



NAIA Competitive Cheer

RULE MODIFICATIONS

NAIA Competitive Cheer will follow Varsity NCA Rules, Rubrics and Progressions with approved NAIA modifications. The modifications listed below are the only current modifications to the Varsity NCA rulebook. Any future modifications must be passed by the NAIA Competitive Cheer Coaches Association (NAIA-CCCA) and approved by the NAIA National Administrative Council (NAC).

COMPETITION RULES

1. Coaches will be required to submit an official roster in the NAIA Cheer Stat System and a Performance Line-up to the Host.
 - a. Potential rule infraction may result in a deduction of 5.0 per missing submission.
 - b. For regular season, it is recommended to have performance line-ups submitted at least one week in advance. Hosts will have final say on the deadline for line-up submissions.
 - c. Postseason line-up deadlines will be at the discretion of the Host.
2. Mascots will not be a part of NAIA competitions.
3. Props will not be used in Competitive Cheer.
4. Only indoor competitions will be permitted for NAIA Competitive Cheer.
5. NAIA Competitive Performance Routine Times will follow NCA/Varsity rules for Collegiate Advanced Performances.

DIVISION OF COMPETITION

Competitive Cheer is a single division with one National Champion. NAIA Competitive Cheer utilizes the Advanced Rubric, along with the Advanced Progressions.

Competitive Cheer Competitors

1. Must have a minimum of 10 competitors and a maximum of 20 competitors on the floor during a performance (not to include spotters).
2. There will be a 5-point deduction, per competition, for exceeding the maximum (per person) or not meeting the minimum (not per person).
3. Male ratio for coed teams:
 - a. 10-11 Competitors, allowed up to 6 Male Competitors.
 - b. 12-13 Competitors, allowed up to 7 Male Competitors.
 - c. 14-15 Competitors, allowed up to 8 Male Competitors.
 - d. 16-17 Competitors, allowed up to 10 Male Competitors.
 - e. 18-19 Competitors, allowed up to 11 Male Competitors.
 - f. 20 Competitors, allowed up to 12 Male Competitors.

MUSIC AND CHOREOGRAPHY RELATED

1. 'Set Counts' as they pertain to preparing to begin a performance.
 - a. NAIA permits the use of "set counts." A set count is a brief, organized chant, count, and/or movement used to establish a team's opening pose prior to the start of the routine. Set counts are not judged or evaluated and are used solely to signal readiness prior to the start of music. Set counts may not exceed 8 seconds.
 - b. A performance officially begins after the announcement, "your music is on" **and** when the music begins.



- c. Per NCA and NDA rules, "teams should not have choreographed movements to enter the performance floor".
 - d. A team may have deductions/penalties applied for safety violations or unsportsmanlike conduct during entrance and exiting of the performance floor and Coaches Box; to include inappropriate comments, gestures or posturing toward the fans, other teams, or judges.
2. Music is to be used for the entirety of a performance.
3. All facets of a performance or routine, including choreography and music selection, should be suitable for family viewing.
 - a. A deduction of 5.0 per performance will be given for 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.
 - b. A deduction of 5.0 per performance will be given for 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.
 - i. 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.
 - c. Any choreography or music, of which the appropriateness is questionable or with which uncertainty exists, may be submitted to the Conference Assignor for feedback in advance of a competition.
 - d. The NAIA expects all members to fully abide by all state and federal regulations, including all copyright and licensing provisions. State and federal law have mandated the expectations at issue here. The NAIA will not impose any of its own criteria, meaning there is no need for the NAIA to institute special procedures for evaluating competitors' music. The NAIA will not mandate any requirements related to proof-of-purchase or pre-screening of any team's music prior to competition at an NAIA event. Please note NAIA teams competing in events run by a third-party organization may be subject to such procedures if deemed necessary by the event organizer.
 - e. Each performance will have its own unique considerations that may require a case-by-case analysis to determine which type of license and/or consent is required, including the intended use of the copyrighted material, the performance venue and its applicable performance/license agreements differing state regulations, etc. If you have further questions about what license may be needed for a particular performance, or what type of licensing your campus or performance gym may already have obtained, please work with your athletics director to communicate with your campus facilities personnel or legal counsel.
4. NCA events have different deductions than NAIA for inappropriate Music and Choreography.

SPOTTER POLICY

1. Spotters are not required by the NAIA.
2. Teams can utilize spotters and host institutions may require them.
3. The NAIA and host institutions will not provide spotters.
4. At no time should the number of spotters exceed three (3).
5. Spotter(s) must be dressed in something different than what the athletes are wearing. This should include athletic shoes and the removal of all jewelry.
6. Spotters should be knowledgeable about the team's routine as not to get in the way, but to act in their role to protect an athlete. Spotters cannot be used for tumbling.
7. The presence of spotters will not be considered in determining panel scores.
8. Spotters should only engage to assist an athlete that is falling out of a stunt and should act to catch athletes. At no time should a spotter assist in the 'lifting' or 'saving' of a stunt, toss or build. If the



Safety/Deduction Judge determines the spotters act in a way beyond the scope of their role, a 5-point Rule Infraction Penalty can be assessed.

9. If spotters become involved in a skill, a 5-point Rule Infraction Penalty can be assessed.
10. Spotters should only enter or exit from the back of the mat.
11. Spotters should remain quiet on the mat; there can be no counting, yelling, coaching or cheering. Spotters should remain neutral and impartial in their demeanor to what is happening within the routine a 5-point Rule Infraction Penalty can be assessed.
12. Spotters do not count toward the total number of athletes competing.

SCORING

All scores should be rounded to the nearest hundredth.

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 an official roster and performance line-up by the required deadline. Note: a roster may be changed prior to the start of competition.
5.0	Unsportsmanlike conduct by a coach or student athlete, as determined by the officiating panel.
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.

APPEALS

1. Appeals can only be submitted in reference to a coach's team's own scoresheet.
2. Appeals can be considered under the following situations only:



- a. Difficulty Range that is incorrectly shifted down because judges missed the execution of skills. (i.e. a team did 2 basket sections, but the difficulty range score only reflects the team's first set of baskets.). If the difficulty appeal is won, judges could then change the execution score for that skill only.
- b. An incorrectly applied Safety Infraction.
- c. Incorrectly applied deductions (this would need to be done through video review by the Safety/Deductions Judge and Head Official).
 - i. If there is a mistake in deductions, a coach can ask for clarification from the Event Administrator.
 - ii. If deductions were added incorrectly or deductions were added when there were no actual deductions, then the deduction score can be changed by decision of the Head Official.
- d. Video can be reviewed on all appeals.
- e. Appeals cannot be made for execution scores or overall routine scores (difficulty, choreography, showmanship).
- f. During the appeals process, **THE ENTIRE ROUTINE WILL BE REVIEWED, INCLUDING ANY PREVIOUSLY UNASSESSED ISSUES.**
- g. Timing for appeals;
 - i. There is an Appeal Tracker Form that is recommended for use by the Host Institution.
 - ii. 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.
 - iii. Coaches have 15 minutes in total from the time of receiving their team's scoresheets to submit appeal paperwork.
- h. Scoring Release – Each team's individual scoresheets and deductions sheet must be given to the Head Coach within three teams after they compete. If there are not three teams left, they must receive their score sheets and deductions 20 minutes before results are announced.
- i. **A Coach must submit an appeal form to the Event Administrator. There will be a \$100 fee to be collected by the Event Administrator for each appeal made.** If an appeal is upheld, then the \$100 fee will be returned to the Head Coach. If the appeal is denied, then the \$100 will NOT be returned to the coach. The Event Administrator should send appeal forms and any appeal fees to the NAIA Cheer and Dance Sport Manager.
- j. The Head Coach will meet with the Event Administrator to get clarification and decisions from the Head Official for all appeals. Appeals are to be made in a private area with the Head Coach, Head Official and an event administrator that is not a coach.

GENERAL SAFETY GUIDELINES

1. Each coach is responsible for proficiency of team skills. Skills that are above a team's level should not be attempted at a competition.
2. Warm-up and technical skills should only be done in areas suitable for cheer.
3. Coaches must complete the USA Cheer Safety and Risk Management Training. It is recommended that coaches carry a copy of their certificate with them to all competitions as proof of completion. Coaches are no longer required to submit certificates to the NAIA.
4. All jewelry must be removed; it may not be taped over or otherwise covered.

OFFICIATING PANEL

1. For all regular season events and qualifying conference tournaments, it is recommended to have the maximum of seven (7) judges, with a minimum of four (4) judges required. The composition of the officiating panel would be as follows:
 - (1-2) Building Judges
 - (1-2) Tumbling Judges
 - (1-2) Overall Judges



- (1) Safety/Deductions Judge
 - One of the above judges must also be selected as the Head Official
2. For the National Championships, the maximum of seven (7) judges is required. The composition of the officiating panel would be as follows:
- (2) Building Judges
 - (2) Tumbling Judges
 - (2) Overall Judges
 - (1) Safety/Deductions Judges
 - One of the above judges must also be selected as the Head Official, unless there is a Coordinator of Officials who will serve as the Head Official