



The importance of athlete membership...

The U.S. All Star Federation (USASF), the governing body of all star cheerleading, recognizes that there is a wide range of skill levels among all star programs and understands the importance of accommodating the needs of all gyms no matter their size, skill level or location. The USASF has created six competitive levels to allow athletes to participate, progress and compete on equal playing fields. In addition, the USASF has developed a safety and education program that provides logical and safe progressions. Finally, the USASF has created a coach credentialing program to ensure the knowledge of coaches is consistent with industry standards.

Requiring athletes to register as official members of the USASF has been a topic of discussion for many years. Recent research has determined that most competitive youth sports have some type of membership or registration to participate. The idea of mandatory athlete membership gained momentum when the National Allstar Cheerleading Coaches Congress (NACCC), the USASF coaches' organization, voted unanimously in favor of it at their member meeting in June of 2010. The National Advisory Board (NAB), composed of elected leaders among coaches, event producers and affiliates, voted unanimously to endorse this initiative. During the Sanctioning Committee meeting in August of 2010 the members of this committee, comprised of 27 event producers qualified to give fully paid Worlds bids, also voted to endorse this initiative. Based on the input from the aforementioned Committees and Boards, the USASF Board of Directors approved it unanimously during their September 2010 meeting.

There are three key reasons for requiring athletes to be members of the USASF in order to compete at sanctioned competitions beginning with the 2011- 2012 season:

The mission of the U.S. All Star Federation is to maximize the number of participants benefiting from the positive life experiences of all star cheerleading and dance by developing competition rules and all star gym training guidelines consistent with the latest best known safety, educational, and ethical practices.

1 Athlete Verification

Most industry participants believe the sport of all star cheerleading has reached a point where a process of verifying an athlete's eligibility, independent of those who may have a vested interest in the outcome, is necessary.

When athletes are registered members of the USASF and have completed the verification process, they will receive an Official USASF ID card. This ID card will contain the athlete's birth date and their USASF Athlete Membership number, which has been locked in and cannot be altered. This ID card will be valid for the athlete regardless of the program they originally enrolled with or in which programs they may choose to participate with in the future.

Until all athletes are members; the athletes, coaches and parents involved in the sport cannot be confident that the athletes on the competition floor comply with the eligibility requirements. This leads to continuing uncertainty about the outcome of competition and ultimately doubt about the legitimacy of all star cheerleading as a genuine sport.

2 Insurance

Reducing the risk of injury is an industry priority; however despite the best efforts of those involved, injuries will occur. The USASF believes it is imperative that every athlete member is covered at their gym and at sanctioned competitions. While a majority of participants are covered through family policies, the USASF does not want a lack of coverage to become a long term hardship on families. The USASF currently covers all athlete members, between the ages of 3 and 25 years old, with a \$1 million catastrophic policy when supervised by a credentialed coach or credentialed themselves when the injury occurs. Further insurance options are being researched for the future.

3 Expanded USASF Member Benefits

Additional members joining the USASF will provide supplementary funding that will warrant an increased list of athlete member benefits, this will help the USASF to create and monitor policies that will foster a safer, more positive and cohesive competition experience overall.

Education and information for athletes, parents and coaches is a priority for the USASF. Required athlete membership not only allows for added funds to be allocated to these types of programs, but will also greatly increase the exposure of these initiatives.

Also essential to our athletes is a fair outcome at USASF sanctioned events. The USASF recognizes the need to better educate safety and panel judges, but has lacked the funding to accomplish this in the appropriate manner.

The USASF currently offers scholarship opportunities for athletes who want to pursue higher education. Additional members and funding will enhance the scholarship program and give the USASF the opportunity to extend the program to more athletes.

Finally, starting in 2011-2012 all USASF Athlete Members will receive a bi-monthly magazine with a focus on all star cheerleading, mailed to their home, as well as have access to the USASF's online monthly newsletter.



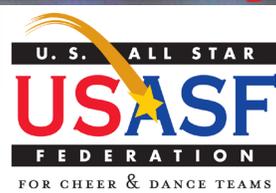
Benefits of Athlete Membership

- ★ Scholarship opportunities
- ★ Catastrophic insurance coverage
- ★ E-mail updates with the latest news
- ★ Identity and eligibility
- ★ Bi-monthly magazine subscription
- ★ Athlete Credentialing program
- ★ Parent Action Committee

For more details go to www.USASF.net

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP OF ALL STAR CHEERLEADING

Join today!



Membership available for athletes, coaches and gyms