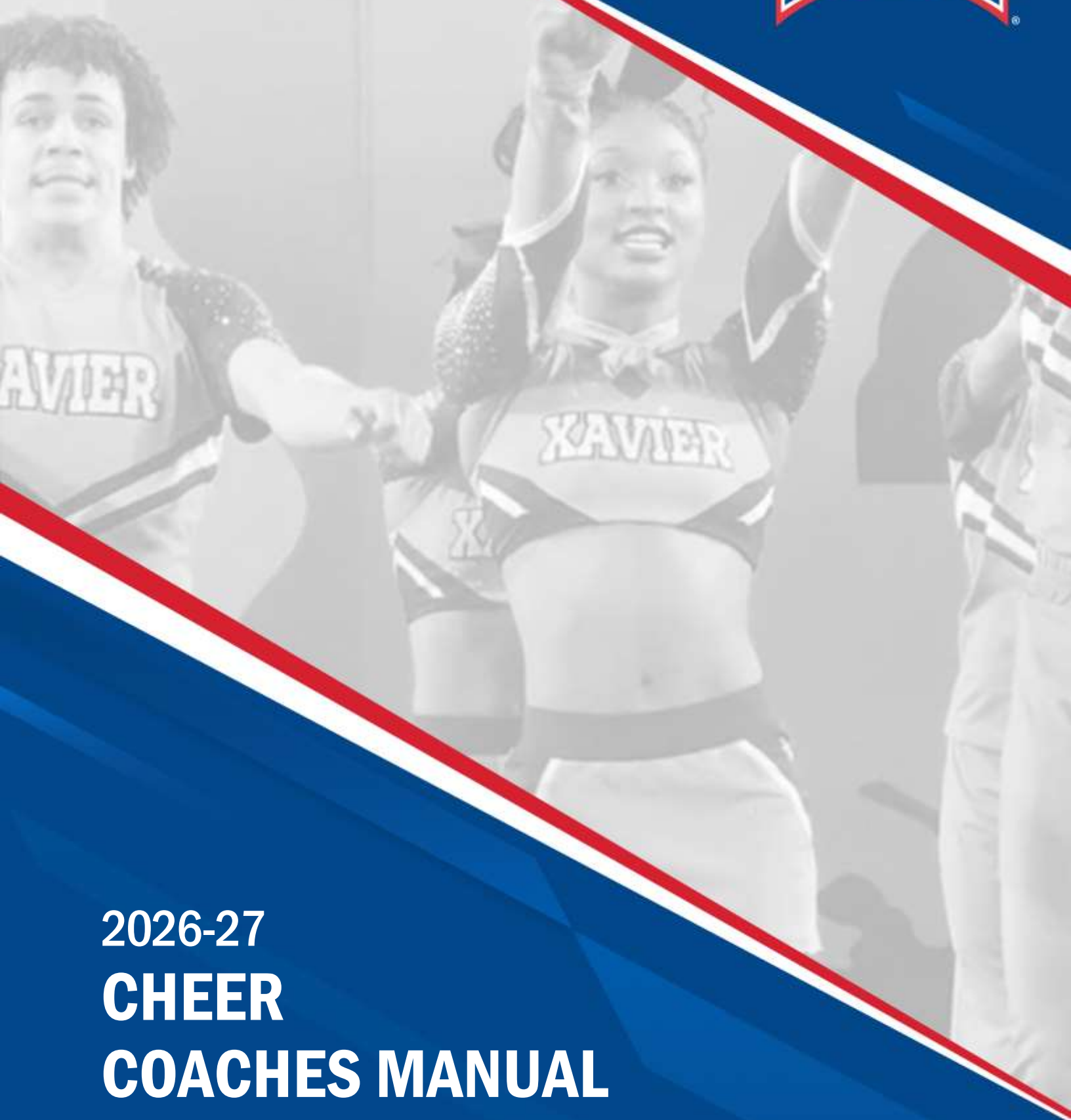




2026-27
**CHEER
COACHES MANUAL**



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For National Championship Selection/Coaches Association/Event Administration contact:

Fred Aubuchon
faubuchon@naia.org
816.595.8339

For Polls Administration, Athletic Communications, & Media Inquiries contact:

Steve Wilson
swilson@naia.org
816-595-8198

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IMPORTANT DATES

2026-2027 COMPETITIVE CHEER SPORT CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 1	START – Practices, Scrimmages, Exhibitions, and Competition
FEBRUARY 2	START – Area Ratings Releases Dates: Feb 3, 17, Mar 3, 14
FEBRUARY 2	START – National Selection Committee Polls Releases Dates: Feb 3, 17, Mar 3
JANUARY 31	DEADLINE – Nominations NAIA Scholar-Athletes in NAIA Connect
FEBRUARY 13	DEADLINE – Undeclare from Postseason
FEBRUARY 15	DEADLINE – Submit Champions of Character Nominee
MARCH 13	DEADLINE – Completion of conference/CAC/unaffiliated tournaments
MARCH 15	RELEASE – 6:30pm CST National Championship Qualifiers on NAIA National Selection Show on NAIA Network
MARCH 16	DEADLINE – Submit Official Postseason Rosters in NAIA Connect
MARCH 18-20	All-America Recording Window
MARCH 26-27	NAIA Competitive Cheer National Championship <i>Stormont Vail Events Center – Topeka, Kansas</i>
April 1	RELEASE – All-America teams and Cheerleader of the Year
April 29	Competitive Cheer Coaches Association Annual Business Meeting Virtual, 12:00pm CST
April 29	RELEASE – Coach of the Year
JUNE 30	DEADLINE – Submit Scholar Team Award Nominations in NAIA Connect
JULY 15	DEADLINE – Nominations for Hall of Fame

FIVE-YEAR CHAMPIONSHIP CALENDAR

	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Qualification Deadline	March 13	March 11	March 10	March 16	March 15
National Championships	March 26-27	March 24-25	March 23-24	March 29-30	March 28-29

National Championship Website – [Click Here](#)



PLAYING RULES AND REGULATIONS

PLAYING RULES

In 2024, a National Cheer and Dance steering committee was elected comprised of commissioners, athletic directors, and various administrators. This committee initiated the process of adopting the NCA and NDA Varsity rulebooks specific for NAIA Competitive Cheer and Dance. In 2025 Competitive Cheer adopted the NCA Collegiate Advanced Rulebooks with NAIA Modifications.

A complete listing of the NCA Rulebook is available in September each year and may be downloaded for free [here](#). Approved Rule Changes for the 2026-2027 season can be found [here](#). NAIA Competitive Cheer Rule Modifications can be found [here](#).

All rule changes will include a five-year moratorium before the coaches can submit sport motions for potential rule changes or NAIA modifications. This policy went into effect 2024-2025.

CHEER WARM-UP REQUIREMENTS

Each team will be allocated a 30-minute warm-up period, structured in three segments:

1. 10 minutes for general stretching and mobility (no mats required).
2. 10 minutes for skill work (2 strips of mats, minimum).
3. 10 minutes on a full competition mat (9 panels) for routine-specific preparation.
4. Following the warm-up, teams will have 10 minutes on-deck before taking the floor.

JURISDICTION OF COMPETITION OFFICIALS/JUDGES

The outcome of all contests is under the jurisdiction of the on-site officials and all disputes, protests, etc., must be settled directly with the Host Event Manager and Head Official (protest/appeals are the primary role of the Head Official).

Hiring Judges for events is the responsibility of Conference Assignors; Coaches or Schools are not permitted to hire Judges. If a school is not in a conference, they should contact the NAIA Director of Officiating Initiatives, jragg@naia.org for a list of Assignors.

New for 2026-2027 – The requirement to have the minimum and maximum number of judges for a qualifying conference/CAC/Unaffiliated grouping tournament will remain consistent with the regular season that allows for a minimum and maximum number of judges.

For all regular season and conference/CAC/Unaffiliated grouping events a minimum of four (4) Judges are required, with a maximum of seven (7).

1. (1-2) Building Judge
2. (1-2) Tumbling Judge
3. (1-2) Overall Judge
4. (1) Deduction and Legality Judge
5. One of the above Judges must be selected as the Head Official

If an event ends up with more than four but less than seven Judges, the following is recommended.

1. If there are five (5) Judges, then add one to Overall Judge Group.
2. If there are six (6) Judges, then add one to Overall Judge and one to Tumbling Judge Groups.

For the NAIA National Championships, seven (7) Judges are required.

1. Two (2) Building Judges
2. Two (2) Tumbling Judges
3. Two (2) Overall Judges
4. One (1) Deduction and Legality Judge
5. One of the above Judges must be selected as the Head Official, unless one has been pre-assigned

DIVISION OF COMPETITION AND COMPETITORS

There will be one division of Co-ed Competitive Cheer.

Competitors (Minimum and Maximum)

1. Must have a minimum of 10 student-athletes and a maximum of 20 student-athletes on the floor during a performance (not to include spotters).
2. There will be a 5-point deduction for exceeding the maximum (per person) or not meeting the minimum (not per person).

SCORING

Scoring at Duals and Events

1. Scoresheets are provided on the [Coaches Corner](#).
2. The use of an approved Electronic Scoresheet is permissible.
3. Teams will be scored by panel officials in three primary categories – Building, Tumbling, and Overall.
 - a. A maximum of two (2) officials will be used for each of the above categories.
 - b. If two (2) officials are used, then their scores will be averaged together before entering the scores for their category.
 - i. Example:
 1. Building Judge #1 gives a score of 91.
 2. Building Judge #2 gives a score of 93.
 3. Final Building score will be 92.
 - c. All categories are added together and then divided by three (3) – the total number of categories. This will create the Subtotal.
 - d. All deductions will be deducted from the subtotal to get the Final Score.
4. Scores will be ranked in order from highest to lowest with the highest score being named the winner.
5. Mathematical errors in tallying should be brought to the attention of the competition event manager. The math in question will be double checked and explained to the coach as applicable. If an error has occurred, scores will be adjusted. Mathematical errors must be brought to the event manager within 20 minutes of the final teams performance. Once scores are announced they will be final.

HOSTING AN EVENT

The Host Institution is responsible for reporting results. Host SID's should ensure access to the NAIA Stat System - <https://stats.mynaia.org/> (not Presto) at least two weeks prior to the event. If you have trouble gaining access, please contact the [Athletics Communications Manager](#). Hosts will need to verify that competing teams' Official Rosters are in the Stat System; this should be done at least one week in advance. If a team is not in the Stat System, then you won't be able to report results from your event. See Appendices for the various forms and scores sheets for hosting an event. Additional information on reporting results can be found in the Reporting Results and Statistics section

Neutral Site Hosting

When an Institution is hosting an event that does not involve their own team, it is the Host Institution's responsibility to assign a team as the Reporting Team. In these unique cases, the Host Institution should inform the Reporting Team of their responsibility at least two weeks in advance of the event.

Non-NAIA Event

If a team attends a non-NAIA event, then that team must act as Host and report their results into the NAIA Stat System. If multiple NAIA teams attend a non-NAIA event, those coaches should communicate and determine one individual to act as Host for reporting scores into the NAIA Stat System.

Promoting season events

The National Office Championship Manager can post events on the NAIA website's [Regular Season Competition Listing Page](#). To have your event posted use the [Competitions Form](#) which will be automatically sent to the NAIA for listing. A follow-up email will be sent to you once your event is available on the website.

Rosters, schedules and results must be included on the institution's athletics website. All scores must be reported to the NAIA Cheer Score Reporting System within 24 hours of the conclusion of the competition.

For detailed information on Hosting an Event visit both the [Coaches Corner](#) and the Cheer Host Manual.

VIRTUAL COMPETITIONS

Virtual Competitions are not permitted as approved NAIA competitions. A Virtual Competition is defined as any portion of a competition being virtual. If any portion of the competition is done through a virtual setting, it is not a valid competition.

UNIFORMS

All uniforms must represent each institution and individual in a positive and respectful manner. No risqué, sexually provocative or lingerie inspired uniform or garments are permitted. Garments should be securely fastened to eliminate any possibility of accidentally exposing an intimate part of the body or undergarments.

See NCA Rulebook for complete details on Uniform.

Any uniform in which the appropriateness is questionable should be submitted to the Conference Assignor for approval.

Sponsor Logos

Approved NAIA uniform rules modifications to allow sponsor logos/patches during competition.

- Limit of one sponsor logo or patch on a uniform.
- The logos may not exceed a standard square of 2.25 inches.
- Sponsors of alcohol, tobacco, or any legalized drugs (for example, Oregon marijuana) are not permitted.
- Sponsors whose sole or primary business function is sports gambling (e.g., FanDuel, DraftKings, etc.) are not permitted. Sponsor logos must be in the same location on each set of uniforms (ex: if the home whites patch is on neckline, all home whites must be same, away jerseys could be in a different permissible location).

Placement – A sponsor patch meeting the restrictions of Rule 1-25.2 located in one of two places on the front of the jersey (1) the apex of the neckline; (2) shoulder panel on either the right or left side, and in only one place on the back of the jersey, the apex/center of the neckline as close to the neckline as is possible.

ELIGIBLE COMPETITIONS

COMPETITION

Results for all member institutions participating in Competitive Cheer shall include only those games played against accredited, upper-level, four-year, degree-granting institutions, and shall not include games against junior college, club, foreign (Canada and Mexico excluded), or military team.

Competition against institutions holding associate membership in the NAIA or members of the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) shall be considered as satisfying this requirement. To verify countable vs. non-countable opponents, [click here](#). Competition in events that are not approved NAIA competitions must still be reported to the NAIA Stat System and will count as an event, however these events do not count toward a team's season average.

All competitions must have a minimum of two teams from different schools present and both teams must be in the same division (i.e. at least 2 teams competing in the cheer division). There are no maximum limits on the number of teams in a division. Officials must be present and familiar with the rules being used and will be brought in at the cost of the host school. The NAIA Competitive Cheer Rulebook does NOT need to be used to count as a competition toward the minimum/maximum requirements during the regular season. This is similar to when another championship sport plays against an NCAA institution, and the teams do not play with NAIA specific rules.

TO QUALIFY FOR POSTSEASON

Teams must compete in a minimum of four (4) competitions, at least three (3) competitions must be approved NAIA competitions. An approved NAIA competition must use approved NAIA Judges, Scoresheets, and NCA Rules, Rubrics, and Progressions, and NAIA Modifications. If a team competes in more than 10 competitions during the regular season, and/or do not attend their Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group Tournament, then they will have violated their declaration.

NAIA Postseason competition begins with a team's Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group Championship or end of day on **Saturday, March 13**. NAIA Postseason events do not count towards min/max competitions.

CONDUCT IN COMPETITION

GENERAL CODE OF CONDUCT

All participants agree to conduct themselves in a manner displaying good sportsmanship and in line with the values of the NAIA Champions of Character program throughout the event. The coach of each team is responsible for seeing team members, coaches, parents, and any other person affiliated with the team conduct themselves accordingly.

1. No coach/competitor during competition or after scores are posted may disrespectfully address a judge/administrator or gesture in such a manner as to indicate resentment.
2. No coach/competitor shall make insulting or disparaging remarks to or about opposing teams or judges or questioning the integrity of a judge. (I.e. suggesting bias or cheating).
3. No coach/competitor shall attempt to influence a judge's decision.
4. No coach/competitor shall use profanity or vulgarity or use derogatory remarks or personal comments during or after the competition.
5. No coach/competitor after competition and scores have been completed shall post disrespecting public comments on judging to or on any type of media.



EJECTIONS AND SUSPENSIONS

An ejection is an action enforced in conjunction with competition by an official consistent with the playing rules in that sport. A suspension is required by NAIA bylaws (Article 6, Section B, Item 7) as an additional consequence related to ejections in conjunction with competition.

Ejections are not subject to appeal. Some sport rules allow protests through an official process outlined in each sport rule book.

Suspensions may be appealed starting with the Conference/Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions). An institution must submit an appeal to their conference within 72 hours of the completion of contest. The conference will submit a recommendation to the national office within 72 hours of receiving the appeal from the institution. The Conduct and Ethics Committee is responsible for all appeals related to suspensions due to ejections of a coach and/or student-athlete.

Once an appeal with appropriate signatures has been submitted to the conference, the student-athlete/coach may continue to participate through the appeal process. If the appeal is not approved, then the student-athlete/coach must sit out of the next scheduled contest(s).

A suspended person cannot be in the competitive venue the day of the contest or communicate with any team personnel or game officials the day of the contest. The student-athlete/coach will normally be removed from the venue during a suspension. However, the game manager will use their best discretion on what is appropriate to risk management procedures regarding their venue.

Ejection reports must be completed by the NAIA game official ejecting a student-athlete or coach. The form must be submitted to the NAIA within 48 hours after the completion of the contest. [Ejection Report Form](#)

POSTSEASON COMPETITION RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

CREDENTIAL INFORMATION

OFFICIAL PARTY

The official party for each team participating in post season play is up to 24 players allowed in uniform – 20 athletes on the floor and a maximum of 4 alternates, and up to 7 support staff (coaches, institutional representatives, and 3 optional safety spotters). Each team will receive a maximum number of 31 credentials, 24 student-athlete credentials and 7 official party credentials.

The deadline for certifying the official roster and performance lineup is prior to the first round of any postseason competition conference/CAC/unaffiliated grouping, qualifying competition, or national championship. Once the event begins, no athlete may participate who is not on the official roster and performance lineup.

Official Postseason Roster forms will now be filled out via [NAIA Connect](#) and sent to the NAIA National Office. If you do not have a login account, please contact naiacconnectsupport@naia.org. Once you login, please follow these [instructions](#).

MEDICAL PERSONNEL

Each team is allowed up to two athletic training/medical personnel on the team sideline. One of which must be an ATC, MD, or DO. A licensed health care provider's license information/number must be submitted in the application in order to receive any medical/athletic training credentials for your team. Applications will close 72 hours before the event starts. Medical personnel credentials can be picked up during team check-in/registration, or at the on-site Athletic Trainers meeting, only with a photo ID.

Please apply here for medical personnel credential: [LINK](#)

SPORTS INFORMATION/MEDIA PERSONNEL

All SIDs/Media personnel will need to apply for a credential for the final site. Applications will close 72 hours before the event starts. Media Credentials can be picked up directly from the on-site Media Coordinator during coaches check-in or at the box office only with photo ID. Only those that have applied for Media Credentials may pick up their credentials.

Please apply here for Media credential: [LINK](#)

**ADMINISTRATOR PERSONNEL**

All Presidents and Athletic Directors from qualifying teams will each receive two credentials. These credentials can be picked up at the box office/will call.

All other administrators will receive free admission with their NAIA membership card when presented at the box office.

ROSTER AND LINE-UP CHANGES

For Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group Championships that call for preliminary competition between conference teams, performance lineup changes cannot be made once the preliminary competition begins.

A player may be replaced on the official roster between the Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group Championship and NAIA National Championship by any eligible player whose name is included on the NAIA Official Eligibility Form for the current season. The coach will need to hand-carry a copy of the eligibility form to each tournament if a performance lineup change is necessary.

For the national championship, performance lineup changes are permissible between the prelims and the start of the final round only in the event of injury, illness, or family emergency. Replacements are permitted from among eligible athletes only. The changes must be reported to the Championship Director prior to warmups for the finals.

EXPENSES

Each participating team shall be responsible for its own expenses en route to, during and from all postseason events.

COACHES RESPONSIBILITY

The coach or designated person for each participating team must be in attendance and is responsible for their team at all times while at the site of the Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Grouping Championship and National Championship. This person shall accept the responsibility for the conduct of their student-athletes at the National Championship site, during the championship and at all activities connected with the team's participation. In case of property damage, the offending institution shall be held financially responsible.

INSURANCE

Each participating team shall provide its own medical, hospitalization, travel and accident insurance for all members of its official party.

SCORING AT CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

Scores from Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Championships must be reported to the NAIA Stat System (<https://stats.mynaia.org/>) at the completion of the event.

Scoring at Championships

Final scores at the Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated grouping championships and National Championship will be determined by the following system:

1. Teams will be scored by all panel officials (in the same manner as regular season).
2. Scores will be ranked in order from highest to lowest.
3. The preliminary score will determine performance order for the final round of competition. Final round performance order begins with the lowest scoring team and finishes with the highest.
4. A final event score will be calculated that reflects a preliminary round score weighted at 25% and a final round score weighted at 75%. Example: Preliminary Round Score: 91.5; Final Round Score: 89.3; Take 25% of 91.5 = 22.875; Take 75% of 89.3 = 66.975. Add 22.875 and 66.975 for a final event score of 89.85.
5. Teams will then be ranked from highest final event score to lowest final event score with the highest score being named the winner.
6. In the event of a tie, the score from finals will be used to break the tie. This process will also be used, if necessary, to determine qualifiers for the national championship.
7. Scores should be available to coaches immediately following the announcement of all final scores and rankings.
8. The outcome of all contests is under the jurisdiction of the on-site officials and all disputes, protests, etc. must be settled directly with the head officials. If a mathematical error is found, then all errors must be reported to the official scorers or sports information staff within 20 minutes of final score announcements for review.

Announcing Final Scores – see National Championship section.



CONFERENCE/UNAFFILIATED GROUP TOURNAMENTS

ADMINISTRATION

The Competitive Cheer Conference Championships are planned and administered by each respective host under the leadership of the Competitive Cheer Championship Sport Manager.

If available, a conference/CAC/unaffiliated grouping's Competitive Cheers' Chair will serve as the administrator(s) for their respective Conference Championship in cooperation with the host site Athletic Director. If not available, the host Athletic Director, or a designated person, may serve in this capacity. All Conference Championships must determine a winner.

All Conference Championships must include a contingency plan in case the competition cannot be completed on the originally scheduled date. The qualification deadline will not be extended because of weather.

DATES AND SITES

Each conference/CAC/unaffiliated group is required to have a plan in place to alternate the hosting of their national qualifying tournament within the conference/CAC/unaffiliated group on an annual basis.

Deadline for completion of NAIA Competitive Cheer national qualifying competitions is March 13, 2027.

DETERMINING NATIONAL QUALIFIER HOSTS

Each Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Grouping must submit a tournament plan no later than **November 1st** (November 2nd for 2027) annually. Only one plan should be submitted per conference/CAC/unaffiliated grouping. Contact [Championship Sport Manager](#) for more information.

FINANCES

The host site for all conference and national qualifying competitions is responsible for the following:

1. Compensation of officials - The compensation of officials will need to include travel expenses, if necessary.
2. Ordering awards, if applicable.
3. Administrative expenses - Including security, ticket personnel, public address announcer, scorer, timer, etc.
4. Expenses of game administrator, if applicable.

OFFICIALS/JUDGES

Officials for conference/CAC/unaffiliated grouping championship contents shall be assigned by the conference grouping Assignor. Compensation is the responsibility of the host institution.

Officials must be registered through RefQuest. It is recommended that all postseason officials (conference competitions and national championship) should have worked a minimum of two NAIA competitions.

TEAM QUALIFICATION AND SELECTION

Qualification

1. Conference Competition Criteria
 - a. Teams and athletes competing must meet eligibility requirements set through the NAIA eligibility center.
 - b. Score criteria, divisions, score sheets, routine requirements, etc. will follow the same format outlined for the NAIA Cheer & Dance National Championship.
2. Prelims/Finals: The competition will be a one-day event including both a preliminary round and a final round. Preliminary scores will seed the teams for the final round. If a qualifying competition host is hosting both a cheer and dance qualifier, the events must take place on two (2) consecutive days unless approved by NAIA Sport Manager.

Selection

1. National Championship Qualifying Process – Conference Direct.
 - a. The top team from each eligible-qualifying competition automatically advances to the national championship as an automatic berth.
 - b. Up to two automatic berths will be awarded to a conference/CAC/unaffiliated qualifying grouping based on the number of teams participating – 1 Auto berth per 6+ teams; 2 Auto berths per 12+ teams.
2. The NAIA Competitive Cheer National Selection Committee will select the remaining at-large berths:
 - a. Any declared varsity competitive Cheer teams who competed at a conference competition and met the minimum number of competitions will be considered for the National Championships.



- b. Any team that is not in an affiliated conference/CAC/unaffiliated conference can only qualify for the national championships as an At-Large Team.
3. Fifteen (15) Cheer teams will advance to the national championship.

CHAMPIONSHIP SELECTION APPEALS PROCESS

If there is misapplication of NAIA policy and procedures regarding tournament selection, an institution may appeal to the NAIA National Office.

Criteria for filing an appeal –

1. A written appeal citing the specific NAIA policies and/or procedures that have been misapplied must be submitted to the NAIA National Office within 24 hours from the time the tournament field has been released.
2. Once an appeal has been submitted a response will be provided within 24 hours from receipt of the appeal.
3. Appeals must be submitted and signed by the Athletics Director and President of the institution.

The NAC liaison will report any concerns to the NAIA National Office immediately following the conclusion of the selection.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

ADMINISTRATION

The NAIA Competitive Cheer Championship is under the direct control and supervision of the NAIA and the Competitive Cheer Championship Committee. The Championship Committee is responsible for the management of all performances and the general welfare of participating teams and coaches. NAIA Site Manager, the Host, and the Championship Committee will conduct a tournament coaches' meeting and coordinate both pre- and post-championship ceremonies. The Championship Committee consists of three coaches who do not have a team competing in the national championship. The committee will be selected by the NAIA National Office.

The National Championship Host determination will take place through a [Bid Process](#) facilitated by the NAIA National Office.

FORMAT

The National Championship is a two-day event with the preliminary round completed on Friday and the final round completed on Saturday.

National prelim performance order: Teams receiving automatic bids will receive the last performance order spots determined by random draw. The remaining at-large bids prelim performance order will also be determined by random draw for the earlier performances.

National final performance order: Teams will be reordered for finals. Teams will be performing in ascending order based on preliminary round scores.

Team registration, a coaches' meeting and the open student athlete experience will be held prior to the start of the competition. Time should be allotted on Friday morning before the preliminary round for all teams to practice.

ENTRY FEES

Each Cheer or Dance Team will be required to submit a \$500 team entry fee to the Host. The Host may also add a per participant fee for the Student-Athlete Experience Event.

All Fees must be paid in full no later than Coaches Check-In at the National Championships. Any team that has not paid their fees may be subject to dismissal from the Championships.

TEAM HOUSING

All participating teams **MUST** stay at the Hosts' designated hotels. Failure to do so would make a team **INELIGIBLE** for participation.

PARTICIPATION IN FUNCTIONS AT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

All participating teams and individuals competing in a national championship, including opening rounds, must attend all functions including formal and arranged gatherings, Coaches' Meetings, Student-Athlete Experience Events, and Teaming Up for Character Events. Failure to comply will result in a penalty of a \$1,500 fine to the institution.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

If inclement weather should cause travel delays for any team(s) competing in the National Championship, it will be up to the discretion of the NAIA Championship Sport Manager and the Competition Committee to make changes to the National Championship schedule to accommodate such delays.

It is the responsibility of the host Medial Director/Athletic Trainer at NAIA Championship events to determine when an event should be suspended and when it is safe to return to play as the result of severe weather. The Head Athletic Trainer is to notify the NAIA Championship Sport Manager who, in collaboration with the appropriate personnel (Host and Competition Committee, and NAIA National Office), will implement the predetermined action plan for both player and spectator safety.

OFFICIALS/JUDGES

Seven (7) officials (six (6) Panel and one (1) Deductions Judge) will be selected to work the NAIA Competitive Cheer National Championship. Officials must be registered and certified NAIA Officials. It is recommended that all postseason officials (qualifying competitions and national championship) should have worked two NAIA competitions.

RELATED INFORMATION

Prior to both the Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Grouping Championships and the NAIA National Championship, the Championship Resources Page will be posted on the NAIA website for all potential qualifying teams to review, including specific instructions regarding transportation, housing, practices and all responsibilities upon qualification.

Practice – Teams will be assigned a practice time on Friday morning prior to the event. Practice times will be announced during the qualifiers call the week prior to the championship.

Team Check-in & Coaches Meeting – The Head Coach is required to officially check-in their team for the National Championship. Check-in times will be preassigned and are not flexible. Check-in will include verifying and signing the official roster, submitting the performance lineup, verifying or turning in the music wavier, receiving athlete and official party credentials, receiving event gifts, and attending the assigned music-check time.

Shortly after all check-ins are completed, the Head Coach (assistants are permitted to attend, players may not attend) must attend the onsite Coaches Meeting; this is **Mandatory**! The meeting will be conducted by the Host and Championship Committee. It is not required for members of the Officiating team to be in attendance, though the Head Official has the right to attend.

Student-Athlete Experience Event – This event will be held the evening or day prior to the national championship. All teams and individual qualifiers must attend this event.

Teaming Up for Character™ – The Teaming Up for Character™ event will be held in conjunction with the host community. At least two representatives from your team (all are welcome) are required to participate in this event.

Competition Warm-up – A separate facility is used for warm-ups at the National Championship where sound from the warm-up should not impact competition performances.

Warm-up Requirements:

1. Designated space
2. Proper sound and light
3. Visible timers
4. Cheer Mats and Velcro

Coaches Box and Support for Performing Cheer and Dance Teams:

1. Only members of the competing team (athletes in uniform and spotters in Cheer) will be permitted to enter the Performance Area when their team is announced.
2. A designated Coaches Box will be placed in front of the performance area for members of the Official Party (approved staff and alternates).
3. A maximum of 8 members of the Official Party will be permitted in the Coaches Box; Credentials will be required to be in the Coaches Box.
4. All members of the approved Staff and Alternates will be required to adhere to the Coaches' Code of Conduct.
5. During the Competition, members of the approved Staff and Alternates are not permitted to stand, distract the Judges panel, generate sounds (hitting the floor or wall), or attempt to add to the performance.



6. Violations of the Coaches Box may result in an Unsportsmanlike Behavior Violation (5-point deduction, applied to that day's score) and potential removal from the competition.
7. All non-performing teams and spectators are expected to view the competition from the bleachers or other approved viewing areas.
 - a. Any team that is not directly related to the current performing team is not permitted to be on the competition floor, adjacent floor, or coaches box. This includes a dance team that may be from the same school as a performing cheer team (and vice versa).
 - b. Violations of this policy will result in the removal of the team from the competition.
 - c. Removal of any team will result in an overall score of zero.
8. The Host intends to secure the first two rows of bleachers for support groups of the competing team. However, once the team has finished their performance, the support groups will need to vacate the first two row for the next competing team.

Announcing Final Scores

1. Preliminary Round
 - a. Scores are announced as they are tabulated and verified.
 - b. Team standings and performance order for the final round are announced once the preliminary round is completed.
2. Final Round
 - a. All teams are brought to the performance floor.
 - b. Scores are announced from lowest 2-day totals up to highest.
 - c. Teams are expected to remain seated until after the announcement and recognition of the winners and any special presentations.

Awards – Team trophies and individual plaques are presented to the champion, runner-up, third and fourth-place finishers.

TRAVEL

SHORTS TRAVEL MANAGEMENT

Qualifying institutions are responsible for making their own travel arrangements to the National Championship.

The Official Travel partner of the NAIA is Short's Travel Management. Please contact **Short's Travel (816-323-6405)** to book your travel arrangements.

Short's Travel has contacts with charter air travel as well as charter buses for ground travel.

NATIONAL CAR RENTAL

National Car Rental/Enterprise Rent-a-Car is offering special rates for the NAIA National Championship. Teams will be able to access these special rates by providing the special NAIA contract ID #XZ05146.

Click [here](#) for account setup and instructions to use code.

MASTER'S TRANSPORTATION

Master's Transportation is the official provider of all shuttles/buses for your sale, lease and rental needs. Please contact Maria Duran at 816-979-3493 or mduran@masterstransportation.com for more information.



NAIA POLICY HANDBOOK INFORMATION

The NAIA Policy Handbook can be found at [HERE](#). Please refer directly to the NAIA Policy Handbook for the following:

Competition

- A. Declaration of Intent to Participate – Bylaws, Article I, Section L
- B. Frequency of Play and Scheduling – Bylaws, Article I, Section F
- C. Criteria for Countable Contests – National Administrative Council, Article XXV, Section A, Item 12
- D. Reporting Results – National Administrative Council, Article XXV, Section A
- E. Forfeits – National Administrative Council, Article XI
- F. Conduct in Competition Guidelines – National Administrative Council, Article IV
- G. Ejection Policy – Bylaws, Article VI Section B Item 7
- H. Drug Testing and Reinstatement Procedures – Bylaws, Article VIII

Eligibility

- A. Definitions for Eligibility – Bylaws, Article V, Section B
- B. Eligibility Requirements – Bylaws, Article V, Section C
- C. Transfer Rules – Bylaws, Article V, Sections F-H
- D. Amateur Rules and Reinstatement – Bylaws, Article VII

Recruiting & Financial Aid

- A. Recruitment – Bylaws, Article II, Section D
- B. Campus Visitations and Tryouts of Prospective Students – Bylaws, Article II, Section C
- C. Financial Assistance – Bylaws, Article II, Section B
- D. Financial Aid Limits – Council of Presidents, Article XII

SUNDAY PLAY POLICY

As a matter of policy, NAIA national qualifying and national championship competition will not be scheduled on Sunday. See NAIA Policy Handbook, National Administrative Council, Article XXIII for additional information.

DRUG TESTING

Drug testing may be done at any randomly selected NAIA National Championship competition for performance enhancing drugs. In accordance with the guidelines set forth by the National Drug Testing and Education Committee, the National Office will select which championships will incorporate drug testing each year. Student-athletes may be tested before, during and/or after NAIA National Championships.

For more information regarding championship drug testing, the [National Administrative Council Drug Testing Policy Manual](#), the safety of supplements and over-the-counter medications and resources to increase awareness on your campus, please visit – www.naia.org/wellness

DRUG TESTING CONSENT FORM

Each academic year all eligible NAIA student-athletes must sign a [Drug Testing Consent Form](#) in which he or she consents to be tested for the use of drugs prohibited by the NAIA Banned Substance List to participate in any NAIA National Championship competitions. This consent form shall be administered by the institution.

To ensure all student-athletes participating in NAIA National Championship competitions have signed a consent form and such form is on record with the institution, a representative of each institution participating in any NAIA National Championship competition must sign an Official Certification of Student-Athlete Consent Form at check-in.

It is recommended that before the season begins that an institution has all student-athletes complete the form to minimize the possibility of issues occurring when the postseason roster is submitted at a NAIA National Championship.

MEDICAL EXEMPTION FORM

The NAIA recognizes that some banned substances are used for legitimate medical purposes. Accordingly, the NAIA allows exemptions to be made for those student-athletes with a documented medical history demonstrating the need for regular use of such a drug. Exemptions may be granted for substances included in the following classes of banned drugs – Stimulants, anabolic agents, beta blockers, diuretics, peptide hormones, anti-estrogens, and beta-2 agonists.

[Medical Exemption Form](#)

REPORTING RESULTS AND STATISTICS

REPORTING RESULTS/SUBMITTING SCORES

Mandated by the NAC, all contest results must be reported to the NAIA scoreboard (<https://stats.mynaia.org/>) within 24 hours of completion.

Regular Season Neutral Site Tournament Statistics: The host institution is responsible for recording official statistics, for all participating teams, for those sports in which a weekly national statistical report is conducted. This includes all contests for a tournament, classic, tri-match, or any multi-team event of the like that an institution hosts, regardless of the venue or if the host institution is competing. Those sports include men's and women's volleyball, football, men's and women's soccer, men's and women's lacrosse, men's and women's basketball, competitive cheer, competitive dance, softball, and baseball. The home team of a tournament, classic, tri-match or any multi-team event must provide statistical services for all games, regardless of the venue. Failure of this rule will result in ALL games played in said event will be a no-contest. ****In the sport of Competitive Cheer, this requires institutions to post any non-NAIA competition and results to the schedule on the official team website.**

Neutral Site Host

If a Host Site School is not competing in a Hosted Event, the Host must determine and notify (at least two weeks in advance) which team will be considered the Host Team and responsible for reporting scores. It is important for the Host School SID to communicate with the assigned School's SID as well.

Institutions failing to report results for two consecutive weeks, or four total weeks during the season will be subject to a monetary penalty. The first violation will continue to be a warning. Any second violation (first penalty) will be a \$500 fine. The third violation will be a \$1,000 fine and a loss of postseason awards. The fourth violation will be a \$1,000 fine and will be dealt with at the discretion of membership services. Fines will be due within 30 days of notification.

Competition scores and team rosters using NAIA Competitive Cheer Rulebook must be reported in the NAIA Competitive Cheer & Competitive Dance Stat System (<https://stats.mynaia.org/>) and on the school web site under schedule/results. The host institution of the competition is the responsible party to submit all results from all institutions in the NAIA Competitive Cheer Stats System.

Competitions that are not scored with the NAIA Competitive Cheer Rulebook are still reported to the Cheer Stat System as a non-NAIA Competition. Results from non-NAIA competitions will still count against a team's minimum/maximum number of required competitions, though the scores will not impact the overall season average. If a team attends a non-NAIA event, then that team must act as Host and report their results into the NAIA Stat System. If multiple NAIA teams attend a non-NAIA event, those coaches should communicate and determine one individual to act as Host for reporting scores into the NAIA Stat System. The following information is needed to publish a non-NAIA Event:

1. One of the NAIA teams in the competition must act as Host and set-up the competition in the Stat System.
2. All team's Rosters must be in the Stat System to be included in the posted competition.
3. Performance Lineups must be sent to the Host.
4. The Time of the Performance must be uploaded into the system.
5. A Final Score must be uploaded into the system.

Once scores are published, only the National Office will have the ability to make edits to competitions and scores reported.

Additional information regarding the Stat System, how to build a competition, upload scores, and publish/finalize an event can be found on the [Coaches Corner](#) and in the Cheer Host Manual.

The public database of scores and team rosters can be found as a link on the [NAIA Competitive Cheer sport webpage](#).

Reporting team scores on the NAIA website provides greater team exposure to media, coaches, potential student-athletes and fans.

STATISTICS

It is strongly recommended that the host institution be responsible for all teams' official statistics. The opposing team can file an appeal if they feel an error was made in the official stats up to 72 hours after the conclusion of the contest. The appeal must be filed with the home team up to 72 hours after the contest and both teams must change the stats. Visit the [Coaches Corner](#) to use the Cheer and Dance Score Correction Form.



It is vital that sport records maintain a certain level of integrity and accuracy. The NAIA urges the official statistician for every sport to become familiar and have a working knowledge of the statistical manual.

AWARDS

Nomination details and forms for the following national awards can be found [HERE](#).

ALL-AMERICA

NAIA All-America tryouts will be video recorded during a standard submission time between Thursday - Saturday prior to the National Championship. Submissions are due by 4:00pm CST on Saturday, March 20. Additional policies, requirements, recording and submission information can be found on the [Coaches Corner](#) in the Resources section under All-America Process/Requirements.

Any individual wishing to try out for All-America must have competed in a minimum of four regular season competitions.

Recording Window: **March 18 – 20, 2027, Final Submission deadline March 20, 2027, at 4:00pm CST.** The NAIA Athletics Communications Department will release the NAIA Competitive Cheer All-America teams on April 1.

New for 2026-2027 – Updates to the All-America process requirements and sequences can be found in the All-America Requirements Page, located on the [Coaches Corner](#).

The All-America Committee will determine the All-America Teams. The Committee will be comprised of the Executive Committee Past President and 2nd Vice President, one member of the National Selection Committee, and three coaches (one Coach from each ARC). The National Selection Committee member is to provide administrative oversight to the committee and is a non-voting member.

The All-America Committee shall select first, second, and third teams each consisting of 18 players. Any Conference Player of the Year that is not selected to a team will automatically be placed on third team. The third team is permitted to be larger than 18 players. If any ties occur for the final placement of any of the teams, then those teams may be larger than 18 players. The Cheerleader with the highest overall scores is named "Cheerleader of the Year". A tie for the highest scores with two Cheerleaders will be named Co-Cheerleaders of the Year. Ties with 3+ athletes will be broken with a tiebreaker based on skill vs. routine.

CHAMPIONS OF CHARACTER INDIVIDUAL STUDENT AWARD

Each participating team shall nominate one student-athlete that has shown a documented display of exemplary character and sportsmanship during competition, on campus and in the community that exemplify the core values of Integrity, Respect, Responsibility, Sportsmanship and Servant Leadership. Nominations should be made on the NAIA Champions of Character Link and no later than **February 1, 2027**.

NAIA SCHOLAR-ATHLETE

Criteria for the NAIA Scholar-Athlete Award are as follows:

1. Nominee must be a sophomore or above in academic standing.
2. Nominee must have been in attendance at the nominating institution one full academic year at the time of the nomination deadline – January 31.
3. Nominee has a minimum grade point average of 3.50 (on a 4.0 scale) at the time of the nomination deadline (for transfer students the GPA is only at current NAIA institution).
4. Nominee has been certified as eligible and is listed on the eligibility certificate submitted to conference eligibility chair.
5. Nomination form is complete and submitted through SIDHelp.
6. All the above information is to be received by **January 31, 2027**, to be eligible for national press release/website, certificate and honors database – **All criteria must be met by this date.**

NOTE – There are no statistical/playing requirements needed to receive this award.

NAIA Scholar-Athlete nominations will be filled out via the [NAIA Connect](#). **NAIA Connect is the only way to nominate student-athletes as a NAIA Scholar-Athlete.**

If you do not have an account, please sign up and create your own. Access will be granted (usually) within 24 hours. Nominations will be processed entirely electronically. In order to complete a nomination, the student-athlete must have approved and signed a



release of their cumulative grade point average for nominating purposes. If you or your sports information office does not have a signed release form from the nominated student-athlete on file, a blank document (PDF) will be available for download.

This release form does not need to be turned into the NAIA National Office. You are asked to retain it for your institutional records. The administrator nominating the student-athlete will sign electronically. To be eligible for listing on website or honors database, forms **MUST BE SUBMITTED BY January 31, 2027**. LATE nominations will not be accepted.

To download a template to create an award certificate for your student-athletes that have earned this honor, [CLICK HERE](#).

RED BANNER SCHOLAR AWARD

New for 2026-2027 – The Red Banner Scholar Award recognizes the highest level of academic achievement among student-athletes competing at each NAIA National Championship Final Site. The award celebrates the NAIA's commitment to developing champions in the classroom, character, and competition by honoring the student-athlete(s) with the highest cumulative institutional grade point average participating in the national championship.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for the Red Banner Scholar Award, a student-athlete must:

1. Be listed on the official active championship roster (team sports) or be an official qualifier and active participant (individual sports) at the NAIA National Championship Final Site.
2. Be recognized as an NAIA Scholar-Athlete for the applicable academic year.
3. Meet all established NAIA Scholar-Athlete eligibility requirements and be submitted through the official NAIA Scholar-Athlete nomination process by the applicable sport deadline.

Selection Process

The NAIA National Office will determine the recipient(s) using approved NAIA Scholar-Athlete data.

- The eligible student-athlete with the highest cumulative institutional GPA at the national championship final site will receive the Red Banner Scholar Award.
- In the event of a tie for the highest GPA, all tied student-athletes will be recognized as co-recipients.
- No additional nomination is required beyond the NAIA Scholar-Athlete submission process.

SCHOLAR TEAM AWARD

In recognition of academic achievement, the NAIA names a Scholar Team for all sports in which Scholar-Athletes are recognized.

Based on a cumulative 3.0 season GPA for the current academic year on a 4.0 scale, all members of the team who appear on the eligibility certificate will be included in the GPA compilation.

The deadline for Scholar Team nominations is June 30. For the NAIA Scholar Team Award go to [NAIA Connect](#).

NAIA COACH OF THE YEAR AWARD

Each conference/CAC/unaffiliated grouping selects a Coach of the Year using its own method of determination.

National Coach of the Year

The National Coach of the Year is determined by a vote taken of all coaches through an online ballot after the national championship. Ballot includes all coaches participating in the national championship. The award will be given during the annual business meeting of the coaches and later released on NAIA.org. In the case of a tie, it should be awarded to the Coach who finished higher nationally.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS

The NAIA maintains a standardized awards program for all National Championships. National Championship awards are provided to the official parties of the top four teams. Team trophies are awarded to the National Championship team, second-place team, third-place teams, and fourth-place teams.



ORDERING AWARDS

Appropriate conference tournament awards are to be ordered by the conference chair and are the financial responsibility of the conference or the conference tournament host institution. Official NAIA awards MUST be ordered from:

Collegiate Awards

18081 E. Trafficway, Springfield, MO 65802

Contact – Brad Stout – brads@collegiateawards.com

COACHES ASSOCIATION

NAIA-COMPETITIVE CHEER COACHES ASSOCIATION (NAIA-CCCA)

The NAIA-Competitive Cheer Coaches Association (NAIA-CCCA) is an organization of collegiate Cheer coaches at NAIA institutions. NAIA-CCCA membership dues are paid by the institution as part of its NAIA membership dues for all people who receive all or part of their salary for responsibilities within the athletic department. The NAIA-CCCA studies and makes recommendations through legislation of all actions affecting the organization and administration of the NAIA Cheer programs.

MEMBERSHIP

Active membership shall consist of Competitive Cheer coaches who are current members of the NAIA and are actively engaged in coaching Competitive Cheer at a NAIA institution.

For the purposes of voting by members, each active member institution in good standing is entitled to one vote.

NAIA-CCCA VOTING

NAIA Coaches Associations must have a quorum (at least 50% of eligible voters) for a sport motion to be heard by the National Administrative Council. All voting will be completed using an online process following the business meeting to ensure all head coaches have an opportunity to vote. Motions will still be presented and discussed at the Annual Business meeting. If desired, a “straw poll” can be taken by those present to determine if a motion will be opened for vote to the full coaches association.

SPORT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

The Legislative Committee (Executive Committee) will review all submitted Sport Motions prior to the Annual Business Meeting for potential recommendations, changes, additions or deletions.

LEADERSHIP

Section I

The NAIA-CCCA elects officers who provide leadership for the Association. The officers shall consist of a President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary and Past President. The officers shall be elected from the acting membership of the Association at the annual business meeting and must represent NAIA member institutions in good standing.

Section II

These five individuals shall make up the NAIA-CCCA Executive Committee. All positions are for two (2) year-terms.

1. Secretary – Nomination and vote required.
 - a. Does not progress to a new role.
 - b. Can serve two consecutive terms, the person must be nominated and re-elected into this position.
2. 2nd VP – Nomination and vote required.
 - a. Does not progress to a new role.
 - b. Can serve two consecutive terms, the person must be nominated and re-elected into this position.
3. 1st VP – Nomination and vote required.
 - a. Progresses to President.
4. President – No vote required, unless progressing 1st VP resigns.
 - a. Progresses to Past President.
5. Past President – No vote required.
 - a. If no progression of President is available, then current Past President may serve consecutive terms or any other Past President may serve.
 - b. May be elected to any open position after serving.



Section III The progression in office shall be from 1st Vice President to President to Past President. In the event a vacancy occurs, the normal progression from 1st Vice President to President shall be accelerated to fill the vacant office. The NAIA-CCCA Executive Committee is empowered to appoint officers from the membership at large to fill a vacant position. Such an appointee shall remain in office until the next annual business meeting when a duly elected officer can be elected by the membership to fill the rest of the existing term or a new two-year term if elections are in order.

DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

Association at all official functions. The President shall plan the agenda and preside over all official business meetings of the NAIA-CCCA.

Section I The duties of the 1st Vice President are to assume the leadership of the Association at all meetings and functions when the President is not in attendance.

Section II The duties of the 2nd Vice President are to assume the leadership of the Association at all meetings and functions when the President and 1st Vice President are not in attendance.

Section III The duties of the Secretary are to take minutes at all meetings of the NAIA-CCCA, submit the minutes to the NAIA National Office for circulation to the membership, maintain records and perform other duties as assigned by the President.

Section IV The Past President shall serve on the Executive Committee of the NAIA-CCCA and act as a consultant to the President.

It is expected that each member of the Executive Committee be present for conference calls and meetings. Removal from the committee is possible based on inactivity.

NAIA Coaches Associations must have a quorum (at least 50% of eligible voters) in order for a sport motion to be heard by the National Administrative Council. All voting will be completed using an online process following the business meeting in order to ensure all head coaches have an opportunity to vote. Motions will still be presented and discussed at the Annual Business meeting. If desired, a "straw poll" can be taken by those present to determine if a motion will be opened for vote to the full coaches association.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

The NAIA-CCCA business meeting will be the last Thursday in April virtually. The 2026-27 business meeting will be held Thursday, April 29, 2027.

2026-2027 NAIA-CCCA EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

POSITION/TITLE	NAME, SCHOOL & CONTACT INFO
President	RJ Conroy , University of the Cumberlands, Ky., 606-539-3523, robert.conroy@ucumberlands.edu
First Vice President	Glenn Caston , Xavier University of Louisiana, 504-520-7156, gcaston@xula.edu
Second Vice President	Ayana Harris , Florida Memorial University, 305-626-3172, ayana.harris@fmuniv.edu
Secretary	Cebe Schneider , Dickinson State University, 937-688-0060, lindsay.reep@indwes.edu
Past President	Jena Robinson , Marian University, 317-955-6753, jrobinson2@marian.edu
NAC Liaison	Brittney Kellar , Southeastern University, 863-667-5065, bkellar@seu.edu



NAIA Competitive Cheer Performance Lineup

Competing Team: _____

Event Name: _____

Host for Competition: _____

Coach: _____

Event Date: _____

Athletes on Floor (ALPHABETICAL BY LAST NAME)

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

7 _____

8 _____

9 _____

10 _____

11 _____

12 _____

13 _____

14 _____

15 _____

16 _____

17 _____

18 _____

19 _____

20 _____

Alternates

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____



CHEER PERFORMANCE OUTLINE (Building)

Please note that these ranges are used as a guide for the officials.

The difficulty range may be adjusted based on what a team executes when competing.

School: _____

Total Music Time: _____

Number of Participants: _____ Male
 _____ Female

	1.0-2.0 Skills / (#)	2.0-3.0 Skills / (#)	3.0-4.5 Skills / (#)	4.5-6.0 Skills / (#)	6.0-7.5 Skills / (#)
Stunts	1) 2) 3) 4) 5)	1) 2) 3) 4) 5)	1) 2) 3) 4) 5)	1) 2) 3) 4) 5)	1) 2) 3) 4) 5)
Pyramids	1) 2) 3) 4) 5)	1) 2) 3) 4) 5)	1) 2) 3) 4) 5)	1) 2) 3) 4) 5)	1) 2) 3) 4) 5)
	1.0-2.0 Skills / (#)	2.0-3.0 Skills / (#)	3.0-4.0 Skills / (#)	4.0-4.5 Skills / (#)	4.5-5.0 Skills / (#)
Tosses	1) 2) 3) 4) 5)	1) 2) 3) 4) 5)	1) 2) 3) 4) 5)	1) 2) 3) 4) 5)	1) 2) 3) 4) 5)

**Please list the skill you are doing in chronological order and the number of stunts; basket tosses or athletes performing the skill when applicable.*



CHEER PERFORMANCE OUTLINE (Tumbling)

Please note that these ranges are used as a guide for the officials.

The difficulty range may be adjusted based on what a team executes when competing.

School: _____ Total Music Time: _____ Number of Participants: _____ Male
Female

	1.0-2.0 Skills / (#)	2.0-3.0 Skills / (#)	3.0-4.0 Skills / (#)	4.0-4.5 Skills / (#)	4.5-5.0 Skills / (#)
Standing Tumbling	1) 2) 3) 4) 5)	1) 2) 3) 4) 5)	1) 2) 3) 4) 5)	1) 2) 3) 4) 5)	1) 2) 3) 4) 5)
Running Tumbling	1) 2) 3) 4) 5)	1) 2) 3) 4) 5)	1) 2) 3) 4) 5)	1) 2) 3) 4) 5)	1) 2) 3) 4) 5)
Jumps	1) 2) 3) 4) 5)	1) 2) 3) 4) 5)	1) 2) 3) 4) 5)	1) 2) 3) 4) 5)	1) 2) 3) 4) 5)

**Please list the skill you are doing in chronological order and the number of standing tumbling and running tumbling skills when applicable.*



2026-2027 NAIA SCORING GUIDELINE

NAIA judges will award scores based on the point ranges below when skills are performed by a majority of the team unless otherwise noted. Skills performed by less than a majority of the team will be awarded scores in a lower range

STUNTS	PYRAMIDS	TOSSES	STANDING TUMBLING	RUNNING TUMBLING
1.0-2.0	1.0-2.0	1.0-2.0	1.0-2.0	1.0-2.0
Skills performed do not meet the below skill range requirements	Skills performed do not meet the below skill range requirements	Skills performed do not meet the below skill range requirements	Skills performed do not meet the below skill range requirements	Skills performed do not meet the below skill range requirements
2.0-3.0	2.0-3.0	2.0-3.0	2.0-3.0	2.0-3.0
Advanced Group Stunts, single based stunts or coed style stunts performed with advanced or elite dismounts.	Advanced Pyramid Skills Two High pyramids incorporating multiple 2-1/2 high transitions and multiple inverting & twisting & unique mounts and dismounts	Non-Flipping Tosses with single full twisting skills Toss single full twists, kick single full twists, etc. Note: a ¼ positioning move is allowed in twisting skills	Intermediate Standing Tumbling Standing tumbling connected to back handspring(s)	Intermediate Running Tumbling Round- off back handspring(s), etc.
3.0-4.5	3.0-4.5	3.0-4.0	3.0-4.0	3.0-4.0
Advanced Group Stunts, single based stunts or coed style stunts connected to an elite dismount performed by MAJORITY in a single section.	Elite Pyramid Skills Pyramids containing single or multiple structures incorporating a top person at 2-1/2 high level or multiple 2-1/2 people with minimal inverting & twisting & unique mounts & dismounts	Non-Flipping Tosses with double full twisting skills Toss double full twists, kick double full twists, etc. Note: a ¼ positioning move is allowed in twisting skills.	Advanced Standing Tumbling Standing tumbling connected to back tucks	Advanced Running Tumbling Round off back handspring tucks, etc.
4.5-6.0	4.5-6.0	4.0-4.5	4.0-4.5	4.0-4.5
Elite Group stunts/single based variations of inverting/releasing and spinning skills to extended positions. FOR COED TEAMS Assisted Elite Coed skills to single leg variations OR Unassisted Elite Coed skills to extended position. Required Dismount: Elite Dismount connected to one of the above skill performed in the same section.	Multiple Elite Pyramid Transitions and Structures by 2 or More people at 2-1/2 High simultaneously that includes: Numerous CONNECTED inverting, twisting, and/or unique entries to the top of the pyramid AND numerous inverting, twisting and/or unique dismounts. Mounts AND Dismounts must include variety	Flipping Tosses Back tucks, layouts, pike open, front flipping toss	Elite Standing Tumbling Standing tumbling connected to layouts and/or full including synchronized standing tumbling connected to layouts	Elite Running Tumbling Round-off back handspring layouts, full twists, or passes consisting of full twists or more.
6.0-7.5	6.0-7.5	4.5-5.0	4.5-5.0	4.5-5.0
Elite group stunts or single-based variations incorporating an inversion, release, or spin to an extended liberty variation/awesome. For Coed teams, an elite unassisted coed skill to an extended liberty variation/awesome is required. Required Dismount: Elite dismount in the same sequence to the required stunt. A majority of the team must perform the required stunt and in the same section with an elite dismount.	Multiple elite pyramid transitions and structures involving two or more athletes at 2½ high performed simultaneously. The pyramid must include numerous released inverting, twisting, and/or unique entries to the top of the pyramid and numerous inverting, twisting, and/or unique dismounts. Both the entries and dismounts must demonstrate clear variety.	Two Position Flipping Tosses Tuck X-out, Tuck split, layout split, kick layout straddle, pike open straddle, pike open split, layout full twist. COED TEAMS: Must throw additional toss from the following list: Layout straddle full, split/kick full, tuck x-out full, tuck, split/kick full, double full twisting layout	Majority Synchronized Elite Standing Tumbling Synchronized standing tumbling connected to a full	Majority Synchronized Elite Running Tumbling Synchronized running tumbling connected to full.

*For the 6.0-7.5 Stunt range **ALL** skills performed in one section **MUST** be an elite skill with the connected required dismount performed by MAJORITY as stated in the guidelines.

*Pyramid Clarification- In pyramids where multiple top persons maneuver to the top of a 2-1/2 high pyramid, the transition would only count as one inverting/twisting unique transition.

*Group stunts are considered a group with 3 bases (including the spotter) for a total of 4 participants. Adding a 4th base does decrease the skills value to a lower scoring range.

* For a skill to be considered **UNASSISTED** it must receive primary support from a single base the majority of the time & must not be assisted in the toss of the stunt, to elevate the stunt or to stabilize the stunt.

*STANDING AND RUNNING TUMBLING: Synchronized is defined as originating together OR it involves the qualifying skill element occurring at the same time. Example- Round off BHS Fulls originating in sync OR Round off fulls and round off BHS fulls where the fulls execute at the same time (rotate together)

JUMPS

4.0

Single Jumps

4.5

Double Jump Combinations

5.0

Triple Jump or Double Jump plus a single Jump, **MUST** include variety



2026-2027 Advanced COED Level Appropriate Skills and Majority/Most Chart

Below progressions are intended to be a guide to accompany the NCA College Scoring Guidelines. Skills listed in each category are Unassisted Coed unless otherwise stated. Any modification to the

	INTERMEDIATE	ADVANCED	ELITE
INVERSION STYLE COED SKILLS	Connected Ground inversion to extended Ground Inversion Released to Prep Prep Level Released inversion to prep hand in hand inversions released to prep level Prep Level released inversion to Extended	Connected full twisting prep level inversion to prep or extended (pirouette) Ground inversion released to hand in hand Released Ground up inversion to extended (RO, BHS, FHS, Cartwheel) Released Ground up inversion to extended skill with ¼- ¾ twist Prep level Hand in hand released to extended	Released ground up inversion to extended stunt with full twist FHS 1.5 Extended hand in hand release to extended Hand in hand release with 1/2 -full twist Diamidov to extended Aerial 1.5 Handski BHS double up
TWISTING STYLE COED SKILLS	Walk In To Extended Full up to Prep Level ¼ to Arabesque Walk- In to 1 Arm Extended Full up to Extended Hands Full around to Extended	Full up to Extended Single Leg Full Up to 1 arm Extended Hands full around to Extended Single Leg	1.5 up to Extended Prep 1.5 to Extended Prep double to Extended Double up to Extended
RELEASE STYLE COED SKILLS	Toss to Extension Toss to prep press to 1-arm Extended Low to High Release to Extended Twist Release to below prep level skill	High to High Released Skills Pop Over Toss One Arm Extended Twist Release to Prep Level Twisting Tic Toc to skill (Low to High) Toss/Prep level stunt release to prep level invert (half tart)	Rewind High to High Full Twist Release Skills Toss to Extended Invert (Pop Tart) Fast Forward/Front to Stunt 1 Arm Rewind Side Sumi Stunt Flip to Stunt (Shotgun) Twisting Rewinds
COED DISMOUNTS		Full Twisting Dismount (release) to ground or cradle Front flip to Cradle Back ¾ to Prone	Double Twisting dismount (released) to cradle Back Flip to Cradle Front Flip Full Twist To Cradle Back ¾ Flip with half/full Twist Back Flip Full Twisting Dismount <i>(See USA Cheer rules for dismounts that require 3 catchers)</i>

#Athletes	Group Stunt	Pyramid	Toss	Coed Style		Tumbling
				MAJ	MOST	
10-11	2	2	2	2	3	6
12-13	2	2	2	3	3	7
14	2	2	2	3	4	8
15	3	3	2	3	4	8
16	3	3	2	3	4	9
17	3	3	2	3	5	9
18	3	3	2	4	5	10
19	3	3	3	4	5	10
20	3	3	3	4	5	11

*Disclaimer: NCA reserves the right to make all final rules and scoring decisions

Using this chart, the numbers listed specify majority/most assuming groups are used as defined below. Any deviation from the traditional number of athletes involved would CHANGE the total number of groups needed for Group Stunt, pyramids, tosses, or COED style skills. Keep in mind these numbers only list the minimum required to get INTO a range. Other factors such as difficulty of skill and team participation can affect your score once within a range.

GROUP STUNT- A traditional group of 4 athletes

TOSS- A traditional group of 4 athletes PLUS a front spotter

COED STYLE- A group of 3 athletes (assisted or unassisted)



2026-2027 Advanced Group Stunt Level Appropriate Skills and Majority/Most Chart

The below progressions are intended to be a guide to accompany the NCA College Scoring Guidelines. Skills listed in each category are based on group stunts unless otherwise stated. Any modification to the stunt group could

	INTERMEDIATE	ADVANCED	ELITE
INVERSION STYLE SKILLS	Released inversion to prep level Connected Ground inversion to extended Prep Level Released inversion to Extended	Connected ground up inversion with modified twisting skill to prep or extended Released inversions with ¼ - ½ twist to prep level single leg skill Creative hand in hand inversions released to prep level (EX. Diamidov) Connected ground up inversion with 1 full twist or 1¼ twist	Released ground up inversion to extended skill with full twist Prep level released Inversion with ½-1 full twist to extended Extended hand in hand released to extended FHS 1.5
		Ground inversion release to prep level hand in hand Released Ground up inversion to extended skill with ¼- ¾ twist Released ground up inversion to extended	Hand in Hand Inversion Release full twist Aerial 1.5 BHS double up
TWISTING STYLE SKILLS	Modified full twisting stunt to single leg Full twisting to extended Full twisting to extended single leg Hands full around to prep	Hands full around to extended 1-1/4 twisting to extended 1-1/4 twisting to extended single leg skill Full up single based to extended 1.5 twisting to extended Hands 1.5 to Extended Double up to extended High to High Full around Quick toss Full up	Prep Level Double Around to Extended High to High 1.5 to Extended Quick toss double up
RELEASE STYLE SKILLS	Low to high released skills Switch up to extended single leg skill Twist release to prep level or below High to high releases lib to lib Single based toss to hand	High to high released skills lib to body position Full Twisting release to prep level Switch up to extended single leg skill with ¼ - ¾ twist Single Based toss to extended Released skill with a twist ¼- ¾ (EX: low to high or high to high) Toss/prep level stunt release to prep level invert (half tart)	Rewind Full twist release at extended (high to high) Ground toss to invert (pop tart) Side sumi Shotgun (Stunt flip to stunt) Twisting Rewinds
DISMOUNTS	¼ twisting dismount to cradle Transitions to cradle or prone	Full twisting dismount to cradle Full twisting pop off Kick full dismount Front flip to Cradle Back ¾ to prone	Double Twisting dismounts Back Flip to Cradle Front Full Twist to cradle Back ¾ with half/full twist Back flip full twisting dismount <i>(see USA cheer rules for dismounts that require 3 catchers)</i>

#Athletes	Group Stunt	Pyramid	Toss	Coed Style		Tumbling
				MAJ	MOST	
10-11	2	2	2	2	3	6
12-13	2	2	2	3	3	7
14	2	2	2	3	4	8
15	3	3	2	3	4	8
16	3	3	2	3	4	9
17	3	3	2	3	5	9
18	3	3	2	4	5	10
19	3	3	3	4	5	10
20	3	3	3	4	5	11

*Disclaimer: NCA reserves the right to make all final rules and scoring decisions

Using this chart, the numbers listed specify majority/most assuming groups are used as defined below. Any deviation from the traditional number of athletes involved would CHANGE the total number of groups needed for Group Stunt, pyramids, tosses, or COED style skills. Keep in mind these numbers only list the minimum required to get INTO a range. Other factors such as difficulty of skill and team participation can affect your score once within a range.

GROUP STUNT- A traditional group of 4 athletes

TOSS- A traditional group of 4 athletes PLUS a front spotter

COED STYLE- A group of 3 athletes (assisted or unassisted)



EXECUTION GUIDELINES



EXECUTION SCORING GUIDELINE				
Athletes are expected to demonstrate excellent technique when performing each skill. A team's execution will be determined by all athletes performing the skill.				
LOW	BELOW AVERAGE	AVERAGE	ABOVE AVERAGE	HIGH
1.0 - 3.0	3.0-3.5	3.5-4.0	4.0 - 4.5	4.5 - 5.0
1.0 - 4.0	4.0 - 5.0	5.0 - 6.0	6.0 - 7.0	7.0 - 7.5
Widespread Errors are occurring across all participating athletes/groups.	Frequent / Most - Frequent errors across many athletes - Errors occur repeatedly within many stunt groups or across multiple stunts - Frequent errors demonstrated across a large portion of the team, affecting multiple areas of the routine	Multiple / Several - Technique issues demonstrated by several athletes or stunt groups - Multiple stunt groups or athletes demonstrate technique issues - More than half of the team shows technique errors	Few / Intermittent - Intermittent technique issues by athletes - Few technique issues within stunts - Few technique issues observed across the team	Minor / Minimal - Minimal technique issues by athletes - Minimal technique issues within stunts - Minor technique issues observed across the team

STUNT/PYRAMID EXECUTION CRITERIA	
Each execution score will look at the below criteria: This IS NOT a driver system	
TOP PERSON	* Body control * Uniform flexibility * Legs straight/locked/toes pointed
BASES/SPOTTERS	* Stability of the stunt * Solid stance * Feet stationary
TRANSITIONS	* Entries * Dismounts * Control from skill to skill
SYNCHRONIZATION	* Timing (when applicable)

TUMBLING EXECUTION CRITERIA	
Each execution score will look at the below criteria: This IS NOT a driver system	
APPROACH	* Arm placement into a pass/skill * Swing/prep * Chest placement
BODY CONTROL	* Head placement * Arm/shoulder placement in skills * Control from skill to skill in a pass
LANDINGS	* Controlled * Chest Placement
SYNCHRONIZATION	* Timing (when applicable)

JUMP EXECUTION CRITERIA	
Each execution score will look at the below criteria: This IS NOT a driver system	
ARM PLACEMENT	* Approach * Consistent Entry * Swing/prep * Arm placement in jumps
LANDINGS	* Straight legs * Pointed toes * Hip placement/rotation/hyperextension * Height
SYNCHRONIZATION	* Legs/feet together * Chest placement * Landings
	* Timing



OVERALL GUIDELINES



OVERALL/OTHER SCORES- ADVANCED & INTERMEDIATE			
ROUTINE COMPOSITION DIFFICULTY	ROUTINE COMPOSITION EXECUTION	COLLEGIATE IMAGE	OVERALL EFFECT
1.0 - 5.0	1.0 - 5.0	9.0 - 10.0	9.0 - 10.0
Dance & Motions, Flow & Transitions, Seamless Movement, Patterns & Visual Design, Layered Movement	Clarity & Precision, Timing & Synchronization, Transition Control, Spacing & Formations, Overall Visual Effectiveness	Performance Integrity, Sportsmanship, Uniform, Overall School Representation	Performance Impression, Overall Appeal & Creativity of the scoring section including readability. This score is scored by each category and is averaged for the final score

OVERALL SCORING GUIDELINE				
BELOW	LOW	AVERAGE	ABOVE AVERAGE	HIGH
9.0 - 9.2	9.2 - 9.4	9.4 - 9.6	9.6 - 9.8	9.8 - 10
1.0 - 3.0	3.0 - 3.5	3.5 - 4.0	4.0 - 4.5	4.5 - 5
Widespread issues across most elements of dance and motion execution, timing, spacing, formations, and transitions. Movement lacks consistency and control, significantly impacting overall visual effectiveness. Overall performance impression reflects widespread issues affecting readability, creative appeal, and visual presentation.	Frequent issues across most elements of dance and motion execution, timing, spacing, formations, and transitions. Movement lacks consistency and control, impacting overall visual effectiveness. Overall performance impression shows frequent issues affecting readability, creative appeal, and visual presentation.	Multiple/several issues with dance and motion execution, timing, spacing, formations, and transitions. Movement remains generally clear and controlled but shows multiple/several inconsistencies that impact overall visual effectiveness. Overall performance impression reflects multiple/several issues affecting readability, creative appeal, and visual	Few/intermittent issues with dance and motion execution, timing, spacing, formations, and transitions. Movement remains clear, controlled, and visually effective throughout the routine with only brief, isolated inconsistencies. Overall performance impression shows few/intermittent issues, while maintaining clear readability, creative appeal, and effective visual presentation.	Minimal issues with dance and motion execution, timing, spacing, formations, and transitions. Movement remains clear, controlled, and visually effective throughout the routine with only minor isolated inconsistencies. Overall performance impression is strong, with clear readability, creative appeal, and effective visual presentation.

This document was developed for NAIA use with the permission of Varsity Spirit

Team Name: _____

Judge Name: _____

OFFICIAL

SCORE ★ SHEET

BUILDING MASTER SCORE SHEET



BUILDING SKILLS

	MAXIMUM VALUE	DIFFICULTY	MAXIMUM VALUE	EXECUTION
STUNTS Level of Skill, Athlete participation, Number of bases used, Creativity, Variety	7.5		7.5	
PYRAMIDS Level of Skill, Athlete participation, Number of bases used, Creativity, Variety	7.5		7.5	
TOSSES Level of Skill, Athlete participation (not including front spots), Variety, Synchronization	5		5	
OVERALL EFFECT Performance impression, overall appeal and creativity of the scoring section including readability	10	Between 9-10	averaged across all score sheets	

CRITIQUE

Team Name: _____

Judge Name: _____



OFFICIAL
SCORE ★ SHEET

TUMBLING MASTER SCORE SHEET

TUMBLING SKILLS

	MAXIMUM VALUE	DIFFICULTY	MAXIMUM VALUE	EXECUTION
STANDING TUMBLING Level of standing tumbling skills, synchronization, athlete participation, variety & technique	5		5	
RUNNING TUMBLING Level of running tumbling skills, synchronization, athlete participation, variety & technique	5		5	
JUMPS Advanced Jumps- EX. Toe Touch, Front or Side Hurdler, Pike	5		5	
OVERALL EFFECT Performance impression, overall appeal and creativity of the scoring section including skill readability	10	Between 9-10	averaged across all score sheets	

CRITIQUE

Team Name: _____

Judge Name: _____



OFFICIAL

SCORE ★ SHEET

OVERALL MASTER SCORE SHEET

OVERALL PERFORMANCE

	MAXIMUM VALUE	DIFFICULTY	MAXIMUM VALUE	EXECUTION
ROUTINE COMPOSITION Seamless movement & Patterns, Flow, Transitions, Dance & Motions	5		5	
COLLEGIATE IMAGE Performance Integrity, Sportsmanship, Uniform, Overall School Representation	10	Between 9-10		
OVERALL EFFECT Performance impression, overall appeal and creativity of the scoring section including readability	10	Between 9-10		

CRITIQUE

2027 NCA COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIP - POINT DEDUCTIONS

Deductions WILL be considered prior to, during & following the performance until all athletes are SAFELY off the performance surface.

ATHLETE FALL (AF) - .25 Drops to the performance surface DURING tumbling and/or jump skills

Includes	Would Not Include
- Hand or hands down during a tumbling or jump skill - Multiple body parts down in tumbling or jumps i.e. hands & knees, seat & hands, etc - Knee or knees down during tumbling or jump skill - Tumbling transitions in and/or out of a building skill	- An athlete that trips while walking during a transition - An athlete trips/falls following a controlled completion of a tumbling or jump skill

BUILDING BOBBLE (BB) - .50 Building skills that almost drop but are saved

Includes	Would Not Include
- Base or spotter drops to performance surface during building skill - Top person leans and/or bears weight on a base/spotter and is pushed back up into the stunt/skill - Lowering of a stunt from extended position to prep level (not a timing issue) - Pyramid skills that would fall without the bracer or bracer's support - Both feet and/or both hands coming in contact with performance surface during a cradle/prone (excluding one foot). - Hand(s) of the top person come in contact with the performance surface during a cradle/prone - Drops to the performing surface from a thigh stand and/or waist level style stunt on their feet (not a timing issue) - Incomplete Twisting Dismount that lands in a prone (stomach) position	- An omitted skill - Drop in a body position by the top person - Excessive movement by the bases - Balance checks by the top person - Single Based/Coed style skill that never results in contact beyond a toss grip (omitted coed style skill) - Base or spotter drops to performance surface during building skill anytime during a stunt, transition or dismount

Building Fall .75- Drops or falls from a building skill or transition

Includes	Would Not Include
- Drops to a cradle position/ load in/ prone position - Top person is set out of a building skill, transitions, and drops to the performance surface - Drops/Lowering of a stunt, including single based/ Coed Style skills (assisted or unassisted) in a controlled manner to the performance surface with assistance from the base and/or spotter.	- Stunts that almost fall but are saved and return to a stunting position - Any skill where the top remains standing (not leaning or sitting) and at least ONE foot remains at prep level

MAJOR BUILDING FALL (MBF) - 1.5 Drops to the performance surface from a building skill by the top person and/or base(s)/ spotter(s) OR drops to a compromising position not included in Building Fall.

Includes	Would Not Include
- Multiple bases and/or spotters drop to the performance surface - Top person lands on a base and/or spotter who drops to the performance surface - Tosses that land in a prone (on stomach), upright (feet down) or inverted (head down) position - Skills in which the event spotter is the primary catcher/saves an athlete while falling. - Tosses or dismounts that land in a prone (on stomach), upright (feet down) or inverted (head down) position	- Top person comes in contact with the performance surface during a transitional stunt and/or pyramid but without interrupting or stopping the skill. - Top person is set out of a building skill, transitions, and or drops to the performance surface (this includes tripping while walking

PYRAMID MAXIMUM (MAX) – 2.0 When multiple building deductions should be assessed during a pyramid skill, then the sum of those deductions will not be greater than 2.0. Building deductions will be used until a single pyramid has received more than 2.0 points in deductions where the fall(s) affect other parts of the same pyramid. When multiple pyramids are built at the same time, each pyramid will be treated separately. Once a pyramid is rebuilt and shows stability, additional deductions can be given.

2027 NCA COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIP – DEDUCTIONS & VIOLATIONS

BOUNDARY VIOLATION – 0.5 / 1.0 per occurrence *(If a violation is assessed, Judges' decisions are final and will not be reviewed)*

- Athlete with both or any combination of 2 feet, 2 hands, or any part of the seat/torso outside the performing surface.
- Any participant who leaves the performance surface for any reason (other than a boundary violation) will receive a **1.0** deduction.

PROP VIOLATION – 0.5

- Only traditional sideline props are permitted for cheer teams. Air horns or artificial noise makers are prohibited.
 - Teams may only receive 1 deduction for the same prop violation.
 - Hard props/megaphones released from an athlete while loading, dismounting or stationary in a stunt
 - A person on the ground throwing to another person or discarding a hard prop/megaphone with the intent of distance
 - Athletes performing/landing stunts, tumbling or jumps on props

EXCESSIVE CELEBRATION – 1.0

- Teams should enter and exit the performing surface quickly. Any entrance/exit more than 30 seconds will result in a deduction. In all divisions including Game Day, timing will begin once the first participant has stepped onto the performing surface.
- Introductions (organized entrances, chants, spell outs, etc.) are considered part of the routine and will be timed as part of the performance. Team breaks, rituals and traditions need to take place prior to entering the mat.
- Teams should take the floor immediately with spirit and enthusiasm, but without excessive gestures
- Teams should refrain from any type of excessive celebration after the performance (head swings, breakdancing, alternates/coaches on the mat, drops to the mat, etc.).

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT – 2.0

- When a coach is in discussion with an official, other coaches, athletes, or parents/spectators they must maintain professional conduct. Unsportsmanlike behavior could result in a deduction, removal of coach or disqualification.

INAPPROPRIATE CHOREOGRAPHY / MUSIC – 3.0

- Vulgar or suggestive choreography, which includes, but is not limited to, hip thrusting, inappropriate touching/gestures, slapping, positioning body parts to one another.
- Music unsuitable for family listening, which includes, but is not limited to swear words, connotations of sexual acts/behavior, drugs, and/or violent acts/behavior. Removing or replacing words with sound effects constitutes inappropriate.

DIVISION / PARTICIPATION VIOLATIONS – 5.0 per athlete, maximum of 10.0

- If an athlete participates on more than one cheer team (crossover), the **2nd and each subsequent team** will receive a deduction for each illegal participant.
- Teams that compete with fewer than the minimum number of athletes will receive a deduction. Teams that compete with more than the maximum number of athletes will be disqualified
- Performance Divisions: Max 20 athletes + up to 2 mascots (must be two different mascots)
- Coed Divisions:
 - Small Coed: 1–4 males
 - Large Coed: Must meet male-to-total ratio
- Game Day & Spirit Rally: Max 30 total participants (including mascots)
- Spirit Rally Participation Minimums:
 - Band/Drumline: 20%
 - Cheer/Dance: 20%
 - Mascot/Spirit Groups: 10%

TIME LIMIT VIOLATIONS – 0.25 / 0.5 / 1.0 / 2.0

- In Performance divisions, timing begins after the team takes the floor with the first organized movement, word, or note of music, with a maximum routine time of 2:30, including up to 1:45 of music; penalties are **0.25** for 1–5 seconds over and **.50** for 6 or more seconds.
- In Game Day divisions, timing does not include spiriting and begins with the first group movement, voice, or note of music, with a maximum time of 3:00; penalties are **1.0** for 1–5 seconds over and **2.0** for 6 or more seconds.
- Teams have 30 seconds from introduction to begin and 30 seconds after completion to exit, with deductions of **0.25** for 1–5 seconds over and **0.5** for 6 or more seconds

GENERAL USA CHEER RULES / TUMBLING VIOLATIONS – 1.0

- Skills performed in violation of USA Cheer College Cheer General and/or Tumbling Rules.
- Tumbling skills performed in violation of specific division skill restrictions.

USA CHEER BUILDING VIOLATIONS – 2.0

- Skills performed in violation of USA Cheer College Rules, as well as building performed in violation of division skill restrictions.

General Safety Violation – 0.5

- When skills are performed illegally, usually due to performer error, however the skill itself is legal. Examples include, but are not limited to:
 - Required spotter in a pyramid loading and not getting to required position by the time the stunt/pyramid is established.
 - Spotter grips on a 2 ½ high pyramid that become illegal to save the skill.
 - A Toss passing through the inverted position in the Intermediate Division.

MASCOT DIVISION VIOLATIONS

- Mascot Prop Violations -2.0
- Mascot Inappropriate Choreography – 2.0
- Mascot Format Violation -2.0



NAIA DEDUCTIONS THAT DIFFER FROM NCA

Deduction	Description of Penalty
5.0	Deduction for not having the minimum number of competitors; this is a one-time deduction per competition.
5.0	Not submitting a performance lineup by the required deadline. Note: a lineup may be changed prior to the start of a competition.
5.0	Unsportsmanlike conduct by a coach or student athlete, as determined by the competition officials.
5.0	Inappropriate costume/uniform as determined by NCA Rules.
5.0	Use of vulgar or suggestive choreography. This includes, but is not limited to, movements or choreography implying something improper or indecent, appearing offensive or sexual in content, and/or relaying lewd or profane gestures or implications, such as hip thrusting and inappropriate touching, slapping, positioning of body parts and positioning to one another.
5.0	Use of music or words unsuitable for family listening. This includes, but is not limited to, vulgar or suggestive language, swearwords, and connotations of any type of sexual act or behavior, drugs, mention of specific parts of the body, and/or violent acts or behavior. Note: Removing improper language or words from a song and/or replacing it with sound effects or other words constitutes inappropriate and deductions will be made accordingly.

Additional deductions are possible in the areas of Interruption of Performance.



CHEER SAFETY/DEDUCTIONS

Score Sheet

School: _____

Number of participants: _____

Time of Routine	Description
	Overtime 3-5 Seconds (.25 deduction)
	Overtime 6+ Seconds (1.0 deduction)

Over Time
Deductions

If an infraction results in a Warning, make sure to include 'Warning' in description and apply no Deduction.

Inappropriate Infraction	Description (<i>Sportsmanship, inappropriate music, language, routine, etc.</i>)

Total number of Inappropriate Infractions: _____

multiplied by 5.0 =

Other Rule Infractions	Description and Deductions Points

Total of Other Rule
Infractions

TOTAL DEDUCTION =

Add all values in far right column (light grey boxes) to achieve the Total Deduction.

Disqualified? YES NO



TOTALS SHEET

(For use at regular season competitions only)

School: _____

Building Total (not to include overall effect)	40 Max
Tumbling Total (not to include overall effect)	30 Max
Overall Master Total (not to include overall effect)	20 Max
Overall Effect – Building (9-10 points)	
Overall Effect – Tumbling (9-10 points)	
Overall Effect – Overall Master (9-10 points)	
Overall Effect Subtotal (27-30 points)	
Overall Effect Score Averaged (divided by 3 = 9-10 points)	10 Max
SUBTOTAL	

Subtract deductions from subtotal to create total score

DEDUCTIONS

TOTAL SCORE	
--------------------	--



PRELIMINARY TOTALS SHEET

(For use at the National Championship and any competitions with Prelims and Finals)

School: _____

Building Total (not to include overall effect)	40 Max
Tumbling Total (not to include overall effect)	30 Max
Overall Master Total (not to include overall effect)	20 Max
Overall Effect – Building (9-10 points)	
Overall Effect – Tumbling (9-10 points)	
Overall Effect – Overall Master (9-10 points)	
Overall Effect Subtotal (27-30 points)	
Overall Effect Score Averaged (divided by 3 = 9-10 points)	10 Max
SUBTOTAL	

Subtract deductions from subtotal to create total score

DEDUCTIONS

PRELIMINARY TOTAL SCORE	
--------------------------------	--



FINAL TOTALS SHEET

(For use at the National Championship and any competitions with Prelims and Final.)

School: _____

Building Total (not to include overall effect)	40 Max
Tumbling Total (not to include overall effect)	30 Max
Overall Master Total (not to include overall effect)	20 Max
Overall Effect – Building (9-10 points)	
Overall Effect – Tumbling (9-10 points)	
Overall Effect – Overall Master (9-10 points)	
Overall Effect Subtotal (27-30 points)	
Overall Effect Score Averaged (divided by 3 = 9-10 points)	10 Max
SUBTOTAL	

Subtract deductions from subtotal to create the final score

DEDUCTIONS

FINAL SCORE

X **.75** =

PRELIMINARY SCORE

X **.25** =

*Add the two boxes to
create the Overall Score*

OVERALL TOTAL SCORE



COMPETITIVE CHEER or DANCE APPEAL FORM

DIRECTIONS: Fill out this form as completely as possible.

- Coaches have 10 minutes from time of receiving their team's scoresheet to alert the host institution/game day manager that an appeal will be made.
- Coaches have 15 minutes in total from the time of receiving their team's scoresheets to submit appeal paperwork.
- Appeal fees will be refunded if the appeal is upheld.

☐ \$100 Appeal (checks payable to the NAIA; must pay on site)

Mail to: NAIA, ATTN: Fred Aubuchon 120 W 12th St, Suite 700 Kansas City, MO 64105

Coach Name: _____ School: _____

Competition Name: _____

☐ incorrect difficulty range per NAIA modifications

☐ incorrectly applied safety infraction

☐ incorrectly applied deductions

Please indicate the reason for the appeal and the remedy sought:

Please cite any applicable competition rules by number and page: _____

Signature: _____ Time and date of filing: _____

Decision of Head Official:

Signature of Head Official: _____

Time and date of decision: _____



Host Institution Score Cheer & Dance Appeal Tracker Form

Institution Name	Sport	Time Scoresheets Given	Coach Initials (received scoresheets)	Appeal Submitted (yes or no)	Appeal Payment Method	Appeal Won or Lost

Please maintain a copy of this for your records. Payment for appeals should be sent to:

NAIA National Office, ATTN: Fred Aubuchon 120 W. 12th St, Suite 700 Kansas City, MO 64105