



UPDATES FOR THE 2026–2027 COLLEGE COMPETITION SEASON

Note: *there are other rules changes to Varsity sponsored divisions that are not applicable to NAIA Competitive Cheer and are not reflected below, and there are no rules changes applicable to NAIA Competitive Dance.*

We remain committed to fair and consistent scoring. Our goal is to continue evolving our college program while providing coaches and athletes with the resources needed for a clear understanding of divisions, rules, qualification procedures, and scoring. Below is an overview of the updates for the 2026–2027 season. For complete rules, divisions, and scoring information, please visit nca.varsity.com. [NCA College Information](#)

Division Updates

- No major division structure changes for Advanced, Intermediate, Game Day or Spirit Rally divisions.

Score Sheet Updates

- Review all updated score sheets posted online for the 2026–2027 season.
 - Overall Scoresheet Update:
 - Routine Composition has been updated to better distinguish between the quality and quantity of skills performed.
 - The category will now be divided into:
 - Execution – 5 points • Difficulty – 5 points
- Scoring resources and educational materials continue to be available to help coaches better understand evaluation standards.

Execution Resources

- Execution guidelines have been updated to provide greater definition and clarity around the evaluation of technique errors.
- Educational materials are intended to improve consistency between judges and provide greater transparency in scoring.

Deduction Updates

- Minor wording and clarification updates have been made throughout the rules and deduction sections.
- Several deduction categories have been updated for the 2026–2027 season.
 - Building Bobble – 0.5 Point Deduction (*previously 0.25*)
 - Major Building Fall – 1.5 Point Deduction (*previously 1.25*)
 - Pyramid Maximum (MAX) – 2.0 Point Deduction (*previously 1.75*)
 - Boundary Violation – 0.5 Point Deduction per Occurrence (*previously 0.25*)
 - Excessive Celebration – 1.0 Point Deduction (*previously 0.25 / 0.5*)
 - Unsportsmanlike Conduct – 2.0 Point Deduction (*NAIA Rule Modification is 5.0*)
 - Inappropriate Choreography / Music – 3.0 Point Deduction (*NAIA Rule Modification is 5.0*)
 - General USA Cheer Rules / Tumbling Violations – 1.0 (*previously 0.5*)
- These updates provide additional clarity and consistency in the application of deductions across all divisions and events.
- Coaches should review the updated deduction document for detailed definitions, examples, and enforcement procedures.