

SUMMIT®

CHEER CHAMPIONSHIP

2026

INFORMATION GUIDE

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All updates and changes will have a blue star

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THE SUMMIT CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

The Summit Championship will be held at the Walt Disney World Resort's ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex in Orlando, FL on April 30th – May 3rd, 2026.

Days of Competition

- **Thursday, April 30th, 2026**
  - Semi-Finals (IASF Divisions)
- **Friday, May 1st, 2026**
  - Finals (IASF Divisions)
  - Prelims (USASF Divisions)
- **Saturday, May 2nd, 2026**
  - Semi-Finals (USASF Divisions)
- **Sunday, May 3rd, 2026**
  - Finals (USASF Divisions)

CHEERABILITIES

CheerABILITIES teams have an opportunity to compete at The Summit and D2 Summit. All teams in this division will advance directly to Finals on Sunday at their respective championship. To earn a bid to the Summit Championships in a CheerABILITIES division, teams must compete in the CheerABILITIES - Elite division at least once at a Varsity event during the 2025-2026 season. (Teams that compete in a Novice division or perform in an Exhibition division will not be eligible to compete at The Summit and D2 Summit). In order to be bid-eligible, Event Producers must know prior to the event that the team is competing at.

USASF DIVISIONS OFFERED AT THE SUMMIT

Level 1 Junior - Small	**Level 1 Senior – Small**
Level 1 Junior – Medium	**Level 1 Senior – Medium**
Level 1 Junior - Flex	**Level 2 Senior – Small**
Level 2 Junior - Small	**Level 2 Senior – Medium**
Level 2 Junior – Medium	**Level 3 Senior – Smal**
Level 2 Junior - Flex	**Level 3 Senior – Medium**
Level 3 Junior - Small	**Level 3 Senior Coed – Small**
Level 3 Junior - Medium	**Level 3 Senior Coed – Medium**
Level 3 Junior - Flex	**Level 4 Senior – Small**
Level 4 Junior – Small	**Level 4 Senior – Medium**
Level 4 Junior - Medium	**Level 4 Senior – Open****
Level 4 Junior - Flex	**Level 4 Senior - Open Coed****
Level 5 Junior - Small	**Level 4.2 Senior – Small**
Level 5 Junior - Large	**Level 4.2 Senior – Medium**
Level 5 Junior Coed – Small	**Level 4.2 Senior Coed – Small**
Level 5 Junior Coed – Large*	**Level 4.2 Senior Coed – Medium**
Level 6 Junior - Small	**Level 5 Senior – Small**
Level 6 Junior – Large*	**Level 5 Senior – Large***
	Level 5 Senior – Open**
	Level 5 Senior – Open Coed**

	Level 5 Senior Coed – Small
	Level 5 Senior Coed – Large*

****Medium/Large division splits will be checked when registration is FINAL – they are not guaranteed to split and will be done based on USASF guidelines***.

**These divisions do not split by size.

- Once registration is FINAL, divisions may be split or combined per the USASF Guidelines
- For the most up-to date age grids, level requirements and split guidelines from the USASF visit www.USASF.net

USASF INTERNATIONAL DIVISIONS OFFERED AT THE SUMMIT

DIVISION/LEVEL
L1 – U16
L2 – U16
L3 – U16
L4 – U16
L4 – U16 Coed
L1 – U18
L2 – U18
L3 – U18
L3 – U18 Coed
L4 – U18
L4 – U18 Coed

*Medium/Large division splits will be checked when registration is FINAL – they are not guaranteed to split and will be done based on IASF Team Sizes. IASF Division Grid

CROSSOVER POLICY

Athletes are not allowed to compete on more than two cheer teams at The Summit. Athletes Level 6 and below may only crossover up or down one level at The Summit (Ex: Level 2 athletes can only crossover to a Level 1, Level 2, or Level 3 team).

- Exception: L4.2 can only crossover to L2, L3, and/or L4.
- Exception: L6 Summit athletes can only crossover to levels 4, 5, and/or 6.

No crossovers will be allowed to compete on both a cheer & dance team at The Summit. However, a Cheerleading Worlds athlete may compete at The Dance Summit and a Dance Worlds athlete may compete at The Summit.

Reminder: Time considerations for crossover conflicts during the Final Rounds of competition at The Summit are not guaranteed.

COMPETING AT THE CHEERLEADING WORLDS AND THE SUMMIT

The maximum number of athletes allowed to compete at The 2026 Cheerleading Worlds and The Summit or D2 Summit will be 8 athletes per team.

Athletes who compete at The Cheerleading Worlds may only compete in a Summit division in levels 4, 5, and/or 6.

> ***Exception*** - Athletes who compete at The Cheerleading Worlds in a Non-Tumbling division can also compete in a Summit division in level 4.2.

Athletes competing with a program at The Cheerleading Worlds may represent a different program at The Summit or D2 Summit. These athletes will still be considered “Worlds” athletes as it pertains to the Crossover Policy.

COMPETING AT THE SUMMIT & THE D2 SUMMIT

Athletes competing in the International Divisions at The Summit are allowed to compete at The D2 Summit. Athletes may only represent one program throughout The Summit Championships. An athlete competing in the International Divisions at The Summit as well as at The D2 Summit are NOT considered traditional crossovers as these are 2 different events.

COMPETING IN INTERNATIONAL DIVISIONS AT THE SUMMIT & THE DANCE SUMMIT

Athletes will be allowed to compete in both the International Divisions at The Summit and The Dance Summit.

TEAM ELIGIBILITY

Any team that competes AND receives a bid in one of the above divisions to The Summit at a qualifying event in the 2025 -2026 season. Teams must be in good standing with the USASF, ISAF & Varsity Spirit.

Teams MUST compete in the same division in which they qualified for but are allowed to add up to the MAXIMUM number of athletes in the division. For example, a team qualifying with 16 athletes may compete at The Summit with up to 22 athletes.

Teams that qualify in a coed division but no longer meet the roster requirements for coed **will NOT** be eligible to compete in the comparable all girl division, and vice versa. Should this situation arise, teams will be required to compete for a new bid.

Should a situation arise where a Coed team loses their Coed status POST final bid deadline, teams are required to compete in the Coed division and still maintain the Coed scoring requirement. All-Girl teams will not be permitted to add a boy and compete in an all-girl division.

D2 PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY AT THE SUMMIT

Each PROGRAM must declare which end of season event the ENTIRE PROGRAM plans to attend. A PROGRAM may not compete for a Summit Bid and a D2 Summit Bid at the same qualifying event. Once a team in a program receives a bid to the Summit, the ENTIRE PROGRAM is no longer eligible to accept D2 Summit Bids for the remainder of the season. This does not include teams in the International Divisions.

Both D1 and D2 Programs may compete in the International Divisions at The Summit. International Divisions are not D1/D2 eligible to be split, therefore if a D2 program earns a Summit Bid in the International Divisions, their D1/D2 status is not impacted.

The following USASF Program definition and classification will be followed:

USASF Member Profile for Division Eligibility (program size) All athletes are associated with a single USASF program profile. The member database will count the total number of competitive cheer athletes in the PROGRAM to determine the program size. Programs with 125 or fewer athletes will qualify for Division II when Division II is an option at that particular event. Programs with 125 or fewer athletes may, through their member profile, opt in to Division I. Once a program opts in and/or competes as a Division I program, they must remain Division I for the remainder of the season.

SCORING AT THE SUMMIT

Scoring at The Summit for all divisions including International Divisions will be on the Varsity All Star scoring system using the United Scoring System.

Varsity All Star - Scoring Information

INTERNATIONAL DIVISION SKILL PROGRESSIONS

At all US based, regular-season Varsity All Star events, all teams must adhere to the USASF level rules when competing.

At the Summit, teams must adhere to the IASF level rules when competing. Please make sure to read through this in case any modifications need to be made to your routine prior to competing at The Summit.

IASF Information

BID INFORMATION

WILD CARD BIDS

Wild Card Bids allow teams to compete in Prelims. Wild Card Bid winners must pay the full balance to compete. *Wild Card Bids are not given in International Divisions.

AT LARGE BIDS

At-Large Bids allow teams to forego Prelims and advance straight to Semi-Finals. At-Large Bid winners must pay the full balance to compete.

PARTIAL PAID BIDS

Partial Paid Bids allow teams to forego Prelims and advance straight to Semi-Finals. Partial Paid Bid winners will pay a portion of the balance to compete.

*If additional athletes are added to the roster after the Partial Paid Bid was earned, the gym is responsible for the full cost of the additional athletes.

The allocation of monetary bids awarded to rostered athletes is at the sole discretion of the gym competing.

FULL PAID BIDS

Paid Bids allow teams to forego Prelims and advance straight to Semi-Finals. Paid Bid winners will be given priority in the performance order for Semi-Finals with the exception of crossover conflicts.

*If additional athletes are added to the roster after the Paid Bid was earned, the gym is responsible for the full cost of the additional athletes.

Teams competing in IASF divisions are also eligible for partial paid and paid bids.

The allocation of monetary bids awarded to rostered athletes is at the sole discretion of the gym competing.

EARNING TWO BIDS IN THE SAME DIVISION

A program location can't earn two bids in the same Summit division. The only exception to this would be if the program location has a second legitimate team. To be considered "legitimate", this team many not share ANY athletes with the team already in possession of a Summit Bid regardless of registration status.

PASSING DOWN BIDS

Summit Bids will not be passed down. For example, if a team receives an At-Large Bid at an event early in the season and upgrades to a Paid Bid later in the season, the original At-Large Bid will not be given to another team. This bid will be eliminated.

UPGRADING BIDS

- Wild Card Bids can be upgraded to a Partial Paid OR a Paid Bid.
- At-Large Bids can be upgraded to a Partial Paid OR a Paid Bid.
- Partial Paid bids can only be upgraded to a Paid Bid.
- Paid Bids must be used and cannot be upgraded.

BID ELIGIBILITY

Event Producers have the right to investigate any teams receiving a bid to The Summit. Bid eligible teams and divisions will be reviewed for accuracy and legitimacy. Any bid eligible team/athlete found in violation of a USASF, IASF or Varsity Spirit policy may be disqualified.

ROUNDS AND ADVANCEMENTS

***Prelims*:**

Teams who receive a Wildcard bid will compete in Prelims. The top 5 scoring teams in each division will automatically advance to the Finals. In divisions with less than 5 teams, all will advance to Finals.

Semi-Finals:
Teams who receive an At Large, Partial Paid or Paid Bid will compete in Semi-Finals. The number of teams advancing to Finals from Semi-Finals will be based on 50% of the division competing on the day of competition but will be no fewer than 5 teams and no more than 10 teams.

For International divisions*:*

The top highest scoring team per country will advance to finals in addition to the existing Semi-Final advancement rule. (Ie: if there are 10 teams advancing in a division, any country not represented in that 10 teams will additionally advance)

Finals:
Teams who advance from Prelims and Semi-Finals will compete in the Finals. For the performance order in Finals, will be advancing teams from Wildcard division alternating with teams advancing from the Semi-Finals round.

ADDITIONAL ADVANCEMENTS

Wild Card Round**:** For divisions with 21-30 teams, 2 additional teams will advance. For 31-40 teams, an additional 4 teams advance, for 41-50 teams, an additional 6 teams will advance. For 51-60, an additional 8 teams will advance. For 61-70, an additional 10 teams will advance. Advancements will be dependent on teams competing on the day of competition.

At-Large, Partial Paid and Paid Bid Round**:** For divisions with 31-40 teams, 2 additional teams will advance. For 41-50 teams, 4 additional teams advance, for 51-60 teams, 6 teams will advance. For 61-70, 8 teams will advance. Advancements will be dependent on teams competing on the day of competition.

Regardless of placement, ties will not be broken at The Summit, nor will ties impact the number of teams advancing in each round of competition. Exception: if there is a tie for the last and final team advancing, both teams will advance.

DIVISION SPLITS

Divisions with more than 71 total teams registered will split into A/B and two Summit Champions will be crowned. Once registration is FINAL, divisions will be split.

REVEALS

A Summit Reveal is a ceremony it is announced who will be advancing to the final round. Live attendance is encouraged but not mandatory. Reveals will be broadcast live & free on Varsity TV.

PRIZES AND AWARDS

All participants will receive a commemorative medallion.

Teams who hit zero on their first day of competition will receive a Peak Performance Plaque at their Reveal.

Teams who qualify for Finals on Sunday in each division will be awarded a finalist team banner.

Teams that place Gold, Silver or Bronze in their respective division will receive a team banner and each participant will receive individual mini banners recognizing their accomplishment.

All divisional champions will receive exclusive Summit Championship Rings! Teams will receive their team size plus an additional 6 rings to distribute how they see fit. Additional rings may be ordered on-site & must be paid for by the team or individual before delivery.

VARSITY SPIRIT PROGRAM RELEASE WAIVER

All athletes participating on a team at The 2026 Summit must be a registered member of that team's program during the 2025 – 2026 competition season. Any athlete that exhibitions or competes on the floor with a team in any level from a program (Primary Program) after January 1, 2026 must have a Varsity Spirit Program Release Waiver signed by the owner of the Primary Program before that athlete is eligible to compete with another program at The 2026 Summit Championships.

Completion of the Varsity Spirit Program Release Waiver is a required process between the Primary and Secondary Program owners. In the event a formal protest is made and the official Program Release Waiver has not been signed, or if the Secondary Program is not able to provide one as physical proof to a Varsity Official, the Secondary Program will not be eligible or will be disqualified depending on the time of the formal protest. All Varsity Spirit Program Release Waivers must be turned in with your official USASF event roster at The Summit.

VARSITY SPIRIT EVENT RULES & REGULATIONS

By participating in The Summit Championship all teams agree to abide by all rules and regulations. Any team that does not adhere may be subject to disqualification and automatically forfeit any right to any prizes or awards presented by The Summit. In addition, teams may also forfeit the opportunity to participate the following year.

VAS Rules & Regulations

CODE OF CONDUCT

Varsity Spirit encourages and supports sportsmanship, integrity and fairness among participants and coaches/owners/directors in all facets of team practice and performance. We strive to uphold the highest standards and promote this to the best of our abilities and believe that coaches are instrumental in promoting and instilling this among their respective team members.

To ensure the most positive experience for all attendees, Varsity Spirit asks that all participants, coaches, gym owners, directors and spectators adhere to and know the Code of Conduct and Prohibited Items for all Regional, Virtual, and Championships events.

To review the entire policy please click here: Varsity Spirit - Safety

EVENT ELIGIBILITY

Varsity Spirit will require that all coaches, directors, choreographers, and personnel wishing to access the warm up area, backstage, coaches' box, or athlete areas at our competitions have required credentialing, background check, and safeguarding as required by each event.

To review the entire eligibility policy please click here: Varsity Spirit - Event Eligibility

EVENT GUIDELINES

The coach/director of each team is responsible for understanding and following the Event Guidelines. Event Guidelines include:

- General Guidelines
- Safety Guidelines
- Music Guidelines
- Interruption of Performance
- Competition Area
- Warm Up Room Policy
- Spotter Policy

To review additional information, click here: Varsity Spirit - Event Guidelines

EVENT POLICIES

All attendees are expected to follow event policies to ensure a respectable and secure environment. Event Policies include: sportsmanship, logo usage, media policy etc.

To review the event policies, click here: Varsity Spirit - Event Policies

CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions, please email summit@varsity.com.