



asteroidsmajorettes@gmail.com
www.asteroidsmajorettes.co.uk

Rule Book

Asteroids Majorettes is run by Jessica Cooper (Troupe Leader) and her daughter Amélie (Troupe Trainer). This document sets out the rules and conditions of the Troupe and must be adhered to by all members and their legal guardians.

The aim of the troupe is to:

- Teach twirling of baton and other majorette equipment.
- Encourage friendship and fun.
- Teach values of perseverance, resilience, discipline, teamwork and individuality.

Leadership

Asteroids does not have a committee and all decisions regarding the operation and rules are made by the Troupe Leader and Trainer.

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New Members

Baton twirling is a sport for both boys and girls. Asteroids recruit new to twirling members between the ages of **7 and 12 years of age** but reserve the right to amend or adapt this without notice at any time. Experienced twirlers of any age who wish to join should apply directly to the Troupe Leader and Trainer. All new members must complete a trial phase of 4 sessions. This enables the new member to decide if they like the sport before paying out for equipment, allows both the member and their parents to decide if they are able to give the commitment needed as well as to see if the new member fits in with the existing troupe dynamic and other members of the troupe.

On the new members' first training night, a non-returnable fee will be requested to cover the child until the end of the trial period. If the member decides they want to stay and become a permanent member of the troupe, you will be asked to pay the agreed monthly fee at the beginning of each month and commit to a full season twirling with Asteroids. Asteroids season runs from June to June.



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Training

Asteroids train regularly once a week all year round, with short breaks over Christmas, once the competition season has been completed and sometimes around July/August time.

We meet every Friday at Albury Village Hall from 5:30 - 8:30 pm. Members must attend all training sessions unless discussed with Troupe Leader and/or Trainer. Monthly fees are required to be paid in advance regardless of attendance. During some parts of the competition season, training may be extended to a later time and / or extra training sessions may be organised. Additional training will be planned in consultation with parents. Attendance at these is mandatory unless otherwise specified.

Members must be dropped off and picked up by parents and/or guardians unless they are of driving age. Parents and/or guardians are welcome to come into training at the beginning of the session if they have questions or need to speak to the Troupe Leader or Trainer but are not allowed to stay for the session itself.

Training starts at 5:30 pm sharp and all members should be in the hall ready to start at this time. Walking in after this is considered late and will be marked as such on your attendance record.

Members should wear clothes that do not restrict movement, i.e. sportswear. Jeans and Skirts are not allowed. Clean black or white cougars, jazz shoes or similar dance shoes should be worn for training but members can change into these upon arrival and back out of them before leaving. Trainers are not to be worn. Hair should be tied out of the way so that the individual does not catch it throughout training. To avoid injury and unnecessary damage, jewellery is not to be worn during training or competition. Small stud earrings covered with medical tape or plasters may be worn at training only at the parent's discretion and risk. Members will be asked to remove all jewellery at the start of training. The Troupe Leader and Trainer accept no responsibility for lost or damaged items.

If for any reason the member is unable to attend training, guardians and/or girls are asked to inform the Troupe Leader and/or Trainer directly before the training night starts. Please keep us updated if the member will be off for more than one night.

Bad attendance does have an effect on the whole troupe and if a member continues to have bad attendance they may have to be consequences such as exclusion from duos, trios, groups, displays and carnivals.



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Seniors With Agreed Attendance Arrangements

Asteroids has some experienced senior twirlers that have commitments to University or travel a significant distance to attend training but due to their love of the sport, still wish to compete and twirl as a member of the troupe. These members have an agreement with the Troupe Leader and Trainer that they will not attend every training session. Pre-agreed dates of attendance will be mandated to ensure regular attendance and to ensure that if they commit to duos, trios and groups that they do not let other troupe members down. They are still required to pay fees in full as they are at liberty to attend all training sessions. These arrangements are made on an individual basis and must be agreed with the Troupe Leader. This option is only open to experienced twirlers.

Safeguarding and Child Protection

Asteroids follows the MTU safeguarding policies which are available on request. Evidence of both the Troupe Leader and Troupe Trainer DBS checks may be requested.

When a member needs to try on a leotard or uniform for sizing, alteration etc, they will be asked to change in a toilet cubicle or designated changing area and return to the hall for fitting in full view of the remaining members. If a member needs assistance in getting changed, a parent will be asked to attend for a short period to help them either at the start or end of a training session.

Any concerns should be directed to the Troupe Leader as safeguarding lead.

Displays and Carnivals

From May to August, we will try to take part in a range of displays and carnivals predominantly in and around Hertfordshire. The members are asked to attend as many as possible as it is an amazing way to show off the sport, but it is understood that due to this being the 'summer holiday' season members may not be available for all of these. As they take time to prepare for, you will be asked in advance to commit to your child attending.

Displays and Carnivals are all booked by the Troupe Leader and Trainer only and parents and members are asked to pass all enquiries on to them. Parents and members are not permitted to accept bookings.

Presentation Evening

As a troupe, we will hold an annual presentation evening with family invited. This will be an evening to showcase the member's routines from the year and for them to be awarded for their hard work and commitment throughout the season. There will be a raffle run on the night where girls are asked to sell tickets in the weeks before the event. Funds raised from the raffle will go towards the troupe costs.



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Competitions

Asteroids are proud to be members of the Majorette and Twirling Union (MTU). More information about the MTU can be found at <https://majoretteandtwirling.co.uk/>

As a member of Asteroids, you must be prepared to compete in competitions between September to May. The Troupe Leader and Trainer will determine what competitions are appropriate for your ability. There are approximately 4 competitions in total each year. Competitions are held on Sundays and these will involve some travel. Guardians will need to commit to bringing their own child to competitions and supporting all members.

There are membership fees to join the MTU both for the troupe and individual members. Membership fees go towards the insurance and administration costs involved with running an organisation and hosting competitions. Troupe fees will be paid by Troupe funds but individual membership registration fees will be required to be paid by members each year alongside the June subs or following completion of the trial period.

There is an entry fee per member per competition which must be paid in advance of each competition. Failure to do so will result in the member not being able to compete. The Troupe will pay for group competitions. In order to pay for hall fees associated with running competitions, a spectator fee will be requested for everyone attending. This will also be collected in advance of each competition for ease and in order to generate a fire marshal list for use on the day.

Grades

Grades can be taken with the MTU. A fee is charged for each grade to cover administration costs and provide a badge of attainment. Fees are payable in advance of grading and will be requested by the Troupe Leader when required.

Equipment

It is expected that all members must purchase their own batons upon completion of their trial period. Additionally, when requested they will need to buy other equipment (with the exception of Pom Poms). Baton and equipment type will be determined by the troupe leader and trainer.

The Troupe will have a small amount of equipment available that it can lend to members but this is limited and intended as a stopgap until a member can purchase their own equipment. Any troupe equipment that is loaned to a member should be respected and looked after as if it is your own. Individuals are liable for all damages and replacements. Any queries regarding maintenance can be made to the Troupe Leader. The Troupe Leader can advise on where to purchase both new and second-hand equipment and what to look for when purchasing.



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Uniform

Asteroids will provide the following items on loan to a member:

- A military uniform consisting of a jacket, skirt (or trousers) and military hat.
- A skirted troupe leotard.
- A non-skirted troupe leotard.

All items will remain the property of the Troupe Leader and will be swapped and replaced as your child grows by the Troupe Leader. Annual uniform maintenance fees are to be payable with September subs or after completion of trial period.

Uniform items may be worn for competitions or an individual may wear an outfit of their own where the competition permits. The Troupe Leader and Trainer will be able to advise.

Individuals will be expected to purchase competition-standard Cougars, Troupe socks and tights from the Troupe Leader.

We take pride in good turnout by the troupe. Members should be clean, smart and tidy at all times. Socks and cougars should be clean and white. Tights should be free from ladders and holes. Members must carry spares of socks and tights at all times.

Uniforms will be housed and maintained by the Troupe Leader. These will be handed out

prior to competitions and events as required and collected in afterwards for cleaning and storage. Any loss or damage whilst in your possession is not covered by the uniform hire fee and has to be paid for in full at the cost outlined below:

Item	Approximate replacement Cost
Jacket	£60
Skirt	£20
Hat	£70
Skirted Leotard	£50
Unskirted Leotard	£40
Tracksuit Jacket	£20



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Insurance

The Troupe maintains a third party liability insurance that covers hire of halls and training sessions. Insurance does not cover gymnastic moves beyond basics (e.g. forward roll, cartwheel). An annual fee of £45 is charged to each member to cover the cost of insurance. A copy of the current insurance certificate can be provided to parents on request.

First Aid

The Troupe will have at least one first aider that holds a current basic first aid qualification present at every training session.

Complaints

All complaints are to be made through the Troupe Leader or Trainer.

It will never be possible to please everyone all of the time but we endeavour to make Asteroids a friendly and fun troupe for everyone. Before making a complaint, please remember that we will always try to do the right thing in a fair and unbiased manner but we are only human and I am sure we will make mistakes. On occasion, it may be necessary to prioritise the needs of an individual and so it may look like one person is being favoured. Please try to put yourself in our position first and understand that we may be privy to information you do not know and that this may at times have to influence decisions in order to create equity for all members.

Additionally, we do not take any financial benefit from running the troupe and do this solely for the love of the sport and the troupe.

In all complaints, the decision of the Troupe Leader and Trainer is final.

Behaviour

We understand that individuals will not always get along but we expect all members and parents to be polite, friendly and respectful with each other and the Troupe Leader and Trainer. Bad language, answering back and general rudeness towards the Troupe Leader, Trainer or any member of the troupe by other members or parents will not be tolerated.

Whilst attending events including competitions, displays and carnivals or whilst wearing Asteroids branded clothing, uniform or similar, you are representing the Troupe. Your behaviour reflects on all of us. Please be courteous, polite and respectful to everyone around you and treat others how you would like to be treated.



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Sportsmanship

All majorettes work hard training ready for competitions and all would love to win. Please remember that every child is special in their own way and deserves to be recognised. As a team we ask that everyone including guardians celebrate every troupe member's victories and not just their own or those of their own child. Even if you do not do as well as you hoped, remember that just competing is an achievement in itself. No routine is ever all bad and very few are ever all perfect. Be happy for those around you who have won whilst not forgetting the parts of your day that went well. Everyone - even the winners - will have things that they weren't quite happy with and will want to improve on so try not to be too hard on yourself.

This courtesy and sportsmanship is to be extended to other troupes and competitors also. Whilst we are primarily there to support our own troupe, there is much friendship to be found and talent to be learnt from at every competition. Troupes and organisations become second families who look out for each other.

Fundraising

We ask that everyone gets involved with fundraising throughout the year to cover costs including replacement of uniforms, troupe equipment, group competition fees and to keep monthly subs to a minimum.



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A Rough Guide to Expenses as a Majorette

In an attempt to be as transparent as possible, we have tried to detail the rough costs of supporting your child in their twirling adventure. Some costs are regular payments and others will vary in frequency. For example, a baton may last a child several years depending on how the child grows. Much equipment in good condition can be found second hand and we can help you source new or second-hand equipment as desired.

We do not wish twirling to be inaccessible due to cost. Please contact the Troupe Leader in these circumstances and we will discreetly endeavour to ensure that your child is not excluded simply because of financial means.

	Individual
Annual Organisation Membership	£5 Payable annually (June or after trial period)
Annual insurance fee	£45 Payable after trial period
Annual Uniform Hire	£40 Payable annually (September or after trial period)
Monthly Subs	£20 Per member payable at the start of every month
Baton	Approx £40 for a new baton
Other equipment	Varies
Grades	£5 Per grade
Competition Cougars	Approx £30 per pair
Socks and tights	£1 per pair of socks Approx £10 per pair of tights
Competition Fees	£5 for each Solo / Duo / Trio (when requested)
Competition Spectator fees	£3 Per spectator per competition day



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Dissolution Clause

Ensuring Proper Closure and Asset Distribution

Purpose

This dissolution clause outlines the procedure for the orderly dissolution of Asteroids Majorettes, ensuring all obligations are met and remaining assets are distributed fairly.

Initiation of Dissolution

The dissolution of Asteroids Majorettes may be initiated by the Troupe Leader and Troupe Trainer provided that at least one month's notice has been given to all members regarding the proposed dissolution.

Obligations and Responsibilities

Upon the initiation of dissolution, the Troupe Leader and Troupe Trainer shall:

- Ensure that all debts, liabilities, and obligations are fully satisfied or adequately provided for by the sale of Troupe owned equipment.
- Terminate any contracts or agreements in accordance with their terms, ensuring minimal disruption.

Asset Distribution

After all liabilities have been settled, any remaining assets shall be distributed as follows:

- All tangible and intangible assets shall be donated to a non-profit organization with a similar mission, as determined by the Troupe Leader and Troupe Trainer.
- If no suitable non-profit organization is identified, assets shall be distributed to an educational or youth focused establishment, ensuring the continued benefit to youth and community services.

Records and Documentation

The Troupe Leader and Troupe Trainer shall ensure that all records, including financial statements are preserved and securely archived for a minimum of seven years.

Communication

The Troupe Leader and Troupe Trainer shall communicate the dissolution plans and processes to all current members and relevant organisations ensuring transparency and clarity throughout the dissolution process.



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Final Report

A final report detailing the dissolution process, including the handling of obligations and asset distribution, shall be prepared by the Troupe Leader and Troupe Trainer and made available to all members.

Effective Date

This dissolution clause shall be effective immediately by the Troupe Leader and Troupe Trainer and shall remain in effect until the formal dissolution of Asteroids Majorettes is completed.

By adhering to this dissolution clause, Asteroids Majorettes commits to an ethical and responsible conclusion of its operations, honouring its legacy and ensuring continued support for the community it served.