



Sapphire
ELITE

GOLD PATHWAY
Athlete Pack
2023 - 2024

EMAIL: SAPPHIRE@AFFINITYACADEMY.CO.UK



GOLD TIMETABLE



WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THE BELOW TEAMS THAT ARE PART OF OUR GOLD PATHWAY FOR THE 2023-2024 SEASON!

This pathway is for our Elite athletes who have the necessary skills, with a high level of technique to compete in the elite divisions. A positive attitude and work ethic is absolutely vital, and these teams require a high level of commitment automatically expected by the coaches.

Athletes on a Gold team are also expected to attend additional classes that are relevant to their teams, such as tumble classes and stretch & flex classes. If this is not something you can commit to, please speak to our coaches or email us.

TEAM NAME	DIVISION	TRAINING DAY	TIME	MONTHLY COST	CROSSOVER
<i>Platinum</i>	IASF U16	Mondays	7.05-9.35	£56	£39.20
<i>Enchanted</i>	Senior Elite 4.2	Tuesdays	7.45-9.45	£51	£35.70
<i>Obsession</i>	Junior Elite 1	Wednesdays	5.30-7.30	£51	£35.70
<i>Black Magic</i>	Non-Tumble 3	Wednesdays	7.30-9.30	£51	£35.70
<i>Aurora</i>	Senior Elite 1	Thursdays	7.45-9.45	£51	£35.70
<i>Golden Girls</i>	Non-Tumble 5	Sundays (Monthly)	10.00-4.30	£44	£30.80

Membership fees are taken via direct debit monthly, and the cost is split across 11 monthly payments which runs from September 2023 to mid July 2024.

If you withdraw from a team mid season it results in immediate removal from the team and no refunds will be provided.

ADDITIONAL COSTS

ONE OFF FEES	COST	PAYMENT DATE	WHAT IS IT?
Joining Fee	£35	On Acceptance	COVERS PROCESSING FEES, MUSIC CONTRIBUTION, EXTRA TRAININGS & TRAINING T-SHIRT - NEEDED TO SECURE PLACE
Insurance	£14.49	01/09/23	ONE OFF ANNUAL FEE TO COVER ATHLETE INSURANCE DURING TRAINING *LAST YEARS PRICE WAS £15.99 AS A GUIDE BUT THIS MAY CHANGE.
Choreography	TBC	18/09/23	COVERS MUSIC COSTS AND CHOREOGRAPHY DAY TRAINING - THIS WILL BE CONFIRMED AT THE START OF SEPT WHEN TEAMS ARE FINALISED

All our teams across our GOLD Pathway will be getting new uniforms this season: These will be crop tops & skirts, however teams NOT entering a senior division (so Platinum U16 & Obsession) will be required to purchase the detachable mesh insert to make these full length. If you already own a BLUE bow, this will stay the same.

Athlete will need ALL BLACK cheerleading trainers - Varsity Black Trainers will be available via our pro-shop, but you can also opt for Nfinity's or Rebel shoes providing they are all black.

UNIFORM	COST	PAYMENT DATE	WHAT TEAMS?
Crop Top	£90*	25/09/23	COMPULSORY FOR ALL GOLD TEAMS - OBSESSION, PLATINUM, AURORA, ENCHANTED, BLACK MAGIC, GOLDEN GIRLS
Skirt	£45*	25/09/23	COMPULSORY FOR ALL GOLD TEAMS - OBSESSION, PLATINUM, AURORA, ENCHANTED, BLACK MAGIC, GOLDEN GIRLS
Mesh Insert	£20	25/09/23	COMPULSORY FOR OBSESSION & PLATINUM ONLY
Blue Bow	£15	25/09/23	BLUE TALESS BOWS FOR ALL TEAMS, BAR GOLDEN GIRLS WHO WILL WEAR THEIR GOLD BOWS - CROSSOVERS TO GG WILL REQUIRE BOTH BOWS

*SIZES AL AND ABOVE ARE SUBJECT TO 20% VAT. THE COST IS THEREFORE £110 FOR THE CROPPED TOP AND £55 FOR THE SKIRT.



COMPETITIONS



Our Gold pathway teams will be attending between 4-6 competitions this season, depending on each team.

Multiple competitions do require hotel stays- These must be arranged by athletes/families themselves, and Sapphire are not responsible for getting athletes to competition. Hotels do often book up in advance, so we recommend booking these as in advance as possible, especially Birmingham & Bournemouth.

All competitions are compulsory for all athletes on a Gold team - If you are unable to commit to all competitions, please notify us as soon as possible, as it may be better for those athletes to commit to an alternative Pathway team instead for the season. Given these are our most elite teams, attendance is non negotiable.

Please note, what days teams compete on will not be confirmed until nearer to competition, so please allow for the whole weekend. Platinum is our Travel Team, and will attend FC Barcelona - More information on this is further down in the athlete pack.

**** PLEASE NOTE - the below prices are all estimates and WILL change. We do not expect them to be higher than below ****

COMPETITION	COST	CROSSOVER	COMPETITION DATES	LOCATION
<i>Legacy Just Believe</i>	£50	£35	17TH-18TH FEB '24	STRATFORD <small>ALL GOLD TEAM EXCEPT GOLDEN GIRLS</small>
<i>FC Spotlight Showdown</i>	£43	£33	16TH-17TH MARCH '24	COLCHESTER <small>ALL GOLD TEAMS</small>
<i>Cheer City Summer Games</i>	£35	£27.50	18TH-19TH MAY '24	HATFIELD <small>ALL GOLD TEAMS</small>
<i>Future Cheer Barcelona</i>	£48	N/A	15TH JUNE '24	BARCELONA <small>PLATINUM ONLY</small>
<i>Legacy Nationals</i>	£60	£35	8TH-9TH JUNE '24	BIRMINGHAM <small>ALL GOLD TEAMS</small>
<i>Future Cheer Nationals</i>	£54	£35	5TH-7TH JULY '24	BOURNEMOUTH <small>ALL GOLD TEAMS</small>



ATTENDANCE POLICY



Attendance is absolutely vital for all training sessions across all of our competing teams.

THE RED ZONE

The Red Zone is the 2 week period prior to competition, and athletes are not allowed to miss training sessions during this period for any reason. If an athlete misses a training in the Red Zone, they will be removed from the competition as it is not fair on the team to not feel as prepared as possible. When one athlete doesn't attend a session, the rest of the team is unable to utilise the training session to their full capacity, which has a huge affect on them.

If athletes consistently miss training sessions, authorised or unauthorised, you will be moved to a Bronze Pathway team that requires less commitment.

Please note, any athlete absences will not be discussed with anyone other than that athlete & their family, and it is at the coaches discretion as to what necessary action will be taken, given the circumstances of the situation. Athletes who miss a competition last minute will be removed to a reserve position for the remainder of the season, reason dependant.

Exams & Revision are NOT an acceptable reason to not attend training - Athletes should plan ahead and be aware of their schedule prior to when exams take place. If you should require any advice, our coaches (who have all gone through school and university whilst still competing) will be more than happy to advise, and there may be some negotiation on training times.

Any planned absences **MUST** be communicated to the coaches via email as early as possible, but with a minimum notice period of 4 weeks, including holidays: SAPPHIRE@AFFINITYACADEMY.CO.UK

Authorised Absence

GRADED SCHOOL EVENT
FAMILY DEATH
SICKNESS WITH VOMITING
NECESSARY SCHOOL TRIPS SUCH
AS RESIDENTIALS
(Should not fall within red zone)

Unauthorised Absence

UNAPPROVED HOLIDAYS
(If during training weeks)
HOMEWORK/REVISION
BIRTHDAYS/PARTIES
TIREDNESS
UNGRADED SCHOOL EVENT
EXAMS
(Please see notes above)



GOLD CALENDAR



July/August

28/07/23 ACCEPTANCE DEADLINE
28/07/23 FINAL DATE FOR JOINING FEE
18/08/23 FIRST MEMBERSHIP FEE
TAKEN

September

01/09/23 INSURANCE PAYMENT
04/09/23 FIRST WEEK OF TRAININGS
18/09/23 CHOREOGRAPHY FEE DUE
25/09/23 UNIFORM PAYMENT DUE

October

01/10/23 PLATINUM CHOREO DAY
02/10/23 LEGACY JB PAYMENT
07/10/23 ENCHANTED CHOREO DAY
15/10/23 OBSESSION CHOREO DAY
23/10/23 FINISH FOR HALF TERM
27/10/23 RETURN FROM HALF TERM

November

05/11/23 AURORA CHOREO DAY
05/11/23 BLACK MAGIC CHOREO DAY
06/11/23 FC BARCELONA PAYMENT
08/11/23 FC SPOTLIGHT PAYMENT
12/11/23 GG CHOREO DAY

December

04/12/23 FC NATIONALS PAYMENT
20/12/23 CLOSED FOR XMAS BREAK

January

04/01/24 RETURN FROM XMAS BREAK
08/01/24 CHEER CITY PAYMENT
28/01/24 SAPPHIRE SHOWCASE

February

05/02/24 LEGACY NATS PAYMENT
17/02/24 LEGACY JB DAY 1
18/02/24 LEGACY JB DAY 2
19/02/24 CLOSE FOR HALF TERM
23/02/24 RETURN FROM HALF TERM

March

03/03/24 PRE-COMP CAMP
16/03/24 FC SS COMP DAY 1
17/03/23 FC SS COMP DAY 2
29/03/24 CLOSE FOR EASTER

April

15/04/24 RETURN FROM EASTER
28/04/24 PRE-COMP CAMP

May

18/05/24 CHEER CITY COMP DAY 1
19/05/24 CHEER CITY COMP DAY 2
27/05/24 FINISH FOR HALF TERM
31/05/24 RETURN FROM HALF TERM

June

15/06/24 FC BARCELONA (PLATINUM)
08/06/24 LEGACY NATS DAY 1
09/06/24 LEGACY NATS DAY 2
23/06/24 PRE-COMP CAMP

July

05/07/24 FC NATIONALS DAY 1
06/07/24 FC NATIONALS DAY 2
07/07/24 FC NATIONALS DAY 3
09/07/24 START OF TRYOUTS WEEK!
12/07/24 SAPPHIRE END OF SEASON
AWARDS NIGHT (DATE MAY
CHANGE)



GOLDEN GIRLS - NT5



Golden Girls are our International Open Non-Tumble Level 5 Team, and train monthly one Sunday a month, usually 10am-4.30pm but this may sometimes vary throughout the season if necessary.

Every session is mandatory, and therefore if there is a date you cannot attend, you must notify us via email immediately.

Stunt groups are also expected to train 1-2 times together between each monthly session, whether this be at Open Gyms or an agreed alternative time at the gym. It should be enough that you are able to perform the necessary stunts together by the following sessions as a guide to how much you need to train. If you think you cannot commit to this, please let us know ASAP.

Please cross reference all other dates with the dates in the main calendar for payment dates that are applicable.

Mandatory Training Dates

SUNDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER
SUNDAY 8TH OCTOBER
SUNDAY 12TH NOVEMBER - CHOREOGRAPHY**
SUNDAY 10TH DECEMBER
SUNDAY 21ST JANUARY
SUNDAY 25TH FEBRUARY
SUNDAY 10TH MARCH
SUNDAY 21ST APRIL
SUNDAY 12TH MAY
SUNDAY 26TH MAY
SUNDAY 30TH JUNE

CHOREOGRAPHY DAY MAY CHANGE SO PLEASE
NOTIFY US OF ANY SUNDAYS YOU ABSOLUTELY
CAN'T MAKE IN NOVEMBER ASAP.

Competition Dates

FUTURE CHEER SPOTLIGHT SHOWDOWN
16TH-17TH MARCH / COLCHESTER

CHEER CITY SUMMER GAMES
18TH-19TH MAY / HATFIELD

LEGACY 'LIVE YOUR LEGACY' NATIONALS
8TH-9TH JUNE / BIRMINGHAM

FUTURE CHEER INTERNATIONALS
5TH-7TH JULY / BOURNEMOUTH

(YOU WILL ONLY COMPETE ON ONE DAY, HOWEVER THIS
WILL NOT BE CONFIRMED UNTIL NEARER DUE TO EP'S
CHANGING SCHEDULES)

TRAVEL TEAM - PLATINUM

Our Travel Team, Platinum, is a fantastic opportunity to make memories with friends, as well as getting to compete outside of the UK against teams we wouldn't usually get to compete against! This team often forms an especially tight bond due to their work ethic, and the continued time spent together, forming life long friendships.

Athletes on Platinum are those who have shown dedication to their teams in the past, as well as having an exceptional attitude and determination. Training is fast paced and it is a higher pressured team, but we can assure you it's worth the experience!

Dates for the Competition Weekend

WEDNESDAY 12TH JUNE ADVISED ARRIVAL DATE
THURSDAY 13TH JUNE LATEST ARRIVAL DAY (AFTERNOON)
FRIDAY 14TH JUNE TEAM TRAINING DAY
SATURDAY 15TH JUNE COMPETITION DAY
SUNDAY 16TH JUNE DEPARTURE DAY

Additional Information

VENUE:
PALAU OLIMPIC STADIUM

PARENT/ATHLETE MEETING:
Monday 4th September '23
All parents & athletes required to attend 7.05pm-7.30pm to cover any questions.

Travel & Accommodation

IN THE PREVIOUS SEASON, TRAVEL TO BARCELONA WAS EXPENSIVE DUE TO OTHER EVENTS IN THE CITY AT THE SAME WEEKEND.

ATHLETES/FAMILIES WILL BOOK THEIR OWN TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION, UNDER THE ADVICE OF THE COACHES OF WHERE TO STAY WITH MULTIPLE FLIGHT OPTIONS. IF YOU FIND ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS, PLEASE DISCUSS WITH THE COACHES, AS YOU MUST ARRIVE BY THE LATEST DATE ABOVE, AND STAY IN A NEARBY LOCATION TO THE TEAM.

EVERYTHING SHOULD BE BOOKED BY NOVEMBER 2023 TO SECURE YOUR PLACE ON THE TEAM.

ATHLETES MUST TRAVEL WITH AN OFFICIAL GUARDIAN - COACHES CANNOT ACCOMPANY ANY ATHLETES DUE TO SAFEGUARDING.

IF YOU ARE A PARENT THAT WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH FUNDRAISING & ITINERARY PLANNING, PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO REACH OUT, AS ALL HELP IS MORE THAN WELCOME TO MAKE THIS A MEMORABLE TRIP FOR OUR TEAM!



SUPPORTING CLASSES

All athletes on a Gold pathway team are expected to attend at least one additional class where applicable to support their team trainings, either Tumble or Stretch & Flex. Athletes wanting to fly on a Gold team are also expected to take part in our 'Stretch & Flex' program - If this is not possible, please discuss with our coaches to look at alternative options.

If you are unable to attend our tumble classes, Affinity also offer alternative Gym Tumble classes on a Thursday.

Please note, any Saturday Classes that move due to competition will be made up at an alternative session.

TO REGISTER FOR THE BELOW CLASSES, PLEASE EMAIL HELLO@AFFINITYACADEMY.CO.UK. PAYMENT FOR ALL SUPPORT CLASSES WORKS ON A 12 MONTH PAYMENT BASIS.

COMPETITION	COST	WHEN	WHAT IS IT?
Stretch & Flex OPTION 1	£28 (MONTHLY)	TUESDAYS 7:00PM-7.45PM	FOR ATHLETES AGED 10+ FOCUSING ON FLEXIBILITY & STRENGTHENING, INCLUDED KEY FLYER SKILLS & SHAPES.
Stretch & Flex OPTION 2	£28 (MONTHLY)	WEDNESDAYS 4.45PM-5.30PM	FOR ATHLETES AGED 7+ FOCUSING ON FLEXIBILITY & STRENGTHENING, INCLUDED KEY FLYER SKILLS & SHAPES.
Cheer Tumble ELITE LEVEL 3+	£28 (MONTHLY)	THURSDAYS 7PM-7.45PM	CHEER SPECIFIC TUMBLE CLASS ATHLETES WORKING LEVEL 3+ SKILLS MUST HAVE A SOLID STANDING & RUNNING BACK HANDSPRING
Cheer Tumble BEGINNER LEVEL 1-2	£28 (MONTHLY)	SATURDAY 9.30AM-10.15AM	CHEER SPECIFIC TUMBLE CLASS BEGINNER LEVEL CLASS FOCUSING ON ATHLETES NEW TO TUMBLE - NO MINIMUM SKILL REQUIREMENT
Cheer Tumble INTERMEDIATE LEVEL 3+	£28 (MONTHLY)	SATURDAY 11AM-11.45AM	CHEER SPECIFIC TUMBLE CLASS FOR ATHLETE WORKING ON LEVEL 3+ SKILLS, SUCH AS SERIES FLICKS, TUCKS, LAYOUTS AND FULL TWISTS



ACCEPTING YOUR PLACE



Before you accept your place...

PLEASE ASK YOURSELF THE BELOW QUESTIONS...

1. CAN I COMMIT TO THE FULL SEASON OF A GOLD COMPETITIVE TEAM, INCLUDING DATES, ATTENDANCE AND FEES?
2. IS THIS THE MOST SUITABLE PATHWAY FOR ME/MY ATHLETE FOR CHEERLEADING?
3. DO I UNDERSTAND THE COMMITMENT TO A TEAM SPORT, AND HOW THE SEASON AHEAD WILL WORK?

IF YOU ARE UNSURE ON ANY OF THE ABOVE, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO REACH OUT TO US VIA EMAIL AT SAPPHIRE@AFFINITYACADEMY.CO.UK AND WE'LL BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO HELP.

How to register your place...

- LOG INTO YOUR LOVEADMIN ACCOUNT - YOUR USERNAME IS IN YOUR PLACEMENT EMAIL!
- SELECT THE 'PAYMENT' TAB ONCE YOU'VE LOGGED IN.
- ON THE LEFT UNDER 'CLASSES', YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SELECT YOUR OFFERED TEAMS.

YOUR JOINING FEE OF £35 WILL BE TAKEN ON ACCEPTANCE OF YOUR TEAM PLACE TO SECURE YOUR SPOT.

(IF YOUR DIRECT DEBIT IS ALREADY SET UP, YOU WILL SEE THE FOLLOWING 'YOU HAVE PREAUTHORISED AFFINITY GYMNASTICS TO COLLECT PAYMENT UPON REQUEST'. IF THIS DOES NOT DISPLAY, YOU WILL NEED TO TICK THE BOX TO AUTHORISE FUTURE PAYMENTS, AND CLICK TO PAY BY 'DIRECT DEBIT', THEN THE PURPLR 'PAY HERE' BUTTON.

- ONCE YOU HAVE SUCCESSFULLY SELECTED YOUR TEAM, IT WILL NO LONGER APPEAR UNDER CLASSES.
- PLEASE REMEMBER, YOUR Crossover TEAM IS OPTIONAL, AND CANNOT BE ACCEPTED AS YOUR CORE TEAM. YOUR FIRST TEAM IS WHERE THE COACHES THINK YOU WILL BE STRONGEST.

THE MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT WILL BE TAKEN ACROSS 11 PAYMENTS PRO-RATA ACROSS THE SEASON (EXCEPT SUPPORT CLASSES WHICH ARE 12 MONTHLY PAYMENTS). YOUR FIRST PAYMENT WILL BE REQUESTED ON 18/09/23, THEN ON THE 18TH OF EACH MONTH FOR THE MONTH FOLLOWING.

**ACCEPTANCE
DEADLINE:
28TH JULY 2023**

INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW CAN BE FOUND
IN PLACEMENT EMAILS & BELOW