Attendance Policy- Elite Teams

Competitive cheerleading is a team sport that requires dedication, consistency, and commitment from every athlete. Each practice is essential to building skills, ensuring athlete safety, and preparing the team for competition. **Attendance is expected at 100% of all practices.**

The attendance guidelines below are **not "free days" to be used at an athlete's discretion.** They are intended to provide flexibility for unavoidable conflicts, illness, or emergencies. Even excused absences may affect an athlete's progress, routine placement, or competition eligibility if they become excessive.

Attendance Expectations

Full-year athletes (June through April) are permitted a maximum of **six (6) absences** during the season.

- **Summer (June–August):** Up to **3 absences**, excluding pre-approved family vacations.
- **Fall/Winter (September–April):** Up to **5 absences**.

If an athlete exceeds these attendance guidelines, **regardless of the reason**, a parent meeting will be scheduled to determine an appropriate plan moving forward. Continued excessive absences may result in changes to routine placement, competition eligibility, or removal from the competitive roster if the coaching staff determines the athlete can no longer safely or effectively perform their role on the team.

Summer Attendance

June, July, and August are our team placement, routine-building, and skill development months. Attendance during this period is especially important. We understand families often have vacations planned. Please submit all vacation dates as early as possible so coaches can plan practices accordingly.

Excused Absences

Examples of excused absences include, but are not limited to:

- Illness involving fever, strep throat, flu, COVID, or another contagious illness.
- Family emergencies.
- School-required academic events.
- Prom, Homecoming, graduation ceremonies, concerts, or other school-sponsored events.
- High school or town cheer competitions.
- Religious obligations.
- Pre-approved family vacations
- School-required academic events.
- Prom, Homecoming, graduation ceremonies, concerts, or other school-sponsored events.
- High school or town cheer competitions.
- Religious obligations.
- Travel to a National Championship with a town cheer program (this will **not** count as an absence).

Parents or guardians must notify **both the gym and the athlete's coach** as soon as possible whenever an athlete will be absent. Any child participating in a town or high school cheer program MUST advise the gym AND the coach of any competitions etc. that may affect attendance.

Illness

If your athlete has a fever or has been diagnosed with a contagious illness, please notify the gym AND coach immediately. Athletes should not attend practice while contagious. Once medically cleared to return, please communicate any restrictions with the coaching staff.

Tardiness

Athletes are expected to arrive on time and ready to practice.

- Arriving more than **30 minutes late** without prior communication will be recorded as an unexcused absence.
- Parents should notify the coach immediately if an athlete will be late.

Sitting Out During Practice

We appreciate athletes attending practice whenever possible, even if they are unable to fully participate due to a minor injury or non-contagious illness.
However, routine observation cannot become a substitute for participation.
For every **two (2) practices** in which an athlete participates in **less than half of practice**, one (1) absence will be applied toward the athlete's attendance total.

Mandatory Attendance Periods

Certain practices are considered mandatory due to their importance in preparing the team for competition.
Mandatory attendance includes:

- Choreography
- Team camps or mandatory clinics
- Red Zone
- Extended Red Zone
- Any additional practices designated by the coaching staff with advance notice.

Red Zone

The **Red Zone** is the week immediately preceding any competition.

Extended Red Zone

The **Extended Red Zone** includes the two weeks leading up to designated major competitions or any additional dates identified by the coaching staff. Absences during these periods are generally not permitted except in cases of illness or emergency approved by the Gym Owner.
Athletes who miss mandatory practices during these periods may be replaced for that competition. Replacement decisions are made solely by the coaching staff based on what is in the best interest of the team.

School, Town Cheer & Other Activities

CFAS Taunton believes in developing well-rounded student-athletes. We recognize that athletes may also participate in:

- High school cheer
- Town cheer
- Dance
- School activities
- Church events
- Academic programs

Whenever possible, we will work with families to accommodate these commitments. However, accommodations cannot always be guaranteed, particularly during choreography, Red Zones, showcases, or mandatory team events. Advance communication is expected and greatly appreciated.

Competition Attendance

Competition attendance is mandatory. Every athlete is a critical member of the team. Missing a competition impacts the entire program and often creates significant financial and logistical challenges.

If an athlete is unable to compete due to an emergency, the **parent or guardian (not the athlete)** must notify the Gym Owner, Team Coach, and Team Parent (if applicable) immediately.

Failure to communicate in a timely manner may result in removal from the competition roster and could affect future competition eligibility.

Financial Responsibility

Competition registrations, coaches' travel, choreography, music licensing, hotel reservations, and other expenses are often paid months in advance and are generally non-refundable.

If an athlete withdraws from or misses a competition for any reason other than an emergency approved by the Gym Owner, the family agrees to be financially responsible for any **non-refundable costs incurred by CFAS Taunton as a direct result of that athlete's absence**, including but not limited to:

- Competition registration fees
- Coaches' travel expenses
- Hotel or lodging expenses
- Event producer penalties
- Routine modification expenses
- Any additional costs incurred by the gym because of the athlete's withdrawal
  Documentation of these expenses will be available upon request.
  Repeated missed competitions, failure to communicate, or failure to meet attendance expectations may result in suspension or removal from the competitive program.

Competition Tardiness

- Athletes are expected to arrive at competitions at their assigned meet time. Failure to communicate delays may result in removal from that competition lineup. Repeated tardiness may result in:
- Removal from a competition lineup.
- Loss of competition opportunities.
- Additional disciplinary action as determined by the coaching staff.

Communication

Communication is one of the most important responsibilities of every Cheer Legacy family. **Parents—not athletes**—are expected to notify coaches as soon as any absence, injury, illness, vacation, or scheduling conflict becomes known. Early communication allows coaches to make necessary adjustments to routines and team formations while minimizing disruption to the team.

Team Commitment

Competitive cheerleading is unlike most sports because every athlete plays a vital role in the success and safety of the routine. One absence can affect multiple athletes, stunt groups, tumbling passes, and formations.

We ask every athlete and family to honor the commitment they have made to their teammates by prioritizing attendance, arriving prepared, communicating openly, and giving their best effort at every practice and competition.

Gym Discretion

Every attendance situation is reviewed individually. CFAS Taunton reserves the right to make final decisions regarding attendance, roster placement, routine changes, competition eligibility, athlete replacement, and disciplinary action. These decisions are made with the safety of our athletes and the best interests of the team as the highest priority. By participating in CFAS Taunton athletes and parents acknowledge that competitive cheerleading is a team commitment and agree to support the decisions of the coaching staff and gym administration.

We value the time and financial commitment required to participate in All Star Cheerleading and want to ensure that every athlete is committed to their teammates, attends practices consistently, and contributes to a positive team environment throughout the season.