

Competitive Gymnastics Team

FAQ

1. What am I getting myself into? What is the nature of competitive gymnastics?

- Competitive gymnastics is a dynamic and exciting sport with each level building upon itself. Competitive gymnasts start out at the lower levels, practicing 2-3 days per week for a few hours at a time. As your gymnast progresses, the number of practice days and hours increases level by level.
- Joining any competitive sport requires a commitment from the whole family. Joining our team is a privilege and being selected is by invitation only.
- Many factors are involved in not only the team selection process but are also critical to maintaining your place on the team. While an aptitude for the sport is crucial, we also consider: ability to make improvements, effort level, talent, courage, commitment, desire, attendance, coachability, ability to focus, integrity, etc.
- We believe the benefits of competitive gymnastics are immeasurable, including those life lessons learned through sport.

2. What are the attendance expectations for a team gymnast?

- Like our recreational program, our team program is year-round. However, the increased responsibility of a team gymnast requires increased commitment. Gymnasts are expected to attend no less than 75% of their practices throughout the year, and you must remain enrolled in the program year-round.
- Attendance is critical to gymnasts' success as they move through the competitive levels. Missing practice puts them at a severe disadvantage when it comes to skill development, strength, flexibility, mental toughness, and more.
- There are no makeups for missed practices.

3. What is the meet season like?

- Once your gymnast is ready for competition, they will be expected to compete at every meet they are eligible for.
 - Gymnasts attend 5-6 meets each year from November – May, culminating with their state meet to finish out the season.
 - Generally, we keep our meet locations semi-local, in the Buffalo, Rochester, and Syracuse area. We do offer one optional out of state travel meet per season. The state meets are set up by our governing body and could be anywhere across New York State.
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4. What is the difference between Tuition, Meet Fees, and the Boys/Girls Team Fund?

- **Tuition** is paid directly to Greater Buffalo Gymnastics and covers your gymnast's training time, facility use, and general gym expenses.
 - For more information on Tuition payments and policies, please refer to the Tuition section of the Team Parent Handbook.
 - **Meet Fees** are additional fees paid for each competition your gymnast enters. These fees are set by the *host gym*, not Greater Buffalo, and must be paid in a lump sum by our gym to the host.
 - **The Team Fund** is managed by the Booster Club(s) and helps cover the costs of coaches' competition-related expenses. It is separate from tuition and meet fees.
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5. What additional costs are families responsible for?

Aside from tuition, out-of-pocket expenses that families are also responsible for paying:

- **Uniforms:** Pricing varies depending on your child's level.
 - **USA Gymnastics (USAG) Membership:** A mandatory annual fee required for competition eligibility.
 - **Choreography:** As applicable to Girls Team gymnasts. See the Choreography section of the Team Parent Handbook for more information.
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6. What do Meet Fees cover?

Meet fees paid to the host gym cover the host's expenses to hold the competition. They cover, for example:

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- USA Gymnastics sanctioning fees
- Judges' hourly rates
- Medical trainers' hourly rates
- Facility rental costs (if needed)

Important: Greater Buffalo Gymnastics does *not* set these fees — the host gym determines the pricing.

7. How are Meet Fees collected and paid?

- The gym collects the meet fee amount (e.g., \$80 per gymnast) from each participating athlete on a given set due date listed on the **Meet Season Schedule**.
 - For more information regarding specifics on payments for meet fees, due dates, and scratch deadlines, please refer to our **Team Parent Handbook**.
- Greater Buffalo submits a single payment for all gymnasts to the host club (e.g., \$80 x 20 gymnasts = \$1,600 total).
- For your convenience, we allow credit card payments for meet fees without charging extra credit card fees (a change from previous policies requiring cash or check payments only).
- Gymnasts will not be registered for a meet unless payment is received on or before the deadline listed on the Meet Season Calendar. **All meet payment deadlines must be met, without exception.**

8. What is the Booster Club and why is fundraising important?

The Booster Club is run by a volunteer Parent Committee/Board and operates to support the additional costs of meet season, including:

- Coaches' meet wages
- Coaches' travel expenses (mileage, flights, hotels, parking)
- Coaches' meal per diems
- Team fees for banners and awards
- Annual Team Banquet Meals: Booster Club funds cover each gymnast's meal at the banquet.

Fundraising helps cover these costs, so they are *not* added to your monthly tuition. Please note, the Boys and Girls Team Booster Clubs do operate separately.

9. Is the Booster Club's money separate from the gym's finances?

Yes!

- The Girls & Boys Team Booster Clubs have their own separate bank accounts, distinct from Greater Buffalo Gymnastics' finances.
- While the account(s) uses our tax ID (because it must be associated with an organization), it remains solely your money.
- Full transparency: bank statements and checkbooks are available for review at any time! Just ask the Client Services Department Leader and we'll be happy to help you.

10. What happens if there's money left over at the end of the season?

- Any surplus stays in the Booster Club account and carries over to help start the next season.
- Surplus funds are not refunded individually, even if your gymnast is graduating. This is a team effort supporting all gymnasts. Everyone's money goes into one pot. All team levels have the opportunity to attend the same number of meets during the season, including their state meets.

11. Why is this system in place?

- Competitive gymnastics is an expensive sport, and every team nationwide uses a combination of tuition, travel fees, and/or fundraising to cover costs.
- Our system ensures transparency and fairness by giving parents the opportunity to help offset costs, without inflating any costs beyond what is necessary.
- Our goal is simply to cover the costs of providing your gymnast with the best experience possible.

12. Why does communication matter?

Communication serves the important role in making sure you stay informed and up-to-date on the financial and volunteer commitments that are required of your family throughout the season. We ask that team parents stay up to date with email and Team App (see below)

communications on a regular basis. There are many instances in which important deadlines are involved and your timely communication is critical.

- **Mandatory Team Parent Meetings** will be held throughout the year to update your family on important need-to-know information and requirements.
- **Greater Buffalo Gymnastics Stack Team App** – An app our facility utilizes to communicate between Parents, Coaches, and Client Services. Information includes but is not limited to:
 - Meet Schedules
 - Fundraisers
 - Clinics
 - Events
 - Facility Announcements
 - And more!

Still have questions?

Most questions can be answered in the **Team Parent Handbook** or the general FAQ page on our website. However, if you need further assistance, please reach out to your team's Department Leader or Client Services at 716-639-0020 and info@greaterbuffalogymnastics.com. We're happy to walk you through the details!

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