



UPDATES FOR THE 2026–2027 COLLEGE COMPETITION SEASON

We remain committed to fair and consistent scoring. Our goal is to continue evolving our college program while providing coaches and athletes with the resources needed for a clear understanding of divisions, rules, qualification procedures, and scoring. Below is an overview of the updates for the 2026–2027 season. For complete rules, divisions, and scoring information, please visit nca.varsity.com. [NCA College Information](#)

Division Updates

- No major division structure changes for Advanced, Intermediate, Game Day or Spirit Rally divisions.

Game Day

- A new standalone 50-point Band scoresheet has been added. Band performances will be evaluated independently by qualified Band Judges.
- Please refer to the College Rule Book for a complete listing of divisions and eligibility requirements.
- Teams should review division qualifications and roster requirements prior to registration.

Game Day Division General Questions

- The College Game Day Division allows teams to showcase authentic collegiate crowd-leading through band chant, game day cheer, situational response, and fight song.
- For Game Day - A new standalone 50-point Band scoresheet has been added. Band performances will be evaluated independently by qualified Band Judges.
- Please refer to the College Rule Book and Event Guidelines for complete requirements. Rulebook

Spirit Rally Division General Questions

- The College Spirit Rally Division combines cheerleaders, dance teams, mascots, pep bands, and other spirit groups into one collaborative performance.
- Teams should review the Spirit Rally section of the College Rule Book for participation requirements and performance guidelines. Rulebook

Score Sheet Updates

- Review all updated score sheets posted online for the 2026–2027 season.
 - Overall Scoresheet Update:
 - Routine Composition has been updated to better distinguish between the quality and quantity of skills performed.
 - The category will now be divided into:
 - Execution – 5 points • Difficulty – 5 points
- Scoring resources and educational materials continue to be available to help coaches better understand evaluation standards.

Execution Resources

- Execution guidelines have been updated to provide greater definition and clarity around the evaluation of technique errors.

- Educational materials are intended to improve consistency between judges and provide greater transparency in scoring.

Deduction Updates

- Minor wording and clarification updates have been made throughout the rules and deduction sections.
- Several deduction categories have been updated for the 2026–2027 season. Coaches are encouraged to review the updated deduction chart and rules section for complete details.
 - Pyramid Maximum (MAX) – 2.0 Point Deduction
 - Boundary Violation – 0.5 / 1.0 Point Deduction per Occurrence
 - Inappropriate Choreography / Music – 3.0 Point Deduction
 - Unsportsmanlike Conduct – 2.0 Point Deduction
 - Excessive Celebration – 1.0 Point Deduction
 - Time Limit Violations – 0.25 / 0.5 / 1.0 / 2.0 Point Deduction
- These updates provide additional clarity and consistency in the application of deductions across all divisions and events.
- Coaches should review the updated deduction document for detailed definitions, examples, and enforcement procedures.

Qualification Information

- Teams may qualify for NCA College Nationals through approved NCA College Camps or through the college video qualification process.
- Teams should review current qualification requirements and submission deadlines well in advance of Nationals.
- Game Day and Spirit Rally divisions do not require qualification.

Judges Education

- We continue to invest in comprehensive education and training programs focused on consistency, objectivity, and athlete safety.
- All judges are required to complete annual training, a judge agreement, code of conduct requirements, and any applicable background screening requirements. [varsity.com]

NCA & NDA College Nationals 2027

- April 8–10, 2027 — Daytona Beach, Florida.
 - Championship venues include the Ocean Center and the Daytona Beach Bandshell.
 - Additional event information, schedules, and registration materials will be posted online as they become available.

College Rules Questions

- Teams may submit skills throughout the year for legality review and clarification.
- Videos should clearly demonstrate the skill being reviewed and comply with submission requirements.
- Teams are strongly encouraged to submit questions early to allow sufficient time for review prior to championship events.
- Please submit all rules questions through the NCA College Legality Inquiry Form.