

ICU JUNIOR WORLD & WORLD CHEERLEADING CHAMPIONSHIPS



**NATIONAL TEAM GENERAL
INFORMATION DIVISIONS RULES &
REGULATIONS**

19 - 21 APRIL 2023

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2023 ICU WORLD CHEERLEADING CHAMPIONSHIPS

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General Information

The International Cheer Union (ICU) will host the 2023 ICU Junior World Cheerleading Championships & 2023 ICU World Cheerleading Championships Wednesday through Friday 19-21 April 2023 at the **ESPN Wide World of Sports®** Complex. Many athletes & coaches who will participate in the ICU World Cheerleading Championships will potentially also have their athletes perform at the USASF/IASF Cheerleading Worlds for All Star Teams on Saturday, Sunday & Monday* following the ICU Junior World & World Cheerleading Championships.

***NEW in 2023:** During the Cheerleading Worlds Event on Sunday & Monday 23-24 April 2023, ICU will host an ICU International Cup Division Competition for Individual Cheerleading Club Teams Only - following the ICU rules, scoresheets & judging processes. ICU National Federations may qualify up to 2 teams per division (For individual Cheerleading Teams that are Club, Gymnasium/Gimasio, All Star, Recreational "Rec" League Teams, or Scholastic (University/School) Teams) in accordance with the ICU International Cup Division rules. The 2023 ICU International Cup Divisions will only be for Cheerleading Teams Only (no Performance Cheer Teams) because the IASF Performance Cheer Divisions are already similar in criteria to that of ICU. **Please see the ICU International Cup Division Information Packet for more details.**

I. Tentative Schedule of Events

Wednesday 19 April 2023

- ICU Junior World Cheerleading Championships Opening/Welcome, Youth & Junior Division Semi-Finals
- ICU World Championships Disabled Sports Divisions (Adaptive Abilities, Special Olympics/Special Abilities) Semi-Finals
- ICU World Championship Opening Ceremonies
- ICU VIP Reception & Athlete Cultural Exchange

Thursday 20 April 2023

- ICU World Cheerleading Championships Senior Division Semi-Finals
- ICU World Championships Disabled Sports Divisions Finals & Awards
- ICU Junior World Cheerleading Championships Finals & Awards

Friday 21 April 2023

- ICU World Cheerleading Championship Senior Division Finals & Awards
- ICU World Cheerleading Championships Closing Ceremonies

Saturday 22 April 2023

- USASF/IASF Worlds (Day 1)
- ICU International Cup Division Team Open Practice

Sunday 23 April 2023

- USASF/IASF Worlds (Day 2)
- **NEW: ICU International Cup Division Competition (Day 1: Schedule TBA) ***
(*See ICU International Cup Division Information Packet for more details)

Monday 24 April 2023

- USASF/IASF Worlds (Day 3/Final Day)
- **NEW: ICU Cup Division Competition (Day 2/Final Day: Schedule TBA) ***
(*See ICU International Cup Division Information Packet for more details)
- World Championships Week Block Party

II. Junior World Championships Divisions (12 Total: 6 Youth & 6 Junior divisions)

YOUTH DIVISIONS (6 Divisions = Ages 12-14 in the year of competition)

A. Cheerleading Divisions (4 divisions)

The 2023 ICU Junior World Cheerleading Championships will offer 2 levels of Cheerleading for the Youth All Girl & Youth Coed Divisions.

Nations can select one of the following All Girl Divisions:

1. **Youth All Girl Median** (similar to Level 3)
2. **Youth All Girl Advanced** (similar to Level 4)

Nations can select one of the following Coed Divisions:

1. **Youth Coed Median** (similar to Level 3)

2. Youth Coed Advanced (similar to Level 4)

Notes: Each nation can enter one (1) Youth All Girl Division (Median or Advanced) and one (1) Youth Coed Division (Median or Advanced). The nation that wins either the Youth All Girl Median Division or Youth Coed Median Division at the 2023 World Championships will be required to compete in the 2024 Youth Advanced Division within the All Girl or Coed Division respectfully.

B. Performance Cheer Divisions (2 divisions)

The 2023 ICU Junior World Cheerleading Championships will offer the following Youth Performance Cheer divisions - each nation can have only one (1) entry per division:

- 1. Youth Hip Hop**
- 2. Youth 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.

JUNIOR DIVISIONS (6 Divisions = Ages 15-18 in the year of competition)

A. Cheerleading Divisions (4 divisions)

The 2023 ICU Junior World Cheerleading Championships will offer 2 levels of Cheerleading for the Junior All Girl & Coed Divisions.

Nations can select one of the following All Girl Divisions:

- 1. Junior All Girl Advanced** (similar to Level 4)
- 2. Junior All Girl Elite** (similar to USASF-IASF Level 6)

Nations can select one of the following Coed Divisions:

- 1. Junior Coed Advanced** (similar to Level 4)
- 2. Junior Coed Elite** (similar to USASF-IASF Level 6)

Notes: Each nation can enter one (1) Junior All Girl Division (Advanced or Elite) and one (1) Junior Coed Division (Advanced or Elite). The nation that wins either the Junior All Girl Advanced Division or Junior Coed Advanced Division at the 2023 World Championships will be required to compete in the 2024 Junior Elite Division within the All Girl or Coed Division respectfully.

B. Performance Cheer Divisions (2 divisions)

The 2023 ICU Junior World Cheerleading Championships will offer the following Junior Performance Cheer Divisions - each nation can have only one (1) entry per division:

- 1. Junior Hip Hop**
- 2. Junior 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.

III. World Championships Senior Divisions (9 total)

A. Cheerleading Divisions (4 divisions)

The 2023 ICU World Cheerleading Championships will offer 2 levels of Cheerleading for the Coed & All Girl divisions.

Nations can select one of the following All Girl Divisions:

- 1. All Girl Elite** (similar to USASF-IASF Level 6)
- 2. All Girl Premier** (similar to USASF-IASF Level 7)

Nations can select one of the following Coed Divisions:

- 1. Coed Elite** (similar to USASF-IASF Level 6)
- 2. Coed Premier** (similar to USASF-IASF Level 7)

Note: Each nation can enter one (1) All Girl Division (Elite or Premier) and one (1) Coed Division (Elite or Premier). The nation that has previously won or wins either the All Girl Elite Division or Coed Elite Division at the 2023 World Championships will be required to compete in the 2024 World Cheerleading Championships Premier Division within the All Girl or Coed Division respectfully.

B. Team Performance Cheer (3 divisions)

The 2023 ICU World Cheerleading Championships will offer the following divisions - each nation can have only one (1) entry per division:

- 1. Hip Hop**
- 2. Pom**
- 3. Jazz**

Notes All divisions are available to all nations. Crossover of teams into each category & division is allowed for each country, including the Adaptive Abilities & Special Abilities Divisions (below), as long as eligibility requirements are met.

C. Performance Cheer Doubles (2 divisions)

The ICU World Cheerleading Championships will offer the following Performance Cheer Doubles Divisions - each nation can have only one (1) entry per division:

- 1. Hip Hop Doubles** (2 athletes)
- 2. Pom Doubles** (2 athletes)

Note: Each nation can only have one (1) entry per nation per division. Crossover of teams into each category & division is allowed as needed for each country as long as eligibility requirements are met.

IV. World Championships Disabled Sports Divisions (11 options total)

ADAPTIVE ABILITIES DIVISIONS (5 Divisions = Ages 12 years or older in the year of competition)

Note: All teams must comply with the Adaptive Abilities Division Criteria

A. Cheerleading Divisions (3 divisions)

The 2023 ICU World Cheerleading Championships will offer the following Adaptive Abilities Divisions- each nation can have only one (1) entry per division:

- 1. Adaptive Abilities Unified Median** (equivalent to Level 3, males/females, no basket tosses - with Adaptive Abilities rule modifications)
- 2. Adaptive Abilities Unified All Girl Advanced** (equivalent to Level 4, no basket tosses - with Adaptive Abilities rule modifications)
- 3. Adaptive Abilities Unified Coed Advanced** (equivalent to Level 4, no basket tosses - with Adaptive Abilities rule modifications)

Note: Adaptive Abilities Unified National Teams must comprise of 25% or more athletes with disabilities per team in compliance with the ICU Adaptive Abilities qualification guidelines.

B. Performance Cheer Divisions (2 divisions)

The 2023 ICU World Cheerleading Championships will offer the following Adaptive Abilities Divisions- each nation can have only one (1) entry per division:

- 1. Adaptive Abilities Unified Hip Hop**
- 2. Adaptive Abilities Unified Pom**

Note: Adaptive Abilities Unified National Teams must comprise of 25% or more athletes with disabilities per team in compliance with the ICU Adaptive Abilities qualification guidelines.

SPECIAL ABILITIES/SPECIAL OLYMPICS DIVISIONS (6 Division Options = Ages 12 years or older in the year of competition)

Note: All teams must comply with the Special Abilities or Special Olympics Division Criteria based on the team's entry

A. Cheerleading Divisions (Choice of 2 of 4 divisions available)

The 2023 ICU World Cheerleading Championships will offer the following Special Abilities & Special Olympics Divisions. Each nation will have a choice of entering either Special Abilities or Special Olympics in the following divisions:

- 1. Special Abilities Unified Intermediate or Special Olympics Unified Intermediate**
(Equivalent to Level 2, no tosses- with Special Abilities rule modifications)
- 2. Special Abilities Traditional Intermediate or Special Olympics Traditional Intermediate**
(Equivalent to Level 2, no tosses- with Special Abilities rule modifications)

Note (a): All Special Olympics Team eligibility is based on approval by the country's respective Special Olympic programme & ICU National Federation. Although ICU encourages teams to register in Special Olympics Divisions, ICU offers the enclosed Special Abilities Divisions for teams not yet eligible under Special Olympics guidelines. ICU reserves the right to consolidate or expand divisions based on team eligibility and number of teams registered in each division.

Note (b): For Special Abilities & Special Olympics Divisions; all rules, guidelines & scoring criteria are the same with the exception of the Special Olympics programme approval for Special Olympics Divisions; and for all Unified Divisions - Special Olympics requires a 1:1 ratio & Special Abilities requires a 50% + ratio of athletes with an intellectual disability (ID) to athletes without an ID on a team.

B. Performance Cheer Divisions (Choice of 4 of 8 divisions available)

The 2023 ICU World Cheerleading Championships will offer the following Special Abilities & Special Olympics Divisions. Each nation will have a choice of entering either Special Abilities or Special Olympics in the following divisions:

- 1. Special Abilities Unified Hip Hop or Special Olympics Unified Hip Hop**
- 2. Special Abilities Unified Pom or Special Olympics Unified Pom**
- 3. Special Abilities Traditional Hip Hop or Special Olympics Traditional Hip Hop**
- 4. Special Abilities Traditional Pom or Special Olympics Traditional**

Note (a): All Special Olympics Team eligibility is based on approval by the country's respective Special Olympic programme & ICU National Federation. Although ICU encourages teams to register in Special Olympics Divisions, ICU offers the enclosed Special Abilities Divisions for teams not yet eligible under Special Olympics guidelines. ICU reserves the right to consolidate or expand divisions based on team eligibility and number of teams registered in each division.

Note (b): For Special Abilities & Special Olympics Divisions; all rules, guidelines & scoring criteria are the same with the exception of the Special Olympics programme approval for Special Olympics Divisions; and for all Unified Divisions - Special Olympics requires a 1:1 ratio & Special Abilities requires a 50% + ratio of athletes with an intellectual disability (ID) to athletes without an ID on a team.

V. Time of Routine - JWC (Youth & Junior) and WC Divisions

A. Cheerleading Divisions

- 1. Cheer Portion:** Can be placed in the beginning or middle of routine. Cheer portion minimum time requirement is thirty (30) seconds. Maximum time between Cheer and Music portion: Twenty (20) seconds.
- 2. Music portion:** Two minutes, fifteen seconds (2:15)

B. Performance Cheer Team Divisions

- 1. Music portion:** Two minutes, fifteen seconds (2:15)

C. Performance Cheer Doubles Divisions:

1. Music portion: One minute, thirty seconds (1:30)

VI. Cheer Portion of Routine - JWC (Youth & Junior) and WC Divisions

(All Cheerleading Divisions)

For the Cheerleading Divisions at the 2023 ICU Junior World & World Cheerleading Championships, a Cheer must be included in the beginning or middle of routine. Use of native language (including sign language, especially for Adaptive Abilities & Special Abilities/Special Olympics Divisions) 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.

VII. Team Size/Number of athletes per team- JWC (Youth and Junior) & WC Divisions

A. Cheerleading Divisions: All Coed, All Girl, Adaptive Abilities Unified, Special Abilities & Special Olympics Divisions:

- *Minimum 16 athletes, maximum 24 athletes*

B. Performance Cheer Team Divisions: All Hip Hop & Pom Team Divisions (does not include Jazz):

- *Minimum 16 athletes, maximum 24 athletes*

C. Performance Cheer Jazz Division:

- *Minimum 18 athletes, maximum 24 athletes*

D. Performance Cheer Doubles Divisions: Hip Hop Doubles & Pom Divisions:

- *Two (2) athletes*

VIII. Age of Athlete - Junior World Cheerleading Championships

A. All Youth Divisions: Ages 12-14 years old within the year of the Junior World Championships

Note: Athletes born in the years of 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 will be eligible for the Youth Division(s) in 2023. 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 meets the division eligibility criteria.

B. All Junior Divisions: Ages 15-18 years old within the year of the Junior World Championships

Note: Athletes born in the years of 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 will be eligible for the Junior Division(s) in 2023. 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 meets the division eligibility criteria.

IX. Age of Athlete - World Cheerleading Championships

A. All Special Abilities/Special Olympics Divisions: 12 years or older within the year of the World Championships

B. All Adaptive Abilities Division: 12 years or older within the year of the World Championships

C. All Girl & Coed Elite Divisions: 16 years or older within the year of the World Championships

D. All Girl & Coed Premier Divisions: 16 years or older within the year of the World Championships

E. Team Hip Hop, Pom & Jazz Divisions: 16 years or older within the year of the World Championships

F. Doubles Hip Hop, Doubles Pom Divisions: 16 years or older within the year of the World Championships

Note: This age range best represents cheerleading on the global status for national team competition; however, all federations can adjust their own team age ranges to be more restrictive than the World Championship parameters as needed. With the exception of the Junior World Championships divisions, there is no set maximum age. Any team proven to be in violation of the age requirements will be automatically disqualified. Crossovers between all ICU Divisions and between JWC and WC are permitted.

X. Performance Surface

A. Performance Cheer: Hip Hop, Pom, Jazz; Adaptive Abilities Unified Hip Hop & Pom; Special Abilities & Special Olympics Hip Hop & Pom; and Doubles Divisions: Marley performance floor or a wooden parquet floor surface.

(Minimum surface area of 42 feet x 42 feet or 12.8 meters x 12.8 meters)

B. Cheerleading: Coed, All Girl, Adaptive Abilities, Special Abilities & Special Olympics Divisions: No spring floor, standard 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.

XI. Crossovers (athletes participating in multiple divisions)

Athlete crossovers between divisions & categories will be allowed within a national team delegation of the 2023 ICU Junior World & World Cheerleading Championships, as long as all respective crossover athlete(s) meet ICU division eligibility criteria detailed herein. Additionally, ICU National Team athletes may also compete in the USASF/IASF Club World Championships or in the ICU Cup Division; however, within the USASF/IASF Worlds/ICU Cup Events specifically, individual Cheerleading teams may

not crossover to other Club/All Star divisions. (e.g., Individual Club/All Star **Cheerleading** Teams may only compete in (1) one Cheerleading division throughout the USASF, IASF or the ICU Cup Events, and may not cross-over between the USASF, IASF and ICU Cup Events as well). *Exception: IASF Performance Cheer Teams may cross-over into other genres/divisions for the IASF Event per the IASF rules.*

XII. 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 their respective nation on the 2023 ICU Junior World & World Cheerleading Championships date of competition.

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

ICU will fully comply with all health policies & guidelines required by local authorities at the 2023 ICU Junior World & World Cheerleading Championships and full compliance with 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.

XIV. 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.ismmedia.com/ISM3/std-content/repos/Top/WADA/docs/ICU_Anti-Doping-Rules_21.pdf

XV. 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.ismmedia.com/ISM3/std-content/repos/Top/2013_Website/About%20Us/Documents/ICU_Rules_Competition-Fixing.pdf

XVI. ICU Privacy Polices

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

XVII. 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 World Championship venue safeguarding requirements provided upon team registration.

2023 ICU WORLD CHEERLEADING CHAMPIONSHIPS
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CHEERLEADING DIVISIONS RULES & REGULATIONS
All Girl & Coed Divisions
Senior, Junior, Youth, Adaptive Abilities, Special Abilities & Special Olympics

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 Wednesday 19 April 2023 to Friday 21 April 2023 in Orlando Florida.
Wednesday 19 April 2023
ICU Junior World Cheerleading Championships Opening/Welcome & Semi-Finals
ICU World Cheerleading Championships Disabled Sports Semi-Finals
ICU World Championships Opening Ceremonies
Thursday 20 April 2023
ICU World Cheerleading Championships Senior Division Semi-Finals
ICU World Cheerleading Championships Disabled Sports Finals & Awards
ICU Junior World Championships Finals & Awards
Friday 22 April 2023
ICU World Championships Senior Divisions Finals & Awards
ICU World Championships Closing Ceremony
- B. The competition is scheduled to be held at the ESPN Wide World of Sports ® Complex.
- C. The tournament officials shall have the right to alter the time and location of the competition in the event changes become necessary due to inclement weather, facility problems, television production requirements, or any other situation deemed by the tournament officials to be essential to the successful execution of the championship.

III. HOW TO HANDLE PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS

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

IV. SPORTSMANSHIP

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. 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.

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

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

IX. MUSIC GUIDELINES

- A. For the 2023 ICU Junior World Championships and World Championships, all National Teams will have the choice of following the USA Cheer Music Copyrights Educational Initiative (<https://www.usacheer.org/music>) or the ICU (<http://cheerunion.org/education/musicinfo/>) Music Copyrights Educational Initiative.
- B. I have read and understand the USA Cheer or ICU Music Copyrights Educational Initiative and all sound recordings used in our team's music shall only be used with the written license from the owner(s) of the sound recordings.
- C. Teams must check Music Provider list for updates and changes periodically. For any questions on music and the music guidelines, teams should email portal@cheerunion.org.
- D. Teams must be able to provide proof of licensing, in the form of a printed copy, during the registration at the Championships.
- E. If a team does not have proof of music licensing available, they will be allowed to perform to an optional approved track of music or a track with counts (provided by the ICU) or can count verbally.
- F. If a team cannot provide proof of licensing, and do not perform to an optional approved track of music or to counts, the team will be disqualified from the competition and not allowed to perform or compete.
- G. If there are concerns regarding a certain team's use of music, a Challenge Form must be completed immediately following the team's performance.
- H. A challenge can only be made by the official coach or an official National Federation representative of a team competing at the event at where the challenge is being made.
- I. Challenge Process:
 - All music challenges must be submitted in writing to the International Cheer Union head official.
 - There will be a \$100 USD fee to request a music challenge and must be in the form of USA currency.
 - Fees collected will be returned if the challenge is correct.
 - If the team challenged can provide documentation during the event or can be verified, the fees will be donated to a local children's charity, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.
 - If the team challenged can provide documentation that requires further review, a decision will be finalized within 48 hours of the event.
- J. Each team is required to have a responsible adult remain at the music station that knows the routine and music. This representative is responsible for start the music and stopping the music in case of technical malfunction or injury. Should this responsible adult choose not to stay at the music table for the duration of the routine, and a malfunction occurs, teams may or may not be permitted to perform the routine again.
- K. If available and if applicable, it is recommended that teams who prepare their routine music on a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) should assure the volume of the music is at "0". Should a DAW be available, a few additional reminders:
 - Most DAWs have a default that sets a track at -6 when a track is added
 - Check to see if there is a normalization process after the work is rendered/saved
- L. All teams must provide their own device for use on the event provided sound system. Music should be on a digital music player/iPod/iPhone. CD's will no longer be allowed, and CD players will not be provided at competition.
- M. Use of a Smart Phone for playing routine music is not recommended due to the probably of music interference during the routine.
- N. MP3 devices must be free of any cover (protective, decorative, or otherwise) to assure an unobstructed connection with the event sound system.
- O. It is important that all devices have a headphone connection component/jack to connect to the sound system and that all devices are fully charged, volume turned up and placed in airplane mode.
- P. All device connection components/jacks must be clean and free of any debris to prevent a music malfunction. Should a team's device not have a headphone connection component/jack, then the team must have an adapter to accommodate this device requirement on site for the competition.

- Q. Teams may not use Disney themes, nor may they have costumes that resemble a Disney character. However, Disney music is acceptable if following the music guidelines.

X. LOGO USAGE

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

XI. 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.

XII. GENERAL SAFETY RULES

- A. All athletes must be supervised during all official functions by a qualified director/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 teams, coaches and directors must have an emergency response plan in the event of an injury.
- D. Athletes and coaches may not be under the influence of alcohol, narcotics, performance-enhancing substances or over-the-counter medications that would hinder the ability to supervise or execute a routine safely, while participating in a practice or performance.
- E. Athletes must always practice and perform on an appropriate surface. Technical skills (stunts, pyramids, tosses or tumbling) may not be performed on concrete, asphalt, wet or uneven surfaces or, surfaces with obstructions.
- F. Soft-soled shoes must be worn while competing. No dance shoes/boots, and/or gymnastics slippers (or similar) allowed. Shoes must have a solid sole.
- G. Jewelry of any kind, including but not limited to, ear, nose, tongue, belly button and facial rings, clear plastic jewelry, bracelets, necklaces, and pins on uniforms is not allowed. Jewelry must be removed and may not be taped over. Exception: medical ID tags/bracelets. *Clarification: Rhinestones are allowed when adhered to the uniform and not allowed if adhered to the skin.*
- H. Any height increasing apparatus used to propel an athlete is not allowed. Exception: spring floor.
- I. Flags, banners, signs, poms, megaphones, and pieces of cloth are the only props allowed. Exception 1: Adaptive Abilities, Special Olympics & Special Abilities athlete mobility/support devices.
- J. Props with poles or similar support apparatus may not be used in conjunction with any kind of stunt or tumbling. Exception: Adaptive Abilities, Special Olympics & Special Abilities athlete mobility/support devices. *Clarification: As is common with Cheerleaders at sporting events; for divisions that allow the standing single back tuck flip skill, an athlete, already proficient in a standing single back tuck flip skill, may perform a standing single back tuck flip with poms only in the athlete's hands during the Cheer portion of the routine.*
- K. All props must be safely discarded out of harm's way (example: throwing a hard sign across the mat from a stunt is not allowed). Any uniform piece purposefully removed from the body and used for visual effect will be considered a prop once it is removed from the body.
- L. Supports, braces and soft casts that are unaltered from the manufacturer's original design/ production do not require additional padding. Supports, braces and soft casts that have been altered from the manufacturer's original design/production must be padded with a closed-cell, slow-recovery foam padding no less than ½ inch/1.27 centimeters thick if the participant is involved in stunts, pyramids or tosses. An athlete wearing a hard cast (example: fiberglass or plaster) or a walking boot must not be involved in stunts, pyramids or tosses. Exception: Within the ICU Adaptive Abilities Divisions, Special Olympics & Special Abilities Divisions, a mobile assistance, and support devices in use to assist the athlete are considered part of the athlete.

- M. From a level grid standpoint, all skills allowed at a particular level additionally encompass all skills allowed in the preceding levels.
- N. Required spotters for all skills must be your own team's members and be trained in proper spotting techniques.
- O. Drops including but not limited to knee, seat, thigh, front, back and split drops from a jump, stunt, or inverted position are not allowed unless the majority of the weight is first borne on the hands or feet, which breaks the impact of the drop. Shushinovs are allowed.
Clarification: Drops that include any weight bearing contact with the hands and feet are not in clear violation of this rule.
- P. Athletes must have at least one foot, hand, or body part (other than hair) on the performing surface when the routine begins. Exception: Athletes may have their feet in the hands of base(s) if the base(s) hands are resting on the performing surface.
- Q. The competitors who begin a routine must remain the same throughout the course of a routine. A performer is not permitted to be "replaced" by another performer during a routine.
- R. An athlete must not have gum, candy, cough drops or other such edible or non-edible items, which may cause choking, in her/his mouth during practice and/or performance.
- S. For purposes of promotion of international sport and the global athletic image of the Sport of Cheer, athletes must compete in national team attire that does not intentionally expose the midriff/mid-section of the athlete while the athlete is in a standing position.

MOBILITY & SUPPORT DEVICE RULES

(Special Olympics, Special Abilities & Adaptive Abilities Divisions, and all Divisions, as applicable)

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

- A. All mobility equipment, prosthesis, and braces are considered part of the athlete unless they are removed, in which case they are considered legal props, until replaced on or returned to the athlete.
- B. Wheelchair users when basing stunts and pyramids must have all wheels in contact with the performance surface during the skill with an added and appropriate anti-tip attachment (or a spotter/bracer with both feet firmly placed on the performance surface with both hands gripped on the 2 back handles stabilizing the wheelchair with both wheels on the performance surface) for safety. *Clarification: For a wheelchair anti-tip attachment to be appropriate, it must be in contact with the chair and the performance surface as an additional point of contact to the performance surface while both wheels of the wheelchair are also in contact with the performance surface.*
- C. Mobility devices (i.e., wheelchairs, crutches, etc.) may be used to aid the top person in loading into a stunt and/or pyramid. Example: A top person may step upon any portion of a wheelchair, mobile device, and/or upon a base supporting a crutch to load into a skill.
- D. Wheelchair users when topping stunts and pyramids in the wheelchair (or similar apparatus) must use a seatbelt.
- E. All athletes spotting, catching and/or cradling a skill have mobility through their lower body (with or without use of mobility equipment) to absorb the impact of the skill, as well as with adequate lateral speed to spot, catch and/or cradle the skill.
- F. All athletes spotting, catching and/or cradling a skill must have at minimum 1 arm extended, not including a prosthetic or other device, beyond the elbow to adequately assist with the skill.
- G. Release moves and dismounts may be caught by individuals who were not the original base(s) if the main base(s) are not capable of catching and/or cradling the skill.

ICU SPECIAL OLYMPICS & SPECIAL ABILITIES DIVISION RULES

Note: All ICU Special Olympics & Special Abilities Intermediate Division Rules enclosed apply to ICU Special Olympics/Special Abilities UNIFIED & TRADITIONAL Divisions unless otherwise specified herein

SPECIFIC DIVISION CRITERIA

- A. All ICU general rules & guidelines, mobility/support device rules, as well as routine requirements apply.
- B. All Special Olympics Unified National Teams must be comprised of a 1:1 ratio of Athletes with and without intellectual disabilities.
- C. All Special Abilities Unified National Teams must be comprised of 50% or more of Athletes with an intellectual disability.

- D. All Special Olympics & Special Abilities Traditional National Teams must be comprised of 100% Athletes with intellectual disabilities.
- E. All Stunts and Pyramids - at prep level or above - will require the spot of a Coach or Assistant for safety purposes. Should the Coach or Assistant assist in the skill, directly or indirectly (for safety reasons), while spotting the skill- a reduced point value will be reflected in the team score for the respective category based on the level of assistance provided.
- F. Tosses are not allowed.
- G. Spotted and assisted tumbling is not allowed in Competition; however, spotted, and assisted tumbling is allowed in Exhibition performances.
- H. Up to three (3) Coach(es) and/or Assistant(s) are allowed to signal from the front of the mat and may not obstruct the view of the judges. Additionally, there is no limit to the number of Assistants around the perimeter of the floor in a squat position.
- I. Assistants shall be dressed in contrasting attire compared to the Athletes, so it is clear to the judges who are the Athletes and who are the Assistants on the floor at any time. For example, Assistants shall wear a dark t-shirt and pants in contrast to the Athletes' lighter colored uniform (or vice versa); however, Assistants may not wear a Cheerleading or Performance Cheer uniform during the routine.
- J. Assistants shall wear athletic shoes (e.g., no flip-flops) and shall not wear any jewelry for the protection of the Athletes.
- K. For Special Olympics/Special Abilities Unified Teams Only: Skill difficulty performed by a Unified Partner within a specific category (e.g., tumbling, partner stunts, pyramids, etc.) must not exceed the difficulty of a comparable skill or a skill within the same category performed by an athlete with an intellectual disability, unless an athlete with an intellectual disability is part of the skill (e.g., a partner stunt group, pyramid, etc.), and compliant with the rules detailed herein.
- L. As a potential condition for an athlete with an intellectual disability or neurological symptom, any athlete that may potentially have Atlanto-Axial Instability (AAI) or any physical condition associated with spinal cord compression are strictly prohibited from any skills that may pose a danger to an athlete with AAI or with any physical condition associated with spinal cord compression (including but not limited to forward rolls, backward rolls and any skill that may put an athlete with AAI or any spinal cord compression at risk, etc.). Written approval/clearance by a medical professional and proof of all waivers and documentation prior to physical activity is the direct responsibility of the Team Director and Coach. For Special Olympic teams specifically, additionally - approval/ clearance by a medical professional (via official medical waivers and documentation) must also be cleared and approved by the respective Special Olympics program or by Special Olympics.

ICU ADAPTIVE ABILITIES UNIFIED DIVISION RULES
SPECIFIC DIVISION CRITERIA

- A. All ICU general rules & guidelines, mobility/support devices rules, as well as routine requirements apply.
- B. As a potential condition for an athlete with an intellectual disability or neurological symptom, any athlete that may potentially have AAI or any physical condition associated with spinal cord compression, "ICU SPECIAL OLYMPICS & SPECIAL ABILITIES DIVISION RULES - SPECIFIC DIVISION CRITERIA" rules apply.
- C. All Adaptive Abilities Unified National Teams must be comprised of a minimum 25% or more Athletes with a disability per team.
Clarification: Adaptive Abilities Athlete qualification is subject to respective ICU general rules and guidelines, as well as National Federation confirmation and/or medical documentation, as requested in compliance with the ICU Adaptive Abilities qualification guidelines.
- D. All athletes spotting, catching and/or cradling a skill must have mobility through their lower body (with or without use of mobility equipment) to absorb the impact of the skill, as well as with adequate lateral speed to spot, catch and/or cradle the skill.
- E. All athletes spotting, catching and/or cradling a skill must have at minimum 1 arm extended, not including a prosthetic or other device, beyond the elbow to adequately assist with the skill.
- F. Release moves and dismounts may be caught by individuals who were not the original base(s) if the main base(s) are not capable of catching and/or cradling the skill.
- G. Basket tosses are not allowed.

XIII. DIVISIONS (BY LEVEL) - SAFETY RULES

ICU INTERMEDIATE DIVISION RULES

(SPECIAL ABILITIES/SPECIAL OLYMPICS INTERMEDIATE DIVISIONS)

**All ICU Special Olympics & Special Abilities Intermediate Division Rules enclosed apply to ICU Special Olympics/Special Abilities UNIFIED & TRADITIONAL Divisions unless otherwise specified herein*

INTERMEDIATE DIVISION – GENERAL TUMBLING

- A. All tumbling must originate from and land on the performing surface.
Clarification: A tumbler may rebound from his/her feet into a transition. If the rebound from the tumbling pass involves hip-over-head rotation, then the tumbler/top person must be caught and stopped in a non-inverted position before continuing into the hip-over-head transition or stunt.
Example: Round off handspring and then a bump or contact from a base or bracer straight into a back flip would break this rule. A clear separation from the tumbling to the stunt is needed to make this legal. Catching the rebound and then dipping to create the throw for the rotation is legal. This would also be true if coming from just a standing back handspring without the round off.
- B. Tumbling over, under, or through a stunt, individual, or prop is not allowed.
Clarification: An individual may jump over (rebound) another individual.
- C. Tumbling while holding or in contact with any prop is not allowed, unless the “prop” is mobility device for the Special Olympics or Special Abilities athlete.
- D. Dive rolls are allowed.
Exception 1: Dive rolls performed in a swan/arched position are not allowed.
Exception 2: Dive rolls that involve twisting are not allowed.
- E. Jumps are not considered a tumbling skill from a legalities point of view. Therefore, if a jump skill is included in a tumbling pass, the jump will break up the pass.
- F. There is no twisting or turning allowed after a back handspring step out. The feet must come together after the skill is completed prior to twisting or turning.
Example: A back handspring step out immediately moving into a ½ turn is not allowed.

INTERMEDIATE DIVISION - STANDING TUMBLING

- A. Flips and aerals are not allowed.
- B. Series front and back handsprings are not allowed.
Clarification: A back walkover into a back handspring is allowed.
- C. Jump skills in immediate combination with handspring(s) is not allowed.
Example: Toe touch handsprings and handspring toe touches are not allowed.
- D. No twisting while airborne.
Exception: Round offs are allowed.

INTERMEDIATE DIVISION - RUNNING TUMBLING

- A. Flips and aerals are not allowed.
- B. Series front and back handsprings are allowed.
- C. No twisting while airborne.
Exception: Round offs are allowed.

INTERMEDIATE DIVISION - STUNTS

- A. Spotters:
 - 1. A spotter is required for each top person above prep level.
 - 2. A spotter is required for each top person in a floor stunt.
Clarification: The spotter may grab the top person’s waist in a floor stunt.
- B. Stunt Levels:
 - 1. Single leg stunts above prep level are not allowed. A single leg stunt may not pass above prep level.
Clarification 1: Taking the top person in a single leg stunt above the head of the bases is not allowed.

Clarification 2: If the primary bases squat down, place their knees in the ground or drop the overall height of the stunt while extending their arms (excluding floor stunts), this skill would be considered extended and therefore not allowed, regardless of the back spot's position.

C. Twisting stunts and transitions are allowed

up to a total of a ½ twisting rotation by the top person in relation to the performing surface.

Clarification 1: A twist performed with an additional turn by the bases performed in the same skill set, is not allowed if the resulting cumulative rotation of the top person exceeds a ½ rotation. The safety judge will use the hips of the top person to determine the amount of total rotation a top person performs in a skill set. Once a stunt is hit (i.e., prep) and the athletes show a definite and clear stop with a stationary top person, they may continue to walk the stunt in additional rotation.

Exception: A single full twisting log/barrel roll is allowed as long as it starts and ends in a cradle position and is assisted by a base.

Clarification 2: A log/barrel roll may not include any other skills (e.g., kick full twists, etc.) other than the twist.

Clarification 3: A log/barrel roll may be assisted by another top person.

D. During transitions, at least one base must remain in contact with the other top person.

E. Free flipping or assisted flipping stunts and transitions are not allowed.

F. No stunt, pyramid or individual may move over or under another separate stunt, pyramid or individual

Clarification 1: This rule pertains to an athlete's torso (midsection of an athlete's body) not moving over or under the torso of another athlete; this does not pertain to an athlete's arms or legs.

Clarification 2: A top person may not pass over or under the torso (midsection of an athlete's body) of another top person regardless if the stunt or pyramid is separate or not.

Example: A shoulder sit walking under a prep is not allowed.

Exception: An individual may jump over another individual.

G. Single based split catches are not allowed.

H. Single based stunts with multiple top persons are not allowed.

I. **INTERMEDIATE DIVISION**

Stunts - Release Moves

1. No release moves are allowed other than those allowed in Special Olympics & Special Abilities Intermediate Division "Dismounts" & "Tosses" are not allowed in the Special Olympics & Special Abilities Divisions.

2. Release moves may not land in a prone or inverted position.

3. Release moves must return to original bases.

Clarification: An individual may not land on the performing surface without assistance.

Exception: See Dismount "C".

4. Releasing from inverted to non-inverted body positions is not allowed.

5. Helicopters are not allowed.

6. A single full twisting log/barrel roll is allowed as long as it starts and ends in a cradle position.

Clarification 1: Single base log/barrel rolls must have two (2) catchers. Multi-base log/barrel rolls must have three (3) catchers.

Clarification 2: A log/barrel roll may not be assisted by another top person.

Clarification 3: A log/barrel roll must return to the original bases and may not include any skill other than the twist.

Example: No kick full twists.

7. Release moves may not intentionally travel.

8. Release moves may not pass over, under or through other stunts, pyramids, or individuals.

J. **INTERMEDIATE DIVISION**

Stunts-Inversions

1. Transitions from ground level inversions to non-inverted positions are allowed. No other inversions are allowed.

Clarification: All inverted athletes (the top person) must maintain contact with the performance surface unless being lifted directly to a non-inverted position.

Example 1: Allowed: Transition from a handstand on the ground to a non-inverted stunt (e.g., a shoulder sit).

Example 2: Not Allowed: Transition from a cradle to a handstand or a transition from a prone position to a forward roll.

- K. Bases may not support any weight of a top person while that base is in a backbend or inverted position.
Clarification: A person standing on the ground is not considered a top person.

INTERMEDIATE DIVISION – PYRAMIDS

- A. Pyramids must follow Special Olympics & Special Abilities Intermediate Division "Stunts" and "Dismounts" rules and are allowed up to 2 high.
- B. Top persons must receive primary support from a base.
Clarification: Anytime a top person is released by the bases during a pyramid transition, the top person must land in a cradle or must dismount to the performance surface, may not be connected to a bracer that is above prep level, and must follow the Special Abilities (Unified & Traditional) Intermediate Division "Dismount" rules.
- C. Extended stunts may not connect to brace or be braced by any other extended stunts.
- D. No stunt, pyramid or individual may move over or under another separate stunt, pyramid or individual.
Clarification: A top person may not pass over or under the torso (midsection of an athlete's body) of another top person regardless if the stunt or pyramid is separate or not.
Example: A shoulder sit walking under a prep is not allowed.
- E. Extended single-leg stunts:
1. Must be braced by at least one (1) top person at prep level or below with hand-arm connection only. The hand-arm connection of the top person must be, and must remain, connected to the hand-arm of the bracer.
 2. The connection must be made prior to initiating the extended single leg stunt.
 3. Prep level top persons bracers must have both feet in the bases' hands.
Exception: Prep level top persons do not have to have both feet in the bases' hands if the top person is in a shoulder sit, flat back, straddle lift or shoulder stand.

INTERMEDIATE DIVISION – DISMOUNTS

Note: Movements are only considered "Dismounts" if released to a cradle or released and assisted to the performing surface.

- A. Cradles from single based stunts must have a spotter with at least 1 hand/arm supporting the waist to shoulder region to protect the head and shoulder area through the cradle.
- B. Cradles from multi-based stunts must have 2 catchers and a spotter with at least 1 hand/arm supporting the waist to shoulder region to protect the head and shoulder area through the cradle.
- C. Dismounts must return to the original base(s):
Exception 1: Dismounts to the performance surface must be assisted by either an original base and/or spotter.
Exception 2: Straight pop downs, with no additional skill(s), from the waist level or below are the only dismounts allowed to the performance surface without assistance.
Clarification: An individual may not land on the performance surface from above waist level without assistance.
- D. Only straight pop downs, basic straight cradles and $\frac{1}{4}$ turns are allowed.
- E. Twisting dismounts exceeding $\frac{1}{4}$ turn/rotation are not allowed. All other positions/additional skills are not allowed.
Example: Toe touch, pike, tuck, etc. positions / additional skills are not allowed in the dismount.
- F. No stunt, pyramid, individual, or prop may move over or under a dismount, and a dismount may not be thrown over, under, or through stunts, pyramids, individuals, or props.
- G. Cradles from extended single-leg stunts in pyramids are allowed.
- H. No free flipping or assisted flipping dismounts are allowed.
- I. Dismounts may not intentionally travel.
- J. Top persons in dismounts may not come in contact with each other while released from the bases.
- K. Tension drops/rolls of any kind are not allowed.

INTERMEDIATE DIVISION – TOSSES

Special Olympics & Special Abilities Divisions Only:

- A. Tosses are not allowed
Clarification 1: This includes "Sponge" (also known as Load Ins or Squish) tosses.
Clarification 2: All waist level cradles are not allowed.

ICU MEDIAN DIVISION RULES

(YOUTH & ADAPTIVE* ABILITIES MEDIAN DIVISIONS)

**Adaptive Abilities Median Divisions must follow the enclosed Median rules as well as the "ICU ADAPTIVE ABILITIES UNIFIED SPECIFIC DIVISION RULES" and all modifications as noted within these MEDIAN DIVISION rules*

MEDIAN DIVISION - GENERAL TUMBLING

- A. All tumbling must originate from and land on the performance surface.
Clarification: A tumbler may rebound from his/her feet into a transition. If the rebound from the tumbling pass involves hip-over-head rotation, then the tumbler/top person must be caught and stopped in a non-inverted position before continuing into the hip-over-head transition or stunt.
Example: Round off handspring and then a bump or contact from a base or bracer straight into a back flip would break this rule. A clear separation from the tumbling to the stunt is needed to make this legal. Catching the rebound and then dipping to create the throw for the rotation is legal. This would also be true if coming from just a standing back handspring without the round off.
- B. Tumbling over, under, or through a stunt, individual, or prop is not allowed, unless the "prop" is mobility equipment for an Adaptive Abilities athlete.
Clarification: An individual may jump (rebound) over another individual.
- C. Tumbling while holding or in contact with any prop is not allowed, unless the "prop" is mobility equipment for an Adaptive Abilities athlete.
Clarification: Although not applicable for the Median Division as flips are not allowed; for divisions that allow flips (e.g., Advanced-Premier Divisions), athletes already proficient in a standing single back tuck flip skill may perform a standing single back tuck flip with poms only in the athlete's hands during the Cheer portion of the routine.
- D. Dive rolls are allowed.
Exception 1: Dive rolls performed in a swan/arched position are not allowed.
Exception 2: Dive rolls that involve twisting are not allowed.
- E. Jumps are not considered a tumbling skill from a legalities point of view. Therefore, if a jump skill is included in a tumbling pass, the jump will break up the pass.
Example: If an athlete in the Median Division performs a round off - toe touch - back handspring- back tuck, this combination of skills would not be allowed since a back tuck is not allowed within the Median Division Standing Tumbling regulations.

MEDIAN DIVISION - STANDING TUMBLING

- A. Flips are not allowed.
Clarification: Jumps connected to $\frac{3}{4}$ front flips are also not allowed.
- B. Series front and back handsprings are allowed.
- C. No twisting while airborne.
Exception: Round offs are allowed.

MEDIAN DIVISION - RUNNING TUMBLING

- A. Flips must follow the enclosed conditions:
1. Back flips may ONLY be performance in tuck position only from a round off or round off back handspring(s). Examples of skills not allowed: X-outs, layouts, layout step outs, whips, pikes, aerial walkovers, and Arabians.
 2. Other skills with hand support prior to the round off or round off back handspring are allowed. Example: Front handsprings and front walkover through to round off back handspring back tucks are allowed.
 3. Cartwheel tucked flips and/or cartwheel to back handsprings(s) to tucks are not allowed.
 4. Aerial cartwheels, running front tucks, and $\frac{3}{4}$ front flips are allowed.
Clarification: A front handspring (or any other tumbling skill) into a front tuck is not allowed.
- B. No tumbling is allowed after a flip or an aerial cartwheel.
Clarification: If any tumbling follows a flip or an aerial cartwheel, at least 1 step into the next tumbling skills must be included to separate the 2 passes. Stepping out of a flip is considered a continuation of the same tumbling pass. An athlete must take an additional step out of a flip step out. However, if the athlete(s) finishes the skill with both feet together, then 1 step is all that is needed to create a new tumbling pass.
- C. No twisting is allowed while airborne.
Exception: Round offs are allowed.

Exception: Aerial cartwheels are allowed.

MEDIAN DIVISION – STUNTS

- A. A spotter is required for each top above prep level.
- B. Single leg extended stunts are allowed.
- C. Twisting stunts and transitions are allowed up to 1 twisting rotation by the top person in relation to the performance surface.
Clarification: A twist performed with an additional turn by the bases performed in the same skill set, is not allowed if the resulting cumulative rotation of the top person exceeds a 1 rotation. The safety judge will use the hips of the top person to determine the amount of total rotation a top person performs in a skill set. Once a stunt is hit (i.e., prep) and the athletes show a definite and clear stop with a stationary top person, they may continue to walk the stunt in additional rotation.
- D. Full twisting transitions must land at and original from prep level or below only.
Example: No full ups (1 twist or more) to an extended position.
- E. Twisting transitions to and from an extended position may not exceed a ½ twisting rotation.
Clarification: A twist performed with an additional turn by the bases performed in the same level set, would be not allowed be allowed if the resulting cumulative rotation of the top person exceeds ½ rotation.
- F. During stunts and transitions, at least 1 base must remain in contact with the top person.
Exception: See “Release Moves”.
- G. Free flipping stunts and transitions are not allowed.
- H. No stunt, pyramid or individual may move over or under another separate stunt, pyramid or individual.
Clarification 1: This rule pertains to an athlete’s torso (midsection of an athlete’s body) not moving over or under the torso of another athlete; this does not pertain to an athlete’s arms or legs.
Clarification 2: A top person may not pass over or under the torso (midsection of an athlete’s body) of another top person regardless of whether the stunt or pyramid is separate or not.
Example: A shoulder sit walking under a prep is not allowed.
Exception: An individual may jump over another individual.
- I. Single based split catches are not allowed.
- J. Single based stunts with multiple top persons require a separate spotter for each top person.
- K. Extended single leg top persons may not connect to any other extended single leg top person.
- L. **MEDIAN DIVISION Stunts-Release Moves**
 - 1. Release moves are allowed but must not exceed extended arm level.
Clarification: If the release move passes above the bases’ extended arm level, it will be considered a toss and/or dismount and must follow the appropriate “Toss” and/or “Dismount” rules. To determine the height of a release move, at the highest point of the release, the distance from the hips to the extended arms of the bases will be used to determine the height of the release. If that distance is greater than the length of the top person’s legs, it will be considered a toss or dismount and must follow the appropriate “Toss” or “Dismount” rules.
 - 2. Release moves may not land in an inverted position. Releasing from an inverted to non-inverted position is not allowed.
 - 3. Release moves must start at waist level or below and must be caught at prep level or below.
 - 4. Release skills that land in a non-upright position must have 3 catchers for a multi-based stunt and 2 catchers for a single based stunt.
 - 5. Release moves are restricted to 1 skill/trick and 0 twists. Only skills performed during the release attribute to the 1 skill/trick and 0 twists limitation. Therefore, placement to an immediate body position would not be considered a skill.
Exception: Log/barrel rolls may twist up to 1 rotation and must land in a cradle or a flat and horizontal body position. (i.e., Flat back or prone position)
Clarification: Single based log rolls must have 2 catchers. Multi-based log rolls must have 3 catchers.
 - 6. Release moves must return to original bases, unless the original base(s) are not physically capable of catching the release move as designated.
Clarification: An individual may not land on the performing surface without assistance.
Exception 1: See Median Division Dismount “C”.
Exception 2: Dismounting single based stunts with multiple top persons.

7. Helicopters are not allowed.
8. Release moves may not intentionally travel.
9. Release moves may not pass over, under or through other stunts, pyramids, or individuals.
10. Top persons in separate release moves may not come in contact with each other.
Exception: Dismounting single based stunts with multiple top persons.

M. MEDIAN DIVISION Stunts-Inversions

1. No inverted stunts above shoulder level are allowed. The connection and support of the top person with the base(s) must be at shoulder level or below.
Exception: Multi-based suspended rolls to a cradle, load in position, flat body prep level stunt or to the performance surface are allowed. Multi-based suspended rolls must be supported by 2 hands. Both hands of the top person must be connected to a separate hand of the base(s).
2. Inversions are limited to a ½ twisting rotation to extended level and 1 twisting rotation to prep level and below.
Exception (a): A multi-based suspended forward roll may twist up to 1 full twisting rotation (See #1 Exception above). A Forward Suspended Roll exceeding a ½ twist must land in a cradle.
Exception (b): In a multi-based suspending backward roll, the top person may not twist.
3. Downward inversions are allowed at waist level and must be assisted by at least 2 bases/catchers positioned at the waist to shoulder level to protect the head and shoulder area. The top person must maintain contact with the original base.
Clarification 1: The stunt may not pass through prep level and then become inverted below prep level or below. (The momentum of the top person coming down is the primary safety concern.)
Clarification 2: Catchers must make contact with the waist to shoulder region to protect the head and shoulder area of the top person.
Clarification 3: Two-leg Pancake stunts are not allowed in the Median Division.
4. Downward inversions may not come into contact with each other.
5. Bases may not support any weight of a top person while that base is in a backbend or inverted position.
Clarification: A person standing on the ground is not considered a top person.

MEDIAN DIVISION PYRAMIDS

- A. Pyramids must follow Median Division "Stunts" and "Dismounts" rules and are allowed up to 2 high.
- B. Top persons must receive primary support from a base.
Exception: See Median "Pyramid Release Moves"
- C. Extended single leg (1 leg) stunts may not brace or be braced by any other single leg (1 leg) extended stunts.
- D. No stunt or pyramid may move over or under another separate stunt, pyramid, or individual.
Clarification: A top person may not pass over or under the torso (midsection of an athlete's body) of another top person regardless if the stunt or pyramid is separate or not.
Example: A shoulder sit walking under a prep is not allowed.
- E. Twisting stunts and transitions to extended skills are allowed up to 1 twist if connected to at least 1 bracer at prep level or below and at least 1 base. The connection to the bracer must be hand/arm to hand/arm. The connection must be made prior to the initiating of the skill and must remain in contact throughout the skill. A Hand/arm connection does not include the shoulder.

F. MEDIAN DIVISION PYRAMIDS - Release Moves

1. Any skill allowed as a Median Division Release Move is also allowed if it remains connected to a base and 2 bracers.
2. Anytime a top person is released by the bases during a pyramid transition and does not adhere to the following rules, the top person must land in a cradle or dismount to the performance surface and must follow the Median Division dismount rules.
3. During a pyramid transition, a top person may pass above 2 persons high while in direct physical contact with at least 2 persons at prep level or below. Contact must be maintained with the same bracer(s) throughout the entire transition.
Clarification 1: Twisting stunts and transitions are allowed up to 1 twist, if connected to at least 2 bracers at prep level or below with an arm/arm connection. The connections must be made prior to the initiation of the skill and must remain in contact throughout the skill.

Clarification 2: Median Division Pyramid Release Moves may incorporate stunt release moves that maintain contact with 1 other top person provided the release move meets the Median Division “Stunt Release Moves” or “Dismounts” criteria.

4. The top person must remain in direct contact with at least 2 different top persons at prep level or below. One of these top person contacts must be in a hand/arm-to-hand/arm connection; the other may be either in a hand/arm-to-hand/are connections or in a hand/arm-to-foot/lower leg (below the knee) connection.
Clarification 1: Pyramid Release Moves must be braced on 2 different sides (e.g., right side/left side or left side/back side, etc.) by 2 separate bracers. (Example: 2 bracers on the same arm are not allowed.) A top person must be braced on 2 of the 4 sides (front, back, right, or left) of her/his body.
Clarification 2: Contact must be made with a base on the performance surface BEFORE the contact with the bracer(s) is lost.
5. Primary weight may not be borne at the 2nd level.
Clarification: The transition must be continuous.
6. These release transitions may not involve changes bases.
7. These transitions must be caught by at least 2 catchers (minimum of 1 catcher and 1 spotter) under the following conditions:
 - a. Both catchers must be stationary.
 - b. Both catchers must maintain visual contact with the top person throughout the entire transition.
8. Release moves may not be braced/connected to the top person(s) above prep level.

G. MEDIAN DIVISION Pyramids-Inversions

1. Must follow Median Division “Stunt Inversions” rules.
2. A top person may pass through an inverted position during a pyramid position IF the top person remains in contact with a base(s) that is in direct weight bearing contact with the performance surface and also a bracer at prep level or below. The top person must remain in contact with both the bracer and the base throughout the transition. The base(s) that remains in contact with the top person may extend their arms during the transition if the skill(s) starts and ends in a position at prep level or below.
Example 1: A flat back split that rolls to a load in position is allowed even if the base(s) extends their arms during the inversion skill.
Example 2: A flat back that rolls into an extended position is not allowed because the skill did not first land in a position below the extended level.

H. MEDIAN DIVISION Pyramids-Release Moves w/ braced inversions

1. Pyramid transitions may involve inversions while released from the bases.

MEDIAN DIVISION - DISMOUNTS

Note: Movements are only considered “Dismounts” if released to a cradle or released and assisted to the performing surface.

- A. Cradles from single based stunts must have a spotter with at least 1 hand/arm supporting the waist to shoulder region to protect the head and shoulder area through the cradle.
- B. Cradles from multi-based stunts must have 2 catchers and a spotter with at least 1 hand/arm supporting the waist to shoulder region to protect the head and shoulder area through the cradle.
- C. Dismounts must return to the original base(s).
Exception 1: Dismounts to the performance surface must be assisted by either an original base(s) and/or a spotter(s).
Exception 2: Straight drops or small hop offs, with no additional skill(s), from the waist level or below are the only dismounts allowed to the performing surface without assistance.
Clarification: An individual may not land on the performing surface from above waist level without assistance.
- D. Only straight pop downs, basic straight cradles, and ¼ turns are allowed from any single (1 leg) stunt.
- E. Up to a 1 ¼ twisting rotations are allowed from all 2 - leg stunts.
Clarification: Twisting from a platform is not allowed. A Platform is not considered a 2-leg stunt. There are specific exceptions given for the platform body position within the Median Division “Stunts” regarding Twisting Stunts and Transitions specifically.
- F. No stunt, pyramid, individual, or prop may move over or under a dismount, and a dismount may not be thrown over, under, or through stunts, pyramids, individuals, or props.
Exception: If the “prop” is a mobile device of an Adaptive Abilities athlete, then it is allowed.
- G. Up to 1 trick is allowed during a dismount from any 2-leg stunt.

- H. Any dismount from prep level and above involving a skill/trick (i.e., twist, toe touch) must be caught in a cradle.
- I. No free flipping dismounts allowed.
- J. Dismounts may not intentionally travel.
- K. Top persons in dismounts may not come in contact with each other while released from the bases.
- L. Tension drops/rolls of any kind are not allowed.
- M. When cradling single based stunts with multiple top persons, 2 catchers must catch each top person. Catchers and bases must be stationary prior to the initiation of dismount.
- N. Dismounts from an inverted position are not allowed.

MEDIAN DIVISION - TOSSES

Adaptive Abilities Unified Divisions Only:

- A. Basket Tosses are not allowed.
- B. Any other tosses, that are not Basket Tosses, must follow the Median Division Tosses Rules

Youth Divisions Only:

- A. Up to 1 trick allowed (may not exceed 1¼ twist).
Clarification: An 'arch' is not a trick.
Exception: A Ball-X toss is allowed.
- B. During a twisting toss, no skill other than the twist is allowed.

ICU ADVANCED DIVISION RULES

(YOUTH, JUNIOR & ADAPTIVE* ABILITIES ADVANCED DIVISIONS)

**Adaptive Abilities Advanced Divisions must follow the enclosed Advanced rules as well as the "ICU ADAPTIVE ABILITIES UNIFIED SPECIFIC DIVISION RULES" and all modifications as noted within these ADAVNCED DIVISION rules*

ADVANCED DIVISION - GENERAL TUMBLING

- A. All tumbling must originate from and land on the performance surface.
Clarification: A tumbler may rebound from his/her feet into a transition. If the rebound from the tumbling pass involves hip-over-head rotation, then the tumbler/top person must be caught and stopped in a non-inverted position before continuing into the hip-over-head transition or stunt.
Example: Round off handspring and then a bump or contact from a base or bracer straight into a back flip would break this rule. A clear separation from the tumbling to the stunt is needed to make this legal. Catching the rebound and then dipping to create the throw for the rotation is legal. This would also be true if coming from just a standing back handspring without the round off.
- B. Tumbling over, under, or through a stunt, individual, or prop, is not allowed.
Clarification: An individual may jump over another individual.
- C. Tumbling while holding or in contact with any prop is not allowed, unless the "prop" is mobility equipment for an Adaptive Abilities athlete.
Exception: As is common with Cheerleaders at sporting events, an athlete, already proficient in a standing single back tuck flip skill, may perform a standing single back tuck flip with poms only in the athlete's hands during the Cheer portion of the routine.
- D. Dive rolls are allowed:
Exception 1: Dive rolls performed in a swan/arched position are not allowed.
Exception 2: Dive rolls that involve twisting are not allowed.
- E. Jumps are not considered a tumbling skill from a legalities point of view. Therefore, if a jump skill is included in a tumbling pass, the jump will break up the pass.
Example: If an athlete in Advanced performs a roundoff - toe touch - back handspring - whip-layout, this combination of skills would not be allowed since consecutive flip-flip combinations are not allowed within the Advanced Standing Tumbling regulations.

ADVANCED DIVISION - STANDING TUMBLING

- A. Standing flips and flips from a back handspring entry are allowed.
- B. Skills are allowed up to 1 flipping and 0 twisting rotations.
Exception: Aerial cartwheels and Onodis are allowed.
- C. Consecutive flip-flip combinations are not allowed.

Example: Back tuck – back tuck, back tuck – punch front is not allowed.

- D. Jump skills are not allowed in immediate combination with a standing flip.

Example: Toe touch back tucks, back tuck toe touches, pike jump front flips are not allowed.

Clarification 1: Jumps connected to $\frac{3}{4}$ front flips are not allowed.

Clarification 2: Toe touch back handspring back tucks are allowed because the flip skill is not connected immediately after the jump skill.

ADVANCED DIVISION - RUNNING TUMBLING

- A. Skills are allowed up to 1 flipping and 0 twisting rotations.

Exception: Aerial cartwheels and Onodis are allowed.

ADVANCED DIVISION – STUNTS

- A. A spotter is required for each top above prep level.

- B. Single leg extended stunts are allowed.

- C. Twisting stunts and transitions to prep level are allowed up to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ twisting rotations by the top person in relation to the performing surface.

Clarification: A twist performed with an additional turn by the bases performed in the same skill set, is not allowed if the resulting cumulative rotation of the top person exceeds 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ rotations. The safety judge will use the hips of the top person to determine the amount of total rotation a top person performs in a skill set. Once a stunt is hit (i.e., prep) and the athletes show a definite and clear stop with a stationary top person, they may continue to walk the stunt in additional rotation

- D. Twisting stunts and transitions to an extended position are allowed under the following conditions:

1. Extended skills up to a $\frac{1}{2}$ twist are allowed.

Example: A $\frac{1}{2}$ up to extended single leg stunt is allowed.

Clarification: Any additional turn performed by the bases in the same skill set would not be allowed if the resulting cumulative rotation of the top person exceeds $\frac{1}{2}$ rotation. The safety judges will use the hips of the top person to determine the amount of total rotation a top person performs in a skill set. Once the stunt is hit (i.e., a prep) and the athletes show a definite and clear stop with a stationary top person, they may continue to walk the stunt in additional rotation.

2. Extended skills exceeding a $\frac{1}{2}$ twist but not exceeding 1 twist must land in a 2 -leg stunt, platform position or a liberty (body position variations are not allowed).

Example: A full up (1 twist) to an immediate extended heel stretch is not allowed, but a full up (1 twist) to an extension is allowed.

Clarification 1: An extended platform position must be visibly held prior to executing a single leg stunt other than a liberty.

Clarification 2: Any additional turn performed by the bases in the same skill set would not be allowed if the resulting cumulative rotation of the top person exceeds 1 rotation. The safety judges will use the hips of the top person to determine the amount of total rotation a top person performs in a skill set. Once the stunt is hit (i.e., a prep) and the athletes show a definite and clear stop with a stationary top person, they may continue to walk the stunt in additional rotation.

- E. During transitions, at least 1 base must remain in contact with the top person.

Exception: See “Release Moves”.

- F. Free flipping mounts and transitions are not allowed.

- G. No stunt, pyramid or individual may move over or under another separate stunt, pyramid or individual.

Clarification: This rule pertains to an athlete’s torso (midsection of an athlete’s body) not moving over or under the torso of another athlete; this does not pertain to an athlete’s arms or legs.

Example: A shoulder sit walking under a prep is not allowed.

Exception 1: An individual may jump over another individual.

Exception 2: An individual may move under a stunt, or a stunt may move over an individual.

- H. Single based split catches are not allowed.

- I. Single based stunts with multiple top persons require a separate spotter for each top person.

- J. Extended single top persons may not connect to any other extended single leg top person.

- K. **ADVANCED DIVISION Stunts-Release Moves**

1. Release moves are allowed but must not exceed extended arm level.

Clarification: If the release move passes above the bases' extended arm level, it will be considered a toss and/or dismount and must follow the appropriate "Toss" and/or "Dismount" rules. To determine the height of a release move, at the highest point of the release, the distance from the hips to the extended arms of the bases will be used to determine the height of the release. If that distance is greater than the length of the top person's legs, it will be considered a toss or dismount and must follow the appropriate "Toss" or "Dismount" rules.

2. Release moves may not land in an inverted position. When performing a release move from an inverted position to a non-inverted position, the bottom of the dip will be used to determine if the initial position was inverted. Release moves inverted to non-inverted positions may not twist. Release moved from inverted to non-inverted positions landing at prep level or higher must have a spot.
3. Release skills that land in a non-upright position must have 3 catchers for a multi-based stunt and 2 catchers for a single based stunt.
4. Release moves must return to original bases.

Clarification: An individual may not land on the performing surface without assistance. Exception 1: See Advanced Division Dismount "C".

Exception 2: Dismounting single based stunts with multiple top persons.

5. Release moves that land in an extended position must originate from waist level or below and may not involve twisting or flipping.
6. Release moves initiating from an extended level may not twist.
7. Helicopters are allowed up to a 180-degree rotation and 0 twisting and must be caught by at least 3 catchers, one of which is positioned at head and shoulder area of the top person.
8. Release moves may not intentionally travel.
9. Release moves may not pass over, under or through other stunts, pyramids, or individuals.
10. Top persons in separate release moves may not come in contact with each other.
Exception: Dismounting single based stunts with multiple top persons.

L. ADVANCED DIVISION Stunts-Inversions

1. Extended inverted stunts are allowed. Also, see "Stunts" and "Pyramids."
2. Downward inversions are allowed at prep level and must be assisted by at least 3 catchers, at least 2 of which are positioned to protect the head and shoulder area.
Exception: A controlled lowering of an extended inverted stunt (example: handstand) to shoulder level is allowed.

Clarification 1: The stunt may not pass above prep level and then become inverted at prep level or below. (The momentum of the top person coming down is the primary safety concern.)

Clarification 2: Catchers must make contact with the waist to shoulder region to protect the head and shoulder area of the top person. Clarification 3: Downward inversions originating from below prep level do not require three (3) bases.

Exception: Two-leg "Pancake" stunts must start at shoulder level or below and are allowed to immediately pass through the extended position during the skill.

Clarification 4: Two-leg Pancakes cannot stop or land in an inverted position.

3. Downward inversions must maintain contact with an original base.
Exception: Side rotating downward inversions.
Example: In cartwheel-style transitions, the original base may lose contact with the top person when it becomes necessary to do so.
4. Downward inversions may not come into contact with each other.

- M. Bases may not support any weight of a top person while that base is in a backbend or inverted position.

Clarification: A person standing on the ground is not considered a top person.

ADVANCED DIVISION - PYRAMIDS

- A. Pyramids must follow Advanced Division "Stunts" and "Dismounts" rules and are allowed up to 2 high.
Exception: Twisting mounts and transitions to extended skills are allowed up to 1 ½ twists if connected to a bracer at prep level or below. The connection must be made prior to the initiation of the skill and must remain in contact throughout the transition.
- B. Top persons must receive primary support from a base.
Exception: See "Advanced Pyramid Release Moves"
- C. Extended single leg (1 leg) stunts may not brace or be braced by any other single leg (1 leg) extended stunts.

- D. No stunt or pyramid may move over or under another separate stunt or pyramid.
Clarification: A top person may not invert over or under the torso (midsection of an athlete's body) of another top person regardless if the stunt or pyramid is separate or not.
 Example: A shoulder sit walking under a prep is not allowed.
 Exception 1: An individual may jump over another individual.
 Exception 2: An individual may move under a stunt, or a stunt may move over an individual.
- E. Any skill that is allowed as an Advanced Division Release Move is also allowed if it remains connected to a base and a bracer (or 2 bracers when required).
 Example: An extended Pancake would be required to remain connected to 2 bracers.
- F. **ADVANCED DIVISION PYRAMIDS - Release Moves**
- During a pyramid transition, a top person may pass above 2 persons high while in direct physical contact with at least 1 person at prep level or below. Contact must be maintained with the same bracer(s) throughout the entire transition.
Clarification 1: Contact must be made with a base on the performing surface BEFORE contact with the bracer(s) is lost.
 Exception: While a tick-tock from prep level or higher to an extended position (e.g., low to high and high to high) is not allowed for Advanced Division "Stunts", the same skill is allowed in Advanced Division "Pyramid Release Moves" if the skill is braced by at least 1 person at prep level or below. The top person performing the tick-tock must be braced the entire time during the release from the bases.
Clarification 2: Advanced Division Pyramid Release Moves may incorporate stunt release moves that maintain contact with 1 other top person provided the release move meets the Advanced Division "Stunt Release Moves" or "Dismounts" criteria.
Clarification 3: Twisting stunts and transitions are allowed up to 1 ½ twists if connected to at least 1 bracer at prep level or below.
 - In a pyramid transition, a top person may travel over another top person while connected to that top person at prep level or below.
 - Primary weight may not be borne at the 2nd level.
Clarification: The transition must be continuous.
 - Non-inverted transitional pyramids may involve changing bases under the following conditions:
 - The top person must maintain physical contact with a person at prep level or below.
Clarification: Contact must be made with a base on the performing surface BEFORE contact with the bracer(s) is lost.
 - The top person must be caught by at least 2 catchers (minimum of 1 catcher and 1 spotter). Both catchers must be stationary and may not be involved with any other skill or choreography when the transition is initiated. (The dip to throw the top person is considered the initiation of the skill).
 - Non-inverted pyramid release moves must be caught by at least 2 catchers (minimum of 1 catcher and 1 spotter) under the following conditions:
 - Both catchers must be stationary.
 - Both catchers must maintain visual contact with the top person throughout the entire transition.
 - Release moves may not be braced / connected to the top persons above prep level.
- G. **ADVANCED DIVISION PYRAMIDS – Inversions**
- Must follow Advanced Division Stunt Inversions rules.
- H. **ADVANCED DIVISION PYRAMIDS - Release Moves w/braced inversions**
- Pyramid transitions may involve braced inversions (including braced flips) while released from the bases if contact is maintained with at least 2 persons at prep level or below. Contact must be maintained with the same bracer throughout entire transition.
Clarification 1: Contact must be made with a base on the performing surface BEFORE contact with the bracer(s) is lost.
Clarification 2: Braced flips must be braced on 2 separate sides (i.e., right side - left side, left side- back side, etc.) by 2 separate bracers. (Example: Two bracers on the same arm will no longer be permitted). A top person must be braced on 2 of the 4 sides (front, back, right, or left) of their body.
 - Braced inversions (including braced flips) are allowed up to 1 ¼ flipping rotations and 0 twisting rotations.
 - Braced inversions (including braced flips) may not involve changing bases.
 - Braced inversions (including braced flips) must be in continuous movement.

5. All braced inversions (including braced flips) that do not twist must be caught by at least 3 catchers. Exception: Brace flips that land in an upright position at prep level or above require a minimum of 1 catcher and 2 spotters.
 - a. All required catchers/spotters must be stationary.
 - b. All required catchers/spotters must maintain visual contact with the top person throughout the entire transition.
 - c. The required catchers/spotters may not be involved with any other skill or choreography when the transition is initiated. (The dip to throw the top person is considered the initiation of the skill.)
6. Braced inversions (including braced flips) may not travel downward while inverted.
7. Braced inversions (including braced flips) may not come in contact with other stunt/pyramid release moves.
8. Braced inversions (including braced flips) may not be braced/connected to top persons above prep level.

ADVANCED DIVISION – DISMOUNTS

Note: Movements are only considered "Dismounts" if released to a cradle or released and assisted to the performing surface.

- A. Cradles from single based stunts must have a spotter with at least 1 hand/arm supporting the waist to shoulder region to protect the head and shoulder area through the cradle.
- B. Cradles from multi-based stunts must have 2 catchers and a spotter with at least 1 hand/arm supporting the waist to shoulder region to protect the head and shoulder area through the cradle.
- C. Dismounts must return to the original base(s).

Exception 1: Dismounts to the performance surface must be assisted by either an original base(s) and/or spotter(s).

Exception 2: Straight drops or small hop offs, with no additional skill(s), from the waist level or below are the only dismounts allowed to the performing surface without assistance.

Clarification: An individual may not land on the performing surface from above waist level without assistance.
- D. Up to a 2 ¼ twisting rotations are allowed from all 2- leg stunts.

Clarification: Twisting from a platform position may not exceed 1 ¼ rotations. A Platform is not considered a 2 - leg stunt. There are specific exceptions given for the platform body position within the Advanced Division "Stunts" regarding Twisting Stunts and Transitions specifically.
- E. Up to a 1 ¼ twisting rotations are allowed from all single leg (1 leg) stunts.

Clarification: A Platform is not considered a 2 - leg stunt. There are specific exceptions given for the platform body position within the Advanced Division "Stunts" regarding Twisting Stunts and Transitions specifically.
- F. No stunt, pyramid, individual, or, prop may move over or under a dismount, and a dismount may not be thrown over, under, or through stunts, pyramids, individuals, or prop.
- G. During a cradle that exceeds 1 ¼ twists, no skill other than the twist is allowed.
- H. No free flipping dismounts allowed.
- I. Dismounts may not intentionally travel.
- J. Top persons in dismounts may not come in contact with each other while released from the bases.
- K. Tension drops/rolls of any kind are not allowed.
- L. When cradling single based stunts with multiple top persons, 2 catchers must catch each top person. Catchers and bases must be stationary prior to the initiation of dismount.
- M. Dismounts from an inverted position may not twist.

ADVANCED DIVISION - TOSSES

Adaptive Abilities Unified Divisions

- A. Basket Tosses are not allowed
- B. Any other tosses, that are not Basket Tosses, must follow the Advanced Division Tosses Rules

Youth & Junior Divisions

- A. Tosses are allowed up to a total of 4 tossing bases. One (1) base must be behind the top person during the toss and may assist the top person into the toss.
- B. Tosses must be performed with all bases having their feet on the performing surface and must land in a cradle position. Top person must be caught in a cradle position by at least 3 original bases one of which is positioned at the head and shoulder area of the top person. Bases must remain stationary during the toss.

Example: No intentional traveling tosses.

Exception: A ½ turn is allowed by bases as in a kick full basket.

- C. The top person in a toss must have both feet in/on the hands of the bases when the toss is initiated.
- D. Flipping, inverted, or traveling tosses are not allowed.
- E. No stunt, pyramid, individual, or prop may move over or under a toss, and a toss may not be thrown over, under, or through stunts, pyramids, individuals, or props.
- F. Up to 2 tricks are allowed during a toss.
Example: Kick full, full up toe touch.
- G. During a toss that exceeds 1 ½ twisting rotations, no skill other than the twist is allowed.
Example: No kick double tosses.
- H. Tosses may not exceed 2 ¼ twisting rotations.
- I. Top persons in separate basket tosses may not come in contact with each other and must become free of all contact from bases, bracers and/or other top persons.
- J. Only a single top person is allowed during a toss.

ICU ELITE DIVISION RULES
(JUNIOR & SENIOR ELITE DIVISIONS)

ELITE DIVISION - GENERAL TUMBLING

- A. All tumbling must originate from and land on the performance surface.
Clarification: A tumbler may rebound from his/her feet into a transition. If the rebound from the tumbling pass involves hip-over-head rotation, then the tumbler/top person must be caught and stopped in a non-inverted position before continuing into the hip-over-head transition or stunt.
Example: Round off handspring and then a bump or contact from a base or bracer straight into a back flip would break this rule. A clear separation from the tumbling to the stunt is needed to make this legal. Catching the rebound and then dipping to create the throw for the rotation is legal. This would also be true if coming from just a standing back handspring without the round off.
- B. Tumbling over, under, or through a stunt, individual, or prop, is not allowed.
Clarification: An individual may jump over another individual.
- C. Tumbling while holding or in contact with any prop is not allowed.
Exception: As is common with Cheerleaders at sporting events, an athlete, already proficient in a standing single back tuck flip skill, may perform a standing single back tuck flip with poms only in the athlete's hands during the Cheer portion of the routine.
- D. Dive rolls are allowed:
Exception: Dive rolls that involve twisting are not allowed.
- E. Jumps are not considered a tumbling skill from a legalities point of view. Therefore, if a jump skill is included in a tumbling pass, the jump will break up the pass.

ELITE DIVISION - STANDING TUMBLING

- A. Skills are allowed up to 1 flipping and 1 twisting rotation.

ELITE DIVISION - RUNNING TUMBLING

- A. Skills are allowed up to 1 flipping and 1 twisting rotation.

ELITE DIVISION - STUNTS

- A. A spotter is required for each top above prep level.
- B. Single leg extended stunts are allowed.
- C. Twisting stunts and transitions are allowed up to 2 ¼ twisting rotations by the top person in relation to the performance surface.
Clarification: A twist performed with an additional turn by the bases performed in the same skill set, would be illegal if the resulting cumulative rotation of the top person exceeds 2 ¼ rotations. The safety judge will use the hips of the top person to determine the amount of total rotation a top person performs in a skill set. Once a stunt is hit (i.e., prep) and the athletes show a definite and clear stop with a stationary top person, they may continue to walk the stunt in additional rotation.
- D. Free flipping stunts and transitions are not allowed.
- E. Single based split catches are not allowed.

- F. Single based stunts with multiple top persons require a separate spotter for each top person.
- G. **ELITE DIVISION Stunts-Release Moves**
1. Release moves are allowed but must not exceed more than 18 inches/46 centimeters above extended arm level.
Clarification: If the release move exceeds more than 18 inches/46 centimeters above the bases' extended arm level, it will be considered a toss, and must follow the appropriate "Toss" rules. To determine the height of a release move, at the highest point of the release, the distance from the hips to the extended arms of the bases will be used to determine the height of the release. If that distance is greater than the length of the top person's legs plus an additional 18 inches/46 centimeters, it will be considered a toss or dismount and must follow the appropriate "Toss" or "Dismount" rules.
 2. Release moves may not land in an inverted position. When performing a release move from an inverted position to a non-inverted position, the bottom of the dip will be used to determine if the initial position was inverted. Release moves inverted to non-inverted positions may not twist.
Exception: Front handspring up to an extended stunt may include up to a 1/2 twist. Release moves from inverted to non-inverted positions landing at prep level or higher must have a spot.
 3. Release skills that land in a non-upright position must have 3 catches for a multi-based stunt and 2 catchers for a single based stunt.
 4. Release moves must return to original bases. *Clarification: An individual may not land on the performance surface without assistance.*
Exception 1: See Elite Division Dismount "C".
Exception 2: Dismounting single based stunts with multiple top persons.
 5. Helicopters are allowed up to a 180-degree rotation and must be caught by at least 3 catchers, one (1) of which is positioned at head and shoulder area of the top person.
 6. Release moves may not intentionally travel.
 7. Release moves may not pass over, under or through other stunts, pyramids, or individuals.
 8. Top persons in separate release moves may not come in contact with each other.
Exception: Dismounting single based stunts with multiple top persons.
- H. **ELITE DIVISION Stunts-Inversions**
1. Extended inverted stunts are allowed. Also, see "Stunts" and "Pyramids."
 2. Downward inversions are allowed from prep level and above and must be assisted by at least 3 catchers, at least 2 of which are positioned to protect the head and shoulder area. Contact must be initiated at the shoulder level (or above) of the bases.
Clarification 1: Catchers must make contact with the waist to shoulder region to protect the head and shoulder area.
Clarification 2: Downward inversion originating from prep level or below do not require 3 catchers. If the stunt begins at prep level or below and passes above prep level it requires 3 catchers. (The momentum of the top person coming down is the primary safety concern.)
Exception: A controlled lowering of an extended inverted stunt (example: Handstand) to shoulder level is allowed.
 3. Downward inversions must maintain contact with an original base.
Exception: The original base may lose contact with the top person when it becomes necessary to do so.
Example: Cartwheel-style transition dismounts.
 4. Downward inversions from above prep level:
 - a. May not stop in an inverted position.
Example: A cartwheel roll off would be legal because the top person is landing on their feet.
Exception: A controlled lowering of an extended inverted stunt (example: handstand) to shoulder level is allowed.
 - b. May not land on or touch the ground while inverted.
Clarification: Prone or supine landings from an extended stunt must visibly stop in a non-inverted position and be held before any inversion to the ground.
 5. Downward inversions may not come in contact with each other.
- I. Bases may not support any weight of a top person while that base is in a backbend or inverted position.
Clarification: A person standing on the ground is not considered a top person.

ELITE DIVISION - PYRAMIDS

- A. Pyramids must follow Elite Division "Stunts" and "Dismounts" rules and are allowed up to 2 high.
- B. Top persons must receive primary support from a base.
Exception: See Elite Division "Pyramids Release Moves".
- C. **ELITE DIVISION Pyramids- Release Moves**
1. During a pyramid transition, a top person may pass above 2 persons high while in direct physical contact with at least 1 person at prep level or below. Contact must be maintained with the same bracer throughout the entire transition.
Clarification: Contact must be made with a base on the performing surface BEFORE contact with the bracer(s) is lost.
 2. Primary weight may not be borne at the 2nd level.
Clarification: The transition must be continuous.
 3. Non-inverted pyramid release moves must be caught by at least 2 catchers (minimum of 1 catcher and 1 spotter) under the following conditions:
 - a. Both catchers must be stationary.
 - b. Both catchers must maintain visual contact with the top person throughout the entire transition.
 4. Non inverted transitional pyramids may involve changing bases. When changing bases:
 - a. The top person must maintain physical contact with a person at prep level or below.
Clarification: Contact must be made with a base on the performing surface BEFORE contact with the bracer(s) is lost.
 - b. The top person must be caught by at least 2 catchers (minimum of 1 catcher and 1 spotter). Both catchers must be stationary and may not be involved with any other skill or choreography when the transition is initiated. (The dip to throw the top person is considered the initiation of the skill.)
 5. Release moves may not be braced / connected to the top persons above prep level.
- D. **ELITE DIVISION Pyramids-Inversions**
1. Must follow Elite Division "Stunt Inversions" rules.
- E. **ELITE DIVISION Pyramids-Release moves w/ braced inversions**
1. Pyramid transitions may involve braced inversions (including braced flips) while released from the bases if contact is maintained with at least 1 person at prep level or below. Contact must be maintained with the same bracer throughout entire transition. *Clarification: Contact must be made with a base on the performing surface BEFORE contact with the bracer(s) is lost.*
 2. Braced inversions (including braced flips) are allowed up to 1 ¼ flipping rotations and ½ twisting rotations.
 3. Braced inversions (including braced flips) that exceed ½ twisting rotations are only allowed up to a ¾ flipping rotation provided release is initiated from an upright, non-inverted position, doesn't transition past a horizontal position (i.e., cradle, flat back, prone) and doesn't exceed 1 twisting rotation.
Clarification: ALLOWED - An athlete tossed from an upright, non-inverted position (i.e., basket toss or sponge) performing a full twist and a backward ¾ rotation to a prone position while in contact with 1 bracer.
 4. Inverted transitional pyramids may involve changing bases.
 5. Braced inversions (including braced flips) must be in continuous movement.
 6. All braced inversions (including braced flips) that do not twist must be caught by at least 3 catchers.
Exception: Brace flips that land in an upright position at prep level or above require a minimum of 1 catcher and 2 spotters.
 - a. The 3 catchers/spotters must be stationary.
 - b. The 3 catchers/spotters must maintain visual contact with the top person throughout the entire transition.
 - c. The 3 catchers/spotters may not be involved with any other skill or choreography when the transition is initiated. (The dip to throw the top person is considered the initiation of the skill.)
 7. All braced inversions (including braced flips) that twist (including ¼ twist or more) must be caught by at least 3 catchers. All 3 catchers must make contact during the catch.
 - a. The catchers must be stationary.
 - b. The catchers must maintain visual contact with the top person throughout the entire transition.
 - c. The catchers may not be involved with any other skill or choreography when the transition is initiated. (The dip to throw the top person is considered the initiation of the skill.)
 8. Braced inversions (including braced flips) may not travel downward while inverted.

9. Braced flips may not come in contact with other stunt/pyramid release moves.
10. Braced inversions (including braced flips) may not be braced/connected to top persons above prep level.

ELITE DIVISION - DISMOUNTS

Note: Movements are only considered "Dismounts" if released to a cradle or released and assisted to the performance surface.

- A. Cradles from single based stunts must have a separate spotter with at least 1 hand/arm supporting the waist to shoulder region to protect the head and shoulder area through the cradle.
- B. Cradles from multi-based stunts must have 2 catchers and a separate spotter with at least 1 hand/arm supporting the waist to shoulder region to protect the head and shoulder area through the cradle.
- C. Dismounts must return to the original base(s).
Exception 1: Dismounts to the performance surface must be assisted by either an original base(s) and/or spotter(s).
Exception 2: Straight drops or small hop offs, with no additional skill(s), from the waist level or below are the only dismounts allowed to the performing surface without assistance.
Clarification: An individual may not land on the performing surface from above waist level without assistance.
- D. Up to a 2 ¼ twisting rotations are allowed from all stunts.
- E. No stunt, pyramid, individual, or prop may move over or under a dismount, and a dismount may not be thrown over, under, or through stunts, pyramids, individuals, or prop.
- F. No free flipping dismounts allowed.
- G. Dismounts may not intentionally travel.
- H. Top persons in dismounts may not come in contact with each other while released from the bases.
- I. Tension drops/rolls of any kind are not allowed.
- J. When cradling single based stunts with multiple top persons, 2 catchers must catch each top person. Catchers and bases must be stationary prior to the initiation of dismount.
- K. Dismounts from an inverted position may not twist.

ELITE DIVISION - TOSSES

- A. Tosses are allowed up to a total of 4 tossing bases. One (1) base must be behind the top person during the toss and may assist the top person into the toss.
- B. Tosses must be performed with all bases having their feet on the performing surface and must land in a cradle position. Top person must be caught in a cradle position by at least 3 original bases one of which is positioned at the head and shoulder area of the top person. Bases must remain stationary during the toss.
Example: No intentional traveling tosses.
Exception: A ½ turn is allowed by bases as in a kick full basket.
- C. The top person in a toss must have both feet in/on the hands of the bases when the toss is initiated.
- D. Flipping, inverted, or traveling tosses are not allowed.
- E. No stunt, pyramid, individual, or prop may move over or under a toss, and a toss may not be thrown over, under, or through stunts, pyramids, individuals, or props.
- F. Up to 2 ½ twisting rotations allowed.
- G. Top persons in separate basket tosses may not come in contact with each other and must become free of all contact from bases, bracers and/or top persons.
- H. Only a single top person is allowed during a basket toss.

ICU PREMIER DIVISION RULES

(SENIOR PREMIER DIVISIONS)

PREMIER DIVISION - GENERAL TUMBLING

- A. All tumbling must originate from and land on the performing surface.
Exception 1: A tumbler may rebound from his/her feet into a stunt transition. If the rebound from the tumbling pass involves hip-over head rotation, then the tumbler/top person must be caught and stopped in a non-inverted position before continuing into the hip-over head transition or stunt.
Exception 2: Round off rewinds and standing single back handspring rewinds are allowed. No tumbling skills prior to the round-off or standing back handspring are permitted.
- B. Tumbling over, under, or through a stunt, individual, or prop, is not allowed.
Clarification: An individual may jump over another individual.

- C. Tumbling while holding or in contact with any prop is not allowed.
Exception: As is common with Cheerleaders at sporting events, an athlete, already proficient in a standing single back tuck flip skill, may perform a standing single back tuck flip with poms only in the athlete's hands during the Cheer portion of the routine.
- D. Dive rolls are allowed:
Exception: Dive rolls that involve twisting are not allowed.

**PREMIER DIVISION - STANDING/RUNNING
TUMBLING**

- A. Skills are allowed up to 1 flipping and 1 twisting rotations.

PREMIER DIVISION - STUNTS

- A. A spotter is required:
 1. During one- arm (1 arm) stunts above prep level, other than cupies or liberties.
Clarification: A one-arm heel stretch, arabesque, high torch, scorpions, bow and arrow, etc. require a spotter.
 2. When the load/transition involves:
 - a. A release move with a twist greater than 360 degrees.
 - b. A release move with an inverted position landing at prep level or below.
 - c. A free flip.
 3. During stunts in which the top person is in an inverted position above prep level.
 4. When the top person is released from above ground level to a one-arm (1 arm) stunt.
- B. Stunt levels:
 1. Single leg (1 leg) extended stunts are allowed.
- C. Twisting stunts and transitions are allowed up to 2 ¼ twisting rotations by the top person in relation to the performance surface.
Clarification: A twist performed with an additional turn by the bases performed in the same skill set, would be illegal if the resulting cumulative rotation of the top person exceeds 2 ¼ rotations. The safety judge will use the hips of the top person to determine the amount of total rotation a top person performs in a skill set. Once a stunt is hit (i.e., prep) and the athletes show a definite and clear stop with a stationary top person, they may continue to walk the stunt in additional rotation.
- D. Rewinds (Free flipping) and assisted flipping stunts and transitions are allowed. Rewinds must originate from ground level only and are allowed up to 1 flipping and 1 ¼ twisting rotations.
Exception 1: Rewinds to a cradle position are 1 ¼ flips. All rewinds caught below shoulder level must use 2 catchers. (Example: a rewind that lands in a cradle position)
Exception 2: Round off rewinds and standing single back handspring rewinds are allowed. No tumbling skills prior to the round-off or standing back handspring are permitted.
Clarification: Free flipping stunts and transitions that do not start on the performing surface are not allowed.
Clarification: Toe pitch, leg pitch and similar types of tosses are not allowed in initiating free flipping skills.
- E. Single based split catches are not allowed.
- F. Single based stunts with multiple top persons require a separate spotter for each top person.
- G. **PREMIER DIVISION Stunts-Release Moves**
 1. Release moves are allowed but must not exceed more than 18 inches / 46 centimeters above extended arm level.
Clarification: If the release move exceeds more than 18 inches/46 centimeters above the bases' extended arm level, it will be considered a toss or a dismount, and must follow the appropriate "Toss" or "Dismount" rules.
 2. Release moves may not land in an inverted position.
 3. Release moves must return to original bases.
Exception 1: Coed style tosses to a new base are allowed if the stunt is thrown by a single base and caught by at least one base and an additional spotter who are not involved in any other skill or choreography when the transitions is initiated.
Exception 2: Toss single based stunts with multiple top persons are allowed without returning to original base(s). The original base may become a required spotter in toss single based stunt with multiple top persons.
Clarification: An individual may not land on the performing surface without assistance from above waist level.

4. Helicopters are allowed up to a 180-degree rotation must be caught by at least 3 catchers, one (1) of which is positioned at head and shoulder area of the top person.
5. Release moves may not intentionally travel. See exception in #3 herein.
6. Release moves may not pass over, under or through other stunts, pyramids, or individuals.
7. Top persons in separate release moves may not come in contact with each other.
Exception: Single based stunts with multiple top persons.

H. PREMIER DIVISION Stunts -Inversions

1. Downward inversions from above prep level must be assisted by at least 2 catchers. Top person must maintain contact with a base.

PREMIER DIVISION - PYRAMIDS

- A. Pyramids are allowed up to 2 ½ high.
- B. For 2 ½ high pyramids, there must be at least 2 spotters, one providing additional pyramid support, and both designated for each person who is above 2 persons high and whose primary support does not have at least 1 foot on the ground. Both spotters must be in position as the top person is loading onto the pyramid. One spotter must be behind the top person and the other spotter must be in front of the top person or at the side of the pyramid in a position to get to the top person if they were to dismount forward. Once a pyramid shows adequate stability and just prior to the dismount, this spotter can move back to catch the cradle. As pyramid design varies greatly, we recommend a review of any new pyramids where the spotting position may be in question.
Clarification: For all tower pyramids, there must be a spotter who is not in contact with the pyramid in place behind the top person and one bracer to assist the thigh stand middle layer.
- C. Free-flying mounts originating from ground level may not originate in a handstand position and are allowed up to 1 flipping (3/4 maximum free flip between release and catch) and 1 twisting rotation, or 0 flipping and 2 twisting rotations.

Clarification: Free-flying mounts may not significantly exceed the height of the intended skill and may not pass over, under or through other stunts, pyramids, or individuals.

D. PREMIER DIVISION Pyramids-Release Moves

1. During a pyramid transition, a top person may pass above 2 ½ high under the following conditions:
 - a. Anytime a pyramid release moved is released from a second layer base and is caught by a second layer base, the second layer base that is catching the top person must also be the second layer base that originally released the top person. (i.e., tower tick-tocks)
 - b. Free release moves from 2 ½ high pyramids may not land in a prone or inverted position.

E. PREMIER DIVISION Pyramids-Inversions

1. Inverted stunts are allowed up to 2 ½ persons high.
2. Downward inversions from above prep level must be assisted by at least 2 bases. Top person must maintain contact with a base or another top person.

F. PREMIER DIVISION Pyramids-Release Moves w/Braced Inversions

1. Braced flips are allowed up to up to 1 ¼ flipping and 1 twisting rotation.
2. Braced flips are allowed if direct physical contact is maintained with at least 1 top person at prep level or below and must be caught by at least 2 catchers.
Exception: Braced inversions to 2 ½ high pyramids may be caught by 1 person.
3. All braced inversions (including braced flips) that land in an upright position at prep level or above require at least 1 base and 1 additional spotter under the following conditions:
 - a. The base/spotter must be stationary.
 - b. The base/spotter must maintain visual contact with the top person throughout the entire transition.
 - c. The base/spotter may not be involved with any other skill or choreography when the transition is initiated. (The dip to throw of the top person is considered the initiation of the skill.)

G. Free released moves from 2 ½ high pyramids:

1. May not land in a prone or inverted position.
2. Are limited to 0 flipping and 1 twisting rotation.

H. One arm (1 arm) extended Paper Dolls require a spotter for each top person.

PREMIER DIVISION - DISMOUNTS

Note: Movements are only considered "Dismounts" if released to a cradle or released and assisted to the performance surface.

- A. Single based cradles that exceed 1¼ twisting rotations must have a spotter assisting the cradle with at least 1 hand/arm supporting the head and shoulder of the top person.
- B. Dismounts to the performance surface must be assisted by an original base or spotter.
Exception: Straight drops or small hop offs, with no additional skills, from waist level or below are the only dismounts allowed to the performance surface that do not require assistance.
Clarification: An individual may not land on the performance surface from above waist level without assistance.
- C. Up to a 2 ¼ twist cradle is allowed from all stunts and pyramids up to 2 persons high and requires at least 2 catchers. Cradles from 2 ½ high pyramids are allowed up to 1 ½ twist and require 2 catchers, 1 of which must be stationary at the initiation of the cradle.
Exception: 2-1-1 thigh stands may perform 2 twists from a forward-facing stunt only (example: extension, liberty, heel stretch).
- D. Free released dismounts from 2 ½ high pyramids may not land in a prone or inverted position.
- E. Free flipping dismounts to a cradle:
 - 1. Are allowed up to 1 ¼ flipping and ½ twisting rotations (Arabians).
 - 2. Require at least 2 catchers, 1 of which is an original base.
 - 3. May not intentionally travel.
 - 4. Must originate from prep level or below. (May not originate from 2 ½ pyramids.)
Exception: ¾ front flip to cradle may occur from a 2 ½ high pyramid and requires 2 catchers, 1 on each side of the top person and 1 of which must be stationary when the cradle is initiated, ¾ front flip to cradle from 2 ½ high may not twist.
- F. Free flipping dismounts to the performance surface are only allowed in front flipping rotation:
Clarification: Back-flipping dismounts must go to cradle.
 - 1. Allowed up to 1 front flipping and 0 twisting rotations.
 - 2. Must return to an original base.
 - 3. Must have a spotter.
 - 4. May not intentionally travel.
 - 5. Must originate from prep level or below. (May not originate from 2 ½ high pyramids.)
- G. Tension drops/rolls of any kind are not allowed.
- H. When cradling single based stunts with multiple top persons, 2 catchers must catch each top person. Catchers and bases must be stationary prior to the initiation of the dismount.
- I. Cradles from 1 arm stunt that involve a twist must have a spotter assisting the cradle with at least 1 hand/arm supporting the head and shoulder of the top person.
- J. Dismounts may not pass over, under or through other stunts, pyramids, or individuals.
- K. Dismounts must return to original base(s).
Exception: Single based stunts with multiple top persons do not need to return to original base(s).
- L. Dismounts may not intentionally travel.
- M. Top persons in dismounts may not come in contact with each other while released from the bases.

PREMIER DIVISION - TOSSES

- A. Tosses are allowed up to a total of 4 tossing bases. One base must be behind the top person during the toss and may assist the top person into the toss. Exception 1: Fly away tosses that would go over the back person.
Exception 2: Arabians in which the 3rd person would need to start in front to be in position to catch a cradle.
- B. Tosses must be performed from ground level and must land in a cradle position. Top person must be caught in a cradle position by at least 3 bases 1 of which is positioned at the head and shoulder area of the top person. Tosses may not be directed so that the bases must move to catch the top person.
- C. The top person in a toss must have both feet in / on hands of bases when the toss is initiated.
- D. Flipping tosses are allowed up to 1 ¼ flipping rotation and 2 additional skills. A tuck, pike or lay out are not counted in the 2 additional skills. A pike open double full is legal. A tuck X-out double full is illegal because the X-out is considered a skill.

Legal (Two Skills)

Tuck flip, X-Out, Full Twist
Double Full-Twisting Layout
Kick, Full-Twisting Layout
Pike, Open, Double Full-Twist
Arabian Front, Full-Twist

Illegal (Three Skills)

Tuck flip, X-Out, Double Full Twist
Kick, Double Full-Full Twisting Layout
Kick, Full-Twisting Layout, Kick
Pike, Split, Double Full-Twist
Full-Twisting Layout, Split, Full-Twist

NOTE: An Arabian Front followed by a 1½ twist is considered to be a legal skill.

- E. No stunt, pyramid, individual, or prop may move over or under a toss, and a toss may not be thrown over, under, or through stunts, pyramids, individuals, or props.
- F. Non-flipping tosses may not exceed 3 ½ twists.
- G. Top persons tossed to another set of bases must be caught in a cradle position by at least 3 stationary catchers. Catchers may not be involved in any other choreography and must have visual contact with top person when the toss is initiated and must maintain visual contact throughout the entire toss. The toss is allowed up to 0 flipping and 1 ½ twisting rotations or ¾ front flips with 0 twists. The bases involved in the toss must be stationary while tossing.
- H. Top persons in separate basket tosses may not come in contact with each other and must become free of all contact from the bases, bracers and / or other top persons.
- I. Only a single top person is allowed during a basket toss.

XIV. 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

XV. ADAPTIVE ABILITIES QUALIFICATION GUIDELINES

For the purpose to assist and encourage ICU's National Federations to develop Adaptive Abilities opportunities for disabled and nondisabled athletes (e.g. "Adaptive Abilities Unified" divisions) within our Sport, enclosed (as a guideline only) please find a the IPC's brief description of the 10 eligible* impairment types (below) also shown on the IPC website: <https://www.paralympic.org/classification> found under section 2 chapter 3.13 of the IPC Handbook.

Note 1: Due to the newness of the ICU Adaptive Abilities development programme at the grass-roots level, the ICU encourages its National Federations to use the IPC's excellent brief description of eligible impairment types simply as a guideline – and to encourage participation of all disabled athletes who may or may not meet the impairments listed below. **NEW in 2023: ICU asks all Adaptive Abilities teams make its best effort to include a team composition with, at minimum, one (1) or more athlete(s) with an IPC eligible impairment type with Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC) as noted on www.cheerunion.org. This is only a guideline & recommendation for 2023. Please email info@cheerunion.org with any questions.*

***Note 2: Based on the uniqueness of Cheerleading competition, the ICU additionally includes Hearing Impairment (#11) as a guideline only and for possible future development of programmes compliant with the ICSD. The ICU again encourages National Federations to be inclusive of athletes of all disabilities, who may or may not meet the impairments listed below, for Adaptive Abilities development purposes.*

IPC's brief description of the 10 eligible* impairment types (as a guideline for ICU Adaptive Abilities Divisions):

Impairment: Explanation

1. **Impaired muscle power:** Reduced force generated by muscles or muscle groups, such as muscles of one limb or the lower half of the body, as caused, for example, by spinal cord injuries, spina bifida or polio.
2. **Impaired passive range of movement:** Range of movement in one or more joints is reduced permanently, for example due to arthrogryposis. Hypermobility of joints, joint instability, and acute conditions, such as arthritis, are not considered eligible impairments.
3. **Limb deficiency:** Total or partial absence of bones or joints as a consequence of trauma (e.g., car accident), illness (e.g., bone cancer) or congenital limb deficiency (e.g., dysmelia).
4. **Leg length difference:** Bone shortening in one leg due to congenital deficiency or trauma.
5. **Short stature:** Reduced standing height due to abnormal dimensions of bones of upper and lower limbs or trunk, for example due to achondroplasia or growth hormone dysfunction.
6. **Hypertonia:** Abnormal increase in muscle tension and a reduced ability of a muscle to stretch, due to a neurological condition, such as cerebral palsy, brain injury or multiple sclerosis.
7. **Ataxia:** Lack of co-ordination of muscle movements due to a neurological condition, such as cerebral palsy, brain injury or multiple sclerosis.
8. **Athetosis:** Generally characterised by unbalanced, involuntary movements and a difficulty in maintaining a symmetrical posture, due to a neurological condition, such as cerebral palsy, brain injury or multiple sclerosis.

9. **Visual impairment:** Vision is impacted by either an impairment of the eye structure, optical nerves or optical pathways, or the visual cortex.
10. **Intellectual Impairment:** A limitation in intellectual functioning and adaptive behaviour as expressed in conceptual, social, and practical adaptive skills, which originates before the age of 18.
11. ****Hearing Impairment:** Hearing is impacted by either an impairment of the ear structure, illness, or other factors leading to a hearing loss of at least 5 decibels in an athlete's "better ear"- that is not corrected with the use of hearing aids, cochlear implants and/or similar devices.

XVI. TIME LIMITATIONS, MUSIC, AND ENTRANCES

- A. Each team will have a maximum of 2 minutes 15 seconds for music (2:15) and a recommended 30 seconds (:30) Cheer that must be performed in the beginning or middle of the routine.
- B. Every effort should be made to ensure that the lyrics of the music are appropriate for all audience members.
- C. Timing will begin with the first choreographed movement or note of the music and end with the last choreographed movement or note of music whichever comes last.
- D. 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.
- E. 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.
- F. 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.
- G. In order to keep the competition on time, teams must enter 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.
- H. Teams may not use Disney Themes, nor may they have costumes that resemble a Disney character. However, Disney music is acceptable.

XVII. 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 traditional foam Cheerleading mat.
- B. Teams may line up anywhere inside the competition area.
- C. No penalty for stepping outside the area.

XVIII. JUDGING CRITERIA & SCORESHEETS

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

XIX. 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.

XX. 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.

XXI. 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.

XXII. 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.

XXIII. APPEARANCES, ENDORSEMENTS, AND PUBLICITY

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

XXIV. 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

2023 ICU WORLD CHEERLEADING CHAMPIONSHIPS
2023 ICU JUNIOR WORLD CHEERLEADING CHAMPIONSHIPS
PERFORMANCE CHEER DIVISIONS RULES & REGULATIONS
HIP HOP, POM & JAZZ*
(*Jazz for Senior Teams only)
Senior, Junior, Youth, Adaptive Abilities, Special Abilities & Special Olympics

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 Wednesday 19 April 2023 to Friday 21 April 2023 in Orlando Florida.
Wednesday 19 April 2023
ICU Junior World Cheerleading Championships Opening/Welcome & Semi-Finals
ICU World Cheerleading Championships Disabled Sports Semi-Finals
ICU World Championships Opening Ceremonies
Thursday 20 April 2023
ICU World Cheerleading Championships Senior Division Semi-Finals
ICU World Cheerleading Championships Disabled Sports Finals & Awards
ICU Junior World Championships Finals & Awards
Friday 22 April 2023
ICU World Championships Senior Divisions Finals & Awards
ICU World Championships Closing Ceremony
- B. The competition is scheduled to be held at the ESPN Wide World of Sports ® Complex.
- C. The tournament officials shall have the right to alter the time and location of the competition in the event changes become necessary due to inclement weather, facility problems, television production requirements, or any other situation deemed by the tournament officials to be essential to the successful execution of the championship.

III. HOW TO HANDLE PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS

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

IV. SPORTSMANSHIP

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. 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.

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. MUSIC GUIDELINES

- A. For the 2023 ICU Junior World Championships and World Championships, all National Teams will have the choice of following the USA Cheer Music Copyrights Educational Initiative (<https://www.usacheer.org/music>) or the ICU (<http://cheerunion.org/education/musicinfo/>) Music Copyrights Educational Initiative.
- B. I have read and understand the USA Cheer or ICU Music Copyrights Educational Initiative and all sound recordings used in our team's music shall only be used with the written license from the owner(s) of the sound recordings.
- C. Teams must check Music Provider list for updates and changes periodically. For any questions on music and the music guidelines, teams should email portal@cheerunion.org.
- D. Teams must be able to provide proof of licensing, in the form of a printed copy, during the registration at the Championships.
- E. If a team does not have proof of music licensing available, they will be allowed to perform to an optional approved track of music or a track with counts (provided by the ICU) or can count verbally.
- F. If a team cannot provide proof of licensing, and do not perform to an optional approved track of music or to counts, the team will be disqualified from the competition and not allowed to perform or compete.
- G. If there are concerns regarding a certain team's use of music, a Challenge Form must be completed immediately following the team's performance.
- H. A challenge can only be made by the official coach or an official National Federation representative of a team competing at the event at where the challenge is being made.
- I. Challenge Process:
 - All music challenges must be submitted in writing to the International Cheer Union head official.
 - There will be a \$100 USD fee to request a music challenge and must be in the form of USA currency.
 - Fees collected will be returned if the challenge is correct.
 - If the team challenged can provide documentation during the event or can be verified, the fees will be donated to a local children's charity, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.
 - If the team challenged can provide documentation that requires further review, a decision will be finalized within 48 hours of the event.
- J. Each team is required to have a responsible adult remain at the music station that knows the routine and music. This representative is responsible for start the music and stopping the music in case of technical malfunction or injury. Should this responsible adult choose not to stay at the music table for the duration of the routine, and a malfunction occurs, teams may or may not be permitted to perform the routine again.
- K. If available and if applicable, it is recommended that teams who prepare their routine music on a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) should assure the volume of the music is at "0". Should a DAW be available, a few additional reminders:
 - Most DAWs have a default that sets a track at -6 when a track is added
 - Check to see if there is a normalization process after the work is rendered/saved
- L. All teams must provide their own device for use on the event provided sound system. Music should be on a digital music player/iPod/iPhone. CD's will no longer be allowed, and CD players will not be provided at competition.
- M. Use of a Smart Phone for playing routine music is not recommended due to the probably of music interference during the routine.
- N. MP3 devices must be free of any cover (protective, decorative, or otherwise) to assure an unobstructed connection with the event sound system.
- O. It is important that all devices have a headphone connection component/jack to connect to the sound system and that all devices are fully charged, volume turned up and placed in airplane mode.
- P. All device connection components/jacks must be clean and free of any debris to prevent a music malfunction. Should a team's device not have a headphone connection component/jack, then the team must have an adapter to accommodate this device requirement on site for the competition.
- Q. Teams may not use Disney themes, nor may they have costumes that resemble a Disney character. However, Disney music is acceptable if following the music guidelines.

IX. LOGO USAGE

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

X. 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.

XI. SPECIFIC ROUTINE GUIDELINES

A. CHOREOGRAPHY AND COSTUMING

1. Suggestive, offensive, or vulgar choreography, costuming, makeup and/or music are inappropriate for family audiences and therefore lack audience appeal.
2. Routine choreography should be appropriate and entertaining for all audience members. Vulgar or suggestive material is defined as any movement or choreography implying something improper or indecent, appearing offensive or sexual in content, and/or relaying lewd or profane gestures or implications.
3. Teams may not compromise the integrity of the performance surface. (Examples: residue from sprays, powders, oils, etc.)
4. Use of fire, noxious gases, live animals, and other potentially hazardous elements are strictly prohibited.
5. Inappropriate choreography, costuming and/or music may also affect the judges' overall impression and/or score of the routine.
6. All costuming, makeup and choreography should be age appropriate and acceptable for family audiences.
7. All costuming should be secure and offer full coverage of body parts. Costume malfunctions resulting in team members being exposed may be grounds for disqualification.
8. Tights should be worn under briefs, hot pants or excessively short shorts.
9. Footwear is required. Partial sole shoes are acceptable. Performing barefoot, in socks and/or footed tights, high heels, roller skates, roller blades or any other footwear that is inappropriate for the sport is prohibited. If in doubt, please consult the ICU Rules Committee for approval.
10. Jewelry as a part of the costume is allowed.
11. All male performers' costumes must include a shirt that is fastened; however, it can be sleeveless.
12. No cheers or chants are allowed.

B. TIME LIMIT/MUSIC/ENTRANCES

1. Each **Team** will have a maximum of two (2) minutes and fifteen (15) seconds (2:15).
2. Each **Doubles** will have a maximum of 1 minute and 30 seconds (1:30).
3. Every effort should be made to ensure that the lyrics of the music are appropriate for all audience members.
4. Timing will begin with the first choreographed movement or note of the music.
5. Timing will end with the last choreographed movement or note of the music.
6. If a 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.
7. All teams must have a coach/representative to play their music. This person is responsible for bringing the music to the music table and pushing "play" and "stop" for the Team or Doubles performance.
8. Teams must enter the performance floor as quickly as possible. Choreographed entrances/exits will not be allowed.
9. Teams may not use Disney themes, nor may they have costumes that resemble a Disney character. However, Disney music is acceptable.

C. PROPS

1. A prop is defined as anything that is used in the routine choreography that is not/was not originally part of the costume.

Clarification 1: For Pom Categories, Poms are considered part of the uniform.

Clarification 2: For Adaptive Abilities, Special Olympics & Special Abilities Divisions, all mobility equipment, prosthesis, and braces are considered part of the athlete unless they are removed, in which case they are considered legal props, until replaced or returned to the athlete.

2. Handheld props and free “standing props” in all categories are not allowed. Use of parts of a costume (e.g., costume elements- such as a necklace, jacket, hat, etc.) is allowed and may be used and discarded. (*Please see #1 for further clarification*)
3. Within the Pom Category, it is compulsory to use poms throughout the entire routine. If there are male performers in this category, they are not required to use poms.
4. No large free “standing props” will be allowed in any category, such as chairs, stools, benches, boxes, stairs, steps, ladders, bars, sheets, etc. Any item that bears the weight of the participant is considered a “standing prop”.

D. MOBILITY & SUPPORT DEVICE RULES

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

FOR ALL DIVISIONS

1. All mobility equipment, prosthesis, and braces are considered part of the athlete unless they are removed and used to enhance the visual aspect of the performance, in which case they are considered props – and this is not allowed. *However, if any device is removed based on the need for an athlete to perform a skill and the device itself is not used as a prop for the purpose to enhance the visual aspect of the performance, then the device is not considered a prop and is allowed.*
2. Mobility devices (i.e., wheelchairs, crutches, etc.) are allowed within the rules of the division and may be used to support the athlete during the execution of skills.
3. It is the responsibility of the Coach to assure that there are no rocks or other sharp objects lodged in the wheels of the mobility device that could damage the performance surface - prior to the performance.

FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS & SPECIAL ABILITIES DIVISIONS ONLY

1. Athletes using non-motorized wheelchairs:
 - a. Must have a minimum of 2 wheels in contact with the performance surface with an added and appropriate anti-tip attachment (or a bracer with both feet firmly placed on the performance surface with both hands gripped on the 2 back handles stabilizing the wheelchair with both wheels on the performance surface) for safety.
 - b. If also basing a skill – without a bracer with both feet firmly placed on the performance surface with both hands gripped on the 2 back handles stabilizing the wheelchair with both wheels on the performance surface - must place the wheels in the lock position.
Clarification For a wheelchair anti-tip attachment to be appropriate, it must be in contact with the chair and the performance surface as an additional point of contact to the performance surface while both wheels of the wheelchair are also in contact with the performance surface.
2. Athletes using motorized wheelchairs must have all wheels on the performance surface at all times.
3. An athlete may be lifted out of a wheelchair; however, the wheelchair may not be lifted from the performance surface.
4. Once an athlete in a wheelchair is in motion the Coach(es)/Team Manager(s) must remain with the athlete until the wheelchair has stopped. *Clarification: Athletes in a wheelchair that require assistance to initiate movement cannot be pushed and released.*

FOR ADAPTIVE ABILITIES DIVISIONS

1. Wheelchair users when basing lifts must have all wheels in contact with the performance surface during the skill with an added and appropriate anti-tip attachment (or a spotter/bracer with both feet firmly placed on the performance surface with both hands gripped on the 2 back handles stabilizing the wheelchair with both wheels on the performance surface) for safety. *Clarification For a wheelchair anti-tip attachment to be appropriate, it must be in contact with the chair and the performance surface as an additional point of contact to the performance surface while both wheels of the wheelchair are also in contact with the performance surface.*

2. Performing athletes using a wheelchair (or similar apparatus) in the lift must use a seatbelt.
3. All athletes spotting, catching and/or cradling a skill must have mobility through their lower body (with or without use of mobility equipment) to absorb the impact of the skill, as well as with adequate lateral speed to spot, catch and/or cradle the skill.
4. All athletes spotting, catching and/or cradling a skill must have at minimum 1 arm extended, not including a prosthetic or other device, beyond the elbow to adequately assist with the skill.

E. TEAM PARTICIPATION

1. There will be 17 separate divisions:
 - Youth Team Divisions: Pom & Hip Hop
 - Junior Team Divisions: Pom & Hip Hop
 - Senior Doubles Divisions: Pom & Hip Hop
 - Senior Team Divisions: Pom, Hip Hop & Jazz
 - Adaptive Abilities Unified Team Divisions: Pom & Hip Hop
 - Special Abilities Unified Team Divisions: Pom & Hip Hop
 - Special Abilities Traditional Divisions: Pom & Hip Hop
 - Special Olympics Unified Team Divisions: Pom & Hip Hop
 - Special Olympics Traditional Divisions: Pom & Hip Hop

Note: ICU reserves the right to add Adaptive Abilities Unified Divisions specifically for athletes with Visual or Hearing Impairments. See ICU Adaptive Abilities qualification guidelines for more information.
2. Each division will have a separate title winner.
3. Each country will provide a National Team comprised of individual team members. The National Team may compete in a single division or multiple divisions.
4. If the National 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 National Team in each division.
5. Each National Team may be comprised of as many individual team members as desired; however, the National Team may only participate in a division with a minimum of 16 performers (Team Pom & Team Hip Hop) 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. Each Doubles will be comprised of 2 team members.
7. Participants will be allowed to crossover into the National Team Cheer Divisions at the coaches' discretion as scheduling conflicts may occur.
8. Each country's federation will need to provide proof of permanent residency (minimum of six (6) months consecutive permanent residence) for each member of its team.
9. Each athlete must be compliant with the age requirements as follows:
 - Youth Divisions: 12 to 14 years of age within the year of the competition.
 - Junior Divisions: 15 to 18 years of age within the year of the competition.
 - Special Olympics, Special Abilities, Adaptive Abilities Divisions: 12 years of age or older within the year of the competition. There is no maximum age.
 - Senior Divisions: 16 years and older within the year of competition. There is no maximum age.

Any team proven to be in violation of the age requirements will be automatically disqualified.
10. All genders are allowed to participate on the team.

F. 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 or a wooden parquet floor)
3. There is no penalty for stepping outside the performance floor area.

G. 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 movements with groove and style. 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 athleticism. Distinctive clothing and accessories reflecting the Hip Hop Culture must be worn. 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.

XII. 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.

XIII. SPECIAL OLYMPICS & SPECIAL ABILITIES PC SPECIFIC DIVISIONS* RULES/CRITERIA

**All ICU Special Olympics & Special Abilities Performance Cheer (Pom & Hip Hop) Division Rules/Criteria enclosed apply to both ICU Special Olympics/Special Abilities UNIFIED & TRADITIONAL Divisions unless otherwise specified herein*

1. All Performance Cheer ICU general rules and guidelines, as well as routine requirements apply.
2. The use of Service Animals by athletes is permitted. (not allowed in the ICU general rules & guidelines)
3. All Special Olympics & Special Abilities Unified National Teams must be comprised of a 1:1 ratio of athletes with and without intellectual disabilities.
4. All Special Olympics & Special Abilities Traditional National Teams must be comprised of 100% Athletes with intellectual disabilities.
5. Up to three (3) Coach(es) and/or Assistant(s) are allowed to signal from the front of the mat and may not obstruct the view of the judges. Additionally, there is no limit to the number of Assistants around the perimeter of the floor in a squat position.
6. Assistants shall be dressed in contrasting attire compared to the Athletes, so it is clear to the judges who are the Athletes and who are the Assistants on the floor at any time. For example, Assistants shall wear a light-colored t-shirt and pants in contrast to the Athletes' darker colored costume/uniform (or vice versa); however, Assistants may not wear a Cheerleading or Performance Cheer costume/ uniform during the routine.
7. Assistants shall wear athletic/performance style shoes (e.g., no flip-flops) and shall not wear any jewelry for the protection of the Athletes.
8. Special Olympics/Special Abilities Unified Teams Only: Skill difficulty performed by a Unified Partner must not exceed the difficulty of a comparable skill performed by an athlete with an intellectual disability.
9. As a potential condition for an athlete with an intellectual disability or neurological symptom, any athlete that may potentially have Atlanto-Axial Instability (AAI) or any physical condition associated with spinal cord compression are strictly prohibited from any skills that may pose a danger to an athlete with AAI or with any physical condition associated with spinal cord compression (including but not limited to forward rolls, backward rolls and any skill that may put an athlete with AAI or any spinal cord compression at risk, etc.). Written approval/clearance by a medical professional and proof of all waivers and documentation prior to physical activity is the direct responsibility of the Team Director and Coach. For Special Olympic teams specifically, additionally - approval/ clearance by a medical professional (via official medical waivers and documentation) must also be cleared and approved by the respective Special Olympics program or by Special Olympics.

XIV. ADAPTIVE ABILITIES UNIFIED PC DIVISIONS SPECIFIC RULES/CRITERIA

- A.** All ICU Performance Cheer general rules & guidelines, mobiles/support devices rules, as well as routine requirements apply.
- B.** As a potential condition for an athlete with an intellectual disability or neurological symptom, any athlete that may potentially have AAI or any physical condition associated with spinal cord compression, "ICU SPECIAL OLYMPICS & SPECIAL ABILITIES PERFORMANCE CHEER DIVISIONS SPECIFIC RULES/CRITERIA" rules apply.
- C.** The use of Service Animals by athletes is permitted (not allowed in the ICU general rules & guidelines).
- D.** All ICU Adaptive Abilities Unified National Teams must be comprised of a minimum 25% or more athletes with a disability per team.
- E.** Depending on the global interest. ICU reserves the right to include ICU Adaptive Abilities Unified Divisions specifically for athletes with Visual Impairments and Hearing Impairments.
- F.** Qualification of athletes with disabilities for Adaptive Abilities Divisions specifically, is subject to respective ICU general rules and guidelines, as well as National Federation confirmation and/or medical documentation, as requested. Please see ICU Adaptive Abilities qualification guidelines for more information.

XV. PERFORMANCE CHEER DIVISIONS - RULES BY GENRE

Note: Special Abilities/ Special Olympics Performance Cheer Divisions Rules by Genre (Pom & Hip Hop) DIFFER from the Division Rules by Genre of the Adaptive Abilities Unified, Youth, Junior & Senior Divisions

POM DIVISIONS RULES - FOR SPECIAL ABILITIES & SPECIAL OLYMPICS DIVISIONS ONLY

A. PERFORMED BY INDIVIDUALS

- 1. Inverted Skills:
 - a. Non-airborne inverted skills are allowed (*Example: Headstand*); however, the skill must involve hand support with at least 1 hand throughout the skill.
 - b. Poms & articles of clothing (e.g., used for choreography purposes) are not allowed in the supporting hands of any inverted skills.
 - c. Airborne inverted skills are not allowed.
- 2. Skills with hip over-head rotation:
 - a. Cannot be airborne.
 - b. Are limited to 2 consecutive rotations.
 - c. Must use hand(s) free of any materials in the supporting hand(s) for the skill. For example: Poms & articles of clothing (e.g., used for choreography purposes) are not allowed in the supporting hands in any hip-over-head rotation skills. (*Exception: forward and backward rolls*)
- 3. Simultaneous hip overhead rotation over or under another athlete is not allowed.
- 4. Drops to any other body part than the hand(s) or foot/feet are not allowed.
- 5. Landing in a push up position onto the performance surface from any jump is not allowed.

B. PERFORMED BY GROUPS AND PAIRS

Lifts and Partnering are allowed to be performed independently; however, only with a Coach/Assistant as an additional spotter under the following limitations:

- 1. The lift may not elevate the Performing Athlete's hips above head level.
- 2. The Performing Athlete must maintain contact with a minimum of 1 Supporting Athlete who is in direct contact with the performance Surface.
- 3. At least 1 Supporting Athlete must maintain contact with the Performing Athlete(s) throughout the entire skill.
- 4. Hip-over-head rotation skills and inverted skills are not permitted when the Performing Athlete is elevated from the performance surface.

C. PERFORMED BY GROUPS AND PAIRS -DISMOUNTS TO THE PERFORMANCE SURFACE

- 1. The Performing Athlete may not be released to the performance surface.

HIP HOP DIVISIONS RULES- FOR SPECIAL ABILITIES & SPECIAL OLYMPICS DIVISIONS ONLY

A. PERFORMED BY INDIVIDUALS

1. Inverted Skills:
 - a. Non-airborne inverted skills are allowed (*Example: Headstand*); however, the skill must involve hand support with at least 1 hand throughout the skill.
 - b. Articles of clothing (e.g., used for choreography purposes) are not allowed in the supporting hands of any inverted skills.
 - c. Airborne inverted skills are not allowed.
2. Skills with hip over-head rotation:
 - a. Cannot be airborne.
 - b. Are limited to 2 consecutive rotations.
 - c. Must use hand(s) free of any materials in the supporting hand(s) for the skill. For example: Articles of clothing (e.g., used for choreography purposes) are not allowed in the supporting hands in any hip-over-head rotation skills. (*Exception: forward and backward rolls*)
3. Simultaneous hip overhead rotation over and/or under another athlete is not allowed.
4. Drops to any other body part than the hand(s) or foot/feet are not allowed.
5. Landing in a push up position onto the performance surface from any jump is not allowed.

B. PERFORMED BY GROUPS OR PAIRS

Lifts and Partnering are allowed to be performed independently; however, only with a Coach/Assistant as an additional spotter under the following limitations:

1. The lift may not elevate the Performing Athlete's hips above head level.
2. The Performing Athlete must maintain contact with a minimum of 1 Supporting Athlete who is in direct contact with the performance Surface.
3. At least 1 Supporting Athlete must maintain contact with the Performing Athlete(s) throughout the entire skill.
4. Hip-over-head rotation skills and inverted skills are not permitted when the Performing Athlete is elevated from the performance surface.

C. PERFORMED BY GROUPS AND PAIRS - DISMOUNTS TO THE PERFORMANCE SURFACE

1. The Performing Athlete may not be released to the performance surface.

POM DIVISIONS - YOUTH, JUNIOR, SENIOR & ADAPTIVE ABILITIES UNIFIED* DIVISIONS

**The Adaptive Abilities Unified Pom Division must follow the enclosed Pom Divisions rules as well as the "ADAPTIVE ABILITIES UNIFIED PERFORMANCE CHEER DIVISIONS SPECIFIC RULES/CRITERIA"*

A. PERFORMED BY INDIVIDUALS

1. Inverted Skills:
 - a. Non-airborne inverted skills are allowed. (*Example: Headstand*)
 - b. Airborne inverted skills with hand support are not allowed while holding poms and/or articles of clothing (e.g., used for choreography purposes).
 - c. Airborne inverted skills with hand support that land in a perpendicular inversion or shoulder inversion are allowed as long as the athlete is not holding poms and/or an article(s) of clothing. (e.g., used for choreography purposes)
2. Skills with hip over-head rotation:
 - a. That includes hand support, must use hand(s) free of any materials in the supporting hand(s) for the skill. (*Exception: Forward rolls and backward rolls are allowed*).
 - b. Non-airborne skills are allowed.
 - c. Airborne skills with hand support are allowed provided that they are limited to 2 consecutive hip over-head rotation skills.
 - d. Airborne skills without hand support are allowed provided that all of the following criteria are met:
 - i. Involves no more than 1 twisting transition.
 - ii. Does not connect to another skill that is airborne with hip over-head rotation without hand support.

- iii. Are/Is limited to 2 consecutive hip over-head rotation skills.
- 3. Simultaneous hip overhead rotation over and/or under another athlete is not allowed.
- 4. A drop to any body part other than the hand(s) or foot/feet is not allowed.
Exception: Only drops to the shoulder, back or seat are permitted provided that the height of the airborne individual does not exceed hip level.
- 5. Landing in a push up position is not allowed from any airborne skill in which the legs start in front of the body and swing behind the body while holding poms and/or articles of clothing in supporting hand(s).

B. PERFORMED BY GROUPS AND PAIRS

Lifts and Partnering are allowed, but not required in all divisions with the following limitations:

- 1. At least one Supporting Athlete must maintain direct contact with the performance surface when the height of the skill of the Performing Athlete exceeds shoulder level.
- 2. At least 1 Supporting Athlete must maintain contact with the Performing Athlete(s) throughout the entire skill above head level.
Exception: When a Performing Athlete is supported by 1 Supporting Athlete, the Performing Athlete may be released at any level provided:
 - a. *The Performing Athlete does not pass through an inverted position after the release.*
 - b. *The Performing Athlete is either caught or supported to the performance surface by 1 or more Supporting Athlete(s).*
 - c. *The Performing Athlete is not caught in a prone position.*
 - d. *Any Supporting Athlete must have hands free for the duration of the skill to aid in the support/catch/release as needed.*
- 3. Hip over-head rotation of the Performing Athlete(s) is allowed provided that contact between the Performing Athlete and at least 1 Supporting Athlete(s) must be maintained until the Performing Athlete returns to the performance surface or is returning to the upright body position.
- 4. Vertical Inversion is allowed provided:
 - a. Contact between the Performing Athlete and at least 1 Supporting Athlete is maintained until the Performing Athlete returns to the performance surface or is returning to the upright body position.
 - b. At the point when the height of the Performing Athlete's shoulders exceeds shoulder level, there is at least 1 additional athlete to spot who is not concurrently bearing the weight of the Performing Athlete.
(Clarification: When there are 3 Supporting Athletes an additional spot is not required)

C. PERFORMED BY GROUPS AND PAIRS -DISMOUNTS TO THE PERFORMANCE SURFACE

(Clarification: May be assisted but not required)

- 1. A Performing Athlete may jump, leap, step or push off a Supporting Athlete(s) provided:
 - a. The highest point of the released skill does not elevate the Performing Athlete's hips above head level.
 - b. The Performing Athlete does not pass through the prone or inverted position after the release.
- 2. A Supporting Athlete(s) may toss a Performing Athlete provided:
 - a. The highest point of the toss does not elevate the Performing Athlete's hips above head level.
 - b. The Performing Athlete is not supine or inverted when released.
 - c. The Performing Athlete does not pass through a prone or inverted position after release.

HIP HOP DIVISIONS RULES - YOUTH, JUNIOR, SENIOR & ADAPTIVE ABILITIES UNIFIED* DIVISIONS

**The Adaptive Abilities Unified Hip Hop Division must follow the enclosed Hip Hop Divisions rules as well as the "ADAPTIVE ABILITIES UNIFIED PERFORMANCE CHEER DIVISIONS SPECIFIC RULES/CRITERIA"*

A. PERFORMED BY INDIVIDUALS

- 1. Inverted Skills:
 - a. Non-airborne inverted skills are allowed. *(Example: Headstand)*
 - b. Airborne inverted skills with hand support are not allowed while holding article(s) of clothing (e.g., used for choreography purposes)
 - c. Airborne inverted skills with hand support that land in a perpendicular inversion or shoulder inversion are allowed as long as the athlete is not holding an article(s) of clothing. (e.g., used for choreography purposes)
- 2. Skills with hip over-head rotation:

- a. That includes hand support, must use hand(s) free of any materials in the supporting hand(s) for the skill. *(Exception: Forward rolls and backward rolls are allowed).*
- b. Non-airborne skills are allowed.
- c. Airborne skills with hand support are allowed provided the skill is limited to 2 consecutive hip over-head rotation skills.
- d. Airborne skills without hand support are allowed provided all of the following criteria are met:
 - i. Involves no more than 1 twisting transition.
 - ii. Does not connect to another skill that is airborne with hip over-head rotation without hand support.
 - iii. Are/Is limited to 2 consecutive hip over-head rotation skills.
3. Simultaneous hip overhead rotation over and/or under another athlete is not allowed.
4. A drop to any body part other than the hand(s) or foot/feet is not allowed.
Exception: Only drops (airborne) to the shoulder, back or seat are permitted provided the height of the airborne individual does not exceed hip level.
5. Landing in a push up position from an airborne skill in which the legs start in front of the body and swing behind while holding article(s) of clothing (e.g., used for choreography purposes) is not allowed.

B. PERFORMED BY GROUPS OR PAIRS

Lifts and Partnering are allowed, but not required in all divisions with the following limitations:

1. At least one Supporting Athlete must maintain direct contact with the performance surface when the height of the skill of the Performing Athlete exceeds shoulder level.
2. At least 1 Supporting Athlete must maintain contact with the Performing Athlete(s) throughout the entire skill above head-level.
Exception: When a Performing Athlete is supported by 1 Supporting Athlete, they may be released at any level provided:
 - a. *The Performing Athlete does not pass through an inverted position after the release.*
 - b. *The Performing Athlete is either caught by or supported to the performance surface by 1 or more Supporting Athletes(s).*
 - c. *The Performing Athlete is not caught in a prone position.*
 - d. *Any Supporting Athlete(s) must have hands free for the duration of the skill to aid in the support/catch/release as needed.*
3. Hip over-head rotation of the Performing Athlete(s) is allowed provided contact between the Performing Athlete and at least 1 Supporting Athlete(s) is maintained until the Performing Athlete returns to the performance surface or is returning to the upright body position.
4. A Vertical Inversion is allowed provided:
 - a. Contact between the Performing Athlete and at least 1 Supporting Athlete is maintained until the Performing Athlete returns to the performance surface or is returning to the upright body position.
 - b. At the point when the height of the Performing Athlete's shoulders exceeds shoulder level, there is at least 1 additional athlete to spot who is not concurrently bearing the weight of the Performing Athlete.
(Clarification: When there are 3 Supporting Athletes, an additional spot is not required).

C. PERFORMED BY GROUPS AND PAIRS - DISMOUNTS TO THE PERFORMANCE SURFACE

(Clarification: May be assisted but not required)

1. A Performing Athlete may jump, leap, step or push off a Supporting Athlete(s) provided:
 - a. At least one part of the Performing Athlete's body is at or below head-level at the highest point of the released skill.
 - b. The Performing Athlete does not pass through the prone or inverted position after the release.
2. A Supporting Athlete(s) may toss a Performing Athlete provided:
 - a. At least one part of the Performing Athlete's body is at or below head-level at the highest point of the release skill.
 - b. The Performing Athlete may be supine or inverted when released but must land on their foot/feet.
 - c. The Performing Athlete does not pass through an inverted position after release.

JAZZ DIVISION RULES - SENIOR DIVISION ONLY

A. PERFORMED BY INDIVIDUALS

1. **Inverted Skills:**
 - a. Non-airborne inverted skills are allowed. (*Example: Headstand*)
 - b. Airborne inverted skills with hand support are not allowed while holding article(s) of clothing (e.g., used for choreography purposes).
 - c. Airborne inverted skills with hand support that land in a perpendicular inversion or shoulder inversion are allowed as long as the athlete is not holding an article(s) of clothing (e.g., used for choreography purposes).
2. Skills with hip over-head rotation:
 - a. That includes hand support, must use hand(s) free of any materials in the supporting hand(s) for the skill. (*Exception: Forward rolls and backward rolls are allowed*).
 - b. Non-airborne skills are allowed.
 - c. Airborne skills with hand support are allowed provided the skill is limited to 2 consecutive hip over-head rotation skills.
 - d. Airborne skills without hand support are allowed provided all of the following criteria are met:
 - i. Involves no more than 1 twisting transition.
 - ii. Does not connect to another skill that is airborne with hip over-head rotation without hand support.
 - iii. Are/Is limited to 2 consecutive hip over-head rotation skills.
3. Simultaneous hip overhead rotation over and/or under another athlete is not allowed.
4. A drop to any body part other than the hand(s) or foot/feet is not allowed.
Exception: Only drops (airborne) to the shoulder, back or seat are permitted provided the height of the airborne individual does not exceed hip level.
5. Landing in a push up position from an airborne skill in which the legs start in front of the body and swing behind while holding article(s) of clothing (e.g., used for choreography purposes) is not allowed.

B. PERFORMED BY GROUPS OR PAIRS

Lifts and Partnering are allowed, but not required in all divisions with the following limitations:

1. At least one Supporting Athlete must maintain direct contact with the performance surface when the height of the skill of the Performing Athlete exceeds shoulder level.
2. At least 1 Supporting Athlete must maintain contact with the Performing Athlete(s) throughout the entire skill above head-level. *Exception: When a Performing Athlete is supported by 1 Supporting Athlete, they may be released at any level provided:*
 - a. *The Performing Athlete does not pass through an inverted position after the release.*
 - b. *The Performing Athlete is either caught by or supported to the performance surface by 1 or more Supporting Athlete(s).*
 - c. *The Performing Athlete is not caught in a prone position.*
 - d. *Any Supporting Athlete must have hands free for the duration of the skill to aid in the support/catch/release as needed.*
3. Hip over-head rotation of the Performing Athlete(s) is allowed provided that contact between the Performing Athlete(s) and at least 1 Supporting Athlete(s) is maintained until the Performing Athlete(s) returns to the performance surface or is returning to the upright body position.
4. A Vertical Inversion is allowed provided:
 - a. Contact between the Performing Athlete and at least 1 Supporting Athlete is maintained until the Performing Athlete returns to the performance surface or is returning to the upright body position.
 - b. At the point when the height of the Performing Athlete's shoulders exceeds shoulder level, there is at least 1 additional athlete to spot who is not concurrently bearing the weight of the Performing Athlete. (*Clarification: When there are 3 Supporting Athletes, and additional spot is not required*).

C. PERFORMED BY GROUPS AND PAIRS - DISMOUNTS TO THE PERFORMANCE SURFACE

(Clarification: May be assisted but not required)

1. A Performing Athlete may jump, leap, step or push off a Supporting Athlete(s) provided:
 - a. At least 1 part of the Performing Athlete's body is at or below head-level at the highest point of the released skill.
 - b. The Performing Athlete does not pass through the prone or inverted position after the release.
2. A Supporting Athlete(s) may toss a Performing Athlete provided:
 - a. At least 1 part of the Performing Athlete's body is at or below head-level at the highest point of the release skill.
 - b. The Performing Athlete may be supine or inverted when released but must land on their foot/feet.
 - c. The Performing Athlete does not pass through an inverted position after release.

XVI. 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

XVII. ADAPTIVE ABILITIES QUALIFICATION GUIDELINES

For the purpose to assist and encourage ICU's National Federations to develop Adaptive Abilities opportunities for disabled and nondisabled athletes (e.g. "Adaptive Abilities Unified" divisions) within our Sport, enclosed (as a guideline only) please find a the IPC's brief description of the 10 eligible* impairment types (below) also shown on the IPC website: <https://www.paralympic.org/classification>; found under section 2 chapter 3.13 of the IPC Handbook.

**Note 1: Due to the newness of the ICU Adaptive Abilities development programme at the grass-roots level, the ICU encourages its National Federations to use the IPC's excellent brief description of eligible impairment types simply as a guideline – and to encourage participation of all disabled athletes who may or may not meet the impairments listed below. NEW in 2023: ICU asks all Adaptive Abilities teams make its best effort to include a team composition with, at minimum, one (1) or more athlete(s) with an IPC eligible impairment type with Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC) as noted on www.cheerunion.org. This is only a guideline & recommendation for 2023. Please email info@cheerunion.org with any questions.*

***Note 2: Based on the uniqueness of Performance Cheer competition, the ICU additionally includes Hearing Impairment (#11) as a guideline only and for possible future development of programmes compliant with the ICSD. The ICU again encourages National Federations to be inclusive of athletes of all disabilities, who may or may not meet the impairments listed below, for Adaptive Abilities development purposes.*

IPC's brief description of the 10 eligible* impairment types (as a guideline for the ICU Adaptive Abilities programme):

Impairment: Explanation

2. **Impaired muscle power:** Reduced force generated by muscles or muscle groups, such as muscles of one limb or the lower half of the body, as caused, for example, by spinal cord injuries, spina bifida or polio.
3. **Impaired passive range of movement:** Range of movement in one or more joints is reduced permanently, for example due to arthrogryposis. Hypermobility of joints, joint instability, and acute conditions, such as arthritis, are not considered eligible impairments.
4. **Limb deficiency:** Total or partial absence of bones or joints as a consequence of trauma (e.g., car accident), illness (e.g., bone cancer) or congenital limb deficiency (e.g., dysmelia).
5. **Leg length difference:** Bone shortening in one leg due to congenital deficiency or trauma.
6. **Short stature:** Reduced standing height due to abnormal dimensions of bones of upper and lower limbs or trunk, for example due to achondroplasia or growth hormone dysfunction.
7. **Hypertonia:** Abnormal increase in muscle tension and a reduced ability of a muscle to stretch, due to a neurological condition, such as cerebral palsy, brain injury or multiple sclerosis.
8. **Ataxia:** Lack of co-ordination of muscle movements due to a neurological condition, such as cerebral palsy, brain injury or multiple sclerosis.

9. **Athetosis:** Generally characterised by unbalanced, involuntary movements and a difficulty in maintaining a symmetrical posture, due to a neurological condition, such as cerebral palsy, brain injury or multiple sclerosis.
10. **Visual Impairment:** Vision is impacted by either an impairment of the eye structure, optical nerves or optical pathways, or the visual cortex.
11. **Intellectual Impairment:** A limitation in intellectual functioning and adaptive behaviour as expressed in conceptual, social, and practical adaptive skills, which originates before the age of 18.
12. **Hearing Impairment:** Hearing is impacted by either an impairment of the ear structure, illness, or other factors leading to a hearing loss of at least 55 decibels in an athlete's "better ear" - that is not corrected with the use of hearing aids, cochlear implants and/or similar devices.

XVIII. JUDGING CRITERIA & SCORESHEETS

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

XIX. 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.

XX. 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.

XXI. 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.

XXII. 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.

XXIII. APPEARANCES, ENDORSEMENTS, AND PUBLICITY

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

XXIV. 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