CANADIAN CHEER COMPETITION RULES & GUIDELINES 2026-2027

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1410 Bayly St #8, Pickering, ON L1W 3R3 | (905) 842-9382 | info@canadiancheer.com

SCORING

Panel Judging

- All non-worlds All Star Divisions will be evaluated on Cheer Canada score/deductions sheets found here.
- All Worlds Divisions will be adjudicated on the IASF Worlds Score Sheets found here.
- Scholastic Divisions will be adjudicated on Canadian Cheer Score Sheets (modeled off of Cheer Quebec's scholastic score sheets) found here [English] here [French]
- Each judge will evaluate specific skill areas as per Cheer Canada/IASF Comparative Score Sheet.
- Multi-run events will have the first run weighted 30% and the second run weighted 70% of the total score.
    - Excluding Montréal Mayhem – guidelines can be found here.

Legalities

- All-Star cheer divisions must follow the IASF level rules found here.
- Prep and Novice divisions will follow IASF level rules, however each has its own additional requirements that can be found here.
- Cheer Canada Scholastic divisions must follow the Scholastic rules found here.[1]
- Coaches are advised to read through all event scoring policies, Rules and Guidelines for all Canadian Cheer Events.

Score Check

- Everything you need to know about score check can be found here under the score check tab.

***Note**: Before meeting with an official to review legalities and deductions you must fill out this form.*

Tie Breaking

- If the total score is the same, the team with the highest unweighted total overall impression score will be declared the winner.
- If there is still a tie, then both teams will be awarded that ordinal and the next rank will not be awarded. (I.E. 1, 2, 2, 4, 5 or 1, 1, 3, 4, 5 etc.)

Judges' Choice

Single performance event

- The judges' choice will be selected from the top scoring teams in each included level. The selection will consider discrepancies in scoring trends across panels and divisions.

Multi-performance events

- The judges' choice selection will be determined by taking 30% of the first run score, adding it to 70% of the second run score.
    - Except for Montréal Mayhem where Judges Choice will be awarded based on each team's highest official score, regardless of whether it came from Day 1 or Day 2.
- Teams who are in single run divisions of multi-run events, will be eligible for their own Judges Choice award for their level (i.e. prep but not novice), separate from the two run Judges Choice calculation.
- If a team scratches one performance at a multi-performance competition, only the first run percentage will be included.

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DIVISION INFORMATION[2]

- Canadian Cheer aligns with Cheer Canada division list regarding ages and team size and can be found here
- Canadian Cheer aligns with both Cheer Canada Scholastic Division and Cheer Quebec Scholastic Divisions.
- Cheer Abilities will be non-compete unless they notify the Canadian Cheer office/scoring coordinator that they intend to compete. If a team intends to compete, they will be bound by all scoring, rules and divisional requirements outlined for Cheer Abilities by Cheer Canada found here.

Crossover Athletes[3]

A crossover athlete is an athlete that competes on more than one team. Crossover athletes must be properly documented on the team roster and registration form and submitted prior to the event. Failure to accurately document crossover athletes will result in disqualification of the team.

- School athletes that also compete with an all-star team are not considered crossovers.
- Crossovers may not compete against themselves (ie two teams in the same division).
- Athletes cannot cross between division tiers during an event (ie Prep to All-Star, Novice to Prep
- Additional crossover limitations may apply at specific events (ie Showdown, Canadian Finals, Worlds & Summit Bid qualifying events etc).
- Athletes may participate on a maximum of three all-star cheer teams at any event.
- Cross overs are required to pay the associated fees for each team with which they participate.
- Please see the USASF/IASF crossover rules for further clarification for Summit/Worlds teams.

BID DECLARATIONS/QUALIFICATIONS

To be considered for an Invite or Bid to our events, all gyms/teams must complete the Opt-In process and agree to meet all eligibility requirements outlined in the Bid Declaration forms.

Please review and complete the necessary documents using the link below:

- Canadian Cheer Opt-In Forms

TEAM MUSIC

Format

- Mp3 player connections. Please ensure the following steps are taken:
  - All tracks are on their own playlist
  - That the electronic device is in good working order, with the appropriate settings.
  - Protective cases removed
  - Airplane mode turned on
  - Volume up
  - All alerts/reminders/alarms turned off
  - Music downloaded directly to the device and NOT playing off a cloud

Music Error

- If there is an error in the music, the convenor or legalities judge will assess if there was an obvious disadvantage to the team and may re-issue a performance time.
- Should there be an error in music, the team must continue their performance until a Convenor or Legality judge stops the music.
- The coach who remains at the music booth may request a stop of music, but is not guaranteed a new performance time.
- If a coach believes their team was disadvantaged due to a technical difficulty they must report this to Score Check or M.C. within 5 minutes of their performance.

SICKNESS OR INJURY

Before Warm-up Rotation

- The EP staff may help facilitate switching warm-up times with other willing teams, but cannot guarantee an alternate time.
- If a team fails to perform at their designated time, they will receive 0 for their score. In the spirit of sportsmanship, the EP will endeavour to make the fairest possible decisions for all parties, but time limitations and other factors may limit the EP's ability to make scheduling concessions.

During Warm-up Rotation

- Teams who incur a severe injury during their designated warm-up time may be immediately moved to the end of their division to allow the team time to alter the routine. Whenever possible, the EP's staff will try to accommodate extra mat time to warm up the altered skills.
- Teams scheduled to use a mat that is occupied by an injured athlete will still be granted their entire warm-up time, but the EP cannot guarantee they will still have the same "on deck" span of time.

VIRTUAL TEAMS

We ask that all teams who are competing be mindful that there may be technical difficulties associated with virtual performances. We will do our best to be on time but flexibility is key when performing virtually as we may need to move performance times due to unforeseeable technical difficulties, poor bandwidth, etc.

CANADIAN CHEER EVENTS - OTHER SPECIFICATIONS

- **ALL STAR TEAMS:** Any team not representing a school MUST compete in the All-Star division, all athletes must be registered members in the club, club must have proof of insurance, complete all required paperwork/admin and be accompanied by a coach over the age of 18 with a VSC (Vulnerable Sector Check)
- Routines must follow the routine time guidelines as outlined by Cheer Canada and the IASF. Time will begin with the first word, beat of music or obvious movement and will end on the last word or beat of music or obvious end. This includes ANY organized team entries/choreo before "setting" for their routine. Teams must take the floor and assume their starting position immediately. Should any choreography before beginning the routine result in a music mishap, injury, or delay, the team may receive a deduction.
- All competitions will be held on a 54' x 42' carpeted foam performance surface or spring floor. Check event specifics for spring floor information.
- In the event of an obvious injury, the Coach, Head Judge, Legality Judge or Convenor (when applicable) will be the only individuals permitted to stop a routine. Scoring will continue from the point the injury occurred. In the spirit of sportsmanship, teams must perform all elements up to the point of stoppage during the re-run.
- All uniforms, choreography, routines and music must be in good taste, age appropriate, and appropriate for a family atmosphere. If in the opinion of the Head Judge and/or the Convenor a routine violates these criteria the routine may be stopped at any time, may be issued a deduction and/or disqualified. Regardless of the result, NO refunds will be issued.
- All event information can be found online, if you require more specific information regarding travel, scheduling, etc we ask that you contact us by e-mail.
- SPORTSMANSHIP. All participants, coaches and spectators must conduct themselves in a manner displaying good sportsmanship throughout the competition. The head coach of each team is responsible for seeing that squad members, coaches, parents and other persons affiliated with their team/program conduct themselves accordingly and respect other athletes, coaches, spectators and event staff. Each Coach is required to sign the Coaches Code of Conduct upon registration. Please review our Canadian Cheer Sportsmanship Policies for an outline of Behaviours and Ramifications.
- Canadian Cheer events take pride in providing the most qualified non-partisan judges available for each competition. No matter the instance the decision of the Head Judge is final.
- Any discrepancy in scoring must only be addressed with the Convener or Designated Scoring Representative of the competition.
- All participants are subject to divisional rules and safety guidelines, Canadian Cheer Policies and Procedures, Cheer Canada rules and guidelines, Coaches Code of Conduct, IASF/USASF General Safety Rules.

[1] *Note that teams from Quebec, if registered in a division offered by Cheer Quebec, will not be expected to follow the Cheer Canada Scholastic Rules and will be judged using the IASF rule set. When a Cheer Quebec division is combined with a Cheer Canada Division, the IASF rule set will be used for that combined division.*

[2] *Canadian Cheer reserves the right to add, combine, divide and or eliminate divisions as necessary based on registration per event. The interest is always to facilitate a fair and competitive event.*

[3] *If a team(s) competes with cross-over athletes the burden of overlapping practice times, performance orders and payment falls on the team(s)/gym.*