ICU INTERNATIONAL CUP CHEERLEADING CHAMPIONSHIPS

RULES & REGULATIONS

2027

APRIL 24 – 26, 2027
ORLANDO, USA

ICU INTERNATIONAL CHEERLEADING CUP 2027

(For Individual Club Teams – Not National Teams)

ABOUT THE EVENT

I. **OVERVIEW:** On Sunday & Monday 24-26 April 2027 (*see schedule below*), during IASF/USASF Worlds and following the 2027 ICU Junior World & World Championships at Disney World's ***ESPN Wide World of Sports®*** Complex in Orlando USA, the ICU will host the 5th edition of the ICU International Cheerleading Cup 2027 specifically for Individual "Club Teams" (not National Teams) that are Club Teams, Scholastic Teams (university teams & scholastic/school teams), Gymnasium/Gimnasio Teams, League Teams, Rec Teams, All Star Teams, etc. that will represent their own team but also their country in high level international competition.

II. **TEAM QUALIFICATION:** Each of ICU's 126 National Cheer Federations may qualify up to 2 Individual Cheerleading "Club Teams" – for any ICC division - for their respective country for the ICU International Cheerleading Cup to be held during Cheerleading Worlds at Disney World's ***ESPN Wide World of Sports®*** Complex in Orlando, USA on Sunday & Monday 25 & 26 April 2027. (Rehearsals = Saturday 24 April 2207)

The ICU International Cheerleading Cup has 17 Cheerleading Routine Divisions available (Senior, Junior and Youth), 1 Game Day Division, 2 Performance Cheer Doubles Divisions (Senior Pom Doubles and Senior Hip Hop Doubles) and 3 Performance Cheer Team Divisions (Youth Pom, Youth Hip Hop & Senior High Kick Divisions) for Individual Club Teams (see below) for a total of 23 ICC Divisions.

For both the ICU ICC Divisions, ICU National Federation can qualify individual teams via the following methods:

- **ICU National Federation National Championship(s)** and/or an ICU National Federation designated event within the country
- **Local Event Producer(s) Competition(s)** pre-designated by ICU National Federation within the country
- **By ICU National Federation Committee**, video submission, or any manner pre-communicated to their cheer community within their respective country

Note: For example, the Austria Federation could select the "Vienna Vikings" to represent the "Vienna Vikings from Austria" at the ICU International Cup instead of representing "Team Austria"; the Colombia Federation could select "Osos All Stars" or "Colegio Santa Ana" under their own team name instead of "Team Colombia"; the USA Federation could select "U of Louisville", or "Mater Dei High School", or "Top Gun All Stars" "from the USA", etc. to be competing under their own name instead of "Team USA"; the South Africa Federation could select "Curro Aurora School" to be "Curro Aurora School" "from South Africa" instead of "Team South Africa"; Thailand Federation could select "Bangkok University" to be "Bangkok University from Thailand", instead of "Team Thailand"; etc.

III. **CROSS-OVER GUIDELINES:** Crossovers are allowed within the ICU Junior World & World Cheerleading Championships event, the International Cheerleading Cup Event (ICC), and within the IASF Performance Cheer (PC) Divisions Only (per the IASF PC Rules). However, for scheduling purposes, Crossovers are not allowed for any Cheerleading Team within the IASF/USASF Worlds and ICC Teams may not crossover into IASF/USASF Worlds for scheduling reasons, unless permission is granted 2 weeks prior to the event, should both schedules permit it. ICU National Teams are allowed to crossover into IASF/USASF Worlds or into the ICU International Cheerleading Cup (ICC) is a for a per athlete crossover fee (TBD) for either event; however, all IASF & ICU International Cheerleading Cup eligibility and rules criteria apply.

IV. **RULES, SCORESHEETS & JUDGING PROCESSES:** The 2027 ICU International Cheerleading Cup Divisions Rules and Scoresheets will be the same rules and scoresheets used at the 2027 ICU Junior World & World Cheerleading Championships and will be judged by ICU World Championships Panel of Judges.

V. **DIVISIONS:** The ICU International Cheerleading Cup has 18 Cheerleading Divisions and 5 Performance Cheer Divisions (for Individual Club Teams).

For all ICC Divisions: Countries may enter up to 2 teams per division. The ICU International Cheerleading Cup Divisions are as follows:

	ICC NATIONAL FEDERATION CHOICES	
	CHEERLEADING DIVISIONS	
	SENIOR DIVISIONS (16 years +)	
1	All Girl Premier (16-24 athletes)	Open to all countries/each country can enter up to 2 teams
2	**NEW: All Girl Select (16-14 athletes)**	Open to all countries/each country can enter up to 2 teams
3	All Girl Elite (16-24 athletes)	Open to all countries/each country can enter up to 2 teams
4	Coed Premier (16-24 athletes)	Open to all countries/each country can enter up to 2 teams
5	**NEW: Coed Select (16-24 athletes)**	Open to all countries/each country can enter up to 2 teams
6	Coed Elite (16-24 athletes)	Open to all countries/each country can enter up to 2 teams
7	Coed Elite Non-Tumbling (16-24 Athletes)	Open to all countries/each country can enter up to 2 teams
8	Coed Advanced Game Day (16-24 Athletes)	Open to all countries/each country can enter up to 2 teams
	JUNIOR DIVISIONS (15-18 years)	
9	All Girl Elite (16-24 athletes)	Open to all countries/each country can enter up to 2 teams
10	All Girl Advanced (16-24 athletes)	Open to all countries/each country can enter up to 2 teams
11	Coed Elite (16-24 athletes)	Open to all countries/each country can enter up to 2 teams
12	Coed Advanced (16-24 athletes)	Open to all countries/each country can enter up to 2 teams
13	Coed Advanced Non-Tumbling (16-24 Athletes)	Open to all countries/each country can enter up to 2 teams
	YOUTH DIVISIONS (12-14 years)	
14	All Girl Advanced (16-24 athletes)	Open to all countries/each country can enter up to 2 teams
15	All Girl Median (16-24 athletes)	Open to all countries/each country can enter up to 2 teams
16	Coed Advanced (16-24 athletes)	Open to all countries/each country can enter up to 2 teams
17	Coed Median (16-24 athletes)	Open to all countries/each country can enter up to 2 teams
18	Coed Median Non-Tumbling (16-24 Athletes)	Open to all countries/each country can enter up to 2 teams
	PERFORMANCE CHEER DIVISIONS	
	SENIOR DIVISIONS (16 years +)	
1	Pom Doubles (2 athletes)	Open to all countries/each country can enter up to 2 teams
2	Hip Hop Doubles (2 athletes)	Open to all countries/each country can enter up to 2 teams
3	**NEW: High Kick (16-24 Athletes)**	Open to all countries/each country can enter up to 2 teams
Note:	Aside from High Kick, other Senior Divisions are not available at the 2027 ICC due to similar division availability at IASF 2027	
	JUNIOR DIVISIONS (15-18 years)	
Note:	Junior Divisions are not available at the 2027 ICC due to similar division availability at IASF 2027	
	YOUTH DIVISIONS (12-14 years)	
4	Team Pom (16-24 Athletes)	Open to all countries/each country can enter up to 2 teams
5	Team Hip Hop (16-24 Athletes)	Open to all countries/each country can enter up to 2 teams

VI. **COMPETITION SCHEDULE**: The ICU International Cheerleading Cup will be held on Sunday & Monday 25-26 April 2027 during IASF/USASF Worlds at Disney World's ***ESPN Wide World of Sports®*** Complex Athletic Center on Sunday 25 April 2027 and on Monday 26 April 2027 while the IASF/USASF Worlds is underway as well. The Championships Week 2027 schedule overview will be as follows:

		Wed-Fri 21-23 April 2027	Sat 24 April 2027	Sun 25 April 2027	Mon 26 April 2027
ICU	EVENT	ALL DAY: ICU Junior World & World Championships (National Teams)	ALL DAY: ICU Int'l Cheerleading Cup Open Practices	AFTERNOON: ICU Int'l Cheerleading Cup Day 1: Cheerleading Semi-Finals	ICU ICC Cup Day 2 Performance Cheer & Cheerleading Finals Awards
	VENUE	WWOS Complex	PRACTICE VENUE TBA	WWOS Athletic Center	WWOS Athletic Center
IASF/USASF	EVENT	IASF Begins (Friday 24 April 2027)	ALL DAY: IASF/USASF Worlds/	ALL DAY: IASF/USASF Worlds	ALL DAY: IASF/USASF Worlds
	VENUE	WWOS Complex & Coronado Springs	WWOS Complex & Coronado Springs	WWOS Complex & Coronado Springs	WWOS Complex & Coronado Springs

VII. **AWARDS**: In each division, the ICU International Cheerleading Cup teams will receive Gold, Silver and Bronze ICU International Cheerleading Cup medals for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, as well as an ICU International Cheerleading Cup Champion Trophy for 1st place teams. A traditional medal award ceremony will be administered for each division as well, with national anthems played for the division champion teams.

VIII. **BROADCAST/STREAMING**: The ICU International Cheerleading Cup is scheduled to be live streamed by the Olympic Channel.

IX. **REGISTRATION**: Registration for the ICU International Cheerleading Cup Divisions 2027 will be available through https://cheerunion.org/championships/cheerleading/ and is exclusive to the 126 National Cheer Federations of the International Cheer Union (ICU). The registration package will be similar to that of the ICU Junior World & World Championships, as well as the IASF/USASF Worlds and will be managed through the World Championships Week Registration Team. For Cheerleading Teams competing in the ICU Junior World & World Championships & the ICU International Cheerleading Cup, there is a crossover fee per athlete (TBD) to also compete in the ICC and the IASF.

X. **TIME OF ROUTINE (Same as ICU Junior World & World Cheerleading Championships)**

A. CHEERLEADING ROUTINE DIVISIONS
- Total Maximum Time for the Routine: Three (3) minutes, including the Cheer.
- Cheer Portion: Can be placed in the beginning or middle of routine. Cheer portion minimum time requirement is thirty (30) seconds.
- Music portion: Two minutes (2:00)

B. CHEERLEADING GAME DAY DIVISION
- Total Game Day Performance Time: Three (3) minutes = 4 segments.
- Includes Timeout (:30 or less), Sideline Chant (:30 or less), Cheer (1:00 or less), Fight Song (1 minute or less)
- See Page 3, II.B. "Cheerleading" for more details: https://cheerunion.org.ismmedia.com/ISM3/std-content/repos/Top/GameDay/ICU_Game-Day-Guidelines.pdf

C. PERFORMANCE CHEER DIVISIONS - YOUTH TEAM POM, YOUTH TEAM HIP HOP & SENIOR TEAM HIGH KICK
- Music portion: Two minutes (2:00)

D. PERFORMANCE CHEER DIVISIONS - POM DOUBLES & HIP HOP DOUBLES ONLY
- Music portion: One minute, thirty seconds (1:30)

XI. **CHEER PORTION OF ROUTINE – ALL CHEERLEADING ROUTINE DIVISIONS (EXCLUDING GAME DAY)**

For all Cheerleading Routine Divisions of the ICU International Cheerleading Cup 2027, a Cheer must be included in the beginning or middle of routine. Use of native language (including sign language) in the Cheer and using a more national pride style cheer and/or a cheer promoting the club/school/university/rec/all star team or programme is encouraged. The Cheer portion of the routine is worth 10 points (of 100 points) and is based on the ability to lead the crowd for the team's nation, use of signs, poms, flags, megaphones, and practical use of stunt/pyramids to lead the crowd. Video examples can be provided; again, native language (including sign language) is encouraged.

XII. **TEAM SIZE/NUMBER OF ATHLETES PER TEAM**

A. CHEERLEADING DIVISIONS, INCLUDING GAME DAY (Excluding Non-Tumbling Divisions)
- *Minimum 16 athletes, maximum 24 athletes*

B. CHEERLEADING DIVISIONS (Non-Tumbling Divisions)
- *Minimum 16 athletes, up to 4 alternates allowed*

C. PERFORMANCE CHEER DIVISIONS – YOUTH TEAM POM, TEAM HIP HOP & SENIOR HIGH KICK
- *Minimum 16 athletes, maximum 24 athletes*

D. PERFORMANCE CHEER DIVISIONS - POM DOUBLES & HIP HOP DOUBLES ONLY
- *2 athletes*

XIII. AGE OF ATHLETE (Same age criteria as the ICU Junior World & World Cheerleading Championships)

See the ICU 2027 Age Grid here: https://cheerunion.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/icu_agegrid_27.pdf

A. All Youth Divisions: Ages 12-14 years old within the year of the ICU International Cheerleading Cup 2027
Note: Athletes born in the years of 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 will be eligible for the Youth Division(s) in 2027. Any team proven to be in violation of the age requirements will be automatically disqualified

B. All Junior Divisions: Ages 15-18 years old within the year of the ICU International Cheerleading Cup 2027
Note: Athletes born in the years of 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 will be eligible for the Junior Division(s) in 2027. Any team proven to be in violation of the age requirements will be automatically disqualified

C. All Senior Divisions: Ages 16 years or older within the year of the ICU International Cheerleading Cup 2027
Note: Athletes born in 2011 or earlier will be eligible for the Senior Division(s) in 2027. Any team proven to be in violation of the age requirements will be automatically disqualified

XIV. RESIDENCE OF ATHLETES

All athletes are required to be a legal citizen or must have a minimum of six (6) month consecutive permanent resident of the respective nation where their club team is located on the ICU International Cheerleading Cup date of competition.

XV. MUSIC GUIDELINES

A. For the ICU International Cheerleading Cup, all teams will have the choice of following the USA Cheer Music Copyrights Educational Initiative (https://www.usacheer.org/music) or the ICU Music Copyrights Educational Initiative. (http://cheerunion.org/education/musicinfo/).

B. I have read and understand the USA Cheer or ICU Music Copyrights Educational Initiative and all sound recordings used in our team's music shall only be used with the written license from the owner(s) of the sound recordings.

C. Teams must check Music Provider list for updates and changes periodically. For any questions on music and the music guidelines, teams should email portal@cheerunion.org.

D. Teams must be able to provide proof of licensing, in the form of a printed copy, during the registration at the Championships.

E. If a team does not have proof of music licensing available, they will be allowed to perform to an optional approved track of music or a track with counts (provided by the ICU) or can count verbally.

F. If a team cannot provide proof of licensing, and do not perform to an optional approved track of music or to counts, the team will be disqualified from the competition and not allowed to perform or compete.

G. If there are concerns regarding a certain team's use of music, a Challenge Form must be completed immediately following the team's performance.

H. A challenge can only be made by the official coach or an official National Federation representative of a team competing at the event at where the challenge is being made.

I. Challenge Process:
- All music challenges must be submitted in writing to the International Cheer Union head official.
- There will be a $100 USD fee to request a music challenge and must be in the form of USA currency.
- Fees collected will be returned if the challenge is correct.
- If the team challenged can provide documentation during the event or can be verified, the fees will be donated to a local children's charity, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.
- If the team challenged can provide documentation that requires further review, a decision will be finalized within 48 hours of the event.

J. Each team is required to have a responsible adult remain at the music station that knows the routine and music. This representative is responsible for start the music and stopping the music in case of technical malfunction or injury. Should this responsible adult choose not to stay at the music table for the duration of the routine, and a malfunction occurs, teams may or may not be permitted to perform the routine again.

K. If available and if applicable, it is recommended that teams who prepare their routine music on a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) should assure the volume of the music is at "0". Should a DAW be available, a few additional reminders:
- Most DAWs have a default that sets a track at -6 when a track is added
- Check to see if there is a normalization process after the work is rendered/saved

L. All teams must provide their own device for use on the event provided sound system. Music should be on a digital music player/iPod/iPhone. CD's will no longer be allowed, and CD players will not be provided at competition.
M. Use of a Smart Phone for playing routine music is not recommended due to the probably of music interference during the routine.
N. MP3 devices must be free of any cover (protective, decorative, or otherwise) to assure an unobstructed connection with the event sound system.
O. It is important that all devices have a headphone connection component/jack to connect to the sound system and that all devices are fully charged, volume turned up and placed in airplane mode.
P. All device connection components/jacks must be clean and free of any debris to prevent a music malfunction. Should a team's device not have a headphone connection component/jack, then the team must have an adapter to accommodate this device requirement on site for the competition.
Q. For purposes of family viewing and in promotion of international sport, routine music must not include content that is suggestive/sexual in nature, offensive, vulgar or inferences violence of any kind. Violations of this rule will be impacted in the Overall category on the respective score sheet(s).
R. Excessive use of sound effects and/or the addition of generic and/or custom voiceovers to the music are not appropriate and should be avoided. Exceptions can include the name of the team, team mascot, team colors, the team's country, etc. which is recommended to be used a maximum of 2 times throughout the routine. Violations of this rule will be impacted in the Overall category on the respective score sheet(s).
S. Teams may not use Disney themes, nor may they have costumes that resemble a Disney character. However, Disney music is acceptable if following the music guidelines.

XVI. LOGO USAGE

Teams will not be allowed to use the ICU logo including banners, rings, bows, t-shirts, etc. without prior approval from the ICU office. The use of the ICU letters will be allowed.

XVII. MEDIA POLICY

No commercial recording (audio or visual) or commercial live streaming is allowed in the event venue or other event-related venues (including but not limited to, hotels and restaurants) or on the grounds of any such venues (collectively, "Event Locations"). In the event a team authorizes the commercial recording or streaming in any Event Location, the team will be automatically disqualified. In addition, the personal, non-commercial use of live streaming apps (such as Periscope, Facebook Live, etc.) to capture all or any part of a performance during the event is not permitted. By attending/purchasing admission to the event, each attendee grants permission to ICU and its affiliates, designees, agents, licensees and invitees to use the image, likeness, action and statements of the attendee in any live or recorded audio, video, film, or photographic display or other transmission, exhibition, publication, or reproduction made of, or at, the event in any medium, whether now known or hereafter created, or context for any purpose, including commercial or promotional purposes, without further authorization or compensation.

XVIII. COACH & ENTOURAGE MEMBER REQUIRMENTS – ICC 2027 (same as JWCC/WCC & transferable)

Full details: https://cheerunion.org/championships/cheerleading/#rm-coach-and-entourage-member-requirements

A. Background Check (same as past years): There are 3 Steps (valid for 1 year)
Click here: https://cheerunion.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/icu_wcc_26_rmep_background-check.pdf

B. Sports Integrity Requirements (NEW): There are 3 items (valid for 1 year)*
1. ICU Code of Conduct. 2. IOC Safeguarding Course. 3. WADA Anti-Doping Course
Click here: https://cheerunion.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/icu_wcc_26_rmep_sports-integrity.pdf

C. Coaches Only: Credentialing to your level (NEW) (valid for 4 years)
Cheerleading Coaches. Click here: https://cheerunion.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/icu_wcc_26_ch_Coaching-Skills-Credentialing.pdf
Performance Cheer Coaches: Click here: https://cheerunion.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/icu_wcc_26_pc_Coaching-Skill-Credentialing.pdf

Please email: education@cheerunion.org with any questions. Thank you!

XIX. ICU ANTI-DOPING RULES & REGULATIONS- GUIDELINES & OPERATING PROCEEDURES

ICU is committed to doping free sport and strictly follows the enclosed guidelines and procedures of the ICU WADA approve Anti-Doping guidelines and procedures for the safety of our athletes and fairness of play for our sport. As a guideline, the 2021 ICU Anti-Doping Rules are enclosed: https://cheerunion.org.ismmedia.com/ISM3/std-content/repos/Top/WADA/docs/ICU_Anti-Doping-Rules_21.pdf as a reference; however, the **2027 ICU Anti-Doping Rules will be placed in this link**, as soon as the 2027 ICU Anti-Doping Rules Draft has been approved.

XX. ICU RULES & REGULATIONS AGAINST ILLEGAL BETTING & COMPETITION FIXING

ICU is committed to fair play for our athletes and the integrity of the sport and follows rules and regulations in the fight against illegal betting and competition fixing.
https://cheerunion.org.ismmedia.com/ISM3/std-content/repos/Top/2013_Website/About%20Us/Documents/ICU_Rules_Competition-Fixing.pdf

XXI. ICU PRIVACY POLICIES

ICU is committed to your privacy. ICU's Privacy Policies: http://cheerunion.org/contact/privacypolicy/

XXII. ICU SAFEGUARDNG POLICIES

ICU is committed to safeguarding our Athletes. ICU Safeguarding Policies and additional information:
https://olympics.com/athlete365/what-we-do/integrity/safe-sport/, https://cheerunion.org/education/coach/ & http://cheerunion.org/about/bureau/

ICU INTERNATIONAL CHEERLEADING CUP 2027

CHEERLEADING DIVISIONS

GENERAL RULES, REGULATIONS & GUILDINES

I. GENERAL RULES

A. All teams must be supervised during all official functions by a qualified director/advisor/coach.
B. All directors, advisors and coaches should have an emergency response plan in the event of an injury.

II. TOURNAMENT

A. The competition will take place on Sunday 25 April 2027 to Monday 26 April 2027 (with a potential rehearsal/run-through on Saturday 24 April 2027) in Orlando Florida.
<u>Saturday 24 April 2027</u>
ICU International Cup Team Rehearsal Run-Through (or tentative Semi-Final) TBD
<u>Sunday 25 April 2027</u>
ICU International Cup Competition – ICC (Day 1: Cheerleading Divisions Semi-Final*)
**Note: Teams compete in order of low to high score on Day 2 Finals*
<u>Monday 26 April 2024</u>
ICU International Cup Competition- ICC (Day 2: Performance Cheer & Cheerleading Finals)
(Evening) World Championships Week Block Party
B. The competition is scheduled to be held at the ESPN Wide World of Sports ® Complex.
C. The tournament officials shall have the right to alter the time and location of the competition in the event changes become necessary due to inclement weather, facility problems, television production requirements, or any other situation deemed by the tournament officials to be essential to the successful execution of the championship.

III. HOW TO HANDLE PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS

A. **RULES & PROCEDURES**: Any questions concerning the rules or procedures of the competition will be handled exclusively by the director/coach of the team and will be directed to the Competition Director. Such questions should be made prior to the team's competition performance. For any questions concerning the legality of a move or trick, it is recommended to send a video copy of any skill of question to cheer.rules@cheerunion.org.
B. **PERFORMANCE:** Any questions concerning the team's performance should be made to the Competition Director immediately after the team's performance and/or following the outcome of the competition.

IV. SPORTSMANSHIP

A. All participants agree to conduct themselves in a manner displaying good sportsmanship throughout the competition with positive presentation upon entry and exit from the performance area as well as throughout the routine.
B. The advisor and coach of each team is responsible for seeing that team members, coaches, parents, and other persons affiliated with the team conduct themselves accordingly. Severe cases of unsportsmanlike conduct are grounds for disqualification.
C. In the promotion of international sport and the global athletic image of the Sport of Cheer, facial expressions and mannerisms on stage should be genuine, natural and authentic. Forced, choreographed, aggressive, vulgar and offensive facial expressions and gestures are not appropriate and should be avoided. Singing and/or pantomiming the lyrics is also not appropriate to the sport and should be avoided.
D. Actions that exhibit excessive boasting, a delay in competition, poor sportsmanship, unprofessional behavior, etc. may be penalized. These actions include but are not limited to
   - An athlete calling unnecessary attention to themselves (e.g. high fives, chest bumps, etc.)
   - Excessive pre- or post-competition team rituals (team bonding traditions must take place behind the stage area)

- Excessive celebration (e.g. athletes wrapping their legs around coaches and/or each other, victory dances, etc.)

E. For more information regarding ICU's sportsmanship policies, please see the following ICU sportsmanship guidelines video: https://cheerunion.org/coaches-sportsmanship/

V. INTERRUPTION OF PERFORMANCE

A. UNFORSEEN CIRCUMSTANCES

1. If, in the opinion of the competition officials, a team's routine is interrupted because of failure of the competition equipment, facilities, or other factors attributable to the competition rather than the team, the team affected should **STOP** the routine.
2. The team will perform the routine again in its entirety but will be evaluated ONLY from the point where the interruption occurred. The degree and effect of the interruption will be determined by the competition officials.
3. If a team needs to re-perform a routine but fails to do the routine in its entirety, then this team will receive a score based on the lower-level performance.

B. FAULT OF TEAM

1. In the event a team's routine is interrupted because of failure of the team's own equipment, the team must either continue the routine or withdraw from the competition.
2. The competition officials will determine if the team will be allowed to perform at a later time. If decided by officials, the team will perform the routine again in its entirety but will be evaluated ONLY from the point where the interruption occurred.
3. If a team needs to re-perform a routine but fails to do the routine in its entirety, then this team will receive a score based on the lower-level performance

C. INJURY

1. The only persons that may stop a routine for injury are:
   a. competition officials
   b. the advisor / coach from the team performing
   c. an injured individual
2. The competition officials will determine if the team will be allowed to perform at a later time. If the competition officials allow a routine to be performed at a later time, the spot in the schedule where the re-performance is to take place is at the sole discretion of competition officials. The team may perform the routine again in its entirety but will be evaluated ONLY from the point where the interruption occurred.
3. If a team needs to re-perform a routine but fails to do the routine in its entirety, then this team will receive a score based on the lower-level performance.
4. The injured participant that wishes to perform may not return to the competition floor unless:
   a. The competition officials receive clearance from, first, the medical personnel attending to that participant, the parent (if present) AND THEN the head coach/advisor of the competing team.
   b. If the medical personnel do not clear the participant, the participant can only return to the competition if a parent or legal guardian in attendance signs a return to participation waiver.
   c. In the event of a suspected concussion, the participant cannot return to perform without clearance from a physician (MD/DO) that has training related to head injuries, and waiting 24 hours, even with a waiver from a parent or legal guardian.
   d. In addition to the head injury policy, we encourage you to be familiar with the specific law where the competition is being held.

VI. INTERPRETATIONS AND/OR RULINGS

Any interpretation of any aspect of these Rules and Regulations or any decision involving any other aspect of the competition will be rendered by the Rules Committee. The Rules Committee will render a judgment in an effort to ensure that the competition proceeds in a manner consistent with the general spirit and goals of the competition. The Rules Committee will consist of the Competition Director, Head Judge, and a designated competition official.

VII. DISQUALIFICATION

Any team that does not adhere to the terms and procedures of these "Rules and Regulations" will be subject to disqualification from the competition, will automatically forfeit any right to any prizes or awards presented by the competition, and may also forfeit the opportunity to participate the following year.

VIII. SPOTTER POLICY (CHEERLEADING ONLY)

In an effort to promote a higher level of safety for competing athletes, the ICU International Cheerleading Cup will provide spotters for all rehearsal and competition floors. To provide the safest competitive environment, teams should not attempt skills beyond their ability level.

IX. GENERAL SAFETY RULES

All Cheerleading Teams must follow the ICU General Safety Rules (See Pages 3 & 4):
https://cheerunion.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/icu_2027_rules_ch-pc.pdf

X. DIVISIONS (BY LEVEL) - SAFETY RULES

*For Safety Rules by Level/Division, please reference the **ICU Safety Rules Document** link enclosed here: https://cheerunion.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/icu_2027_rules_ch-pc.pdf & reference the respective Level/Division Page Number as noted below:*

A. ICU Median Division Rules (Youth Median Division): See Pages 12-17
B. ICU Advanced Division Rules (Youth & Junior Advanced, Senior Advanced Game Day Divisions*): See Pages 17-21
   **With Game Day Rule Adaptations & Competition Format: https://cheerunion.org.ismmedia.com/ISM3/std-content/repos/Top/GameDay/ICU_Game-Day-Guidelines.pdf*
C. ICU Elite Division Rules (Junior & Senior Elite Divisions): See Pages 22-25
D. ICU Select Division Rules (Senior Select Divisions): See Pages 25-29
E. ICU Premier Division Rules (Senior Premier Divisions): See Pages 29-33

XI. GLOSSARY OF TERMS

For a full listing of the ICU Cheerleading Glossary of Terms (with video and visual examples as well), please see https://cheerunion.org/cheerleadingglossary/. For any questions or requests for further clarification. Please email cheer.rules@cheerunion.org

XII. TIME LIMITATIONS, MUSIC, AND ENTRANCES

CHEERLEADING ROUTINE

A. Each team will have a maximum of 2 minutes (2:00) for music and a recommended 30 seconds (:30) Cheer that must be performed in the beginning or middle of the routine.
B. The total maximum time for the routine will be 3 minutes (3:00), including the Cheer.

CHEERLEADING GAME DAY

A. Each team will have a maximum of 3 minutes (3:00) to perform all 4 Game Day segments including the 3 transitions* in between.
B. Order of the Game Day Cheerleading Segments (and recommended time for each) will be:
   1. Band Chant/Time Out Routine 30 seconds or less
   2. Sideline Chant 30 seconds or less
   3. Crowd Leading Cheer/Cheer 1 minute or less
   4. Fight Song 1 minute or less

   **Note: Teams must show a clear transition between segments and are encouraged to show crowd leading interaction in each transition. Time for each segment will not be measured; however, the entire Game Day Cheerleading Routine with all 4 Cheerleading segments (with transitions) may not exceed 3 minutes.*

BOTH CHEERLEADING ROUTINE & GAME DAY

A. Every effort should be made to ensure that the lyrics of the music are appropriate for all audience members.
B. Timing will begin with the first choreographed movement or note of the music and end with the last choreographed movement or note of music whichever comes last.
C. If a team exceeds the time limit, a penalty will be assessed for each violation. One point deduction for 5-10 seconds and three (3) point deduction for 11 seconds and over per judge.

D. BECAUSE PENALTIES ARE SEVERE, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT ALL TEAMS TIME THEIR PERFORMANCE SEVERAL TIMES PRIOR TO COMPETITION AND LEAVE A SEVERAL SECOND CUSHION TO ALLOW FOR VARIATIONS IN SOUND EQUIPMENT.
E. Each team must have a coach/representative to play their music. This person is responsible for bringing the music to the music table and pushing "play" and "stop" for the team.
F. In order to keep the competition on time, teams must enter and exit the performance floor as quickly as possible. Teams will have limited time to enter the floor and start their routine. Elaborate choreographed entrances will not be allowed. Additional conditions are as follows:
   - Entrances: When teams are introduced, teams must take the floor and assume their starting positions within 20 seconds.
   - Exits: At the conclusion of the routine and following the completed dismount of the team (e.g. from an ending pyramid(s) or stunt(s)), teams must exist the floor immediately and must be off the performance floor within 20 seconds.
G. For purposes of family viewing and in promotion of international sport, routine music must not include content that is suggestive/sexual in nature, offensive, vulgar or inferences violence of any kind. Violations of this rule will be impacted in the Overall category on the respective score sheet(s).
H. Excessive use of sound effects and/or the addition of generic and/or custom voiceovers to the music are not appropriate and should be avoided. Exceptions can include the name of the team, team mascot, team colors, the team's country, etc. which is recommended to be used a maximum of 2 times throughout the routine. Violations of this rule will be impacted in the Overall category on the respective score sheet(s).
I. Teams may not use Disney Themes, nor may they have costumes that resemble a Disney character. However, Disney music is acceptable.

XIII. COMPETITION AREA

A. The performance floor will be approximately 42 feet x 54 feet/12.8 meters x 16.5 meters**.**
B. Teams may line up anywhere inside the competition area.
C. No penalty for stepping outside the area.

XIV. JUDGING CRITERIA & SCORESHEETS

The judges will score the teams according to the judging criteria on a 100-point system. ICU International Cheerleading Cup scoresheets can be accessed https://cheerunion.org/championships/cheerleading/. Please email portal@cheerunion.org for any questions and/or further clarification as needed.

XV. JUDGING PROCEDURES

The judges for the event will be appointed at the sole discretion of the International Cheer Union. As the teams make their presentations, the judges will score the teams using a 100-point system. The highest score and the lowest score given for each team will be dropped and the remaining judges' scores will be totaled to determine the overall team score. In the event of a first-place tie, the high and low score will be added back into the total score. If a tie remains, the ranking points from each judge will be used to break the tie.

XVI. SCORES AND RANKINGS

Individual score sheets are for the exclusive use of each particular judge. Each judge has the responsibility and authority to review and submit his or her final scores and rankings prior to the final tally of the scores for all teams. Scores and rankings will be available only to coaches or captains at the conclusion of the competition. No scores or rankings will be given over the telephone. After each round of competition, teams will receive the judges' score sheets as well as their score and the top score in the group. In addition, teams will receive a ranking sheet with the names and scores of their respective team's final placement.

XVII. FINALITY OF DECISIONS

By participating in this championship, each team agrees that decision by the judges will be final and will not be subject for review. Each team acknowledges the necessity for the judges to make prompt and fair decisions in this competition and each team therefore expressly waives any legal, equitable, administrative, or procedural review of such decisions.

XVIII. SEMI-FINALS AND FINALS

ICU reserves the right to determine if a semi-final or final round will be necessary. All divisions with one round of competition prior to the finals will be classified as a semi-final. Ten (10) of the teams in each semi-final round will advance to the finals. In the event of a tie for the final team advancing, both teams that are tied will advance. Tournament officials will have the full authority to make the final determination of the number of teams selected to advance to the next round.

XIX. APPEARANCES, ENDORSEMENTS, AND PUBLICITY

All teams winning titles or awards agree to have all appearances, endorsements and publicity approved through the ICU office.

XX. PENALTIES

A five (5) point per judge penalty will be assessed to any team violating any of the specific rules as stated above. This deduction does not apply to violations mentioned above that are designated a lesser point value. For any questions concerning the legality of a move or trick, it is recommended to send a video copy of any skill of question to cheer.rules@cheerunion.org.

We have reviewed the ICU Rules and Regulations with our entire team and we hereby accept the Rules and Regulations as a fair and integral part of the competition and agree to adhere to the rules, policies and procedures contained herein. Rule clarifications and changes may occur throughout the season.

_____	_____
Team Name	*Date*
_____	_____
City/State/Country	*Coach/Director's Signature*
_____	_____
Division	*Captain's Signature*

Retain a copy of these rules for your files

ICU INTERNATIONAL CHEERLEADING CUP 2027

PERFORMANCE CHEER DIVISIONS - SAFETY RULES & REGULATIONS

Pom & Hip Hop Doubles Divisions

Youth Team Pom , Team Hip Hop & Senior High Kick

I. GENERAL RULES

A. All teams must be supervised during all official functions by a qualified director/advisor/coach.
B. Coaches must require proficiency before skill progression. Coaches must consider the athlete, group, and team skill levels with regard to proper performance level placement.
C. All directors, advisors and coaches should have an emergency response plan in the event of an injury.

II. TOURNAMENT

A. The event will take place on Sunday 25 April 2027 to Monday 26 April 2027 (with a potential rehearsal/run-through on Saturday 24 April 2027) in Orlando Florida.
<u>Saturday 24 April 2027</u>
ICU International Cup Team Rehearsal Run-Through (or tentative Semi-Final) TBD
<u>Sunday 25 April 2027</u>
ICU International Cup Competition – ICC (Day 1: Cheerleading Divisions Semi-Final*)
**Note: Teams compete in order of low to high score on Day 2 Finals*
<u>Monday 26 April 2024</u>
ICU International Cup Competition- ICC (Day 2: Performance Cheer & Cheerleading Finals)
(Evening) World Championships Week Block Party
B. The competition is scheduled to be held at the ESPN Wide World of Sports ® Complex.
C. The tournament officials shall have the right to alter the time and location of the competition in the event changes become necessary due to inclement weather, facility problems, television production requirements, or any other situation deemed by the tournament officials to be essential to the successful execution of the championship.

III. HOW TO HANDLE PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS

A. RULES & PROCEDURES: Any questions concerning the rules or procedures of the competition will be handled exclusively by the director/coach of the team and will be directed to the Competition Director. Such questions should be made prior to the team's competition performance. For any questions concerning the legality of a move or trick, it is recommended to send a video copy of any skill of question to pc.rules@cheerunion.org.
B. PERFORMANCE: Any questions concerning the team's performance should be made to the Competition Director immediately after the team's performance and/or following the outcome of the competition.

IV. SPORTSMANSHIP

A. All participants agree to conduct themselves in a manner displaying good sportsmanship throughout the competition with positive presentation upon entry and exit from the performance area as well as throughout the routine.
B. The advisor and coach of each team are responsible for seeing that team members, coaches, parents, and other persons affiliated with the team conduct themselves accordingly. Severe cases of unsportsmanlike conduct are grounds for disqualification.
C. In the promotion of international sport and the global athletic image of the Sport of Cheer, facial expressions and mannerisms on stage should be genuine, natural and authentic. Forced, choreographed, aggressive, vulgar and offensive facial expressions and gestures are not appropriate and should be avoided. Singing and/or pantomiming the lyrics is also not appropriate to the sport and should be avoided.
D. Actions that exhibit excessive boasting, a delay in competition, poor sportsmanship, unprofessional behavior, etc. may be penalized. These actions include but are not limited to:

- An athlete calling unnecessary attention to themselves or a team using long and excessive entrances (e.g. aggressive motioning/taunting to the crowd, moving to multiple formations and patterns to begin the routine, etc.)
- Excessive pre- or post-competition team rituals (team bonding traditions must take place behind the stage area)
- Excessive celebration (e.g. athletes wrapping their legs around coaches and/or each other, victory dances, etc.)

E. For more information regarding ICU's sportsmanship policies, please see the following ICU sportsmanship guidelines video: https://cheerunion.org/coaches-sportsmanship/

V. INTERRUPTION OF PERFORMANCE

A. UNFORSEEN CIRCUMSTANCES

1. If, in the opinion of the competition officials, a team's routine is interrupted because of failure of the competition equipment, facilities, or other factors attributable to the competition rather than the team, the team affected should **STOP** the routine.
2. The team will perform the routine again in its entirety but will be evaluated ONLY from the point where the interruption occurred. The degree and effect of the interruption will be determined by the competition officials.
3. If a team needs to re-perform a routine but fails to do the routine in its entirety, then this team will receive a score based on the lower-level performance.

B. FAULT OF TEAM

1. In the event a team's routine is interrupted because of failure of the team's own equipment, the team must either continue the routine or withdraw from the competition.
2. The competition officials will determine if the team will be allowed to perform at a later time. If decided by officials, the team will perform the routine again in its entirety but will be evaluated ONLY from the point where the interruption occurred.
3. If a team needs to re-perform a routine but fails to do the routine in its entirety, then this team will receive a score based on the lower-level performance.

C. INJURY

1. The only persons that may stop a routine for injury are:
   a. competition officials
   b. the advisor / coach from the team performing
   c. an injured individual
2. The competition officials will determine if the team will be allowed to perform at a later time. If the competition officials allow a routine to be performed at a later time, the spot in the schedule where the re-performance is to take place is at the sole discretion of competition officials. The team may perform the routine again in its entirety but will be evaluated ONLY from the point where the interruption occurred.
3. If a team needs to re-perform a routine but fails to do the routine in its entirety, then this team will receive a score based on the lower-level performance.
4. The injured participant that wishes to perform may not return to the competition floor unless:
   a. The competition officials receive clearance from, first, the medical personnel attending to that participant, the parent (if present) AND THEN the head coach/advisor of the competing team.
   b. If the medical personnel do not clear the participant, the participant can only return to the competition if a parent or legal guardian in attendance signs a return to participation waiver.
   c. In the event of a suspected concussion, the participant cannot return to perform without clearance from a physician (MD/DO) that has training related to head injuries, and waiting 24 hours, even with a waiver from a parent or legal guardian.
   d. In addition to the head injury policy, we encourage you to be familiar with the specific law where the competition is being held.

VI. INTERPRETATIONS AND/OR RULINGS

Any interpretation of any aspect of these Rules and Regulations or any decision involving any other aspect of the competition will be rendered by the Rules Committee. The Rules Committee will render a judgment in an effort to ensure that the competition proceeds in a manner consistent with the general spirit and goals of the competition. The Rules Committee will consist of the Competition Director, Head Judge, and a designated competition official.

VII. DISQUALIFICATION

Any team that does not adhere to the terms and procedures of these "Rules and Regulations" will be subject to disqualification from the competition, will automatically forfeit any right to any prizes or awards presented by the competition, and may also forfeit the opportunity to participate the following year.

VIII. SPECIFIC ROUTINE GUIDELINES

A. CHOREOGRAPHY AND COSTUMING

See Page 35 "A. CHOREOGRAPHY AND COSTUMING":
https://cheerunion.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/icu_wcc_27_rules-regs.pdf

B. TIME LIMIT/MUSIC/ENTRANCES

1. Each Team will have a maximum of 2 minutes (2:00) to perform their routine and demonstrate their expertise.
2. Each Doubles will have a maximum of 1 minute and 30 seconds (1:30) to perform their routine and demonstrate their expertise.
3. Every effort should be made to ensure that the lyrics of the music are appropriate for all audience members.
4. Timing will begin with the first choreographed movement or note of the music.
5. Timing will end with the last choreographed movement or note of the music.
6. If a team exceeds the time limit, a penalty will be assessed for each violation. There will be a one (1) point deduction per judge for 5-10 seconds over the time limit and a three (3) point deduction per judge for 11 seconds or more over the time limit.
7. All teams must have a coach/representative to play their music. This person is responsible for bringing the music to the music table and pushing "play" and "stop" for the performance.
8. Teams must enter the performance floor as quickly as possible. Choreographed entrances/exits will not be allowed. Additional conditions are as follows:
   - Entrances: When teams are introduced, teams must take the floor and assume their starting positions within 20 seconds.
   - Exits: At the conclusion of the routine, teams must exist the floor immediately and must be off the performance floor within 20 seconds.
9. For purposes of family viewing and in promotion of international sport, routine music must not include content that is suggestive/sexual in nature, offensive, vulgar or inferences violence of any kind. Violations of this rule will be impacted in the Overall category on the respective score sheet(s).
10. Excessive use of sound effects and/or the addition of generic and/or custom voiceovers to the music are not appropriate and should be avoided. Exceptions can include the name of the team, team mascot, team colors, the team's country, etc. which is recommended to be used a maximum of 2 times throughout the routine. Violations of this rule will be impacted in the Overall category on the respective score sheet(s).
11. Teams may not use Disney themes, nor may they have costumes that resemble a Disney character. However, Disney music is acceptable.

C. PROPS

See Page 35 "B. PROPS"
https://cheerunion.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/icu_wcc_27_rules-regs.pdf

IX. COMPETITION AREA

A. The performance floor will be approximately 42 x 42 feet/12.8 x 12.8 meters.
B. The surface will be professional grade material (e.g., Marley floor or a wooden parquet floor)
C. There is no penalty for stepping outside the performance floor area.

X. CATEGORY DEFINITIONS

POM: Incorporates the use of proper Pom motion technique that is sharp, clean, and precise while allowing for the use of concepts from Jazz, Hip Hop and High Kick. An emphasis is placed on group execution including synchronization, uniformity and spacing. The choreography of a dynamic and effective routine focuses on musicality, staging of visual effects through fluid and creative transitions, levels, and groups, along with complexity of movement and skills. Poms are required to be used throughout the routine. The uniform/costuming should reflect the category style. See score sheet for more information.

HIP HOP: Incorporates authentic street style influenced movement that has evolved from Hip Hop culture. Routines should exhibit originality, creativity and movement techniques with engagement, high energy and genuine connection to the music. An emphasis is placed on group execution, including synchronization, uniformity, and spacing. Choreography should highlight genuine groove, authentic rhythm, vibe and style, intricate musicality, visual staging, complexity of movement and athleticism. Costuming should reflect Hip Hop culture in a way that supports both authenticity and performance. See score sheet for more information.

HIGH KICK (KICK): Incorporates the use of proper high kick technique that includes flexibility, endurance, stamina, upper and lower body strength, placement, and control, while allowing for the use of creative concepts such as staging and skills. High Kicks are required to be used throughout the routine in a purposeful manner and should be the emphasis of routine content. The choreography of a dynamic and effective high kick routine focuses on musicality, staging of visual effects through intervals in kick lines, fluid and creative transitions, levels and groups, along with complexity of movement and athleticism. An emphasis is placed on group execution including synchronization, uniformity, and spacing. The uniform/costuming should reflect the category style. See score sheet for more information.

XI. SPECIFIC RULES

A five (5) point per judge penalty will be assessed to any team violating any of the specific rules as stated herein. This deduction does not apply to violations mentioned elsewhere that are designated a lesser point value.

XII. PERFORMANCE CHEER DIVISIONS - RULES BY GENRE

*For Safety Rules by Level/Genre, please reference the **ICU Safety Rules Document** link enclosed here:*
https://cheerunion.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/icu_2027_rules_ch-pc.pdf
& reference the respective Level/Genre Page Number as noted below:

A. ICU Pom Rules – Premier Level (Youth Team & Senior Pom Doubles Divisions): See Pages 39-40
B. ICU Hip Hop Rules – Premier Level (Youth Team & Senior Hip Hop Doubles Divisions): See Pages 43-44
C. ICU High Kick Rules – Premier Level (Senior High Kick Divisions): See Pages 46-47

XIII. GLOSSARY OF TERMS

For a full listing of the ICU Cheerleading Glossary of Terms (with video and visual examples as well), please see https://cheerunion.org/performancecheerglossary/. For any questions or requests for further clarification. Please email pc.rules@cheerunion.org

XIV. JUDGING CRITERIA & SCORESHEETS

The judges will score the teams according to the judging criteria on a 100-point system. ICU World Championships scoresheets can be accessed https://cheerunion.org/championships/cheerleading/. Please email portal@cheerunion.org for any questions and/or further clarification as needed.

XV. JUDGING PROCEDURES

The judges for the event will be appointed at the sole discretion of the International Cheer Union. As teams make their presentations, the judges will score the teams according to the judging criteria on a 100-point system. The highest score and lowest score given for each team will be dropped and the remaining judges' scores will be totaled to determine the overall team score. In the event of a first-place tie, the high and low score will be added back into the total score. If a tie remains, the ranking points from each judge will be used to break the tie.

XVI. SCORES AND RANKINGS

Individual score sheets are for the exclusive use of each particular judge. Each judge has the responsibility and authority to review and submit his or her final scores and rankings prior to the final tally of the scores for all teams. Scores and rankings will be available **only** to coaches or captains at the conclusion of the competition. No scores or rankings will be given over the telephone. After each round of competition, teams will receive the judges' score sheets as well as their score and the top score in the group. In addition, teams will receive a ranking sheet with the names and scores of the teams' final placement.

XVII. FINALITY OF DECISIONS

By participating in this championship, each team agrees that decisions by the judges will be final and will not be subject for review. Each team acknowledges the necessity for the judges to make prompt and fair decisions in this competition and each team therefore expressly waives any legal, equitable, administrative, or procedural review of such decisions.

XVIII. SEMI-FINALS AND FINALS

ICU reserves the right to determine if a semi-final or final round will be necessary. All divisions with one round of competition prior to the finals will be classified as a semi-final. Ten (10) of the teams in each semi-final round will advance to the finals. In the event of a tie for the final team advancing, both teams that are tied will advance. Tournament officials will have the full authority to make the final determination of the number of teams selected to advance to the next round.

XIX. APPEARANCES, ENDORSEMENTS, AND PUBLICITY

All teams winning titles or awards agree to have all appearances, endorsements and publicity approved through the ICU office.

XX. PENALTIES

A five (5) point per judge penalty will be assessed to any team violating any of the specific rules as stated above. This deduction does not apply to violations mentioned above that are designated a lesser point value. For any questions concerning the legality of a move or trick, it is recommended to send a video copy of any skill of question to pc.rules@cheerunion.org

ON BEHALF OF MY TEAM, I HEREBY ACCEPT THE ICU PERFORMANCE CHEER COMPETITION AND ROUTINES RULES AND GUIDELINES AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY THESE RULES

_____	_____
Team Name	*Date*
_____	_____
City/State/Country	*Coach/Director's Signature*
_____	_____
Division	*Captain's Signature*

Retain a copy of these rules for your files