



**SHOWTIME ELITE CHAMBERSBURG**

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



## **The Showtime Philosophy**

Over the last three 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. 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 additional 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. Life lessons such as work ethic, responsibility, accountability and teamwork help build character. The hours, weeks, months, even years of work that go into improving stunts, tumbling, jumps, and motions will improve their fitness, skills and success on the mat, but more importantly, athletes learn about sportsmanship, working together towards goals, and the determination and perseverance needed to be successful in their life after they hang up their cheer shoes.

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 capable of performing the "elite level appropriate" skills. 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.

### **This might not be the program for you, and that's okay.**

While we want our doors to be open to everyone who wants to be a part of the program, we realize that we are not always the best fit for certain individuals, families and situations. We have created a high profile name for ourselves within the industry, and want to ensure that we uphold the standard that we have set, which means we expect a high level of commitment and dedication from our athletes and their families. That does NOT mean we expect them to win at every event, never make mistakes or never have bad days. We DO expect our athletes to give 100% when they are in our facility, while recognizing that their 100% on some days may be different than their 100% on others. As parents, our expectation is that you allow your athletes to set their own goals, be realistic of what they want to achieve in their timeline, allow your child to progress on their own timeline and allow that goal to be fluid (it's okay if they change their end goal!). We also ask that you respect our staff, facility, your athlete's teammates and their families — that means using the proper communication methods, being honest, only distributing fact-checked information, making timely payments, following directions, understanding our schedules as well as the policies that we have in place and allowing the staff to make decisions that are best for the program/team, not one particular athlete. It is important to remember that one person does not make the team successful, but one person can bring a team crumbling down. Please be fully aware of the commitment you are making by joining our program.

## GENERAL TEAM PROGRAM RULES AND EXPECTATIONS

Treat all of the staff with respect. This includes in your conversation about staff, not just to them.

All conversations in and around the gym and events must be respectful, truthful, positive, and should not involve athletes, coaches or their families.

No one is permitted to yell onto the floor or try to approach coaches or athletes during practices or classes. Please do not open the doors to the gym to communicate with the athletes or coaches during practice unless it is an important timely matter.

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. **Please note, if you believe there to be someone acting in poor representation, you are free to bring that to the coaching staff, but it is not within a parent's place to decide what is or is not poor representation by another athlete and reprimand them.**

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 may be asked to leave the Showtime Elite program immediately. This includes speaking poorly about other program members/families, teams and/or coaches. 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.

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 late 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: April 22

Placements: May 21 - May 25 (Sunday - Thursday)

Practices begin: **Monday, June 5**

July 4th: July 4 - July 5 (Tuesday - Wednesday ONLY)

Team Break: July 23 - August 6 (Sunday - Sunday; practice resumes MONDAY, August 7)

Fall Schedule Begins: **Sunday, September 10**

Thanksgiving Break: November 22-25 (Wednesday-Saturday; practice resumes SUNDAY)

Christmas Break: December 24 - January 1 (Sunday - Monday; practice resumes TUESDAY)

**\*\*Teams reserve the right to schedule practices during the break\*\***

Easter Break: March 31 (SUNDAY ONLY)

## **Other Important Dates -**

Choreography - July 7-10 (Team specific times and dates TBD)

Showcase - November 12th

Clean Up - TBD based on competition schedule, likely in February

Program Photos - TBD based on competition schedule, likely mid-February

## **Competition Schedule -**

While Event Producers finish updating their schedules, we are still awaiting finalizing our schedule. Some events that we are considering include Champion Cheer & Dance Grand Nationals in Baltimore, MD, Reach The Beach in OCMD and one of the following: Spirit of Hope in Charlotte, NC, Jamfest Super Nationals in Indianapolis, or Cheersport Nationals in Atlanta, GA.

Non-Summit/Worlds track teams can expect to attend 4-5 "in-season" events, plus "post-season" competitions (Regional Summit & US Finals), provided they have earned a qualifying bid.

Summit/Worlds track teams can expect to attend 6-7 "in-season" events. They will also attend "post-season" events. Junior & older teams will compete with the intention of earning a bid to The Summit in Orlando, Florida, but should also expect to attend a Regional Summit event as well. Senior/Open level 6 teams will compete with the intention of earning a bid to The Cheerleading Worlds in Orlando, Florida.

The competition schedule will be finalized no later than mid-summer, but we reserve the right to make adjustments when/if necessary.

## Placements -

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). All of these aspects are critical to creating successful teams. Athletes and parents can not “challenge” placements, at any point throughout the season.

## Team Practices & Absence Policy -

In order to remain competitive at national level, 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 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. **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.** Remember, a team can only be successful if all members are there and work together.

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 during those weeks, 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.

### 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**

**EXCUSED ABSENCES (Still contact team coach prior to absence)**

- Serious illness (with a doctors note)/ Family emergencies
- Vacation during **summer**
- Legal custody arrangements that are out of the area

### UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

- Traffic/ Don't have a ride/ Car Problems
- 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)

## Communication -

Our primary source of communication is through the app, "Band." We have one band for the gym, and each team has their own respective "chat". Chances are, if you have a question, the answer is somewhere in Band. 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 Stage Manager. 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.*

## Parent/Athlete Meetings -

Education of the sport is essential to understanding decisions, the growth of our sport and the program and is something that our coaches are very passionate about. Coaches will be holding 2 "conferences" with each athlete and their parent throughout the season. The first will be in the fall. This will be a chance for athletes and coaches to discuss how the start of their season has been going, what goals they have for the competition season, etc. The second meeting will be held at the end of the season to evaluate how their season has gone, discuss current skills, set goals for tryouts and begin to set expectations for where the athlete could be reasonably placed the following season. Coaches retain the right to hold additional parent/athlete meetings at any time during the season for any reason.

## Costs & Fundraising -

All-Star Cheerleading is 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.

## Showtime Stage Crew-

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).**

## **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—they are the reason we exist as a sport, separate from sideline cheerleading. 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.

## **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. If this is not paid by their first practice, they will not be permitted to practice with the team.

## **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.

## **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.

## **Crossovers -**

Being a crossover is first and foremost the discretion of the team coaches. Not everyone who wants to be a crossover will be selected if there is not a role that would be beneficial for them on more than one team. If you and your athlete elect to be a crossover, you will be required to pay an additional competition fee (determined by the EPs) and an additional \$50 per month in tuition. If you choose to crossover, it is expected that your child will treat each team with the same level of dedication, commitment and work ethic. Crossover competition fees are to be paid prior to February 1.

## **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.\*

## **Post Season Fees -**

Post season fees cover additional expenses that are incurred by a team qualifying to an event. There are several parts to these fees. The first part is the cost of the event itself. This cost is based on the tier of bid that is received. The second part is coaches fees. All events require some form of travel and coaches must be paid for the hours they are working. Some events also require housing accommodations. While it is always our expectation that a team finishes their season at a post-season event, these fees are not determined until after bids are received to determine which event they will attend, arrangements are made, and estimates on hours worked can be calculated. Summit/Worlds teams also receive a special set of practice wear for their practice at these events, which is the final part to consider. These fees are not billed until closer to the time of the post-season event; depending on the team, distance of travel, length of event, accommodations needed, number of coaches, and type of bids earned they can range from \$20-\$250 dollars. \*\*The gym reserves the right to bill this fee differently per team, or equally across all athletes attending the same event based on that seasons crossover & coaching utilization\*\*

## **Practice Wear -**

All athletes will be required to purchase one practice wear sports bra. 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. You may practice in any cheer shoe, but to compete, please purchase BLACK cheer shoes (any brand, as long as they are all black—if there are other colors, please seek approval from the coaches before purchasing).

## **Stage Manager -**

Each team will have one parent "Stage Manager" that will be an extra point of contact and liaison between the coaches and the parents and athletes. Your Stage Manager is in charge of meeting the team at competitions, handing out necessary wristbands and assisting with team functions and communication. Stage managers are not involved in gym decisions, coaching or accounting issues. Stage Managers DO assist in being the first POC for questions regarding team specific information that is not a "coaching" decision. **Please do not use your Stage Manager 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. Please note, Stage managers will need go through the USASF background check by the end of October.**



## **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. If your athlete will be 18 years old at any point during the season, they have an additional fee and must also go through the USASF background check as an adult athlete. Please ensure that you allot extra time prior to the roster locking so their background check can be completed.

## **Junior Coaches -**

Junior Coaches are a vital part of our program. Athletes who are 14 years old when the season begins are eligible to be considered to be a part of our Junior Coaching staff. As they gain experience and get older, they are able to explore roles such as class coaches, full-year team coaches, private lessons, etc. Please note, our pull of Junior Coaches (athletes who are NOT in college or older) will come first and foremost from our competitive athletes. If there is still a need for Junior Coaches for other positions once those roles have been fulfilled, we can elect to pull from non/former athletes based on their previous experience and availability.

## **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.

\*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.

\*Payments will be made to the oldest outstanding invoice on account.

**\*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 for any remainder of balance.

\*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

### **Elite/Summit/Worlds Track - Itemized Pricing**

Tuition: \$120 per month, billed June-May

Membership Fee: \$50

Choreography & Music: \$450

Competition Fees: \$900

Practice wear: \$100

Uniform: \$550\* (New members only)

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

### **SUMMIT TRACK PAYMENT SCHEDULE**

Due June 1 -

\$200 Commitment fee + \$120 June Tuition

Due July 1 -

\$450 Package 1 + July Tuition

Due August 1 -

August Tuition + Uniform payment if new member

Due September 1 -

\$425 Package 2 + September Tuition

Due October 1 -

October Tuition + \$49 USASF Membership \*\*Only tuition goes to gym, other payments are due to those organizations\*\*

Due November 1 -

\$425 Package 3 + November Tuition

Due December 1 - April 1 - Monthly Tuition

**\*\*POST SEASON PAYMENTS MAY BE DUE UPON RECEIVING BID\*\***

**\*\*ALL INCLUSIVE RATE OPTION AVAILABLE\*\***

**Tiny/Mini/Prep Track - Itemized Pricing**

Tuition: \$95 per month, billed June-April

Membership Fee: \$50

Choreography & Music: \$275

Competition Fees: \$600

Practice wear: \$100

Uniform: \$550\* (Youth Elite/Junior/Senior)/ \$350\* (Tiny/Mini/Prep) (New members only)

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

**NON SUMMIT TRACK PAYMENT SCHEDULE**

Due June 1 -

\$200 Commitment fee + \$95 June Tuition

Due July 1 -

\$300 Package 1 + July Tuition

Due August 1 -

August Tuition + Uniform payment if new member

Due September 1 -

\$275 Package 2 + September Tuition

Due October 1 -

October Tuition + \$49 USASF Membership \*\*Only tuition goes to gym, other payments are due to those organizations\*\*

Due November 1 -

\$250 Package 3 + November Tuition

Due December 1 - April 1 - Monthly Tuition

**\*\*POST SEASON PAYMENTS MAY BE DUE UPON RECEIVING BID\*\***

**\*\*ALL INCLUSIVE RATE OPTION AVAILABLE\*\***