SCORING AND JUDGING CRITERIA

Have you ever wondered how a UCA National Champion is chosen? Put yourself behind the judges table. Take a look at the score sheets below; read the answers to your frequently asked questions, and get your pen and paper ready. Sit back, enjoy the competition, and see if you can pick the National High School Cheerleading Champions.

A FEW COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT SCORING THE COMPETITION:

WHO ARE THE JUDGES?

In order to ensure fairness, judging panels are assembled from individuals with a variety of cheerleading and judging experience.

HOW ARE THE TEAMS SCORED?

All teams start with zero points and can earn a maximum of 100 points for their performance. Each team is scored on three categories. Two judges will score the cheer section worth 35 points, two judges will score the building skills worth 45 points and finally 2 judges will score the overall section worth 20 points. In the cheer section, teams are scored on Crowd Leading, Incorporations, and Overall Cheer Impression. The building judges will give scores for the execution/technique and difficulty of partner stunts and pyramids. The overall judges will be looking at standing/running tumbling, jumps/dance and overall impression. All three categories will be combined together for the total score with deductions being taken off the total score.

WHAT ARE THE JUDGES LOOKING FOR?

Judges at the NHSCC are looking for teams that perform a well executed routine while meeting the criteria of the score sheet. Teams should perform a cheer that encourages crowd response and is practical for a game situation. Teams should incorporate all skill combinations in the Music Section of the routine. These skills should be unique and well executed. Judges will evaluate transitions, variety, choreography and visual appeal of the skills throughout the routine.

HOW ARE GAME DAY TEAMS SCORED?

In this order, Game Day will consist of a Band Chant, a Situational Sideline, a Time Out Cheer and school's Fight Song. The judges will have two score sheets to evaluate the routines. The Crowd Leading score sheet will focus on crowd effective skills. Squads are highly encouraged to use signs, poms, megaphones and flags to enhance crowd effectiveness, as well as incorporate skills. The second score sheet will focus on the Band Chant and Fight Song portion of the routine with focus on squad’s sharp motions, high energy and synchronization.