



Sapphire Elite

JOIN OUR FAMILY
2021-2022



EMAIL: SAPPHIRE@AFFINITYGYMNASTICS.CO.UK





SHINE LIKE A SAPPHIRE

OUR HISTORY

Cheerleading is one of the fastest growing sports in the world, combining gymnastics, acro, jumps and dance to create a routine that is incredible to watch, jam packed with energy, and of course, full to the brim with sparkle. Being a part of it is nothing like anything else, and will have you hooked almost instantly!

Over the years, Sapphire has grown from strength to strength, making unforgettable memories along the way. Our teams compete at Regional and National competitions, and have also competed internationally twice, at The Summit 2017 and UCA Nationals 2019, both held at Disney World, Florida. We aim to shape our athletes into all rounders, from physical skills to positive mindsets, and support them to reach their goals both in and out of cheer.

In 2019, Sapphire Elite became part of the Affinity Gymnastics family, enabling us to grow in resources and support to ensure we can support our athletes in the best possible way, whilst still maintaining our mutual core values.

OUR VISIONS & VALUES

Here at Sapphire, our mission is to build self confidence, self discipline, team building and everlasting friendships. We take pride in watching our athletes grow and are honoured to be a small part of what helps shape their future.

Our coaches are passionate and driven, and are continually looking for ways to keep progressing and encouraging our athletes. They strive to build individual relationships with each athlete, whilst always promoting a positive environment to work in.



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HOW TO JOIN US

TEAM PLACEMENTS 2021-2022

SATURDAY 22ND MAY

AGES 7-11: 10AM-11.30AM - £6

AGES 12-14: 12PM-2PM - £9

SUNDAY 23RD MAY

AGES 15+ SESSION 1: 10AM-12PM - £9

AGES 15+ SESSION 2: 12.30PM-2.30PM - £9

AGE IS BASED ON ATHLETES AGE AS OF 31ST AUGUST 2021

MORE SESSIONS WILL BE ADDED AS NECESSARY

TRYOUTS ARE FREE TO EXISTING ATHLETES, AND THOSE ON A TEAM SINCE SEPT 2019 DUE TO INCOMPLETE COMPETITIVE SEASONS

New to Sapphire & Affinity?

Click [HERE](#) to register for our Team Placements!

If you have been a member of a Sapphire Team from September 2019 onwards and wish to attend Team Placements, please email us to be registered.

All athletes are required to attend Team Placements in order to be evaluated and placed on a competitive team for the upcoming season. If you are unable to make the date/sessions above, please email us and we can advise/arrange an alternative option. All existing Sapphire Athletes will have already been assigned slots via email.

So, what happens at Team Placements?

Athletes should arrive 5 minutes before their session, and wait outside the building. Please come in suitable sportswear, with hair tied up, cheer trainers or light weight trainers/plimsoles, no jewellery, and bring plenty of water! Due to covid restrictions, please minimise bringing any non-essential items to the session and the changing rooms will be closed. In the session, athletes will be casually assessed in various areas of cheer, such as Dance, Tumbles, Jumps & Stunting! We keep our environment super relaxed, and the most important thing is that everyone feels comfortable and has fun. Just do your best, and everyone gets a place on a team anyway!

All sessions will be held with covid-secure measures in place.



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HOW ARE ATHLETES PLACED?

WHAT DO COACHES LOOK FOR?

Work Ethic

Athletes who will always strive to be their best selves, even when there are hurdles in the way and giving every training 100% dedication. An athlete that always takes on and applies corrections.

Commitment & Attitude

Athletes who build up their team mates and encourage them to be their best, whilst maintaining a positive attitude towards their own obstacles and goals. Shows respect for both themselves, their coaches and team mates at all times. Overall positive player and team motivator always.

Technique and Skill

Perfecting technique shows coaches an athlete has been committed to gaining a skill, and is therefore coachable when looking to progress through levels. Skills are great, but only if they are paired with a great attitude and work ethic! We are also focused on athletes being all rounders, and therefore will not base placement on one skill area only unless coaches feel it will benefit the athlete in the long run to do so.

WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?

In previous years, we have always aimed to place athletes on their age appropriate teams first and foremost. However, as athletes have developed in both skill and mindset differently in the last few seasons, this is something that we will be relaxing. This means that a junior age athlete may be placed on a senior team as their primary team if the coaches feel this is the overall best fit for them. This will differ from athlete to athlete, and coaches will not discuss other athletes placements with anyone except that athlete and their parents/guardians only. Our coaches want the best for each individual athlete, so there is always a purpose for the placement and we are always happy to provide constructive feedback.

It is also important to highlight that just because an athlete has been on a certain team one season, it's not guaranteed they will get placed on the same level team this upcoming season.



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Affinity
GYMNASTICS

COMPETITIONS

Our competitive teams come with more commitment than a recreational team or tumble class. We offer competitive teams for ages 4+, and our levels vary season to season. Each year we 'rebuild' each individual team depending on the turn out at placements, and add/remove teams where necessary.

If an athlete is unable to attend one of the below competitions, they must notify the team coaches at the earliest possibility. This does mean their position in the team/routine may need to be altered to allow the rest of the team to compete, and therefore our coaches need plenty of notice for this.

Due to starting the 2021-2022 season earlier than usual, we are planning to compete earlier in the season, allowing us to do an additional competition!

FUTURE CHEER WINTER WONDERLAND

4th-5th December 2021, Maldon, Essex

(Junior & Senior teams only)

LEGACY JUST BELIEVE

19th-20th February, Stratford, London

(All teams to attend)

BCA NATIONALS

14th-15th May 2022, Telford

(All teams EXCEPT Tinies to attend)

FUTURE CHEER NATIONALS

2nd-3rd July 2022, Bournemouth

(All teams to attend)

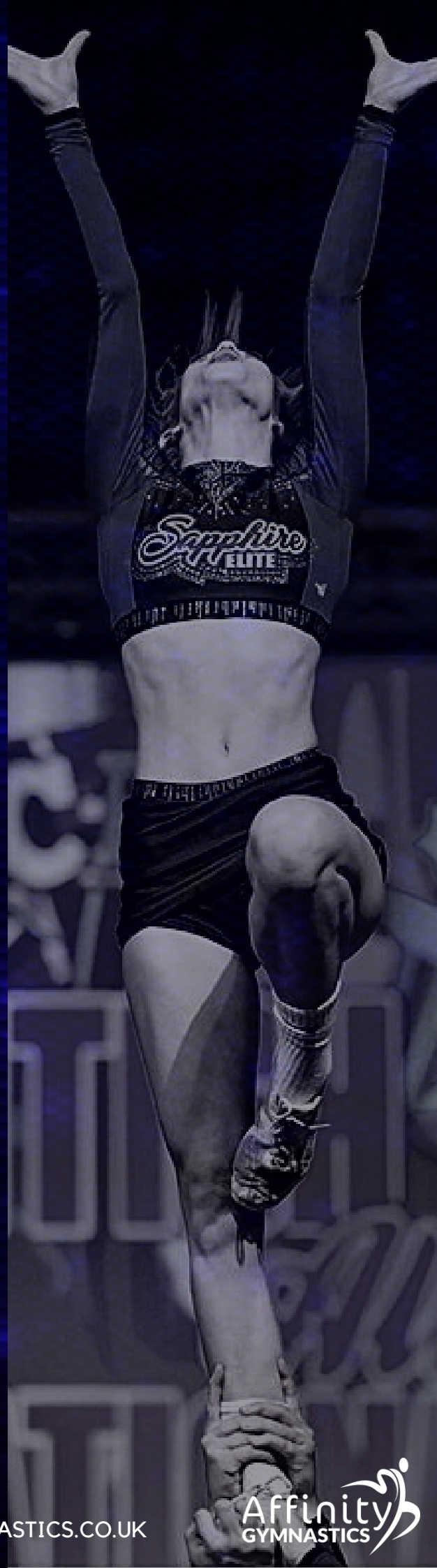
PLEASE NOTE - If a team decides as a whole they wish to do an additional competition, this is something that can be considered on a team by team basis and only if the coaches, parents and athletes are all prepared to fully commit.

All of the above competitions are held on 9 panel sprung floors, and teams will likely compete on one day only at all competitions except BCA Nationals where they will compete twice over the two days.

Sapphire are not responsible for arranging travel and hotels for athletes and families. We do however advise you book hotels for Telford & Bournemouth as much in advance as possible, as these are large competitions and those nearby the venues fill up extremely quickly.



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TINY TEAM

NEW THIS SEASON!

COMPETITIVE CHEER FOR CHILDREN AGED 4-6 YEARS!

This season, we're introducing a Tiny Team to our program!

This is a great opportunity for athletes aged 4-6 years old to get into competitive cheer at an early age. They'll learn all the basics of cheerleading in their weekly sessions, working on a competitive routine to take to competitions, whilst of course having lots of fun and making amazing memories!

Our tinies will compete at TWO competitions in the season along with our whole program to get the full competition experience.

LEGACY JUST BELIEVE

19th February, Stratford, London

FUTURE CHEER NATIONALS

2nd-3rd July 2022, Bournemouth

Training Time:

Tuesdays 4.30pm-5.15pm

Athletes on the Tiny Team will not require a uniform, and will instead compete in a T-Shirt, bow and black shorts with costs confirmed nearer the time. White trainers are required.

Want to Join?!

Tiny Team athletes do NOT need to attend placements - You simply just have to get in touch with us to register for the team!

Email: Sapphire@affinitygymnastics.co.uk

We're excited for our new adventure, so don't miss out!



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MEMBERSHIP

Our athletes insurance is provided by IGA and runs annually on an academic year basis. New athletes will pay a reduced fee of £9.99 on joining in June, then everyone renews in September.

2021-22 year costs have not yet been set by IGA, but previous years have been £13.50.

CHOREOGRAPHY

Choreography weekends are always an exciting time for our teams, where they come in for a longer period on a Saturday or Sunday (approx 4 hours, age dependant) to learn larger portions of their routine such as pyramid and dance.

We charge a choreography fee to cover this Choreography camp, but majority goes towards new music for the upcoming season (which is surprisingly pricey!) that is personalised to each team and their routine... It's a completely unique mix like no other that takes their routine to a whole new level! This fee will be finalised once we have our teams in order to keep it as affordable as possible for our families and athletes.

UNIFORM

All our competitive athletes require a uniform, and these can take 3-4 months from ordering to receiving them. Please ensure you know what will be required for you/your athletes:

Mini's: Mini Top, Mini Shorts & Bow

Youth/Juniors: Elite Crop, Elite Skirt & Leotard

Seniors: Elite Crop & Elite Skirt

All athletes will also require white trainers in order to compete, but we recommend getting Cheer Trainers specifically. Please ask us for more information regarding these.

Our Junior & Senior teams will not have bows this season, and will instead have french braids.

If you are a returning athlete, you will NOT require a new uniform unless this is your first season on a Youth/Junior/Senior team or you have outgrown your existing uniform. If you have a uniform you have outgrown and would like to resell, please also get in touch and we'll be happy to assist.

We do also offer optional training apparel, and our pro-shop will be reopened once team placements have been sent out!



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FEES AND COSTS

ALL TRAINING FEES ARE USUALLY SPLIT ACROSS 11 MONTHS, BUT DUE TO THE EXTENDED SEASON, THIS YEAR IT WILL RUN FOR 13 MONTHS FROM JUNE 2021 TO JULY 2022, WITH AUGUST 2021 OFF FOR SCHOOL HOLIDAYS.

SECOND TEAM COSTS ONLY APPLICABLE TO THOSE ON MORE THAN ONE TEAM.

MEMBERSHIP	SEE PREVIOUS PAGE	
WEEKLY TRAINING	FIRST TEAM	SECOND TEAM
TINY TEAM	£33	NA
MINI TEAM	£38	NA
2 HOUR TEAMS	£45	£31.50
CHOREOGRAPHY	FIRST TEAM	SECOND TEAM
	TBC	TBC
COMPETITION ENTRY	FIRST TEAM	SECOND TEAM
FC WINTER WONDERLAND	£34	£23
LEGACY JUST BELIEVE	TBC	TBC
BCA NATIONALS	£50	£30
FC NATIONALS	£44	£28
UNIFORM ITEM	COST	DEADLINE
MINI'S TOP	£39.50	15/08/21
MINI'S SHORTS	£12.50	15/08/21
BOW	£10	15/08/21
ELITE CROP	£70	15/08/21
ELITE SKIRT	£38	15/08/21
LEOTARD	£30	15/08/21

PLEASE NOTE, COMPETITION ENTRY COSTS AND UNIFORM COSTS ARE EXTERNAL AND THEREFORE MAY BE SUBJECT TO SMALL CHANGES. CHOREOGRAPHY WILL BE CONFIRMED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.



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TUMBLE CLASSES

This season we are making our tumble classes more accessible to our cheer athletes by offering them as a more affordable add-on class to benefit them fully in their competitive teams.

Tumble has become a huge part of the sport, and therefore there is more need to spend time focusing and perfecting skills as our athletes wish to continue to progress through both their ages and to get onto their desired level teams in the future. In our Team Trainings, our athletes work as a team to working on their team level skills, focusing on conditioning together, stamina for having that skill in a routine, as well as timing and confidence as a whole.

Our tumble classes are much more drills based to improve current skills, as well as pushing difficulty for higher level skills to help them progress in the future. An athlete can work with our tumbling coaches on a variety of these skills week on week, to improve confidence, technique, and actual skill level that they may not get to work on individually in our team trainings. It's a great way to ensure athletes are strong all rounders, and for those who are keen to progress through to higher level teams, it gives them the best chance of doing this.

We offer tumble classes for all abilities, from complete novice working on cartwheels, up to those more advanced working on layouts and full twists. If you're unsure which is the best fit for you, just speak to one of our coaches and they'll be able to advise!

All athletes that are part of a Competitive cheerleading team will receive a 30% discount on Tumble Classes this season, and therefore charged the following monthly costs:

NEW!

ELITE TUMBLE	£22.75	Express class aimed at self motivated athletes working on higher level skills, ideally cheer level 4+ (layouts/standing tucks/whip combo's/fulls)
TUMBLE 1	£22.75	Entry level tumble class for athletes working on core basics, aged between 4 and 6 years old.
TUMBLE 2	£26.67	Athletes working on cheer level 1 tumble skills, such as cartwheels, rolls, and walkovers.
TUMBLE 3	£26.67	Working on handspring skills specifically, back and forward, running and standing. Aimed at those pushing their cheer level 2 skills.
TUMBLE 4	£26.67	Athletes must have a confident back handspring already. Athletes working on cheer level 3+ skills (Tucks, series back handsprings, up to fulls)

Unsure which will be best for you?! All athletes will be recommended a Tumble Class along with their Team Placement!

Please note, all tumble classes are on a first come, first serve basis.



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SCHEMES

UNI STUDENT/GRADUATES

This season, we're offering a 10% discount on our competition team fees to all university graduates who have graduated in the last 2 years.

If you think you think you may be eligible, just get in touch with us via email for more information!

REFER A FRIEND

Do you know someone who you think would **LOVE** to join cheer? If you do, then this is the perfect scheme for you.

If you refer a friend and they sign up to one of our competitive teams for the season before the end of September 2021, you'll get a months FREE subs at the end of the season as a thank you.

You can however only use this scheme once per season, per athlete and it is not based on how many friends you refer. New athletes can be previous Sapphire athlete if they have NOT been a member since before September 2019.

It's a great way to share something you love with your friends and introduce them to what is an extremely rewarding sport to be a part of, whilst also supporting the continual growth of our program.



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STUNT GROUPS

This is something we will be considering for the first time in many years! Stunt groups will be offered to those who show an interest in particular for stunting, and want to showcase this specifically, in addition to their main competitive team. This is something we will look to add as the season progresses, and when suitable to do so, with the aims of competing at 1-2 competitions in the season. It's a great opportunity for athletes to level up their skills outside of their team, and can prepare them for the following season. It also is a great way to be considered for other teams should a space on a high level become available that is suitable or step in as a reserve should one be required.

Stunt groups will train for 1 hour per week with a coach, and athletes must be part of a competitive team. We're aiming to offer these from September onwards.

OPEN GYMS

REC TEAMS

This season, we will be bringing back open gyms when it is safe to do so. These will start as monthly, on a Friday evening and you will need to sign up in advance of the session. We hope to begin holding these from September onwards if government guidelines permit us to do so.

MONTHLY WORKSHOPS

We will be looking to hold more ad hoc work shops this season! These will cover various topics, such as a specific tumble skills e.g. fulls, level up stunting classes, and hopefully also guest coaches. These will be at an additional cost and will be released as and when they are arranged, on a first come first serve basis.



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Join Us Now!

At Sapphire, our aim is much more than just teaching cheerleading skills. We believe that cheer can teach a variety of life skills, such as time management, teamwork, a work/life balance, problem solving and commitment, to name just a few. We aim to push our athletes to reach their full potential, both as an individual and as a team, and will always have their best interests at heart.

Should you have any questions regarding the upcoming season, please feel free to email us!

We understand this is still an unprecedented time for everyone, but hopefully normality is now within reach!

We want to do whatever we can to make sure the incredible sport of cheerleading remains accessible for both new and existing athletes, and continue to grow going forward.

SO, ARE YOU READY TO SHINE LIKE A SAPPHIRE?

New athletes, [CLICK HERE](#) to register now!

Previous Sapphire athletes can email us at Sapphire@affinitygymnastics.co.uk to register for a Tryout Slot!

#ShineLikeASapphire



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