

SUMMIT®

CHEER CHAMPIONSHIP

2026

INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION GUIDE

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*All updates and changes displayed in **RED** font*

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THE SUMMIT CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

The Summit Championship (International Divisions) will be held at the Walt Disney World Resort's ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex in Orlando, FL on April 30th – May 1st, 2026.

DAYS OF COMPETITION

- **Thursday, April 30th, 2026**
  - Semi-Finals (IASF Divisions)
- **Friday, May 1st, 2026**
  - Finals (IASF Divisions)

USASF INTERNATIONAL DIVISIONS OFFERED AT THE SUMMIT

DIVISION/LEVEL
IASF U16 Level 1
IASF U16 Level 2
IASF U16 Level 3
IASF U16 Level 4
IASF U16 Level 4 Coed
IASF U18 Level 1
IASF U18 Level 2
IASF U18 Level 3
IASF U18 Level 4
IASF U18 Level 4 Coed
IASF Open Level 2 NT*
IASF Open Level 3
IASF Open Level 3 NT*
IASF Open Level 4
IASF Open Level 4 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: L6 Summit athletes can only crossover to levels 4, 5, and/or 6.

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

Non-US team athletes may compete at both the International Divisions of The Summit & The Dance Summit. Athletes may compete on 2 cheer teams and 6 dance teams.

Athletes may only represent one program at the Summit Championships.

CROSSOVER FEE

Participants must pay an additional $100 registration fee for an additional team performance. However, if there is an athlete that is on a PAID Bid team & crossing over to another PAID Bid team, there will be no crossover fee applied. If an athlete is on a PAID Bid team and an AT-LARGE Bid team, they must pay the crossover fee.

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.

ROSTER CHANGES

You may replace athletes that are unable to attend the championship, however, changes to the roster MUST not change the level or division in which the bid was received, unless it follows the guidelines below. There are no roster substitution restrictions for International Divisions at The Summit.

NON-US CHANGES IN DIVISION

Changes in division are allowed so long as they meet the guidelines outlines below:

- Teams may go up one IASF Level
    - Ex: If a team won & designated a bid for IASF level 3, but the following year, created an IASF level 4 team, they would be able to register in IASF level 4.
- Teams may go up one Age Group
    - Ex: If a team designated & won a bid in an IASF U16, but the following year, created an IASF U18 team, they would be able to register in IASF U18.
- Teams may add additional athletes to move from a small/medium division to a large division.
- Teams may NOT go up in both Age Group and Level, it can only be one or the other.
- Teams may NOT move from the Youth Summit to the Summit or vice versa.

Teams must request a formal division change. Division changes are due by April 1st, 2026. To submit for a division change, please submit via Wufoo **HERE.**

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 have a minimum of 16 athletes to compete at The Summit.

If a program has a team that is awarded a bid in a division, a legitimate second team can still compete for an additional bid. To be considered “legitimate”, this team may not share ANY athletes with the team already in possession of a Summit Bid regardless of registration status.

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

At the Summit, teams in IASF divisions must adhere to the IASF legality rules. Please make sure to read through the IASF rules in case any modifications need to be made to your routine prior to competing at The Summit. IASF legality inquiries can be made via the IASF website.

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

APPEARANCE AND UNIFORM

Teams who will be competing in international divisions at the 2026 Summit Championships must follow the USASF Appropriate Athletic Performance Standards (APS) as outlined in the USASF Cheer Rules 25-26.

Themed Uniforms/Costuming Teams competing at The Summit may NOT wear a uniform, costume or mask that portrays a Disney character or Disney movie themes.

INTERNATIONAL BIDS AT US-BASED EVENTS

Canadian teams are the only non-US teams allowed to receive Summit bids from Varsity All Star events in the United States. U.S. Protectorate Countries such as Puerto Rico, Guam & the Virgin Islands do not qualify as U.S. teams based on their own independent national sport authority infrastructures. All teams must be in an IASF division.

Programs from ALL countries are eligible to receive IASF Summit bids from the virtual events in the Varsity's Virtual Championship Series. These bids are not exclusive to anyone, US and Non-US teams are eligible for these IASF bids.

BID INFORMATION

BID ALLOCATION

Bids awarded at a US event will be given based on the Bid Declaration for that event. For Summit bid partnership events, each International Event Producer may award bids at their discretion. Please contact the qualifying Event Producer for specific details on how their bids are awarded.

AT LARGE BIDS

At-Large Bids teams will compete in the Semi-Finals Round for a chance to advance to the Final Round. At-Large Bid winners must pay the full balance to compete.

PAID BIDS

PAID Bids teams will compete in the Semi-Final Round for their chance to advance to the Final Round. *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.

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.

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

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. Divisions with odd numbers will round up (ie: a division with 19 will advance 10 teams).

> ***For the Semi-Final division ONLY:***
>
> 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.
>
> ***For IASF 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. The performance order in Semi-finals will be done in reverse order.

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.

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.

All 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.

LINK TO 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.