



## PARENT / ATHLETE PROGRAM POLICIES

- ★ If you need assistance or answers to anything, please contact us!
- ★ We are committed to you and your athlete and we will do our best to provide the best customer service & communication. Your cooperation and understanding are always appreciated.
- ★ Do not make assumptions about anything. Always ask.
- ★ Attitude is everything. If an athlete has a foul attitude, we will move him/ her to a non-competitive program, such as a class, until improvements are made. Until then, a replacement will be put in position.
- ★ All cell phones must be turned off and PUT AWAY once practice starts. We reserve the right to collect phones at the beginning of practice if use of phones during breaks becomes an issue.
- ★ All clothing and belongings must be stored in the gym cubbies, not thrown on the floor.
- ★ Do not bring items of value to the gym. Desert Elite is not responsible for lost or stolen items.
  
- ★ Siblings of athletes cannot come inside the gym and watch practice unattended. An adult in the viewing room must supervise them. ***Please do not drop off any athlete or their sibling more than 15 minutes early or pick up late.*** We are NOT a babysitting service. *A fee will be charged for every 15 minutes, that an athlete is not picked up after practice after being warned the first time.*
  
- ★ You cannot create or sell your own Desert Elite Mavericks clothing. Our name and LOGO is our property. All ideas for apparel must be emailed and approved by the program director (Amy Grey).
- ★ The only people allowed in the gym are staff members and athletes that are on the team rosters or are trying out for a position on the team. Parents, friends, relatives and siblings must remain in the viewing room or lobby.
- ★ **Anyone threatening to quit will be asked to leave immediately. No refund will be given.**
- ★ Please understand that decisions about practice and routines are made in the best interest of the TEAM and the staff makes those decisions – not any parent.
- ★ Do NOT gossip about other teams, parents, other gyms or kids. **Again, if you have a questions. ASK, rather than listen to nonsense or engage in irresponsible conduct.**
- ★ It is the parent's AND athlete's responsibility to stay informed. Check your email, Remind texts, Group me, Desert Elite private Facebook page, your regular texts, etc. regularly. If you aren't receiving emails, contact the Program Director ASAP. Every weekend, you will receive a weekly memo. Team Reps will also be emailing and texting via Remind as needed.
- ★ Shoes MUST be worn at practice.
- ★ Planned vacations and/or absences must be submitted to the office **by June 10<sup>th</sup>**. Please notify of any scheduled absence (school-related, family-related) **at least two-weeks in advance** if possible.
- ★ Practices will be CLOSED. Prior to events, we *may* open the viewing room and/or invite parents to watch.
- ★ Withholding your child from practice cannot be used as a form of discipline. This is unfair to the rest of the team.
- ★ Do not post negative comments, routines, or music on message boards, YouTube or any website without approval from the Program Director. Negative comments (direct or subtle) will not be tolerated and may be reason for dismissal.
- ★ Always exhibit good sportsmanship, positive conduct, and professionalism at all competitions, events, and practices.
  
- ★ Punctuality is a MUST. Arrive *early* to all practices, competitions, and functions. FEES will apply to those that remain chronically late after the first warning.
- ★ Practice schedules CAN change. We will add or cancel practices before a competition – depending on the event. Practices can also be extended or run late occasionally. Your cooperation is appreciated.
  - Members are expected to bring their own water bottles. NO gum allowed. Please pick up after yourself.
- ★ Remove all body piercings or non-stud earrings. This is non-negotiable. This is a safety issue!
- ★ Feel free to talk to your coach about anything. We want to make sure the line of communication is open. However, there is an appropriate time. Email or call the gym to make an appointment. Please do NOT

approach a coach during any practice, event, or competition as their focus is on the team during that time.

## COMMITMENT

All-Star cheerleading is a YEAR-ROUND, team sport. When signing your paperwork, you are stating that both you and your athlete are making both the time and financial commitment. Athletes are expected to be on time and present to all practices, events, and competitions. Your commitment may also include additional classes or privates to further or fine-tune individual skills.

**ALL forms and commitment paperwork must be returned completed and signed by JUNE 1<sup>st</sup>. NO exceptions. A late penalty will apply, and NO athlete will be permitted to continue practicing without a contract on file.**

## COMMUNICATION

As a parent, you will receive information in several ways, such as weekly emails from the gym director and other emails/texts from your Team Coach(es) or Team Rep. Team Reps will be using the Remind app for texting. Please join and check the private Desert Elite Facebook page and your athlete's team page. Please EMAIL us or provide WRITTEN notification of planned absences **at least two weeks in advance** of the dates if possible.

## FEES

- A schedule of payments is listed at the end of this document. **All monthly fees and/or payments are due on either the 1<sup>st</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.** Statements will be emailed upon request. Please keep all copies of paperwork and receipts in the event of a question or a discrepancy. Please make all checks payable to Desert Elite Mavericks.
- **A late fee of \$25 will be assessed for all payments made after the 5th.** All other fees are due on the exact due date. You may pay by cash, check, credit card, or money order. All credit card transactions are subject to a 2.5% user fee. Parents and responsible adults will be asked to sign a financial agreement. Each person signing the agreement will be responsible for keeping his/her child's account current. Please make all checks payable to Desert Elite Mavericks. Returned checks will be charged a \$25 fee.
- There are **NO REFUNDS** on tuition, missed/cancelled practices/classes. We add additional practices throughout the year and DO NOT ask for additional fees, so there is no proration for any change in schedule.
- Tuition, Choreography, Uniform/Supplies, and Competition Fees are **NON-REFUNDABLE**.
- **Formal uniform and warm-ups will be ordered and paid directly to Varsity. No payment = no ordered items.**
- Leaving the team before the end of the contract year will result in a withdrawal fee: **\$150 before choreography and \$600 after choreography is taught (this is IN ADDITION to any music/choreography fees that have been paid).**
- **There is NO financial benefit gained from leaving the program early.** Any balance must be paid upon termination. Failure to pay will result in account being sent to collections and/or small claims court action.
- **Any athlete's account that remains past due by the end of the season, will NOT be allowed to participate in post-season events such as the D2 Summit or be permitted to continue into the new season until the account is brought current and all necessary deposits and/or start-up fees are paid in full. Failure to pay balance WILL result in further collection action and/or court action.**

## FUNDRAISING

Different fundraisers will be presented throughout the year. Your fundraising profits will be directly posted to your account. This involves extra work outside of cheer. However, we have seen people pay for their whole year through fundraising! Information will be sent home via email and posted on Facebook. Everyone is strongly encouraged to participate. Any SURPLUS of credits from FUNDRAISERS can be applied towards Desert Elite classes, teams, and merchandise. Any team that receives a PAID BID to the post-season D2 Summit should not expect fundraising as the large majority of the event is covered by the bid. **Fundraised money can NEVER be refunded. This includes sponsorships.**

## TEAM PLACEMENT

All athletes are placed on a team at the discretion of the coaches. Age, experience, and ability 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 is a staff decision and NOT a parent decision.

## PRACTICES

There is a lobby area designated for all parents/friends. Parents/friends are asked to stay in that designated area and not come into training area. Parents are also encouraged and welcome to drop-off and pick-up athlete. We want your child to get the most out of every practice - for this to happen, we need their full attention. If there are distractions, the whole team is affected and may also become a safety issue. If a parent or anyone is observed speaking negatively about a team, coach, parent, or athlete he/she will be talked to and/or asked to leave. If this kind of behavior continues to be an issue,

the child will have to be removed from the team. If a parent verbally assaults or threatens a student, coach or parent, the family will be dismissed from the program.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

All transportation/accommodations to practices, events, and competitions are solely the responsibility of each family. We will make every effort to provide information in a timely manner. However, if a competition is cancelled or rescheduled, Desert Elite will not be responsible for reimbursement for any reason. Members will be expected to travel in the required attire and remain in uniform unless otherwise told at all competitions and/or events.

## **TRAVEL/COMPETITIONS**

During the competition season, athletes will be asked to travel. Some athletes will travel to national events out of the state. Transportation to competitions is the responsibility of each team member and his/her family. All Team members will be required to wear Desert Elite Mavericks clothing to each function. Uniforms articles should be packed neatly into your carry-on/team bag. Since events that we attend may be "Stay to Play", ALL members are expected to stay within arranged hotel room blocks or go through the housing organization required by the event producers (usually found on the event producer's website). ALL team members are expected to stay at the events (local and out of the area) until after awards and they have been released by their coaches.

## **PARENTAL SUPPORT**

Your dedication and support are just as important to us as it is to your child. We encourage all parents to sit together and support all Desert Elite teams. Parents are also encouraged to show support by wearing Desert Elite colors or clothing to competitions. Showing respect for the coaching staff, other teams, and hosting organizations is expected, as you are there representing Desert Elite Mavericks and your child. Please understand that it is never the place of the parent to question or approach judges or event staff regarding anything relating to our team registration or performances. Questions should be directed ONLY to the Gym Director. We will deal with your concerns with the organizations. Please do not make assumptions on anything. Always ASK rather than assume or accuse. Accusations will not be taken lightly and are subject to investigation. If the accusation is found to be false, that athlete and family may be asked to leave the program.

## **MORAL CONDUCT**

Athletes are expected to take care of themselves through proper nutrition, exercise, and sleep. The Desert Elite prohibits the use of alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs. While the Desert Elite cannot dictate your behavior and conduct "off-hours", negative conduct will not be allowed to taint the reputation of the program and its members. You are expected to use caution in your use of any social media and represent yourself in a positive manner.

## **UNIFORMS & ATTIRE**

We ask that our athletes wear the designated practice attire to practices. The first practice of the week should be black bra top and spunks, the second practice of the week will be the Mavericks team practice attire. This provides for uniformity at practices and/or events and helps keep out-of-pocket expenses down for parents in that they will not need to buy extra, unneeded items. Athletes should be covered up to and from the gym. Please put your athlete's name on items and keep all Desert Elite Mavericks clothing, warm-ups, and uniform in good condition. Please report any lost or damaged uniform items to your coach. The cost of replacement will be the responsibility of the athlete. NO jewelry to practice. Desert Elite Mavericks assumes NO responsibility for lost jewelry, clothing items, bows, or any valuables. Hair should be up, out of the face, in a high ponytail with a bow.

## **DISCIPLINE**

If any of the above rules are compromised, the following actions will occur:

- 1st Violation: A meeting with the athlete defining the problem.
- 2nd Violation: A meeting with the athlete & the parent(s).
- 3rd Violation: The athlete may be suspended and/or removed from the team or entire program.

## **INJURIES**

If an injury should occur, it is the responsibility of the parent to seek professional help. Each athlete must have his/her own medical insurance. After seeing a physician, please provide Desert Elite with an evaluation of the athlete's injury/ status. A release from a doctor is required if a serious injury should occur or require them to not participate for more than three practices. Please provide a doctor's note for any injury that prevents full participation.

## **TARDIES**

**DON'T BE LATE**, please. If you are, please CALL. If an athlete is more than ten minutes late: First tardy – warning. Second tardy – athlete will run two extra walls or laps and parent will be notified.

Third tardy – a \$25 fee will be charged.  
Fourth tardy – stay after practice 15 minutes to condition.  
Excessive tardiness may result in being removed from a competition.

## ABSENCES

Attendance is crucial to team success. An “absent request” form must be filled out prior to any planned missed practice. NO-SHOW, NO-CALL absence = \$25 fine. **No practice can be missed the TWO WEEKS prior to any competition.** Excessive absences may result in team reassignment or removal from the program. If an athlete is absent for three or more practices, a doctor’s note is required. Any athlete that is also a member of their school cheer team or another team or activity that may conflict is required to turn in a schedule of games/events to the office.

## EXCUSED ABSENCES

- Contagious illness
- School function that affects grade (please let us know IN ADVANCE)
- Family emergencies
- Vacation during summer – *provide dates by June 10<sup>th</sup>.*
- School cheer events - *but we ask for consideration in return prior to our events.*
- Special event when cleared in advance by gym staff – *at least ONE MONTH in advance for planning purposes.*

## UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

- School dance, prom, and senior events
- Traffic
- Too much homework
- Feeling tired
- Not having a ride
- Babysitting a sibling
- Non-contagious illness (*athlete may come and “sit out”*)
- Injuries that prevent participation – you’re still a member of the team!
- Parental punishment
- Any appointment that can be made outside of practice times
- Jobs that should be scheduled outside of regular practice times

## VACATIONS

Vacations are NOT permitted during competition season (mid-November to early May), unless the gym is closed, and the athlete has already cleared it with their coaches at least two weeks in advance. Please provide dates by **June 10<sup>th</sup>.**

## GYM CLOSURES – subject to change with notice.

Fourth of July

Mid-Summer Break: July 9-13

Labor Day Weekend: September 1-3

Thanksgiving Break: November 21-25

Christmas Break: December 22 – January 1

***\*On other “school-holidays” during the season, there will be the regular gym schedule.***

## OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:

Level 3 & 4 choreography – Friday, June 29 through Sunday, July 1<sup>st</sup>

Level 1 & 2 choreography – Monday, July 30 through Thursday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Fall Showcase at RMHS –Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>

First competition of the season – Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup>

Holiday Cheer Party – Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>

Team pictures: the week after Spirit Sports

Spring Showcase at RMHS – Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup>

End of the Year Luncheon & Awards – late April/early May – TBA – dependent on D2 Summit

## WHAT IS A TEAM REP?

A Team Rep is a parent who is the liaison between the coach and the parents. There will be one rep per team. The rep

is responsible for meeting the team at competitions, handing out wristbands/shoe tags, and assisting with team functions, and communication. Team Reps are not involved in gym decisions, coaching, or accounting issues. Please remember that the Team Rep is only doing what is being asked of them by staff, so please respect them. Problems should be taken up with the Program Director.

**RETURNING MEMBER INCENTIVE:**

A \$50 referral fee will be credited to your account for each NEW or previous member athlete that you bring to Desert Elite who joins the team program. The new member/family must reference you for you to receive credit and they must join the team program for the entire year. Credit will be applied after their second month of membership.

**Approximate FEES FOR THE 2018-2019 SEASON:**

Evaluation week – May 1-4.....	\$ 35
Annual gym registration (per family) .....	\$ 50
Annual USASF fee.....	\$ 40
Returning member monthly tuition (all-stars) .....	\$ 145
New member monthly tuition (all-stars) .....	\$ 165
Prep team monthly tuition.....	\$ 75
FUNDamentals rec cheer class monthly .....	\$ 50
Unlimited Tumbling class monthly tuition (Maverick).....	\$ an additional 40 (or \$10 drop-in per class)

**\*First month tuition is due the first week of practices.  
Annual fees are due by the end of the first month or before.**

\*Uniform & Supplies (varies according to returning or not).....\$600-750

*Mavericks practice attire – June*

*Athlete will be expected to have an all-black bra top & spanks as well*

**NEW uniforms for SENIOR teams this year! You will have an opportunity to re-sell your current uniform.**

*Formal uniform & warm-ups paid through Varsity Payment Portal – early August*

*\*Second-hand uniforms will be available for half the cost.*

*Program & Team T-shirts & bows – early October*

*Nfinity shoes order with Amy, direct to Nfinity (before start of season).*

Choreography & Music (*includes upgrades throughout season*)...\$400

*- Deposit of \$100 due when practices begin, and balances are due by or before choreography.*

Competition fees (varies with level and age) ..... \$600-1,200

*- Specific amount will be announced by June 15<sup>th</sup> once schedule is set.*

*- Installments will begin in October and end in March.*

*- Payment can be made in full.*

*\*Costs are tentative and may be adjusted as needed.*

**OTHER FEES:**

*Late fee (tuition or scheduled payment) ..... \$25 (\$50 if after 30 days late)*

*Returned check fee..... \$25*

*No-Show, No-Call absence..... \$25 (\$50 after the third No-show)*

*Tardy..... \$25*

*Late pick-up (after 15 minutes) ..... \$15 for every 15 minutes*

- LEVEL-Pay is available upon request and will be an average monthly payment that includes all yearly costs. A final settlement amount may be required and depend upon additional costs incurred.

- Payments can be cash or check. Credit cards are accepted, but there is a 2.5% user fee.
- Cashier's check, money order, or cash may be required on any account that writes bad checks.
- FUNDRAISING can be done to help offset any costs of participation including competitions, classes, tuition, and supplies.