



# 2014 RULES AND REGULATIONS

## THE CHEERLEADING WORLDS™



### I. CHEER GENERAL GUIDELINES

The Cheerleading Worlds™ competition will follow the most recent version of the USASF General Rules and Age Level Rules Chart. Refer to the USASF.net website for details.

For dance teams, refer to The Dance Worlds™ Information and Registration Packet or the [www.usasf.net](http://www.usasf.net) or [www.usasfdance.net](http://www.usasfdance.net) website.

### II. COMPETITION AREA

- A. Participants must start and end in the competition area and may line up anywhere inside the competition area. The competition area will be determined by the tournament director according to the size of the facility being used.
- B. Approximate floor size will be 54 feet wide by 42 feet deep (9 strips).
- C. All skills must originate and be completed within the competition boundary. No lineups, skills, or transitions are allowed outside of the competition boundary. 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/surrounds the floor.
- D. A 3.0 deduction will be assessed per occurrence for an athlete that makes contact outside the competition boundary. Stepping on, or just past the boundary tape is not a boundary violation.
- E. If a sign or prop is thrown outside the performing area, that team will receive a one (1.0) point per judge deduction for each violation. Signs or props may be placed or dropped outside the performing area by a team member who must remain inside the performing area.

### III. MUSIC AND TIME LIMITATIONS

- A. Routine performance time may not exceed two minutes and thirty seconds. Timing will begin with the first movement, voice, or note of music, whichever comes first. Timing will end with the last movement, last voice, or note of music, whichever comes last.
- B. All introductions (tumbling, entrances, chants, spell-outs, etc.) are considered part of the routine and are timed as part of the performance. There should not be any organized exits or other activities after the official ending of the routine.
- C. There is no buffer when competing at Worlds. It is our suggestion to have your routine time at 2:28 or under so you do not incur an overtime penalty. Each routine is timed live during the performance by a minimum of three time keepers. The lowest time of these three time keepers will be used to give the team the benefit of the doubt. If a routine is deemed to be over time, the head judge or a competition official will then go to the video and manually time the routine again. If the routine is still overtime, a penalty will be assessed.
- D. If a team exceeds the time limit, a six (6.0) point penalty will be assessed for each violation.
- E. BECAUSE PENALTIES ARE SEVERE, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT ALL TEAMS TIME THEIR PERFORMANCE SEVERAL TIMES PRIOR TO ATTENDING THE COMPETITION AND LEAVE A

SEVERAL SECOND CUSHION TO ALLOW FOR VARIATIONS IN SOUND EQUIPMENT.

- F. All teams who advance to The Cheerleading Worlds™ may use as many songs in the musical portion of their routine as they like. Each song **MUST BE LICENSED ONLY BY** ASCAP and/or BMI. This is due to television network requirements. All music (including entire songs or any portion of a song) must be licensed by either ASCAP and/or BMI to be used in your routine for The Cheerleading Worlds™. Any violation of this rule may subject the team to disqualification from the tournament **and/or** any associated television programs.
- G. Teams may not use Disney themes nor may they have costumes that resemble a Disney character. However, Disney music that is ASCAP, BMI or SESAC licensed is acceptable.

### IV. ATHLETE BEHAVIOR

- A. Athletes of teams at The Cheerleading Worlds are expected to exhibit the utmost of sportsmanship, respect and support throughout the entire event. There are increasing concerns that a high standard of “decorum” is not being followed consistently by all teams in the performance venue at performance time, and also by some gym members/fans viewing the routine. To see examples of acceptable and unacceptable floor entrances and exits, please visit: [www.USASFRules.com/FloorExamples/](http://www.USASFRules.com/FloorExamples/). To address these concerns the Cheerleading Worlds will follow the policies written below:
  - a. When teams are introduced, they are expected to take the floor within a 30 second window and assume the starting position for their routine. At the conclusion of the routine, competitors are expected to exit the performance floor immediately, again within a 30 second window of time.
  - b. From the time the team is announced the protocol to entering and leaving the competition floor is expected to reflect a "team" environment.
  - c. Actions that exhibit excessive boasting, a delay in competition, poor sportsmanship, unprofessional behavior, etc. may be penalized for by event judges. These actions may include, but are not limited to, things such as:
    1. Taunting another team. Taunting may be defined as the use of baiting or taunting acts of words that engender ill will between teams.
    2. An athlete calling unnecessary attention to her/himself (i.e. high 5's, chest bumps, etc.)
    3. Excessive pre or post competition team rituals (team bonding traditions must take place behind the stage area)
    4. Displays of public affection
    5. Running the perimeter of the performance floor (like a “victory” lap)
    6. Stepping outside of the floor bounds to approach coaching staff, crowd members and/or other members of the audience
    7. Excessive celebration (i.e. athletes wrapping their legs around coaches and/or each other, victory

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dances, etc.). Any prolonged, excessive, or premeditated celebration by individual athletes or a group of athletes while on the competition floor.

8. Coaching staff, parents, fans and/or other members of the performing gym taking the performance floor before, during or after a performance (unless in direct response to an obvious athlete injury). The only people allowed on the performance floor are the competitors and competition personnel.
  9. Athletes collapsing to the floor following a performance when an injury does not seem apparent.
- B. It will be assumed that any athlete who is not able to maintain a standing position is in need of medical attention and will be treated as such.
- C. Teams will be assessed a 2.0, 4.0 or 6.0 point penalty for exhibiting unsportsmanlike, unprofessional, disrespectful and/or unsupportive behavior. The amount of the penalty will be determined by the competition officials.

## V. IMAGE GUIDELINES

1. Judges reserve the right to assess warnings and / or deductions when a team's choreography does not meet the appropriate standards.
2. COVER UP GUIDELINES – Athletes with non-full top uniforms must wear a t-shirt or other suitable cover up over their uniforms unless they are in the warm-up area, traveling as a group directly to or from the warm up area, or on the performance stage.
3. APPROPRIATE CHOREOGRAPHY – All facets of a performance / routine, including both choreography and music selection, should be appropriate and suitable for family viewing and listening.
  - a. Examples of inappropriate choreography may include, but 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.
  - b. 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, explicit mention of specific parts of the body/torso, and/or violent acts or behavior are other examples of inappropriate choreography. Removing improper language or words from a song and replacing with sound effects or other words may still constitute "inappropriate".
  - c. Music or movement in which the appropriateness is questionable or with which uncertainty exists should be assumed by the coach to be inappropriate and removed as to not put their team in an unfortunate situation.
4. MAKEUP – Makeup should be uniform and appropriate for both the performance and the age of the athletes. Face/Eyelid Rhinestones are not allowed. False eyelashes are allowed but may not be decorated in rhinestones or additional jewelry.
5. BOWS – Bows should not be excessive in size (acceptable bows are generally no more than 3" in width) 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 and should not fall over the forehead into the participants' eyes or block the view of the participant while performing.

## VI. SPOTTER POLICY

In an effort to promote a higher level of safety and a standard that all teams must follow for competing athletes The Cheerleading Worlds™ will provide spotters for all rehearsal and competition floors. To provide the safest competitive environment, teams should not attempt skills beyond their ability level.

## VII. INTERRUPTION OF PERFORMANCE

### A. UNFORESEEN 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 or competition officials may stop the routine. The degree and effect of the interruption will be determined by the competition officials. 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. The spot in the schedule where the re-performance is to take place is at the sole discretion of competition officials.

### B. FAULT OF TEAM

1. In the event a team's routine is interrupted because of failure of the team's own representative, equipment and/or music, the team must continue the routine. The degree and effect of the interruption will be determined by the competition officials and a possible penalty of 6 points will be assessed. The degree and effect of the interruption will be determined by the competition officials. 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. The spot in the schedule where the re-performance is to take place is at the sole discretion of competition officials.

### C. INJURY

1. The only persons that may stop a routine for injury are: a) competition officials, b) the gym owner / head 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 (pending the injury's impact on the routine) perform the routine again in its entirety, but will be evaluated ONLY from the point where the interruption occurred.

If a team needs to re-perform a routine but fails to do the routine in its entirety, (example: throwing back tucks instead of the full twist thrown in the original performance) then this team will receive a six (6.0) point penalty AND receive a score based on the lower level performance.

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/guardian (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. (excluding a suspected concussion)
- c. In the event of a suspected concussion, the participant cannot return to perform without clearance from a licensed medical professional that has training related to head injuries, even with a waiver from a parent or legal guardian

## VIII. HOW TO HANDLE PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS

Any question concerning the rules or procedures of the tournament will be handled exclusively by one designated representative of the team (i.e. gym owner/director, coach or captain) and will be directed only to a competition official. Such questions should be made prior to the team's competition performance. Any questions concerning the team's performance should be made to a competition official immediately after the team's performance.

## IX. INTERPRETATIONS AND RULINGS

Any interpretation of any aspect of these Rules and Regulations or any decision involving any other aspect of the tournament will be rendered by the Worlds Competition Rules Committee. The Worlds Competition Rules Committee will render a judgment in an effort to ensure that the tournament proceeds in a manner consistent with the general spirit and goals of the tournament. The Rules Committee will consist of the Tournament Director, Head Judge, the USASF Rules Committee Chairman and/or a tournament official designated by the Chairman. The Tournament Director may appoint additional qualified members to those listed above to be members of the Worlds Competition Rules Committee.

## X. FINALITY OF DECISIONS

By participating in this championship, each team agrees that the decisions by the judges will be final and will not be subject for review. 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.

## XI. SPORTSMANSHIP

All participants agree to conduct themselves in a manner displaying good sportsmanship throughout and following the tournament. The directors, coaches and advisors of each team is responsible for seeing that team members, coaches, parents and any other persons affiliated with the team conduct themselves accordingly. Severe cases of unsportsmanlike conduct are grounds for disqualification as explained in this document above.

## XII. DEDUCTIONS AND DISQUALIFICATIONS

Any team in violation of the "General Competition Rules" will be assessed **six point (6.0)** deduction for each violation. (A 2 to 6 point deduction is possible for "Athlete Behavior" violations as stated under section IV-C.) Any team that does not adhere to the terms and procedures in the "General Competition Rules" **will** be disqualified from the competition and automatically forfeit the right to any prizes or awards presented by the competition.

In addition, the team may also forfeit the opportunity to participate in The Cheerleading Worlds™ the following year.

## XIII. SCORES AND RANKINGS

Individual judges' 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 and rankings prior to the final tally of the scores for all teams. Scores and rankings will be available only to studios/gyms; directors, coaches and advisors at the conclusion of the competition. Ties will not be broken, except to determine the Bronze, Silver and Gold places in finals.

## XIV. TOURNAMENT FACILITY

1. The competition is scheduled to be held at **ESPN Wide World of Sports®** HP Field House and Jostens Center.
2. The tournament officials shall have the right to alter the time and location of the competition in the event changes become necessary due to final registration, inclement weather, facility problems, television production requirements, or any other situation deemed by the tournament officials to be essential to the successful execution of the championship.

## XV. TELEVISION COVERAGE

The Cheerleading Worlds™ may be nationally televised. Because of the format of the show, not all finalist teams will be shown on the telecast.

## XVI. APPEARANCES, ENDORSEMENTS AND PUBLICITY

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

## XVII. GENERAL SAFETY RULES AND ROUTINE REQUIREMENTS

The Cheerleading Worlds™ follows USASF and IASF Cheerleading Rules and Guidelines, depending upon the division. Rules clarifications MAY be made during the season please refer back to <http://www.usasf.net> for changes and a complete glossary of terms. The 2014 Cheerleading Rules will follow the most recent posting of the USASF and IASF rules.

Please refer to <http://www.usasf.net>.

## XVIII. PENALTIES

A **six (6.0)** point per judge penalty will be assessed to any team violating any of the specific rules as stated at [www.usasf.net](http://www.usasf.net). This deduction does not apply to violations mentioned above that are designated a lesser point value. If you have any questions concerning the legality of a skill, please email a video to [cheer@usasfrules.com](mailto:cheer@usasfrules.com). Include your team name, contact name, and a contact phone number.



# 2014 RULES AND REGULATIONS

## THE CHEERLEADING WORLDS™



**ON BEHALF OF MY TEAM, I HEREBY ACCEPT THE 2014 CHEERLEADING WORLDS  
COMPETITION AND ROUTINE RULES AND SAFETY GUIDELINES AND  
AGREE TO ABIDE BY THESE RULES.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Team Name) (Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City/State/Country) (Gym Owner's Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Division) (Coach's Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Event where bid was received) (Date Bid was received)

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