



Attendance and Practice Information

Team Practice Outlook

Practice attendance is required and compliance with the attendance policy will be strictly enforced. An athlete's team position will be jeopardized for noncompliance with any of the attendance policies.

- **Summer Session Practices**

- The "Summer Session" begins June 5, 2023, and ends July 27, 2023
- Summer Session practices will be one Team practice a week and one Tumble-Fit class a week
- Summer Session practices will be scheduled Monday – Thursday. NO SUNDAY PRACTICE DURING SUMMER SESSION
- There will be a **MANDATORY 3 Day Clinic** July 31- August 2. **If any athlete does not attend these days, they will be dismissed from the team!**

- **Competition Season Practices**

- The "Competition Season" begins July 31, 2023, and ends after the final competition (discussed below.)
- Competition Season practices and tumbling will be based on an athlete's team category.
- Competition Season practices will be scheduled Sunday – Thursday.
- Team practices and tumbling classes may be added, cancelled, or changed at any time throughout the year. We will try to give a two-week notice of practice change or additions.

Team Absence Allowance and Protocol

- Communication of missed practices, for any reason, should be made via email to your team coaches
- Athletes are allowed **three (3) total absences** (excused or unexcused) during the Summer Session. Missed practices beyond this will require make-up hours via classes, individual lessons, etc.
- Athletes are allowed **three (3) total absences** during Competition Season. Any more may result in the imposition of certain discipline as described below
 - Fall break each athlete is allowed to have 1 unexcused absences
- Parents and athletes are expected to communicate with their coach via email with any conflicts
- If absences become an issue, you will be contacted by the All-Star Director to discuss an athlete's team commitment. He/she may be placed as an alternate, removed from choreography and/or removed entirely from the team.

- If you miss a competition for any reason, your athlete will not be guaranteed a critical spot.
- If a parent chooses to withdraw an athlete from a competition, for any reason, there will be a \$500.00 Missed Competition Fee charged to your account.
- Missing a competition without prior notice may result in immediate dismissal from the program.
- These, and all, decisions will be at the sole and absolute discretion of the gym owner and/or All-Star Director.

- **Absences defined**

- **Excused Absence**

Absences that fit the following:

1. School functions that result in a grade with **prior** notice.
2. Family emergency
3. Sickness with a doctor's note to stay home. (Parents/athletes must show **proof** of sickness/illness, fever, etc.)

- **Unexcused Absence**

Absences that do not meet the above allowances are considered unexcused. Examples include:

1. **Academics**: Proper time management is expected so that the athlete can complete his/her academic work and fully participate in the BlackWatch cheer program
2. **Extracurricular Activities and Jobs**: Extracurricular activities and jobs need to be scheduled around the commitment to BlackWatch cheer.
3. **Church**: Church is an understood priority at BlackWatch and with many of our families; however, absences related to youth groups, retreats, etc, are unexcused

- **School Cheerleading**

In efforts to reduce conflicting schedules, school cheerleading programs must be willing to work with BlackWatch Cheer. The following allowances will be made for school cheerleading:

1. School competitions are excused
2. All Teams must have communication with the school cheer coach/sponsor and BlackWatch to excuse athletes.
3. BlackWatch Will work with surrounding schools to make sure there will be limited to no conflict with school teams

- **Illness, Injury and Unexpected Family Emergency**

BlackWatch understands that an unexpected absence may occur due to an Illness, Injury, or Family Emergency. Please see guidelines below

Illness: Athletes are expected to be at practice unless **they are contagious and have a doctor's note**. Practice participation is situation-based and at the coach's discretion. Athletes may wear a mask as a preventative measure when feeling ill

Injury: If 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 circumstances affecting their ability to perform.

- We may 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.
- **Unexpected/Family Emergency:** Contact Fred Goodgame ASAP!

Practice Dress Code

- Athletes must wear the designated practice clothes and cheer shoes to every practice.
- Hair must be pulled out of the face in a high ponytail at every practice.
- We always ask that female athletes wear bloomers and sports bras under their practice attire.
- Neither BlackWatch, nor its employees, are responsible for jewelry, accessories, computers, cellular phones, or other personal property that is worn in or brought onto BlackWatch property and any claims relating to the loss of or damage to any of these items are expressly waived and released. BlackWatch recommends that athletes use the summer months (prior to competition season) to have their ears pierced. We understand that it is an important step for our younger athletes; however, athletes may not simply cover and/or plug a piercing while competing due to industry rules.

All-Star Classes

- All Athletes will be required to take **1 tumbling class**. This class will be included with tuition.
- This decision will be made by the All-Star Director
- Dates and times for these classes will be sent out at a later date.
- You are Allowed to take extra tumble classes at your **OWN EXPENSE**. Any extra classes other than 1 tumbling class will not be included in All-star Tuition

Competition Information

- BlackWatch will compile a schedule and detailed memo for each event. You can expect these documents by the Monday prior to the event. Although providing the schedule, schedules may adjust and change up to the day of the event, and BlackWatch has no responsibility or liability for any such change.
- BlackWatch schedules will include the following information:
 - **Meet Coach**
 - Athletes should be competition ready, inside the competition venue, at the designated check-in spot provided by the Coach.
 - **Warm Up**
 - This is the time that the team will begin their backstage warm-up.
 - **Perform**
 - This is the time that the team will take the competition floor.
 - **Awards**
 - This is the time that the award ceremony will begin. The coach will provide information regarding a meeting place prior to awards.
 - **Release Time**
 - This is the general time that the athletes will be released to their parents.
 - Your athlete **CANNOT** be left unattended at a competition. If you cannot chaperone your athlete, find a buddy, parent or family that is responsible for your athlete.

Parent Travel Obligations

- Parents are responsible for their athlete's activities and behavior at out-of-town events.
- If a parent/guardian cannot attend an out-of-town event, you must arrange for another BlackWatch parent, or responsible adult, to travel with your athlete. They will assume responsibility for the athlete and ensure the athlete's adherence to all BlackWatch rules and policies throughout the entirety of the event.
- Parents must understand that competitions are not vacations. The athletes' time and focus should be fully committed to BlackWatch and all related activities throughout the entirety of the event.
- Parents must follow the "Stay Smart" guidelines (when required) while booking hotel rooms for out-of-town competitions and events.

- **Please note that BlackWatch is NOT able to change these guidelines rules or procedures as individual event producers enforce them.**
- For out-of-town events, athletes should plan to arrive on Friday of the event and leave on the Sunday (If early enough) or Monday following the event. Schedules are released the week of the event or as provided by the Event Producer.
- BlackWatch is not financially responsible for event scheduling or changes that conflict with purchased flights and/or hotels. BlackWatch recommends, when making travel arrangements, that you choose a refundable or transferable option. Please note that many families drive to out-of-town events; flights are not required.

Competition Dress Code

“Competition Ready” dress code is required upon arrival to a competition venue:

1. Full Uniform
 2. Official BlackWatch warm-up (Uniform should be worn under the warm-up.)
- Hair details will be set per team. Generally, this is a high ponytail with no wispsies
 - Make-up should be a natural look. Red lipstick and blush should be worn. Fingernails should be bare.
 - Athletic shoes must be worn at all times. Absolutely no boots, flip-flops, Ugg Boots, etc.
 - Tall BLACK socks are preferred due to our BlackWatch shoe style.
 - Black undergarments are preferred to match the uniform.
 - Uniform skirts should be worn under accompanying athletic attire
 - Apparel and/or backpacks worn must either be BlackWatch specific and/or specific to the competition that the athletes are attending. (Example: Cheersport jackets may be worn to Cheersport competitions only.)
 - **No jewelry allowed at any time while practicing, warming up or competing. Due to rules and regulations set by the industry, athletes may not simply cover and/or plug a piercing while competing.**