly, athletes learn about sportsmanship, working together towards goals, and the determination and perseverance needed to be successful.

THE SHOWTIME PHILOSOPHY

When you tryout at Showtime, you are accepting a spot in the Showtime program. We are a family of teams; therefore, we run our teams as one program-one family. We build our teams so the program comes first, the team comes second, and the individual third. We would love for each team to have a full squad of athletes with the maximum tumbling skills allowed for that level. Unfortunately, that is not the reality in some instances. For example, while your athlete may be a Level 4 tumbler, this doesn't equate being placed on a Level 4 team. Your athlete may not be a level 4 jumper, stunter or dancer. We must choose our teams according to bases, backspots and flyers, which make up the stunt groups. All teams must have stunt group combinations that will give each team the proper amount of stunt groups. All athletes are placed on a team at the discretion of the coaches. Age, experience, ability, maturity and "coachability" all factor into placement. Please understand that athletes may be repositioned, moved or replaced at any time at the discretion of the coaches. Any changes are made to benefit the team as a whole.

At Showtime, our instructors teach: PERFECTION before PROGRESSION. Every team matters at our program. Our coaches are well rounded and coach all levels and all age groups! We make our practices and competitions fun, rewarding, and productive. We create a positive learning environment. We push the athletes to be the best they can be. We set goals both as a team and as individuals while teaching accountability. We expect our athletes to improve their technique and progress their skills through efficient practices. Best is the standard used for every practice!

GENERAL TEAM PROGRAM RULES AND EXPECTATIONS

Treat all of the staff with respect.

All conversations in and around the gym and events must be respectful and positive.

No one is permitted to yell onto the floor or try to approach coaches or athletes during practices or classes.

All parents are expected to support ALL Showtime Elite teams, including other locations when possible.

If you or your athlete were to encounter an issue at a competition or at the gym, please schedule a meeting with the coaches/owners **at least 24 hours after the issue has occurred**. Athletes and parents are NEVER to confront coaches immediately at a practice or competition, and please refrain from contacting them during a competition about anything unrelated directly to the competition. (Exception is an immediate threat to anyone's safety).

Our staff will have sole communication with competition companies, event producers and event staff regarding the event, schedule, etc.

No parent may ever reprimand or discipline someone else's child. We will handle any disciplinary problems privately and professionally. It is also not appropriate to discuss other children with coaches unless it is a concern that directly impacts your child's well-being (ie - "my athlete's stunt won't hit because her flyer isn't good enough" is NOT acceptable; "my athlete is having confrontation issues with another athlete during practices/at competition" is appropriate).

As a Showtime member, you are a face of our brand. Your behavior and attitude, both in person, while wearing Showtime apparel and/or your social media presence must reflect positivity not only for our location and brand, but for the sport as a whole.

An owner/coach has the right to dismiss your athlete from the Showtime program for any of (but not limited to) the following reasons: inappropriate behavior, too many absences, a pattern of lateness, not showing up for a competition, or for delinquent tuition payments. Should a parent or athlete promote unsportsmanlike behavior, he/she will be asked to leave the Showtime Elite program immediately. Threats of leaving the program, from an athlete or parent, will be considered notice of resignation and accounts will be billed accordingly for final fees and payment.

Communication of concerns should be addressed in a "chain of command" manner - your direct coaches should be your first point of contact with issues so it can be resolved in the most attentive way. If the issue continues, or if the issue is with a direct coach and you are uncomfortable speaking with that coach directly, then approaching the program (class, prep/novice/half-year, elite) director would be the next step. The third step, if issues continue, would be the owner.

Please keep consideration for your coaches when you text, email, message or call them with concerns. Many of them have outside jobs, families, or other coaching obligations, and are not always attached to their phone, nor should they be getting messages in the middle of the night/early hours of the morning or on holidays. Do not repeatedly send messages, or message through various channels if you don't get a response right away.

IMPORTANT DATES & CLOSINGS SUMMARIZED -

Registration Opens: Tuesday, August 1

Practices begin: Sunday, October 1

Thanksgiving Break: Wednesday, November 23-Saturday, November 26

Christmas Break: Friday, December 23 - Sunday, January 1

Teams will have a modified practice schedule between December 27-30

Other Important Dates -

Showcase - Saturday, January 20

Program Photos - Sunday, February 11th

COMPETITION SCHEDULE -

American Masters - Baltimore, MD - January 27 & 28 (only compete one day)

American Cheer Power - Reading, PA - February 24

ACDA Reach The Beach - Ocean City, MD - March 22-24 (Half Year teams will only compete one day — likely Friday).

PLACEMENTS -

All athletes are placed on a team at Showtime. The coaches create teams based on a multitude of aspects—tumbling skill, stunting experience, previous level experience, maturity, jumps, performance, showmanship, work ethic and coachability / accountability (attitude and response to feedback) are all pieces of the puzzle that we look for to create teams that are successful at all levels. It is also important to remember that the age division in which your child is placed also will be reflected in coaching styles and approach (ie - a youth or younger junior team will have conversations presented differently than a senior aged or open team). It is important to remember how critical all of these aspects are in creating successful teams. Athletes and parents can not “challenge” placements, at any point throughout the season. Teams are created based on the age of the athletes and the level at which they are most proficient as a team, and will be successful.

PARENT ASSOCIATION BOARD-

Our Parent Association (Showtime Stage Crew) is a separate non-profit entity that assists in various activities for the gym. The members of Showtime Stage Crew do not have any impact on coaching decisions, placements, behavioral issues, discipline or any financial / accounting matters that are NOT associated with fundraising. **Please do not use any member of the board as a liaison or communicate with them with the expectation that they will bring issues to the staff. Concerns need to be taken to the respective staff member(s) directly. Fundraising via the Stage Crew will be placed in a “general funds” that will be accumulated for gym funds or end of year events for the entire program (per Non-Profit laws in the state of PA).**

TEAM PRACTICES & ABSENCE POLICY-

In order to be competitive at national cheer competitions, there are many extensive training practices that will develop your athlete. These practices are designed to allow each athlete to grow in skill and character. While we strive to teach each athlete the very best in all-star cheer & dance , we hope to make the experience fun, exciting and full of lasting memories. We realize that summers are vacation times for most, and we expect missed practices from all athletes. If you should have a vacation or planned trips that will cause you to miss a practice, please make sure you contact your coach—your athlete will be given vacation forms when they receive their placement that should be returned to the gym during the first week of practice. These are to ensure all coaches are aware of and on the same page for planned vacations. **All absences from practices must be excused by the coach, and a coach should be notified no later than 3 hours prior to the start of practice. If a coach is not notified by 3 hours prior to the start of practice, the absence becomes unexcused, and if the notification is after the start of practice, it is considered a no call/no show, which could be grounds for instant removal from the program.**

Attendance is crucial to team success. All absences must be approved by the team coaches. **A no-call/no show to a practice is grounds for dismissal from the program.** You are expected to be ready to practice (shoes on, hair done, having gone to the bathroom, etc.) when your practice time starts. If you are not practice ready, you are considered late. More than 3 unexcused absences are grounds for disciplinary action. **The practices two weeks leading to a competition are not eligible to be excused.** **If you are not in attendance prior to a competition, you will not compete at that competition.** Attendance to a competition is never voluntary. If you are absent from a competition, you will immediately be removed from the program.

EXCUSED ABSENCES (Still contact team coach prior to absence)

- Serious illness (with a doctors note)/ Family emergencies
- Vacation during **summer**

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

- Traffic/Don't have a ride
- School dance/School project
- Punishment for behavior at home/ Grounded
- Too much homework/ studying
- Feeling tired/ Taking a break today
- **School Cheer Practice/Other sports**
- Work scheduling (after the first month of practice, there should be scheduling arrangements in place)

TARDIES

Don't be late, please. It is always better to be early than late.

3 Tardies (in excess of 15 minutes) = 1 unexcused absence

COMPETITIONS -

It should go without saying that our competitions are the culmination of all of the hard work that we put in at our practices. Occasionally, our competitions will be in destinations that have a "vacation" type environment. While we encourage you and your families to use every opportunity to experience all the world has to offer and make memories, please remember that we are here for a reason.

Competitions are not an outlet for a "vacation." If you want to enjoy the location, please plan around our competition dates and times and your usual practice schedule to ensure that not only are our athletes well-rested and can contribute to all team obligations, but that you are able to be present and a great cheerleader for our teams as well!

Information regarding competitions will be given out the Thursday prior to the event. Typically, we only receive a tentative schedule for an event on the Monday before, and the final schedule is not released until Wednesday or Thursday. For the sake of not having to "re-announce" information that could change, we will not be providing it until the final schedule is released to avoid unnecessary confusion.

Hair & Make-Up for competitions will be announced late October, and could vary by team. Athletes must arrive to competition with their hair and make-up competition ready, unless they arrive early with arrangements made for assistance from a teammate or another parent (***please do not ask coaches to do hair and make-up unless it is a last resort***). If your athlete arrives to competition in the wrong make up & hair style, coaches reserve the right to pull them from competition.

All transportation/accommodations to competitions are the sole responsibility of each family. We will make every effort to provide information in a timely manner. However, if a competition is cancelled or rescheduled, Showtime will not be responsible for reimbursement for any reason.

COMPETITION FEES -

There is a competition season for all teams, that can run anywhere from November until May. Competition fees are your registration and athlete admission fees to participate in the events.

These fees do not cover parent admission.

COMMUNICATION -

Our primary source of communication will be through the app, "Band." Each team will have their own Band, as well as a gym-wide band that is used for anything non-team specific. However, at times we also will provide information in other ways, such as texts, emails or physical handouts from your coaches. ALL parents will receive all info at the same time. Please do not contact coaches or staff for information that has not yet been released. If you feel as though you have missed information, please check with your team's coaches. **Please do not hold coaches at the start of practice for questions, concerns or to chat. They have an obligation to their teams to start practice promptly with their undivided attention. It is also not appropriate to text/chat coaches during practice for any reason other than an emergency. Additionally, please do not communicate with coaches via "unrecordable" apps like SnapChat. Athletes under the age of 18 are not permitted to text, message, "friend request," etc., any coach individually. A parent or another adult coach must be in the same thread. Communication via the gym's social media pages are acceptable. Messages sent via inappropriate channels will not be given a response.**

COSTS & FUNDRAISING -

All-Star Cheerleading, while not as expensive as other youth activities, can still be a very expensive sport. We ask that you please look over the costs and commitment involved before you join the program. If you have any concerns, please talk with our coaches so that we can ensure your child is placed on a team that is the best for your financial situation. A schedule of fees are included in this handbook. There are many individual fundraisers held throughout the season that any athlete and family may participate in to help offset the cost of their season. Fundraising monies can not be refunded if you leave the program. Credits at the end of the season may be rolled into the next season. **Fundraising via the gym will be applied to your account directly. Fundraising balances will be reflected within 15 days of the fundraiser ending, as it must be calculated and entered. Please do not ask how much was earned until those 15 days has passed. Monies earned from online platforms such as ShopWithScript will be updated monthly, but are solely based on the information provided to us by those platforms, as it is done entirely digitally and we only have access to the reports provided by them.**

USASF MEMBERSHIP FEE -

USASF requires all members to register and pay a \$49 USASF membership fee for their own athlete(s). **This must be paid by November 1.** If it is not paid, your athlete will not be permitted into warm-ups or onto the competition floor with their team.

COMMITMENT FEE -

When you tryout at Showtime ,you commit to the program. We will place your athlete on one of our competitive teams that is the best fit for that team and your athlete. We start choosing our teams immediately after tryouts. This time after tryouts is crucial because we must set up each team to be successful based on stunt group, tumbling, etc. When you make a team after tryouts we require a \$200 commitment fee to join our program. The commitment fee is due with the first month's tuition on June 1 and is non-refundable. This is applied to the itemized fees for the season.

TUITION -

Tuition is the cost you pay for your athlete's team training. Monthly tuition will not be pro-rated for any reason. There will be times that practices could be added (before major competitions, dealing with injuries / fill-ins, etc.). You will never be billed for additional practices.

FAILURE TO FULFILL COMMITMENT FEE/RE-ENTRY FEE -

If you / your athlete make the decision to not finish the season (without a medical note stating that you are indefinitely unable to physically practice), you will be billed a \$500 fee for failure to fulfill commitment. This fee will be used for re-choreographing, time spent finding a replacement, coaches hourly rate for extra practices, admin work for updating rosters, etc. If you feel as though you made a mistake and want to come back, to be eligible for "re-entry", that fee must be paid, as well as a \$500 "re-entry" fee that will be used to re-choreograph, update rosters / invoices, etc.

PRACTICE WEAR -

All athletes will be required to purchase one set of practice wear. Each athlete will get a sports bra (males have a compression tank option), and cover-up tank. Their competition hair bow / cuff / scrunchie is included in practice wear. There will be times during the season that your athlete is expected to wear their practice wear so the teams look uniform and the execution, technique and intricacies of the routine can be fine-tuned. Practice wear must be kept in good condition. **If you lose or damage a piece of practice wear, it is your responsibility to purchase a new piece/set.** You may practice in any cheer shoe, but to compete, please purchase any ALL WHITE cheer shoe.

MISCELLANEOUS -

*Parents may not reproduce, sell or have anything made in the likeness of Showtime Elite, its logo or its teams. Doing so may result in the removal from the program.

*We encourage all parents to sit together and support all Showtime teams. Parents are also encouraged to show support by wearing Showtime clothing and / or colors to competitions. Showing respect for the coaching staff, other teams and hosting organizations is expected. You are representing Showtime.

*Water bottles are available at the gym **for purchase** during practice. It is not the responsibility of the gym to constantly provide water bottles to the athletes. There is a water fountain available to use / refill water bottles in the lobby.

*Uniforms for returning athletes that may need to adjust sizes can be done privately with other athletes, or you may ask the gym if there is any extra stock available on hand, but it is not guaranteed to be new. It will be in good condition.

*It is important to remember that all roles on the team are valuable. Not every child is going to be a flyer, point jumper, in every tumbling pass, center dancer, etc. Putting together a successful team is similar to a jigsaw puzzle—each person has an important role. Sometimes that role is different than what they're used to, but is needed to be successful. Please trust the coaches in the decisions they've made.

*No alterations may be made to uniforms or practice wear with the exception of sizing (with approval from the gym owner).

FINANCE POLICIES -

*Sibling discounts are available. The first sibling is a 10% discount on tuition. The second sibling is a 15% discount on tuition.

***All tuition payments are due by the 10th of each month.** After the 10th of each month, your account will be billed a \$35 late fee.

*Any check returned NSF will result in a fee of \$45 applied to your account. If you have more than one NSF check in a 3 month period, you will not be permitted to pay by check for 12 months. Payment must then be made by certified funds.

*Any payment (tuition, package, etc.) that is outstanding more than 15 days will be grounds for a parent/athlete meeting to discuss the next step. When that payment becomes 30 days past due, your athlete will still be expected to attend practices, but will not be able to participate. Routine re-works or fill-ins will begin to learn the necessary changes. If the payment remains unpaid greater than 45 days, your athlete will be removed from the program.

*Payment by credit card is available on the parent portal

Half Year Teams Itemized Pricing

Tuition: \$80 per month, billed October - March

Choreography & Music: \$200

Competition Fees: \$350

Membership: \$25

Practice wear: \$85

Uniform: \$200* (New members only)

USASF Membership: \$49, to be paid directly to USASF by parent

PAYMENT SCHEDULE (PACKAGE PRICING, NOT ALL-INCLUSIVE)

Due October 1 -

\$200 Commitment fee + \$80 Tuition

Due November 1 -

\$230 Package 1 + November Tuition + \$49 USASF Membership (due to USASF directly)

Due December 1 -

December Tuition + \$200 Uniform payment

Due January 1 -

\$230 Package 2 + January Tuition

Due February 1 - March 1 -

Monthly Tuition

Showtime Parent Promise:

"I promise to cheer for each child as much as I cheer for mine. I promise to celebrate the achievements of my child without comparing them to others. I will strive to avoid gossip and do my best to speak positively about all athletes, coaches, and our program. I promise to do my best to remember that I am not the coach. If I have a question I will ask before I create my own perception. I promise to set a good example for my athlete. I understand that my athlete's individual success is also related to the team's success and I will do my best to not undermine the "team". I make this promise to teach my child by example because the success of my child's team and my child's gym matters to me!"

Signature Required: _____ Date: _____

Showtime Athlete Promise:

"I promise to cheer for and encourage all other athletes, and celebrate their successes as I would want them to celebrate mine. I promise to celebrate my own achievements without comparison to other athletes, since we all play our own uniquely important roles. I will strive to avoid gossip and do my best to speak positively about all athletes, coaches, and our program. I promise to do my best to remember that I am not the coach. If I have a question I will ask before I create my own perception. I promise to set a good example for myself and other athletes. I understand that my success is also related to the program's success and I will do my best to not undermine the "program". I make this promise because the success of my gym matters to me!"

Signature Required: _____ Date: _____

Showtime Coach Promise:

"I promise to cheer for and encourage all athletes equally, and celebrate their success, no matter how large or small. I promise to celebrate our athletes without comparison to other athletes, because we know that each child is important and has a role that only that child can fill. I will strive to avoid gossip and do my best to speak positively about all athletes, their parents, coaches, and our program. I promise to do my best to continue to grow and learn to make myself the best coach I can be. If I have a question I will ask before I create my own perception. I promise to set a good example for all of our athletes and other coaches. I make this promise because the success of my gym matters to me!"

HANDBOOK AGREEMENT FORM

Please print, initial and return with your athlete to their first practice

please initial each line

_____ I agree to & understand the absence policy / sick-injured policy that is stated in this handbook.

_____ I agree to & understand the tuition prices / payment policy. If I have not paid my tuition by the 10th of the month I will be charged a \$35 late fee.

_____ I understand the consequences of late payments, and that my child may not be allowed to participate if our account is not current.

_____ I understand the NSF Check policy.

_____ I understand that tuition will not be pro-rated for any reason.

_____ I understand the additional fees / what they are for, & I agree to pay them by the due date.

_____ I understand the consequence of quitting or being dismissed from the program, the failure to fulfill commitment and re-entry fees.

_____ I understand that if I have a balance on my account when uniforms come in that I will not be permitted to receive my uniform.

_____ I understand that if I have a balance on my account before post-season events that I will not be permitted to attend.

_____ I agree to and will abide by the "Showtime Parent Promise" and "Showtime Athlete Promise" statements.

_____ I agree to and will abide by this handbook and all Showtime Elite Chambersburg policies that are included in it.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Athlete Signature: _____ Date: _____