



## UPDATES FOR THE 2026-2027 COMPETITION SEASON

We remain committed to fair and consistent scoring. Our goal is to evolve and provide the tools needed to all school and rec teams this season for a clear understanding of divisions, rules and scoring. Below is an overview of the changes. For a complete copy of the divisions, rules and scoring, please visit [nca.varsity.com](http://nca.varsity.com).

- Division Updates
  - No changes for Performance or Crowd Leading Division
  - Game Day Divisions will be split into Small (12 - 15 members), Medium (16-19 members), Large (20-23 members), Super (24-30)
  - For a complete listing of division offered at 2026-2027 NCA Regional and NCA High Nationals, [CLICK HERE](#)
- Game Day Division General Questions
  - This is a great way for your Cheer team to combine a Band Chant, Game Day Cheer, and Fight Song along with a Game Day situational response to showcase in one 3:00 minute performance.
  - Please refer to the Game Day section in our rulebook specific Event Guidelines.
- Game Day Rally Division General Questions
  - This Division combines Cheerleaders with their dancers, mascots and band members, while following the same cadence of the Game Day routine.
  - For more information, please refer to the Spirit Rally section in our rulebook specific Event Guidelines.
- Intermediate Division General Questions
  - Please refer to the Event Guidelines for all division skill restrictions and eligibility guidelines on the [NCA Scoring Page](#)
  - Score Sheets reflect the level of skills allowed to be performed in the Intermediate division.
  - FAQ of common legality issues along with skill options for teams posted online as a resource.
- Score Sheet Updates:
  - Game Day
    - No changes to scoring
  - Performance Score Sheet:
    - Removal of the School Representation score, 5 points added to Formations and Transitions.
  - Crowdleading Score Sheet:
    - Removal of the School Representation score, 5 points added to Formations and Transitions.
  - Non-Tumbling Score Sheet:
    - Removal of the School Representation score, 5 points added to Effective use of skills in the cheer.
  - Non-Building Score Sheet:
    - Removal of the School Representation score, scoresheet changed to 90 points.
- Execution Ranges posted online for coaches as a resource.
- Deduction Updates
  - Small verbiage clarifications.
- Warm-Up Policy
  - The time between when a team finishes warm-ups and is on the competition floor should be no sooner than 8 minutes and no longer than 30 minutes. Based on an event's facilities, the performance schedule may allow for more or less time to get from warm-up to the competition arena. Event Officials will monitor timing and work to provide the safest competition environment for all athletes.
- Judges Education
  - We are moving into Season 9 of our Judges Training and Education Course on Varsity University.
  - Each judge is required to complete a Judges Agreement including a Code of Conduct for the season and complete a Background Screening to be eligible to judge.

- Common Questions
  - When/If a division has 10 or more teams (5 or more at Regionals), additional splits may be offered.
  - When/if a division has less than 3 teams (less than 2 at Regionals), they may be combined into the same age/size division.
- NCA High School Nationals
  - January 23–25, 2027
    - How to qualify:
      - Teams must compete at an NCA Regional or Classic Championship – In Person or Virtual.
    - See tentative block schedule posted online.
- NCA High School Nationals Rounds of Competition & Scoring
  - Every team registered automatically qualifies for the Sunday round of competition. Saturday and Sundays score will affect your Final score with Saturday being 25% and Sunday being 75%.
  - Day 2 order of performance will be in reverse ranked order based on the division rankings from the Day 1 scores
  - Divisions with 25 or more teams may be split into additional competing divisions
- NCA Rules Questions
  - Teams will be able to send in skills throughout the year to receive a legality ruling videos are limited 30 seconds
  - Please submit videos at least 2 weeks prior to Nationals the team's performance.
  - Teams are not required to submit a safety video but are encouraged to submit for legality confirmation.
  - Please submit all rules questions through: [NCA Legality Inquiry Form](#)