



Intro to Booster Club and Important Changes for All Families

October 26, 2020

Hi Gymnastics Team Families!

Many of you know me already, but many of you are new (welcome!), so this email is both a general introduction to the Booster Club, but also contains important information for all families. I promise we'll have a Zoom meeting soon, but because I didn't get around to scheduling that in October, and because I need to get invoices started now, I am communicating a ton of info here by email and a November zoom meeting will be scheduled soon to answer all of your questions!

First, please save both of the following two email addresses in your contacts. Sometimes the emails we send out of our system get stuck in junk folders, and you will receive lots of emails from both me (via this President email) and Emily Sutherland (via the Gina Morri email) throughout the year.

- president@midwestgymnasticsboosterclub.org
- ginamorri@midwestgymnasticsboosterclub.org

What is the Booster Club?

We are a non-profit entity that exists separate from the gym itself. We are run entirely by parent volunteers (I have two kiddos on the JO Optionals Level 7 team). The booster club supports all of the girls competitive teams at Midwest Gymnastics (Xcel and JO). Our primary reason for existing is to coordinate fundraising (more on this below). We also help coordinate fun team building activities for the girls (which will look very different this year!), which also includes fun treats for them at various meets.

The Booster Club also handles the invoicing for all costs associated with your child attending meets (meet registration, coach annual/meet registrations, coach travel/attendance rates, judge fees, etc.). Whether you become a Booster Club member, or not, you will be invoiced by the Booster Club for these fees. This is separate from the monthly fees you already pay to the gym, which covers the costs of practices. The Booster Club handles competition fees only.

In order to receive emails from the Booster Club (or participate and receive any of the benefits discussed below), you have to first "opt in" as a member. Visit www.midwestgymnasticsboosterclub.org, go to the "Parent Portal", and follow the links to "Opt-In to Booster Club" if you have not done so already. Returning parents – you have to do this every year!



Why should I join the Booster Club?

The real question is, why would you NOT join the Booster Club? :-) Yes, in order to become an “Eligible Member” and receive the benefits discussed below, you need to fulfill the Booster Club volunteering and sponsorship requirements, but simply opting in at least allows you to stay in the loop with emails and it costs nothing to do so! Opting in does not obligate you to anything.

How do we fundraise and how do I benefit from Booster Club fundraising?

Right now, we host a meet in February each year, the Gina Morri Invitational, and all proceeds go right back to the Booster Club to distribute to Eligible Members.

As you’ll see below, at the beginning of the season you will pay fees based on what we anticipate your gymnast’s competition fees will be for the year. Then we (and we need your help!) work hard all season long, and especially over the February weekend of the Gina Morri meet, to make that meet as profitable as we possibly can.

So how does the Booster Club help with these fee expenses? The Gina Morri profits are distributed to Eligible Members to help reimburse/offset you for fees you pay that year. For example, we earned enough at Gina Morri this past Spring to help offset 55% of those Eligible Members’ fees for last year (thanks to all of their hard work at the February 2020 Gina Morri meet!). The fee offset gets applied to the following years’ fees.

Emily Sutherland (parent of two gymnasts on Xcel team) is our Gina Morri Director, and she is on the Booster Club Board. She is already hard at work planning for next year’s meet, which you can imagine will look a lot different than last year because of COVID. She needs your help. Please see below.

This year is going to be tough. Occupancy limitations are going to severely cut into what we would normally make from admissions. I am open to all additional fundraising ideas to add in this year to help offset. If you have ideas or an interest in helping to coordinate a fundraiser or two, please let me know right away!

When is the Gina Morri meet?

Please mark your calendars for Thursday February 11 through Sunday February 14, 2021. Because of the COVID requirements, which we are diligently working through now, we have to spread the sessions out more to limit # of occupants in the coliseum, which means we will run sessions on Friday as well (making Thursday a set up day).



How do you become an Eligible Member?

RETURNING FAMILIES – NOTE THE NEW CHANGES!

You need to fulfill two aspects of Booster Club membership to become an “Eligible Member” (and earn the Gina Morri fee distribution).

New This Year!! Both the volunteer requirements and the sponsorship requirements are now tiered based on which team/level your gymnast competes. Why? Because we do an “equal percentage” method of distributing fundraising dollars, some teams ultimate dollar amount earned is higher than others because their total fees are higher. In an effort to make things a little more fair, we’re asking more from those families who stand to earn more dollars.

1. **Volunteer Requirement.** To become an Eligible Member, you must volunteer to help us put on the Gina Morri meet. We do the entire meet with parent volunteers and we need everyone’s help! This year, we are going to have pre-meet planning activities that will also count towards your volunteer requirements. Emily and I are really hoping for more parent help on the front end this year! But everyone will have some amount of “shifts” to work during the meet itself, so please be sure and block off that whole weekend for now.

Everyone will be required to volunteer for at least one set-up or tear-down shift (Thursday for set-up or Sunday evening for tear-down). In addition to set-up/tear-down, everyone will be required to sign up for a certain number of shifts to work during the meet weekend. The number of during-meet working shifts required per family will be finalized closer to the meet and will be proportionate to the team/level dollars earned as described above (i.e., families standing to earn more actual dollars will be asked to work more shifts).

2. **Sponsorship Requirement.** In addition to volunteering, we ask all parents to help us get sponsors (and earn more dollars that go back to the bottom line – back to Eligible Members!). Some members secure local businesses who make donations to advertise at the meet, some members secure restaurant donations to provide meals for the judges, and some members ask grandparents/friends/family to make donations on behalf of their gymnast to fulfill their sponsorship requirement.

The deadline for obtaining sponsorships this year is **January 10, 2021 if your sponsor wants to advertise at the meet. All other non-advertising sponsor dollars must be received by **April 30, 2021**.**

Updated 2020-21 Sponsorship amount requirements:

XCEL: \$100

JO Levels: 3,4,5: \$200

JO Levels: 6,7,8: \$400

JO levels 9/10 and Elites: \$500



What can I do right now to help?

Glad you asked! Emily is already working so hard on Gina Morri planning. Emily is going to send out a SignUp genius link soon where you can sign up to help with leading one of the below pre-planning items. Depending on the task, you will earn credit towards your volunteering requirements.

1. Food: Organize & Communicate **lunches** for judges for all 3 meet days. Has to be boxed.
2. Food: Organize and Communicate **dinners** for Judges for all 3 meet days. Has to be boxed.
3. Food: Create Sign-up Genius for parent donations and communicate. Get all of this to the Coliseum.
4. Decorations: Research and order balloon arch and balloons and get to the Coliseum.
5. Send Thank Yous: Three people needed. Each will be given a list.
6. Print Signs shortly before the meet.
7. Work with Coliseum contact and create the Jumbotron slideshow.



How much and when will the Booster Club start invoicing for 2020-21 fees?

As returning families know, normally by now you would've already paid a few months of invoices. We had to put things on pause while the gym figures out what the meet season even looks like this year. A lot of that is still up in the air, but I do have some general info from the gym now and meet registrations will be starting soon, so I need to go ahead and begin invoicing.

I am dividing up the estimated fees into three payments. The first invoice will come out this week and will be due by Nov. 15. The remaining two invoices will be due Dec. 15 and Jan. 15.

We will talk more about COVID changes during the Zoom meeting, but individual registration amounts are going to be higher this year (we'll also be attending less meets most likely, so it may be a wash, but we just don't have all the details yet).

Every meet will be different (also making estimating difficult) as it depends on occupancy limits for the venue. Many meets are charging a higher gymnast registration fee, but giving that gymnast one free wristband to bring a single guest with them to the meet. So, while we pay more per gymnast up front in fees, you may not have to pay an admission price for one guest to get in. Due to occupancy limitations, the hosting gyms are losing a lot on entrance admissions, which is why individual fees are increased this year.

I ask for patience and understanding this whole year! Doing the best we can to estimate with the changing occupancy guidelines and each meet having a different approach to fees/admissions.

I may need to do multiple rounds of invoicing throughout the season, but some of the meets are being selected/registered for now, so I need to go ahead and get invoicing going.

Estimated initial fee will be divided into 3 payments. Each payment will have a 2.9% processing fee, which is a pass through for the Booster Club and charged by our web payment service.

- **Xcel – all levels** **\$750***
- **JO Compulsory (Levels 3-5)** **\$1,000***
- **JO Optionals (Level 6-8)** **\$1,250***
- **JO Optionals (Level 9-10) and Elite** **TBD (sorry, I don't know yet).**

*Returning families who are also Eligible Members (i.e., you fulfilled all of your requirements last year and earned the 55% fee offset). You were already given your calculated 55% fee offset based on your gymnast's actual fees last year. I will take that amount, divide it by 3, and reduce each of your three invoices accordingly.



Notes on Fees and Invoicing:

- The Booster Club invoices at the beginning of the season for an estimated amount of fees for each team/level. At the end of the season, we do a reconciliation, so if we over-estimated and you paid more than your actual fees, we issue refunds (e.g., a lot of meets got cancelled at the end of the season last year because of COVID, and we issued refunds to a lot of families). The opposite is also true, if we under-estimate, and your gymnasts' fees end up being more than what you were originally invoiced for, you will be required to pay the difference.
- If the coaches register some levels for more meets than others, those levels might use up this money faster, and I will be issuing mid-season additional invoices as fees go above and beyond this initial invoiced amounts.
- If the Booster Club pays registration fees in advance, on behalf of your gymnast, and those fees go above the initial invoiced amount, you are expected to cover the difference. In other words, there may be a meet where I don't get the registration from the coach until shortly before registrations are due . . . instead of telling the gym not to register your child, the booster club will cover the fee (when we can) and will invoice you after the fact. If your gymnast attends the meet, you are responsible for the fees.

If your gymnast is on the newly formed "Training Team" (formerly referred to as Entry Petites), you will not have any competition fees this year. This is just a wonky season, and I understand from the gym that we're going to use this year for competition training with this group of up-and-comers and then get you into JO Level 3 next year. You should still opt in to the Booster Club so you can stay in the loop on what's happening, but you just won't have fees. Which also means that you won't be eligible for a Gina Morri distribution (which is based on the amount of fees paid that year), but we would still welcome your help volunteering at the meet if you are able!

Whew! That was a lot. We'll use the November meeting to answer questions and go through some of this again, but because you'll see invoices coming out this week for your first payments, I wanted to give this (hopefully) helpful overview of all...the....things!

- Nicole Faulkner

On behalf of the Midwest Gymnastics Booster Club

Nicole Faulkner - President

Eddie Faulkner - Vice President (and *interim* Treasurer)

Betsy LaLiberte - Secretary

Emily Sutherland - Fundraising Director & Gina Morri Coordinator