



2012-2013 Handbook

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1 WELCOME

Welcome to Steel City All Stars (SCA). Our goal is to be the best both on and off the floor. The owner, Jeanne Schulte and coaches will be positive role models for your child while here at SCA. Central to our mission, SCA will provide the leadership, resources and support to ensure that all athletes receive the finest experience possible. SCA will foster an environment that encourages good citizenship, character and personal growth, while developing student-athletes who will become positive and productive adults. SCA staff members and student-athletes will adhere to the highest ethical standards and comply with all USASF rules and regulations. The staff at Steel City looks forward to growing with you and your child as a team and as a family.

2 TRYOUTS

2.1 Important Dates

Date	Time	Activity
May 8 (Tuesday)	7:00pm	NEW Parent Meeting - Informational meeting for NEW parents which explains the all star cheer program at Steel City All Stars
May 8 & 9 (Tuesday & Wednesday) MANDATORY attendance on ALL nights	5:30-7:30pm	Athletes ages 5 – 10 years (inclusive) as of Aug. 31, 2012 (Regardless of ability level)
	7:30-9:00pm	Athletes ages 11- 18 years (inclusive) as of Aug. 31, 2012 (Regardless of ability level)
May 10 (Thursday)	5:30-7:30pm	ALL ATHLETES – ALL AGES
May 13 (Sunday)	5:00pm	Tryout results, team placements and practices schedules posted by 5pm on password protected file, on the front page of the web site www.steelcityallstars.com
May 14 (Monday)		Team Practices Begin

2.2 What to bring to tryouts

- Bring a copy of the child's birth certificate*
- \$25 try-out fee payable to "Steel City All-Stars"
- registration form
- waiver

*Returning all stars are not required to present their birth certificate'

2.3 What to wear to tryouts

All athletes should wear simple black gym shorts and a white top. A close fitting athletic type may work best, but any PLAIN white t-shirt may be worn.

Hair must be pulled back into a high pony, as hair length allows. NO BANGS. If hair length does not allow for a high pony tail, sides and top of hair should be neatly pulled back away from the face.

CLEAN athletic shoes.

2.4 Rectified accounts for tryouts

Any past due/unpaid balances owed to Steel City All Stars from the 2011-2012 season must be paid in full before any athlete will be allowed to tryout for placement on a team for the 2012-2013 season. Any athlete who has a past due/unpaid balance from the 2011-2012 season may not participate at the new season's tryouts. When account is rectified – the athlete may then tryout for placement on a team.

3 TEAMS

3.1 All Star Cheer Team Categories

Tiny - (5yr and younger*)

Mini - (8yr and younger*)

Youth - (11yr and younger*)

Junior - (14yr and younger*)

Senior – Levels 1-4 (*10 -18 years)

Senior – Level 5 – (12 – 18 years*)

Senior – Level 5 Restricted – (*18 yrs and younger)

Senior – Level 5 Open International – (*17 yrs and older)

* Athlete age as of August 31, 2012

Definitive teams, and levels can not be defined prior to try outs. Final teams will be announced with tryout placements.

Members will be placed on teams based on age, individual skill, and the needs of a particular team.

Members may compete on more than 1 team.

All team placements are at the sole discretion of Jeanne Schulte (owner) and the SCA staff coaches. We believe in placing the cheerleader where they will be most valuable to their team.

3.2 Travel/Limited-Travel Teams Definition

For the 2012-2013 season - only full year teams will be available at Steel City. With sufficient interest and skill sets available by interested athletes - the potential of participating on a LIMITED-TRAVEL team will be presented. All teams will have 2 team practices each week - beginning the week of May 14, 2012.

Travel team(s) will compete locally and compete in 3 - 4 away events.

Limited-Travel teams have the same 1 year commitment and participation in 2 team practices each

week. The exception is that these team(s) will only travel to 1 away competition.

Only by specifying on the try out form that you are interested in limited-travel will your athlete be considered for a limited-travel team. By choosing limited-travel, you are not guaranteed that your athlete(s) will be placed on the highest level of team by individual's ability.

4 EVENTS

4.1 Choreography

Choreography will be conducted June 18 – 25th (2 days per team) – specific dates can not be specified until team placements complete.

4.2 Competitions

- Competitions for this year will be announced and tentative schedules will be given out in May.
- Competitions can be added at owner's discretion.
- ALL COMPETITIONS ARE MANDATORY- unless a death in immediate family, or unless you are hospitalized you must be there.
- Coaches reserve the right to pull any team from a competition at any time.
- As a team member, if you can not attend a competition you are still obligated to pay for the competition. You will receive any trophy, award, t-shirt, bag, etc. that is given out.
- If an athlete is competing as a fill in on any team for missing athlete, they will also receive the any competition prizes/awards presented to remaining team members.
- Athletes and parents are to be in uniform, warm-ups, or SCA clothing to represent and show support for teams.
- Athletes must sit together and display only positive attitudes while cheering all teams on.
- Competition fees are between \$50-\$150 per competition. All fees are due 8-10 weeks prior to the comp. Payment calendar available on the members web site.
- Coaches' fees are included in your competition fee per team member. This includes driving expenses, food, scheduling, practices at the event, supervising all teams while on the floor, etc.
- Hotel accommodations - If hotel accommodations are needed, we will do our best to book blocks of rooms together, facilitating a better rate, and the ability to keep the Steel City family together.

5 FINANCIAL

Tuition is due before the 5th of every month. If not paid by the 5th, tuition rate for that month is raised to \$150. A late payment fee of \$50 will be assessed to any account for other amounts due that are 15 days late.

In the case of competition fee due dates – Jeanne takes all steps necessary to make competition fee payments in time to take advantage of early bird savings. However, the entire team can not be entered into a competition until fees are collected from ALL team members. PLEASE do not submit competition fees late. Late fee submissions that result in a team missing early bird discounts will make the offender responsible for the additional fees of the entire team. In the case of a team with 20 athletes – where 19 have paid comp fees in time of taking advantage of the early submission discounts and 1 may have not – it is unfair for the 19 families to then have to lose out on the discount. Comp fee due dates are identified as far in advance as possible to allow plenty of time to plan for the payment. Due dates are identified both on the Competitions page of the members web site, on the members calendar, on the calendar in the parent room – and reminders are sent out via e-mail.

No "post-dated" checks will be accepted. Steel City All-Stars will not be responsible for any fees associated with post-dated checks that are prematurely deposited into Steel City's bank account.

5.1 All Star Tuition

3hrs- per wk= \$85/month: (5 and under team)

4hrs- per wk=\$105/month: (all other teams)

- Private tumbling lessons are available upon request. Fees are available on the Tumbling page of the web site.

Tuition is due before the 5th of every month. If not paid by the 5th, tuition rate for that month is raised to \$150.

Note: No discounts are given to a child missing practice – There is no difference in tuition amount due if there are more or less practice days in a month due to the calendar. It all evens out. Payments are as is.

5.2 Sibling discounts

2 children-\$185/mo (All Star Cheer)

3 children- \$225/mo (All Star Cheer)

5.3 Competition Fees

Competition fees are between \$50-\$150 per competition. All fee's are due 8-10 weeks prior to the comp.

Crossover fees include only those fees defined by each specific competition, and anything required specific to a team. Crossover fees are not applicable to monthly fee, camps, and/or choreography.

Please refer to late fee penalties under 5.0 Financial (above).

5.4 All star start up costs

This represents actual pricing – unless other arrangements are made in advance with Jeanne – the following due dates must be followed:

Due Date	Item	Cost
ON OR BEFORE May 17th	Shoes	\$TBD
	Practice Clothing	\$TBD
	Practice Bow	\$TBD

ON OR BEFORE May 31th	Choreography/Music Fee Due	TBD Between \$200-\$250
OR BEFORE June 28th	Uniform Fee Due	TBD
ON OR BEFORE July 26th	Warm Ups, Competition Bow, Make Up <i>(If athlete has current warm ups, in excellent condition, that fit properly, they are not required to purchase a new set of warm ups. However, this seasons warm up style is SIGNIFICANTLY different that the existing warm ups)</i>	TBD
	Competition Bow	TBD
	Make Up <i>(Athlete will need to purchase on their own a specified shade/brand of lipstick)</i>	TBD

5.5 Choreography

The fee for choreography & music will be between \$200-\$250/athlete (*exact amount to be specified after team placements*). There will be no additional choreography fee for x-teamers. Each athlete will be required to pay for choreography. Payment schedule for this fee is listed in section 5.4 – Start Up Fees.

5.6 Hotels

If hotel accommodations are needed, we will do our best to book blocks of rooms together- all families are encouraged to the same hotel. All care is taken to obtain the best possible rates.

5.7 Fundraising

All Steel City families are required to pay a \$15/athlete (\$20/family if you have more than one athlete) annual dues to the Fundraising Committee. Additionally, if you are working at the Petersen Events Center to earn funds for your personal account – and additional \$15/family must also be paid. This additional fee covers the insurance to work events at the Pete. This is due by June 14, 2012. A variety of fundraising is available throughout the season to earn money for your family booster account. Information will be distributed as available.

6 PARENT RULES

Thank you for choosing Steel City All Stars for your child. The Staff is looking forward to providing your child with quality and professional instruction. Our goal is to build your child's tumbling and cheer skills as well as character and confidence. We have certain rules and guidelines that will need to be followed throughout the year. These rules are intended to help keep your child safe and to ensure a pleasant

experience while at Steel City.

1. Absolutely no interaction with children while they are being instructed.
2. Do not enter gym area while class is in session.
3. Any comments/questions/concerns for coaches or instructors must be channeled through Jeanne. If necessary, a private meeting or phone conversation can be scheduled for the parent and coach/instructor. Under no circumstances should a parent address issues with a coach/instructor before or after class. As a parent, you may not agree with every decision- please remember that the coaching staff will make decisions that are in the best interest for our program as a whole.
4. We do not tolerate foul language or disrespectful behavior in our gym or in any event and/or media where our gym name is represented.
5. We are a TEAM here at Steel City All Stars we must all support and encourage each other. Negativity directed towards participants or parents will not be tolerated.
6. No parental involvement in where you believe your child should be placed on a team or in a routine. Your child will be placed by ability level and age by our professional judging staff.
7. We do provide a waiting area. If you bring other siblings to the facility, please be respectful and clean up after your child. We ask for your cooperation so we can keep a clean facility.
8. Please do not use attendance as a disciplinary tool.(This only hurts the team)
9. In the parent waiting room – it is INEXCUSABLE to use profane language and/or to speak out against any athlete, parent or the gym. You will be asked to leave. This parent viewing room is to watch your child's practice only.
10. During private tumbling instruction parents are to wait in the parent waiting room unless specifically called into the gym by the private instructor.
11. Steel City All Star cheerleaders/families are not permitted to contact cheerleading companies or vendors for any reason. This can only be damaging to your team and our gym.
12. ANY absence by an athlete MUST be recorded by submitting either an ABSENCE FORM or a VACATION FORM, signed by the parent. Please provide the gym with as much notice as possible prior to a planned absence. In the case of illness, a parent must contact Jeanne either by email and/or text to make her aware of the athlete's condition – and a signed absence form should be submitted when returning to practice.

We want to be positive and provide a fantastic program for you and your child. Please remember we can only do so if you all comply with our rules. LET'S HAVE AN AWESOME YEAR!!!!!!

7 ATHLETE/TEAM RULES

7.1 General Rules

1. Be respectful to the coaching staff, team members, and parents at all times.
2. Be respectful of the gym's facility and equipment.
3. You are expected to attend practice on time, in your practice attire.

4. Hair must be pulled back and off your face – no bangs.
5. Keep nails at active length.
6. No jewelry at practice or at competitions.
7. You must maintain sportsman-like conduct at practice and at competition.
8. We do not tolerate foul language or disrespectful behavior in our gym or in any event and/or media where our gym name is represented.
9. No abusive or uncontrollable behavior will be tolerated at the gym or traveling.
10. No alcohol or tobacco products will be permitted at **anytime or anywhere**. (If caught, you will receive automatic expulsion from Steel City)
11. Must present a neat and clean appearance at all times.
12. No chewing gum.
13. Never, ever stunt when a coach is not present.
14. Food is not permitted in the gym- it is restricted to waiting room only.
15. Please adhere to posted practice times to enter and exit the gym. Athletes are asked to not remain in the gym for 'free time' or to enter the gym excessively early for 'free time' before practice. There are other teams practicing, privates and tumbling instructions going on – and it is very important that everybody gets their due time in the gym without distractions.

7.2 Attendance

1. Practices and competitions are mandatory for all team members during the competition season.
2. Our program can only be successful if your children are at practice and **on time**.
3. Please do not use attendance as a disciplinary tool. That only hurts the team.
4. If you are injured you must still attend practice.
5. Once competition schedule is given out, do not make any other obligations those weekends.
6. Absences due to work schedule or appointment are **not** excused absences.
7. Must attend practice in mandatory practice clothes and shoes.
8. Must be at the gym and ready for practice 5 minutes before practice begins.
9. ANY absence by an athlete MUST be recorded by submitting either an ABSENCE FORM or a VACATION FORM, signed by the parent. Please provide the gym with as much notice as possible prior to a planned absence. In the case of illness, a parent must contact Jeanne either by email and/or text to make her aware of the athlete's condition – and a signed absence form should be submitted when returning to practice.

***WINTER WEATHER:** In the event of hazardous road conditions, closings will be posted on the website and on the answering machine by 4:00pm. Closings are also posted via www.thepittsburghchannel.com and on WTAE.

7.3 Practice Clothing

Practice clothing **MUST** be worn at all team practices.

Athletes that arrive for practice **NOT WEARING THE PRESCRIBED CLOTHING** – will be benched in the parent waiting area until either the parent brings the correct practice clothing or an alternate set of practice clothing will be given to the athlete and the parents will be invoiced to pay for the new set. Parents – please be supportive to help your athlete stay on track with wearing the required practice clothing.

Hair should be pulled back and out of the athletes face. If your child's hair is not long enough for a ponytail - please speak with Jeanne for a substitute style.

No show socks must be worn to practice. No knee socks are permitted unless there is a special spirit occasion announced by the coach. Please do not embellish or personalize the practice clothing and/or required dress. We are a team – and will look like a team when we practice **AND** compete.

Do **NOT** wear practice sneakers outside of the gym. You **MUST** change into your practice/competition sneakers **AFTER** arriving at the gym and change out of the **BEFORE** leaving the gym. This protects our valuable mats and athletes.

7.4 All Star Cheer Competition Hair/Makeup

Hair – TBD

Make Up – TBD

7.5 Competition Guidelines

1. All competitions are mandatory.
2. Every athlete must be on time and ready at least 30 minutes **PRIOR** to Jeanne's report time.
3. All athletes and families are encouraged to stay and watch ever team compete. Every athlete is expected to attend their own team's award ceremony.
4. Parents are encouraged to sit together (**ALL TEAMS**). This shows the kids and the other teams that **WE ARE A TEAM AND ONE BIG FAMILY**.
5. Please do not be disrespectful to any other teams that are at the competition.
6. All athletes are to be in their **uniform** or **warm up** at **ALL** times at a competition. You may wear your uniform top and warm up pants together or vice-versa. The coaches and I will strongly enforce this. Stay neat at all times. Please leave your athletes hair in competition ready style with bow in place. On the awards floor – all athlete **MUST** be in competition ready uniform, hair, makeup and shoes.

7. Whatever the outcome of your child's performance, please be happy and proud of your children. Do not display any negativity towards them or their team at a competition. This will only serve to discourage our athletes and teams.

7.6 Uniform & Warm Up Care and Instructions

Uniform Care:

DO NOT PUT IN WASHER.

HAND WASH in cold water and mild detergent - the web site stresses **DO NOT USE WOOLITE!!**

Remove PROMPTLY and **lay flat to air dry, KEEPING COLORS SEPARATED. Failure to do so may result in bleeding of colors.**

Do not dry clean.

Do not soak.

DO NOT USE HAND WASH CYCLE IN MACHINE.

Warm up Care:

Machine wash cold **SEPARATELY**, NO BLEACH, tumble dry low heat – remove promptly – touch up with warm iron. **DO NOT DRY CLEAN.**

8 WEBSITE/E-MAIL

Members must check their e-mails daily, as this is the easiest and primary method of communicating news and relevant information.

Additionally, members should become familiar with the public and member only web sites. Important and propriety information is always posted there and should be checked frequently. Remember that the entrance to the members' only web site is a privilege to all stars families only. Please respect our privacy by not disclosing our members' only website password to anybody outside of the gym.

Athletes, families and friends are encouraged to visit and log entries on the guest book for our gym and or any other cheer gym. A posting on a competition's guestbook is a direct reflection on the entire gym. PLEASE remember to only leave messages that are kind, supportive and respectful.

9 BOOSTERS/FUNDRAISING

Steel City All Stars Fundraising Committee will provide a means by which athletes and/or families may fundraise to support all star cheer and competitive hip hop expenses throughout the year. This organization will consist of a treasurer and fundraiser chair person(s) and all families with competitive athletes at SCA. The fundraising committee is a non-profit separate entity from Steel City All Stars. All monies raised thru the fundraising activities is non-taxable and therefore **MUST** be used in the matter in which it was fundraised (that is....to cover expenses associated with participation in the competitive cheer and/or dance programs at Steel City All Stars).

Activities and events through out the year that may require nominal financial input from families, such as the summer family picnic, the holiday party and/or the year end banquet, are the sole responsibility of the athlete(s)' family. There is no forced fundraising or padding of fees at Steel City All Stars which would otherwise fund such events.

Waiver and Release of Liability Assumption of Risk and Indemnifying Agreement

In consideration of the consent and permission granted to me by Schulte Enterprises, LLC doing business as Steel City All Stars Tumble and Cheer Gym ("SCA") to use certain premises of SCA (the "gym") for cheerleading, tumbling, physical exercise, spring floors, trampoline and other physical development equipment (the "equipment") owned or provided by SCA or by others, participate in practice, competitions, exhibitions, trips ("events") participant and/or participant's parent(s)/guardian(s) hereby voluntarily and knowingly enter into this waiver, release, assumption of risk and indemnity, with the intention of being legally bound hereby.

Participant and/or participant's parent(s)/guardian(s) hereby waive, release and discharge for participant, their heirs, executors, administrators, legal representatives, successors and assigns, any and all rights and claims which participant and/or participant's parent(s)/guardian(s) has (have) or may at anytime have against SCA, its affiliates, successors and assigns, and the directors, officers, employees, agents and representatives thereof (collectively the "released parties"), including all claims and actions for injuries mental or physical ("injuries"), death, which arises directly or indirectly from participant's participation in or association with cheerleading, tumbling or physical exercise in the gym or at events.

By signing this waiver and release of liability, participant and/or participant's parent(s)/guardian(s) accept such equipment as being safe and reasonably suited for its intended use. Participant and/or participant's parent(s)/guardian(s) assume all risk involved in the use of the gym, equipment or at events.

By signing this waiver you allow the use of your athlete's image in any Steel City All Stars advertising, newspaper submissions and/or on the Steel City All Stars public or private web site.

Participant and/or participant's parent(s)/guardian(s) agree that the released parties may not be held liable in any way for any occurrences in connection with use of the gym, equipment and/or at the events which may result in injuries, death or other damages to participant and that participant and/or participant's parent(s)/guardian(s) will not sue, attach the property or prosecute the released parties for injury or damage resulting from the negligence, including but not limited to the negligent upkeep, control and maintenance of the gym or equipment, or other acts, however caused, by released parties or any other person or resulting from participant's involvement in cheerleading activities or exercise or use of the gym and/or equipment. Participant and/or participant's parent(s)/guardian(s) further covenant and agree to indemnify, defend and hold the released parties harmless from all claims, actions, costs and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees) related to the foregoing.

By signing below, the participant and/or participant's parent(s)/guardian(s) acknowledge that they have read the above waiver, release and assumption of risk and indemnity and understand the contents therein.

Name: (Print) _____
(Participant)

Date: _____

Signature: _____
(Parent or Guardian)

Name: (Print) _____
(Parent or Guardian)

Steel City All-Stars Registration Form
(PLEASE complete all information and PRINT clearly)

Cheerleader's Name: _____

Parents Name: _____

Home Phone Number: _____

Parent Cell Phone Number: _____

Athlete Cell Phone Number: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Age: _____ (**as of August 31, 2012**) DOB: _____

Parent's e-mail address(s) : _____

Athlete's e-mail address: _____

Any medical conditions: _____

Any allergies or medication taken: _____

Emergency Contact: 1 _____ Phone# _____

2 _____ Phone# _____

Please indicate below as appropriate: (AN ANSWER IS NEEDED ON BOTH QUESTIONS)

My athlete is interested in cross teaming (competing on more than 1 all star cheer team) A primary team will be assigned. The athlete does not get to choose between participation on either team.

YES _____

NO _____

PLEASE SELECT ONE:

_____ My athlete will be competing on full year travel team(s) – which will mean participation in 3 – 4 travel competitions.

_____ My athlete will be competing on full year limited-travel team(s) – with the possibility of 1 away competition at the end of the season.

Steel City All Stars

*** Absence Form ***

Athletes Name: _____

Date missing: _____

Reason for Absence:

Parent Signature:

Home Phone:



Steel City All Stars

Vacation Dates Form

ATHLETE'S NAME: _____

TEAM(S) ATHLETE IS ON: _____

VACATION DATES: _____

HOME PHONE: _____