



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 uca.varsity.com.

- Division Updates
 - Junior Varsity and Junior Varsity Game Day divisions updated to 5-30 athletes.
 - Large Varsity Non Tumbling performance updated to 20-30 athletes for UCA Regional events.
 - Varsity Coed Non Tumbling Performance and Game Day divisions have been updated to 5-30 athletes with 1+ male.
 - Junior High Non Tumbling Intermediate and Junior Varsity Non Tumbling Intermediate added.
 - Small Varsity Intermediate (5-16) and Large Varsity Intermediate (17-30) divisions split.
 - Cheerleaders may only compete at ONE NSSC weekend and must compete as a cheer member throughout the weekend.
 - If a school has both Junior Varsity and Varsity Performance teams, those athletes may combine to compete in ONE Varsity Game Day division. If combined, no separate Junior Varsity Game Day team may compete from that school. All athletes must meet Varsity age requirements.
 - If a team competes in both a Performance and a Game Day division, the team must compete in the same or larger division size for the Game Day routine.
 - If an affiliated rec program has a 14Y Performance routine and a 12Y and/or 10Y Performance routine, the athletes from those teams may combine for one 14Y Game Day routine.
 - *12-18 Performance athletes may only compete a second performance in 12-18 Game Day.
 - Specifications to the DI & DII Division Split in 2026-2027:
 - Junior High and Rec teams will compete on the NSSC championship weekend that their feeder program competes at. If the JH or Rec feeds into multiple high schools, the team will follow the high school that MOST of the student enrollment feeds into.
 - For a complete listing of division offered at 2026-2027 UCA Regional and NHSCC, [CLICK HERE](#)
- Enrollment Updates
 - For the 2026-27 season, any team representing a single gender school that includes athletes from co-operative (co-op) schools will have its DI/DII classification determined by the combined total enrollment of all participating schools.
 - Varsity & Junior Varsity Divisions will split into Division I & Division II based on school sizes below:
 - Division I - Schools with an enrollment of 1,400 or more.
 - Division II - Schools with an enrollment of 1,399 or less.
- Spirit Program Game Day Division General Questions
 - This is a great way for your Cheer, Dance and/or Band to work together more throughout this season.
 - Please refer to the Spirit Program specific Event Guidelines for time limits, format, scoring and division guidelines. [CLICK HERE](#)
- Intermediate Division General Questions
 - Please refer to the Event Guidelines for all division skill restrictions and eligibility guidelines. [UCA 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 or format for UCA Regional Events.

- At NHSCC ONLY, there will be no sideline cue announced following the Band Chant. Teams can choose either an offensive or defensive sideline to execute and must show clear understanding of a game situation. Teams may not stunt until the sideline has been started by the athletes. Sideline Cues will still be announced at all UCA Regional Events.
 - Performance Routine Score Sheets
 - No changes to scoring
 - Execution Ranges posted online for coaches as a resource.
 - Deduction Updates
 - Small verbiage clarifications.
 - No voice-overs are allowed in any Game Day or Spirit Program routines.
 - 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.
 - Complete videos of Judges' Training will be made available at UCA.varsity.com early fall.
 - Common Questions
 - UCA 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 may be split into DI/DII status based on the school enrollment of teams.
 - Junior High Game Day has 12 teams registered. This division may be split into Small/Large.
 - Small Junior High has 14 teams registered; this division cannot be split since there is not an additional split offered.
 - NHSCC is part of the National School Spirit Championships
 - DII weekend: January 29-31, 2027
 - DI weekend: February 4-7, 2027
 - How to qualify:
 - 75% of the team must have complete the Squad Credentialing program.
 - Score of 80 or above in a Game Day division receives a bid.
 - Score of 70 or above in a Performance division receives a bid.
 - Teams at regional events scoring lower than this may be awarded a bid based on depth of division, scores above the natural break, deductions, raw scores, and national averages.
 - See tentative block schedule posted online.
 - All divisions at NHSCC will have no more than 3 rounds of competition. Specifics can be found in the 2026-2027 Event Guidelines.
 - Preliminary/Semi-Final groups will be split based on previous placement and geography. Competition order for the first round is random. Teams will perform in reverse rank order after the first round.
 - For advancements from semi-final to final rounds, auto-advance teams will be counted in the MAXIMUM number of teams (12) that can advance to finals.
 - UCA Rules Questions
 - Teams will be able to send in skills throughout the year to receive a legality ruling.
 - Please submit videos at least 2 weeks prior to 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: [UCA Legality Inquiry Form \(jotform.com\)](http://UCA.Legality.Inquiry.Form(jotform.com))