

Welcome



Welcome to the Gymnastics Academy of Atlanta (GAA) Booster Club. We are so pleased to have you join us in supporting our gymnasts and the GAA team program. Our Booster Club is a non-profit, fundraising entity which provides financial support for our developmental, compulsory, optional and elite teams. We require membership for all team members as all competition fees and team apparel are paid through the Booster Club. We charge a one-time fee of \$40 per family to be paid when you are asked to become part of the GAA team program.

Our objective is simple: to assist in the development of our gymnasts throughout their gymnastics career. We strive to promote an atmosphere of sportsmanship and fellowship within the membership while supporting our teams in all levels of competition. We conduct activities in accordance with USA Gymnastics rules and in an ethical manner so as to ensure fairness and reason in all decisions. In addition, we endeavor to follow the directives and guidelines of GAA and their staff.

We hold meetings on a regular basis throughout the year. You can find a current copy of the minutes and treasurer's report under the Booster Club tab on the GAA website. You will find a copy of our Constitution Articles and Bylaws there as well. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any board member. Again, welcome to the GAA Booster Club!

Gymnastically yours,
The 2009-10 Board Members

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Teams

Developmental—Progressive Advanced and PreTeam

These teams emphasize correct form, developing strength and flexibility and precise execution of skills. These families are asked to become a part of the GAA Booster Club to involve them in the many facets of our organization and introduce them to the structure and procedures they will face as their child progresses to the competitive level. We strive to help them build what we consider vital to our gymnastics program—team spirit!



Compulsory-USAG Level 4-6

The Compulsory gymnasts compete identical routines designed to develop skills and technique. They focus on skill mastery, basic dance, body awareness, correct form and amplitude. These levels are intended to introduce the young athlete to competition. Our gymnasts compete from August to December in several local invitationals culminating in a state meet. The coaches sometimes choose one or two travel meets with an overnight stay during the season. Each gymnast must qualify for their state meet by scoring a 32.00 All Around in a minimum of two meets during the competition season.

Optional—USAG PrepOp, Level 7-10

Optional competition allows coaches and gymnasts to choose specific skills to compete on each event and to select their own floor music. Each level has certain skill and combination requirements. While these gymnasts continue to work on basics they are ultimately working toward new skill acquisition. Competition is at the local and national level with one “fly” and two “drive” meets included during the season which is from December to May with the exception of the PrepOp. All optionals must qualify for their state meet. Levels 8, 9 & 10 also qualify for their regional meet and Levels 9 & 10 can qualify for their national meet.

TOPs, Hopes, Pre-Elite, Elite

These teams are a part of the USA Gymnastics program which trains future athletes for the National Team. The two groups described above, Levels 4-10, are a separate part of USA Gymnastics called the Junior Olympic (JO) program. The TOPs or Talent Opportunity Program develops strength and flexibility in the 7-11 year old gymnasts. The Hopes program prepares the 10-12 year old for the Elite program which is our sport’s highest level of competition. Our National Team is made up of Elite gymnasts who are selected from the USA Championships each year. These athletes represent the United States in international competitions.

Quota

Quota is the required fee assigned to each competitive level. These Booster Club “dues” pay for your gymnast’s meet fees, team fees, and coaching stipends. They also include travel and related expenses for your child’s coach. Payment for quota can only be made by cash or check, made out to GAA *Booster Club*. Credit or debit cards are not accepted forms of payment.

Please note— This payment is separate from the tuition you pay each month to The Gymnastic Academy of Atlanta.

In the summer, the coaching staff submits a competition schedule for the coming year to the board of directors. The treasurer then develops a budget which will cover the expenses for our teams to compete. At this time, any money left over from the last year’s budget is divided among the members. The remaining amount due then becomes “quota” for each level depending on their competition schedule. Once the budget is approved by the members at a Booster Club meeting, each level’s quota will be announced. If you have money left over in your account from the preceding year, it will roll over into the new season and your account will be credited with the excess.



If a gymnast joins us after the start of the competition season, their quota will be reduced to reflect those meets which have been missed. There is a 30 day grace period for incoming families to become current on quota due.

Important—Any account not paid within 5 business days of the due date will result in the gymnast not being entered for upcoming meets. Once your account has been restored, the gymnast family may still be responsible for any late registration fees that have been incurred to allow your gymnast to compete.

Unfortunately, quota cannot be refunded if a gymnast fails to qualify for their state meet. Because all fees are a part of the budget and paid well in advance, we are also unable to reimburse you if your child cannot attend a meet. However, there are special circumstances, such as injury, where exceptions can be made. This is handled on an individual basis by the booster club board. Full reimbursement is unlikely since most funds are quickly distributed for your child’s expenses.

Apparel

Spirit Leotard

Team gymnasts wear this leotard one day a week to practice to encourage team spirit and camaraderie. It may require special washing instructions. Should the leotard become faded, lose stones or bleed, the coach may request that the parent purchase a replacement. At times, the coaches may ask that the girls take them to special events outside of the gym such as state finals or regional camp. Because the spirit leotard is representative of the team, the coaches require a sleek fit, with only a small amount of room for growth. *Required item.*

Competitive Leotard/Warm-ups

This leotard and matching warm-ups are for competition only. The leotard should fit like “second skin” with no room for growth. Teams use them for two years before changing styles. If your child has outgrown their leotard or warm-up pants at the end of the season, you will be allowed to sell them if we are using them for a second year. There are special washing instructions and this apparel should be handled with care. *Required items.*



Backpack/Sandals/Team Shirt

The backpack and sandals are also part of the uniform of the competitive gymnast. They are allowed to use these on a daily basis unlike the leotard and warm-ups. The team shirt can be worn to meets to show team spirit and will occasionally be required by the coach at special events outside the gym. *Required items.*

Other Spirit Wear

Sweatshirts, shorts, and parent apparel are a few of the other selections available to the gymnast family. These items are not required but we give each family the option to purchase them.

**All team attire must be paid at the time
the order is place with the Apparel Chairman**

Meets

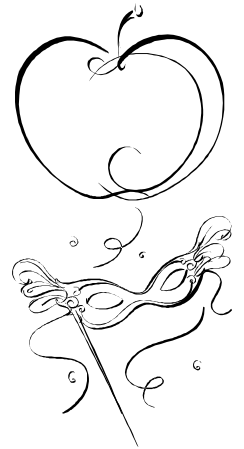
The GAA Booster Club hosts a minimum of two meets each year, Apple Classic, a USAG compulsory meet, in September, and Mardi Gras Invitational, a USAG optional and AAU meet, in February. Occasionally, we will be asked to host a State or Regional meet which usually occurs in the spring.

Every competitive (levels 4-elite) member family is required to work a minimum of 3 sessions during any of the GAA Booster Club hosted meets during the gym year. A session can last from 3 to 5 hours. An adult must perform the assigned duties.

All non-competitive (developmental) member families are required to work a minimum of one session during any of the GAA Booster Club hosted meets during the gym year. This is to prepare these families for their future competitive seasons and give them an idea of how the meet process works. Because excess funds made at these meets will be applied to next year's budget, developmental and competitive families benefit by a reduction of quota in the next year.

In seasons the Booster Club hosts an additional state or regional meet, every member family, competitive and non-competitive, will be required to work an additional session at that meet.

The penalty for non-participation is \$150 per session not worked, payable to the Booster Club with no quota credit given. If the non-participation fee is not paid, the gymnast will not be allowed to order **ANY** team apparel until all fees are settled.



Fundraisers

The Vice President is in charge of all fundraisers and each one must be cleared through him/her. Board approval is required for most fundraisers. The largest fundraiser we do each year is Corporate Sponsorship. General guidelines for this program can be read below. For more fundraising information, see the Constitution on the GAA website. **IMPORTANT**—gymnast families cannot receive refunds from a Corporate Sponsorship or fundraisers. This is a violation of NCAA rules and could affect your child's future college eligibility!

Corporate Sponsorship

There are three levels of sponsorship: Gold - \$1000, Silver - \$500, Bronze - \$250. Each sponsor has their name placed on the banner under the appropriate heading. Gold sponsors receive a full-page ad, Silver, a half-page ad, and Bronze, a quarter-page ad in the Apple Classic and Mardi Gras programs. They each receive a plaque at the end of the sponsored year.

93% of the money collected from a sponsor will apply to your child's quota according to their competitive level. Any money not used toward the current year's quota will be held over until the next year. Sponsorship money may be used for competitive attire. However, because of NCAA rules, all sponsorship money must go into the general account with a check made out to *GAA Booster Club*.

To be eligible for Corporate Sponsorship, businesses must be representative of the values of the gym ownership and the code of conduct set forth by the coaches, promoting a healthy lifestyle.

You may encounter a company that wants to participate as a sponsor for less than \$250 or in a way that is not a cash donation – such as food or free services. We designate this company as an All-Around Sponsor. They will have a business card size program ad but will not appear on the banner.

