



2025 - 2026

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 two top gun coaches on their standing tumbling, running tumbling, jumps & dance. When doing standing & running tumbling, athletes will be expected to do the standard skill & one specialty skill from the list on the "athlete evaluation form." To perform the dance, please access our evaluation material and learn beforehand; for elite teams, athletes should be learning the "advanced version". Athletes will be evaluated on the execution of their skills as well as showmanship and confidence while performing. At the conclusion of this session, athletes will receive an invitation to attend a "level-specific" assessment for their second evaluation.

MAY 12th – May 15th

Flyer Assessment- If an athlete would like to be considered for a flying position this season, they must register for the Flyer Assessment of the level that they wish to be considered. This assessment should be registered **in addition** to the individual evaluation. During this session, athletes will be evaluated on their flexibility, body positions, and body control on both a stunt stand and during level appropriate stunts. By registering and attending the flyer assessment, it puts you in **consideration** but does **NOT** guarantee a flying position this season.

MAY 16th

Group Assessment - Athletes must attend the time slots that correspond with the level-specific invitation they received at the end of the individual assessment. During these sessions, athletes will be grouped according to levels and ages and evaluated on all their skills again. 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 level assessments, it does NOT guarantee they will be placed within that level during team placements.

MAY 19th – May 22nd

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** 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 office

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

A June 2-3	Meet the coaches & Signing Party
June 28-30	Elite Stunt Camp
August 11	Attendance Policy Begins
August 16-17	Elite & Prep Stunt Camp
October 10-13	Camp Geneva

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 announced by evaluation number on the Top Gun website on Tuesday, May 27th 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

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. Our attendance policy, outlined in our contract, begins on August 11th.

Q WHAT IS THE ANNUAL COST?

A Our annual cost ranges between \$1500 - \$4000. This is broken up into one nonrefundable deposit + 11 month installments. There are no additional fees other than your personal travel and any end of season event. 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 12, 2024. 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.

- 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
2020	x				
2019	x				
2018	x	If Needed	If Needed	If Needed	
2017		x			
2016		x			
2015			x		
2014			x		
2013			x		If Needed
2012			x		
2011				x	
2010				x	
2009				x	
2008					x
2007					x
2006					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, 1 heel stretch, arabesque
- Level 2: scorpion, scale, both heel stretches
- Level 3+: 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.