

2022 USA SPIRIT NATIONALS – EVENT INFORMATION

At Varsity Spirit, the health and safety of our athletes, coaches, employees, families, and friends is our top priority.

An inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place where people are present. By attending this event, you voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19. Please keep each other safe and healthy by following the guidance provided.

Please note the following guidelines will be in place for all athletes, coaches, and spectators.

- Only unvaccinated persons are required to mask in all indoor public settings. Fully vaccinated individuals are recommended to continue indoor masking when the risk may be high.
- Any athlete, coach, or spectator with any symptoms (Fever of 100°F or higher, cough, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, loss of taste or smell, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea) may not enter.
- The USA reserves the right and may penalize teams for any spectators and or performers that do not comply with the mask requirement.

2022 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS – SPIRIT NATIONALS

Friday, February 25th

8:00 AM – 9:00 PM – Anaheim Convention Center – Arena

Prelims for select Cheerleading team divisions (see performance schedule)

Refer to performance schedules for specific divisions and times.

9:00 AM – 8:00 PM – Anaheim Convention Center – Hall A

Group Stunts (Prelims and Finals) and Prelims for select Cheerleading team divisions (see performance schedule)

Refer to performance schedules for specific divisions and times.

Saturday, February 26th

8:00 AM – 10:00 PM – Anaheim Convention Center – Hall A

Prelims for Song/Pom, Jazz (Song/Pom), Pep Flag and Mascot divisions. Competition for Game Day (Song/Pom).

Refer to performance schedules for specific divisions and times.

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM – Anaheim Convention Center – Arena

Finals for Novice, Intermediate and Advanced Cheerleading, Non-Tumbling, Non-Building Cheerleading and Crowdleader™ Teams divisions. Detailed breakdown of divisions available the Wednesday prior to the event.

6:30 PM – 10:15 PM – Anaheim Convention Center – Arena

Competition for Game Day (Cheer)

Sunday, February 26th

8:00 AM – 1:00 PM – Anaheim Convention Center – Arena

Finals for Song/Pom, Jazz (Song/Pom), Pep Flag and Mascot divisions

Times listed above are tentative and subject to change. The divisions taken to Finals are subject to change pending the final number of performances in Prelims.

REGISTRATION & ADMISSION

COMPETITION REGISTRATION

- **Coaches/Professional Membership Check-In** -- All Advisors/Coaches will first need to check in at the Arena box office to present a photo I.D. and proof of USA Cheer/Dance/Professional Membership to receive the warmup/backstage event wristband.
- USA competition registration will be inside the northeast concourse of the Arena at the Anaheim Convention Center. Enter through the far-right glass doors of the east Arena Entrance. Registration will be available *between* 9:00 AM and 8:00 PM on Thursday, February 24. Registration will be open on Friday, February 25th and Saturday, February 26th from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM.
- Only two advisors/coaches per team will be allowed at the check-in location and physical distancing protocols will be enforced. **Advisors/Coaches entering the Arena for registration must have already picked up their coach wristband.** At registration you will receive your team packet which includes participant shoe tags or wristbands, Disneyland® Resort tickets (if applicable) and updated event information. You will also pick up your participation backpacks, so please come prepared. One person will sign a form verifying the entire registration packet has been received.
- Music guidelines are being followed at all USA and Varsity Brands events. Competition music must be properly licensed, and a team must provide proof of licensing at team registration. If a team cannot provide proof of licensing immediately upon request, the team may be disqualified from the event. For further details visit www.varsity.com/music.

SPECTATORS

- This event will follow our Option B plan for Events. This is “In-Person with Limited Spectators”
- Spectator viewing limited to team performance time only.
- Spectators are limited to family/friends from the school performing only. Sibling teams from the same school (i.e., JV watching Varsity, Varsity watching freshman) are permitted.
- Spectators will have a designated entry and exit door for traffic flow. Spectators will not be allowed to enter the building more than 10 minutes prior to their team’s performance. USA staff will inform spectator groups when it is time for them to enter the building for their team’s performance. Spectators will move from zone to zone with physical distancing protocols in place.
- The viewing area will be done on a rotation basis with physical distancing protocols in place.
- All spectators will need to leave the facility after each team performance to limit the number of people allowed in the facility.
- Direction signage and/or personnel will guide spectators and athletes throughout the venue.
- Congregating in the common areas of the venue is not allowed.
- Live awards ceremonies will take place in North Hall 100 for athletes/coaches/advisors only, with proper wristbands/shoe tags required to enter this venue. Spectators will not be permitted in this venue. Awards will be streamed on the BAND app for spectators to view in real time.

ADMISSION

- Spectators – **No cash admission purchases will take place on-site during the event. Online admission sales will open the week of the event.** Admission **must be** pre-purchased for spectators by going to the following website – [General Admission Tickets](#). General admission tickets are \$13.00 (6+ years) per day, 5 and under are free.
- All electronically pre-purchased admissions through Event Brite must be exchanged for a spectator wristband prior to entering the building. Upon arrival, spectators must proceed to the general admission window at the Arena box

office and show proof of purchase. You will receive a wristband which will allow you to enter the event at your designated time. Pre-purchased admission cannot be used without receiving a wristband first. We highly recommend pre-purchasing your admission to the event, as purchase on-site by cash is not available and electronic purchase the day of may not be available and/or may delay your entry.

- **Spectators - Arena Performances** – After receiving your general admission wristband at the Arena box office, all spectators must line up at their spectator report time and enter through the north Arena doors, “Blue Entrance”, (north side nearest Katella Avenue) to view the spiritleading teams competition in the Arena at the Convention Center.
- **Spectators - Hall A Performances** - After receiving your general admission wristband at the Arena box office, all spectators must line up on the walkway in front of Hall A at their spectator report time and enter through the Hall A doors, “Red Entrance”, to view the spiritleading teams competition in Hall A at the Convention Center. Spectators will not be permitted in the “official/scheduled” or “open” Warm-Up/Practice areas at any time.
- Spectator admission wristbands will be required in all competition venues.
- **Athletes** - Wrist/ankle bands/shoe tags for performers must be worn at all times. Admission will not be allowed without a wristband/shoe tag.
- The Arena box office will be open on Thursday, February 24th from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM for spectators to show proof of purchase and exchange for their general admission wristband.
- Arena box office windows for spectators will open at 6:45 AM on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Check the final performance schedule for spectator report times.
- The USA reserves the right to refuse admission to any spectator.

PERFORMANCE AREAS & JUDGING

PERFORMANCE AREAS

- **Athletes and Coaches Entrance** - Athletes and Coaches will enter through the “Yellow Entrance” of Hall A to get to the official warm up area. As a reminder, only athletes/coaches/personnel with proper credentials (wristband and/or shoe tag) are permitted in the warm-up area.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday

Anaheim Convention Center – Arena and Hall A Performance Venues

A 60’ (wide) x 48’ (deep) dance floor will be placed in the Arena. Song/pom, mascot and pep flag teams will perform on a Marley floor, measuring 42’ x 42’ and placed on this surface for Finals. For cheer teams, mats (9 strips) measuring 54’ (wide) x 42’ (depth) will be in place over the dance floor. You are not limited to the mat, but all stunts and tumbling for cheerleaders must be completed on the mat. A penalty will be assessed for each infraction of this rule.

OFFICIAL CHEER WARM UP – LEGALITY CHECK

For this year’s competition, Legality Officials will not be stationed at each scheduled warm up mat/floor. Legality reviews for each team in the scheduled warm up area will be by request only. If a team wishes to have their routine checked for potential penalties, they must request this when entering the warm-up check in area. If requested, the team will be given a flag that they will take with them to their official warm up mat. They will post the flag into the orange cone at the corner of the mat. This will alert the legality official to come to your warm-up mat during your warm-up time. This review is a courtesy to help locate any potential issues that might be able to be quickly adjusted. Ultimately, it is the coach’s responsibility to ensure there are no penalties in the routine. Having attended a previous event does not mean that the routine does not have any infractions, nor does a routine being reviewed in the scheduled warm-up area

guarantee a penalty-free routine on the performance mat. Keep in mind, as with any live event, it is possible that an infraction was not caught by an official at your qualifying competition earlier in the season.

JUDGING

Prelims scores will carry over to Finals (for all divisions excluding Group Stunt), with 30% of the score from Prelims and 70% of the score from Finals being added together to obtain the final placement in a division.

The order for Finals performance will be in reverse order of how teams place during Prelims. (i.e. the 1st place team going out of Prelims will perform last in Finals). This excludes Group Stunts. Finalists for Group Stunts will perform in the same order as they performed for Prelims. The USA reserves the right to adjust the Finals performance order to accommodate teams from the same school on the performance schedule.

SCORE SHEETS AND RECAPS

At the conclusion of awards on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, all teams will receive their score sheets. These must be picked up as you exit the awards venue (North Hall Level 100), following the announcement of finalists/awards for that division. Advisors/Coaches will not be allowed back into the awards venue to pick up scoresheets at a later time. Any scoresheets left will be transferred to the Arena box office coach's check-in window.

SCHEDULES

Friday, February 25th

Anaheim Convention Center -- Arena

Three cheer divisions will alternate performance times.

Anaheim Convention Center – Hall A

Two to three divisions will alternate performance times for cheer and group stunt divisions.

Saturday, February 26th

Anaheim Convention Center – Hall A

Three divisions will alternate performance times for Song/Pom, Jazz (song/pom), Game Day (song/pom), Pep Flags, Mascot

Anaheim Convention Center -- Arena (Finals)

Finalists in non-tumbling, non-building, novice/intermediate/advanced cheer divisions and Crowdleader™ Teams will compete.

Anaheim Convention Center -- Arena

Two to three divisions will alternate performance times for game day (cheer) divisions.

Sunday, February 27th

Anaheim Convention Center -- Arena (Finals)

Sunday morning finals in Song/Pom, Jazz (song/pom), Pep Flags, Mascot divisions.

GENERAL SCHEDULES

- Read the performance schedule from left to right for performance times and from top to bottom to see who is in the division. When one team is on the floor, the next two teams must be ready to perform.
- Starting times are approximate. If there are cancellations, then a pause in the competition schedule will take place. Be ready to perform up to 20 minutes prior to your scheduled performance time.
- A penalty will be assessed to any squad/individual performing out of scheduled order unless waived by competition officials. If you perform in the incorrect division, you will be disqualified.

- The order for Saturday and Sunday Finals performance will be in reverse order of how teams place during Prelims. The order of performance for Group Stunt Finals will be the same as the order of performance for preliminary competition, alternating from division A and division B.

AWARDS

AWARDS PRESENTATION

For Group Stunt divisions which advance to finals, approximately 25% of the total performances in a division will advance to compete again on Friday. For “Non-Tumbling (Novice)”, “Non-Building (Novice)”, “Novice” and “Intermediate” divisions approximately 35% of the total performances in a division will advance to Finals. For all “Advanced”, “Non-Tumbling (Advanced)” and “Non-Building (Advanced)” teams, Mascot, Jazz (Song/Pom) and Pep Flag divisions, approximately 45% of a division will advance to finals. All divisions will advance to Finals regardless of their size. This information is subject to change at the discretion of competition officials.

NOTE – For Crowdleader™ Teams 50% of the division will advance to Finals on Saturday afternoon.

Awards ceremonies for Spirit Nationals divisions will be presented “live” in North Hall 100 on a rotating basis with athletes, coaches and advisors only permitted to attend. Awards will take approximately 30 minutes following the end of each division. See the awards tentatively scheduled times with the final performance schedule a few days before the competition begins.

The announcement of Group Stunt finalists and Game Day divisions will not be “live” – they will be conducted only on the BAND app.

GENERAL INFORMATION

SECURITY

Due to heightened security concerns, all bags are subject to search upon entry into any Anaheim Convention Center venue. **Bags must not be left unattended at any time.** Teams must be always in possession of all personal items during the competition (except while performing). The United Spirit Association will not be responsible for any items that are left unattended by a representative of your organization at any time (including during your performance). Unattended bags are subject to immediate removal by security.

Team signs may be brought to the competition but may not be taped on any painted surfaces. Air horns, or other excessive noisemakers are not permitted in the convention center.

Throwing of any type of item onto the performance floor and/or the use of laser-type devices in any venue is grounds for immediate removal from the competition and individuals will be subject to prosecution.

Personal video cameras will be permitted, but we ask that you please film only your own team. Any individual who does not adhere to this request may be asked to leave the venue. Camera tripods will not be permitted at any time during the competition. Unauthorized videotaping of any team is subject to immediate removal from the competition venue.

The use of telephoto lenses on cameras and/or the use of tripods is prohibited.

DRESSING ROOMS

There is a small dressing room designated for athletes in Hall A that may be used for costume changes only. No belongings may be left in this space, and teams may not remain in the dressing room unless actively changing costumes.

Numerous restrooms are located throughout the Convention Center; however, please refrain from changing in these locations. Neither the Anaheim Convention Center nor USA Nationals will be responsible for any lost or stolen items.

PRACTICE AREAS

- Open practice areas in North Hall Level 100 with limitations on capacity will be available during the following times:

Friday, February 25th

Cheer (carpet bonded foam mats and convention center carpeted floor)

North Hall Level 100

7:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Song/Pom, Jazz, Cheer, Pep/Short Flag and Mascot

(carpet bonded foam mats and convention center carpeted floor)

North Hall Level 100

2:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 26th

Cheer (carpet bonded foam mats and convention center carpeted floor)

North Hall Level 100

7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Song/Pom, Jazz, Cheer, Pep/Short Flag and Mascot (carpet bonded foam mats and convention center carpeted floor)

North Hall Level 100

7:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 27th

Song/Pom, Jazz, Pep/Short Flag and Mascot (convention center floor carpeted floor)

North Hall Level 100

7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

End times will be strictly enforced.

Note that the above times are for “Open” practice only. Only authorized athletes, coaches and advisors with proper wristband/shoe tags will be permitted to enter. Please be courteous and make sure to split time so all participants may have the opportunity to use any “open” areas. If a team is waiting to use a floor, then the team on the floor is limited to no more than 10 minutes of time on the mats. Teams waiting to use an open warm-up floor will queue outside of the building and be permitted to enter as teams exit the open warm-up space. Due to capacity limitations, single teams and their coaches only are permitted in the open warm-up space (sibling teams are not permitted to join a team during open warm-up time). Follow the direction of the USA staff to know when to enter the building.

- There will be no practicing on the performance floors in any venue.
- Note that all official warm-ups will take place on the west side of Hall A for those competing in the Arena and Hall A. Check-in for this area is through the Hall A Lobby doors.
- All song/pom and pep/short flag squads will receive a scheduled practice time. Note a Legality Official will not be assigned to each practice floor. Legality Officials will be “on call” in the warmup area to view routines if desired. Practice times will be scheduled according to your performance time. Each team will be given time on the official practice floor, approximately 20 - 30 minutes prior to performing. You will receive a “Team Practice Schedule” at registration or check on-line as of Wednesday, February 23rd after 5:00 p.m. (PST).
- All cheerleading squads will receive a scheduled practice time in **Hall A for those competing in the Arena** and in **Hall A** for Friday prelims and Saturday Finals. This will be scheduled according to your performance time. Each team will be given time on the official practice floor, approximately 20 - 30 minutes prior to performing. You will receive a “Team Practice Schedule” at registration or check on-line as of Wednesday, February 23rd after 5:00 p.m. (PST). Note a Legality Official will not be assigned to each practice floor as in year’s past. Legality Officials will be “on call” in the warmup area to view routines if desired. See information above titled **OFFICIAL CHEER WARM UP – LEGALITY CHECK**
- Mascots may warm-up in **Hall A** 20-30 minutes prior to their performance time but will not be provided with official warm-up time.
- Group Stunts may warm-up in **Hall A** but will not be provided with official warm-up time. A full warm-up floor will be available for teams to share for warm-up in the official warm-up area 20-30 minutes prior to each team’s performance. For Group Stunt, please do not enter the official warm-up area before 30 minutes prior to your scheduled Group Stunt performance time.
- Legality Officials in the “Official/Scheduled” practice area are provided as a courtesy to the teams. There is no guarantee that they will identify any/all illegal skills in a routine and their presence does not preclude a team from receiving a penalty during their official performance in front of the panel judges.

- There will be no general public spectators permitted in the “open” or “official/scheduled” scheduled practice area at any time. Only teams who are officially warming up and their advisor/coach(es) will be permitted in this area. Special wristbands are required for admission to this area.
- The official warm-up mats for cheerleading teams (Friday/Saturday) for official warm-up time will measure 54' x 42'.
- For song/pom and jazz (song/pom) at least one strip of Marley flooring will be available in the official warm-up area only.
- **Immediately following your “official” warm-up time, you will be directed to the backstage “Getting Ready” area for the appropriate venue in which you will perform.**

FOOD

Concession stands will not be open at the Convention Center on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. However, food trucks will be available outside of the venue and there are many eating establishments within walking distance of the convention center. **Outside food and drink are not permitted in the Convention Center.**

SOUVENIRS

A complete line of exclusive USA Nationals souvenirs will be on sale Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at the Convention Center. Major credit cards are accepted. There will be a line to enter the store with a maximum capacity adhered to at any given time. We ask for your patience as the line to enter may be lengthy at times. We recommend coming to the store early in the day and to have a good idea of what you are interested in purchasing prior to arrival.

Please note that ATM machines are not available at the Anaheim Convention Center.

SOUND

- All teams must provide their own MP3 device or smart phone for use on the event provided sound system. Music must be recorded at the correct tempo. Although it is not recommended due to interference that may be caused during a routine, a smart phone may be used for playing music. No cover may be on any MP3 player or smart phone so that a patch cord may be easily inserted into the device. Please ensure that jacks are clean and free of any debris which may impact connectivity. You must ensure that your device has a jack into which a patch cord may be inserted. Note that you may need to acquire an adapter in advance if your player does not have a headphone jack. One or several selections of music may be used if they follow the music licensing rules. Ability to play routine from a CD **will not** be available.
- Please keep your routine music in your possession until you are called to enter the starting area. You will hand carry your music to the sound table.
- Advisors/Coaches/Directors are asked to remain at the sound station while their squad performs and to take their music with them at the conclusion of the performance. **Representatives will be asked to press “play” and “stop” for their routines.**
- There will be no music checks permitted on the main sound system.
- Music guidelines are being followed at all USA and Varsity Brands events. Competition music must be properly licensed, and a team must be able to provide proof of licensing (upon request) at any event where the music is used. If a team cannot provide proof of licensing immediately upon request, the team may be disqualified from the event. For further details visit www.varsity.com/music

VIDEO

Individuals are permitted to video the routine from their own team. Videotaping of multiple teams in a division is not permitted.

Personal video cameras will be permitted, but we ask that you please film only your own team. Any individual who does not adhere to this request may be asked to leave the venue. Camera tripods will not be permitted at any time during the competition. Unauthorized videotaping of any team is subject to immediate removal from the competition venue.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Official team photos will be taken by Universal Event Photography **prior** to each team's "scheduled practice time." Please see your "Team Practice Schedule" for your photo time. Scheduled photos will not be taken for Group Stunt or Mascot teams. These participants may request photo times if they wish.

The use of telephoto lenses on cameras and/or the use of tripods is prohibited.

MEDICAL CARE

A FIRST AID station is located in the Convention Center and will be staffed throughout the weekend with a registered nurse. First aid staff will also be on duty during the competition at all venues.

Should you need medical assistance, please contact a USA or Anaheim Convention Center staff member.

LOST AND FOUND

Located at the Arena Box Office.

PARKING – ALL CASHLESS – ONLY CARD PAYMENTS ACCEPTED

There is no cash accepted for parking. Credit cards, debit cards, Apple Pay and Google Pay are accepted. Please allow an additional 30 to 40 minutes for traffic and parking. Parking will be impacted over the weekend and cars may be directed to off-site lots.

Anaheim Convention Center

CARS: Enter the Convention Center parking area from Katella.

The parking fee at the Convention Center is \$20.00 and is good for one entry **ONLY**. This fee is subject to change. It is not valid for in/out parking. The parking receipt must be visible on the vehicle dashboard. The parking ticket is not transferable.

BUSES: Buses will enter from the back of the Convention Center, off of West Street. Parking personnel will direct you to the drop off area and appropriate exit or parking area. Parking fees for buses is \$30.00 and is good for one entry **ONLY**. Overnight parking of vehicles is prohibited.

Parking fees are subject to change.

THE USA SPIRIT NATIONALS' COMPETITION WILL FOLLOW ALL DIVISION GUIDELINES AND RULES AS STATED IN THIS INFORMATIONAL PACKET, THE USA SPIRIT NATIONALS SUPPLEMENTAL PACKET AND THE 2021-22 USA SPIRIT COMPETITION PACKET.