



# 2026 - 2027 EVALUATION FAQ

## Q HOW ARE EVALUATIONS BEING RUN THIS SEASON?

**A** This year's evaluation process will be the most comprehensive it's ever been and will utilize a three- phase structure that includes:

**Individual Assessment**- Athletes must select ONE date and attend the time slot that corresponds with the level they wish to be evaluated for. During this session, athletes will be put into groups of 2 or 3 and be assessed by a top gun coach on their standing tumbling, running tumbling, jumps & dance. Athletes will be evaluated on the execution of their skills as well as showmanship and confidence while performing. During their individual assessment, the athletes will be asked to perform the following:

**MAY 11<sup>th</sup> – May 13<sup>th</sup>**

- Standard Standing Skill: Performed both individually and as a group.
- Standard Running Skill: Performed both individually and as a group.
- Specialty Standing Skill: Performed Individually.
- Specialty Running Skill: Performed Individually.
- Double Jump: Performed Individually.
- Toe Touch: Performed Individually.
- Dance: There will be a novice, prep & elite version of the dance.

On Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, an email will be sent to all athletes that attended the individual assessment. This email will include which group session(s) each athlete should attend.

**MAY 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Flyer Assessment**- If an athlete would like to be considered for a flying position this season, they must register for the Flyer Assessment based on their birth age. This assessment should be registered **in addition** to the individual evaluation. During this session, athletes will be performing body positions & stunt progressions. They will be assessed on flexibility, body control & ability to take correction. By registering and attending the flyer assessment, it puts you in consideration but does **NOT** guarantee a flying position this season. Body positions that will be assessed are the following:

- Right & Left Heel Stretch
- Right & Left Over Stretch
- Arabesque
- Scale
- Kick up Scorpion/Needle (\*if applicable)

**Group Assessment** – On Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, an email will be sent out with which group session your athlete should attend. It will be sorted by your evaluation number followed by which session(s) you should attend.

## **MAY 16<sup>th</sup> – May 17<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 am – 11:00 am	Session 1
12:15 pm – 2:15 pm	Session 2
3:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Session 3

During these sessions, athletes will be grouped according to age & skill level; they will be assessed on tumbling & stunting ability. Extra emphasis will be placed on stunting and athletes may be asked to perform different stunting positions with various stunt groups to get the most comprehensive assessment of their abilities. Athletes may even be asked to switch age/level groups depending on what puzzle pieces the coaches feel are missing throughout the program. Please note that although athletes will attend certain group assessments, it does NOT guarantee they will be placed within that level during team placements. Also note that the session numbers do NOT correspond to levels.

## **Q WHAT IF MY ATHLETE CANNOT ATTEND A SPECIFIC ASSESSMENT?**

**A** If your athlete must miss a specific assessment due to a prior commitment that cannot be rescheduled or a sudden emergency, please contact the Top Gun office immediately at [buckley@topgunswfl.com](mailto:buckley@topgunswfl.com) and we will do our best to accommodate the situation. However, please be advised that missing one or more sessions will automatically result in being amongst the last athletes selected, which could result in being placed on a different team/age group/level than the one in which your athlete might have made.

## **Q WHAT SKILLS SHOULD MY ATHLETE BE THROWING IN THEIR EVALUATION?**

**A** Athletes should only be throwing skills they are comfortable and confident in performing. No spots, mats, or other equipment besides the spring floor will be allowed during evaluations.

## **Q WHAT SHOULD I WEAR TO EVALUATIONS?**

**A** We ask that you wear the following to athlete evaluations:

- Athletic wear & sneakers
- Hair removed from face & neatly arranged
- Face clean-shaven or groomed (males)
- Absolutely no jewelry

\* If you'd like to purchase any Top Gun apparel or merchandise, we have plenty of quality items for both athletes and parents on sale in the proshop.

## Q ARE THERE IMPORTANT DATES AFTER EVALUATIONS THAT I SHOULD BE AWARE OF?

A	May 26	Deposit Due
	May 27 + 28	Signing & Sizing Event
	June 1 + 2	First Practices
	June 6 + 7	Level Stunt Camps
	July 20-31	Summer Break
	August 3	Attendance Policy Begins!
	August 15 + 16	Stunt Camp

For a full detailed calendar of important dates, please refer to the year calendar posted on the website!

## Q WHEN WILL I KNOW WHICH TEAM MY ATHLETE MADE?

A Team placements will be emailed out and announced by evaluation number on the Top Gun website on Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup> after 6:30 PM EST. Athletes will receive their number when they submit their evaluation forms. (\*Note: We will be fielding teams in as many divisions as possible. Team size and level will be determined after Athlete Evaluations but is subject to change throughout the course of the season.

## Q WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TYPES OF TEAMS?

A These are different types of competitive teams that have different routine requirements. A brief explanation is below:

**EXHIBITION** teams do not stunt in the air and are limited to specific tumbling passes. They go to limited events and do a performance that is NOT scored.

**NOVICE** There are two tiers to novice: tiny & mini/youth/junior. Tiny novice does not stunt are limited to specific tumbling passes. Mini (youth/junior) Novice is similar to prep, but the expectations are lower as they are not required to do as many elite skills in their routine. All novice teams are scored but given a ranking (outstanding, excellent, or superior) rather than a placement against other teams. Novice teams compete only one day when attending two-day events.

**PREP** teams do the same stunting & tumbling skills as an elite team. However, their routines are shorter & require fewer elite skills. Prep teams primarily compete only one day when attending two day events with the exception of events that offer a "Prep+" option. Those events allow prep teams to compete both days. **This season, prep teams will be attending an end of season event!**

**ELITE** teams are competitive teams that tumble, stunt, & jump in a 2 min and 30 second routine. Elite teams require elite level tumbling, jump & stunting ability. Elite teams will compete both days in a two-day event.

## Q WHAT IF I MISSED EVALUATIONS?

A It is possible to make a team later in the season through a late evaluation. However, spaces on teams may be very limited and we are often only looking for athletes of a specific age or skill level. In addition, the athlete may miss some of the training, team

bonding experiences and memories that make each season so special and memorable. Monthly fees are also calculated annually and include competition expenses, so anyone starting late will still be required to pay those fees. So don't put off being a part of the best all star cheer program in the WORLD! Register now and get the full Top Gun experience!

For more information about late evaluations, please email [buckley@topgunswfl.com](mailto:buckley@topgunswfl.com)

## Q WHAT IS THE PRACTICE SCHEDULE?

**A** Our practice schedule varies between teams & is finalized once the teams have been created.

**Exhibition** teams practice ONCE a week for 45 minutes. Practice day will be Monday – Thursday

**Novice** teams practice ONCE a week for 1 hour. Practice day will be Monday – Thursday

**Prep** teams practice TWICE a week for 1.5 hours. Practice days will be either Mon/Wed OR Tues/Thurs

**Elite** teams practice TWICE a week for 2 hours. Practice days will be either Mon/Wed OR Tues/Thurs

**If there is a conflict or you have a request for a practice day or time, please make sure to include on your athlete evaluation form!**

## Q WHAT IS SUMMER ATTENDANCE POLICY?

**A** We encourage all athletes to attend practice over the summer as this is the time we use to build technique, elite stunting & tumbling skills. During the summer, our building skills are learned and athletes that miss an abundance of practices can lead to not being in a particular stunting section and/or reevaluation. If an athlete misses multiple summer practices, they are subject for movement if they no longer serve a particular need of the team originally placed on. Our attendance policy, outlined in our contract, begins on August 3rd.

## Q WHAT IS THE ANNUAL COST?

**A** Our annual cost ranges between \$1500 (novice) - \$5000 (higher level elite). The total annual cost is broken up into one nonrefundable deposit (due 5/26) + 11 month installments (due on the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month starting with 6/10/26). The only additional costs would be personal travel, USASF membership fee + personal travel to events. Detailed cost can be found on our season price breakdown. We offer several fundraising & sponsorship opportunities.

## Q WHAT IS THE COMPETITION SCHEDULE? HOW MANY COMPETITIONS DO WE ATTEND?

**A** Our competition schedule will be released by August 2026. During that time, we also issue an "important dates" document for every team so that any extra practices/events are communicated. This is to ensure as little change as possible. The number of competitions varies between teams. \*This is subject to change based on what entity we choose to attend (Varsity vs Open)

**Exhibition** teams perform 1-3 times per season

**Novice** teams compete 4-6 times per season

**Prep** teams compete 5-7 times per season

**Elite** teams compete 6-8 times per season (upper levels usually attend 1 out of state)

## Q WHAT AGE DIVISION IS MY ATHLETE?

A Our teams range from tiny to senior age and have a variety of levels between 1-5. The difference between a “youth 2” and a “junior 2” is only the ages of the athletes on the team; the level of stunting and tumbling is the same. When conducting team placements, once your athlete is considered a specific level, they are then placed appropriately by age. This means, if your athlete is “youth age”, they will be placed on a youth team. In an instance that a team needs a specific stunting position, we may look to move athletes up an age bracket; example: a youth age flyer might be placed on a junior age team due to a need of a flyer to complete the team dynamic. Please look below at the grid for your athlete’s birth year and their corresponding levels.

BIRTH YEAR	TINY	MINI	YOUTH	JUNIOR	SENIOR
2021	x				
2020	x				
2019	x	If Needed			
2018		x	If Needed		
2017		x			
2016			x	If Needed	
2015			x		
2014			x		
2013			x		
2012				x	If Needed
2011				x	
2010				x	
2009					x
2008					x
2007					X

## Q WHAT IF MY ATHLETE WANTS TO BE A FLYER? WHAT CAN THEY EXPECT?

A A small percentage of each team is comprised by flyers. By being placed as a “flyer” on a particular team, you will also be enrolled in our flexibility program. This program will have weekly assignments, monthly bootcamps and checkins to make sure all flyers are keeping up with their flexibility. Below are a list of expectations we have of our flyers in the program.

Prep team expectations:

- *Minimum* stretch 1 day per week
- Both libs
- Arabesque
- Front stretch on each leg (by end of season)
- Splits flat to floor (by end of season)

Elite team expectations:

- *Minimum* stretch 3 days per week
- Right & Left split flat to floor
- Bridge grabbing ankles
- Level 1: both libs, front stretches, both heel stretches, arabesque
- Level 2: ^^ plus scorpion, scales
- Level 3+: ^^ plus needle & all advanced positions

The flexibility program is **mandatory** for all flyers on our elite teams. Please keep this in mind before attending the flyer evaluations.

