

Parent / Athlete Handbook

2017-2018

Season

**WELCOME TO CONNECT CHEER NORTHWEST**

Dear Potential CONNECT CHEER NW Family Member:

Thank you for your interest in the CONNECT CHEER NW All-Star Program! We are thrilled to invite you to be a part of our program for the 2017-18 season.

CONNECT Cheer NW prides itself not only on training its athletes to be Champions on the floor, but encouraging them to carry themselves as Champions OFF THE FLOOR. We promote a positive learning environment that builds self-esteem, confidence, and character. CONNECT Cheer NW athletes are trained to reach THEIR fullest potential, but more so, they are taught how to work together as a team towards common goals. CONNECT Cheer NW strives to maintain a competitive edge without compromising the integrity that true athletes need to possess. CONNECT Cheer NW athletes will be taught solid technique and strong fundamentals in all areas of competitive cheerleading, yet the most important lessons they will learn are the life skills that encourage commitment, sportsmanship, and respect for self and others.

We hope that every member of CONNECT Cheer NW develops new skills, lasting friendships, self-confidence, a strong sense of gym pride, and priceless memories that they will carry with them forever. We look forward to working with you and your child, and recognize that it takes a CONNECTION with every athlete in order to build a successful program.

Cheers,

Traci Bruener & Jodi Sides

Program Director & Operations Director

CONNECT CHEER NW

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**Dreams Don’t Work Unless You Do!**

Revision 12/27/17

**ATTENDANCE POLICY AND PROCEDURES:**

Attendance is incredibly important to the overall success of the individual athlete, as well as the team. To be an all-star competitive cheerleader, it takes a lot of practice and training to properly and safely perform a winning routine. This sport fully embraces the “TEAM” concept, and utilizes every athlete at once. There is no “bench,” or substitutes. Athletes must attend all practices and competitions as a TEAM.

At registration, you are making a commitment for the 2017-18 competitive season. Our season begins in May after team placement evaluations and continues through our regular season of schedule competitions. Please understand that even one team member missing from practice/competition adversely affects the entire team and excessive absences will not be tolerated.

Connect Cheer NW will strive to keep extra practices to a minimum, but this can only be accomplished with productive and mandatory practices. You can expect there to be some extra practices, especially as we get close to competitions, and all extra practices are mandatory.

Athletes are permitted **3 EXCUSED absences** from September through April. **ALL COMPETITIONS ARE MANDATORY. Athletes may not miss team practices the two weeks prior to a competition. Athletes missing either of the above will be required to pay a re-choreography fee of $250 for each occurrence and may need to be removed from the routine up to the coaches discretion.** All absences must be reported to the athlete’s coach prior to the started practice in order to be excused.

**EXCUSED ABSENCES:**

1. Contagious illness
2. Family emergency
3. Required school activity that results in a grade

Athletes are permitted **1 UNEXCUSED absence** from September through April. **Absences are NOT allowed two weeks prior to a competition. No exceptions.**

**UNEXCUSED ABSENCES:**

1. Non-contagious illness
2. Homework
3. Transportation problems
4. Birthday, party, school dance, etc.
5. Extra-curricular activities
6. Family Vacation

**MANDATORY CAMP:**

The following Camp is mandatory and is critical in the development of that season’s routine. Each team will have 2 choreography sessions during that time to learn both stunt and full routine choreography. **Please do not schedule family vacations during these dates. (Specific team schedules will be emailed to families by June 1st).**

To best maximize our gyms choreography needs and to utilize some of the best choreographers in the World, we will be utilizing 3 choreographers for our upcoming 2017-18 season.

We will have two different time blocks scheduled out. Please use these time blocks as a guide, however note that you will not be able to determine your athlete's final choreography block until we have finished our FINAL team placements on May 19th at 9 PM.

**FULL ROUTINE CHOREOGRAPHY (not to include dance sections):**

Please keep in mind that we do not have specific team choreography blocks. We should have that finalized and emailed to everyone by June 1st.

7/27-7/31/17 - **Will include**: Senior Level 2 and all Level 3 and Level 4 Teams.

8/11-8/15/17 - **Will include**: All Level 1 and Level 2 teams (excluding Senior 2)

8/16-8/17/17 - **Will include**: Senior Level 5

8/18-8/19/17 -**Will include**: Junior Level 5

**DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY:**

9/29-10/3 - ALL TEAMS

**Please note that in addition to the above:**

* Upper level teams **(Levels 3/4/5)** may be required to attend an additional mandatory stunt and tumbling skills clinic. Time, date and Teams TBD.

**CONNECT CHEER NW EVALUATIONS & TEAM PLACEMENTS:**

CONNECT Cheer’s tryout process is an evaluation and placement rather than a make, or don’t make tryout process. All athletes will be evaluated by CONNECT Cheer NW staff demonstrating skills such as jumps, motions, running tumbling, standing tumbling, and dance. Once athletes have completed the evaluation process, the staff will place athletes onto appropriate teams.

**\* New this season** – we will be adding a Level 1 non-travelling full year competitive team(s) as an additional option for athlete placement. Our beginning level athletes that are new to this sport and/or do not yet meet the minimum level 1 tumbling requirements, will likely be placed on this non-travelling level 1 team. These teams will be required to attend our 5 local competitions. This team will also practice two hours, two days per week.

Teams are strategically put together to score as high as possible in competitions. The ability to maximize the score sheet is key to the success of the team. Our goal is to create teams where the majority of the athletes have the minimum tumbling requirement for the level, but some athletes may tumble higher than the minimum requirements. Please trust the CONNECT Cheer NW staff to build teams that will be most successful at competitions.

CONNECT tries to move athletes as little as possible, but understand that there MIGHT BE movement within our program of athletes. Movement can happen based on gaining and/or losing of skills, or the need on a team for certain skills.

CONNECT Cheer will create teams that fit into the standard USASF division requirements. Teams will be created by taking into consideration an athlete’s age as well as the understanding that maximum skill level in the division by a MAJORITY of the team is a must for the overall success of the team.

***CHEER SQUAD AGE DIVISIONS:***

*Tiny: 6 years and younger as of Aug. 31, 2017*

*Mini: 8 years and younger as of Aug. 31, 2017*

*Youth: 11 years and younger as of Aug. 31, 2017*

*Junior: 14 years and younger as of Aug. 31, 2017*

*Senior: 10-18 years of age as of Aug. 31, 2017*

**2017-2018 CONNECT CHEER NW COSTS AND FEES:**

Upon registering for CONNECT Cheer, you are registering for the entire 2017-18 season. Once registered, you have created a spot on a team for your athlete and you are therefore financially responsible for all of the All Star fees for the remainder of the season if your athlete leaves the program for any reason. All-Star cheerleading requires a substantial financial commitment. Though we attempt to provide an accurate estimation financially per month, please remember that this monthly amount is an estimate and may fluctuate $5-$10 per month and is subject to change. We will have a final amount by May 1st.

**Tryout Fee: Non-refundable fee of $75**

The USASF (United States All Star Federation) requires all athletes to be registered with them in order to compete for the 2017-18 season. For **NEW ATHLETES** a copy of their birth certificate must be **emailed** to: info@connectcheernw.com upon registration.

* **NEW Athletes ONLY** may not attend try outs without submitting a copy of their birth certificate, or passport in advance.
* **Returning athletes** will have a birth certificate, or passport already on file with the USASF and will not need to submit another one. Our office staff will reach out to you should an error occur on USASF’s side.

**Annual All Star Fees for the 2017-18 Season: NEW!!!**

Monthly **All Inclusive** Fee will include the following:

* Registration Fee (New and Returning Members)
* USASF Athlete Credentialing Fee
* Competition Fees (approximately 8 competitions)
* Music and Choreography Fee
* NEW 2017-18 Season Uniform including 9.5% sales tax
* Practice Wear includes sales tax
* Bows and Makeup includes sales tax
* Equipment Fee
* Tuition

**All Star Non Travel Team Package – (Will not compete in Portland, or Anaheim)**

$350 per month per athlete

**All Star Single Membership Package** (Families with 1 athlete) -

$395 per month.

**All Star Multiple Membership Package** (Families with siblings) –

$371 per month per athlete.

**Level 5 Package –**

$405 per month per athlete

**Additional Policies and Billing Information:**

\* CONNECT Cheer NW is based upon a **12-month season (May-April**), and installments are paid in **12 equal installments** with the first installment due by **May 21st**. Athletes will not be able to attend their first team practice for the season without the first installment paid.

\*There are no tuition breaks for gym closures.

\* There are no additional fees due for extra practices called throughout the season.

\* Payments are to be made by **AUTOMATIC BANK DRAFT, OR CREDIT CARD DRAFT**.

\* Payments will draft by the **1st of each month**. A Late fee of $25 will be assessed by the 5th of the month. This fee will not be reversed for any reason.

\* A **$15** reprocess fee will be charged immediately on all declined, or expired credit cards. This fee will not be reversed and will be reflected by end of day on the due date.

\* There will be a **$50 Tuition Crossover Fee** charged per month for athletes competing on multiple cheer teams. In addition, your athlete will be charged a total of $500 in crossover competition fees for the 2017-18 Season that are charged by the event producers.

\*All accounts must be current for the athlete to participate in practice, competitions, community performances, etc. Any athlete with an account balance **in excess of $350** will be charged a **$50** fee on the 1st of the next billing month and will not be allowed to participate in team practices.

\*A re-choreography fee of **$250** will automatically be added to your family account should your athlete miss a practice two weeks prior to a scheduled competition, or mandatory event.

\* If an athlete chooses to resign between **May 21st, 2017 – October 1st, 2017**, written notice must be received to the director 15 days prior to the end of the month in order to be relieved of the following month’s installment. You will still be responsible for the practice wear and uniform fee if those items have already been ordered. In addition, you will also be responsible for any fees that were paid in advance by CCNW (USASF, Equipment, Competition fees, Music/Choreo, etc.)

\*Athletes resigning on, or **after October 1, 2017**, will be charged for the remaining monies owed for the duration of the competition season. If your athlete should suffer an injury you will not be entitled to any refund and will continue to be responsible for your monthly payment, unless that injury is a season ending injury. If the injury does result in ending the athlete’s season, then the director will handle that on a case, by case basis.

**CONNECT CHEER NW 2017-2018 IMPORTANT DATES:**

**Team Placement Evaluations:**

**Monday, May 15th – CURRENT LEVEL 1 OR 2 ATHLETES (Peach/Cobalt/Teal/Gold/Scarlet)**

Level 1 – 5-7 PM (Flying tryouts 7-7:30 PM)

Level 2 – 7-9 PM (Flying Tryouts 9-9:30 PM)

**Tuesday, May 16TH – CURRENT LEVEL 3 or 4/5 Athletes (Jade/Smoke/Platinum/Steel/C5)**

Level 3 – 5-7 PM (Flying tryouts 7-7:30 PM)

Level 4/5 – 7-9 PM (Flying tryouts 9-9:30 PM)

**Wednesday, May 17th – NEW ATHLETES ONLY**

New Athletes – 5-7 PM (Flying tryouts 7-7:30 PM)

**Friday, May 19th – TEAM PLACEMENTS ANNOUNCED BY 9 PM ON OUR WEBSITE**

**Monday, May 22nd** - Team practices begin for the 2017/18 Season

**Choreography Camp Dates (MANDATORY):**

7/27-7/31/17 - **Will include**: Senior Level 2 and all Level 3 and Level 4 Teams.

8/11-8/15/17 - **Will include**: All Level 1 and Level 2 teams (excluding Senior 2)

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8/18-8/19/17 -**Will include**: Junior Level 5

**DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY:**

9/29-10/3 - ALL TEAMS

**Gym Closure Dates: (Schedule your family vacations during these times!!!)**

May 1 – May 14th Gym closed for Practices (EXCLUDING SUMMIT TEAMS) and all Tumbling/Top Girl Classes. (Clinics will be offered in lieu)

May 14th – Mother’s Day (Gym Closed)

May 15th-17th – Team Placements/Tryouts

May 19th – Final Team Placements uploaded to our website by 9 pm

May 27th-29th:  Memorial Day weekend (Gym Closed)

June 18th: Father’s Day (Gym Closed)

July 1st-July 4th: Fourth of July Holiday (Gym Closed)

September 1st – 4th: Labor Day Break (Gym Closed)

Nov. 22nd – November 26th: Thanksgiving Break

Dec. 22nd – Jan.1st: Winter Holiday Break **(Practices resume TUESDAY, JAN. 2nd)**

**Potential 2017-2018 COMPETITION SCHEDULE:**

All Star Athletes will compete in approximately 7 competitions total between December – April for the 2017-18 Season. We anticipate following a similar schedule to the 2017-18 Season with approximately 2 to 3 travel trips. In addition, we will also have our Connect Cheer NW Showcase – November 12th (Tentative).

\* We are waiting on confirmation of dates for a couple of our events and we will post that once we have received that information from the event producers,

**2017-18 CCNW Competitions**

**\*CCNW Showcase: Sun., Nov 12** (time and place TBD): All-Star Teams level 1-5

**\*American NW Championships (Portland)- Dec. 2 - 3**: All-Star travel team levels 1-5 - *\*Summit Bids*

**\*USA 1-day (local)- Date TBD:** All-Star Teams level 1-5 and Prep Teams

**\*ATC (Bellevue)- Jan 26 – 28:** All-Star Teams level 1-5 and Prep teams

*\*Worlds Bids*

**\*Spirit Cheer (Tacoma)- Feb 10 – 11:** All-Star Teams level 1-5

 *\*Summit Bids*

**\*NCA Nationals Texas- Feb 24 - 25-** All-Star Senior 5 team

*\*Worlds and Summit Bids*

**\*Pacwest (Portland)- March 10 – 11:** All-Star travel teams levels 1-5

 *\*Worlds and Summit Bids*

**\*USA Nationals (Anaheim, CA)- March 17 – 18:** All-Star travel teams levels 1-5

 *\*Worlds and Summit Bids*

**\*Aloha (Everett)- Date TBD:** All-Star Teams level 1-R5 and Prep Teams

*\****Sea to Sky (Canada)- April 6 – 8:** All-Star teams levels 1-R5 that will NOT be attending Summit (includes level 1 all year non-travel team)

 *\*Summit Bids*

**CONNECT CHEER NW CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**Physical Address:** 1733 136th Place NE

Bellevue, WA 98005

**Phone: 425-818-8051 (Office hours 5-9 Mon-Thurs.)**

**Website:** [www.connectcheernw.com](http://www.connectcheernw.com)

**Follow us on Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/ConnectCheerNW>

**Follow us on Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/CheerNW>

**CONNECT Cheer, Office Staff:**

Owner, Program Director: Traci Bruener

Owner, Operations Director: Jodi Sides

**Other Email Contacts:**

Inquiries and General Information: inquiry@connectcheernw.com

Customer Service/Accounts/Billing: jodi@connectcheernw.com

Parent Relations: traci@connectcheernw.com

