



UPDATES FOR THE 2023-2024 COMPETITION SEASON

We remain committed to fair and consistent scoring. Our goal is to evolve and provide the tools needed to all school teams this season for a clear understanding of divisions, rules, and scoring. Below is an overview of changes. For a complete copy of the divisions, rules and scoring please visit uca.varsity.com.

- Routine Time
 - To better align with what is done on the school sidelines, we are providing a range for the duration of the cheer:
 - 45 seconds minimum - 1 minute maximum for the cheer.
 - 1:30 minimum - 1:45 maximum for music.
- Routine Guidelines
 - If performing in BOTH Traditional Routine and Game Day divisions, team type must remain consistent (i.e., Non-Tumbling or Non-Building must be the same for both divisions.)
 - Teams will not be allowed to compete in a Varsity Tumbling category for one division and a Varsity Non-Tumbling category for another division.
- Division Updates
 - To accommodate for growing divisions and to create a better customer experience, all Varsity & Junior Varsity Divisions will split into Division I & Division II based on school size below:
 - Division I - Schools with an enrollment of 1,300 or more.
 - Division II - Schools with an enrollment 1,299 or less.
 - Specifications to the DI & DII Division Split in 2024
 - Small Varsity Coed (Traditional & Game Day) will split into Division I & Division II in 2024.
 - Coed Non-Tumbling will split into Division I & Division II (i.e., no small or large sizes.)
 - JV Traditional will split into Division I & Division II in 2024
 - JV Traditional Division I will have small & large division sizes.
 - JV Traditional Division II will not have division sizes (no small or large division sizes.)
 - Varsity Non-Building will split into Division I & Division II in 2024.
 - Varsity Non-Building will not have division sizes (no small / large division sizes.)
 - Exceptions to the Division I & Division II Split in 2024
 - Medium Varsity Coed & Large Varsity Coed will not split into Division I & Division II in 2024.
 - Note: For the NHSCC 2025, Medium Varsity Coed and Large Varsity Coed will combine, but split into Division I and Division II. (5+ Males/21-30 Members)
 - Junior High, Rec, and World School divisions will not split into Division I & Division II in 2024.
 - Junior Varsity Coed will not split into Division I & Division II in 2024.
 - NEW Junior Varsity Non-Tumbling WILL split into Division I & Division II in 2024.
- Game Day LIVE General Questions
 - Flags / Color Guard if included in your Game Day routine will count as part of the athletes. If using additional males for flags would require the team to be in a coed division.
 - Band has been incorporated more in the scoring aspect of the routine.
 - To earn a bid, the pep band and cheer team must create and submit a video up to a 2-minute performance of the school's traditional fight song together.
 - Videos will be accepted prior to November 1, 2023.
 - ONLY Handheld or harnessed instruments allowed in the pep band.
 - The pep band will perform with the cheer team in this order: Band Chant, Situational Sideline, Cheer and Fight Song.
 - The pep band may play a drum cadence for team entry to the floor, transitions between sections, drum cadence or back beat behind the Sideline and Cheer sections.
 - Please refer to the Rules and Regulations for time limitations, format, scoring and specific division guidelines.
 - This is a great way for your Cheer and Band to work together more throughout this season.

- Score Sheet Updates
 - Game Day Categories – No Changes
 - Cheer Score Sheet
 - Crowd Leading Section moved to 2 categories and removed 5 points.
 - 30 Total Points
 - Building Score Sheet (All divisions excluding Non Building)
 - 5 points for Overall Building impression has been removed and added into Pyramid Perfection of Skills.
 - Coed Divisions (Varsity, JV Coed & Non-Tumbling Coed)
 - Use of Coed Skills is required in stunt difficulty.
 - Overall Score Sheet
 - All Girl & Coed Overall Score Sheet - Motions/Dance has moved to Category Impression
 - Jumps - Perfection of Skill - 3.0 & Difficulty is 2.0
 - Non Building Overall Score Sheet
 - Jumps - Perfection of Skill - 10.0 & Difficulty is 5.0
 - Dance – 10 Points
 - Motions/Dance – 5 Points
 - Category Impression – 5 Points
 - Where are tosses scored?
 - Tosses performed as individual groups within a partner stunt section are scored in partner stunts. If tosses are performed in conjunction with a pyramid sequence / transition would count within the pyramid score.
- Deduction Updates
 - Athlete Bobble & Building Bobble have been removed from the deduction system and will be assessed by the scoring judge in each category. A point value is not listed and will be up to the scoring judge to determine the value assessed.
- Judges Education
 - We are moving into Season 6 of our Judges Training and Education Course on Varsity University.
 - Each judge is required to complete a Judges Agreement including a Code of Conduct for the season and complete a Background Screening to be eligible to judge.
 - Each year we have posted informational content on our website at UCA.varsity.com with “What the Judges are looking for”.
- Common Questions
 - Splitting and combining divisions
 - Universal Cheerleaders Association will SPLIT divisions in the best interest of providing a competitive environment. When/If a division has 11 or more teams, additional splits may be offered.
 - Examples
 - Small Varsity has 23 teams registered. This division maybe split into DI/DII status based on the school enrollment.
 - Junior High Game Day has 12 teams registered. This division may be split in to Small/Large.
 - Small Junior High has 14 teams registered. This division cannot be split since there is not an additional split offered.
- NHSCC Updates – February 9-12,2024
 - NEW FOUR (4) Day format. See tentative schedule online.
- Universal Cheerleaders Association offers a service to help teams with legality and safety questions. Teams will be able to email skills in throughout the year to receive a legality or safety response. This service will help teams get a response with a video attached back to use in situations where the skill may be in question. Teams are not required to submit a safety video.
 - Please send all videos to UCARules@varsity.com