

Wildfire Cheer 2018-19 Competitive Teams Information



Dear Parents & Athletes,

Thank you for your interest in our competitive cheerleading teams for 2018-19. We can't wait to see what our 3rd season brings for our growing programme! Please read this information pack through carefully as it contains a lot of information about teams, training times, fees, competition information and policies. If you have any questions about any aspect of this information pack, please contact me by email or telephone (details below).

Kind Regards

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About Competitive Cheer

Wildfire Cheer was formed in February 2016 as a small recreational club. In the last two years we have grown to a club of almost 100 members, with 7 competitive teams and 4 recreational classes. Our cheerleaders have made fantastic progress in their skills and confidence over the last two years! For 2018-19 we are now going to be expanding with more new teams – we can't wait to welcome lots of new members and see what we can achieve together this season!

In competitive teams, athletes train hard to learn challenging stunts, tumbling and dance skills, incorporating these skills into energetic routines. This season, all teams will compete their routines at 3 different competitions between March and June 2019, as well performing at our end of year showcase.

Competitive cheerleading is about dedication, teamwork and hard work. The complex stunts and formations mean that every team member is a vital part of the whole – this means that being part of a competitive team is a big commitment and attendance at training needs to be excellent. Cheer is also about fun, friendship and achieving our goals as a team - nothing beats the feeling of hitting a perfect routine at competition!

In August 2018 we will be running four free taster sessions for all those interested in the club, to come and see what cheerleading is all about. Then in the last week of August 2018, we will be running 'Team Placements' for our competitive teams. Team Placements will be used to decide which team each athlete will be offered a place on for the 2017-18 season. See Page 4 for more details.



Free Taster Sessions

In August 2018 we will be running four free taster sessions, one for each age group. Please use your child's age on 31st August 2018 to determine which session to attend. These sessions will be an introduction to cheerleading, covering stunts, tumbling, dance and jumps. They are open to both new and returning members – please bring along any friends who may be interested! Although these taster sessions are not compulsory, we highly recommend attending, especially if your child is new to cheerleading.

| <u>Age</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|------------|--|---------------|--|
| 4 to 6 | Monday 20 th August 2018 | 4 - 4:45pm | Sixth Form Centre, Gate 1, Charnwood College, Thorpe Hill, Loughborough, LE11 4SQ |
| 7 to 8 | Thursday 23 rd August 2018 | 5:30 - 6:30pm | Sports Hall, Building B, Iveshead School, Forest Street, Shepshed, LE12 9DA |
| 9 to 11 | Tuesday 21 st August 2018 | 6:30 – 7:30pm | Sports Hall, Building B, Iveshead School, Forest Street, Shepshed, LE12 9DA |
| 12+ | Wednesday 22 nd August 2018 | 7:30 – 9pm | The Base Gymnastics Centre, Units 8-9, Weldon Road Industrial Estate, Weldon Road, Loughborough, LE11 5RN |

Please book in advance if you would like to attend a taster session by emailing Hannah on hannah@wildfirecheer.com. You will also be asked to fill in a short registration form.

Athletes will need to wear something appropriate for sports such as a top and leggings or shorts. Long hair must be tied back and all jewellery out. For cheerleading we wear trainers, these must be clean trainers that haven't been worn outside (or have been washed). You will not be allowed on the mats with outdoor shoes.

Team Placements

For most age groups we now have 2 or more different level cheer teams available. Which team each athlete is placed on will be determined by our coaches at Team Placements – age experience, ability and a number of other factors are used to make these decisions. Coaches make decisions based on what is best for each team, but also what is best for each individual athlete and their progress. Please use the athletes **age as of 31st August 2018** to determine which session to attend

Team placements are compulsory for all athletes (except those aged 15+) wishing to be part of a competitive team, including returning members. If you/your child is unable to make the appropriate session, please email hannah@wildfirecheer.com to let us know ASAP and we will see if you/your child can attend a different session. We will be finalising teams after team placements and there may no longer be spaces available after this point.

All team placements sessions will take place in the Sports Hall (Building B) at Iveshead School, Forest Street, Shepshed, LE12 9DA.

| <u>Age</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Cost</u> |
|------------------|---|---------------|-------------|
| 5 to 6 | Tuesday 28 th August 2018 | 5:30 – 6:30pm | £4 |
| 7 to 8 | Thursday 30 th August 2018 | 5:30 - 7pm | £6 |
| 9 to 14 | Tuesday 28 th August 2018 | 6:30 – 8pm | £6 |
| 15+ | No Team Placement required – please just attend Inferno’s first training session (Wednesday 5 th September, 7:15 to 9pm, The Base Gymnastics Centre) if you wish to be part of the team. | | |
| Group Stunt (6+) | Friday 31 st August 2018 | 6:30 – 7:30pm | £4 |

All athletes who show a good attitude and can commit to competitive cheerleading will be placed on at least one team, so there is no need to feel worried or intimidated. We try to run these sessions more like a normal training session and less like a ‘trial’.

We will let you know via email which team(s) you/your child has been placed on by Saturday 1st September 2018. Some athletes may be offered a place on two or more teams. You will need to accept your place(s) and decide which team(s) you/your child wishes to be part of by Monday 3rd September. Training will also commence on the week beginning Monday 3rd September and teams will be set from then on. Please only attend Team Placements if you/you child is intending to commit to the entire 2018-19 season. If you change your mind about competitive cheer after the Team Placements that’s fine, but please still let us know so we can offer your child’s space to someone else.

Teams, Training Times & Monthly Fees

| <u>Team</u> | <u>Age</u> | <u>Level</u> | <u>Training</u> | <u>Fees</u> |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---------------|
| Ember | 5 to 6 (School Years 1 & 2) | Tiny Cheer Prep Level 1 | Tuesdays, 5:30 to 6:30pm Iveshead School Sports Hall, Shepshed | £22 per month |
| Sparkle | 7 to 8 (School Years 3 & 4) | Mini Cheer Prep Level 1 | Fridays, 5:45 to 7pm Iveshead School Sports Hall, Shepshed | £25 per month |
| Glimmer | 6 to 8 (School Years 2 to 4) | Mini Cheer Level 1 | Thursdays, 5:30 to 7pm Iveshead School Sports Hall, Shepshed | £30 per month |
| Blaze | 9 to 11 (School Years 5 to 7) | Youth Cheer Level 1 | Tuesdays, 6:15 to 8pm Iveshead School Sports Hall, Shepshed | £33 per month |
| Inferno | 12 to 18 (School Years 8+) | Senior Cheer Level 1 | Wednesdays, 7:15 to 9pm The Base Gymnastics Centre, Loughborough | £33 per month |
| Phoenix | 8 to 14 (School Years 4 to 10) | Junior Cheer Level 2 | Fridays, 4:30 to 6:30pm Iveshead School Sports Hall, Shepshed | £35 per month |
| Group Stunts (Names TBC) | 6+ years (School Years 2+) | Ages and Levels TBC (L1 or L2) | Training times TBC (either Tuesdays, Thursdays or Fridays) Iveshead School Sports Hall, Shepshed | £22 per month |

Ember

Our first ever Tiny team was formed in February 2018 and we are continuing with this team for the whole 2018-19 season. This season, Ember will be competing as a Tiny Prep Level 1 team, meaning they are able to incorporate stunts and higher level tumbles into their routines. There are no minimum tumbling or stunting requirements for Ember.

The team will be coached by Hannah Bottomley, with assistance from Debbie Bottomley and a Junior Coach. Ember will compete 3 times at local competitions in March, May and June 2019.

Sparkle

Due to the large amount of interest in the Mini age category, in 2017 we formed our 2nd Mini team, Sparkle. This season, Sparkle will compete in Mini Prep Level 1, allowing them to incorporate more difficult stunts and tumbling into their routines and enter more competitions. There are no minimum tumbling or stunting requirements for Sparkle.

The team will be coached by Hannah Bottomley, with assistance from a Junior Coach. Sparkle will compete 3 times at local competitions in March, May and June 2019.

Glimmer

Glimmer was our original Mini team formed in 2016 – the team has now progressed to competing in Mini Level 1, which really is an elite level at this age. As a result, strong stunting and/or tumbling ability is preferred.

The team will be coached by Hannah Bottomley, with assistance from Debbie Bottomley and possibly one more coach. Glimmer will compete 3 times at local and national competitions in March, May and June 2019.

Blaze

Blaze was also one of our original teams formed in 2016. They compete in Youth Level 1, and have been very successful in this division, achieving Grand Champions at Cheer City in 2018. There are no minimum tumbling or stunting requirements for Blaze.

The team will be coached by Hannah Bottomley and Gemma Dineley, with assistance from Debbie Bottomley. Blaze will compete 3 times at local and national competitions in March, May and June 2019.

Inferno

Inferno was our first ever Senior age team, formed in 2017. The team competes in Senior Level 1 and has particularly impressed with their stunting ability. There are no minimum tumbling or stunting requirements for Inferno.

The team will be coached by Hannah Bottomley and Gemma Dineley. Inferno will compete 3 times at local and national competitions in March, May and June 2019.

Phoenix

We're extremely excited to introduce our new team for 2018-19, Phoenix. This team will compete in Junior Level 2 which is a first for the club. We are looking for athletes with excellent tumbling ability (standing and roundoff flick) however stunts are just as important and we will need some very strong stunters, so please don't be put off if your child can't quite tumble at Level 2 yet. Level 2 athletes will also need to demonstrate a very high level of motivation, work ethic and commitment, which will also be an important factor for deciding the team.

The team will be coached by Hannah Bottomley and Gemma Dineley. Phoenix will compete 3 times at local and national competitions in March, May and June 2019.

Group Stunt

We started our first two Group Stunt teams in 2017, competing in Mini and Junior Level 1. This year we're looking to form at least 3 teams, levels and ages TBC. Whilst no experience is necessary, we are obviously looking for very strong stunters. Spaces are more limited on Group Stunt as we cannot have more than 5 members on each team.

The teams will be coached mostly by Gemma Dineley, with Hannah Bottomley most likely just coaching one of the younger teams. Group Stunt will compete 3 times at local and national competitions in March, May and June 2019.

Open Tumbling, Private Tuition and Tumbling Solos

Open Tumbling

This season we will again be offering a Tumbling class on Thursdays in Shepshed. This class is open to both recreational and competitive cheerleaders aged 6+. This season we are looking to introduce more coaching and structure to the sessions so the cost has gone up slightly. The last 20 minutes of open tumbling will still be unstructured and athletes can work on their own goals. Tumbling is not compulsory for competitive cheerleaders but is highly encouraged, as we can only allocate a certain amount of time to tumbling at team training. Open Tumbling will be coached by at least two coaches, to be confirmed.

Time: Thursdays, 6:30 to 7:30pm

Location: Iveshead School Sports Hall, Shepshed

Cost:

- Pay as you go - £3 per session or £1.50 for members of Glimmer just staying for the last 30 mins.
- Monthly - £10 per month or £5 for Glimmer if you add this onto your monthly fees. If you are paying monthly there are no refunds for missed sessions.

Private Tuition

This season we would like to offer private tumbling tuition for all ages. Sometimes a bit of one on one coaching is what an athlete needs to really progress their tumbling. We can offer tumbling privates for just the one athlete, or in groups of up to 4 athletes of similar abilities.

Time: Thursdays, 30 minutes between 5:30 and 7:30pm, depending on coach availability

Location: Iveshead School Sports Hall, Shepshed

Cost:

- £9 for 1 person
- £6 each for 2 people
- £5 each for 3 people
- £4 each for 4 people

Please get in touch if this is something you would be interested in and we will figure out a booking system.

Tumbling Solos/Duos

We have also had interest this season in entering tumbling solo/duo categories at competitions. To enter these categories, athletes do of course need to be strong tumblers. Of the competitions we are entering, tumbling solos/duos are only offered at Cheer City and the entry fees are £15 per person. Training for this would most likely be monthly on Thursdays (although this is fairly flexible) and training fees would be the private tuition fees stated above.

Competitions

Athletes MUST be able to attend all of their team's competitions. Cheerleading is a team sport and it is not easy to replace people. For now, please leave the entire weekend free as compete times are not usually confirmed until closer to the event.

Competition entry fees are included in team fees, however any spectator tickets will still need to be pre-ordered. Some competitions have tickets on the door but this is only if they are available and the price may be higher. Travel will need to be arranged independently.

We will be entering three competitions in 2018 and all teams will also perform their routines for one last time at our annual end of year Summer Showcase:

Cheer City – Spring Open (All Teams)

Date – Saturday 2nd March 2019 (Tiny/Mini/Youth) or Sunday 3rd (Junior/Senior)

Location – Morningside Arena, Leicester

Spectator Tickets – £6 for morning or afternoon session only, £10 for a full day, £18 for a weekend ticket. Under 5s are free. This is the early-bird price if ordered in December 2018.

Future Cheer – Gateway to the Galaxy (All Teams except Solos/Duos)

Date – Saturday 11th/Sunday 12th May 2019

Location – English Institute of Sport, Sheffield

Spectator Tickets – £20 for adults age 12+, £10 for children age 5-11, Under 4s are free.

Weekend tickers are £30 for adults or £20 for children. This is last season's pricing so is TBC.

Legacy – Live Your Legacy Nationals (Glimmer, Blaze, Inferno, Pheonix, GS)

Date – Saturday 15th/Sunday 16th June 2019

Location – Genting Arena, Birmingham

Spectator Tickets – £23 for adults age 12+, £19 for children age 5-11, Under 5s are free.

Weekend tickets will be more expensive. This is also last season's pricing so is TBC.

Cheer City – Nationals (Ember, Sparkle, Solos/Duos)

Date – Saturday 22nd June 2019 (Sunday 23rd for any Junior/Senior age Solos/Duos)

Location – Morningside Arena, Leicester

Spectator Tickets – £6 for morning or afternoon session only, £10 for a full day, £18 for a weekend ticket. Under 5s are free. This is the early-bird price if ordered in March 2018.

Wildfire Cheer Summer Showcase (All Teams and Recreational Classes)

Date – Tuesday 2nd July 2019 (TBC – this may move by a few days depending on venue)

Location – TBC, either Shepshed or Loughborough

Spectator Tickets – TBC

Team Fees

Wildfire Cheer is a Community Interest Company (C.I.C.) meaning we are a not for profit company. We keep costs as low as we can and any profits after all costs are paid go towards growing the club and buying equipment.

Most team fees have increased slightly from last season, this is entirely due to increases in competition entry fees, which make up between 25-30% of the monthly fees. The remainder covers training which still works out to under £4 per hour for all teams. We still have much lower fees than most competitive cheer teams in the area.

Monthly team fees are paid on the 1st of each month between September and June. This will need to be paid for by direct debit from now on (details to be confirmed soon). Other fees such as spectator tickets, tumbling fees and uniform fees can still be paid for by bank transfer, cash or cheque.

Crossover Discounts

For any athletes on two cheer teams (known in cheer as a 'crossover') the fees for the higher level team will be 50% of what they usually are. For example, fees for Blaze and Phoenix are £33 and £35 respectively, but an athlete on both would pay £33 and £17.50 (£50.50 total per month).

This does not apply to Group Stunt – due to the small team size, full fees must be paid by all. So for example the cost of being on Blaze and Group Stunt would be £33 and £22 (£55 total per month).

Sibling Discounts

We will be again offering sibling discounts for families with more than one child doing competitive cheerleading. Fees for the 2nd sibling will be discounted by 25% and fees for the 3rd or more sibling will be discounted by 50%. So for example a family with one child on Blaze and one on Glimmer would pay £33 for the older child on Blaze and £22.50 (discounted from £30) for the younger child on Glimmer.

Competition Uniform

Our competition uniforms are bespoke and were designed especially for us. Glimmer, Blaze, Inferno, Phoenix and Group Stunt will be keeping the same uniforms this year. Ember and Sparkle will have a lower cost version.

Glimmer/Blaze/Inferno/Phoenix/Group Stunt

Our original Wildfire uniforms consist of a long sleeved top (similar to a leotard) with mesh/diamante sleeves and shorts. The cost of each new uniform is £95, however the club subsidises this to £85 for those buying uniform for the first time. Uniforms need to be paid for in early November 2018 to ensure they arrive in time. For the last two years we have done a sponsored 1 mile run to raise money for our uniforms and we will look into doing this or something similar again this year.

Ember/Sparkle

This year we are having a lower cost version of our uniforms for Ember and Sparkle, to make cheerleading more accessible at the entry level. This will consist of the vest tops and shorts from our training kit which costs £38 in total. For any returning members of Sparkle, I will offer the option of selling your old uniforms back to the club 2nd hand.

2nd Hand Uniforms

We do offer the option of selling back and buying uniforms 2nd hand where they are possible. If in a good condition, uniforms can then be sold back to the club and then bought 2nd hand for between 50-70% of the full price, depending on the age and condition of the uniform. There should be quite a few 2nd hand uniforms available this season as they tend to fit for around 2 years. This will be first come first served but we will try to give preference to those buying a uniform for the first time.

Competition Bows

Each team will have a specific team hair bow for competition again this year (approx. £10 each). Bow fees will be due in December 2018. If your child is on the same team as they were last year, they will not need to buy a new bow as we are keeping the same ones.

Trainers

All athletes will also need white trainers for competition. Appropriate trainers can be bought for as little as £10 and we are happy to give recommendations.

Training Kit

Training kit is not compulsory but we will be offering this for those who wish to buy it. We will again do a big order of vest tops, crop tops, shorts, leggings and jackets in early October to arrive in time for Christmas 2018. T-shirts are available throughout the season.

Attendance & Commitment Policy

Cheerleading routines are very complex and each team member has a very specific part. One person being missing means several other members are also unable to practice their stunts, which holds back the whole team. This does mean that we have to have strict attendance and commitment rules to avoid damaging absences and drop-outs where possible. When teams are decided, parents and athletes will be asked to agree to and sign the following attendance and commitment policies:

- All training sessions, showcases and competitions are compulsory.
- Athletes must be on time for training and ready to start when training starts. Lateness will be recorded.
- Excused absences include: compulsory school events and trips; serious illness or injury; contagious illness and family emergencies. If an athlete is injured or has a mild illness meaning they can't train properly, they may still be asked to attend practice to watch any new choreography.
- Unexcused absences include (but are not limited to): mild illness e.g. colds; birthdays; family parties; school discos and revision/homework.
- If any absences are unavoidable, the athlete/parent must inform the coach with as much advanced warning as possible. Less than 2 hours notice is not acceptable unless it's an emergency. Training plans need to be completely altered when someone is missing so please respect your coach and team by following this rule.
- You must inform the coach of any planned holidays or school trips which would conflict with training as soon as you have the dates for these. Holidays during school term time will be classed as unexcused. Holidays in the 3 weeks leading up to competitions are also unexcused and may result in your child not being able to compete. Please do your best to avoid holidays during these times.
- Multiple unexcused absences and/or consistent lateness may result in a loss of position within the routine and repeatedly poor attendance will result in the athlete being asked to leave the team completely.
- Athletes must commit to the whole competitive season. Drop-outs are extremely damaging to the team as a whole and will affect the team's performance at competitions. If an athlete does drop out, there will be no refunds for any fees already paid and the athlete will not be allowed to return to the team again unless there are mitigating circumstances (e.g. time out for an injury).
- All fees must be paid on time. We will remind you if any fees are late, however failure to pay fees will eventually result in the athlete being asked to leave the team. Please speak to us if you are experiencing temporary financial difficulties.

Code of Conduct & Anti Bullying Policy

At Wildfire Cheer we strive to provide a safe and friendly environment where all athletes, parents and coaches are treated with respect. When teams are decided, parents will be asked to agree to and sign the following code of conduct and anti bullying policies:

- Athletes must follow all instructions from coaches and work towards the goals set with a positive attitude. Rudeness and refusal to participate may result in the athlete being sat out of the practice or sent home.
- All decisions on team placements, stunt positions, training methods and routine choreography are made by qualified coaches only. Decisions are made with each athlete in mind, but the success of the team as a whole is the priority.
- Where parents are allowed to watch practices, they must sit quietly and not interrupt the practice or come onto the mats. They must not film or take photos of training unless they have been cleared to (see our 'Photography and Image' Policy).
- Please respect coaches by only contacting them directly during working hours. Coaches will not necessarily respond to calls or messages during evenings or weekends unless it is an urgent message regarding training that evening.
- Under no circumstances should an athlete attempt any stunts unless supervised by a qualified coach. Please do not allow children to practice tumbling outside of training which is beyond their current ability or not on a safe surface. We aren't trying to ban cartwheels in the playground but please use common sense.
- Appropriate clothing and shoes must be worn at all times. Long hair must always be tied back and any jewellery taken out (or covered with tape if not possible).
- All training facilities and equipment must be treated with respect and any specific venue rules must be followed.
- Athletes and parents must show good sportsmanship and respect towards coaches, teammates, other teams and competition staff at all times, including online. Your behaviour reflects on the whole club. Any serious incidents such as physical violence or verbal abuse may result in the athlete/parent involved being asked to leave the club immediately.
- Bullying will be taken seriously – this includes abusive language, name calling, physical violence, unfriendly teasing and cyber bullying. If an athlete is causing distress to another athlete and this has been observed on multiple occasions, they may be asked to leave the club entirely.
- Please report any concerns or incidents to a coach and we will try to resolve issues between athletes and parents. We understand that children do sometimes act inappropriately and fall out with each other. Often an apology will solve things.

2018-19 Important Dates

Please keep a note of these dates. Some training dates can change due to unforeseen circumstances and venue issues.

There is the possibility of the occasional extra training sessions if needed in the run up to competition. You will be given at least 2 weeks' notice.

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|---|--|
| 28 th August 2018 | Age 5 – 6 team placements Age 9 – 14 team placements |
| 30 th August 2018 | Age 7 – 8 team placements |
| 31 st August 2018 | Group Stunt trials |
| 4 th – 7 th September 2018 | Training for all competitive teams starts this week |
| 28 th September 2018 | Ember/Sparkle uniform fees due (plus any training kit orders) |
| 2 nd November 2018 | All other uniform fees due |
| 24 th December 2018 to 6 th January 2019 | No training – Christmas break (all teams) |
| 2 nd /3 rd March 2019 | COMPETITION – Cheer City Spring Open, Leicester (all teams) |
| 15 th April to 19 th April 2019 | No training – Easter break (all teams) |
| 12 th /13 th May 2019 | COMPETITION – Future Cheer Gateway to the Galaxy, Sheffield (all teams except solos/duos) |
| 15 th /16 th June 2019 | COMPETITION – Legacy Live Your Legacy Nationals, Birmingham (Glimmer, Blaze, Inferno, Phoenix, Group Stunt) |
| 22 nd /23 rd June 2019 | COMPETITION – Ember, Sparkle, any Solos/Duos |
| 2 nd July 2019 (TBC) | Wildfire Cheer Summer Showcase (all teams and rec classes) |
| 3 rd July 2019 onwards | Summer break – all teams finish training for the season |