



Team Handbook

2022 - 2023

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Welcome

We are pleased that you have joined the GLT Team Program. To be a competitive gymnast requires a great amount of invested time, dedication, financial obligations and the right support from family, friends and the GLT organization. At Gym Like This! We have a Support Like This! Booster Club that helps support the facility and families of the competitive team programs. You will be asked to join SLT and support all aspects that coincide with the team program. We strive for you to create a balanced life between gym, academics and family life, while achieving success as the ultimate goal.

Responsibilities

Gymnasts, coaches and parents have their own responsibilities. It is the gymnast's responsibility to work hard, make all practices, stay focused and healthy, enjoy the sport, maintain good grades in school, communicate with teachers, coaches and parents, respect team mates and fellow competitors and strive for success.

The parents, must fulfill the financial and parenting obligations. It is your responsibility to ensure that your parent portal information has current information at all times. Your parent portal is easily assessable via our web site: www.gymlikethis.com. Besides that, any outside the gym related matters should be communicated with the coaches and team director. Parents are not coaches and should 100% refrain from coaching inside and outside the gym. Your main job is to be your daughter's cheerleader and biggest fan!

It is the coaches' responsibility to provide a safe workout environment, stimulate progressive training, communicate between athletes and parents and report any signs of interference that hinder success.

Communications

- Coach AnnMarie Laporta is the Team Director and Head Coach. She is your contact for all team and gym related questions. Her contact information is: Cell: 772-872-1915
Email: anniemarie311@gmail.com
- Billing and account questions should be directed to our Hospitality Desk.
- "BAND" is the primary team communication app. Upon acceptance into the team program, you will need to text AnnMarie at the above number. A band link will be sent to you.

Gymnasts should:

- Notify the coach immediately of any discomfort or pain.
- Let the coach know immediately if you don't understand the instructions.
- Remind all coaches if you need to be dismissed early from practice.
- Notify the team director immediately if arriving late at practice.
- Ask for permission to get a drink or to be excused to go to the bathroom during practice or at competition.
- Discuss any concern in private with the coaches.

Parents should:

- Express concerns directly to the coach.
- Notify any workout or competition conflicts in advance in writing. Any workout conflicts should be emailed to the team director minimum 3 hours before start of their workout. Any competition conflicts should be emailed and discussed at least 2 months prior to competition season.
- Any medical limitations and/or clearance should be signed off by a practicing physician and a copy handed to the team director. Please keep the medical section updated in your parent portal.
- Approach, email or text coaches before or after workout times. Work out hours are dedicated to the athletes' workouts. If you prefer a personal meeting, make an appointment by email. Typical coaching staff office hours are M-F 1pm to 3pm.
- In case of a concern leave emotions out and discuss facts in a private setting. Do not discuss your concern with fellow parents (may result in immediate dismissal). Questions or concerns that are not related to your athletes training should be directed to upper management.
- Concerns about performances (coach or athlete) at competitions should be addressed back in the gym in a private setting. Do not discuss these concerns in the open. You still represent GLT (may result in immediate dismissal).
- Except in the case of an emergency, the GLT! team staff should not be called or text at home or text during practice. Please leave all messages with the hospitality desk at the gym or email the coach. The coaches will check their boxes periodically and return your calls/emails normally within 24 hours. Typical office hours for director is M-F, 1:00pm – 3:00pm, please be respectful of staff's time off from work.

Team Philosophy & Policies

New members

Gymnastics is a small community. To accept new members coming from a different program, they must be in good financial standings with their former program. Clients will be offered a week of practice at our current tuition rate for 1 week of practice. This will enable you to evaluate our program and for us to evaluate you. Placement at GLT is not automatic and may differ from other programs. After the week's trial, a final decision will be made and commitments, paperwork etc. must be completed prior to athletes' start date. New members from within our Recreational program(s) will be offered an evaluation/tryout in late spring and if accepted will have the opportunity to join in early summer.

All athletes

- Attend all practices, competitions, clinics and special events.
- If you can't attend a workout call the gym or email the team director. There are no make-ups!
- Be punctual!... Arrive on time and stay until practice is over. On time means on the floor proper workout attire, hair up, no loose clothing, 5 minutes prior to start time. **Due to limited "waiting space", we ask that athlete NOT arrive more than 10 min. prior to your start time.**
- Be happy!... Come into the gym with a good attitude every day.

- Respect your teammates, treat each other the way you would want to be treated.
- Be patient with yourself and others; everyone excels at a different rate. Do not compare! Everyone is an individual.
- Honesty!... Cheating is the ugliest form of disrespect. It shows disrespect to your coaches, your parents, your teammates, and most important to yourself. If you cannot or will not complete an assignment, be honest about it.
- Be healthy!... If you are sick, stay home. Tell your coaches when your body is telling you to stop and slow down. If you are sick, injured or on medication we need to know. Inform the coach on each event.
- When injured you are still required to come to practice (with doctors note). This is of utmost importance to maintain strength and flexibility. If participation is cleared from the doctor to do skills without use of the injured limb it helps keep the feel of the skills. Tuition reduction will not be given for injuries or missed workouts.
- Provide your body with proper food and drink at all times. Maintain a healthy weight that is appropriate for the sport of gymnastics and a proper balance of your body. Being overweight or underweight will put you at risk of injury.
- Lockers are for gym related items only. All other items should be kept at home. Keep it clean and organized! Food and drinks should NOT be left overnight.
- Always wait inside the gym for your ride. Be sure that your parents always know what time your workout is over and pick you up in a timely manner. Avoid being picked up early or late!
- The coaches determine your level. Remember, being at a higher level does not make you a better gymnast. Executing skills more precisely helps build long term success.

Parents are expected:

- to support the athlete and program.
- to make sure all financials are current at all times and billing information is current.
- to understand & uphold your responsibility to the Booster club.
- to support, not judge your child's performance in and out of the gym.
- to refrain from "coaching" your child, this could negatively impact their workouts.
- to address concerns directly to the Head Coach during office hours, not voice them to others in or out of the gym.
- to understand that face-to-face progress reports are not practical.
- to arrange accommodations and travel to and from competition. Competition time and place will be provided by the team director. Allow ample travel time! Pre-book hotels and cancel the days that you don't have to be there right after competition times are listed.
- once you drop off your child for competition to refrain from communicating with her. The coaches will take care of everything and contact you if necessary.
- to monitor social media postings concerning GLT, their coaches and/or operators and refrain from any negative postings made by their child, themselves or anybody else (Immediate dismissal).
- Pick your daughter up on time from practice!
- Help promote our gymnasts by sharing your competition / award photo's with GLT Photos can be sent to gymlikethis@bellsouth.net or you can post on our social media sites and tag Gym Like This!.

Time and Financial Obligations

Tuition

These fees cover instructional time. They do not cover the administrative expenses of running the program. Tuition fees are based on 48 weeks, allowing for 4 weeks for vacation / closed business days / canceled practices due to weather or meet travel. GLT is not obligated to provide any make-up practices that are canceled.

- The list of Tuition Fees for each level will be distributed around May with the team's summer workout schedule. Tuition Fees and workout times are subject to change from year to year. Team Tuition must be paid in full and on time. Any unpaid balance that is 15 days overdue may terminate your child's participation in any competitions, workouts or team activities.
- Tuition is due each month regardless of attendance. There are no make-ups or discounts for missed practices. A valid credit/debit card is required for guaranteed payment of tuition and other fees associated with the competitive program. Your credit card will be automatically charged on or about the 20th of each proceeding month to cover tuition expenses. There is a \$30 assessment for non-processing credit cards and payments that are considered late.
- Team contracts remain in effect unless we receive a 30-day written withdraw notice of resignation from team prior to the 15th of current billing month. Your account will be charged accordingly.
- **It is your responsibility to ensure that your account information is current at all times. This is easily done via your parent portal which can be accessed via www.gymlikethis.com.**

Gym Team Annual Membership Fee: Upon Enrollment & Annually June 1st

GLT assesses an annual membership fee that covers:

- Coach's required accreditations, memberships, certifications, clinics & continued education.
 - Staff Administrative costs related directly to the day to day needs of the program; lesson plans, rotations, parent communication, staffing, evaluations, etc.
 - Replacement/refurbishment fund that is specifically for upgrading team equipment to meet competitive standards.
 - Team insurance
- \$95.00 per year for Pre-Team
 - \$175.00 per year for Levels 1, 2, 3 and Xcel Bronze & Silver
 - \$222.00 per year for Xcel Gold, Platinum, & Diamond and Levels 4 and up

Membership fees are non-refundable and will not be pro-rated.

USAG Annual Membership Fee: This is mandated by USA Gymnastics and is renewed each year. Membership fee is determined by levels and is due every July. Parents are required to purchase this membership through USAG. Their website is www.usagym.org.

General Competition Fund:

This fund benefits everyone by spreading out costs across the whole team and will be charged to all team families on September 1st. Pre-team: \$60, Compulsory Levels 1, 2, 3, & Xcel Bronze & Silver athletes: \$99.00. Compulsory Levels 4, 5 & Xcel Gold: \$112.00. Xcel Platinum, Diamond and Levels 6-10: \$122.00. This fee helps cover the competitive administrative costs of entering athletes in meets, collection and accounting of competitive expenses and fees, and making coaches travel arrangements. The following meets are eligible to receive subsidy from the fund: Regionals for levels 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, Xcel and Nationals for levels 9/10.

Competition Expenses

Please be aware of the important differences between *tuition and competition fees/expenses*. Monthly tuition is paid to Gym Like This!. This revenue is used to pay expenses associated with *your gymnast's daily training*. *Competition fee/expenses* are used to pay expenses associated with competing (meet entry fees, coaches traveling expenses, etc). Competition fees are two categories, **Coach's Fees & Entry Fees**.

- **Entry fees (individual & team)** and fee deadlines will accompany your gymnast's meet schedule for the year. Entry fees for competitions vary from \$65.00 - \$195.00 per event (entry fees and deadlines are set by meet hosts, not GLT!) All entry fees are collected by GLT! and remitted to the competition host. Entry fee deadlines are typically 6 to 8 weeks prior to the competition. Entry fees are not pro-rated or refunded for missed competitions. Meet schedules will be available by the end of May and will indicate entry due dates for each competition. Your account will be billed accordingly for each competition.
- **Coaches travel fees** will be assessed for every competition and training camp. The coaches fees are based upon the projected coaching costs associated with each competition for the season. The total of all of these fees are then divided by levels. **As such, these fees are non-refundable, non-transferrable, and are not prorated**. These fees cover coaches expenses such as travel, food, lodging, coaching compensation, substitutes for coaches classes & team assignments when they are away at meets.
- All Coaches fees will be due Sept. 1st and are non-refundable. You will receive the amount of these fees along with our meet schedule sometime in May. This gives parents the opportunity to make payments throughout the summer OR make the lump payment on Sept. 1st.

Other

- Team uniforms including warm-ups, competition leotard, a bag, slip-on shoes (optional), and hair accessories must be purchased. Support Like This! has this information.
- The decision to join the GLT team program is a big one and reflects a commitment to the team program. Team members do not move on and off of the team based on illness, injury, conflicts or the like. You are either on the team or not! Gymnasts must maintain at least a 75% 6-month attendance average to be eligible to compete or move to the next level.

- There will be no prorating of coaches fees.
 - GLT may choose not to offer team workout the first scheduled practice after State Meets, Regional or National Championship, or major invitational for the levels involved in the competition. This is to give the gymnasts and coaches (who have been away from home for the entire weekend) a day off to rest and recharge.
 - GLT may also cancel or reschedule team workouts for clinics, camps, workshops, in-house competitions, special events or team outings.
 - GLT may schedule extra practices on weeks when the gym is closed for all other activities.
 - Private lessons are available to all GLT! gymnasts. Privates should be scheduled with the coach responsible for that particular event if at all possible. Scheduled privates must be cancelled 24 hrs. prior to your time or you are still responsible for the fees.
- * Account must be current for gymnasts to take private lessons**

Level Mobility

Mobility within Team Program

The specific mission of Gym Like This! is to develop happy, healthy and confident young people. To help ensure this goal is achieved, each gymnast competes in the level in which she can perform the required skills and routines with a high level of proficiency and confidence. Mobility through the levels (moving up) takes place with the full discretion of the Team staff as the requirements set forth by USA Gymnastics are achieved. At no time will a gymnast be moved up without fulfilling all of the requirements of the next level to the highest of standards.

Compulsory athletes (Levels 1-5) typically compete in the Fall season (Sept-Dec) and the deadlines for an athlete to meet all of the minimum requirements to move into one of these levels is August 1st. However, if the athlete is not competition ready, they may compete in the Winter/Spring.

Optional athletes (Xcel, Levels 6-10) compete in the Winter & Spring Season (Jan-May) and the deadlines for an athlete to meet all of the minimum requirements to move into one of these levels is September 30th. Athletes seeking to score out of the compulsory to optional may do so during the Fall or Spring competitive season (additional costs may incur).

All athletes that move up, do so under the following terms and conditions:

- I. Athlete/parents understand that if attendance average for the summer months falls below 75% or if attendance during any one of those 3 months is below 66%, athlete will need to compete in the Winter/Spring competition season.
- II. Athlete/parents understand that being moved up does not mean that the athlete is ready to compete nor does it guarantee that the athlete will compete at that level. There is still much work to be done after being moved up to be ready for competition and it is the responsibility of the athlete to get it done.

Booster Club Information and Obligations

It is the philosophy of Gym Like This! that every family involved with the team should be a member of the booster club. This is a requirement that goes into effect upon enrollment of the team program. GLT's Competitive Athletes are supported by our Non-Profit Booster Club, Support Like This!. The purpose of this organization is to provide athlete and parent support, help build camaraderie within our program, plan and organize athlete functions; Holiday Party, Team Bonding Activities & Annual Awards Banquet.

**Visit supportlikethis.org for additional information.*

Gymnast Competition Guidelines

“Competition is a reward for all the hard work you have put in at practice. It should be a fun experience for everyone. It is your opportunity to show what you have learned and experience team and individual satisfaction.”

- Be on time. Arrive at competition a minimum of 30 minutes prior to your scheduled stretch time.
- Arrive with a good attitude! Show good sportsmanship for all gymnasts in the competition. Cheer on your teammates as well as your competitors. You will make lifelong friends during your tenure in this sport by doing so. If you see a skill or routine that you like, let them know it.
- Hair must be neat and not cover eyes (pony tail flip test)
- All nail polish must be removed from toes and hands unless clear. (USAG RULE)
- All jewelry must be removed except for a single pair of post earrings (one in each ear) or a deduction is taken. (USAG RULE)
- Contact the coach immediately upon arrival to the competition.
- No gymnast is allowed to leave the competition floor for any reason unless given permission from the coach.
- Be courteous, respectful, and polite to all judges, meet directors, host clubs, competitors and coaches. The only time you should approach an official or a judge is to thank them for hosting or judging a meet and at the start of the event to present to the judge.
- Only gymnasts competing in the event should be on the competitive floor.
- Away meets: when you are traveling to a meet you are representing GLT, you must behave appropriately. No yelling or playing around in the hallways in hotels or the coaches will send you home, scratched from the competition and all related meet fees will be non-refundable.
- We suggest no swimming (water in the ear or unexpected ear infection can make you unbalanced) or sitting in a hot tub the day before or day of a meet. This could prevent you from doing your best in competition. Additionally, do not sit out in the hot sun the day of or before a meet.
- REST before competition. Get a good night sleep the night before.

- Gymnasts should stay at their last event until the last athlete has finished the competition.
- Gymnasts are expected to stay for awards and always wear their team uniform for the ceremony with good sportsmanship and attitude. Jackets must be zipped – no t-shirts showing. Barefoot, clean socks or athletic flip flops.
- Any team rewards should be accepted and brought back to the gym. Coaches are most of the time occupied in other sessions and may not attend awards.
- Strive to do your routines and skills to the best of your ability. Scores are not always indicative of your best performance. Concentrate on achieving your goals, for example, if you are performing a new skill in competitions for the first time, and did it... You won that day!
- Accept your scores with dignity and without comment or criticism. You cannot control the scores you get, nor can you control the scores of other gymnasts. You can only control what you do.
- There is no place for crying, disrespect and uncontrolled emotions on the floor. This type of behavior will not be tolerated.
- **Parents are never allowed onto the competition floor as per USAG Gymnastics!**

Gym Like This! Competitive Uniform List

Workout Attire- For the safety of all athletes and coach staff:

1. Leotard – full tank leotards / no crop tops / no legging or pants
2. Biker short are acceptable *NO LOOSE CLOTHING OR LONG PANTS

Mandatory Competitive

1. Long Sleeve Competition Leotard (Levels 2 – 10 & Xcel)
2. Warm-up suit (jacket and pants) (Levels 1 – 10 & Xcel)
3. Tank Style Competition Leotard (Levels 1)
4. Team Gym Bag (Levels 1–10 & Xcel)

Optional

1. Gym Like This! T-shirt
2. Slip-on shoes (to keep feet clean during competition)
3. Tank style warm-up leotards for training camps (Levels 7 – 10 & Xcel)

Cost (estimated for mandatory items – please understand that Support Like This! does their best to help offset these fees and they are only estimates.)

- Levels 1: Approximately \$257.00, which includes tank style competition leo, warm-up.
- Levels 2 – 10 / Xcel Levels : Approximately \$460.00, which includes long sleeve competition leo, warm-up.

Miscellaneous Information

- Competitive team families will be emailed a calendar with workout schedule changes. Please keep these calendars and revise them when necessary. You can view sent emails via your parent portal for up to 1 year.
- Every Spring/Summer GLT! Booster Club will have an awards banquet for the compulsory and optional team gymnasts. Each gymnast will be recognized for her accomplishments by her coaches. Please make every attempt to attend.
- When planning for family vacations, please try to schedule them for early in the summer. This will allow for minimal time out of the gym.
- The competitive team program typically is closed around the 4th of July.

Minor Injury Procedure

Often times in gymnastics, athletes will feel some degree of soreness or pain. This is associated with the rigors of training this sport. Most of the time gymnasts can continue to train. In the event that the gymnast feels that she has injured herself, basic first aid will be administered (Rest, Ice, Compression, Elevation). Most often the pain will subside in a day or two. The Team staff will do their best to work around this pain for three days. On the fourth day, GLT! requires that the gymnast a) return to full training regimen or b) go see a doctor if the pain persists.

GLT staff will then follow any recommendations (in writing) of the doctor until the gymnast is released for full participation (also in writing). For safety reasons, if pain persists and the gymnast has not seen a doctor, the gymnast will only be allowed to work flexibility, strength and zero impact skill work in non-affected areas. This training regimen will be followed until the gymnast has been released for full participation by a doctor (in writing). Understand that the gymnast will not be entered into competition until she has returned to previous form.

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Follow us on Facebook: Gym Like This!
- Follow us on Instagram: [gym_like_this](#)
- We appreciate positive google reviews!

Emergency Procedure

In the event of a physical emergency involving one of our gymnasts, immediate first aid is administered. If the injury is deemed extreme (fractures, head injuries, etc.), one of two things will happen, depending on the severity:

1. You will be contacted immediately using the emergency contact information you have given GLT (this would be a good time to update your information via your parent portal) and informed of the injury, and we will follow your direction. In the event we are unable to make contact with a parent, the team director will be notified and the gymnast will be taken to the nearest facility.
2. EMS (911) will be notified, along with the team director, and the gymnast will be transported to the nearest hospital via ambulance with either the director or her coach. During this time, attempts to contact the parent will continue.

Lastly

We know you have many choices of programs for your gymnast, and truly appreciate that you have elected to Gym Like This! to be your training center. Welcome to our family.

**This handbook is designed to give information and guidance involving the competitive team program. GLT reserves the right to make adjustments to this handbook at any given time in the event it is warranted for the betterment of the business and/or program, additionally, in the event of unforeseen circumstances that inhibit the normal operation of the business.*

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