

BLAZE CHEER

SEASON 16 HANDBOOK

2024-2025

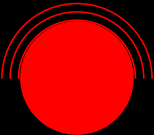

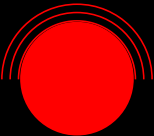

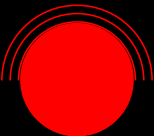

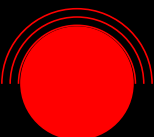

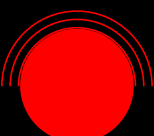

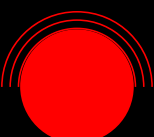

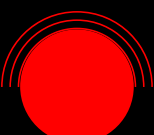

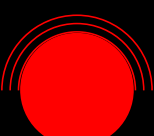

BLAZE CHEER & TUMBLE

BCT



Blaze Cheer and Tumble

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Welcome to Season 16

We are so excited about your interest in joining our program. Our organization was established in 2008 and over the last 15 years has been awarded over 100 local and national titles, including receiving a PAID BID to The ALLSTAR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP and being ranked 4th in the World, a PAID BID to The D2 SUMMIT, National Titles with the OPEN Championships as well as being ranked as one of the TOP 5 teams in the NATION by THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE. We are grateful for the opportunity to grow and develop your athlete's full potential. We are a FAMILY at BCT and we can't wait for yours to join!



Melanie Derrough Gym Director

Coach Mel began Blaze Cheer and Tumble with a dream of providing a safe space for our youth to grow and develop athletically and as well rounded people. Although competitive cheer is the venue that we use to improve and expand our athletes physical capacity, mental health, self-confidence, drive, and sisterhood are the foundation for how our athletes thrive. We promote experiences and life lessons that our athletes can carry with them throughout their entire lives while still remaining competitive in our industry. Welcome to the team!



Vision

Located in Cedar Hill, Texas Blaze Cheer and Tumble is a place where cheerleading is used to uphold team spirit, develop high self-esteem, promote good sportsmanship, and establish good relations in the community. Our organizational goal is to develop a strong sense of unity through practice, discipline, and teamwork that will create a positive environment where confidence and self-esteem are the foundation for success.

Mission

Through proper training and commitment to positive growth, Blaze Cheer serves to create a program that builds grit and boosts the confidence of its athletes by maintaining standards that both inspire perseverance and increase self-determination.



Financial Expectations



Blaze Cheer and Tumble is a full year program. **Our monthly tuition is \$120 for our Elite and Prep Athletes, \$100 for Novice, and \$80 Exhibition Teams.**

We will begin team practices in June 2024 and continue through May 2025. You can choose to pay for the program monthly or pay for the season up front. Everyone must have a valid Debit/Credit card on file. Monthly Tuition Payments will be due on the 1st of each month. Auto draft is not required but each athlete must have a valid Debit/Credit card on file. We only accept Zelle, Cash, and Checks. Credit card/ACH payments may be accepted through our Parent Portal and are subject to processing fees. Monthly Tuition is to be paid June 1st - May 1st.

Tuition and Payments

Tuition payments are due on the **1st of the month via the parent portal**. On the 4th and 7th, a \$10 late fee will be added. If tuition has yet to be paid by the 10th, an additional \$10 late fee will be added, and the athlete will be suspended from all practices and team activities until the past-due balance is paid in full (including late fees). Late fees will accrue every 7 days thereafter. On the 15th, all coaches will receive a certified roster for their specific team. This certified roster will be used to make the necessary changes to the routine to ensure the team is successful.

We understand that things arise unexpectedly, so communicating with us promptly will ensure the team's and your athlete's success. **No refunds are given to any athlete who departs from the team before the end of the season for any reason.** Private lessons must be prepaid. You must schedule those directly with an instructor. Every athlete will be required to 2 Saturday tumbling classes monthly. Additional classes will be required at the coach's discretion. Individuals must meet the level of skill requirements.

Financial Expectations

Monthly Tuition is to be paid June 1st - May 1st

COST is not included in the monthly tuition fee:

(A separate calendar will be sent with the fee schedule, including due dates)

- **\$75** – Annual Gym Registration Fee (due with first monthly payment)

- **\$150** – Practice Wear

- **\$475** – Choreography & Stunt Camp/ Music Fee (Elite/Prep Athletes)

- **\$325**– Choreography & Music (Novice)

- **\$250**– Choreography & Music (Exhibition)

- **\$500**– New Uniform for Elite Athletes (Level 3+)

- **\$375**– New Uniform Prep, Novice, and Elite

- **\$250**– New Uniform Exhibition

- **\$125** –Bow & Competition Tee

- **\$150** Warm-Up

End of Season Travel Event Fee- TBD

(paid for any end-of-season event that requires travel of 2 hours or more)

\$49 USASF Athlete Annual Registration Eligibility- Paid By Parent in Portal

Varsity, Rebel, or Nfinity Allstar Cheer Shoes Only– Parent Purchase to be determined by Coaches (Elite /Prep Athletes)

Competition Fees will be due 60 Days prior to every event .

Late Fees will accrue on event fees 15 Days after fee is due

(This does not include End of the season Event. i.e., Summit, US Finals, All-Star Worlds.

These due dates will be sent according to the event producer)

Please note that ordered items will not be disbursed to athletes with ANY balance.

Pay up Front

For those interested in paying for the season up front, a **10% discount** off monthly tuition (discount does not apply to additional fees) will be applied to your account. The pay up front cost does not include Registration Fee, Practice wear, Uniform, USASF Fee, Make-up, Shoes, Backpack, Warm-Up, T-shirts, Camps, Competition Fees, etc. You can contact us via email to request the cost for paying up front. The entire payment can be made in the form of cash, cashier's check, or personal check by July 31st . Blaze Cheer and Tumble accepts Zelle, cash and checks only.



10% OFF Yearly Tuition if paid in full by July 31st.

Receive \$10 in a referral credit for every athlete you refer. Credit is given after 2 full months of active membership.

We also offer sibling discounts. Please ask for more information.

Payment Arrangements

Payment arrangements may be available at the discretion of Blaze Cheer and Tumble. All payment arrangements require a written agreement and reasonable expectation of payment on the parent's behalf to Blaze Cheer and Tumble by the 1st of each month. After a payment arrangement has been agreed upon if the agreed terms are not met all applicable late fees will be applied and the complete balance will be due on the day immediately following the agreed payment date. No temporary arrangements will be accepted after the 1st of the month. Payment arrangements should be communicated through email to blazecheerandtumble@yahoo.com

Fundraising and Booster Club

The Blaze Booster Club is a non-profit organization designed to provide financial assistance to all athletes. The Booster Club's goal is to raise money to help offset the cost of the season expenses for all members and staff of the Blaze Cheer. The cost of competitive cheerleading can be expensive, and the Booster Club is committed to providing opportunities to help raise money to help defray these costs. There will be both team and individual fundraisers that are offered throughout the season. As well as mandatory and voluntary opportunities. Any funds raised through the Booster Club, by law, cannot be paid out as a refund. Any moneys owed that were paid for using a BCT Fundraiser can only be issued as a "Credit" on the athlete's account. As a reminder, leaving the team for any reason prematurely forfeits all funds raised through our non-profit.



Financial Need to Knows



Pay to Train: Tuition does not pay for the right to perform or compete. Tuition covers training.

Individuals must meet the skill level requirements to perform with a team. Failure to pay tuition by the 15th of each month will result in an athlete sitting out of practice and thus not performing.

*Please note that just because an athlete can perform most of a particular level of tumbling skills does not mean that he/she will automatically make that same level team. We make our placement decisions on a multitude of criteria.

Early Team Departure

A fee of \$250 will be applied to any person who leaves the gym voluntarily, involuntarily, or for disciplinary reasons before the end of the season. The program incurs additional costs when an athlete leaves. Re-choreographing a routine, no matter how early in the season, is a very costly and time-consuming. ALL ORDERED ITEMS, TUITIONS PAID, AND COMPETITION FEES ARE FORFEITED UPON EARLY DEPARTURE, FOR ANY REASON, FROM THE TEAM. There are NO REFUNDS!





Team Placement

Placement will be based on several factors. If the coaches are unsure where an athlete would fit best, the athlete may be asked to attend 2 different team's practices until a final decision is made. Also, note that placement on a team could change to ensure teams are set up to have a successful season. To be the BEST/most Competitive – Please note that Blaze' goal is to "max out" the score sheet. Athletes must have competition ready skills before moving to the next level. Athletes may be working on new skills (we will take that into consideration), and they will be placed on the team under a contingency, to retain their spot they must meet the minimum skill requirement.



If an athlete learns skills and improves during the preliminary team placement period, there MAY be an opportunity to move to the next level. To be competitive, our teams must have clean, well-developed skills at each level. The Blaze Cheer and Tumble competitive cheerleading program is not a recreational program! We want athletes that are ready to improve their skills and to be motivating, hardworking team members.

The coaching staff at Blaze expects 100% attendance from all members. We will not master our routines and have the polished look that we expect if members are late or absent. We expect each athlete to remain in excellent physical shape, to be the best individual they can be at school and their community, and to stay on top of their grades at school. Being a part of a program like Blaze takes commitment and loyalty. We realize that these expectations are extremely high, but this is the mentality that we want our athletes to maintain even outside of their all-star career!

Team Expectations

Practices

Every cheerleader must be prepared to fulfill a full-year commitment. This will comprise weekly practices, tumbling, competitions, summer appearances, fundraisers, and at least one end-of-the-season competition. You must be able to participate in all events not only to help us but also to help yourself. All team practices are mandatory. Elite and Prep teams will practice at least 2 times a week through May 2024. Novice and Exhibition Teams will practice a minimum of 1 time per week for 1-2 hours.

Our summer schedule will often be different than the Fall schedule. Once competition season arrives, extra practices will be called and are mandatory for all athletes. Please be aware that we occasionally make modifications to team schedules throughout the year. We take all the time that our squads are together seriously, and we expect you do the same. Most teams will have team practices one weeknight and one weekend day each week.

All practices are CLOSED to athletes from other gyms. We also reserve the right to close all practices to parents. There is to be NO JEWELRY worn at practices, which includes all anklets, earrings, belly button rings, and necklaces. This is not simply for appearance's sake, but for the safety to the one wearing the jewelry and for those either flying or basing who might be injured as a result. All CELL PHONES should be turned OFF during practice times. This includes parent cell phones. Also, please do not bring your family PETS to practices at the gym!

A missed 30 minutes of any practice will result in an absence for that practice for that athlete. There is to be NO GUM whatsoever at practices or competitions. There are to be NO excessively long fingernails or bold-colored nails allowed. There is to be NO videotaping of practices. Practice clothing must be worn as scheduled on the monthly calendars. Lost, misplaced, or damaged clothing will be replaced at your expense. Anyone late or dressed incorrectly will be conditioned after practice. Our program is about building champions and teaching accountability to our athletes.

Team Expectations

Attendance



NO ATHLETE WILL BE ALLOWED TO MISS PRACTICE 2 WEEKS BEFORE ANY COMPETITION/PERFORMANCE FOR ANY REASON (14 Days before performance day).

Missing a practice during any crucial time WILL result in the athlete not performing AND being dismissed from the team without a refund. If an athlete is ill but not contagious, the athlete's guardian must communicate with staff to determine whether or not the athlete should attend practice.

Teams will practice 1-3 times a week. This is in addition to the REQUIRED weekly tumbling sessions. TARDIES hinder the team's ability to utilize all practice time. Excessive tardiness (excused or unexcused) may result in dismissal from the team for the remainder of the season without a refund.

Excused absences require a 72 Hour Notice.

All absences must be communicated through email to BLAZECHEERANDTUMBLE@YAHOO.COM and to your direct team coaches. The gym will be closed during the following dates. Please note that it is suggested that you plan your family vacations around gym closure dates so that your child can attend practice. All-Star cheerleading is not a bench sport. This means we need EVERYONE present at EVERY practice to practice a full routine successfully. Each athlete plays a critical part in the execution of the routine. If team members are missing, certain routine parts cannot be practiced. For example, if one person is missing, an entire stunt group cannot practice. Additional absences will jeopardize an athlete's placement on their respective teams and within the program.

Team Expectations

Attendance- Continued

Gym Closure Dates

May 24th-27th (Memorial Day)

July 3rd-5th (Fourth of July)

August 30th- September 2nd (Labor Day Weekend)

November 24th-29th (Thanksgiving)

December 21st-January 3rd (Winter Break)

March (Spring Break)

Blackout (2-3 Day) Choreography camps are mandatory throughout the summer. Those dates will be confirmed once the teams have been selected. Participation is **MANDATORY!!**

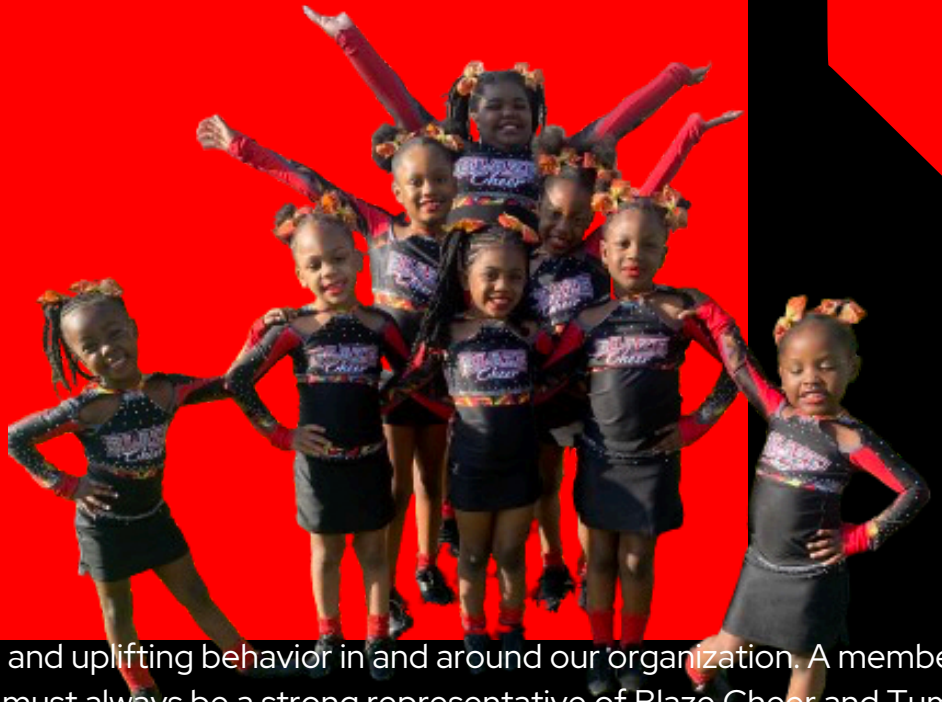
Any additional closure will be subject to the gym owners' discretion. Please note that dates are tentative and are based on the tentative competition schedule. **ALL ABSENCE POLICIES APPLY TO TUMBLING SESSION AS WELL!** The team and individual can only be successful with everyone at practice. We work extremely hard to try and minimize conflicts for our athletes. If you are involved in a school activity, we request that activity's schedule as early as possible. We reserve the right to remove anyone from a team if they habitually have absences. During the school year, the only excused absences are school functions that result in a grade, a contagious illness, or a funeral. All other absences such as, but not limited to part-time jobs, vacations, homework/studying, not having a ride, personal issues, and birthdays will be unexcused. All athletes are expected to attend all performances including but not limited to the BCT STUFF STRUT (Showcase), team outings and functions, and all competitions, including those out of town.

All-Star cheer is a select sport. It takes full commitment from both the athlete and their family. Before trying out, we ask that parents and athletes consider the time commitment and the attendance requirements. We realize many children and young adults are involved in a variety of activities, however, with the high commitment level that this sport demands, we will no longer work around athlete's schedules that are involved in 2 or more school activities. Ex: School cheer and Band/Sport. After 3 unexcused absences team members will be dismissed from the team without refund. No exceptions!

Code of Conduct

"Above all things we will keep GOD first, maintain our integrity, and build athletes who represent our CORE values both on and off the blue mat!"

-Coach Mel



We only encourage positive and uplifting behavior in and around our organization. A member (including parent and athlete) must always be a strong representative of Blaze Cheer and Tumble and a positive reflection of his/her teammates. Abusive behavior, negative social media posts, lying, and or any other form of negative behavior from parents or athletes are grounds for removal from this team without explanation. We will not tolerate comments about our gym, other teams, their programs, other parents, or other athletes. Let's respect their teams and each other, as we will get respect in return. Many of you communicate with other cheerleaders at various organizations through e-mail, Facebook, Twitter, and message boards. Please remember that anything you ever say is a direct reflection on this organization. This also applies to our organization as well. Speaking negatively, encouraging negative feelings, or engaging in drama within the gym, teams, or otherwise WILL result in your immediate dismissal from the team without refund. This applies to both athletes and parents alike. NOTE: If you are caught sending rude or inappropriate messages you will be subject to immediate removal. In addition, you CANNOT use the BLAZE CHEER AND TUMBLE name or any variation of our name in your E-mail address. If you currently have our name in any portion of your e-mail address, it must be changed!

Teammates are expected to treat one another with mutual respect. They should treat and talk to one another in a way they want to be spoken to. We do not tolerate pettiness, gossiping or cliques, which attempt to exclude or alienate certain members. Back talk, rolling of eyes, and any other disrespect for instructors or teammates is unacceptable and will result in removal from the team without refund. After a warning, the team member will sit out of practice until the problem is solved. A problem between a student and staff member will first be addressed with the owner. If not solved, a parent will be notified of the problem or infraction of the rules and will be expected to assist the instructor in solving the problem. A parent should never reprimand or discipline someone else's child. We will handle any disciplinary problems privately and professionally.

More Information



BLAZE CHEER

All routines/choreography, including cheers, dances, stunts, transitions, and tumbling, should be highly protected and shall not be shown or discussed with others. Blaze Cheer and Tumble choreography should never be copied or taught to anyone without consent from Melanie Derrough. This also includes all portions of music selections and editing. NO VIDEOS of routines, choreography, or Evaluation material should be uploaded to any online site such as YOUTUBE. Melanie must approve all designs bearing the Blaze Cheer and Tumble name and/or logo. Anything created without our approval will not be acceptable and cannot be worn or sold independently. Any money awarded to teams at competitions will go toward the entire Blaze Cheer and Tumble organization.

Tuition does not pay for the right to perform. Individuals must meet the skill requirements to compete. Students can be moved to an alternate position if they cannot meet the skill requirements. Blaze Cheer and Tumble reserves the right to change a team's division and level anytime throughout the year. We believe in perfection before progression. We will not allow students to learn advanced tumbling skills before perfecting their basics. If parents and students are not patient and do not clearly understand our teaching methods, they should not be cheering at Blaze Cheer and Tumble. Proper Technique is everything! Only perfected skills will be choreographed in a Blaze Cheer and Tumble routine. Parents cannot spot their children on Blaze Cheer and Tumble property. There is absolutely NO unsupervised tumbling allowed. An instructor must always be present. Blaze Cheer and Tumble reserves the right to change an athlete's team at any time throughout the year.

More Information

Team communications will come to athletes and parents via group message through your designated Team Parent. You must check your email daily to ensure you do not miss critical changes for your team, especially if your phone does not have texting capabilities.

- Also, if you are not receiving team emails, ensure the emails do not land in your junk folder and/or your Team Parent has the correct email address listed. It is YOUR responsibility to ensure you receive updates from your team. Again, if you have yet to receive communication about your team, contact your Team Parent. Always communicate with your Team Parent for details. Team Moms will also assist the teams at competitions and work closely with the staff. Additional information will always be posted on our website at www.blazecheergym.com

Contact us :



214-517-6637



blazecheerandtumble@yahoo.com



www.blazecheergym.com



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