



2010-2011 SEASON OPEN Level 6 ONLY Worlds Substitution Policy Change

A recommendation was presented to the Worlds Advisory Board (WAB) in an effort to provide more opportunity and flexibility for Level 6 teams attending Worlds. Changing our processes and guidelines mid-stream always has negative consequences. However, there is some legitimacy and oversight to the issue that was brought to our attention. (*See below*) While we work very hard to follow our processes and avoid "last minute" changes, by a vote of 17 to 3, the WAB felt the "good" of the change was greater than the "bad" of the timing. The USASF Board of Directors supported the WAB's position as well.

Directions given to Event Producers 1/25/11:

EVENT PRODUCERS WHO HAVE NOT HAD THEIR WORLDS BID EVENT:

Open - Level 6 teams must present a roster at their bid qualifying event that includes names of the athletes performing "on the floor" at that competition. Additionally, the same Open - Level 6 teams can present up to 10 additional names of athletes (eligible substitutes/alternates) that are "members of the gym/program" but do not have the opportunity to perform "on the floor" at that event. Those 10 additional athletes would have to follow the same eligibility, substitution and alternate guidelines for The Worlds, including the guidelines requiring a Release Waiver. Please include a copy of the extra list(s) with the copies of the squad rosters you are required to send to Casey Winn, cwinn@usasf.net.

EVENT PRODUCERS WHO HAVE ALREADY HAD THEIR WORLDS BID EVENT:

USASF will email all Level 6 teams, who have been awarded a Worlds bid, to explain the change to the substitution policy. Please contact all Open - Level 6 teams awarded and accepted bids from your company. Please provide them a one week window to email or fax you a list of up to 10 additional names of athletes (eligible substitutes/alternates) that are "members of the gym/program" but did not have the opportunity to perform "on the floor" at the event where the bid was awarded. Those 10 additional names of athletes would have to follow the same eligibility, substitution and alternate guidelines for The Worlds, including the guidelines requiring a Release Waiver. You will need to forward a copy of your list(s) to Casey Winn, cwinn@usasf.net.

History:

In years prior, Open - Level 6 teams were permitted to compete at events and Worlds Bid qualifiers with 36 athletes. If an Open - Level 6 team received a Worlds bid, that team, after reducing the team to 24, would have 12 additional athletes to pull from as substitutes. Now in the 10-11 season, Open - Level 6 can only compete at an event with 24.

The current Worlds Substitution Policy:

"A Maximum of 10 substitutions will be allowed per team for The Cheerleading Worlds Championship. A substitute must be a regular paid participant from another team at the same gym and must have competed "on the floor" with that team from that gym at the same event where the bid was awarded. All substitutes must meet the same eligibility requirements as the original team that was awarded a bid (i.e. age, etc.)."

The arguments that were made:

1. Most gyms that have an Open - Level 6 team only have one. Therefore, other than the 3 gym member alternates, there are very few other athletes that team can substitute in from their program. Especially, if they have another team from their program with a bid.
2. Under the current policy, the lack of flexibility will force gyms that lose multiple athletes to pull out of Worlds.
3. The Level 6 division needs some consideration to grow.
4. The Level 6 skills represent the top of the food chain and the only direct connection of all star cheerleading to college cheerleading.
5. Level 5 has substitution opportunities down to age 14.