

ORGANIZATION AFFILIATION POLICIES

Recreation Organization

1. Is officially recognized and governed by their Recreation Council, Boys and Girls Club, CYO, YMCA League or any other community program that is not school or all-star related.
2. Are under the sole jurisdiction of the said organization (If requested, current proof of such status, endorsed by the President of the sanctioning group or organization, must be provided.)
3. Are allowed to hold tryouts for team membership by the sanctioning Recreation Council, Boys and Girls Club, CYO, YMCA League or similar.
4. Requires team members to cheer/dance for a sport of the organization in which they are representing. The majority of your team members must have cheered/danced a full season for at least one sport during the year (A competition team can be comprised of any combination of cheerleaders or dancers who have cheered/danced a full season of any sport.). Moreover, Epic Brands retains the right to determine a team's recreation status.
5. Team members must fulfill the age requirement, for the division that they are competing, on/before August 31, 2011.
6. Participants may not represent more than one recreation program. Participants may however, crossover cheer/dance on more than one team within their organization.

School Organization

1. A team who is governed by their school administration and primary affiliation is with an accredited Elementary, Middle, Junior High or High School and whose primary purposes are to increase school spirit at pep-rallies, tailgates and school-sponsored athletic contests. Team members must be officially enrolled as full-time students with the institution for which they cheer.
2. Must be an official student of the school team they represent.
3. Team members must fulfill the age requirement, and must be in the grade for the appropriate division for the 2011-2012 school year. No team member may be over the age of 19, be a high school graduate or possess a GED.
4. The Participants may not represent more than one school (Exception – If a secondary institution [i.e. High School], allows eighth grade students to participate on its high school team.)

All-Star Organization

1. All-Star is defined as a team which is based out of a private gym or studio, whose sole purpose is to compete at cheerleading/dance events. Moreover, this type of team does not cheer/dance or support any other athletic team or sport.
2. Team members must fulfill the age requirement, for the division that they are competing, on/before August 31, 2011.
3. Participants may not represent more than one all star organization within the same event (Exception: An athlete from one gym may crossover to **one** additional gym's Level 6 team provided he/she meets the age requirement.)

All-Star Prep Organization

1. All-Star Prep Cheer Divisions are for teams that do not allow the same commitment/participation (full-year) guidelines or requirements as a competitive all-star team.
2. These teams may or may not be affiliated with an All-Star program.
3. Typically practice and compete less than full year All-Star teams.
4. Teams are often half-year teams or teams that are intended to offer a shorter season, more relaxed environment and often less travel.
5. Teams are designed with the purpose of introducing athletes into competitive cheerleading with a lower commitment than a full-year team.

Note: Full-year All-Star teams should compete in the appropriate All-Star division, NOT the All-Star Prep Cheer division. Rec Cheer teams that cheer for a Rec league sport should compete in a Rec Cheer division.

College Team

1. A team whose primary affiliation is with an accredited College, University or post-secondary institution, and whose primary purposes are to increase school spirit at pep-rallies, tailgates and school-sponsored athletic contests.
2. Team members must be officially enrolled as full-time students continuously throughout the academic calendar year, with the institution for which they cheer.
4. No age restriction is imposed.
5. College teams must register in International Open/Open Coed Level 6 for cheer and All-Star Open for dance. Epic Brands reserves the right to split International Level 6 and College teams provided that there is (2) two teams of either type.
6. College teams are to follow their school mandated safety rules.



2011-2012 Division Guidelines

* It is the responsibility of the directors and/or coaches to adhere to all division guidelines of USASF and Epic Brands. Please distribute a copy to all directors, coaches, and choreographers.

Exhibition Team

1. Exhibition teams perform at an event for mock scoring and evaluative purposes only (Note: The team will still be categorized either as a recreation, all-star, school, college, etc. for purposes of scheduling and division assignments.)
2. Team members must fulfill the age requirement, for the division that they are competing.
3. Team is responsible for payment of all full registration fees.
4. Teams will receive a trophy, score sheets and (at selected events) any promotional items.
5. Teams are automatically ineligible for prize money and any National Championship merchandise.

Special Athlete/Needs Team

1. Special Athlete teams are comprised of individuals with intellectual or physical disabilities.
2. They can be based out of a private gym, studio, school, and organization or similar.
3. No age and/or grade restrictions are imposed.
4. Teams will incur no registration fees (FREE – except at Six Flags events), will receive a trophy and at selected events, receive free promotional items.
5. Special Athlete teams may not exceed past USASF Level 3 rules.
6. Special Athlete teams will exhibit at local & regional events. However, they will be allowed to compete against other special athlete teams at National events.

Parent Team

1. Parent teams are teams whose members are at least 18 years old and are the guardians (biological or legal) of a child of any age, which is competing at the same event.
2. No maximum age restriction is imposed.
3. Team will not receive promotional items at selected events.

ALL-STAR CHEER DIVISIONS

All-Star divisions are based on participant's age as of August 31, 2011.

Note: College teams must register in All-Star International Open/Open Coed Level 6 (splitting will be determined by registrations received.)

COMBINING DIVISIONS

JUNIOR CO-ED COMBINING

For Junior Co-Ed Levels 3, 4 and 5, if there is only one co-ed competing in a respective level, then that level must be combined into one Junior division (i.e. Four Junior Level 3 teams and one Junior Co-Ed Level 3 team = 5 Junior Level 3 teams for competition). If the Junior teams were split into “Small” and “Large”, then the Co-Ed team must be placed with the teams closest to its size.

SENIOR CO-ED COMBINING

For Senior Co-Ed Levels 3 and 4, if there is only one co-ed competing in a respective level, then that level must be combined into one Senior division (i.e. Four Senior Level 3 teams and one Senior Co-Ed Level 3 team = 5 Senior Level 3 teams for competition). If the Senior teams were split into “Small” and “Large”, then the Co-Ed team must be placed with the teams closest to its size.

YOUTH & SENIOR RESTRICTED (LEVEL 5) COMBINING / TUMBLING RESTRICTION

Youth Restricted Level 5 and Youth Level 5 divisions may not be combined into one division. The Youth Level 5 and Youth Level 5 Restricted divisions will be monitored for participation during the 2011-12 season and a determination will be made early in 2012 whether these divisions will continue for the 2012-13 season.

Senior Restricted Level 5 and Senior Level 5 divisions may not be combined into one division.

2011-2012 Division Guidelines

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The following skill restrictions apply for Youth & Senior Restricted Level 5:

- Tumbling skills are allowed up to 1 flipping and 1 twisting rotations. In tumbling, twisting skills may ONLY be performed if immediately preceded by a back handspring(s) or round off. During a full-twisting tumbling skill, no trick other than the twist is allowed (including but not limited to: split fulls, hitch kick fulls, X-Fulls, Full-Xouts) and both feet must land and finish on the performing surface (i.e. no full twisting tumbling to seat, prone body landings or similar). *Clarification: All skills up to a full twist are also allowed.* (example: half twists and Arabians) Additional tumbling skills may be performed prior to the round-off and/or back handspring.
- No tumbling is allowed after the twisting skill. (Exception: A forward or backward roll is allowed after a twisting skill; however, no tumbling is allowed after the roll.) *Clarification: If any tumbling follows a forward or backward roll or forward or backward twisting skill, at least one step into the next tumbling skill must be included to separate the two passes. Stepping out of a twisting skill (i.e. Arabian) or forward roll is considered a continuation of the same tumbling pass. An athlete must take an additional step out of a twisting skill step out or a forward roll step out. However, if the athlete finishes the twisting skill or stands the forward roll with both feet together, then one step is all that is needed to create a new tumbling pass.*
- Tosses may not exceed three tricks (i.e. hitch kick full, switch kick full, kick double).

SPLITTING DIVISIONS

NOTE: Epic Brands will split divisions first by size (when applicable) and then by Co-ed vs. All-Girl (when applicable).

SMALL/LARGE SPLITS

Epic Brands will split the division into “Small” and “Large” divisions when there are at least (2) two teams that will ultimately be registered in each respective division.

Small = 5 – 20 members

Large = 21 – 32 members (36 members for Level 5)

International Open Level 5 or Level 6 teams are NOT permitted to split into “Small” and “Large”.

SMALL/LARGE SPLITS – NEW!!! For Senior Level 5 ONLY

Epic Brands will split the division into “Small” and/or “Medium” and/or “Large” divisions when there are at least (2) two teams that will ultimately be registered in each respective division.

Small = 5 – 20 members

Medium = 21 – 30 members

Large = 31 – 36 members

International Open Level 5 or Level 6 teams are NOT permitted to split into “Small” and “Large”.

Epic Brands must keep teams of 21 – 36 members in the “Large” division unless there are enough to split (2) two teams into “Medium” and “Large”.

NOTE: For Worlds qualifying divisions (at an event where Worlds bids will be awarded), Epic Brands may leave Senior Level 5 divisions split regardless of the number of teams competing in the division.

I / II SPLITS

If after splitting divisions into “Small” and “Large” (“Medium” for Senior Level 5), Epic Brands may further subdivide if there are (10) ten or more teams in that division by team size or into “Small Gym” divisions. Epic Brands will use “I” and “II” to denote the split and clearly define the number of competitors permitted on the team for each of these particular divisions. If splitting into a “Small Gym” division, then the definition of a “Small Gym” listed below must be followed.

No division may be subdivided further from the “Small”, “Large” or “Medium” (Senior Level 5) classification if it means that only (1) one team will be left in a division.



2011-2012 Division Guidelines

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CO-ED SPLITS

Senior Restricted Level 5 may be split into Senior Restricted Level 5 and Senior Restricted Co-Ed Level 5 when there are at least (2) two teams that will ultimately be registered in each respective division.

Senior Level 4.2 may be split into Senior Level 4.2 and Senior Co-Ed Level 4.2 when there are at least (2) two teams that will ultimately be registered in each respective division.

SENIOR RESTRICTED SPLITS

Epic Brands will split these divisions into Small Senior Restricted and Large Senior Restricted and then Senior Restricted and Senior Restricted Co-Ed when there are at least (2) two teams that will ultimately be registered in each respective division.

WORLDS SPLITS

Epic Brands may also, at their discretion, split divisions into “Worlds Qualifying” and “Non-Worlds” qualifying divisions as long as the levels, age and female/male restrictions designated above remain the same for each division.

SPLIT EXCEPTIONS

Teams from the same gym will not have to compete against themselves if they have a “Small” and “Large” team in the same division (i.e. Small Junior Level 2 and Large Junior Level 2). A mandatory split in the division would occur in this situation, even if it means that a division is left with only (1) one team performing. This exception is to be applied **ONLY** to teams from the same physical gym location. Programs with more than one physical gym location will be required to compete against their own teams if these teams are from different physical gym locations and are registered in the same division.

SMALL GYM

Epic Brands may at their discretion offer separate competitions designated for “Small Gyms” only. Any Epic Brands division may be offered at “Small Gyms” only events. A “Small Gym” is defined as having one physical address for its location and has (75) seventy-five or less athletes registered in its competitive cheer program at the time of competition. Exhibition teams, crossover athlete, special needs teams and dance teams do not count toward the (75) seventy-five or less athletes. It is up to the Epic Brands discretion as to how to monitor this.

Divisions that are designated as “Small Gym” must use the definition of a “Small Gym” listed above.

CROSSOVERS

An individual will not be permitted to crossover from (1) one program to another within the same event (Exception: An athlete from one gym may crossover to (1) one additional gym’s Level 6 team provided he/she meets the age requirement.)

For the 2011-2012 season, an athlete is limited to crossing over to (2) two additional cheer teams for their gym per competition. Therefore an athlete may compete on (1) one team and crossover to (2) more teams from the same gym during the competition.

Epic Brands may choose to be more restrictive than the rule above for crossovers limiting the number of teams an athlete may crossover to; however Epic Brands may not be less restrictive than this.

Crossover limitations do not include athletes that crossover from cheer to dance.

INDIVIDUAL/GROUP STUNT/PARTNER STUNT COMPETITION

The divisions of “Group Stunt”, “Partner Stunt” and “Individual” may be offered by Epic Brands at their discretion. The age, level and female/male restrictions designated above must remain in place for stunt divisions (i.e. Mini Group Stunt may NOT perform at Level 5).



2011-2012 Division Guidelines

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SCHOOL and RECREATION CHEER DIVISIONS

School divisions are based on participant's grade as of the 2011-2012 school year.

Recreation divisions are based on participant's age as of August 31, 2011.

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 register in International Open/Open Coed Level 6 (splitting will be determined by registrations received.)**

COMBINING OF DIVISIONS

CO-ED COMBINING

Co-Ed at any level will be combined with their similar All-Girl divisions (i.e. Varsity Small, Varsity Large) if there are not at least (2) two or more teams in the Co-Ed division for that level.

SPLITTING DIVISIONS

SMALL/LARGE SPLITS

For divisions that have not previously assigned a "Small" and "Large" designation based on total team size (i.e. **PeeWee Rec Level 2**), Epic Brands will split the division into "Small" and "Large" divisions when there are at least (2) two teams that will ultimately be registered in each respective division.

School

Small = 5 – 16 members

Large = 17 + member

Recreation

Small = 5 – 20 members

Large = 21 + members

A / B SPLITS

If an organization has teams competing in the same division, Epic Brands will further split the division into "A" and "B" (i.e. **PeeWee Rec A Level 2, PeeWee Rec B Level 2**). Company must use denotation of "A" and "B" and must clearly define the number range split for each of these particular divisions.

I / II SPLITS

For previously assigned "Small" and "Large" divisions, Epic Brands may further subdivide if there are (10) ten or more teams in the division. Company must use denotation of "I" and "II" to denote the split and must clearly define the number range split for each of these particular divisions. Division may not be subdivided further from "Small" and "Large" if it means that only (1) one team will be left in the division.

CO-ED SPLITS

For Co-Ed divisions (i.e. Varsity Co-Ed Advanced), Epic Brands will split the division into "Small" and "Large" divisions when there are at least (2) two teams that will ultimately be registered in each respective division. Company must use denotation of "Small" and "Large" (i.e. Varsity Small Co-Ed Advanced, Varsity Small Co-Ed Advance).

School – Varsity Co-Ed

Small = 2 – 4 males

Large = 5 + males

CROSSOVERS

An individual will not be permitted to crossover from a similar program to another within the same event (i.e. one School to a different School, one Rec team to a different Rec team, etc.).



2011-2012 Division Guidelines

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ALL-STAR, SCHOOL, and RECREATION DANCE

All-Star/Studio and Recreational Dance divisions are determined by the age of the team members as of August 31, 2011.

School Dance divisions are determined by the grade of the team members as of the 2011-2012 school year.

Note: College teams must register in All-Star Open.

COMBINING DIVISIONS

Epic Brands may combine styles into an Open category (any style) instead of separate categories (i.e. Jazz, Pom, Hip Hop, and Variety) in any age division (i.e. Varsity Open instead of Varsity Jazz, Varsity Pom, Varsity Hip Hop and Varsity Variety).

Epic Brands will combine Senior and Senior Coed and/or Open and Open Coed, if there is only (1) one team entered in either division/category. Epic Brands will not combine the Senior Division with the Open Division.

SPLITTING DIVISIONS

Epic Brands may split an Open category (any style) into separate categories (i.e. Jazz, Pom, Hip Hop and Variety) at their discretion.

SMALL / LARGE SPLITS

Epic Brands will split divisions into “Small” and “Large” if there are (10) ten or more teams in the division before the split occurs. There must be a minimum of (3) three teams in a division once the split occurs. No division may be split if it means that (1) one team will be left in a division alone.

Small = 4 – 14 dancers

Large = 15 or more dancers

CROSSOVERS

Dancers will not be permitted to crossover from similar program (i.e. School to School, Rec to Rec, etc.) to another program within the same event.

Dancers may compete in more than (1) one division and/or category as long as they abide by the age restrictions in all divisions in which they will compete.

Dancers may not compete in more than (1) one routine in the same category and division (i.e. a dancer may not compete in (2) two Senior Jazz routines). Exception: If a dancer is on a Senior team and a Senior Coed team which gets combined, this rule does not apply.