

# Thunder Elite Policies and Guidelines

## • Attendance

- We understand that life comes up, and that occasionally there may be an illness or emergency that requires your student to miss practice. We try to be sensitive while still impressing upon our athletes how very important it is that they attend. Please remember that our teams only practice up to 6 hours per week, and that attendance is crucial to the success of each of our teams and of our program.
- Missing practices for homework, family members' birthday dinners, mom having a migraine, holiday shopping or parties, not having a ride, and other similar reasons is not acceptable.
- Missing practice for any of these reasons may result in your child being removed from their team's routine and could lead to dismissal from the Thunder Elite program entirely.
- The two practices before any Thunder competition or performance are mandatory
- If your athlete must miss practices, please do not email this information to the staff email, and do not call the gym administrative staff to relay the information. Call your coach directly by 3:00pm to give them plenty of time to re-plan their practice. Our coaches spend time planning out the schedule for each practice, with a specific goal in mind for that practice, and having team members missing interferes with that goal. Giving them plenty of notice will help them restructure their practice plan so that it's still effective for their team.
- During competition season attendance is more important than ever! Athletes must attend all practices to remain consistent and stay competitive! Please note absences are not an option. When an athlete misses a practice, it affects not only them but their team. Cheerleading doesn't have a "bench". Formations are no longer visible, stunts can't go up, tumbling spacing and timing are affected, etc. It is imperative that athletes attend practice unless they have an illness requiring them to stay home. All our practices are preplanned, and we coordinate practices differently when athletes are absent. Our athletes work super hard for only a few competitions each year and we are in the middle of prepping them for success!!

## • Injury

- If your athlete is injured, we ask that you regularly communicate with your team coach regarding your child's illness/injury status.

## • Dismissal

- We have the discretion to do business with whom we choose, and we put a very high emphasis on respect in our gym. Thunder Elite reserves the right to remove any team member from their team, program, or class at our sole discretion. Athletes and Parents shall treat all Thunder staff with courtesy and respect.
- Consistent "drama" or "pot stirring" may be grounds in your child's dismissal from our program. All parents must agree to discuss any, and all problems or concerns related to the program, staff, cheerleaders, or other parents directly with the staff, and not to publicly air grievances, should any arise. All parents must agree to accept staff decisions as final and in the best interest of all parties.

## • Facility and Practice Guidelines

- Athletes must attend practice ON TIME and shall wear the appropriate assigned practice clothing. If the appropriate shirt is not worn, Thunder Elite will provide one and charge the cost to Team Members' account.
- Athletes shall keep fingernail short and shall not have fake nails or long dipped nails.
- Athletes shall not have food and/or drink in the gym, except for water bottles filled with water only. Team Members shall not chew and/or consume gum at the gym.
- Team Members shall keep the gym, lobby, and bathrooms clean; Team Members shall throw away all garbage and shall take belongings with them. Thunder Elite is not responsible for any lost or stolen items. A "Lost & Found" is available in the lobby.

## • TEAM FUNDRAISING GUIDELINES

- Throughout the season mandatory team fundraisers will occur. These fundraisers will consist of Christmas raffle baskets and a burpee a-thon. All money raised during these mandatory fundraisers will go to the entire team for things such as activities, extra team shirts, additional team fun nights, etc.
- Individual fundraisers
  - You may not use Thunder Elite's name or likeness to run your own fundraiser.

## • EQUIPMENT.

- Athletes shall not use any Thunder equipment without prior approval from Thunder. While using Thunder equipment, Athletes shall not misuse the equipment. Misusing any Thunder equipment will not be tolerated and is grounds for immediate dismissal.

**12900 SE HWY 212 Clackamas, OR 97015**

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## · Competition Guidelines

### ○ Athlete Image

- Athletes' hair color needs to be a natural tone and no piercings may be worn in the warmup room/on the performance stage. If jewelry is worn the team gets points taken off their score. Girls need to be in WHITE no-show ankle socks as well as wearing a no-show/nude bra. Injured athletes need to wear the exact competition wear listed on the itinerary for their team. No exceptions will be made unless your athlete is in a hard cast. Make-up and hair must be identical to the tutorials. The tutorials are available here: [www.thunderelite.com/teams](http://www.thunderelite.com/teams)
- Stay in Uniform for the entirety of the competition. No athletes are permitted to walk around in blankets or pajama pants. Athletes will not be permitted to put their cell phones in their bras, skirts, or waistbands.
- The practices the week of a competition are mandatory! No exceptions. This is to ensure confidence and consistency for the team.
- Coaches will be standing in the front of the stages when the teams perform. Coaches will not move over for anyone. The kids need to see their coaches in the front of the stage for confidence, security, and support.

### ○ Awards

- Athletes need to be in full uniform. No backpacks, cell phones, water bottles, cameras, etc. will be allowed on the stage with the athletes.

### ○ Representation

- Make sure you are doing your best to represent yourself, your team, and our gym in the very best light possible at ALL times. There are ears and eyes everywhere and each of our words and actions during competitions directly represents Thunder Elite's teams, families, and business. Keep it positive in regard to your conversations with and about other gyms, routines, cheerleaders, judges, etc. Only say things that you would say in front of your family and coaches, things that you'd be proud of others hearing you can be a great ambassador to help bring more families into our gym! On the flip side, rude words or actions may be the thing that prevents a great family from checking out Thunder Elite. We appreciate your help in representing and growing our gym!
- Competitions can get chaotic, they are often crowded, uncomfortable, and highly emotionally charged... it is easy to get irritated and short with those around you. Just as WE want to watch our amazing kids and teams, please remember that that is why EVERYONE is there to support and watch their children. Please don't stand or walk around during our teams or another other performance or do anything else that will take away from other families and gyms enjoying their kids' performances. This applies to both cheerleaders and parents.
- Make sure you are doing your best to represent yourself, your team, and our gym in the very best light possible at ALL times. People hear you in the stands... they hear you in the bathrooms. Only say things that you would say in front of your family and coaches, things that you'd be proud of others hearing.
- Parents are always welcome and encouraged to attend events locally and nationally. If for some reason you disagree or are unhappy with a philosophy or decision, judging at a competition, etc. please talk to your child's coach or an owner FIRST. Talking negatively amongst each other as parents, or to your child, can only hurt the program and is not tolerated and may result in your family being removed from our program.

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