

CAROLINA  
**MAGIC**  
ALLSTARS



**Tryout Information 2023-24**

## Welcome to Carolina Magic Allstars!

We thank you for your interest in Carolina Magic Allstars! Currently, going into our 10th competitive season, we are passionate about Allstar Cheer, as it remains the primary focus of our program.

Allstar Cheerleading promotes self-confidence, discipline, respect, communication and teamwork. Athletes benefit physically in areas such as strength, coordination, and flexibility. This active lifestyle, and these learned social skills, become lifelong attributes.

Our goal is to promote the progression of your athlete in a safe, and fun environment. We emphasize both individual growth, and teamwork. It is expected that athletes display positive attitudes as well as encouragement to their fellow teammates and coaches.

Not only do we have almost 10 years experience as program owners, but we have also been parents in this industry for 19 years. You have our commitment that we run our program with both the athletes' and parents' interests in mind. We recognize the financial obligations that are involved with this sport, but understand how to manage the necessary (and unnecessary) costs. We strive to provide a program that gives the full Allstar experience, while also keeping it affordable.

Our coaches are very knowledgeable in both Allstar Cheer and tumbling technique. All come with a vast experience in cheer across many different levels, including Worlds level and college level teams.

This tryout book has been developed in order to explain our policies and expectations, as well as financial and time commitments.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions you may have.

We are glad you are here,

Jeff & Terry Watkins  
Program Owners and Directors



## **Team Formation and Levels:**

The teams we will have available this upcoming season will be directly related to the skill and experience of athletes who are new and returning. Multiple factors come into play when deciding teams and team levels. Not only are we looking at current skill level but we also need to consider the progression of our athletes. Additionally, we want to compete in levels that ensure competition (after all, we are COMPETITIVE cheerleading). We prefer to present our athletes with the challenges, experience, and thrill of competing.

Allstar Cheer teams are divided into Novice, Prep, and Elite level teams. We start team placement as early as age 4 (must demonstrate being able to follow directions) through to age 18. Age divisions are Tiny, Mini, Youth, Junior, and Senior. Allstar Cheer is a full year commitment. Some gyms use the Novice or Prep division as half-year teams, but in reality, most gyms train these levels as full-year teams and therefore, to be competitive, we train all of our teams as full-year teams. During the summer, all teams practice twice per week. In September, Elite-level (or Elite-training level) teams are in the gym three times per week. True Prep and Novice continue with twice per week. Extra practices are also scheduled for Choreography camps, as well as extra practice times as needed.

Crossover is a term used when an athlete is on more than one team. The availability of crossing over to another team is determined by individual team needs. You will be asked on your tryout form if you would like your child considered for a second team. If your child is not selected for a second team, this does not mean that your child is not skilled enough, but is directly related to what the team needs are.

While both skill level and experience are factored into team placement, many families will prefer Prep or Novice levels as there are fewer time and financial obligations. You will be asked on your tryout form what your preferences are. Not all levels will be available in all age groups.





## **Team Evaluations and Placements**

We do not take the placement of athletes on teams lightly. A tremendous amount of time and effort goes into making the best choice for the individual athlete, all while focusing on what will be best for the teams. We feel this process is critical so we do our evaluations a little differently than many programs.

**Evaluations** - Starting in mid-April, there will be multiple times for your athlete to come into the gym and work on various skills such as tumbling, stunting, jumps, and flexibility. During these times, we will be able to work with and evaluate your athlete's current skills, as well as how quickly they take corrections in order to progress.

These evaluations are also important for returning athletes as we may need to evaluate them in a different position as well as seeing how different athlete groups work together.

During these evaluation sessions, your athlete will learn a dance for tryouts as well as be able to work with our coaches on what will be the best tumbling passes for them at tryouts. Potential flyers will have the opportunity to come in for flex classes to work on body positions.

Tuition for new athletes for April is \$80, May is \$110 which includes the tryout fees

**Tryouts** - Friday, May 19th - ages 4-8; Saturday, May 20th - ages 9-18

Athletes will be given a time to come in and try out in groups of 3 or 4. They will be asked to showcase their tumbling skills (both running and standing), as well as demonstrating jumps, a dance that has been learned during the evaluation sessions, and if appropriate, body positions for potential flyers.

*There is no separate charge for trying out as it is incorporated in the monthly tuition.*

**Team Placements** - After tryouts, our coaches spend many hours discussing what team placement is best for each individual athlete. Both the information obtained during the evaluations as well as the actual tryout is used. Athletes will be informed of their team placement by email.



Athletes will meet as a team for the first time the following week. Mandatory parent meetings will be held during these first practices. During these meetings we will go over team specific costs, requirements, practice schedules, and anticipated competition schedule among other important information.



### **Competitions Attended:**

As a gym, we attend a variety of both USASF-affiliated and Independent Event Producers events.

Prep and Novice teams compete 5-6 times and Elite teams 7-8 times per season. Typically, the competition season starts in November and can go as late as May.

Most of these events will be local, meaning Raleigh to Charlotte areas, but some could require traveling to places such as Tennessee, South Carolina, Georgia, DC or for our Elite teams, Florida.

Novice and Prep teams typically only attend one or two of these travel destinations per season, Elite teams may attend 3-4 events that may require a hotel stay.



## **Attendance to Practice:**

It is expected that your athlete will be at practice. Of course, there are some times that sickness or other reasonable commitments may require a practice to be missed. It is expected that we be notified as soon as possible of any missed practices. Athletes that are sitting out due to an injury are still expected to attend practice.

The following are not acceptable reasons to miss practice: homework, social events such as parties, or other sports team commitments. It is fine if your athlete is on other sporting teams, however, except for extreme situations that have been pre-approved, their Carolina Magic team has to be their top priority. Athletes are expected to learn good time management skills in order to complete homework, and other commitments, without it interfering with practice times.

Attendance to practice the week before a competition is mandatory! If, for any reason, an athlete is unable to make the practices the week before a competition, it is at the coaches discretion if an alternate will be placed in their spot.

Please do not use their cheer team as a bribe for good behavior. Pulling your child from practice for behavior problems, not only is punishing them, but is putting the whole team at a disadvantage. Instead, as coaches we are here to help, let us know and we can help work out an alternative solution.

During the summer, we have a little more leniency that your child misses practices due to family vacations. We feel this is important for families but do ask that you inform us of any scheduled times they will be away. The gym will close for a summer break the last week of June and first week of July. Choreography camps are mandatory.





## **Camp Magic:**

**September 15-17, 2023**

Camp Magic has been a tremendous experience for our athletes.

Camp will once again be hosted at Camp Chestnut Ridge in Efland. Athletes will stay in cabins with their team, although it is encouraged for athletes to stay overnight, they may travel back and forth (the cost of camp will not change for this option).

Not all teams will be going to camp, but if your athlete's team is attending, then they are expected to be present. You will be informed at the Parents meeting if your athlete's team will attend Camp Magic. Tiny teams will not be attending. Mini and Novice teams are TBD.

The focus of the camp is to work on routine choreography, continue working on skill progression, team bonding, and having the opportunity to really work on performance skills, all in a fun and non-intimidating environment. In previous years, this camp experience has really helped in getting many athletes out of their "shell" and ready to perform.





## The Carolina Magic Family

Being a part of Carolina Magic Allstars is so much more than just the glamor and glitz of the competitions. Athletes become part of a team and learn to work together to attain the goals of that team.

Successes are celebrated and setbacks are a chance to learn.

We offer plenty of other outside-the-gym opportunities such as parties, parades, banquets and other social events.





## **Program Costs / Tuition:**

**Tuition:** Includes team practices AND tumbling instruction. Athletes are not charged separately for tumble classes.

A monthly tuition is due the 1st of each month:

Novice & Prep Teams - \$90/month ;      Elite Teams - \$110/month

*Sibling discount* - after the first child, all siblings will be charged \$50/month

Cross-overs are an additional \$15/month, crossovers will also have increased team fees to cover the actual crossover competition fees.

**Team Fees:** Team fees cover EVERYTHING that is needed to compete. This includes uniform, shoes, hair accessories and makeup, practice wear, choreography, music, extra practices, coaches travel, and the biggest cost of this is the actual competition fees paid to the events. Additionally, it includes a social fee that covers events throughout the year such as our Christmas Parties and End of the Year Banquets, and our sparkly parade hoodie. Teams attending Camp Magic will have additional costs to cover camp added to their team fees this year. **Please note that most gyms do not include uniform, shoes and certain other costs in their team fees bundle, but this is included with us.**

The competitions we attend will vary between each team and are determined on a team-by-team basis.. Elite teams have the opportunity to win bids to end of the year events throughout the year. If teams participate in EOY bid events, additional fees will be determined by which event is being attended.

Novice and Prep teams can plan to go to 5-6 competition events and Elite teams 7-8 events.

The following are only estimates as we are waiting for confirmation on costs from event producers, camp, as well as our uniform company. More information regarding actual costs will be determined by what team your athlete is placed on, and will be shared at the parent meetings following tryouts. The following is based on 2022-23 fees:

Novice Teams - \$1025

Prep Teams - \$1370

Elite Teams - \$1780-\$2290 (higher range has an outside choreographer and increased competition costs)

An initial payment of \$200 for Novice and Prep teams, and \$400 for Elite teams is due June 1st to confirm your athlete's spot on the team. The remainder of their team fees will be divided up over 5-7 months (depending on team) and will be invoiced on the 15th of each month starting July. Extras such as warm-up jackets, event t-shirts, backpacks and other Magic apparel will be available throughout the year, but are not required.



## Let us know you are coming to tryouts!

Please note that it is important you contact us before tryouts and go through the tryout process. We build our teams based on the quotas that are needed to score well. For this reason, many of our teams become full after tryouts. Every year we have athletes that come to us after tryouts, wanting to be placed on teams, but unfortunately they find that there are no spots available on many of our teams. This is why it is important for us to see your athlete and have them participate in the evaluation process.

Contact us today to set up a time to come and observe a practice and to be added to our email list in order to receive updated information about our upcoming evaluations.

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