

# PRACTICE/PERFORMANCE/COMPETITION ATTENDANCE POLICY

The greatest threat to the success of ANY team, sport, or program is POOR attendance. We have established a STRICT attendance policy, which requires Members to submit a written request for missed practices.

**ALL REQUESTS ARE SUBJECT TO DIRECTOR APPROVAL OR DENIAL.**

Each athlete will be allowed 5 **EXCUSED** and 3 **UNEXCUSED** absence/miss points for the season.

Every **POINT** exceeding the above maximums will result in a \$35 fine added to athlete's account.

- Athletes must be at practice. Period. Because routines, formations, tricks, stunts, and pyramids ABSOLUTELY require the presence of each team member. Excessive missed practices, tardies, and/or leaving early from practices, events, or competitions will NOT be tolerated. Attendance being so crucial, it is to be expected that missed practices/tardiness will affect an athlete's placement on his/her team and in his/her routine.
- **Sick Policy:** If you are sick/injured, but not to the point of seeing a doctor or contagious, you MUST still attend practice. You will not be required to participate; however, you must be present to see the changes made to your routine, hear announcements, and learn from the coaches' feedback even if you are not on the floor. A doctor's note may be requested.
- Excessive absenteeism can result in athlete being suspended and/or removed from the COA program entirely.
- Only absence requests submitted on the Absence Request Form will be considered.
- Missing ANY practice during the **two weeks** prior to a competition may result in any combination of a fine, suspension, and/or expulsion from COA.
- Extra practices are sometimes required before events and attendance is MANDATORY.
- Education is one of our priorities, however, football games, school dances, etc., are not considered an educational need and therefore will not be considered an excused absence. Proof of graded activities may be requested.
- **Examples of excused absences (count toward the 5 allowed absences):**
  - Fever, vomiting, diarrhea (with a doctor's note), family weddings, funerals, college visits/orientations, GRADED school events, court mandated visitation with parents, family vacations (if they do not interfere with MAJOR all-star activities i.e., choreography, competitions, etc.). We do ask for a **ONE MONTH** notice regarding events such as weddings, school events, vacations, etc., which are planned well in advance.
- **Examples of unexcused absences (count toward the 3 allowed absences):**
  - Parties, practices/games/activities for other sports/clubs, minor illness (headache, etc.) family/friends in town, doctor appointments (other than appointments for cheer related injuries), work-related absences, multiple tardies, or absences not requested in advance.
- Phone calls/text messages the day of practice, while expected as a courtesy, will not necessarily excuse an absence.
- Phone calls on the way to practice, while expected as a courtesy, will not excuse a tardy.
- All competitions are **MANDATORY**. Missing a competition will be cause for removal from the COA program and be subject to fine assessments and terms of Breach of Contract Penalty.
- Athletes must follow all written and oral directions by coaches and chaperones while at any COA event.
- COA does not mandate group travel. Parents/athletes will be given information regarding each event including host hotels (travel comps), meeting times, and team activity information. Parents are required to make timely reservations in order to secure a room in the host hotel and/or look for other parents to share a room with. Depending on the competition, we may require athletes to arrive the evening before the competition and check in with coaches for practice rounds or team meetings. In any event, parents MUST follow all directions and get their athlete(s) to the designated place ON TIME. If an athlete misses a meeting time or check in, he/she may be suspended for the next competition.
- The COA staff reserves the right to remove any team member from a performance, team, or the entire program if the athlete misses ANY practice within two weeks of a performance, or a performance competition, or event. Under these circumstances, all monies paid to COA will be forfeited. **NO REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED!**

ADDENDUM A