

## **Practice Attendance Policy**

### **Summer Session Practices**

- Practice attendance is critical to your athlete's progress and integral to the success of the team.

Athletes should attend practices and classes during the summer session in order to prepare themselves for their individual routine obligations and for team bonding.

- Gulf Coast Elite recognizes that athletes value the summer break; therefore, summer practices will accommodate family vacations, summer sports, church trips, summer camps, etc.

Athletes must turn in the Absent Request form, in order to be excused for the summer. \*Please note that there are no make-up classes for time missed.

- You are expected to be in practice if you are in town. Please realize teams will be practicing and stunt groups forming. If you miss excessive summer practices it may affect your team placement in August.

### **Competition Season Practices**

- The "Competition Season" begins August 2018 and ends April 2019. Choreography will be in August and will be mandatory.
- Practice attendance is absolutely mandatory and compliance with the attendance policy will be strictly enforced. An athlete's team position will be jeopardized for noncompliance with all the attendance policies.
- If an athlete is absent from practice for any reason, whether excused or unexcused, he or she is responsible for learning all routine changes made prior to the next practice.
- Practices may be changed or added at any time throughout the year. A two-week notice is guaranteed for all mandatory practices. Parents must check emails, social media, team calendars and the GCE website regularly for updates.

## **Absences Defined**

### **Excused Absences**

Approved absences that have been scheduled on the planning calendar and fit the following:

- a. School functions that result in a grade.
- b. School-sponsored cheerleading events.
  - o School-sponsored cheerleading happens at the school! Extra tryout help at another gym or location does not count as school sponsored cheerleading.
  - o The All-Star Director or Owner has ultimate discretionary authority to excuse absences on a case-by-case basis. (Please note that continued absences may result in changes in routine positions and rosters. Attendance is necessary for success!)

### **Unexcused Absences**

All other absences that do not meet the above allowances are unexcused. Examples include:

o Academics: Academics are a high priority and Gulf Coast Elite stresses the importance of education; however, homework, projects, and studying are unexcused absences. Proper time management is expected so that the athlete can complete his/her academic work and fully participate in the GCE.

o Extra-Curricular Activities and Jobs: Extracurricular activities and jobs need to be scheduled around the commitment to GCE cheer program.

o Church: Church is an understood priority at GCE, and with many of our families. We try to schedule around the most common times; however, absences related to youth groups, retreats, etc., will be unexcused.

Illness, Injury or Family Emergency

Illness: Athletes are expected to be at practice unless they have a fever as fever can mean that an athlete is contagious. Practice participation will be situation-based and at the coach's discretion. A doctor's note listing the treatment and length of recovery is required.

Injury: In the event that an athlete is injured, you should notify your coach immediately.

Please provide a doctor's note with information details concerning the prognosis, recovery time, and any change in circumstance affecting their ability to perform. We will re-choreograph routines based on the athlete's injury and length of recovery. It is not guaranteed that an athlete will be choreographed back into the routine upon recovery. Injured athletes must continue with payment in full.

Unexpected/Family Emergency: Contact your All-Star Director, team coach/ team rep.

**Absence Allowances and Protocol**

1. 24-hour notice is required for the coach to plan accordingly. No exceptions!
2. Athletes are only allowed three (3) unexcused absences during competition season. Competition season begins on the first week of the September schedule.
3. After (3) unexcused absences, a mandatory meeting with your All-Star Director will be set. Your athlete will sit out of practice until the meeting takes place.
4. When athletes reach (3) unexcused absences, he/she may be placed as an alternate, removed from choreography and/or removed entirely from the team.
5. Unexcused absences are NEVER allowed the (2) weeks (Mon.-Sat.) prior to a competition. If an athlete is absent, he/she will be removed from the routine for that event.
6. Missing a competition without prior notice, and/or approval, will result in immediate dismissal from the program.

I understand and agree to the practice policies of GCE.

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Parent Signature

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Date: