

INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW...



The American Spectacular

March 23-24, 2019

George R. Brown Convention Center



WELCOME

Dear Coach,

Each competition season, you spend countless hours preparing your squad, practicing your skills, and perfecting your routine. We want you to know that we are working just as hard on our events as you are on your routines. We work passionately to deliver exceptionally trustworthy events that demonstrate our genuine care for you, your team members, and their parents.

We are sure you will enjoy The American Spectacular. If we can be of any assistance, please let us know. We look forward to seeing you in Houston!

Thank you,

Louis Ragland



EVENT CHECKLIST

Invoices

Please review your registration for accuracy. If you still owe a balance, please choose one of the following payment options:

- Submit a credit card payment for your balance due through the Varsity portal
- Complete and return the Credit Card Authorization Form located in this packet
- Send certified funds (no booster club, personal or business checks) for your full payment via FedEx or UPS to arrive by the WEDNESDAY PRIOR TO THE EVENT.

The American Championships
118 NW 14th Ave Suite A
Gainesville, FL 32601
352-376-0487

Registration is not complete and event check-in is not possible until balances are paid in full. Balances paid at event check-in (cash or money order only) will be subject to additional late fees, please adhere to our payment deadlines to avoid these additional fees.

Division Changes

Coaches choosing to change divisions less than 14 days but more than 5 days before the start of competition check-in will be subject to a \$500.00 processing fee per performance division changed. To avoid this fee, all requests to change divisions must be received at least 14 days prior to the start of competition check-in. As a matter of general procedure, we WILL NOT process division changes within 5 days of the start of competition check-in. Exceptions to these rules may at times be granted by the Event Director (new registrations, for example, may be treated differently), and may involve additional fees.

If the number of members on your team changes, and as a result your team should be in a different division, for example small instead of large, it is the coach's responsibility to request a division change.

Changing of Division or the Order of Performance After Event Check-In Has Opened

Teams that perform out of order will be assessed a penalty and be subject to division change fees as outlined above. All team members should be prepared to perform in their scheduled time slot. If it is necessary to alter the order of competition because a team is not ready to perform, that team will be assessed a penalty and fees at the discretion of the Event Director. Your team may be subject to disqualification, penalty points and additional fees for competing with more members than you registered and paid for, please be sure we are aware of all additions to your team(s).

Verify Performance Times

Please go to ac.varsity.com to print The American Spectacular Performance Orders that show your estimated performance times. If there is a conflict or any other problem with the performance schedule, please email Gianna Weller at gianna@varsitygainesville.com immediately. Check the website for updates to the performance schedule.



CREDIT CARD AUTHORIZATION

Varsity All Star Credit Card Authorization

Organization Name: _____

Name of Event: _____

Note: Many credit cards feature charge limits as a security precaution. Please be sure your credit card company will accept the amount you wish to charge. If you need to split up your charge over multiple days, please make a note about that below.

Special Instructions: (Please include your Invoice Number if paying on an existing registration/balance)

Ex. Due to credit card charge limits, please charge \$1000 on Oct 1, \$1000 on Oct 15, \$1000 on Nov 1, etc. (to meet the balance due by the deadline.)

Cardholder's Name: _____

Cardholder's Email Address: _____

Cardholder's Phone Number: _____

Cardholder's Billing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Credit Card Number: xxxx-xxxx-xxxx-_____

only provide the last 4 digits – call 352.240.2134 / 352.727.7562 / 352.240.2133 to provide full card number

Expiration Date: _____

Amount to be Charged: \$ _____

I, _____, authorize Varsity All Star to charge the above listed credit card for the amount listed above. By signing below, I agree that I am authorized to make charges to the above listed credit card. Furthermore, I have read, understood, and agree to the "Cancellations & Refunds" policy listed on the brands' website. I agree that all fees must be paid to attend the competition and that there will be no refunds for any reason after the balance due date listed for the event, including but not limited to my disagreement with the results of the competition.

Cardholder's Signature: _____

Date: _____



EVENT CHECKLIST

Event Check-In

All coaches must check-in at Event Check-In [Room 332A & D]. Event Check-In will be open on Friday 4:00-7:30PM and will open at 7:30AM on both Saturday and Sunday. It is during check-in that you will

- Receive the number of credentials that correspond to the number of pre-registered competitors and coaches
- Turn in all paperwork (including USASF team rosters for all star teams. Programs/Teams that do not meet USASF membership requirements will not be permitted to take the floor)
- Receive the most recent order of performance.

To expedite your check-in, please have all paperwork out and ready to turn-in as you approach the front of the line. *Note: any team that does not have at least one coach check in during the specified time is subject to disqualification and no refund will be issued.*

Distribute Credentials Efficiently

The coach of each program must arrive first to pick up all entry shoe tags for competitors. Each Coach must present their ID at event Check In to receive their wristband. Please do not have team members arrive before the coach as they will not be able to enter the arena without their shoe tag or a spectator ticket. Once the tags have been picked up, please arrange a time to distribute to all competitors & registered coaches or leave a representative outside the door to meet team members as they arrive. *****Event staff will not be available to track down a coach for any competitors left waiting outside the arena without proper credentials!**

Warm-Up Check-In

Coaches will need to report to Warm-Up Check-In one hour prior to their scheduled competition time to receive their "warm-up report card". Please refer to the facility diagram in the back of this packet to see how the warm ups will run. We provide 30 minutes between performance times when possible. Please send all your cross compete issues by Noon EST on the Monday prior to this event. Every effort will be made to give 30 minutes between crossover performance times if notified of the issue by Monday. After that 30 minutes may not be possible.

****Shoe Tag must be attached to cheer shoe and cheer shoes must be on the competitor's foot to enter warm ups.****

Coaches Meeting

Coaches meeting will be on Friday evening at 7PM. Please meet at Event Check-In. It is recommended that all teams have at least one coach attend—this is your opportunity to have your questions answered first hand. In addition, you will get a tour of the warm-up system described in the included diagrams. **Please arrive by 6:45PM.**

Event Map

Please study the enclosed Arena Layout Map--by doing so you will understand how your competitors will move through the event facilities (follow numbers on the map) prior to and after a performance.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

GENERAL

Q: IS THERE A COACHES MEETING?

A: There will be a coaches meeting at 7PM on Friday. Coaches should plan on meeting at Event Check-In [Room 332A & D] at 6:45PM for this meeting. See Map at back of packet

Q: WHEN SHOULD THE COACH/TEAM ARRIVE AT THE CONVENTION CENTER OR ARENA?

A: One representative should plan to arrive 2 hours before your competition time to get checked in and receive proper credentials. Please give ample time for traffic, parking and distributing credentials to athletes. Each coach must report to Event Check-In to receive their wristband.

Q: WHERE DO WE GO TO CHECK-IN? WHAT IF WE HAVE QUESTIONS DURING THE EVENT?

A: Event Check-In for coaches will be located in Room 332 A & D throughout the weekend. There will also be an information booth throughout the weekend in the pre-function area. Please consult the representative at this table with all your event questions. If they don't know the answer to your question, they'll have the means to find someone who will.

Q: WHAT IS THE CHARGE FOR CONVENTION CENTER PARKING?

A: The George R. Brown Convention Center offers different options for parking onsite. For more information visit their website at <https://www.grbhouston.com/attendees/parking-maps-and-directions/>

Q: WHAT IS THE EASIEST AND MOST ECONOMICAL WAY TO FEED MY SQUAD?

A: Concessions will be available inside the Convention Center.

Q: WHAT DO WE DO IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY?

A: Contact the nearest Event or Facility Staff. Please use 911 for all medical emergencies outside of the Convention Center. For medical emergencies located inside the convention center, there will be EMTs on-site.

Q: HOW DO OUR SPECTATORS PURCHASE TICKETS?

A: You can purchase advanced tickets for this event by going to our website and click on the buy tickets online button.

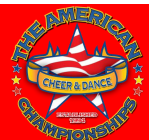
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ac-american-spectacular-tickets-50695851657>

Tickets will also be sold onsite at the box office of the George R. Brown Convention Center beginning one hour before the competition begins on Saturday and will remain open throughout event hours. Onsite tickets are **CASH ONLY**.

	Child (6-12 yrs) Senior (65+) Military w ID	Adults (13-64 yrs)
1-DAY TICKET	\$17	\$22
2-DAY TICKET	\$27	\$37

Q: CAN WE USE A CREDIT CARD TO PURCHASE EVENT TICKETS?

A: Onsite No. The box office will accept CASH ONLY.



FAQS, cont.

Q: CAN PARTICIPANTS, COACHES OR SPECTATORS GET AROUND ON HOVER BOARDS OR SKATE BOARDS WHILE AT THE COMPETITION?

A: For the safety of participants and attendees at our events, we do not allow the use of “Hover Boards”, “Razor Scooters”, “RipStiks”, “Skateboards”, skates or any similar wheeled conveyances out-side the competition venue or inside the competition venue or in the pre-function space. The only wheeled conveyances allowed will be those that have been deemed medically necessary for the individual using it (wheel-chairs, medical knee walkers, etc).

Q: WHAT ITEMS AM I (OR MEMBERS OF OUR GROUP) ALLOWED TO BRING INTO THE VENUE?

A: Less is more. Many convention centers are becoming more and more restrictive regarding personal items—please limit the items you bring with you and also please be understanding if the facility requests that certain items be returned to your car or hotel room. Thanks in advance for your understanding as these policies are designed with public safety in mind. Please contact the facility directly with any questions regarding restricted items.

REGISTRATION

Q: WHAT HAPPENS IF I NEED TO CHANGE DIVISIONS?

A: Division changes less than 14 days but more than 5 days before the start of competition check-in will be subject to a \$500 processing fee per division changed. To avoid this fee, all requests to change divisions must be received at least 14 days prior to the start of competition check-in. We will not process changes within 5 days of the start of the competition—exceptions are at the discretion of the tournament director and may involve additional fees. If the number of members on your team changes, and as a result your team should be in a different division, for example small instead of large, it is the coach’s responsibility to request a division change.

Q: WHAT IF I NEED TO CHANGE DIVISIONS OR THE ORDER OF PERFORMANCE AFTER EVENT CHECK-IN HAS STARTED?

A: All team members should be prepared to perform in their scheduled time slot. If it is necessary to alter the order of the competition because a team is not ready to perform, that team will be assessed a penalty and fees at the discretion of the tournament director.

Q: WHAT IF MY TEAM NUMBERS HAVE CHANGED?

A: Please contact Gianna Weller at gianna@varsitygainesville.com if your team numbers have changed. Your team may be subject to disqualification for competing with more members than you are registered and paid for.... please be sure that we are aware of all additions to your teams.



COMPETITION

Q: ARE SPOTTERS PROVIDED FOR ALL STAR TEAMS AT COMPETITIONS ADMINISTERED BY THE AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS?

A: No, we will not provide additional spotters at our events. USASF guidelines outline the number of spotters that are required to safely perform the various stunts and pyramids that are choreographed into routines. Since we follow these guidelines, squads have already incorporated the proper number of spotters into their routines. And since these spotters are familiar with the flow of the routine, their capacity for inadvertent interference is greatly reduced.

Q: WHAT ARE THE DIMENSIONS OF THE PERFORMANCE FLOOR?

A: Cheer and Hip Hop teams will have a 54' X 42' 9-strips of foam floor on which to compete. Refer to the flooring diagram at the back of this packet.

Q: CAN I BRING MY MUSIC ON A CD?

A: No. We will only provide MP3 compatible equipment in lieu of CDs to avoid the risk of skipping. Coaches using their phones to play routine music must place their phone in airplane mode prior to reporting to the sound table. The MP3 player should not be in a case to avoid the audio cable not making a complete connection and adversely affecting the successful playback. Be sure to turn the sound all the way up on your MP3 player AFTER plugging in the audio cable and BEFORE pressing play.

Q: CAN I PLAY MY MUSIC FROM MY IPHONE7, 8 OR X?

A: No. This season there have been numerous instances of the iPhone7 stopping in the middle of routine playback at virtually every event so far this season. As a result, we will not allow the use of the iPhone 7, 8 or X for music playback.

Q: CAN I PLAY MY MUSIC FROM MY GALAXY NOTE 7?

A: No. Due to the recall by Samsung prompted by the device spontaneously bursting into flames, this device is considered a fire hazard and will not be allowed for music playback.

Q: WHAT IS THE PROCEDURE FOR WEARING SHOE TAGS AND COACHES' WRIST BANDS?

A: These credentials identify you as a competitor or as a coach; therefore, they must remain on for the duration of the event. The wristbands are waterproof so there is no need to remove them. These credentials grant you access to all performances and also into the warm-up area. **NOTE: If a shoe tag or wrist band is lost or destroyed, you may be required to buy a ticket to watch or compete at the competition.**

Q: WHAT DO I DO IF MY SHOE TAG OR WRIST BAND BREAKS?

A: In the unlikely event that this happens, you must bring ALL pieces of the original to Event Check-In in order to receive a new one. Otherwise, you may be required to buy a ticket to watch or compete at the event.

Q: WHEN DO WE RECEIVE SCORESHEETS AND/OR JUDGES' COMMENTS?

A: Deduction, Safety, and Scoresheets must be picked up at SCORESHEET REVIEW/PICK UP located near the judges' platform shortly following each team's performance. Once your Deduction, Safety, and Scoresheet are brought to the SCORESHEET REVIEW/PICK UP they are time stamped.



FAQS, cont.

Q: I HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT MY SCORES, WITH WHOM DO I SPEAK?

A: If you have a question about your Difficulty Scores, Point Deduction, and Safety you have 10 minutes from the time your scoresheet was time stamped to complete the process. Since time is very tight, please head directly to the “Scoresheet Review and Pick Up” Table adjacent to the judges stand after watching the replay of your performance. Your scoresheet will be delivered to this table shortly—from the time your scoresheet is time stamped, you will have 10 minutes to complete the process (decide to move forward with an official review, watch video to confirm the issue, and fill out the Routine Review Form).

If you decide to proceed with the review process, please let the person working the table know. First, you will spend time in a video booth reviewing your team’s video. Following your video review, should you still have a question, you will fill out a Routine Review Form immediately. Only the head coach or a coach with the owner’s permission may fill out the Routine Review Form.

The Routine Review Form must be submitted within 10 minutes from the time your scoresheet is time stamped. You may only submit a review for the following: Difficulty in Stunts, Pyramids, Tosses, Stunt Quantity/Coed Quantity, Standing Tumbling, Running Tumbling, Jumps, Point Deduction, and Safety Violation. Inquiries are limited to your team only. Our scoring officials will review your concerns and text you when a final decision has been made. Rest assured we spend equal amount of time with each customer’s reviews and it will be done in a timely manner.

Should you decide to submit a Routine Review Form for Point Deduction and or Safety Violations while reviewing a Scoring Official will watch the routine in its entirety. Any additional deductions/infractions discovered will be assessed to the final score.

****Coaches may not interact with event officials while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.**

Q: HOW WILL SCORES FOR DAY 1 AND DAY 2 BE WEIGHED IN DETERMINING THE TOTAL PERFORMANCE SCORE?

A: It is important for competitors at our events to feel successful with their performances on Day 1 and Day 2 of the competition. For this reason, we will assess 75% of the total score to the Day that your team achieved its highest score. Whether your team executed its highest scoring routine on Day 1 or Day 2, that Day will receive 75% of the total score earned for the weekend. The remaining 25% of the score will come from the lower scoring Day.

Q: HOW WILL THIS SYSTEM OF SCORING AFFECT DEDUCTION POINTS?

A: Since the deduction points are subtracted from each day’s score, deduction points will be weighed the same as the Tier One Judge’s scores. That would include all deduction types: falls and infractions.

Q: WHAT HAPPENS IF A SAFETY VIOLATION IS NOT CAUGHT ON DAY 1, BUT IS CAUGHT ON DAY 2?

A: The deductions panel makes every effort to catch all illegalities as they occur. However, on the rare occasion that a safety violation is not caught until Day Two, the infraction will be enforced. A review will automatically be made of the Day One performance. If after review it is determined that the skill was performed legally on Day One or that the illegal skill was only added for Day Two, it will count on the Day Two score. If it is determined that the skill was performed illegally on Day One and should have been caught then, the violation will be assessed on the Day One score.



FAQS, cont.

Q: HOW DO I INTERPRET MY DANCE SCORE?

A: The scoring system will currently show your score out of 100 points which is accurate for Senior/Open teams. For all other ages/levels, to determine your percentage of perfection, please review the dance reference sheet posted [HERE](#).

<u>AGE</u>	<u>DANCE RANGE</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE OF PERFECTION</u>
Prep	30-50 pts	your score/50
Tiny	40-60 pts	your score/60
Mini	50-70 pts	your score/70
Youth	60-80 pts	your score/80
Junior	70-90 pts	your score/90
Senior/Open	80-100 pts	your score/100

**This scoring system and rubric will be utilized at the Dance Summit.*

Q: WILL I RECEIVE MY SCORE SHEETS VIA EMAIL?

A: We will be using Simple Score to send score sheets and rankings to the coaches who have been added to your teams on your Salesforce registration. To improve your chances of receiving these emails please have your coaches add sfadmins@varsity.com to their safe senders or whitelist. Please double check that you have assigned the proper coaches to your teams on your registration for each event you attend. Please note: to participate in the review process, coaches will still need to come to Score Sheet Pick Up directly after their team competes—in other words, do not plan on accessing your scores via email for this purpose as we cannot guarantee scores via email will arrive in a timely manner.

Q: DO WE HAVE TO HAVE OUR TEAM PICTURE TAKEN?

A: While it is not required, it is in your best interest to do so, as each team will be given a copy of this team photo.

Q: WHAT IS THE VIDEO POLICY?

A: Varsity will allow recording on personal devices. No commercial recording (audio or visual) or commercial live streaming is allowed in the event venue or other event-related venues (including, but not limited to, hotels and restaurants) or on the grounds of any such venues (collectively, “Event Locations”). In the event a team authorizes the commercial recording or streaming in any Event Location, the team will be automatically disqualified. In addition, the personal, non-commercial use of live streaming apps (such as Periscope, Facebook Live, etc.) to capture all or any part of a performance during the event is not permitted. By attending/purchasing admission to the event, each attendee grants permission to Varsity Spirit, LLC and its affiliates, designees, agents, licensees, and invitees to use the image, likeness, actions and statements of the attendee in any live or recorded audio, video, film, or photographic display or other transmission, exhibition, publication, or reproduction made of, or at, the event in any medium, whether now known or here after created, or context for any purpose, including commercial or promotional purposes, without further authorization or compensation.

Varsity All Star will ultimately decide if there is enough evidence available to support the disqualification and will make a final decision on the status of that program / team. In the spirit of protecting our athletes, we hope you understand this year’s no tolerance policy.



FAQS, cont.

Q: HOW CAN MY TEAM GET A COPY OF OUR ROUTINE AT THE EVENT?

A: You can videotape any performance you wish. Additionally, every team will receive a copy of their routine on a USB drive at the Instant Replay booth right after they perform on Day One. There is no charge for this service. Please remember to bring the USB drive back on Day Two so that we can copy day two's performance onto the drive too. There will be no sound on this USB drive.

Q: DO WE GET ANOTHER USB DRIVE WITH A COPY OF DAY TWO'S PERFORMANCE TOO?

A: While we will not be issuing another USB drive for Day Two's performance, we will be happy to drop Day Two's performance onto the drive that you received on Day One.

Q: IS THERE A TRAINER ON SITE? WHAT FUNCTIONS DOES THE TRAINER PROVIDE?

A: We provide a trainer whose duties are as follows: provide emergency first aid, provide supportive taping (you must provide all materials), provide preventative assistance such as stretching or icing, and contact emergency services if necessary. The trainer cannot: diagnose injuries, provide supplies, perform any service against medical advice, or dispense any medicines.

Q: WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRY INTO THE WARM UP ROOM?

A: USASF's implementation of warm-up room requirements will be supported by Varsity All Star this competition season.

Q: I HAVE CROSSOVERS ON ANOTHER TEAM THAT MAY BE COMPETING WHILE THIS TEAM IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN WARM-UPS. CAN WE WAIT UNTIL THOSE CROSSOVERS ARRIVE BACK TO THE WARM-UP ROOM BEFORE STARTING OUR WARM-UP TIME?

A: No. While we try to build a schedule to help eliminate cross compete issues, it is not always possible and we must continue to run the event as scheduled. Teams are not allowed to refuse to start Warm Up while awaiting Crossovers (Thus knocking all following teams off schedule). They will forfeit this time if refusing. Teams are expected to Warm Up tumbling even without their crossovers (If needed Warm Up Director will interrupt another team on strip to allow crossovers to warm up – the crossovers will have usually warmed up with prior team unless it is dance). Teams will only be given extra time (within reason) on Full floor to properly warm up stunts/pyramids.

Q: WE WERE WATCHING ANOTHER ONE OF OUR TEAMS COMPETE AND HENCE MISSED PART OF OUR WARM-UP TIME. CAN WE GET A LITTLE EXTRA WARM-UP TIME OR BE MOVED IN THE SCHEDULE?

A: Watching another team compete is NOT a sufficient reason to request extra warm up time nor is it a reason to be moved in the schedule. To keep the event running smoothly, we must require all teams to report to their warm-up as scheduled.



FAQS, cont.

Q: WHAT DO WE DO WITH OUR ITEMS (BACKPACKS, DUFFLE BAGS, MAKE-UP, ETC.) ONCE WE ENTER THE WARM UP ROOM?

A: We prefer that you make plans to store all personal items with some parents or spectators out in the arena (not back stage). Bags are often left unattended and unsecured and we have had some items come up missing. Please plan ahead and have someone in your traveling party watch all your items and the belongings of your team members as your team moves through the practice areas and on to performance. We are not responsible for lost or stolen items.

Q: DOES YOUR STAFF ENSURE THAT ALL PRACTICE AND PERFORMANCE SURFACES ARE SECURE?

A: Yes, the event staff makes a thorough check of all equipment before the event begins. However, through normal use during the event, it is possible that the status of the floors may change. While, we make every effort to make periodic checks, ultimately, you are responsible for looking over all practice floors, spring strips, and the performance floor for any defects before making use of the floor.

Q: WILL THE COMPETITION BE IMPLEMENTING “CROSS VELCRO LINES”?

A: Yes, these additional Velcro lines will serve two purposes. All floors (Competition and Warm Up) will help to ensure that the foam panels remain tightly adhered to each other AND they will give your athletes additional points of reference to keep formations clean and precise. Please see the included diagram for more information.

Q: DO COACHES PAY TO COME TO THIS EVENT?

A: Up to two free coaches per team are allowed for each team of a given organization. Once programs reach that limit, if they are associated with a registered program and greenlit, coaches can purchase more bands for \$50 each. Any greenlit coach can get a spectator's handstamp for free. They must show their USASF ID and government issued ID at coaches' check-in.

Q: WHY WOULD I PAY THE ADDITIONAL COACH FEE?

A: The additional coaches' fee grants the coach admission to all performances for the event and also grants access to the warm-up room. If there are coaches in your organization that are not covered by the Free Coach policy but do not need to be in the warm-up room, it would be more economical for those coaches to simply show their USASF ID and government issued ID at coaches' check-in to receive an admission handstamp.

Q: WHAT IS INCLUDED FOR COACHES THAT PAY THE ADDITIONAL COACH FEE?

A: Access to all performances and to the warm-up room

Q: DO COACHES THAT PAY THE ADDITIONAL COACH FEE RECEIVE A CHAMPION JACKET IF THE TEAM WINS?

A: No. Per policy, up to two coaches receive a champion jacket for any team achieving a First-Place finish. In the Solo & Group divisions, only the competitors themselves, not the coaches, receive champion jackets.



AWARDS

Q: WHERE WILL THE AWARDS CEREMONIES TAKE PLACE?

A: On the main competition floor.

Q: WHO GETS AWARDS?

A:

Most Teams – See exceptions below
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All participants receive a medal. All teams receive a plaque. The top 3 teams receive a placement plaque (National Champions, Silver Champions and Bronze Champions). All other teams receive a Superior Plaque. National champions teams will also be awarded a banner and jackets (including up to 2 coaches per National Champion team).

All Star Prep Teams

All participants receive a medal. All teams receive a plaque. The top 3 teams receive a placement plaque (National Champions, Silver Champions and Bronze Champions). All other teams receive a Superior Plaque. National Champion teams will also be awarded a banner and draw-strap bags (including up to 2 coaches per National Champion team).
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All Star Novice Teams, Exhibition Teams and All Star FUNDamentals
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All participants receive a medal.

All Star CheerABILITIES and DanceABILITIES

All participants receive a medal and a draw-strap bag. All teams receive a plaque and a banner.

Solos and Groups (where applicable)
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All participants receive a medal. National Champions receive a jacket.
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Q: WHAT IS THE CHAMPION JACKETS DISTRIBUTION PROCEDURE?

A: Only paid members of the team and up to two pre-registered coaches receive jackets. After being crowned champion, the team and coaches will head directly to Jacket Distribution. This area will be announced and also indicated on the map. In Jacket Distribution they will be handed their jacket and asked to try it on. They will then immediately exchange for another size if needed. After distribution is complete the team will be asked to head to the Champion banner.

APPROPRIATE UNIFORM

Q: WHAT IS THE USASF'S IMAGE POLICY?

A: Please visit the USASF website detailing specific information. Click on the Safety tab at the top; guidelines and then image and appearance. http://usasf.net/news/index.html?article_id=25 *Violation of the image policy can result in a .25 point penalty.



SUMMIT, D2 AND DANCE SUMMIT

Q: WHAT IS THE SUMMIT?

A: The Summit is the definitive all levels National Championship brought to you by Varsity Allstar. This event is a high caliber event recognizing teams in nonworld divisions. Varsity All Star is committed to producing an innovative, prestigious, competitive & unforgettable end-of-the-year all levels experience.

Q: WHAT IS D2 SUMMIT?

A: In 2014, American Cheer Power, a Varsity Spirit Brand, created the National Small Program Association (NSPA). The official USASF definition of Division II (formerly Small Gym divisions) was released and it is defined as having one physical address for a gym location and having 125 athletes or less registered in a gym's cheer program at the time of competition. With the momentum and success of The Summit and The Dance Summit in May 2015, Varsity All Star created the D2 Summit, NSPA Championship- exclusively for the 125 and under.

Q: HOW MANY BIDS FOR THE SUMMIT WILL BE AWARDED?

A: The American Championship is awarding 4 At Large bids to Summit.

Q: HOW MANY BIDS FOR THE D2 SUMMIT WILL BE AWARDED?

A: The American Championship is awarding 5 At Large bids to D2 Summit.

Q: WHAT IF MY TEAM HAS NO INTENTION OF ACCEPTING A BID?

A: If you have already received a bid or have no intention of accepting a bid, let us know when you arrive at Event Check-In. Knowing this information in advance of the Awards Ceremony would help us award bids much more efficiently.

Q: HOW ARE THE BIDS FOR THE SUMMIT DETERMINED?

A: Please see the Summit Bid Declaration Flyer in this packet for details.

US FINALS

Q: WHAT IS THE U.S. FINALS?

A: The U.S. Finals is a spectacular way to celebrate the end of your season. Join us at any of our locations for an awesome celebration of all that your team has accomplished this season! The U.S. Finals events put on a beautiful production with concert style lighting and video screens. We also boast a full spring floor practice area, medals for every single athlete, trophies for all teams, and white champion jackets for all division winners.

Q: HOW DO WE QUALIFY?

A: This event is an official U.S. Finals qualifier! Teams who are awarded a Gold Bid or place 1st, 2nd or 3rd in their division will be invited to the 2018 U.S. Finals! Choose from eight locations where you want to end your season together! The higher you place, the lower your price will be at The U.S. Finals.

Q: WHAT ARE GOLD BIDS?

A: GOLD BIDS are the most prestigious bids that can be earned to The U.S. Finals! They are awarded to one of the highest scoring eligible teams at U.S. Finals qualifier events throughout the season. This award entitles the recipient the ability to attend any U.S. Finals location for as little as \$100 per team.

Q: WHERE ARE U.S. FINALS HELD?

A: Please see The U.S. Finals flyer in the back of this packet for details.



VARSITY ALL STAR VIDEO MEDIA POLICY

Varsity will allow recording on personal devices. No commercial recording (audio or visual) or commercial live streaming is allowed in the event venue or other event-related venues (including, but not limited to, hotels and restaurants) or on the grounds of any such venues (collectively, “Event Locations”). In the event a team authorizes the commercial recording or streaming in any Event Location, the team will be automatically disqualified. In addition, the personal, non-commercial use of live streaming apps (such as Periscope, Facebook Live, etc.) to capture all or any part of a performance during the event is not permitted. By attending/purchasing admission to the event, each attendee grants permission to Varsity Spirit, LLC and its affiliates, designees, agents, licensees, and invitees to use the image, likeness, actions and statements of the attendee in any live or recorded audio, video, film, or photographic display or other transmission, exhibition, publication, or reproduction made of, or at, the event in any medium, whether now known or hereafter created, or context for any purpose, including commercial or promotional purposes, without further authorization or compensation.

Varsity All Star will ultimately decide if there is enough evidence available to support the disqualification and will make a final decision on the status of that program / team. In the spirit of protecting our athletes, we hope you understand this year’s no tolerance policy.

DEPARTURE

We care about your experience at The American Championships and would be happy to listen to any suggestions you might have so that we can be sure to deliver the best competition experience in the industry! If you have any thoughts on how we can improve, please reply to the email you receive after the event. Be safe traveling home. We look forward to seeing you and your teams next year!



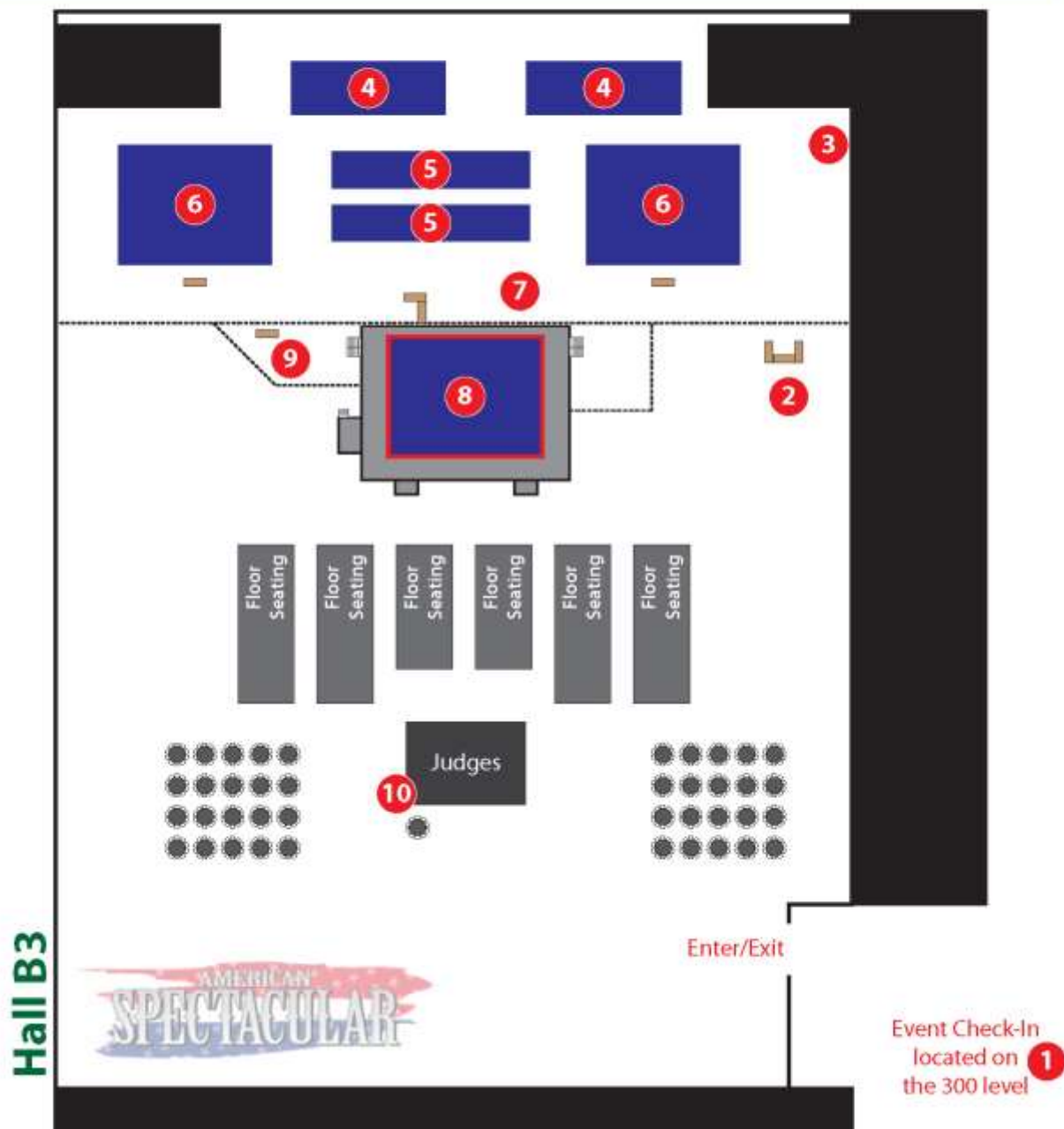
ARENA LAYOUT

The American Spectacular

March 23-24, 2019

George R Brown Convention Center

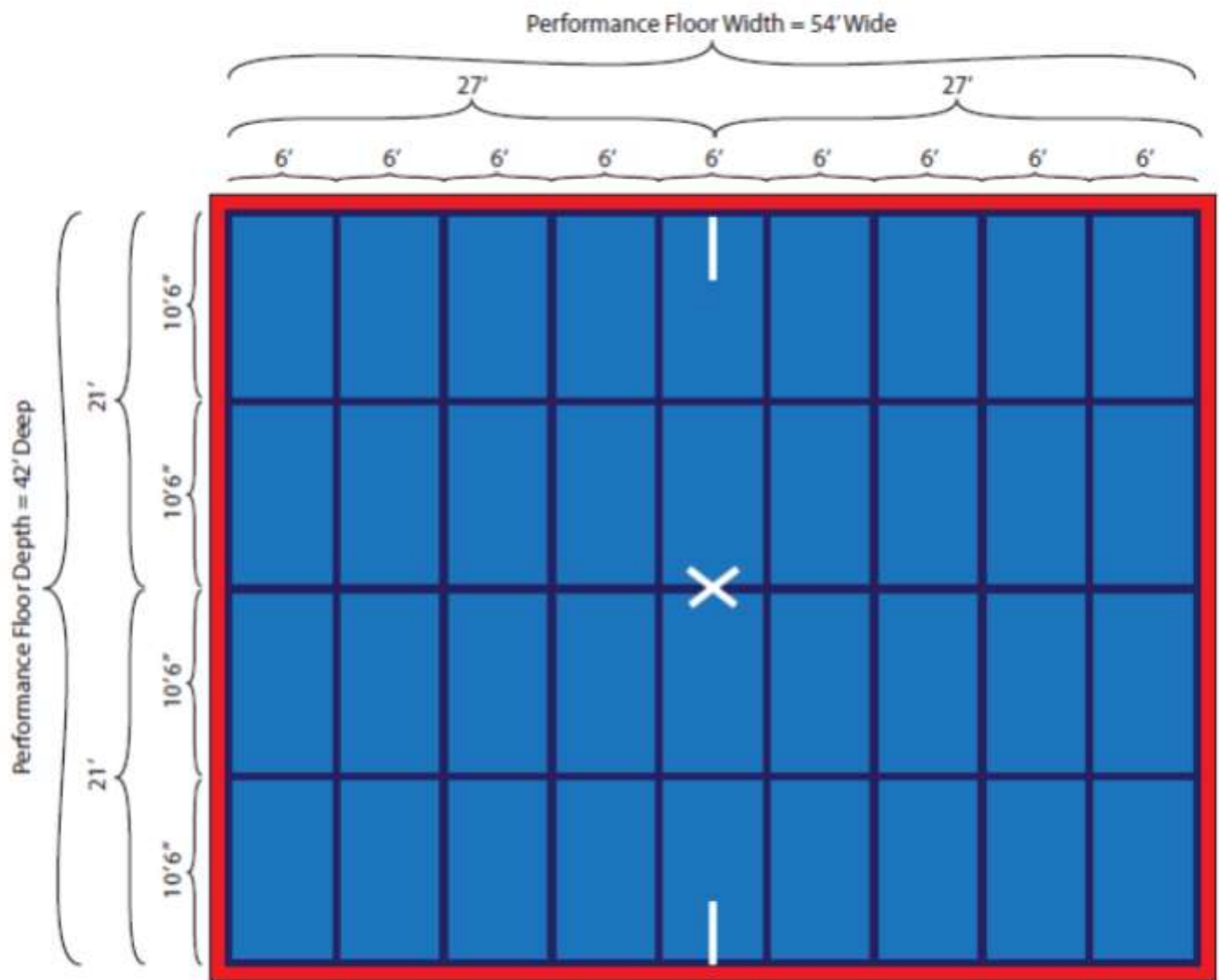
Upon arriving at the venue, coaches report to Room 212 for 1) Event Check-In to turn in paperwork and secure championship credentials for all pre-registered coaches. At least one hour prior to performance time, teams report to 2) Warm-Up Check-In. Next, they go to the 3) Team Photo Station to get a team photo taken before being directed to the 4) 18' x 54' Practice Mat for 7 minutes. From here, they move to the 5) Spring Strip for 7 minutes. Next, the team takes the 6) Full Size Foam Floor for 7 minutes. After a short breather 7) On Deck, the team makes their way to the 8) Performance Floor. Once completed, they exit with the coach back to the 9) Video Replay Booth to review a video of the routine they just performed. Coaches then make their way to 10) Score Sheet Pick-Up to collect their score sheets.



Map Not to Scale



CHEER FLOOR MARKINGS



The red border extends one foot off each edge of the performance floor



SPECATATOR INFORMATION

EVENT TICKETS:

You can purchase advanced tickets for this event by going to our website and click on the buy tickets online button.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ac-american-spectacular-tickets-50695851657>

Tickets will also be sold onsite at the Box Office of the George R. Brown Convention Center beginning one hour before the competition begins and will remain open throughout event hours. **Onsite Tickets are CASH ONLY.**

	Child (6-12 yrs) Senior (65+) Military w ID—on site only	Adults (13-64 yrs)
1-DAY TICKET	\$17	\$22
2-DAY TICKET	\$27	\$37

CONVENTION CENTER PARKING

The George R. Brown Convention Center offers different options for parking onsite. For more information visit their website at <https://www.grbhouston.com/attendees/parking-maps-and-directions/>

PERFORMANCE TIMES:

Preliminary schedule is now available online at <https://www.varsity.com/ac/>.

AWARDS CEREMONIES:

Please refer to the Order of Performance for exact awards ceremony times.

EVENT T-SHIRT BOOTH:

Located in the vendor area, the event t-shirt booth will be open to sell event t-shirts, and other great items.

ADDITIONAL VENDOR BOOTHS:

There will be additional vendors on hand at the event.

FOOD WHILE AT THE EVENT:

Concessions will be available in the facility.

UNIVERSAL EVENT PHOTOGRAPHY:

Universal Event Photography is the official photographer of Varsity Gainesville. They will be on hand to take team photos and action photos during the performances. These photos will be available for sale at the event. Their sales booth is located in the Vendor Area. Post-event, online sales WILL NOT be available as stipulated by U.E.P. Please plan accordingly.



SPECTATOR INFORMATION

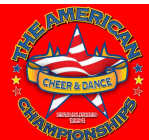
VARSITY ALL STAR PHOTO/VIDEO POLICY

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Varsity All Star will ultimately decide if there is enough evidence available to support the disqualification and will make a final decision on the status of that program / team. In the spirit of protecting our athletes, we hope you understand this year’s no tolerance policy.

SPORTSMANSHIP:

We recognize the need to reward those programs that shoulder the responsibility of practicing good sportsmanship and keep the torch of “Good Spirited Competition” brightly burning. That is why we have instituted the National Sportsmanship Hall of Fame. Inductees are chosen for displaying good sportsmanship at all levels: coaching staff, team members, and parents/spectators. Inductees receive the largest banner we give out, an acrylic award, sportsmanship medals and on behalf of the winning teams, the American Championships will donate \$500 to Stop Children’s Cancer.



USASF INFORMATION



Sanctioned Event & Warm-Up Room Requirements for 2018-19

All teams, athletes, coaches and personnel attending a USASF sanctioned event that are competing or performing as an Exhibition Team in an All Star Division must meet the eligibility requirements.

Program

1. Program membership paid for the current membership term.
2. For multi-location programs, location membership must be paid for each location attending the event.
3. Associate Rosters, through the Program's USASF profile, for all teams attending the event prior to the event start date (or earlier if required by the Event Producer).

Minor Athlete

(18 or younger as of 8/31/2018 on non-Open teams OR 20 or younger as of 12/31/2019 on Open teams)

*This applies to all athletes **competing or performing** for a US based All Star Cheer or Dance Program, including athletes on Novice, Prep Teams, and Show or Exhibition Teams (including Parent Teams).*

1. Athlete membership paid for the current membership term.
Exception: Exceptional Athletes performing or competing on CheerABILITIES & DanceABILITIES teams receive a complimentary athlete membership to the USASF.
2. Listed on the roster as an active or reserve athlete for the team(s) with which he/she will be entering the warm-up room and performing.

Adult Athlete

(21 years of age or older as of 12/31/2019) on Open Teams

*This applies to all athletes 21 years of age or older **competing or performing** for a US based All Star Cheer or Dance Program, including athletes on Open or Exhibition Teams (including Parent Teams).*

1. Athlete membership paid for the current membership term.
2. Green Light Background Check Status issued by the National Center of Safety Initiatives* with an expiration date of 7/31/2019 or later.
3. Listed on the roster as an active or reserve athlete for the team(s) with which he/she will be entering the warm-up room and performing.

NOTE: This does NOT apply to Exceptional Athletes performing or competing on CheerABILITIES & DanceABILITIES teams. They receive a complimentary athlete membership to the USASF and are not required to have the background check.



USASF INFORMATION

Program Owners

1. Must be recognized as an Eligible Owner of the USASF:
 1. Program membership fee has been paid for the current membership term.
 2. Green Light Background Check Status issued by the National Center of Safety Initiatives* with an expiration date of 7/31/2019 or later.
2. Listed on the compliance roster as an owner for the Program.

Coach

1. Must be recognized as an Eligible Coach of the USASF:
 1. Coach membership fee has been paid for the current membership term.
 2. Green Light Background Check Status issued by the National Center of Safety Initiatives* with an expiration date of 7/31/2019 or later.
2. Listed on the roster as a coach for the team(s) with which he/she is entering the warm-up room.

Personnel: Other Non-coaching Program Staff or Volunteer 18 years or older

1. Must be recognized as an Auxiliary Member of the USASF:
 1. Auxiliary membership fee has been paid for the current membership term.
 2. Green Light Background Check Status issued by the National Center of Safety Initiatives* with an expiration date of 7/31/2019 or later.
2. Listed as Personnel on the roster (as non-coaching staff) for the team(s) with which he/she entering the warm-up room. Bring ID to prove identity matches name on Roster

Junior Staff: Junior Coach or CheerABILITIES / DanceABILITIES Buddy under 18 years old

1. Listed on the Roster as Junior Staff for the team(s) with which he/she is entering the warm-up room. Bring ID to prove identity matches name on Roster

*Background checks must have been completed under or shared to the USASF account AND updated in the member Coach or Owner profile. **Letters from NCSI to the Event Producer will not be accepted.** For assistance with updating your profile, please contact greenlight@usasf.net*

Exceptional Athletes

Membership for Exceptional Athletes is complimentary. The program enters the athletes through the program profile. When a team is created within the program profile and designated as CheerABILITIES or DanceABILITIES and the athlete has been designated as Exceptional Athletes, the athletes can be added to this roster even though a membership fee has not been paid. NEW for the 2018-2019 Season, Exceptional Athletes need to have a birth certificate uploaded.

Exhibition Teams

Any team attending a USASF Sanctioned event that is associated with a USASF member program must be rostered. This applies to all exhibition team performances including Parent Teams.

Rec Teams sponsored by an All Star Program

All Star Programs may not also have a Rec team that competes and/or performs at USASF Sanctioned events.



SUMMIT BID DECLARATION



THE SUMMIT CHAMPIONSHIPS BID DECLARATION

WILDCARD BIDS

WILDCARD bids will go to the highest scoring bid eligible teams across different levels.

PAID BIDS

PAID bids will go to the highest scoring bid eligible teams across different levels.

AT-LARGE BIDS

AT-LARGE bids will go to the highest scoring bid eligible teams across different levels.

At events where PAID bids are awarded, AT-LARGE bids will then go to the highest scoring bid eligible teams across the different remaining levels.

- The levels will be divided as follows: L1, L2, L3, L4, and L4.2/L5R/L5.
- When awarding AT-LARGE bids, any PAID bids awarded will be considered when determining different levels (ex: if PAID bids are awarded to a L2 team and a L3 team, then that means L1, L4, and L4.2/5/5r are the only levels eligible for the first three AT-LARGE bids).
- For events awarding 6 or more bids: Once the first 5 bids go out, the 6th bid will go to the highest scoring team in ANY level. Any additional bids remaining will go to the next highest scoring teams in different levels.



US FINALS

Celebrate THE END OF YOUR SEASON at The U.S. Finals!

LOUISVILLE
APRIL 13-14, 2019

PENSACOLA
APRIL 27-28, 2019

DALLAS
MAY 11, 2019

CHICAGO
APRIL 13-14, 2019

PROVIDENCE
MAY 4-5, 2019

LAS VEGAS
MAY 11-12, 2019

KANSAS CITY
APRIL 27, 2019

VIRGINIA BEACH
MAY 4-5, 2019

