



## **SECTION IV: CHEER TEAMS**

### **Part 1: Entry Guidelines and Awards**

#### ***ENTRY GUIDELINES***

College/university teams may compete in Co-Ed or All-Girl categories, as well as the Partner Stunt category. A college or university may enter one routine in each team routine style (maximum of 2 routines total), and an unlimited number of Partner Stunt routines. If a college/university wishes to enter multiple team routines in a single team category, they must designate different teams (e.g. Lincoln University Gold Team and Lincoln University Silver Team) and only the top scoring team will be eligible to receive a final awards placement. The following team size guidelines will apply:

- (a) Team size will be determined as of the registration date.
- (b) At least 5 performers must be registered to perform in each team routine. A team will still be allowed to compete if they drop to fewer than five performers at performance time but at least five performers must be registered and paid for in order for the routine to compete.
- (c) Teams may use a different number of performers in each routine subject to the minimums above required to be registered.
- (d) Two (2) performers must compete in each Partner Stunt routine. Partners may be of the same gender or different genders.

#### ***ELIGIBLE TEAMS***

College/university cheer teams may not compete at Dance Team Union regional competitions, but are encouraged to compete at The College Classic. Each team must be an official cheer team at the team's college/university either under athletics or as a club sport or fine arts program. Regardless of the character of the team's designation at the university (athletics, club sport, fine arts), the team will be grouped for competition with other teams in accordance with the Competition Divisions section below. Teams from outside the United States may compete in The College Classic in the division at or above the division they would compete if their team was from the United States.

#### ***ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS***

Any performer who is eligible to be a member of their team based on their college's or university's eligibility rules may perform at The College Classic. We reserve the right to require documentation at any time in order to confirm, in our sole discretion, whether an individual is eligible to compete.

#### ***COMPETITION DIVISIONS***

Teams may be grouped within each style into divisions based upon their college or university football classification (provided, however, that all teams from Division 1A football schools outside



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the “Power 5” conferences will be considered Division 1). The split between divisions will be determined by us based upon entries received for each competition. At any event, we may choose to combine categories or divisions or add additional categories or divisions in order to increase competitiveness or for any other reason in its discretion.

### ***NO SINGLE TEAM DIVISIONS***

At The College Classic, we may combine any cheer division that contains only one team into any other division at our discretion. Single Division 1A teams may be combined down, while all other single team divisions may be combined up into the next largest division within one or more teams. This may result in divisions that include multiple school sizes in a single style (e.g. Division 1/1A Co-Ed Cheer) or multiple styles in one or more divisions competing in an Open Cheer division. No single team divisions will be permitted at The College Classic.

### ***COLLEGE CLASSIC AWARDS***

At least 50% of teams that compete in the preliminary round will ultimately advance to finals. No semifinal or Second Chance Round will be held. Finalists in categories with 4 or more finalists will compete figure skating-style (in sub-groupings with lowest scores competing first, based upon their scores from previous round, but within each sub-grouping, teams will draw for random order). Finalists in categories with 3 or fewer finalists will compete in reverse order of their preliminary scores. All finalists will receive trophies. In addition, all The College Classic champions will receive banners, jackets or fleeces, and rings. In recognition of the tremendous success of each champion, no Grand Champion award(s) will be given at The College Classic.

## **Part 2: Cheer Routine Rules and Guidelines**

### ***GENERAL SAFETY***

The coach of a team is responsible for monitoring the safety of each element of a dance and determining that it is safe to perform. The character of the skills being performed, as well as the skill level of the dancers performing those skills, should be considered by the coach in making this determination. All of the skills listed below as well as any other movement should be evaluated for safety by the advisor/coach prior to competition.

### ***SAFETY GUIDELINES***

All teams and partners competing in any cheer division(s) at The College Classic should adhere to USASF safety rules and regulations in effect as of the competition date. Visit [www.usasf.net](http://www.usasf.net) for more information.

### ***COMPETITION ROUTINE GUIDELINES***



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1. Teams may make substitutions in the event of injury. Substitute participants must be listed on the team's participant roster in the team's registration form.
2. Any equipment or items that may damage the performance floor are prohibited.
3. There is no minimum time limit for any routine. The maximum time limit is 2:30. Routines will be evaluated upon the first sound in the music or the first physical movement. The final note or physical movement will be considered the end of the performance. Routines will be given a maximum grace period of five seconds above the 2:30 time limit to account for minor differences in music equipment timing or performance errors.
4. A responsible adult must be present to start assist in the start and finish of the routine music. **IT IS RECOMMENDED TO UPLOAD YOUR MUSIC TO THE REGISTRATION SOFTWARE BY ONE WEEK PRIOR TO COMPETITION.**

### ***JEWELRY***

Jewelry will not be allowed for cheer team members. We reserve the right to require a team member to remove any jewelry we deem hazardous at any point during the competition.

### ***PROPS***

Props are permitted in any cheer category as long as they are wearable, handheld, or freestanding and can be taken off or released safely (as determined by us). No dry ice, confetti, glass, canned smoke, water or other liquid, or other similar loose material that may obstruct the judges' view or affect the condition of the performance floor may be used. Backdrops are not permitted other than in the Mascot category - any props must be able to be used/moved by a single team member. For any questions or concerns regarding prop choice, please send a photo of the prop to us prior to the competition.

## **Part 3: Cheer Score Sheets**

Dance Team Union encourages creativity in all categories. There is no particular style or "formula" required in any category. Cheerleading is about more than just imitation of previous award-winning routines - we want to inspire your performers to showcase their own unique style. Our judges will strive to provide you with the most valuable feedback you will receive all season.

Score sheets are found on the following pages.