2017-2018 UCA ALL STAR COMPETITION RULES AND REGULATIONS

Bold Print and grey background denotes change from prior year

I. GENERAL RULES

A. DIVISIONS --SEE AGE LEVEL CHART FOR 2017-2018 DIVISIONS AT UCA.VARSITY.COM

B. ALL STAR PARTICIPATION

1) Teams may participate in more than one competition during the season.
2) Individuals are permitted to compete on both a School Team and an All Star Team at the same event.
3) The team and each participating member/coach should constantly display good sportsmanship throughout the entire performance in regards to respect for themselves, other teams and the viewing audience of all ages. Teams should refrain from any taunting, bragging, or suggestive expressions or gestures as well as discrimination of any nature.
4) Any unruly, aggressive or belligerent behavior by participants, coaches or spectators toward any other attendee or Event Staff will result in potential team disqualification, removal from the event and / or barred participation from future Championships.

C. CROSSOVERS

1) Unlimited Crossovers will be offered at all UCA events.
2) Crossovers at the International All Star Championship (IASC) WILL BE ALLOWED between most levels given the following restrictions:
   1. An all star cheerleader is limited to crossing over to 2 (two) additional cheer teams from their gym during the competition.
   2. Level 1 teams will not be allowed to crossover to Levels 4, 5 or 6.
   3. Participant may only represent one gym.
   4. Participants must pay an additional $75 registration fee for each additional team performance.
3) UCA will attempt to ensure teams from the same program do not have overlapping performances during the preliminary schedule. However, UCA cannot guarantee that a performance overlap will not occur during the final schedule.
4) If a team violates the crossover rules, the second and each subsequent team will receive a 10.0 point deduction off of their score for each illegal participant. Maximum penalty is 20.0.

D. TIME LIMITATIONS:

1) All Routines must be "Music Only" and the overall performance time may not exceed <u>two minutes and thirty</u> seconds. Timing will begin with the first movement, voice, or note of music. Prep routines are limited to <u>two minutes.</u>
2) **If a team exceeds the time limit, a .25 penalty will be assessed.**
3) Acknowledging the potential variance caused by human reaction speed and sound system time variations, judges will not issue a deduction until 3 seconds over the allowed time.
4) BECAUSE PENALTIES ARE SEVERE, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT ALL TEAMS TIME THEIR PERFORMANCE SEVERAL TIMES PRIOR TO COMPETITION AND LEAVE A SEVERAL SECOND CUSHION TO ALLOW FOR VARIATIONS IN SOUND EQUIPMENT.
5) Introductions
   a) All introductions (tumbling, entrances, spellouts, etc.) are considered part of the routine and will be timed as part of the performance.
   b) All team breaks, rituals and traditions need to take place prior to entering the mat.
   c) Teams should take the floor immediately with spirit and enthusiasm, but without excessive gestures. Example: chest bumps, hugs, handshakes, etc.
   d) All teams should refrain from any type of excessive celebration following the team's performance. There should not be any organized exits or other activities after the official ending of the routine.
   e) **Teams will be assessed a 1.0 point penalty for exhibiting unsportsmanlike, unprofessional, disrespectful and/or unsupportive behavior**.

E. MUSIC

1. 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.
2. For the most up to date music information, visit http://varsity.com/music. If you have any questions, cheer teams should email info@usacheer.net. Please check Preferred Provider list for updates and changes periodically.
3. Teams must be able to provide proof of licensing, in the form of a printed copy, during registration at the event.
4. 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).
5. 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.
6. If there are concerns regarding a certain team's use of music, a Challenge Form must be completed immediately following the team's performance.
7. A challenge can only be made by the official coach of a team competing at the event at which the challenge is being made.
8. Challenge Process
   a) All music challenges must be submitted in writing to the event director.
   b) 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.

c) Fees collected will be voided if challenge is correct.

d) If the team challenged can provide documentation during the event and can be verified, the fees will be donated to St. Jude.

e) If the team challenged can provide documentation that requires further review, a decision will be finalized within 48 hours of the event.

9. Each team is required to have a responsible adult remain at the music station that knows the routine and music. This representative is responsible for starting the music and stopping the music in case of technical malfunction or injury. Please make sure that all devices are fully charged, volume turned up and placed in airplane mode. If using CDs, make sure it's unscratched so it doesn't skip.
10. Team may not use Disney themes at the IASC nor may they have costumes that resemble a Disney character. However, Disney music is acceptable if following the music guidelines.

F. COMPETITION AREA

1) Teams may line up anywhere inside the competition area.
2) Approximate floor size will be 54 feet wide by 42 feet deep (9 strips). Check event listing for Spring Floor availability.
3) All skills must originate and be completed within the competition boundary. No lineups, skills, or transitions are allowed outside of the competition boundary. Anytime a participant unintentionally steps outside the competition boundary, they must return immediately. The competition boundary is defined as the actual competition floor/spring floor, the carpet bonded foam panels that connect to the spring floor, and any additional border that supports the floor.
4) A .25 deduction will be assessed per occurrence for an athlete that makes contact with both feet outside the competition boundary. Stepping on, or just past the white tape is not a boundary violation.
5) All center markers are prohibited. We will have the center marked on all performance surfaces.

G. INTERNATIONAL ALL STAR CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFICATION

1) Teams attending the Championship must compete in the same skill level and the same age division that they qualified in at a Regional Tournament.
2) If a team would like to change categories (team size) they will be assessed a $500 change fee (i.e. Large Senior 3 to Small Senior 3). This change must be made prior to February 12, 2018. Teams may not change age divisions or skill levels.

H. VIOLATIONS

Teams in violation of any USASF Safety Guideline or these Rules and Regulations will be subject to deductions and/or disqualification.

I. LOGO USAGE

Teams will not be allowed to use the UCA logo or the IASC logo including; banners, rings, bows, t-shirts, etc.

J. 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.

K. SPOTTER POLICY

In an effort to promote a higher level of safety for competing athletes, UCA will allow programs to provide additional spotters at UCA competitions. We feel that an all star program is more qualified to provide additional spotters because of their familiarity with routine skills and safety concerns.

The use of additional spotters is left to the discretion of the coach or gym owner. All star programs may use up to 4 additional spotters for each performance; however, additional spotters are not required.

1) At all UCA All Star Competitions, the use of additional spotters is not mandatory and will be at the discretion of the coach or gym owner. UCA provided spotters will be available on the main competition floor at all competitions. Coaches may choose to use the UCA provided spotters OR their own spotters OR elect not to use spotters on the main competition floor. Teams may provide their own spotters in the rehearsal area or elect not to use spotters. UCA will not have spotters available in the rehearsal area.
2) UCA's International All Star Championship will have spotters available for all main competition floors. Teams may choose NOT to use UCA provided spotters with the exception of when television production is taking place. All teams during this time MUST use the UCA provided spotters on the main competition floor. Just a reminder all teams who are taped during this time are not guaranteed to be shown on the CBS telecast.
3) See the Varsity All Star policy below for guidelines on the use of additional spotters.

Definition of Additional Spotter: Individuals on the competition floor provided as a safety precaution to spot certain elements of a routine.

Guidelines

Additional Spotters:

1) Should only be used during the stunt, pyramid, and/or basket toss sections. Additional spotters are provided for added

safety and should stand at the back of the floor when not spotting those sections.

2) Should not touch, assist, or save skills being performed. Additional spotters should only be used to prevent a fall to the competition floor. Any touch, assist, or saved skill will be given a major fall deduction.
3) Should be dressed so that they are presentable, professional, and distinguishable from the performing athletes. Program provided additional spotters should not wear clothing similar to the performing team's uniform.
4) Should not dress or act in a manner that distracts from the athletes and their performance.
5) Should be at least 18 years old and familiar with spotting the skills of the performing team.

Note: To provide the safest competitive environment, teams should not attempt skills beyond their ability level.

II. INTERRUPTION OF PERFORMANCE

A. UNFORSEEN CIRCUMSTANCES

1) If, in the opinion of the competition officials, a team's routine is interrupted because of failure of the competition equipment, facilities, or other factors attributable to the competition rather than the team, the team affected should **STOP** the routine.
2) The team will perform the routine again in its entirety, but will be evaluated ONLY from the point where the interruption occurred. The degree and effect of the interruption will be determined by the competition officials.

B. FAULT OF TEAM

1) In the event a team's routine is interrupted because of failure of the team's own equipment, the team must either continue the routine or withdraw from the competition.
2) The competition officials will determine if the team will be allowed to perform at a later time. If decided by officials, the team will perform the routine again in its entirety, but will be evaluated ONLY from the point where the interruption occurred.

C. INJURY

1) The only persons that may stop a routine for injury are: a) competition officials, b) the gym owner / coach from the team performing or c) an injured individual.
2) The competition officials will determine if the team will be allowed to perform at a later time. If the competition officials allow a routine to be performed at a later time, the spot in the schedule where the re-performance is to take place is at the sole discretion of competition officials. The team may perform the routine again in its entirety, but will be evaluated ONLY from the point where the interruption occurred.
3) The injured participant that wishes to perform may not return to the competition floor unless:
   a. The competition officials receive clearance from, first, the medical personnel attending to that participant, the parent (if present) AND THEN the head coach/advisor of the competing team.
   b. If the medical personnel do not clear the participant, the participant can only return to the competition if a parent or legal guardian in attendance signs a return to participation waiver.
   c. Any athlete who exhibits signs or symptoms consistent with concussion should be removed from the activity at that time and should not be allowed to return to activity that day. The athlete should not return to activity on a subsequent day until evaluated by and receives written clearance for such participation from a qualified physician (MD or DO specifically trained in concussion management).
   d. In addition to the USA Cheer head injury policy, we encourage you to be familiar with the specific laws of the state where the competition is being held.

III. HOW TO HANDLE PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS

A. RULES & PROCEDURES --Any questions concerning the rules or procedures of the competition will be handled exclusively by the owner / coach of the team and will be directed to the Competition Director. Such questions should be made prior to the team's competition performance.

B. PERFORMANCE --Any questions concerning the team's performance should be made to the Competition Director immediately after the team's performance or following the outcome of the competition.

C. MUSIC/AGE – Any questions concerning a specific violation in an athlete's age or music compliance must be submitted in writing to the Competition Director immediately following the team's performance.

IV. INTERPRETATIONS AND / OR RULINGS

Any interpretation of any aspect of these Rules and Regulations or any decision involving any other aspect of the competition will be rendered by the Rules Committee. The Rules Committee will render a judgment 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 the Competition Director, Head Judge, and a designated competition official.

V. SPORTSMANSHIP

1) All participants agree to conduct themselves in a manner displaying good sportsmanship throughout the competition.
2) The gym owner and coach of each team is responsible for seeing that team members, coaches, parents and other persons affiliated with the team conduct themselves accordingly.
3) **When a coach is in discussion with an official, other coaches, athletes and parents/spectators, they must maintain proper professional conduct. Failing to do so may result in 1.0 deduction, removal of coach or disqualification.**

VI. USASF RULES VIOLATIONS

Any team in violation of any USASF General Safety, Image Policy, Tumbling Restriction or an above mentioned rule or regulation will be assessed a half (.5) point deduction for each violation. Any team in violation of a Building Restriction will be issued a one (1) point deduction for each violation. This deduction does not apply to violations mentioned above that are designated a different point value.

VII. DISQUALIFICATION

Any team that does not adhere to the terms and procedures of these "Rules and Regulations" will be subject to disqualification from the competition, will automatically forfeit any right to any prizes or awards presented by the competition, and may also forfeit the opportunity to participate in a competition or the Championship the following year.

VIII. FINALITY OF DECISIONS

By participating in this championship, each team agrees that the decisions by the judges will be final and results may ONLY be reviewed for clarification. Each team acknowledges the necessity for the judges to make prompt and fair decisions in this competition and each team therefore expressly waives any legal, equitable, administrative or procedural review of such decisions.

IX. SCORES AND RANKINGS

Each judge has the responsibility and authority to review and submit his/her final scores and rankings prior to the calculation of final scores. Scores and rankings will be available only to gym owners or coaches at the conclusion of the competition.

X. ALL STAR JUDGING CRITERIA

1) Panel Judges are responsible for scoring each team's performance based on the Varsity All Star Score sheet. Each Panel Judge fills out his/her own score sheet for each performance. Panel Judges score technical ability and the overall routine, but they do not determine or score deductions or safety violations.
2) The Safety Judge is responsible for administering all safety violations, time violations, and boundary violations.
3) The Point Deduction Judge is responsible for assessing deductions in each routine for obvious bobbles or falls from technical skills.
4) For more information, please visit www.uca.varsity.com.

XI. 2017-2018 GENERAL SAFETY GUIDELINES AND GLOSSARY

UCA All Star competitions will follow the USASF Safety Guidelines. Go to http://www.usasf.net for changes and a complete glossary of terms. Clarifications and updates may be made throughout the season.

ON BEHALF OF MY TEAM, I HEREBY ACCEPT THE COMPETITION AND ROUTINE RULES AND GUIDELINES AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY THESE RULES.

(Team Name)	(Date)
(City/State)	(Owner's Signature)
(Division — Mini, Senior, etc. Level: 1 2 3 4 4.2 5 6)	(Coach's Signature)

Retain a copy of these rules for your files