



## PARENT & ATHLETE PROGRAM POLICIES

*Welcome to the Desert Elite!* We're excited to begin a new season of great experiences and wonderful memories. First and foremost, **please make sure that you READ all parts of this packet**, so that you are completely informed. If you need assistance or answers to anything, please feel free to ask or contact us!

Since 1997, our goal has been to create well-rounded, all-star cheerleaders, as well as provide valuable life lessons through dedication, self-discipline, goal-setting, and team work. We are committed to you and your athlete and we will do our best to provide the best experience we can!

*A few important points, first, since* our time with our athletes is extremely valuable, punctuality is a MUST. Arrive *early* to all practices, competitions, and functions – ready. If you know you're going to be late, call and/or text. One of our key values is dedication and it begins with being on time and continues with a strong work ethic, and positive “coachable” attitude.

*Second,* we will always do our best to keep a regular schedule and inform you of any changes in advance, but please know that practice schedules CAN change. We may add or cancel practices before a competition – depending on the event and situations that arise. Practices can also be extended or may run late. The two weeks before any showcase or competition are VITAL and will always be *mandatory attendance*.

*Finally,* feel free to talk to your coach or program director about anything. We want to make sure the line of communication is always open. However, there is an appropriate time. Please do NOT approach a coach during any practice, event, or competition as their focus is on the team during that time. It's always best to go right to the source when it comes to your athlete's progress or things related to their participation.

Please know that we appreciate and value our “team” behind the teams – the parents! Thank you in advance for your continued support and dedication to the sport we love and to the Desert Elite!

### **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 scheduled competitions. Your commitment may also include additional classes or privates to further or fine-tune individual skills. *Failure to show at a scheduled competition will result in suspension and/or removal, as well as financial penalty of \$600 in cases of dismissal.*

✓ **ALL forms and commitment paperwork must be returned completed and signed and turned into the gym office before or by the first practice of the new season. NO exceptions.**

### **COMMUNICATION**

It is the parent's AND athlete's responsibility to stay informed. Check your email, Remind texts, Group me, Desert Elite program & team 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.

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 family absences **at least two weeks in advance** of the dates if possible. For any school-related events or activities, we ask that you inform us well in-advance of any necessary absence.

✓ **Planned summer vacations and/or absences must be submitted to the office by June 10<sup>th</sup>**

## FEES

A schedule of payments is listed at the end of this document. 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

- **Monthly tuition is due the first week of every month. A late fee of \$25 will be assessed for tuition payments made after the first week of the month.** Payment can be made with cash, check, credit card, money order, or through Venmo (@DE-Mavericks). All credit card transactions are subject to a 2.5% user fee. Returned checks will be charged a \$25 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.
- 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.

## FUNDRAISING

Different fundraisers will be offered throughout the year, beginning with our t-shirt sponsorship drive in the spring, summer, and early fall. Our program has participated in working the concerts at the San Manuel Amphitheater for the past four years. The concerts require training through Legends, getting your San Bernardino Food Handler's license, and working events through the late spring, summer, and early fall. It's a great way to pay for your athlete's competition fees and more, as well as meet and get to know other cheer parents. Any fundraising profits earned will be directly posted to your athlete's gym account. Information will be sent home via email and posted on Facebook requiring any fundraiser scheduled. Everyone is strongly encouraged to participate, but it is not required. **Fundraised and/or sponsor money can NEVER be refunded.**

## TEAM PLACEMENT

All athletes are placed on a team at the discretion of the coaches based on areas such as jumps, stunting, tumbling, and performance ability. Other things such as age, experience, maturity, coachability, and readiness 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 due to liability. Practices will be CLOSED. Prior to competitions and the first week of the month, we *may* open the viewing room blinds and/or invite parents to watch.

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.

## **PRACTICES continued....**

### **REMINDERS:**

- ✓ Shoes **MUST** be worn at practice. Appropriate and designed attire is expected & hair should be up.
- ✓ 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 during practice or water breaks.
- ✓ Please use the cubbies to store your bag, etc.
- ✓ Do not bring items of value to the gym. Desert Elite is not responsible for lost or stolen items.
- ✓ Members are expected to bring their own water bottles.
- ✓ NO gum allowed.
- ✓ Please pick up after yourself.

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. In addition, withholding your child from practice should not be used as a form of discipline. Being a member of our program is a commitment and a responsibility, not to mention it is unfair to the rest of the team.

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 another parent, the athlete and family will be dismissed from the program.

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.***

## **TRANSPORTATION & TRAVEL**

All transportation/accommodations to practices, events, and competitions are solely the responsibility of each family. We highly recommend parents working with one another in carpools and making sure athletes get to all practices and events.

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 during flights. 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).

## **COMPETITIONS**

We will make every effort to provide event information (meet times, spectator fees, etc.) as we receive it – usually at least one week before. The schedule of competitions is always *subject to change with notice*. However, if a competition is cancelled or rescheduled, Desert Elite will not be responsible for reimbursement of anything, for any reason. Athletes are expected to arrive ready in their uniform with both hair and makeup done by their designated meet time. ALL team members are expected to stay at the events (local and out of the area) until after their awards and they have been released by their coaches. *Failure to show at a scheduled competition will result in suspension and/or removal, as well as financial penalty of \$600 in cases of dismissal.*

The removal of body piercings (ears, etc.) during competitions and performances is **REQUIRED** by USASF. This is non-negotiable. This is a safety issue and will result in safety violation deduction. Our Mavericks should always exhibit good sportsmanship, positive conduct, and professionalism at all competitions and events.

## **PARENT EXPECTATIONS**

Your dedication and support both in and out of the gym are just as important to us as it is to your child. It is important that your athlete is on time and present to all practices, events, and competitions. Failure to

communicate may result in negative consequences such as fines, sidelining, and/or removal.

### **PARENT EXPECTATIONS continued...**

We encourage all parents to sit together at events 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 the 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.

Do **NOT** gossip about other teams, parents, other gyms or kids. Again, if you have questions. **ASK**, rather than listen to nonsense or engage in irresponsible conduct.

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 will be addressed immediately. Continued issues will be cause for dismissal.**

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. 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. Please avoid wearing 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.

The decision about hair and makeup will be made by the staff and will be *subject to change* with notice. Please make sure that your athlete is following the directions regarding the look that is expected for competitions and **READY** when they arrive at the designated meet time.

### **DISCIPLINE**

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

- 1st Violation: A meeting with the athlete and coach/director 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. **Injured and sidelined athletes ARE expected to attend practices and sit out until they can**

**return to full activity.**

## **TARDIES**

DON'T BE LATE, please. If you are, please TEXT or 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 and additional tardies – a \$25 fee will be charged.

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 absence. NO-SHOW, NO-CALL absence = \$25 fine. **No practice can be missed the TWO WEEKS prior to any competition.**

Excessive absences may result in 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, another sports team, or activity (ASB, AVID) 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.**

Mid-Summer Break: July 1-6

Labor Day Weekend: August 31-September 2

Thanksgiving Break: November 27-30 (*Wednesday through Saturday*)

Christmas Break: December 20 – January 3

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

## OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:

Choreography Week – July 7-13

Varsity fitting – Thursday, August 1

Fall Showcase at RMHS –Saturday, November 9

First competition of the season – Saturday, November 16

Holiday Cheer Party – Wednesday, December 18

Team pictures: week of February 3<sup>rd</sup>

Spring Showcase at RMHS – Saturday, March 28

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 chosen by the program director. 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 SEASON:

New or Former Maverick Evaluation week	\$ 40
Annual gym registration (per family)	\$ 50
Annual USASF fee	\$ 40
Returning member monthly tuition (Elite)	\$ 145
New member monthly tuition (Elite)	\$ 165
Prep team monthly tuition	\$ 85
Tumbling class monthly tuition (Maverick)	\$ 40 (or \$10 drop-in per class)

**Uniform & Supplies (kept for min. of three years)** \$ 600-750

*Mavericks practice attire – approx. \$65*

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

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

*\*Second-hand uniforms will be available for PREP.*

*Program & Team T-shirts & bows – early October \$45*

*Nfinity shoes (“Evolution”) through rep. \$81*

**Choreography & Music (includes most 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)** \$650-1,200

*- Specific amount will be announced by mid-July 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. Additional items may be ordered as needed.**

## OTHER FEES:

Late fee (tuition or scheduled payment)	\$25
Returned check fee	\$25
No-Show, No-Call absence	\$25
Excessive Tardy or more than 30 minutes	\$25
Late pick-up (after 15 minutes)	\$10 for every 15 minutes

- LEVEL-Pay is available upon request and will be an average monthly payment that includes all yearly costs of tuition, choreography, & competitions. This does NOT include any Varsity uniform items, t-shirts, or bows. A final settlement amount may be required and depend upon additional costs incurred.