



# 2011-2012 GENERAL RULES

1. Cheer teams must have at least 5 members. Dance teams must have at least 5 members. Please refer to specific divisions in order to see the maximum number of team members allowed in each division. Group stunts may have 3, 4 or 5 members.
2. Mascots are welcome to perform as members of their squad but must adhere to all rules and regulations expected of team members.
3. Time Limits:
  - Cheer Teams – 2 minutes and 30 seconds
  - Dance Teams – 2 minutes and 15 seconds
  - Partner/Group Stunts - 1 minute
  - Cheer Individuals/Duets/Trios - 1 minutes and 30 seconds
  - Dance Individuals/Duets/Trios - 2 minutes and 30 seconds
  - Cheer Tumbler/Jumper - 1 minute

There are no minimum time requirements on any type of routine. Timing and judging of routines will begin with the first organized movement or the first note of music. Timing will end with the last note of music or when the ending motion or pose is held. Introductions, spell-outs and/or organized entrances are considered part of the routine and are timed as part of the performance. All participants should walk/spirit onto the floor and immediately start their routine after placement of any props. Cheer performances can consist of any combination of cheer and music.

4. The main performance surface will be approximately 44 feet deep by 56 feet wide. All school competitions will be held on a non-spring floor. (The exact size of the performance floor could vary slightly by event.)
5. The Exhibition Division was created for teams who are not ready to meet the Performance or Division Requirements as set forth by The Champions Cup Series. Please call for more information. Any team may choose to perform in the Exhibition Division. Exhibition teams are required to pay 50% of registration fees as the other teams. Each Exhibition team member will receive a participation medal. Exhibition teams will not be ranked with the other teams.
6. Coaches are allowed to sit on the performance floor for Tiny, Exhibition & Special Needs divisions only. Coaches are not allowed to be on the performance floor for any other divisions. (Exception: Cheer routine spotters. See Spotter Information for details.) Coaches can always stand in the designated coaches' area or preferred seating area in front of the performance floor (if applicable). Also, no team is allowed to place "space markers" (i.e. something to show where the kids should stand) on the performance floor except for Tiny, Exhibition or Special Needs teams. If space markers are placed by anyone outside of these divisions, this will be considered a rule infraction and will result in the appropriate point deduction.
7. All routines must be suitable for viewing by audiences of all ages. Vulgar or suggestive music or material is restricted and will result in a point deduction for each incident. Vulgar or suggestive material is defined as any movement or choreography implying something improper or indecent, appearing offensive or sexual in content, and/or relaying lewd or profane gestures, implications or lyrics. Vulgarity will be determined at the discretion of the judges and/or event directors.
8. Please bring TWO high quality copies of your music to the event. CDs or IPODS/MP3 PLAYERS ONLY! No tapes are allowed.
9. One representative of your group/individual must stay at the music table during the competition. This person must remain at the sound area throughout the entire performance. No unnecessary team members, parents, etc. are allowed in the sound area.
10. In the event that a routine is interrupted, the following procedures will be followed:

## Music Mishap

- *Due to the failure of Champions Cup Series or a team's music/equipment:*  
If the music skips or cuts out during the routine and it is deemed to be the fault of the equipment, the coach has two minutes to decide if they want to re-perform their routine in full. If the team decides to re-perform their routine, they will perform their routine immediately. If a team decides not to re-perform their routine, the original routine will be scored in full.
- *Due to the failure of team's music/equipment:*  
If the music skips or cuts out due to the team's music or equipment during the routine, the coach must provide a second form of music and the team must immediately continue where the music stopped and judging will resume from that point. Any performance prior to the music interruption will still be scored. If the second CD or MP3 cuts off, they will not be allowed a third chance to perform their routine. If a team decides not to re-perform their routine, the original routine will be scored in full.

## Injury - Performance Area

- Music may be stopped by a coach/representative/event director for a MAJOR injury only (i.e. broken bone, head/neck/back injury, etc.).
- If a coach stops the music due to a major injury, the team will be asked to exit the floor while an EMT is attending to the injured participant(s).
- The team will be allotted time to make adjustments to their performance. The time given is up to the discretion of the event manager.

11. In the event that an injury in the practice area occurs, the following steps will be taken:

### Minor injury – cut, bloody nose, etc.

- In the event of a minor injury in the practice area the team may move to an open area in the practice area to work through their issues, but must perform at their scheduled time.

### Major injury – broken bone, head/neck/back injury, etc.

- In the event of a major injury in the practice area, the team will be allotted time to make adjustments to their performance. The amount of time given will be determined by the event manager and/or the practice area manager.

12. Legality Issues/Review Process

- The event manager or appropriate event staff member will attempt to notify the coach or representative soon after the performance to inform him or her that a safety/legality violation has been committed. If the coach or representative believes this is a mistake, he or she will get to plead his or her case. All decisions made by the event manager are final and are no longer up for discussion or review.
- A coach may point out a rule violation committed by another team to an event manager. However, the event manager may NOT discuss any point deductions with the accusing team. Deductions may only be discussed with the team that incurred the deduction.

13. Participant Age/Grade Discrepancies:

- Only a coach may challenge a participant's age/grade. To challenge a participant's age/grade, the challenge must be immediately brought to the attention of the event manager. All challenges must be made in writing at the event.
- The event manager will request proof of age/grade for the participant in question. The participant in question must supply official age/grade verification (i.e. birth certificate, driver's license, passport, report card or student

ID) to the event manager no later than the Monday following the event at 5:00PM EST. The participant may provide proof to the event manager at the event if it is available.

- If the participant in question IS in violation of age/grade restrictions, the team will be disqualified.

#### 14. Scoring Errors:

- In the instance a score is added incorrectly and the error is caught at the event, the team will be properly awarded during the next awards ceremony if possible.
- In the instance a score is added incorrectly and the error is caught after the event, the score and placement will be corrected and results will be changed on the website. All teams involved will be notified and correct awards will be mailed.
- Tie Breaking: In the event of a true tie at a Classic Competition, the tie will be ruled in favor of the team with the least neutral deductions. In the event of a tie after a two day competition, the tie will be broken by the team with the highest one day score.

#### 15. Inclement Weather Policy:

All Champions Cup Series events will go on regardless of the weather conditions – rain, sleet or snow! Please make any necessary travel arrangements so that you will not have any problems making it to the event on time. No special performance times will be granted to those who arrive late for any reason (weather or otherwise). Furthermore, no refunds will be given on any Champions Cup Series expenses. Please keep an eye on the local and national weather forecasts so that you are prepared for any inclement weather.

16. Unsportsmanlike conduct by coaches and/or athletes during the event may result in a point deduction or disqualification. Teams may report any issues to event management, but in order for us to assess a point deduction or disqualification, a member of our staff must actually witness such conduct and deem it unsportsmanlike. We cannot make a ruling based on hearsay alone. In addition, any judging issues shall be handled in a professional manner. The Champions Cup Series staff will not tolerate rude, angry, or disrespectful behavior. This behavior could also result in a point deduction or disqualification.

### **Rule Interpretation**

It is the policy of The Champions Cup Series not to give specific rule interpretations over the phone. All official rule interpretations must be submitted on a DVD, full size VHS videotape or sent via email to:

The Champions Cup Series  
P.O. Box 29185  
Indianapolis, IN 46229

Email: [LBarclay@USASportsProduction.com](mailto:LBarclay@USASportsProduction.com)

All videos must contain the following:

1. A front, side and back view of the skill/section in question. Do not send entire routines.
2. A letter stating the question/request.
3. School/Organization name and event(s)/division entering.
4. Contact name, phone number and email address.

All official rule interpretation requests must be received at The Champions Cup Series office at least 10 days prior to the event attending.

*Please bring the rule interpretation response that you receive with you to all The Champions Series Cup events. Only official rule interpretations from The Champions Cup Series office will be permissible at any event.*