



Spirit Unlimited

2010 - 2011 General Rules & Registration Guidelines#

Miscellaneous Performance Guidelines

1. All participants must currently be a member of the 2010 - 2011 team.
2. Teams will compete on a 54' x 42' spring floor at most events (Some events and individual competitions may have a 54' x 42' foam floor).
3. CD's are the only recording media that is acceptable; Tapes and CDRW's are not! (See MUSIC TIME LIMITS / RULES section)
4. THE APPLICATION OF SPRAY GLITTER INSIDE AT ANY COMPETITION SITE IS PROHIBITED.
5. Any routine which includes explicit language, profanity and/or body language is unacceptable and may result in point deductions or view a routine to be disqualified.
6. **Tiny/Tiny Rec Teams ONLY** - For those teams who have Tiny or Tiny Rec divisions the coaches may assist in placing the participants into their first formation in a timely fashion, but then must exit the mat immediately. Those coaches may remain seated in front of the judges table to help visually guide the routine. **NOTE:** Excessive motions, words, etc. that could be distracting to the judges in any way will NOT be permitted, and could result in a deduction on the scoresheets.

Spotters/Safety (PLEASE READ CAREFULLY)

Competition routines and individual cheerleading skills continue to become more dynamic each year. Routines are consistently featuring partner stunt, basket toss, pyramid, and tumbling sequences that are nearly impossible to spot effectively without the Safety Spotters having intimate knowledge of each routine prior to a competition. In an effort to address this concern and to maintain our long standing record of safety, Spirit Unlimited has implemented the following guidelines with regards to Safety Spotters at all of our 2010-2011 competitions:

1. Spirit Unlimited will NOT provide any safety spotters at our 2010-2011 events. Spirit Unlimited still favors and encourages each individual team to provide their own Safety Spotters that will be infinitely more familiar with the routine and its elements, thus providing better safety.
2. Each team will be permitted to provide a maximum of five (5) Safety Spotters during their routine.
3. Safety Spotters MUST be attired differently than the team performing (warm-ups preferred). Rules governing jewelry, clothing, and other safety concerns should also be adhered to by the spotters.
4. Safety Spotters MUST NOT assist in any way with the execution of ANY element of a routine. Any assistance/occurrence will be considered a violation and the team will be **deducted 15 points** from their overall score.
5. There should be NO verbal coaching by Safety Spotters while their team is on the performance surface or during the routine. Any occurrence will be considered a violation and the team will be **deducted 15 points** from their overall score.

Injury Policy*

INJURIES - If a participant is injured and unable to exit the performance area, the routine **must be stopped**. The team will be allowed to perform later in its division (if at all possible). **ONLY under Spirit Unlimited's discretion**, based on medical advice, will the injured team member be allowed to compete. The team **MUST** mark their routine up to the point of the interruption and scoring will pick up from that point forward.

If a participant is observed to be bleeding (i.e. nose bleed, from a scratch, etc.), the routine **must be stopped**. The team will be allowed to perform later in its division (if at all possible). The injured team member will be allowed to perform at the discretion of Spirit Unlimited. The team **MUST** mark their routine up to the point of the interruption and scoring will pick up from that point forward.

* Spirit Unlimited reserves the right to stop any performance if deemed necessary due to injury.

In Injury cases, the decision must be made immediately. If you chose to perform again, your team will compete directly following the next team in your division (if at all possible).



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Music Time Limits / Rules

Music / Routine Time Limits

- ★ **Cheer Routines**
2:30 minute max.
- ★ **Dance Routines**
2:30 minute max.

Music Rules

1. CD's are the only recording media that is acceptable; Tapes and CDRW's are not!
2. EACH entry must provide one, quality CD.
3. Only one routine may be recorded on to the CD. Another routine's music should **NOT** precede or follow (multiple routines on a CD will not be accepted - **NO EXCEPTIONS**).
4. Each CD must be in an individual jewel case or sleeve.
5. CD must be clearly marked with team/individual name and category/age division. This should be written in permanent marker or a label should be affixed directly on the CD.
6. Coaches/Directors should keep with them a back-up CD readily available in case of a malfunction with their original CD.
7. Music which includes explicit language, profanity and/or innuendo is unacceptable and may result in point deductions or view a routine to be disqualified.
8. Spirit Unlimited's DJ, sound technicians, and/or event staff will not be responsible for any labeling mistakes or poorly recorded music, and will assume no responsibility for the quality of the recording or its compatibility with the venue's equipment.
9. Coaches/Directors have full responsibility for operation of their music.
10. Total performance time for all cheer routines **may** constitute all music, or any combination of cheer and music for recreation, school, and all-star teams.
11. There is no minimum music time requirement for competition routines.
12. Prior to the start of a routine, cheer participants must be positioned inside the performance area boundary and must have at least one foot, hand or body part on the floor (Exception: Flyer may have their feet positioned in their base(s) hands as long as the base(s) hands are resting on the performance surface).
13. Timing will begin with the first motion, movement or voice in unison, or the first sound of music.

Music Interruptions

Spirit Unlimited's DJ, sound technicians, and/or event staff will not be responsible for any labeling mistakes or poorly recorded music, and will assume no responsibility for the quality of the recording or its compatibility with the venue's equipment. **Teams will not be permitted to start over for any reason, other than the following situations stated below:**

MUSIC - Please check your music prior to competing. If your routine is interrupted due to failure of our **competition** equipment, you will be allowed to perform again, going later in your division (if at all possible).

If interruption is due to failure of **your** equipment or supplies (scratched or poorly burned CD), you will have **two options**:

- 1) Your team may perform again, using your own player or the back-up copy of your music. Your team will be assessed a penalty (**5 points - cheer, 2 points - dance**). The team **MUST** mark their routine up to the point of the interruption and scoring will pick up from that point forward. Your first performance cannot be used in the event that you are not pleased with your second performance.
- 2) Your team may use the original performance.

The decision must be made immediately. If you chose to perform again, your team will compete directly following the next team in your division (if at all possible).

Competition Divisions

1. Divisions for Recreation and All-Star teams are determined by the age of the team members as of 8/31/2010 or the grade of School and Collegiate teams as of the 2010-2011 school year. **Coaches are required to bring documentation of ages (i.e. copy of birth certificate, passport or photo ID) for every participant.**
2. Mascots are welcome to perform in all divisions; however, they will be counted toward the total number of the team.
3. A minimum # of 5 members per cheer team and 4 members per dance team is required to compete.



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Team Association/Crossovers

1. Participants on a School or Recreational CHEER team may compete again for the same School or Recreational CHEER program without restriction.
2. Participants on a School or Recreational DANCE team may compete again for the same School or Recreational DANCE program without restriction.
3. Participants on an All-Star CHEER team may compete again for the same All-Star CHEER organization without restriction.
4. Participants on an All-Star DANCE team may compete again for the same All-Star DANCE organization without restriction.
5. Participants from a School or Recreation program may compete again on only one All-Star organization, and vice versa.
6. Participants on a specific organization's CHEER teams may compete on one or more of the same organization's DANCE teams without restriction.
7. In all above cases, Spirit Unlimited assumes no responsibility for scheduling conflicts. For any requests for assistance with crossovers, the denotation of the CROSSOVER must be listed on the registration form in the area provided.

Payment Restrictions (must follow Team Association guidelines above):

- ☆ Originating performance is FULL price.
- ☆ CROSSOVER fee applies for each cheer to cheer performance (same organization/program only).
- ☆ CROSSOVER fee applies for each dance to dance performance (same organization/program only - Exception: Entire dance team 2nd category performance).
- ☆ FULL price applies when crossing from one organization/program to another.
- ☆ FULL price applies when a cheer participant crosses over to a dance performance, and vice versa (same or different organizations/programs).

Recreational Organization Affiliation Policy

To be considered a Recreation team, all must apply:

1. Are governed and/or affiliated with a YMCA, a Boy and Girls Club, or your county's Recreation and Parks.
2. The team's main purpose is to cheer/dance for their associated recreation's sports clubs (i.e. football, basketball, soccer, etc.).
3. Official member of the team/league/association they represent.
4. Participants may not represent more than one recreation program.

All-Star Organization Affiliation Policy

To be considered an All-Star team, all must apply:

1. Governed by an organized gym or non-profit program.
2. The team's sole purpose is practicing to compete at local and national competitions.
3. Participants may not represent more than one all-star organization.
4. Exception: You are an organized Collegiate team which must compete in All-Star Open/Open Coed Level 6 for cheer and All-Star Open for dance.

School Affiliation Policy

To be considered a School team, all must apply:

1. Governed by their associated school's administration.
2. The team's main purpose is to cheer/dance for their associated school's sports clubs (i.e. football, basketball, soccer, etc.).
3. Official student of the school team they represent.
4. Participants may not represent more than one school.

Note: If a school district allows for athletes below 9th grade to compete at the "high school level", the athlete is eligible. College teams must compete in All-Star Open/Open Coed Level 6 for cheer and All-Star Open for dance.



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Registration Requirements, Event Policies and Fees

Requirements

1. A "**Team Roster/Waiver Form**" must be completed for each team with each team member's name, date of birth, age as of 8/31/2010 and grade as of 2010-2011 school year, Insurance Information, Parent's Signature and must be submitted along with the Team Registration Form. Please download forms at www.spiritunlimited.com/forms.
2. A "**Code of Ethics Form**" must be completed for each team in an organization and must be submitted along with the Team Registration Form. Please download forms at www.spiritunlimited.com/forms.

Fees

1. Late Fees - Any registrations forms received after the On-Time due date will be charged a late registration fee of **\$10.00 per participant**.
2. Division Change Fee (Pre-Event) - Any team/individual choosing to switch divisions, 3-days prior or less, will be charged an administrative fee of **\$100.00**.
3. Division Change Fee (Event Day) - A coach/director reportedly registering their team in the wrong division wishing to switch divisions on the day of the event will be charged an administrative fee of **\$150.00 (CASH ONLY)**.

Event Policies

1. **Inclement Weather Policy:** If the facility is open and the competition takes place, no refunds will be issued. If the facility is closed, the event will either be re-scheduled or refunds may be issued. Please call our office at 1-888-737-2221 for continual updates.
2. **ABSOLUTELY NO REFUNDS FOR A NO-SHOW, DROPOUT OR SCRATCH AT A COMPETITION. Awards have already been purchased!**
3. FLASH photography at any Spirit Unlimited competition is extremely prohibited.

Legality Verification

As a director and/or coach it is important to be current on Spirit Unlimited Safety Guidelines. If you have questions regarding specific skills, please follow these steps:

1. All questions must be in written form. Due to the differences in interpretation and terminology, and to give your team the best interpretation to your question **no phone calls will be accepted**.
2. For skills in question, you must send in a DVD, which contains the skill(s) in question from the front and side views.
3. Spirit Unlimited will address inquiries in writing. Your DVD will be kept on file.
4. Spirit Unlimited **will not** review legalities on day of event!!

This will ensure that you receive a timely and accurate response to your questions.

Please be aware that due to the fast pace of routines, it is possible that some violations* of the Safety Guidelines during an SU event may have been missed, and therefore, were not called against your team. This does not mean that they are legal, and that your team will not be called for them during another SU event, another company's event or at the US Finals. (*Please be sure to check **all** aspects of your routine, **including time limits**, as they may have been missed during prior competitions as well.)

Challenges

Coaches are required to bring documentation of ages (i.e. copy of birth certificate, passport or photo ID) for every participant. Coaches (only) of a competing team within the same division may challenge the eligibility of another team to a Spirit Unlimited official. The challenging coach must provide actual proof of ineligibility. Saying "She's too tall to be a Youth 8 yrs & under" or "She looks too old to be in our division" is not proof. They must provide first hand knowledge of ineligibility. **If** sufficient evidence warrants at that point, Spirit Unlimited will require the challenged team to provide proof of eligibility.

An administrative fee of **\$100.00 (CASH ONLY)** will be charged to the challenging coach for this challenge (Payable at the time of the challenge and will be refunded if the challenge is determined to be valid). **If** a challenge is deemed to be valid, the challenged team may be disqualified at Spirit Unlimited's discretion. **CHALLENGES MAY ONLY BE MADE THE DAY OF THE EVENT no later than 1 hour prior to that division's award ceremony!!**



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Disqualifications

1. If anyone on a team is outside of the age/grade limitations (See COMPETITION DIVISIONS section). **Coaches are required to bring documentation of ages (i.e. copy of birth certificate, passport or photo ID) for every participant.**
2. Inappropriate music or vulgarity (See MUSIC TIME LIMITS / RULES section).
3. Un-sportsman like conduct (See SPORTSMANSHIP / CONDUCT CODE section).

Level & Balanced Competition

To ensure a balanced & competitive event, we evaluate both team size & level, in order to achieve an evenly matched competition!!

1. In the event that there are not at least 2 teams in a division, the team will compete "**Against the Score**" - defined as the average score during that team's session (See DIVISION STIPULATIONS for a more detailed description for combining and splitting of divisions).
2. *Spirit Unlimited reserves the right to place competitors in the proper division and to add, delete or combine divisions without prior notice (see "Division Stipulations").*
3. Spirit Unlimited reserves the right to disqualify any team who does not comply with these General Rules/Registration Guidelines and Division Stipulations.

Sportsmanship Conduct Code

"Spirit Unlimited promotes a fun, exciting, and motivational atmosphere. All coaches, team members, friends, family members and other persons associated with a team are expected to conduct themselves in a manner displaying good sportsmanship and exhibiting respect, kindness and a positive attitude towards others.

If any Spirit Unlimited staff member observes behavior to the contrary, appropriate action will be required. A warning may be issued first. The 2nd offense will result in a 10 point deduction from the associated team. The 3rd offense, at the same or other event, will result in disqualification of the associated team/program."