

## Welcome to Illinois Cheerleading Academy 2009 – 2010

### COMMUNICATION

We, ICA, feel that communication between the staff, parents and athletes is very important in maintaining a great relationship. We do our best to keep you informed in a timely manner. Information that is important to your athlete may be found in the front office or on our website [www.illinoischeerleadingacademy.com](http://www.illinoischeerleadingacademy.com). Please take the time to check daily, for any updates. **IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PARENT AND ATHLETE TO CHECK FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND UPDATES ON THE WEBSITE OR FRONT DESK!**

Loyalty to Illini Force, Inc. is what will make us even better. Our staff is loyal both to the athlete and to the cause. In return, we seek a dedication from our athletes and parents also. Loyalty is just one factor that helps us achieve our goals. If at any time you feel that your loyalty to our company diminishes for any reason, please come to the **Illini Force Staff**, before you go to other parents or those outside of Illini Force. This can lead to false information being circulated and does not represent Illini Force in the manner that we would like.

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### FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

Your child's involvement in cheerleading at Illini Force is a big commitment. Is it worth it? Most cheer parents will tell you that apart from family life and school, cheer becomes the most significant activity in their child's life. In addition to the obvious physical benefits, those children who become involved in cheer rarely accept negative influences into their lives. They learn self-discipline, how to work together as a member of a team, how to conduct themselves with Grace and courage while under pressure, and how to prioritize their lives and manage their time. These same parents marvel at their child's time management skills. Cheerleaders are often excellent students. For these reasons and more, cheer is an extremely rewarding activity.

### ANNUAL REGISTRATION FEE

There is an annual Registration fee of \$30.00 per athlete.

This will include FREE open gym when available throughout the season and a free practice t-shirt to new students.

### Illini Force Cheerleading Tuition for 2009-2010

	Hrs/wk	Monthly Tuition	Tuition if Paid <b><u>AFTER the 5<sup>th</sup></u></b>
Tiny Teams	2 – 1hour	\$55.00	\$85.00
Miny Teams	2 – 1 1/2 hour	\$65.00	\$90.00
Youth Team	2 – 2 hour	\$95.00	\$120.00
Junior Teams	2 – 2 hour	\$95.00	\$120.00
Senior Teams	2 – 2 hour	\$95.00	\$120.00

### NOTES:

1. The decision to join Illini Force reflects a commitment to the team for an entire year. Tuition is due by the 5th of each month regardless of attendance. Team members do not move on and off the team based on illness, injury, or conflicts. You are either on the

team or not. Just as your rent or mortgage is due whether or not you spend time away from home, and just as your health club dues are paid whether or not you actually use the club, your cheer tuition is due even when your athlete is absent.

2. Tuition is due on the 1st of every month and late after the 5th. A \$25.00 late fee will be charged after the 5th for all teams and classes.
3. A \$25.00 fee will be charged on all returned checks.
4. Illini Force Team and Class Tuition are based on 12 calendar months. Some months have 4 weeks, and some have 5 weeks; thus we do not prorate tuition for holidays or vacations. Time-off/Vacation time is already factored into tuition and will not be refunded or prorated for.
5. Tuition will not be prorated for injury, sickness, or required family visitation.
6. Families with more than one child in the program may deduct 15% from all lower tuitions. (This a new rate from last years 10%!)

**Paying tuition secures your right to training, not your right to compete.** The right to compete is earned by working hard and following all the rules. Failure to follow our rules and polices may result in your removal from the squad for a competition or for the rest of the season. Should a cheerleader be removed there are no refunds of any fees

## Competitions And Fees

We will plan on 8 to 9 competitions next season for Miny thru Senior Teams, Tiny teams plan on 3-5. Competition fees usually range between \$45-110 per competition. This is an estimate. We try to schedule the less expensive competitions **Instead of charging the coaches' fee for competitions in one payment this year, we will add \$10 to each competition.**

\*\* This does not include Final Destination and/or Worlds qualification, which will be additional comp fees and coach's fees at time of decision to go.

1. Parents must pay for hotels, meals, rental cars, etc. for themselves and their cheerleader.
2. It is the responsibility of the parents to provide transportation to and from all competitions for their child. It is also the responsibility of the parents to supervise their child at competitions when they are not under the direct control and supervision of the coaches.

## UNIFORMS AND APPAREL

The coaches select the uniforms. The coaches will decide when we get new uniforms. We ordered new uniforms last season and we will use those same uniforms again this season.

Those who have not outgrown their uniform need do nothing. Those new to the program or who have outgrown their uniform can either contact others and make private arrangements to trade, swap, and sell uniforms; or they can wait until we organize a uniform swap-meet where we will invite former Illini Force team families and those who have outgrown their uniforms to display and sell their uniforms at set prices to everyone who is interested.

Those who simply want to order a new uniform or those unable to find a used one that will fit must order a new uniform by July in order to insure that those uniforms are available in time for our first competition.

The price for a new uniform is approx. \$200-\$250 (uniform only, shoes, socks and hair bow are additional and can be purchased through the gym). The deposit and balance due policy is set by the manufacturer and we will follow that policy. Plan on 75% down and the balance due on delivery.

## UNIFORMS AND ACCESSORIES (ESTIMATED)

### **Cost:**

Make-up	\$ 33.00 (Youth thru Senior)
	\$ 15.00 (Tiny and Miny)
Hair Bow	\$20.00
Spanks	\$20.00
Cheer Shoes	\$42.00
Uniform	\$187.00 (Youth thru Senior)
	\$120.00 (Tiny and Mini)
Wind Suit	\$65.00

## **PARENT GUIDELINES**

1. Parents are expected to have a current email on file with Illini Force. Emailing is one of the ways we communicate on a weekly basis with updates, information, etc. Some information will also be handed out on hard paper copies. Please ask your child after practice if they have handouts to give you.
  2. Parents are always welcome and encouraged to attend events locally and nationally, but are expected to attend as spectators and not extra coaches. **If for some reason you disagree or are unhappy with a philosophy or decision of Illini Force, judging at a competition, etc. please talk to your child's coach or Program Director first. Talking negatively amongst each other as parents, or to your child, can only hurt the program and is not tolerated.**
  3. Please remember that Illini Force events need to be the first priority. We ask that you do not plan family events during Illini Force events. Your child needs to be involved in the team atmosphere during such events.
  4. Withholding your child from a practice as a form of punishment hurts the team and it's progression toward a successful season. We need every athlete at every practice.
  5. Please help your child be organized and time efficient. Missed practices due to oversleeping, procrastination of homework/other responsibilities are not excused absences.
  6. All parents will be expected to conduct themselves in a professional, mature manner whenever they are representing Illini Force. Showing respect for the program director, coaching staff, other teams, and hosting organizations is crucial in representing Illini Force and setting the best possible example for all of the team members. Parents are expected to be courteous to participants, spectators, judges, coaching staff, and other Illini Force members. Failure to do so may result in your child's dismissal from the Illini Force All-Star Cheerleading program.
  7. All parents must agree to discuss any and all problems or concerns related to the program, staff, cheerleaders, or other parents directly with the staff, and not to publicly air grievances, should any arise.
  8. All parents must agree to accept staff decisions as Final and in the best interest of all parties.
  9. Parent meetings will be held periodically. It is strongly recommended that at least one parent attend each meeting. Important information and asked questions are always a big part of parent meetings.
  10. Parents, may not call meetings, hand out letters or flyers, send gym emails, schedule a fundraiser, or purchase wearable items for the teams without the direct permission of a Program Director.
  11. Parents, Cheerleaders, or Chaperones, etc. may not use the gym name or logo on anything without the direct permission of a Program Director.
  12. A participant removal from a team or class may be caused by, but not limited to, excessive absences or tardiness, misconduct that represents Illini Force poorly in any manner, insubordination, failure to follow rules, or a parent's "negative" interference.
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## **PRACTICE RULES**

In order to get the most out of practice and have it run efficiently, the following rules have been established:

- 1 We pride ourselves on our name. You should wear ICA Apparel when possible.
- 2 **INSUBORDINATION IS UNACCEPTABLE!** The following actions can result in suspension and possible removal from a ILLINI FORCE team:
  - 3 Temper tantrums, outbursts, or other signs of poor attitude
  - 2 Profanity, lewd language
  - 3 Fist fighting
  - 4 Showing disrespect to the instructors by talking back, eye rolling, etc.
  - 5 Showing disrespect to a fellow team member
  - 6 Unnecessary or excessive talking
- 1 **All cell phones must be turned off and left outside of practice area.**
- 2 **NO JEWELRY!** Including ear, nose, tongue, and toe, eyebrow or belly button rings. Wearing these items could result in serious injury to your child or to another child. Jewelry must be removed before coming onto the practice floor. Coaches will not be responsible for jewelry handed to them or left in the practice area.
- 3 Gum chewing, eating and drinks are not allowed in the practice area.
- 4 Practices and competitions are not to be used as punishment for your child's actions outside of the gym. You not only punish your child, but every other child and parent on that team.
- 5 Only cheerleaders and coaches are allowed in the practice area. **During practices, this will be enforced. No other**

**siblings or cheerleaders will be allowed in the practice area unless they are taking a tumbling class.**

**2 PARENTS MUST NOT LEAVE CHILDREN UNATTENDED IN THE WAITING ROOM OR PRACTICE AREA. ONCE PRACTICES FINISH, GIRLS ARE TO LEAVE THE FACILITY.**

1 No one is allowed to interrupt practice (by banging on windows, opening the door, etc.) to speak to any team member or coach while practice is in session. *This is extremely distracting to all involved. Our coaches' focus is on their teams at practice. If you have a question, leave a message in the office.*

2 All cheerleaders and families are expected to keep the waiting area clean. Please discard any garbage and empty pop cans. Can you please do us a favor and empty any drinks in the bathroom sink before discarding in the waste can?

**2 We have the right to close any practice without prior notice. Closed practices mean that you will not be able to stay in the building and parents/siblings will not be able to watch.**

## I Force Booster Club

We have a very active parent booster club that does many things to support our teams. One of things we do is provide treat/gift bags for every competitor for each competition.

**Each family will be asked to donate \$30.00 per season to help support the booster club. You may choose to pay that up front or wait and do a fundraiser and have it taken from your profits. It must be paid by the first competition.**

## FUNDRAISING

1 Fundraisers will be passed out at least once a month to help defer the costs.

2 There MAY be a maximum of two **REQUIRED** gym fundraisers. These fundraisers will help with costs associated with Force and improving the program.

### **\*\*Clarification\*\***

**The Booster club is set up to help those parents that wish to use it a chance to offset the expensive sport of cheerleading. If you choose to NOT participate in fundraiser that is your choice, however you will still be required to contribute the 30.00. This is to help with the gift bags for each comp that we give to help make the experience for our kids a memorable one. None of the money raised is for gym purposes. It is for the individual that sells and a Christmas party and end of year banquet and awards for those events.**