



Independent Training Authorization (ITA) Policy

Purpose

The Independent Training Authorization (ITA) Program recognizes students who have demonstrated the technical ability, maturity, judgment, and professionalism necessary to train with increased independence while maintaining the safety standards of Star Valley Circus.

The purpose of this authorization is to provide dedicated students with a clear path toward greater responsibility as they continue to grow as aerial artists. It is not an automatic progression or a right earned solely through time, attendance, or skill level. Rather, it is a privilege granted by the instructor based on consistent demonstration of safe practices and professional conduct.

Progressive Pathway

Students develop through progressive stages of training. Each stage builds upon the previous one.

Stage 1 – Guided Training

Students learn new skills exclusively through instructor-led classes.

During Open Practice, students may:

- Practice only skills previously taught and approved.
- Refine technique and conditioning.
- Ask questions of the instructor when needed.



Students may not:

- Attempt new skills independently.
- Teach or coach other students.
- Spot other students.
- Introduce skills learned outside of Star Valley Circus.

Stage 2 – Performance Development

As students gain experience, they may be invited to participate in photoshoots, Circus in the Park, community demonstrations, or other approved performances.

These opportunities allow students to demonstrate:

- Consistent technique
- Reliability
- Performance quality
- Professionalism
- Teamwork
- Respect for safety standards

Participation in performances does not automatically qualify a student for Independent Training Authorization.

Stage 3 – Independent Training Authorization

Students who consistently demonstrate readiness may be considered for Independent Training Authorization.

Minimum qualifications include:

- Active enrollment at Star Valley Circus.
- Level 3 proficiency on a primary apparatus.
- Demonstrated understanding of safe progressions.



- Consistent attendance and commitment.
- Participation in community performances and/or instructor-approved photoshoots.
- A positive attitude and willingness to accept feedback.
- A history of following studio policies.
- Instructor approval.

Meeting these qualifications does not guarantee authorization.

Final approval remains at the discretion of the instructor.

Expectations of Authorized Students

Students granted Independent Training Authorization are expected to represent the values of Star Valley Circus through their actions.

Authorized students will:

- Prioritize safety above skill advancement.
- Train responsibly without constant instructor supervision.
- Demonstrate sound decision-making.
- Maintain professionalism inside and outside the studio.
- Encourage a positive and supportive training environment.
- Accept corrections respectfully.
- Continue refining foundational technique.
- Recognize personal limitations and seek guidance when appropriate.

Students are expected to remain examples of safe and professional aerial practice for the studio community.

Authorized Training Privileges

Students with Independent Training Authorization may, with instructor knowledge and approval:



- Rehearse choreography with other authorized students.
- Train on approved apparatus.
- Explore artistic transitions, movement quality, musicality, and performance concepts.
- Prepare routines for performances.
- Continue developing approved skills independently during Open Practice.

Authorization applies only within the scope approved by the instructor.

Activities That Are Not Permitted

Independent Training Authorization does not permit students to:

- Teach, coach, or instruct other students.
- Introduce new skills to another student without approval by the instructor.
- Spot or supervise another student's progression.
- Attempt skills beyond their approved level.
- Practice skills that have not been evaluated or approved by the instructor.
- Use unauthorized rigging or equipment modifications.
- Misrepresent themselves as instructors or representatives of Star Valley Circus without permission.
- Use the Star Valley Circus name or logo to advertise performances without instructor approval.

Owning personal equipment or learning from outside sources does not automatically authorize those skills for practice within Star Valley Circus.

Any skills learned elsewhere must be evaluated and approved before they may be practiced during Open Practice or incorporated into performances representing Star Valley Circus.

Maintaining Authorization



Independent Training Authorization is based on continued demonstration of responsibility and professionalism.

Authorization may be suspended or revoked if a student:

- Disregards safety expectations.
- Repeatedly ignores instructor direction.
- Teaches unauthorized skills.
- Creates an unsafe training environment.
- Behaves in a manner inconsistent with Star Valley Circus values.
- Misuses the privileges granted through this authorization.

When possible, concerns will be addressed through communication and education. The goal of this policy is to foster growth while maintaining a safe environment for every student.

Instructor Authority

The instructor reserves the right to determine when a student is ready to receive, maintain, or lose Independent Training Authorization.

The instructor also reserves the right to approve or restrict specific skills, apparatus, or training activities based on safety, technical proficiency, and the best interests of the student and the studio.

Student Acknowledgement

I understand that Independent Training Authorization is a privilege earned through demonstrated responsibility, professionalism, and safe training habits. I agree to uphold the expectations outlined in this policy and understand that authorization may be modified, suspended, or revoked if these expectations are not maintained.

Student Name: _____



Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature (if under 18): _____

Instructor Signature: _____

Date: _____