**Policies, Expectations & Commitment**

 We are competitive cheerleaders, this means we compete, and are therefore subject to an entirely different set of rules and regulations than most of you may be used to. Because we use “cheerleading” as our medium, this does not lessen the fact that we are athletes and as athletes we must train just as diligently as a gymnast or ball player.

 These rules and regulations have been set up in the best interest of the entire program. We understand that as a parent or participant you may not agree with every decision that is made by our staff. We assure you that the decisions are carefully thought out and a great amount of time has gone into the process, which leads us to our decision. All decisions and changes regarding teams & routines are left solely to the discretion of the coaching staff.

 The most important job we as staff have is to create a positive environment for learning. As coaches it is our goal to create a disciplined, positive, and productive atmosphere in which to facilitate learning. As a result, we can produce outstanding individuals & teammates with a mentally strong attitude, a physically strong body, and remarkable leadership skills.

All Gym & Booster Club fees from the prior season must be paid in full before your child will be allowed to attend any practices for the 2018-2019 season.

**Any and all use of the KC Cheer Logo is prohibited without the approval of Kristi or Michael Whitney. The selling of any clothing or spirit wear items is prohibited without PRIOR written approval. Any item sold, using the KC Cheer logo is subject to a fee paid to KC Cheer.**

No Posting of Team Performances on Facebook, YouTube or any social media outlet under any circumstance, without prior approval from your Head Coach.

All paperwork must be completely filled out prior to any member participating in practices. These documents include:

1) Registration Form

2) Medical Release form

3) Policies, Expectations & Commitment Form

Please be prepared to turn in all paperwork at our first meeting and contract signing.

**Any Questions may be addressed to:**

Kristi Whitney – Gym Owner (kristi@kccheer.com)

Michael Whitney – Gym Owner

Mary Lewis – Gym Manager (mary@kccheer.com)

**General Rules & Regulations**

* There will be no food, drink or gum in the gym. You may bring a snack and bottled water for breaks, but these will be left in the lobby or locker room.
* Back talk, rolling of the eyes and any other disrespectful gestures toward coaches will not be tolerated. After a warning, the member will be asked to call a parent, and arrange a meeting to discuss the problem. A subsequent offense will result in the member being removed from the team.
* KC Cheer is a drug and alcohol free environment. Abuse of this policy will result in the athlete’s immediate removal from the team.
* Teammates are expected to treat one another with mutual respect. They should talk to one another in a manner in which they wish to be spoken to. We do not demand that you embrace other members as your best friend, but pettiness, gossiping, or cliques, that attempt to exclude certain members, will not be tolerated.
* Any negative use of social media, such as Twitter or Facebook, can result in removal from your team.
* All team members are required to travel with the team and stay in the team hotel.
* You must remain at each competition until every KC Cheer team has competed.
* KC Cheer Cheerleaders have 2 jobs at each competition: 1) Perform to the best of their ability for “their” team & 2) Support all KC Cheer teams.

**Attendance**

* We expect 100% from each and every member! As you can expect 100% from your Coaches and Staff.
* The only excused absences will be those in which you have made every attempt to contact KC Cheer to inform us of your school or family related event.
* Excessive absences will result in removal from the team. After 3 unexcused practices a meeting will be held with parents & cheerleader.
* Returning KC Cheer members must tryout each season. All members will begin practices in May as we form our teams. Should you choose to return to KC Cheer after the start of the season, you will pay all choreography and travel payments due to date.
* If you are sick and non-contagious you will attend practice and watch from the side for changes, which may affect you in the routine.
* Each member is required to attend Choreography Camp. NO EXCEPTIONS. Choreography Camps will be held July 16-27, 2018. Cost for this camp will vary from $230-$500.
* Each member is required to attend a two day Stunt Camp, held June 24-29, 2018. The cost for this camp will be $95 per athlete. (about 6 hours/team)
* You cannot miss practice for any reasons two weeks prior to a competition.Absence from these practices will result in being replaced for the upcoming competition.
* Tardiness is unacceptable. Excessive tardiness will result in removal from the team.
* We understand that there are circumstances for which absences are unavoidable; however, this is an activity that you have chosen to participate in. Your attendance not only affects you, but all of the other members of your team.

**Tuition, Travel Payments and Fundraising**

* Each member of a competition squad is required to pay tuition of up to $220.00 each month. This is due on the first of each month, through automatic credit card transaction, if it is not received due to overdraft or non-payment an additional $25.00 fee may be applied. Team members will be asked to sit out of practice until tuition is paid
* **Tuition is payable regardless of injury, illness, or vacation. Tuition is paid beginning in May and thru the following April. If a team member quits, parents that have signed this contract will remain financially responsible until the completion of this contract.**
* Each member selected for one of the competition squads will be required to pay a series of travel payments at intervals reviewed at the initial Parent Meeting in May and as determined by the staff. These travel payments may be used for any necessary expenses including the expenses for a replacement member. Any tuition or fees not paid for in a timely manner will be subject to a late fee. Travel payments are non-refundable.
* Any and all items purchased/ordered through KC Cheer including, but not limited to, uniform, shoes & practice wear will be held if travel & tuition accounts are not paid in full and up to date, or should an athlete quit prior to fulfilling their contract.
* Travel payments for Youth, Junior and Senior level athletes will be made as follows: A deposit will be made at contract signing followed by 3-4 additional payments in August, September, October & November. An exact amount due will be determined prior to the August 15th due date.
* Each team member MUST have a credit card on file at KC Cheer. This card will be charged for any travel, tuition, or other expenses 10 days past due. A 3% service fee will be added to all travel fees paid with a credit card. NO EXCEPTIONS.
* Travel payments, entry fees & fundraising dollars earned are **non-refundable** if the team member quits the team, is injured, or is removed from the team for any reason.
* Team members will be removed from the routine 2 weeks prior to any competition if travel fees and/or tuition are not paid.
* Members may choose to attend an additional tumbling class for $35/mo. This fee is not included in the monthly gym fees (tuition).
* Each member will be required to pay the following additional fees:
1. Annual Insurance fee of $60.00 due at contract signing
2. Annual Booster Club fee of $150 is due at Contract signing in a separate check (or cash) made payable to KC Cheer Booster Club.
* Please keep in mind we must have funds when requested so that entry fees and other expenses can be paid on time. Your account on file will automatically be charged for any expenses due if not paid 10 days past the due date.
* Booster Club Funds can be used by KC Cheer to pay outstanding fees throughout the season.
* Any fees due will be communicated to you through email & website reminders. You must provide us with an accurate email address. It is the responsibility of the parent to check their email & website often.
* Team members will pay for the coaches travel expenses. These include but are not limited to transportation, lodging, entry fees, and daily meal per diem.
* Athletes with outstanding travel or tuition fees are prohibited from registering for private lessons.
* Post-season competitions (Worlds, The Summit) should be expected and planned for. These competitions are not optional should your team earn a bid to compete. An estimated cost for post season travel is, on average, $650-$750 per person based on 2018 pricing. This does not include airfare.

**Practices**

* Tuition pays for training. **It does not pay for the right to perform**. Please be clear that each member earns the right to perform through preparedness as a team member. A disrespectful member will not be allowed to jeopardize the performance and safety of others.
* Any member who is not prepared to perform at the level of the squad, must achieve that level, or may be moved to a squad more suited to their skill level.
* Team practices are twice a week for all teams/levels except Tiny.
* Weekly practices are CLOSED. We will implement a Parent Watch time for practices once a month beginning in September.
* The WORLDS teams will practice 5 hours per week with an additional 1.5 hours of tumbling required.
* Unexcused absences, excessive tardiness, or missing more than 3 consecutive practices may call for removal from the team.
* Weekly team practices should be considered MANDATORY.
* Practice dress is **required** and will be scheduled by your coaching staff.
* No Jewelry will be worn in practice.
* No cell phones are allowed in practice. If they are found they will be taken and held, and returned as the member leaves practice.
* Jewelry, cell phones, & other valuables brought to or left at the gym **are not** the responsibility of KC Cheer. Please leave all valuables at home.
* We will give time off for holidays that do not conflict with the competition schedule. One week from Dec. 23 to Jan. 2 is always time off of regular practice, with the exception of the Worlds level teams. The following holidays will be observed at KC Cheer—Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas, and New Years’ Day.
* **Additional team practices** will be scheduled the week or weekend prior to every competition. **THESE PRACTICES ARE MANDATORY. Absence from theses practices will result in being replaced for the upcoming competition. This includes the Sunday after Thanksgiving (November 25, 2018)**
* KC Cheer coaches reserve the right to add or change practices at any time during the season.

**Competitions**

* All members will show up to competition in attire selected by the staff.
* Full uniform will be worn during competition unless otherwise stated by staff.
* After you perform you may change into the KC Cheer attire selected by the staff. (Warm-ups or KC Cheer t-shirt)
* No jewelry will be worn in competition.
* We will be respectful of other squads and squad members. Sportsmanship is the key to success!
* We will not taunt, brag, boast, name call, or otherwise humiliate other teams. Let your performance on the floor do all the talking for you.
* As part of the KC Cheer family, we support all members of our organization. We will stay and give our support for other squads or individuals within our organization (no exceptions). If you are found to have left early with out permission you may be subject to being removed from the team &/or pay a $50.00 fine**. This applies to in-town & out-of-town competitions.**
* You can expect a gym meeting at the conclusion of the day at each competition.
* Failure to appear at competition without coaches having prior knowledge will result in immediate removal from the team.
* Parents are responsible for getting your child to and from all In-town competitions.
* Specific times & meeting places will be communicated thru email in the week leading up to all In-town competitions.
* After you compete you are **required** to stay and support all KC Cheer teams.

**Out-of-Town Competitions**

* For two-day Out of Town competitions, expect to stay the Friday night before.
* All team members will travel together on gym provide transportation (Coach Bus). Members **will always** stay in the team hotel. Parents may elect to stay elsewhere but the team members must stay with the team.
* KC Cheer will contract for the team hotel with the required Housing Agency. A link for reservations will be provided via email to all team members. NEW THIS SEASON…Hotel reservations will be the responsibility of the parents.
* If a member is not at the team hotel on Friday or staying in the hotel, the routine will be performed as best it can and the member may be removed.
* **Any last minute cancellations by traveling parents/family members will be subject to cancellation fees as determined by the contracted Travel Agent.**

**Parent’s Information**

* Parents we understand that this is an expensive and time-consuming sport. The sport of competitive cheerleading takes a total commitment by the entire family. Just as we have rules and regulations for the competing KC Cheer members, there are certain rules that we ask of our KC Cheer families.
* Parents & spectators are not allowed in the gym, unless invited by the Staff.
* Coaching from the window is not acceptable. The best way you can help is to support and reinforce the coaches’ decisions. We encourage you to drop off and pick up your cheerleader at the conclusion of each practice. Coaches may close practices to viewing as necessary.
* Name calling, disrespecting other parents or children, and down talking a coach are not permitted. If such actions take place, the individual(s) will be asked to not attend practice. If the problem persists the practices are subject to being closed, or the member may be removed from the team.
* Parents are never to address an athlete personally. If you or your child has an issue with another team member you must first go to the coach for assistance.
* If you have a suggestion or concern please feel free to discuss this with the coach or the program director.

Please be respectful of our practice times. We are always happy to listen to any new ideas you feel may be helpful to our program. During a practice or at a competition is not the appropriate time for these discussions. Please find time prior to or after practices. Parents may also find emailing a useful way to resolve minor issues.

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As a parent your support is crucial, without you there are no kids, and thus no program. KC Cheer will not show favoritism to any child. We feel each and every child is an important part of the entire program, and that no one person is bigger than the KC Cheer All-Star Spirit. You may not agree with every decision made here, but you have chosen to be part of this competitive cheer program. In essence this means that you have chosen to follow the rules and regulations as stated in this contract.

Remember, we are all part of the KC Cheer Family. Each and every person is here to learn, have fun and win championships. Together and only together can KC Cheer All-Stars be Successful. It takes a strong and serious effort by everyone involved to build positive, confident, successful individuals and award-winning teams.

Once you become part of the KC Cheer family, we know you will **understand the** **Determination, Feel the Passion** and be **Rewarded with the Support** of the largest most successful cheer program in the Metro Area! We are thrilled that you have chosen to be part of our SPIRIT FAMILY.

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Parent or Guardian Signature Parent or Guardian Printed Name

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Members Signature Member’s Printed Name

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**RETAIN THIS COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS.**