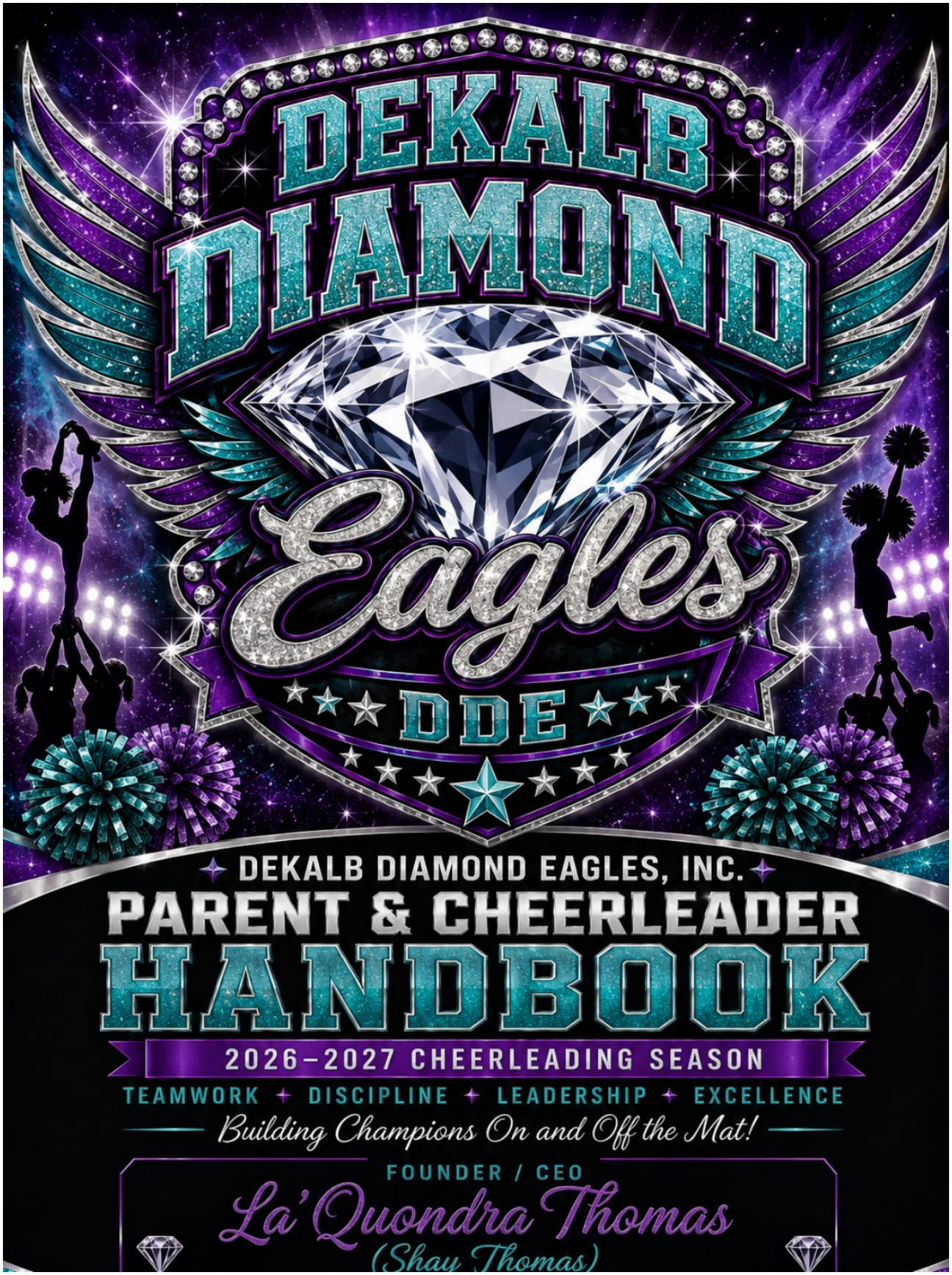
DEKALB
DIAMOND
Eagles
DDE
DEKALB DIAMOND EAGLES, INC.
PARENT & CHEERLEADER
HANDBOOK
2026–2027 CHEERLEADING SEASON
TEAMWORK ✦ DISCIPLINE ✦ LEADERSHIP ✦ EXCELLENCE
Building Champions On and Off the Mat!
FOUNDER / CEO
La'Quondra Thomas
(Shay Thomas)

1. Welcome & Program Overview

This handbook explains the financial responsibilities, participation expectations, and general policies for parents, guardians, and athletes participating in DDE. Please read it carefully and keep it available throughout the season.

Our program values

- Respect: Treat coaches, teammates, families, officials, and facilities with consideration.
- Responsibility: Arrive prepared, communicate, and follow through on commitments.
- Integrity: Be honest, dependable, and accountable.
- Teamwork: Encourage teammates and work toward shared goals.
- Safety: Follow coaching direction and all safety expectations.
- Sportsmanship: Represent DDE positively at practices and events.

2. Tryout, Registration & Program Fees

All athletes must complete the required registration process and submit applicable fees according to the schedule provided by DDE.

FEE	AMOUNT	DETAILS
Tryout fee	$25	Per athlete. Sibling tryout fee is $15 per sibling.
Annual athlete registration	$300	Due during enrollment for the season; separate from monthly tuition.
Monthly tuition	$150/month	Supports ongoing program operations and training-related expenses.

Fee distinction: The $25 tryout fee ($15 for each sibling) covers the tryout process. The $300 annual registration fee is a once-per-season enrollment fee. The $150 monthly tuition is a separate recurring charge. Uniforms and personal cheer supplies are additional expenses.

What monthly tuition supports

- Practice and training-related program expenses
- Coaching and instructional support
- Facility-related expenses and general team operations
- Program administration

3. Uniforms & Cheerleading Supplies

Parents/guardians are responsible for purchasing the required uniform package and personal cheerleading supplies. Prices below reflect the amounts currently provided by DDE and may change if vendor pricing changes.

ITEM	COST	DETAILS
Competition uniform package	$500	Cheer uniform, skirt, top shell and accessories.
Practice attire	$85	Required all-black shirt and shorts for new athletes.
Warm-up suit & sports bra	$75	Required team warm-up items.
Pom-poms	$38	Team performance equipment.
Cheer shoes	$45	Required cheer footwear.
Replacement socks	$10	If needed.

Replacement bows	$10	If needed.
Replacement sports bra/undergarment	$30	If needed.

Replacement items are only needed if an athlete requires them. DDE will communicate ordering deadlines, approved vendors, and any changes to required items.

4. Payment Responsibilities & No-Refund Policy

- The annual registration fee is due during enrollment unless DDE provides a written alternative arrangement.
- Monthly tuition of $150 is due on the 15th day of every month. Parents/guardians are responsible for submitting payment on or before the 15th.

Late Payment Policy: DDE allows a grace period through the 20th of each month. A $25 late fee will be assessed beginning on the 21st if the monthly tuition payment has not been received. Continued nonpayment may result in suspension from team activities until the account is brought current. DDE will provide notice to the parent/guardian before any participation suspension.

- Uniforms and personal cheerleading supplies are separate from tuition.
- Parents/guardians should contact program administration promptly with payment questions.
- Keep payment confirmations and receipts for your records.

No-Refund Policy: All fees and payments made to DDE are non-refundable, including tryout fees, annual registration fees, monthly tuition, uniform payments, and other program-related payments. This policy applies to withdrawal, dismissal, missed practices, schedule conflicts, or an athlete's decision not to continue, except where a refund is required by applicable law. Any exception must be approved in writing by DDE's authorized leadership.

Payment methods: DDE will provide approved payment methods and payment instructions separately. Monthly tuition is due on the 15th of every month. Use only official DDE payment channels.

5. Attendance & Participation

Consistent attendance helps athletes develop skills, confidence, and team coordination. Athletes are expected to attend scheduled practices, performances, competitions, and required team events.

- Arrive on time and ready to participate.
- Parents/guardians must notify the coaching staff when an athlete will be absent.
- Communicate known schedule conflicts as early as possible.
- Attend all scheduled practices unless excused.
- Repeated absences may affect readiness and competition participation; coaches will communicate concerns with families.

6. Practice Attire & Athlete Expectations

- Wear approved practice attire, including required all-black attire where directed.
- Bring a labeled water bottle to every practice.
- Bring a light snack when appropriate and follow facility food rules.
- Listen to coaches and follow safety instructions.

- Treat teammates, coaches, staff, and facilities respectfully.
- Maintain a positive attitude and demonstrate good sportsmanship.

Practice schedule and location

Practice days, times, location, and schedule changes will be shared through official DDE communication channels. Families should rely on the latest written team announcement for current schedule information.

7. Parent & Guardian Responsibilities

- Complete registration forms and provide accurate athlete information.
- Pay required fees according to the communicated schedule.
- Ensure athletes arrive on time and are picked up promptly.
- Keep emergency contact information current.
- Communicate respectfully with coaches and program administration.
- Encourage athletes and demonstrate positive sportsmanship at practices and events.
- Read team announcements and respond when information or forms are requested.

8. Anti-Bullying, Harassment & Respect Policy

DDE is committed to maintaining a safe, welcoming, and respectful environment. Bullying, harassment, intimidation, discrimination, hazing, retaliation, or threatening behavior will not be tolerated. This expectation applies at practices, competitions, team events, online spaces, group chats, and any activity connected to DDE.

Prohibited conduct includes

- Repeated teasing, name-calling, insults, or humiliating comments.
- Spreading rumors, deliberately excluding or targeting a teammate, or encouraging others to do so.
- Threats, intimidation, unwanted physical conduct, or damaging another person's belongings.
- Cyberbullying, including hurtful posts, messages, comments, edited images, or sharing private information to embarrass someone.
- Retaliating against anyone who reports a concern or helps with an investigation.

Reporting and response

Athletes and parents/guardians should report concerns promptly to the Head Coach, Team Representative, or Program Director. If the concern involves the person who would normally receive the report, contact another DDE program leader. DDE will review reports as promptly and fairly as possible, take appropriate steps to protect those involved, and maintain privacy to the extent practical. Consequences may include a conference with the family, behavior expectations, removal from an activity, suspension, or dismissal from the program depending on the circumstances. Immediate safety concerns should be reported to emergency services when necessary.

9. Social Media & Digital Communication Policy

This policy applies to athletes, parents/guardians, coaches, and representatives when using social media, messaging apps, or other digital platforms in connection with DDE.

- Represent DDE respectfully. Do not post threats, bullying, harassment, discriminatory remarks, or content intended to embarrass or target an athlete, family, coach, official, or the organization.
- Do not share confidential team information, private conversations, personal contact details, addresses, schedules not intended for public release, or another person's personal information.
- Obtain parent/guardian permission before posting identifiable photos or videos of a minor athlete. Respect any family request not to photograph, tag, or identify their child.
- Do not livestream, record, or publish practice sessions, choreography, routines, or behind-the-scenes content unless DDE has authorized it and required permissions are in place.
- Use official DDE communication channels for team business. Avoid arguing about team matters in public comment sections or group chats; bring concerns through the DDE communication chain.
- Do not create accounts or pages that appear to represent DDE without written authorization. Only authorized representatives may publish official announcements or speak on behalf of DDE.
- Report harmful posts, impersonation, privacy concerns, or cyberbullying to DDE leadership. Do not retaliate, repost, or escalate the content.
- Parents/guardians are responsible for helping younger athletes follow these digital conduct expectations.

Violations may result in removal of content where possible, a parent/guardian conference, loss of social media or team communication privileges, suspension from activities, or dismissal from the program depending on the seriousness and frequency of the conduct.

10. Communication Policy

DDE uses designated communication channels, including the team Band app and email. Families are responsible for checking official communications for schedule updates, deadlines, event details, and program announcements.

CONTACT ORDER	WHO TO CONTACT
1	Head Coach — First contact for team and practice questions.
2	Team Representative — Next contact if additional assistance is needed.
3	Program Director — Escalation for unresolved program concerns.

Please allow 24–48 hours for a response to non-urgent questions. Safety concerns or urgent incidents should be brought to the coach or program staff immediately.

11. Safety & Sportsmanship

- Athletes must follow coaching instructions and established safety rules.
- Athletes should tell a coach promptly if they feel unwell, are injured, or need assistance.
- Only designated coaches and authorized personnel may supervise team activities.
- Bullying, harassment, intimidation, and unsportsmanlike conduct are not acceptable.
- Parents and spectators are expected to support a respectful and positive environment.

12. Withdrawal & Policy Questions

Parents/guardians who wish to withdraw an athlete should submit the request in writing to program administration. The no-refund policy in Section 4 applies to program payments, subject to applicable law. Parents may contact DDE leadership with questions about fees, policies, or participation expectations.

13. Important Athlete Waivers & Parent/Guardian Consents

A. Participation, Physical Activity & Assumption of Risk

I understand that competitive cheerleading involves physical activity, including conditioning, jumps, tumbling, stunts, partner/group skills, and performance activities. These activities carry inherent risks of injury, including injuries that may occur even when athletes follow instructions and reasonable safety practices. I confirm that I have disclosed relevant medical, physical, or other participation limitations to DDE and will update DDE if circumstances change. I understand that athletes must follow coach instructions, use appropriate equipment, and participate only in skills for which they have been trained and authorized.

RELEASE OF CLAIMS FOR ORDINARY NEGLIGENCE; LIMITS. To the fullest extent permitted by Georgia law, I, on my own behalf and in my capacity as the parent or legal guardian of the athlete, release and agree not to bring claims against DeKalb Diamond Eagles, Inc. (DDE), and its past, present, and future directors, board members, officers, Founder/CEO, employees, coaches, assistant coaches, instructors, team representatives, volunteers, agents, and authorized representatives (collectively, the "Released Parties"), for injury, illness, death, or property loss arising from or related to the athlete's participation in DDE activities, but only to the extent the claim is based on ordinary negligence or an inherent risk of participation and the release is enforceable under applicable law. This release is intended to be clear and broad as to ordinary-negligence claims, including claims involving the acts or omissions of a Released Party in the ordinary course of providing or supervising the program. It does not release any claim based on gross negligence, recklessness, willful or wanton misconduct, intentional misconduct, or any duty or liability that cannot legally be waived. It does not waive a minor athlete's own legal rights to the extent Georgia law does not permit a parent or guardian to do so. I understand that a court, not this form, determines whether any particular claim is legally released.

The risks include, but are not limited to, minor and serious injuries; sprains, strains, fractures, bruises, cuts, dental injuries, and head injuries; concussion or other brain injury; spinal cord injury, paralysis, permanent disability, emotional distress, illness, and death. Risks may arise from tumbling, jumps, stunts, partner/group skills, falls, collisions, physical conditioning, equipment, surfaces, transportation arranged independently by families, actions of other participants, or emergency situations. I understand that safety rules, coaching, supervision, spotting, and equipment may reduce but cannot eliminate all risks.

NO GUARANTEE OF SAFETY OR OUTCOME. I understand that DDE cannot guarantee that participation will be free from injury, that every risk can be anticipated, or that a particular athletic result or level of supervision will be achieved. I agree to follow all written and verbal safety rules and understand that DDE may restrict, modify, or stop an athlete's participation when staff believe it is necessary for safety.

COVENANT NOT TO SUE; CLAIMS BY SIGNING ADULT. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I agree not to bring a claim in my own name against a Released Party for a claim that I have validly released under this form. This promise does not prevent a claim that cannot legally be waived, does not bind a person who has

not signed this form, and does not waive the athlete's independent rights where such waiver is not permitted by law.

PARENT/GUARDIAN RESPONSIBILITY AND LIMITED INDEMNITY. I agree to be responsible for my own conduct and for any loss or damage caused by my own negligent, reckless, or intentional acts or by my material breach of this agreement, to the extent permitted by law. I do not agree to indemnify a Released Party for that party's own negligence, gross negligence, willful or wanton misconduct, or other liability that cannot legally be shifted to me. No provision requires me to pay for a minor athlete's claim that cannot legally be waived.

GEORGIA NONPROFIT SPORTS-PROGRAM LAW. I understand that Georgia law may provide certain protections to qualifying nonprofit sports-program volunteers, employees, and officers who act in good faith within the scope of their assigned duties, subject to statutory exceptions and insurance-related limits. This handbook does not expand statutory immunity or promise that any person or organization is immune from every claim.

SEVERABILITY AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT. If any part of this waiver is found unenforceable, the remaining provisions will remain in effect to the extent permitted by law. I have read this waiver, understand that it affects legal rights, have had the opportunity to ask questions and seek independent legal advice, and sign it voluntarily. I understand that the waiver covers DDE-sponsored practices, tryouts, clinics, camps, performances, competitions, travel activities only where DDE is legally responsible for arranging them, and other DDE-authorized events.

Athlete name: _____

Parent/Guardian initials: _____ Date: _____

B. Emergency Medical Authorization

If my child becomes ill or is injured during a DDE activity and I cannot be reached promptly, I authorize DDE staff to contact emergency services and request reasonable emergency evaluation or treatment for my child. I understand DDE staff are not medical providers and will not diagnose or provide medical treatment beyond their training. I authorize the release of relevant emergency information to responding medical personnel. I understand that this authorization does not require DDE to provide transportation or medical services. I understand that I am responsible for medical expenses not paid by insurance or another responsible party, and that DDE does not provide health or accident insurance unless DDE separately confirms coverage in writing.

Athlete name: _____

Known allergies, medical conditions, medications, or care instructions (or write "None"):

_____

Primary emergency contact / phone: _____

Secondary emergency contact / phone: _____

Preferred hospital (optional): _____

Health insurance provider / policy information (optional): _____

Parent/Guardian signature: _____ Date: _____

C. Injury, Illness & Return-to-Activity Acknowledgment

I agree to notify the coach promptly if my child is injured, becomes ill, or reports pain or symptoms that may affect safe participation. I understand DDE may remove an athlete from an activity when staff have a safety concern. I agree to obtain appropriate medical evaluation when needed and to provide written medical clearance before my child returns to activity when requested by DDE or when required by a healthcare professional or applicable rules. I understand that DDE may modify or restrict participation when reasonably necessary for athlete safety.

Parent/Guardian initials: _____ Date: _____

D. Photo, Video & Promotional Media Consent (Optional)

Please select ONE option. This choice is voluntary and is not a condition of tryout or participation. If permission is granted, DDE may use approved photographs or video of the athlete in DDE-related publications, website content, social media, promotional materials, and program recaps. DDE will not knowingly publish an athlete's private contact information. A parent/guardian may withdraw future permission in writing; withdrawal cannot retrieve materials already printed, distributed, or shared.

☐ YES. I give DDE permission to photograph/record my child and use approved images or video for the purposes described above.

☐ NO. I do not give DDE permission to use identifiable photographs or video of my child for promotional purposes.

Athlete name: _____

Parent/Guardian signature: _____ Date: _____

E. Parent/Guardian Confirmation

I confirm that I am the athlete's parent or legal guardian, that the information I provided is accurate to the best of my knowledge, and that I have had an opportunity to ask questions about these waivers and consents. I understand that I should keep DDE informed of changes to emergency contacts, health information, or participation limitations.

Parent/Guardian printed name: _____

Parent/Guardian signature: _____ Date: _____

Athlete signature (if appropriate): _____ Date: _____

14. Parent & Athlete Acknowledgment

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have received and reviewed the DDE Parent & Cheerleader Handbook. I understand the tryout fee ($25 per athlete; $15 per sibling), the $300 annual registration fee, the $150 monthly tuition, due on the 15th of every month, and the $25 late fee assessed beginning on the 21st after the grace period, separate uniform and supply costs, and the no-refund policy. I also agree to support the anti-bullying and social media policies and to follow DDE's communication and participation expectations.

Athlete Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Athlete Signature: _____

Date: _____

DEKALB DIAMOND EAGLES, INC.

Building Champions Through Teamwork, Discipline, Leadership, and Excellence.