

2026 ICU CHEERLEADING WORLD CUP ATHENS, GREECE



**INDIVIDUAL CLUB TEAMS - ALL AGES, ALL LEVELS
CHEERLEADING & PERFORMANCE CHEER**

**GENERAL INFORMATION
DIVISIONS RULES & REGULATIONS**

20 - 22 NOVEMBER 2026
WWW.CHEERUNION.ORG



2026 ICU CHEERLEADING WORLD CUP (CWC)

General Information

The International Cheer Union (ICU), in coordination with the Hellenic Cheerleading Federation (HCF), will host the 2026 ICU Cheerleading World Cup (CWC) Friday through Sunday 20-22 November 2026 in Athens, Greece. The ICU CWC is a global competition designed for Individual Cheerleading & Performance Teams – **for all levels and all ages** - that are Club Teams, Gymnasium/Gimnasio Teams, All Star Teams, Recreational “Rec” League Teams, or Scholastic (University/School) Teams.

Teams must qualify through one of ICU’s respective 120+ National Federations, and there is no limit to the number of teams that a country may enter. All teams will have a minimum of 2 competition opportunities and the CWC will be streamed globally on the Olympic Channel. The 2026 ICU CWC Tentative Schedule of Events is as follows:

I. Tentative Schedule of Events

Wednesday – Thursday 18-19 November 2026

- Team arrivals, sightseeing & open practice

Friday 20 November 2026

- Round 1 Competition (Divisions TBD)
- ICU Cheerleading World Cup Opening Ceremonies
- ICU VIP Reception & Athlete Cultural Exchange

Saturday 21 November 2026

- Round 1 Competition (Divisions TBD)
- Round 2 Competition (Divisions TBD)
- Evening – Award Ceremonies (Divisions TBD)

Sunday 22 November 2026

- Round 2 Competition (Divisions TBD)
- Afternoon/Evening – Award Ceremonies (Divisions TBD)
- ICU Cheerleading World Cup Closing Ceremonies
- Cheerleading World Cup Closing Activities

Monday 23 – Tuesday 24 November 2026

- Continued sightseeing & team departures

II. Cheerleading World Cup Divisions (By Age Group)

PRIMARY DIVISIONS (Ages 8-12 within the years of 2026 through 2027)

A. Cheerleading Divisions (4)

The 2026 ICU Cheerleading World Cup (CWC) will offer 3 levels of Cheerleading for the Primary Divisions. Nations can enter all divisions, with no limit on the number of teams entered.

1. **Primary Novice – Unified (male & female)**
2. **Primary Intermediate – Unified (male & female)**
3. **Primary Median Non-Tumbling – Unified (male & female)**
4. **Primary Median – Unified (male & female)**

B. Performance Cheer Divisions (6)

The 2026 ICU Cheerleading World Cup (CWC) will offer 2 levels of the Performance Cheer for the Primary Divisions. Nations can enter all divisions, with no limit on the number of teams entered.

1. **Primary Novice Hip Hop**
2. **Primary Novice Pom**
3. **Primary Novice Jazz**
4. **Primary Intermediate Hip Hop**
5. **Primary Intermediate Pom**
6. **Primary Intermediate Jazz**

Note: All divisions are available to all nations. Crossover into each category & division is allowed for each country as long as eligibility requirements are met.

YOUTH DIVISIONS (Ages 12-14 within the years of 2026 through 2027)

A. Cheerleading Divisions (9)

The 2026 ICU Cheerleading World Cup (CWC) will offer 4 levels of Cheerleading for the Youth Divisions. Nations can enter all divisions, with no limit on the number of teams entered.

1. Youth Novice – Unified (male & female)
2. Youth Intermediate– Unified (male & female)
3. Youth All Girl Median Non-Tumbling
4. Youth Coed Median Non-Tumbling
5. Youth Median Game Day – Unified (male & female)
6. Youth All Girl Median
7. Youth Coed Median
8. Youth All Girl Advanced
9. Youth Coed Advanced

B. Performance Cheer Divisions (9)

The 2026 ICU Cheerleading World Cup (CWC) will offer 3 levels of the Performance Cheer for the Youth Divisions. Nations can enter all divisions, with no limit on the number of teams entered.

1. Youth Novice Hip Hop
2. Youth Novice Pom
3. Youth Novice Jazz
4. Youth Intermediate Hip Hop
5. Youth Intermediate Pom
6. Youth Intermediate Jazz
7. Youth Premier Hip Hop
8. Youth Premier Pom
9. Youth Premier Jazz

Note: All divisions are available to all nations. Crossover into each category & division is allowed for each country as long as eligibility requirements are met.

JUNIOR DIVISIONS (Ages 15-18 within the years of 2026 through 2027)

A. Cheerleading Divisions (16)

The 2026 ICU Cheerleading World Cup (CWC) will offer 5 levels of Cheerleading for the Junior Divisions. Nations can enter all divisions, with no limit on the number of teams entered.

1. Junior All Grl Novice
2. Junior Coed Novice
3. Junior All Girl Intermediate
4. Junior Coed Intermediate
5. Junior All Girl Median Non-Tumbling
6. Junior Coed Median Non-Tumbling
7. Junior All Girl Median
8. Junior Coed Median
10. Junior All Girl Advanced Non-Tumbling
11. Junior Coed Advanced Non-Tumbling
12. Junior Advanced Game Day – Unified (male & female)
13. Junior All Girl Advanced
14. Junior Coed Advanced
15. Junior All Girl Elite
16. Junior Coed Elite

B. Performance Cheer Divisions (10)

The 2026 ICU Cheerleading World Cup (CWC) will offer 3 levels of the Performance Cheer for the Junior Divisions. Nations can enter all divisions, with no limit on the number of teams entered.

1. Junior Novice Hip Hop
2. Junior Novice Pom
3. Junior Novice Jazz
4. Junior Intermediate Hip Hop
5. Junior Intermediate Pom
6. Junior Intermediate Jazz
7. Junior Premier Hip Hop
8. Junior Premier Pom
9. Junior Premier Jazz

10. Junior Premier Game Day (all genres)

Note: All divisions are available to all nations. Crossover into each category & division is allowed for each country as long as eligibility requirements are met.

SENIOR DIVISIONS (Ages 16+ within the years of 2026 through 2027)

A. Cheerleading Divisions (17)

The 2026 ICU Cheerleading World Cup (CWC) will offer 6 levels of Cheerleading for the Junior Divisions. Nations can enter all divisions, with no limit on the number of teams entered.

1. Senior All Grl Novice
2. Senior Coed Novice
3. Senior All Girl Intermediate
4. Senior Coed Intermediate
5. Senior All Girl Median
6. Senior Coed Median
7. Senior All Girl Advanced Non-Tumbling
8. Senior Coed Advanced Non-Tumbling
9. Senior All Girl Advanced
10. Senior Coed Advanced
11. Senior Elite Game Day – Unified (male & female)
12. Senior All Girl Advanced Non-Tumbling
13. Senior Coed Advanced Non-Tumbling
14. Senior All Girl Elite
15. Senior Coed Elite
16. Senior All Girl Premier
17. Senior Coed Premier

B. Performance Cheer Divisions (13)

The 2026 ICU Cheerleading World Cup (CWC) will offer 3 levels of the Performance Cheer for the Junior Divisions. Nations can enter all divisions, with no limit on the number of teams entered.

1. Senior Novice Hip Hop
2. Senior Novice Pom
3. Senior Novice Jazz
4. Senior Novice High Kick
5. Senior Intermediate Hip Hop
6. Senior Intermediate Pom
7. Senior Intermediate Jazz
8. Senior Intermediate High Kick
9. Senior Premier Hip Hop
10. Senior Premier Pom
11. Senior Premier Jazz
12. Senior Premier High Kick

13. Senior Premier Game Day (all genres)

Note: All divisions are available to all nations. Crossover into each category & division is allowed for each country as long as eligibility requirements are met.

MASTERS DIVISIONS (Ages 25+ within the years of 2026 through 2027)

A. Cheerleading Divisions (2)

The 2026 ICU Cheerleading World Cup (CWC) will offer 2 levels of Cheerleading for the Masters Divisions. Nations can enter all divisions, with no limit on the number of teams entered.

1. Masters Intermediate – Unified (male & female)
2. Masters Median - Unified (male & female)

B. Performance Cheer Divisions (6)

The 2026 ICU Cheerleading World Cup (CWC) will offer 3 levels of the Performance Cheer for the Masters Divisions. Nations can enter all divisions, with no limit on the number of teams entered.

1. Masters Novice Hip Hop
2. Masters Novice Pom
3. Masters Intermediate Hip Hop
4. Masters Intermediate Pom
5. Masters Premier Hip Hop
6. Masters Premier Pom

Note: All divisions are available to all nations. Crossover into each category & division is allowed for each country as long as eligibility requirements are met.

POM PLUS DIVISION (Ages 65+ within the years of 2026 through 2027)

A. Performance Cheer Divisions (1)

The 2026 ICU Cheerleading World Cup (CWC) will offer 1 level of the Performance Cheer for the Pom Plus Division. Nations can enter all divisions, with no limit on the number of teams entered.

1. Pom Plus Novice

III. World Championships Disabled Sports Divisions (Available Upon Request)

ADAPTIVE ABILITIES DIVISIONS (Ages 12 years or older within the years of 2026 through 2027)

Note: All teams must comply with the Adaptive Abilities Division Criteria & Eligibility Criteria (See Page 4 & 5):

https://cheerunion.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/ICU_2025_Rules_Adaptive-Abilities.pdf

SPECIAL ABILITIES DIVISIONS (Ages 12 years or older within the years of 2026 through 2027)

Note: All teams must comply with the Special Abilities or Special Olympics Division Criteria & Eligibility Criteria (See Page 4):

https://cheerunion.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/ICU_2025_Rules_Special-Abilities.pdf

IV. Time of Routine

For more details re: entrances/exits, please see "TIME LIMITATIONS, MUSIC AND ENTRANCES/EXITS" on Page 12 (Cheerleading Divisions) and on Page 16 (Performance Cheer Divisions)

A. Cheerleading Divisions

1. The total maximum time for the routine is 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.
2. Music portion: Two minutes (2:00)

B. Performance Cheer Team Divisions

1. Music portion: Two minutes (2:00)

C. Game Day Divisions (Cheerleading & Performance Cheer)

See Game Day Rules: <https://cheerunion.org/education-schedule/gameday/>

V. Cheer Portion of Routine

(All Cheerleading Divisions)

For the Cheerleading Divisions at the 2026 ICU Cheerleading World Cup (CWC), 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 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.

VI. Team Size/Number of athletes per team

A. Cheerleading Divisions

- Minimum 16 athletes, maximum 24 athletes

B. Performance Cheer Team Divisions

- Minimum 16 athletes, maximum 24 athletes

C. Performance Cheer Jazz Division:

- Minimum 18 athletes, maximum 24 athletes

VII. Age of Athlete

A. All Primary Divisions: Ages 8-12 years old within the years of 2026 through 2027

Note: Athletes born in the years of 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 will be eligible for the Primary Division(s) in 2026. Any team proven to be in violation of the age requirements will be automatically disqualified. Crossovers between ICU Divisions are permitted as long as the crossover athlete competes within the same club programme and meets the division eligibility criteria.

B. All Youth Divisions: Ages 12-14 years old in the years of 2026 through 2027

Note: Athletes born in the years of 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 will be eligible for the Youth Division(s) in 2026. Any team proven to be in violation of the age requirements will be automatically disqualified. Crossovers between ICU Divisions are permitted as long as the crossover athlete competes within the same club programme and meets the division eligibility criteria.

C. All Special Abilities Divisions: 12 years or older in the years of 2026 through 2027

Note: Athletes born in the year of 2015 or earlier will be eligible for the Special Abilities Division(s) in 2026. Any team proven to be in violation of the age requirements will be automatically disqualified. Crossovers between ICU Divisions are permitted as long as the crossover athlete competes within the same club programme and meets the division eligibility criteria.

D. All Adaptive Abilities Divisions: 12 years or older in the years of 2026 through 2027

Note: Athletes born in the year of 2015 or earlier will be eligible for the Adaptive Abilities Division(s) in 2026. Any team proven to be in violation of the age requirements will be automatically disqualified. Crossovers between ICU Divisions are permitted as long as the crossover athlete competes within the same club programme and meets the division eligibility criteria.

E. All Junior Divisions: Ages 15-18 years old within the years of 2026 through 2027

Note: Athletes born in the years of 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 will be eligible for the Junior Division(s) in 2026. Any team proven to be in violation of the age requirements will be automatically disqualified. Crossovers between ICU Divisions are permitted as long as the crossover athlete competes within the same club programme and meets the division eligibility criteria.

F. All Senior Divisions: Ages 16 years or older within the years of 2026 through 2027

Note: Athletes born in the year of 2011 or earlier will be eligible for the Senior Division(s) in 2026. Any team proven to be in violation of the age requirements will be automatically disqualified. Crossovers between ICU Divisions are permitted as long as the crossover athlete competes within the same club programme and meets the division eligibility criteria.

G. All Masters Divisions: Ages 25 years or older within the years of 2026 through 2027

Note: Athletes born in the year of 2002 or earlier will be eligible for the Masters Division(s) in 2026. Any team proven to be in violation of the age requirements will be automatically disqualified. Crossovers between ICU Divisions are permitted as long as the crossover athlete competes within the same club programme and meets the division eligibility criteria.

H. Poms Plus Division: Ages 65 years or older within the year the years of 2026 through 2027

Note: Athletes born in the year of 1962 or earlier will be eligible for the Masters Division(s) in 2026. Any team proven to be in violation of the age requirements will be automatically disqualified. Crossovers between ICU Divisions are permitted as long as the crossover athlete competes within the same club programme and meets the division eligibility criteria.

VIII. Performance Surface

A. Performance Cheer Divisions: Marley performance floor. (Minimum surface area of 42 feet x 42 feet or 12.8 meters x 12.8 meters)

B. Cheerleading Divisions: No spring floor, ICU foam mat surface. (9 strips/42 feet x 54 feet or 12.8 meters x 16.5 meters).
Note: For the reason of accessibility, cost, and ICU objective of grassroots growth of cheerleading within every nation, a standard foam mat was selected for all Cheerleading Divisions.

IX. Crossovers (athletes participating in multiple divisions)

A. Athlete crossovers between divisions & categories will be allowed within a respective club team programme (of the same country) of the 2026 ICU Cheerleading World Cup (CWC), as long as all respective crossover athlete(s) meet ICU division eligibility criteria.

X. 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 resides on the 2026 Cheerleading World Cup (CWC) date of competition.

XI. Music Guidelines

- A.** For the 2026 ICU Cheerleading World Cup, all teams will have the choice of following the ICU Cheer Music Copyrights Educational Initiative (<http://cheerunion.org/education/musicinfo/>) or USA Cheer Music Copyrights Educational Initiative (<https://www.usacheer.org/music>) – based on the extensive listing of Music Providers on the USA Cheer website.
- B.** I have read and understand the 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 CWC.
- 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 programme representative of the 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 EUR fee to request a music challenge and must be in the form of the Euro 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 per the choice of the Hellenic Cheerleading Federation (HCF).

- 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).

XII. Logo Usage

Teams will not be allowed to use the ICU or 2026 ICU CWC logo including banners, rings, bows, t-shirts, etc. without prior approval from the ICU office. The use of the ICU letters will be allowed.

XIII. 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.

XIV. Health Precautions (e.g., COVID-19, etc.) & Guidelines

ICU will fully comply with all health policies & guidelines required by local authorities at the 2026 ICU Cheerleading World Cup (CWC) and full compliance will be required of all attendees as well. Should any measures be required, the ICU reserves the right to take any required measures, at any time, to assure the safety of our athletes and all attendees in relation to these championships.

XV. ICU Anti-Doping Rules and Regulations-Guidelines and Operations Procedures

ICU is committed to doping free sport, and strictly follows the enclosed guidelines and procedures of the ICU WADA approved Anti-Doping guidelines and procedures for the safety of our athletes and fairness of play for our sport. https://cheerunion.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/ICU_Anti-Doping-Rules_21.pdf

XVI. ICU Rules and Regulations against Illegal Betting and 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/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/ICU_Rules_Competition-Fixing.pdf

XVII. ICU Privacy Policies

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

XVIII. ICU Safeguarding 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/>

Note: *Additional ICU CWC venue safeguarding requirements provided upon team registration.*

2026 ICU CHEERLEADING WORLD CUP (CWC)

CHEERLEADING DIVISIONS RULES & REGULATIONS

All Girl, Coed & Unified Divisions

Senior, Junior, Youth, Primary

Masters, Adaptive Abilities, Special Abilities

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 event will take place on Friday to Sunday 20-22 November 2026 in Athens, Greece.
Wednesday – Thursday 18-19 November 2026
Team arrivals, sightseeing & open practice
Friday 20 November 2026
Round 1 Competition (Divisions TBD)
ICU Cheerleading World Cup Opening Ceremonies
ICU VIP Reception & Athlete Cultural Exchange
Saturday 21 November 2026
Round 1 Competition (Divisions TBD)
Round 2 Competition (Divisions TBD)
Evening – Award Ceremonies (Divisions TBD)
Sunday 22 November 2026
Round 2 Competition (Divisions TBD)
Afternoon/Evening – Award Ceremonies (Divisions TBD)
ICU Cheerleading World Cup Closing Ceremonies
Cheerleading World Cup Closing Activities
Monday-Tuesday 23-24 November 2026
Continued sightseeing & team departures
- B. The competition is scheduled to be held in Athens, Greece (venue TBD)
- 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

The 2026 ICU CWC will not provide spotters; however, teams may bring up to 5 spotters, who may accompany the teams throughout warm provide spotters for all rehearsal and competition floors. Spotters must comply with the following requirements:

- Must be 18 years or older
- Must be a registered with the team with CWC event credentials
- Must be dressed differently from the competing athletes
- May not wear any jewelry while spotting

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 Page 3):

https://cheerunion.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/ICU_2026_Rules_CH-PC.pdf

X. SPECIAL ABILITIES & ADAPTIVE ABILITIES DIVISIONS

Note: The use of the term “wheelchair” below also applies to the use of scooters and similar mobility devices, as is applicable.

A. **Special Abilities (SA) Teams: All Safety Rules – per level – apply with the added SA restrictions:**

https://cheerunion.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/ICU_2025_Rules_Special-Abilities.pdf

B. **Adaptive Abilities (AA) Teams: All Safety Rules – per level – apply with the added AA restrictions**

https://cheerunion.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/ICU_2025_Rules_Adaptive-Abilities.pdf

XI. CHEERLEADING 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/2025/09/ICU_2026_Rules_CH-PC.pdf and reference the respective Level/Division Page Number(s) as noted below:

A. **ICU Novice Division Rules:** See Pages 6-9

B. **ICU Intermediate Division Rules:** See Pages 9-12

C. **ICU Median Division Rules:** See Pages 12-17

Note: For Median Non-Tumbling Divisions, General, Standing and Running Tumbling is not allowed; however, Jumps are allowed.

D. **ICU Advanced Division Rules:** See Pages 17-21

Note (1): For Advanced Non-Tumbling Divisions, General, Standing and Running Tumbling is not allowed; however, Jumps are allowed.

Note (2): For the Junior Advanced Game Day Division, see additional Game Day requirements here: <https://cheerunion.org/education-schedule/gameday/>

E. **ICU Elite Division Rules:** See Pages 22-25

Note (1): For Elite Non-Tumbling Divisions, General, Standing and Running Tumbling is not allowed; however, Jumps are allowed.

Note (2): For the Senior Elite Game Day Division, see additional Game Day requirements here: <https://cheerunion.org/education-schedule/gameday/>

F. **ICU Premier Division Rules:** See Pages 25-29

XII. 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

XIII. TIME LIMITATIONS, MUSIC, AND ENTRANCES/EXITS

Note: For Game Day Divisions, please see Game Day Rules: <https://cheerunion.org/education-schedule/gameday/>

- A. Each team will have a maximum of 2 minutes for music (2:00) 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 three (3:00) minutes, including the Cheer.
- C. Every effort should be made to ensure that the lyrics of the music are appropriate for all audience members.
- D. Timing will begin with the first choreographed movement, voice or note of the music whichever comes first.
- E. Timing will end with the last choreographed movement, voice or note of the music whichever comes last.
- F. 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.
- G. 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.
- H. 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.
- I. 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 exit the floor immediately and must be off the performance floor within 20 seconds.
- J. 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).
- K. 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).

XIV. COMPETITION AREA

- A. The performance floor will be approximately 42 feet x 54 feet/12.8 meters x 16.5 meters. The surface will be a standard ICU foam Cheerleading mat.
- B. Teams may line up anywhere inside the competition area.
- C. No penalty for stepping outside the area.

XV. JUDGING CRITERIA & SCORESHEETS

The judges will score the teams according to the judging criteria on a 100-point system. ICU scoresheets for the 2026 ICU CWC can be accessed <https://cheerunion.org/championships/cheerleading/>. For any questions and/or for further clarification as needed, please email portal@cheerunion.org

XVI. 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.

XVII. 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.

XVIII. 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.

XIX. 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.

XX. APPEARANCES, ENDORSEMENTS, AND PUBLICITY

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

XXI. 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

2026 ICU CHEERLEADING WORLD CUP (CWC)
PERFORMANCE CHEER DIVISIONS RULES & REGULATIONS
HIP HOP, POM, JAZZ, HIGH KICK*
Senior, Junior, Youth, Primary
Masters, Poms Plus, Adaptive Abilities, Special Abilities
(*Please check Pages 2-5 for genre availability by age group)

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 Friday to Sunday 20-22 November 2026 in Athens, Greece.
Wednesday – Thursday 18-19 November 2026
Team arrivals, sightseeing & open practice
Friday 20 November 2026
Round 1 Competition (Divisions TBD)
ICU Cheerleading World Cup Opening Ceremonies
ICU VIP Reception & Athlete Cultural Exchange
Saturday 21 November 2026
Round 1 Competition (Divisions TBD)
Round 2 Competition (Divisions TBD)
Evening – Award Ceremonies (Divisions TBD)
Sunday 22 November 2026
Round 2 Competition (Divisions TBD)
Afternoon/Evening – Award Ceremonies (Divisions TBD)
ICU Cheerleading World Cup Closing Ceremonies
Cheerleading World Cup Closing Activities
Monday-Tuesday 23-24 November 2026
Continued sightseeing & team departures
- B. The competition is scheduled to be held in Athens, Greece (venue TBD)
- 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 and should be made exclusively by the advisor/coach.

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 & 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 31: “A. CHOREOGRAPHY AND COSTUMING”

https://cheerunion.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/ICU_2026_Rules_CH-PC.pdf

B. TIME LIMITATIONS, MUSIC, AND ENTRANCES/EXITS

Note: For Game Day Divisions, please see Game Day Rules: <https://cheerunion.org/education-schedule/gameday/>

1. Each **Team** will have a maximum of two (2) minutes to perform their routine & demonstrate their expertise.
2. Every effort should be made to ensure that the lyrics of the music are appropriate for all audience members.
3. Timing will begin with the first choreographed movement, voice or note of the music.
4. Timing will end with the last choreographed movement, voice or note of the music.
5. If a performance (Team or Doubles) 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.
6. 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 Team or Doubles performance.
7. In order to keep the competition on time, teams must enter and exit the performance floor as quickly as possible. Choreographed entrances/exits will not be allowed. Teams will have limited time to enter the floor and start their routine. 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.
8. 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).
9. 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).
10. 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 31: “C. PROPS”

https://cheerunion.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/ICU_2026_Rules_CH-PC.pdf

D. TEAM PARTICIPATION

1. Each division will have a separate title winner.
2. Each team will be comprised of individual team members. Each team may compete in a single division or multiple divisions.
3. If a team chooses to compete in more than 1 division, it is permissible, but not compulsory for each individual team member to compete as part of the team in each division.
4. Each team may be comprised of as many different individual team members as desired; however, the team may only participate in a division with a minimum of 16 performers (Team Pom, Team Hip Hop, Team High Kick, Game Day if applicable) or 18 performers (Team Jazz) and a maximum of 24 on the floor at one time. It is permissible, but not compulsory, that the same individual team members compete in each division.
6. Participants will be allowed to crossover into the Performance Cheer divisions at the coaches' discretion as scheduling conflicts may occur.
7. Each country's National Federation will need to provide proof of permanent residency (minimum of six (6) months consecutive permanent residence) for each member of its team.
8. Each athlete must be compliant with the age requirements of their respective division.
Any team proven to be in violation of the age requirements will be automatically disqualified.
9. All genders are allowed to participate on the team.

E. COMPETITION AREA

1. The performance floor will be approximately 42 x 42 feet/12.8 x 12.8 meters.
2. The surface will be professional grade material (e.g., Marley floor)
3. There is no penalty for stepping outside the performance floor area.

F. 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.

JAZZ: Incorporates traditional or stylized dynamic movements with strength, continuity, presence, and proper technical execution. An emphasis is placed on group execution including synchronization, uniformity, and spacing. The choreography of a dynamic and effective routine utilizes musicality, staging, complexity of movement and skills. The overall impression of the routine should be lively, energetic, and motivating, with the understanding that the dynamics of movement may change to utilize musicality. The uniform/costuming should reflect the category style. 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.

IX. SPECIAL ABILITIES & ADAPTIVE ABILITIES DIVISIONS

Note: The use of the term "wheelchair" below also applies to the use of scooters and similar mobility devices as is applicable

1. **Special Abilities (SA) Teams: All Safety Rules – per level – apply with the added SA restrictions:**
https://cheerunion.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/ICU_2025_Rules_Special-Abilities.pdf
2. **Adaptive Abilities (AA) Teams: All Safety Rules – per level – apply with the added AA restrictions:**
https://cheerunion.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/ICU_2025_Rules_Adaptive-Abilities.pdf

X. 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.

XI. PERFORMANCE CHEER DIVISIONS - RULES BY LEVEL/GENRE

For Safety Rules by Level/Division, please reference the ICU Safety Rules Document link enclosed here https://cheerunion.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/ICU_2026_Rules_CH-PC.pdf and reference the respective Level/Division Page Number(s) as noted below:

- A. **ICU Pom Rules – Novice:** See Pages 32-33
- B. **ICU Hip Hop Rules – Novice:** See Pages 36-37
- C. **ICU Jazz Rules – Novice:** See Pages 40-41
- D. **ICU High Kick Rules – Novice:** See Pages 40-41
- E. **ICU Pom Rules – Intermediate:** See Pages 33-34
- F. **ICU Hip Hop Rules – Intermediate:** See Pages 37-38
- G. **ICU Jazz Rules – Intermediate:** See Pages 41-42
- H. **ICU High Kick Rules – Intermediate:** See Pages 41-42
- I. **ICU Pom Rules – Premier:** See Pages 35-36
- F. **ICU Hip Hop Rules – Premier:** See Pages 39-40
- G. **ICU Jazz Rules – Premier:** See Pages 42-43
- H. **ICU High Kick Rules – Premier:** See Pages 42-43
- J. **ICU Game Day Rules – Premier (Rules apply by genre):** See Pages 35-43)*

**Note: For Game Day Division, see additional Game Day requirements here: <https://cheerunion.org/education-schedule/gameday/>*

XII. 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

XIII. 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/>. For any questions and/or further clarification, please email portal@cheerunion.org

XIV. 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.

XV. 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.

XVI. 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.

XVII. 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.

XVIII. APPEARANCES, ENDORSEMENTS, AND PUBLICITY

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

XIX. 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