

# TMSAA CHEERLEADING COMPETITION

## Articles of Understanding

### I. GENERAL RULES

- A. You must list the cheerleaders competing on your squad on your entry form. Each squad member must be enrolled at the school for whom they are competing and an eligible member of a 2018-19 middle school cheerleading squad. A school must have membership in the Tennessee Middle School Athletic Association with grades 6, 7, and 8; grade 7 and 8; or grade 8 to be eligible for the sectional. There can be no student in a grade below the 6<sup>th</sup> grade competing in this sectional.
- B. Completed medical forms are mandatory. Please be sure all information includes insurance company name and policy number. **These forms must be turned in at registration the day of the competition.**
- C. The sectionals will consist of the following divisions:
  - 1. **Small Middle** – Squads with 16 members and under; 2 minutes and 30 seconds to perform.
  - 2. **Large Middle** – Squads with 17-25 members or more; 2 minutes and 30 seconds to perform.
  - 3. **Non-Tumbling** – Squads with 5-25 members or more; 2 minutes and 30 seconds to perform (1 minute 30 second maximum music) in which tumbling is prohibited, except for inversions into load in positions, stunts, and pyramids. Tumbling is defined as any skills with feet over head rotation.

#### ***A school may enter only one division.***

- D. Each squad will be given time to enter the performance area and place poms, signs, etc. You may not begin your routine in a pyramid or stunt. Timing will begin with first movement, voice or music note.
- E. There should not be any organized exits after the official ending of the routine. All introductions (tumbling, entrances, chants, spell-outs, stunts, etc.) are considered part of the routine and will be timed as part of the performance.
- F. If a squad exceeds either time limit, a one point per judge penalty will be assessed for each violation. If the judges determine that a time violation has been deliberate or excessive, then additional deductions up to a maximum of five points per judge may be assessed. Because penalties are severe, we recommend that you time your performance several times prior to attending the competition and give yourself at least five seconds of “cushion” to allow for variations in sound equipment.
- G. The competition area for all divisions will be approximately 54 feet wide by 42 feet deep (9 Strips). All tumbling, pyramids and stunts must be performed on the performance mat. Any team member stepping outside the performance area will cause the squad to receive a .5 penalty per occurrence. A penalty will be assessed when any one full hand, foot, or body part touches outside of the performance surface.
- H. If a sign or prop is **thrown** outside the performing area, that squad will receive a one point per judge deduction for each violation. Signs or props may be **placed** or dropped outside the performing area by a squad member.

### II. INTERRUPTION OF PERFORMANCE

- A. If, in the opinion of the tournament officials, a squad’s routine is interrupted due to failure of the tournament equipment, facilities or other factors attributable to the tournament rather than the squad or any circumstances determined by the judges to be beyond the ability of the squad to control, the squad affected will be allowed to present its routine from the place in the routine where the interruption occurred. The degree and effect of the interruption will be determined by the tournament officials.

- B. In the event a squad's routine is interrupted because of failure of the squad's equipment, the squad must either continue the routine or withdraw from the competition.
- C. In the event that an injury causes the squad's routine to be interrupted, the squad must either continue the routine or withdraw from the competition. The tournament officials reserve the right to stop the routine due to injury.

### III. SPECIFIC SAFETY REGULATIONS

- A. All squads must follow the **AACCA guidelines** adopted by the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association. You can find these rules by going to [www.aacca.org](http://www.aacca.org). **(These rules may not be consistent with other companies guidelines.) Each penalty will result in a 5 point per judge deduction.**
- B. Any questions regarding these rules should be directed to Jim Lord at (800) 238-0286. Video tapes of questionable stunts will be accepted by October 26. Send video of the skill in question (not the entire routine) to: Jim Lord, c/o UCA, 6745 Lenox Center Ct., Suite 300, Memphis, TN 38115.
- C. All decisions of the judges concerning legality are final and binding.

### IV. MUSIC

Each team will need to provide a CD with their music and a back up CD as well. Music burned to a CD should be burned as audio CD to have the best quality. MP3 players are permitted and iPhones are permitted. Note: It is the coach's responsibility to have the phone on "airplane mode" if an iPhone is used for the performance music.

- A. I have read and understand the USA Cheer Music Copyrights Educational Initiative and all sound recordings used in our team's music shall only be used with written license from the owners(s) of the sound recordings.
- B. These guidelines are as of June 16, 2016. For the most up to date music information, visit <http://varsity.com/music>. If you have any questions, cheer teams should email [info@usacheer.net](mailto:info@usacheer.net) and dance teams should email [dancemusic@varsity.com](mailto:dancemusic@varsity.com). Please check Preferred Provider list for updates and changes periodically.
- C. Teams must be able to provide proof of licensing upon request. If a team does not have proof of music licensing available, they will be allowed to perform to an optional approved track of music or a track with counts (provided by Varsity Spirit). If a team cannot provide proof of licensing, and do not perform to an optional approved track of music or to counts, the team will be disqualified from the competition.
- D. If there are concerns regarding a certain team's use of music, a Challenge Form must be completed immediately following the team's performance.
- E. Challenge Process
  - a. All music challenges must be submitted in writing to the event director.
  - b. There will be \$100 fee to request a music challenge and must be in the form of a check made out to St Jude Children's Research Hospital.
  - c. Fees collected will be voided if challenge is correct.
  - d. If the team challenged can provide documentation during the event and can be verified, the fees will be donated to St. Jude.
  - e. If the team challenged can provide documentation that requires further review, a decision will be finalized within 48 hours of the event.

## **V. JUDGING CRITERIA**

Listed below are the UCA Judging sheets that will be used for this competition. Please be sure to read the appropriate judging sheet as each sheet contains the judging criteria that will be used in this competition.

1. UCA Judging Sheet

## **VI. HOW TO HANDLE PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS**

Any questions concerning the rules or procedures of the tournament will be handled exclusively by the captain or the advisor of the squad and will be directed to the Tournament Director. Such questions should be made prior to the squad's competition performance. Any questions concerning the squad's performance should be made to the Tournament Director immediately after the squad's performance.

## **VII. SPORTSMANSHIP**

All participants agree to conduct themselves in a manner displaying good sportsmanship throughout the tournament. The advisor and/or captain of each squad is responsible for seeing that squad members, coaches, parents and any other persons affiliated with the squad conduct themselves accordingly. Severe cases of unsportsmanlike conduct are grounds for disqualification.

## **VIII. SCORES AND RANKINGS**

Squad rankings will be available to advisors only; immediately following the awards presentation.

## **IX. INTERPRETATIONS AND RULINGS**

Any interpretation of any aspect of these Articles of Understanding or any decision involving any other aspect of the tournament will be rendered by the Rules Committee. The Rules Committee will render a judgment in an effort to insure 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, Rule Interpreter, and a designated representative of TSSAA.

## **X. FINALITY OF DECISIONS**

By participating in the championship, each squad agrees that decisions by the judges will be final and binding. Each squad acknowledges the necessity for the judges to make prompt and fair decisions in this competition and each squad therefore expressly waives any legal, equitable, administrative or procedural review of such decisions.

## **XI. DISQUALIFICATION**

Any squad that does not adhere to the terms and procedures in the "Articles of Understanding" may be disqualified from the tournament and automatically forfeit the right to any prizes or awards presented by the tournament. In addition, the squad may also forfeit the opportunity to participate in the tournament the following year.

## **XII. AWARDS**

Awards will be given in each division. The number of awards given will be based on the number of squads participating in each division. If there are three squads in a division, then there will only be a first place given. If there are four or five squads in a division, then there will be a first and second place given. In a division with six to 20 squads, there will be a first, second, and third place given. If a division has more than 20 squads, there will be a first, second, third, and fourth place given.

## **XIII. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The TMSAA Cheerleading Championships will be a qualifier for the National Cheerleading Championship in Orlando, Florida on February 9-10, 2019. Bids will be handed out to award winners.

We have reviewed the Articles of Understanding with our entire squad and we accept the Articles of Understanding as a fair and integral part of the rules of the tournament and agree to adhere to the rules, policies and procedures contained herein.

\_\_\_\_\_ School Name

\_\_\_\_\_ City

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

DIVISION:

\_\_\_\_\_ Small Middle

\_\_\_\_\_ Large Middle

\_\_\_\_\_ Non-Tumbling

\_\_\_\_\_ Coach/Advisor's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Captain's Signature