



UPDATES FOR THE 2021-2022 COMPETITION SEASON

We remain committed to fair and consistent scoring. Our goal is to evolve and provide the tools needed to all school teams this season for a clear understanding of divisions, rules, and scoring.

- Division Updates
 - Small Coed Non Tumbling - stays 1-2 Males/max 16
 - Large Coed Non Tumbling - will now allow 1–4 males/max 30
- NEW Game Day Live
 - Band has been incorporated more in the scoring aspect of the routine.
 - To earn a bid, the pep band and cheer team must create and submit a video up to a 2-minute performance of the school's traditional fight song together.
 - Videos will be accepted prior to November 1, 2021.
 - New - ONLY Handheld or harnessed instruments allowed in the pep band.
 - The pep band will perform with the cheer team in this order: Band Chant, Situational Sideline, Cheer and Fight Song.
 - The pep band may play a drum cadence for team entry to the floor, transitions between sections, drum cadence or back beat behind the Sideline and Cheer sections.
 - Please refer to the Rules and Regulations for time limitations, format, scoring and specific division guidelines.
- Scoresheet Updates
 - Game day changes
 - Crowd Leading – Specified “Skills” scored as Stunts / Tumbling
 - Band Chant/Fight Song - Game Day Visual Appeal
 - Changed to - Crowd Coverage, Formations, Sync and Spacing
 - Band Chant Section of the Score Sheet
 - Motion Technique & Crowd Leading Tools separated into individual categories of 5 points each.
 - Non Tumbling Coed Divisions – Coed Skills will be required and divisions will be scored on the Coed Building Score Sheet.
 - Jumps for the All Girl / School Rec Divisions – Perfection of Skill worth 2 points and Difficulty will be with 1 point.
- Deduction Updates
 - Game Day Format Violation will now be 1.0
 - Specific Safety Violation will now be 3.0
- Virtual competitions
 - We will continue to offer Virtual Competitions – here are just a few
 - Game Day Kick-Off – 10/12 (Individual components of Game Day Scored)
 - November Regional – 11/16 (Any team more than 300 miles for an event or has already competed)
 - December Regional – 12/14 (Any team more than 300 miles for an event or has already competed)
- Judges Education
 - We are moving into Season 4 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.
 - Each year we have posted informational content on our website at UCA.varsity.com with “What the Judges are looking for”. Updated information coming soon.
 - We also opened to coaches the option to take the judges testing in 2019. The course will be available online starting in October.

- Common Questions
 - Splitting and combining divisions
 - Universal Cheerleaders Association will SPLIT divisions in the best interest of providing a competitive environment. When/If a division has 11 or more teams, additional splits may be offered.
- Examples
- Small Varsity has 23 teams registered. This division maybe split into DI/DII status based on the school enrollment.
 - Junior High Game Day has 12 teams registered. This division may be split in to Small/Large.
 - Small Junior High has 14 teams registered. This division cannot be split since there is not an additional split offered.

NEW – Send in your Rules early.

Universal Cheerleaders Association offers a service to help teams with legality and safety questions. Teams will be able to email skills in throughout the year to receive a legality or safety response. This service will help teams get a response with a video attached back to use in situations where the skill may be in question. Teams are not required to submit a safety video.

To email a video, the following must be included:

1. The skill in question must be recorded by the team at practice. We are unable to accept videos from performances, competitions, or of other teams.
2. All submission must include the coach, team, and division.
3. The recording will be reviewed as if every person in the video is included in the skill. This would include additional spotters.
4. Videos are limited to 30 seconds and must be able to be viewed upright without rotating.
5. The recording will be limited to attachments only. Links, video sharing and YouTube style videos will not be accepted. While this does limit the video size, you are able to submit multiple videos.
6. All videos will either receive a legal or illegal response. If the video receives an illegal response, the entire video will not be reviewed but stopped at the point that the video was illegal. *If the video is inconclusive, you will receive a response as to why the video was unable to make a judgement. It is up to you as a coach to resubmit the video to be re-reviewed.

Videos that do not follow the above rules will not receive a response.

If you know that your video does not meet all the requirements above, please refilm/resubmit the video. Only videos that meet the above requirements will be reviewed.

Please send all videos to UCARules@varsity.com

Please note: Performing the skill at a prior event does not make the skill legal nor would it warrant a warning. Only submitting the skill will make the skill eligible for a warning. UCA can only guarantee this process will be accepted at UCA Branded events. This would not include other Varsity Branded and State Association Events.

For a complete list of changes for the 2021-2022 USA Cheer High School Rules go to <https://www.usacheer.org/2021-22-high-school-rules-changes>