



## 2023 USA COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS EVENT INFORMATION

We look forward to your participation at the USA Collegiate Championships in Southern California, February 25 - 26, 2023. Any college team is welcome to register – no prequalification is necessary.

All competition will take place at the Anaheim Convention Center. Preliminary competition will take place on Saturday late afternoon/evening, with finals on Sunday afternoon/evening. Competition will conclude by approximately 8:00 PM on Sunday. All official warm-up and performance venues are at the Anaheim Convention Center.

Game Day Divisions will only take place on Saturday, February 25, 2023, and will be a part of your USA Collegiate Championships registration.

**All teams will compete at prelims on Saturday and advance to finals on Sunday (except Game Day divisions). Group Stunt and Partner Stunt divisions will advance to finals if there are 10 or more in the division.**

You may wish to visit the The *Disneyland*<sup>®</sup> Resort during competition weekend. The *Disneyland*<sup>®</sup> Resort includes the *Downtown Disney*<sup>®</sup> District, *Disneyland*<sup>®</sup> Park, and *Disney California Adventure*<sup>®</sup> Park. The *Downtown Disney*<sup>®</sup> District offers dining, entertainment, and shopping. A theme park admission ticket is not necessary to visit the *Downtown Disney*<sup>®</sup> District. A theme park ticket and a reservation is required to visit *Disneyland*<sup>®</sup> Park, and *Disney California Adventure*<sup>®</sup> Park

If you have any questions regarding the 2023 USA Collegiate Championship event, please contact the USA office at 800-886-4872 or [USACompetitions@varsity.com](mailto:USACompetitions@varsity.com).

**We look forward to seeing you at the 2023 USA Collegiate  
Championships in Anaheim!**



## GENERAL EVENT INFORMATION

### COVID-19 VARSITY COMPETITION RULES

Safety is our priority for your competition experience. We are deeply committed to the safety and well-being of our athletes, performers, coaches, and spectators. We are prepared to administer a competition that will meet the state and local guidelines related to COVID-19 at the time of the event. While the final details and schedule of any competition could require up to the day of adjustments, and all guidelines are subject to change based on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”), federal, state and local guidance, please be assured that Varsity Spirit is committed to delivering the same quality of competition experience for which we are known. We appreciate your understanding of the flexibility this will require. By accepting the Terms and Conditions as the authorized person from my program I agree and acknowledge to abide by the COVID-19 Varsity Competition Rules.

### USA CHEER – CHEER COACH, STUNT COACH, DANCE COACH OR PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

In a continuing effort to better protect dancers and coaches Varsity Spirit has partnered with USA Cheer, the USA Federation for Sport Cheer. A USA Cheer Coach, STUNT Coach, Dance Coach or Professional Membership will now be required for all school coaches, choreographers, and personnel attending a Varsity Spirit cheer or dance competition to gain access to the warmup, backstage or coaches’ box areas. **Each registered cheer team/program must have at least one coach with a Cheer Coach membership. Additional coaches can choose to have either a STUNT Coach, Dance Coach or Professional Membership.** Visit [USA Cheer Coach Membership](#) to learn more and to complete the steps required before your first competition.

### HOTEL INFORMATION

USA is happy to work with our housing partner, Team Travel Source, to provide hotel arrangements for your team. Although it is not a requirement to go through Team Travel Source to attend the event, we highly recommend this as they are experts in working with teams to meet your housing needs.

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to book hotel rooms through Team Travel Source.

### DISNEY TICKETS

Additional information will be sent separately to schools registered for Collegiate Championships once it is finalized.

### **EVENT ADMISSION – PARTICIPANTS AND COACHES**

All participant wristbands will be included in the team's registration packet.

**All coaches attending the event must be on a team roster. Proof of the Cheer, Dance or Professional Membership is required to gain access into the warmup/backstage area.** Up to two (2) complimentary Coach/Advisor wristbands per team (excluding partner stunt and group stunt unless that is the only team competing) will be provided based on the number of coaches on the registration.

Additional coaches above the two complimentary per team need to purchase a coach wristband as part of the team registration. All coaches will check in at the Coach Check In and show proof of USA Cheer Membership to receive their wristband.

### **EVENT ADMISSION – FAMILY AND GUESTS**

**No cash admission purchases will take place on-site during the event.** Admission **must be** pre-purchased for spectators. The link to purchase Spectator tickets will be available on the USA website Collegiate Championships page once we get closer to the event start date. Additional fees for online ticket purchases may apply. Please either print a copy of your confirmed admission purchase or have your smart phone available for scanning. 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.

## ELIGIBILITY

All team members must be registered full-time students at the school they represent (college or university) and must be official members of the school's spirit squad. Club Teams are allowed but cannot compete in the same division as the official squad. The Club Team must have the approval of their administration to represent the school. Transcripts for each competitor or a letter from the Dean of Students or registrar's office verifying eligibility must be submitted upon registering for the USA Collegiate Championships. Although a team may register for the competition prior to this date, documentation of full-time status must not be dated earlier than December 1, 2022. Any exceptions to the above (e.g., graduating seniors, graduate students, etc.) must be pre-approved in writing by the USA prior to the competition.

Individual names on the team roster must match the names given on the Eligibility Form.

A team that violates eligibility rules and/or contains members who are deemed to be ineligible may forfeit any title and/or may be prohibited from entering the competition the following year.

Any interpretations or decisions of eligibility for the 2023 USA Collegiate Championships will be rendered by the Rules Committee, which is comprised of, but not limited to, the Tournament Director, the USA Cheerleading Program Director or Song/Pom/Dance Program director and the Director of Special Events. The Rules Committee will render a judgment in a manner consistent with the general goals of the tournament.

The proof of Eligibility Form must be submitted to the USA office on or before January 13, 2023. If submitted after January 13, 2023, a \$25 processing fee will occur. It is the advisor/coach's responsibility to provide this information to the United Spirit Association by the stated deadline in the registration confirmation. If a team fails to produce this proof of eligibility for each team member prior to the registration at the event, they will not be allowed to perform.

Any exceptions to the above must be pre-approved in writing by the USA office prior to the event.

## ADDITIONAL VARSITY BRANDS TEAM/INDIVIDUAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Any university or college competing in a Varsity College National Championship and/or Collegiate Championships shall not permit a student-athlete to represent their school unless the student-athlete meets all the applicable eligibility requirements, and the coach and program administrative supervisor has certified the student athlete's eligibility.
2. **A student-athlete may only represent ONE (1) school in a National Championship and/or Collegiate Championships competition for each academic year.** For example, a student athlete may not compete for one school in January, transfer and compete for another school in April.
3. At the Junior College level, any student-athlete will be only eligible to compete in a **maximum of three (3)** National Championships during the course of his/her college career.
4. A student-athlete can be part of the institution's cheer/dance spirit squad but will only be allowed to compete for a **maximum of five (5)** National Championships during the course of his/her college career, regardless of the number of universities or colleges he/she has attended.
5. A student-athlete may not compete in more than **five (5)** National Championships in combined Junior College and/or 4-year college/university.

6. An alternate or injured student-athlete that does not take the competition floor will not be perceived as a competing member and will not count towards the maximum of five (5) National Championships.
7. This will apply for any student-athlete competing at any one of the Varsity Brands College National Championships (UCA/UDA, NCA/NDA), as well as any other designated College Nationals Championship.

Whether an individual competed a USA Collegiate Championships and at either UCA or NCA within the same season or the individual competes at USA Collegiate Championships solely, this will count as one year of eligibility/one championships toward that athlete's maximum eligibility permitted during the athlete's collegiate participant.

8. Verification of eligibility will be required by the school's Registrar's Office and the program's administrative supervisor, in addition to the coach. It will be the responsibility of these individuals to verify that all student-provided information and documentation is correct and valid.
9. Teams violating this rule could forfeit their titles and/or rankings, as well as be prohibited from entering any other Varsity Brands Championship the following year.

### **PERFORMANCE ORDER/SCHEDULES**

Typically, performance order is based on registration confirmation. Registrations are confirmed when the payment is received. The first registration confirmed will be the last to perform in that division and the last registration confirmed will be the first to perform in that division. Adjustments may be necessary due to division/team conflicts.

**All teams will be given an assigned check-in and warm-up time prior to competition.**

The contact on the registration will be emailed a tentative line up with performance times at least 2 weeks prior to the competition. These times are subject to change. The final schedule will be available by checking [usa.Varsity.com](http://usa.Varsity.com) after 5:00 PM (PST) the Wednesday prior to the competition. As of this day, performance times usually remain the same regardless of scratches. It is the director's/coach's responsibility to check the schedule for accuracy of divisions, team size, etc. prior to the day of competition. Warm up surfaces may differ.

### **PERFORMANCE AREA**

All Show Cheer Teams will perform on a carpet bonded foam mat (non-spring) measuring 42' (front to back) x 54' (side to side). All stunts and/or tumbling must be **completed** on the mat surface. There will be a three-point deduction off your final averaged score for each infraction of this rule. Group Stunt teams will perform on carpet bonded foam mat, measuring at least 28' (front to back) x 42' (side to side) – four (4) strips. The warm-up/practice area will consist of carpet bonded foam mat strips. The size of the warm-up floor will be communicated in pre-competition information which is emailed approximately 14 days prior to the event. All dance team divisions will perform on a marley, parquet, stage, basketball/gym court or similar type dance floor. Warm-up surfaces may differ.

## **MUSIC**

**Note the music rules that are in place for the 2022 - 23 competition season. Be sure you are familiar with these prior to taking any competition floor. Failure to comply may lead to disqualification and forfeiture of all fees (registration, admission or otherwise) associated with a team's performance.**

Music rules 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 at any event where the music is used. If a team cannot provide proof of licensing, the team may be disqualified from the event. For further details visit [varsity.com/music-guidelines](https://varsity.com/music-guidelines).

Music is defined as any recorded sound amplified through the competition sound system.

A sound system will be provided. Speed control is not available. Music checks on the main sound system are not permitted. A representative must be present at the sound system at the time of performance.

Advisors/coaches are asked to hold onto their own music until the time of performance and to take music back following the performance.

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 will need to acquire an adapter in advance if your player does not have a headphone jack.

## **PENALTIES**

Points will be deducted from the final team average for violations of safety rules, division limitations, and/or time limits.

For specific safety rules for divisions, as well as time restrictions, skill restrictions, and other rules, please refer to the USA website at [usa.varsity.com](https://usa.varsity.com).

## **FINALS – GROUP STUNT & PARTNER STUNT**

If Group Stunt or Partner Stunt categories has 10 or more entries for preliminaries, then finals will take place on Sunday with 25% of that division advancing. If the division does not have 10 or more entries, the teams receiving first place will be invited to present an exhibition performance during finals on Sunday.

## **AWARDS**

At the conclusion of the Group Stunt and Partner Stunt divisions, awards will be presented to the top teams. If the division does not have 10 or more entries, the teams receiving first place will be invited to present an exhibition performance during finals on Sunday.

At the conclusion of the Game Day divisions awards will be presented to the top teams. Trophies will be presented to 50% of the teams competing in each division. For teams placing 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>, individual medallions will be given to each participant. First place teams will also receive a Nationals banner.

For all other divisions, trophies will be presented to 50% of the teams competing in each division. For teams placing 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>, individual medallions will be given to each participant. First place teams will also receive a Nationals banner and each individual team participant will receive a National Champions gift.



## 2023 USA COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS PRICING

### Entrance Fees

**Competitor Entrance Fee** (all competitors/alternates must purchase a competitor's entrance fee)

**Cheer Divisions 1<sup>st</sup> Performance** (Excluding Group Stunt, Partner Stunt and Game Day) \$97.00 per person

**Cheer Divisions Additional Performances** (Group Stunt and Partner Stunt) \$28.00 per person/per additional performance

**Dance Divisions 1<sup>st</sup> Performance** \$97.00 per person

**Dance Divisions Additional Performances** \$79.00 per person/per additional performance

**Game Day Divisions** \$330.00 per division/team fee

**Registrations for teams/participants competing only in Game Day will need to be manually adjusted by the USA office.**

**Extra Coaches Admission** \$56.00 per person

Up to two (2) additional coaches' wristbands per team may be purchased in advance through the team registration.





## 2023 USA COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS RULES AND REGULATIONS

### I. GENERAL RULES

The competition will follow the same general information/stunt and safety rules as set forth in the 2022 - 23 USA Cheer/AACCA College Cheerleading Safety Rules in addition to those rules listed in the 2023 Collegiate Championships categories/divisions rules. Dance team rules follow the 2022 - 23 USA College Dance Safety Rules. All these documents and/or links to other websites where they may be found are available on-line at [usa.varsity.com](http://usa.varsity.com).

Varsity Spirit requires that all school coaches, choreographers, and personnel wishing to access the warmup area, backstage or coaches' box at our competitions have a USA Cheer Coach, Dance Coach or Professional Membership. Visit [usacheer.org/usa-cheer-membership-for-varsity-spirit](http://usacheer.org/usa-cheer-membership-for-varsity-spirit) to learn more and to complete the steps required before your first competition.

The competition will consist of the following categories/divisions: Show Cheer and Show Cheer Intermediate (5-36 members on team) – 3 divisions for each College All-Girl, Small College Co-Ed (1-4 males), Large College Co-Ed [5-19 males- no more than half plus one (rounding up) of the total number of team members may be male], Hip Hop (6-36 members on team), Jazz (6-36 members on team), Pom (6-36 members), Mascot, Group Stunt (4-5 members, All Female or All Male) and Partner Stunt (2 members plus a spotter).

Categories/divisions may be subdivided or combined at the discretion of the competition director if the total number of teams in a division warrant this. The USA reserves the right to adjust days of performance for all divisions based upon final competition enrollment.

The maximum squad size: for all cheer teams is 36 participants, for all dance is 30 participants and for Mascot is 10 participants.

#### **Athlete Eligibility**

All team members must be registered full-time students at the school they represent (college or university) and must be official members of the school's spirit squad. Eligibility Form with a signature from the Dean of Students or registrar's office, must be submitted upon registering for the USA Collegiate Championships. Although a team may register for the competition prior to this date, documentation of full-time status must not be dated any earlier than December 1, 2022. Any exceptions to the above (i.e. graduating seniors, graduate students, etc.) must be pre-approved in writing by the USA prior to the competition.

A team that violates eligibility rules and/or contains members who are deemed to be ineligible may forfeit any title and/or may be prohibited from entering the competition the following year.

Any interpretations or decisions of eligibility for the 2023 USA Collegiate Championships will be rendered by the Rules Committee, which is comprised of, but not limited to, the Tournament Director, the USA Cheerleading Program Director or Song/Pom/Dance Program Director and the Director of Special Events. The Rules Committee will render a judgment in a manner consistent with the general goals of the tournament. If a team fails to produce this proof of registration prior to performance, they will not be allowed to perform. It is the advisor/coach's responsibility to provide this information to competition officials by the stated deadline in the registration confirmation.

- A. Any university or college competing in a Varsity College National Championship and/or Collegiate Championship shall not permit a student athlete to represent their school unless the student-athlete meets all applicable eligibility requirements, and the coach and program administrative supervisor has certified the student athlete's eligibility.
- B. A student-athlete may only represent ONE (1) school in a National Championship and/or Collegiate Championship competition for each academic year. For example, a student athlete may not compete for one school in January, transfer and compete for another school in April.

At the Junior College level, any student-athlete will be only eligible to compete in a maximum of three (3) National Championships during his/her college career.

- C. A student-athlete can be a part of the institution's cheer/ dance spirit squad but will only be allowed to compete for a maximum of five (5) National Championships during the course of his/her college career, regardless of the number of universities or colleges she/he has attended.

- D. A student-athlete may not compete in more than five (5) National Championships in combined Junior College and/or 4-year college/university.
- E. An alternate or injured student-athlete that does not take the competition floor will not be perceived as a competing member and will not count towards the maximum of five (5) National Championships.
- F. This will apply for any student-athlete competing at any one of the Varsity Brands College National Championships (UCA/UDA, NCA/NDA), as well as any other designated College National Championship.
- G. Verification of eligibility will be required by the school's Registrar's Office and the program's administrative supervisor, in addition to the coach. It will be the responsibility of these individuals to verify that all student provided information and documentation is correct and valid.
- H. Teams violating this rule could forfeit their titles and/or rankings, as well as be prohibited from entering any other Varsity Brands Championship the following year.

### Time Limitations

The timing of a routine will begin on the first note of music, the first vocal command (for cheer squads), or the first cheer movement, and will stop with the end of the cheer or the last note of music. Timing for prop set-up in the Mascot category will begin at the drop of the starter's hand. Set-up timing will stop when the routine begins. Penalties for exceeding the total routine time limit will be deducted from the final averaged score. Please refer to the College Championships information for time limits in each category. (Available on-line at [usa.varsity.com](http://usa.varsity.com).) We recommend that you "time" your performance several times prior to the competition and give yourself at least five seconds of "cushion" to allow for speed variations in sound equipment.

### Music Guidelines

- A. I have read and understand the USA Cheer Music Copyrights Educational Initiative and all sound recordings used in our team's music shall only be used with written license from the owners(s) of the sound recordings.
- B. For the most up to date music information, visit [varsity.com/music](http://varsity.com/music). If you have any questions, teams should email [musicinfo@varsity.com](mailto:musicinfo@varsity.com). Please periodically check the provider list for updates and changes.
- C. Teams must be able to provide proof of licensing, in the form of a printed copy, during registration at the event they are attending.
- D. If your team is featured in a TV and/or virtual broadcast and uses an original composition created for your performance, your routine music will be used in the show if you also secured synchronization rights. Teams must be able to provide written documentation that synchronization rights were properly secured during registration at the event for the original routine music to be included in the show.
- E. When recording your music for the event, coaches or music editors should edit their song in a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) and make sure that the volume of the song is at 0. Things to note: Most DAW's have a default that sets a track at -6 when a track is added. Check to see if there is a normalization process after you render or save your work.
- F. If you would like to perform your school's original fight song, you may bring a recording of your marching band playing the song. You will need to get the school's permission to use the song and recording. A letter granting permission for the cheer or dance team to use the fight song on school letterhead is enough. It should be signed by your program's administrative supervisor. Go to [varsity.com/music](http://varsity.com/music) for more details.
- G. If a team does not have required paperwork, they will be given the option to count the routine verbally or perform to an approved track of music or a track with counts (provided by Varsity Spirit).
- H. If a team does not have the required paperwork and chooses not to count the routine or perform to an approved track of music or a track with counts, the team will be disqualified from the competition and not allowed to perform or compete.
- I. If there are concerns regarding a certain team's use of music, a Challenge Form must be completed immediately following the team's performance.
- J. A challenge can only be made by the official coach of a team competing at the event at which the challenge is being made.
- K. Challenge Process
  - i. All music challenges must be submitted in writing to the event director.
  - ii. There will be \$100 fee to request a music challenge and must be in the form of a check made out to St Jude Children's Research Hospital.
  - iii. Fees collected will be voided if challenge is correct.
  - iv. If the team challenged can provide documentation during the event and can be verified, the fees will be donated to St. Jude.
  - v. If the team challenged can provide documentation that requires further review, a decision will be finalized within 48 hours of the event.
- L. Each team is required to have a responsible adult that knows the routine and music as a representative remain at the music station (no alternates or team members allowed). This representative is responsible for starting the music and stopping the music at the routine's end, or in case of technical malfunction or injury. Should an adult choose not to stay at the music station for the duration of the routine, and a malfunction occurs, the team may or may not be permitted to perform the routine again. Please hold on to your music until the time of your performance. If using an MP3, smart phone, etc. please ensure that there is no case on the device which will obstruct the jack from plugging into the sound system. Please ensure that jacks are clean and free of any debris which may impact connectivity. Note that you may need to acquire an adapter in advance if your player does not have a headphone jack. If you are using a smart phone, please ensure that no interruptions (i.e. phone call, alarm, etc.) occur during your performance. Place the smart phone in "airplane mode," ensure that the volume is turned up and the phone is fully charged. Interference caused by a smart phone that results in routine delay may receive an overtime or delay of contest penalty.

### Video Media Policy

No commercial recording (audio or visual) or commercial live streaming is allowed in the event venue or other event-related venues (including, but not limited to, hotels and restaurants) or on the grounds of any such venues (collectively, "Event Locations"). In the event a team authorizes the commercial recording or streaming in any Event Location, the team will be automatically disqualified. In addition, the personal, non-commercial use of live streaming apps (such as Periscope, Facebook Live, etc.) to capture all or any part of a performance during the event is not permitted. By attending/purchasing admission to the event, each attendee grants permission to Varsity Spirit, LLC and its affiliates, designees, agents, licensees, and invitees to use the image, likeness, actions and statements of the attendee in any live or recorded audio, video, film, or photographic display or other transmission, exhibition, publication, or reproduction made of, or at, the event in any medium, whether now known or hereafter created, or context for any purpose, including commercial or promotional purposes, without further authorization or compensation. Any team traveling with a video crew may be disqualified.

### Logo Usage

Teams will not be allowed to use any Varsity Spirit Brand logo including banners, rings, bows, t-shirts, etc. without prior approval from the Varsity Spirit office.

### Entrance and Exits

Judges are looking for enthusiasm and showmanship during entrances and exits. Teams and individuals are encouraged to move on and off the floor as quickly as possible. Set-ups and break-downs will be timed in the Mascot category.

## II. PERFORMANCE AREA

A 54' x 42' carpet bonded foam mat (non-spring) will be used for all Show Cheer and Game Day performances. At least 28' x 42' carpet bonded foam mat (non-spring) will be used for Group Stunt and Partner Stunt divisions. All stunts and/or tumbling must be completed on the mat surface. There will be a three point deduction off your final averaged score for each infraction of the rule. All dance team divisions will perform on a marley, parquet, stage, or similar type dance floor.

## III. SPOTTER POLICY

### Guidelines

- A. USA competition-provided additional spotters will be mandatory on the competition floor.
- B. School-based teams may provide additional spotters in rehearsal/warm-up.

"Team Spotters" = are part of the performing team and required as part of specific types of stunting/pyramid/tosses, etc. skills.

## IV. INTERRUPTION OF PERFORMANCE

- A. If, in the opinion of the competition officials, a squad's routine is interrupted due to failure of competition equipment, facilities or other factors attributed to the competition, rather than the squad, the squad affected may be allowed to re-present its routine from the beginning. The degree and effect of the interruption will be determined by competition officials as will the decision to allow a team to re-present its routine.
- B. In the event a squad's routine is interrupted because of failure of the squad's equipment or an error on the part of a squad representative, the squad must either continue the routine, withdraw from the competition, or be placed elsewhere in the division with a 3-point penalty from the final averaged score for "unnecessary change of performance order".
- C. In the event an injury causes the squad's routine to be interrupted, the squad will be allowed to re-present the routine in its entirety but will be evaluated ONLY from the point where the interruption occurred, or the team may withdraw from the competition. Either of these options is at the discretion of the competition official. The competition officials reserve the right to stop the routine due to injury.

### Uniform Distractions

- A. The Legality Official, Head Judge or any other competition official reserves the right to stop a routine, assess a deduction, and/or disqualify a team for a uniform distraction (e.g., garment not being securely fastened/attached, straps break, pants split, etc.). Each performer is required to take the necessary steps to avoid inappropriate exposure prior to the performance. If a judge stops the routine the penalty will vary from 3 points to possible disqualification of the routine.
- B. Competition officials reserve the right to stop a routine at any time.

## **VI. APPROPRIATENESS OF CHOREOGRAPHY, MUSIC, OUTFITTING**

All facets of a performance or routine, including choreography, music selection and outfitting, should be suitable for family viewing and listening. Uniforms for all team types should be appropriate for the age of the participants performing the routine.

Bows should not be excessive in size and shouldn't be a distraction to the performance. Bows should be worn in a manner to minimize risk for the participants, should be adequately secured on the back of the head with the tails facing down and should not fall over the forehead into the participants' eyes or block the view of the participant while performing. In general, performances from school-based teams, including but not limited to the actual routine, signs, cheers, chants and hand signals/gestures, should adhere to outfitting, performance and music guidelines and criteria in place and approved by the administration or institution to which the school team belongs.

Deductions will be given for vulgar or suggestive choreography, which includes, but is not limited to, movements such as hip thrusting and inappropriate touching, gestures, hand/arm movements and signals, slapping, positioning of body parts and positioning to one another. Deductions will be given for music or words unsuitable for family listening, which includes, but is not limited, to swearwords and connotations of any type of sexual act or behavior, drugs, mention of specific parts of the body torso, and/or violent acts or behavior. Removing improper language or words from a song and replacing them with sound effects or other words constitutes inappropriate, and deductions will be made accordingly.

Any uniform or music in which the appropriateness is questionable or with which uncertainty exists should be submitted to the USA for approval prior to the performance taking place.

## **VII. PRELIMINARY AND FINAL COMPETITION**

All divisions (10 team entry requirement for partner stunt and group stunt teams) will advance from prelims to finals. The judges and tournament officials have full authority to make final determination of the number of squads/teams selected for the finals in each division. Any team that competes in a division with a prelims and finals must compete twice to be considered for final placement in that division.

## **VIII. HOW TO HANDLE PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS**

Any questions concerning the rules or procedures of the competition will be handled exclusively by the captain or the advisor of the squad and will be directed only to the Competition/Venue Director or their designee. Such questions must be asked prior to the squad's competition performance. Any questions concerning the performance of the squad must be made to the Competition/ Venue Director immediately after the performance. Should a director or coach wish to lodge a formal complaint against another team in the competition for any violation of "Policies and Procedures" or competition rules, this complaint must be submitted in writing, signed, dated, and presented to the Competition/Venue Director prior to any awards ceremony for which the team in question may be eligible to receive an award. It is at the discretion of the Competition/Venue Director whether investigation into the complaint will be completed prior to or after the awards ceremony.

## **IX. SPORTSMANSHIP**

All participants and spectators affiliated with them agree to conduct themselves in a manner displaying positive sportsmanship throughout the competition. The advisor and/or captain of each squad is responsible for seeing that squad members, coaches, parents, and any other persons affiliated with the squad conduct themselves accordingly. Unsportsmanlike conduct will include, but is not limited to, approaching other teams, competition judges and/or any competition personnel with inappropriate comments, outbursts, or gesture; confrontation with members of another team and/or between spectators of teams. Cases of unsportsmanlike conduct at any time during the Championships event are grounds to receive a 1-point penalty per occurrence, up to and including disqualification and the USA also has the right to deny entrance to or to remove an individual from the competition site. Additionally, disbarment from future USA events may occur.

## **X. SCORES AND RANKINGS**

Individual judge's score sheets are for the exclusive use of each particular judge. Each judge has the responsibility and authority to review and submit his or her final scores prior to the final results of each division being announced. Score sheets will be available only to advisors, directors, or captains at the conclusion of the competitions. No scores or rankings will be given over the phone. If the recaps are not available at the competition, then advisors/coaches may request detailed recaps for each category/division by calling the main USA office no earlier than 1 week following the competition.

## **XI. APPEARANCES, ENDORSEMENTS AND PUBLICITY**

All squads winning titles, awards or prizes agree to have all appearances, endorsements and publicity approved through the USA office.

### **XIII. INTERPRETATIONS AND RULINGS**

Any interpretation of any aspect of these Policies and Procedures or any decision involving any other aspect of the competition will be rendered by the Competition Rules Committee. The Rules Committee will render a judgement in an effort to ensure that the competition proceeds in a manner consistent with the general spirit and goals of the competition. The Rules Committee will consist of, but not limited to, the Tournament Director, the USA Cheerleading Program Director or Song/Pom/Dance Program Director and the Director of Special Events.

### **XIV. FINALTY OF DECISIONS**

By participating in this competition, each squad agrees that decisions by the judges will be final and will not be subject for review. Each squad acknowledges the necessity for the judges to make prompt and fair decisions in this competition and each squad therefore expressly waives any legal, equitable administrative or procedural review of such decisions. Any squad that does not adhere to the terms and procedures in the "Policies and Procedures" may be penalized (up to and including disqualification) from the competition and automatically forfeit the right to any awards presented by the competition. In addition, the squad may also forfeit the opportunity to participate in any competition produced by the United Spirit Association the following season or subsequent seasons. Any fees (team and/or spectator based) associated with participation in the event will be forfeited in the event of disqualification.