2027 Nebraska State Cheer Handbook

REGISTRATION, PAYMENTS & ALL FORMS

Deadline:

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2026

Contact Info:
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All updates and changes displayed in green font

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General Information

Location: BigIron Events Center (Formerly called Heartland Events Center)
690 E Stolley Park Rd
Grand Island, NE 68802
308-675-8060
Website: https://www.bigironeventscenter.com

Dates: Friday, February 19 Session 2 (C2/D) One Ticket All Day
Saturday, February 20 – (A/B/C1, Unified Sideline) One Ticket All Day

Admission: Admission price information will be uploaded to the website https://ncacoach.org/cheer-dance/ when it becomes available.

Schedule: The competition schedule will depend on the number of teams entered in the competition. The final schedule will be available in mid-January, 2027, on the NCA website at https://ncacoach.org/cheer-dance/. An email will be sent to all participating coaches when the schedule is posted.

Entrance: Team entrance will be on the SOUTH side of the Bosselman Conference Center. **Only participants, coaches, athletic directors, bus drivers and media will be allowed to enter through the registration area.**

Regular spectator entrances are located on the SOUTHEAST side and NORTH side of the building.

Food/Drink: NO outside food or drink is allowed to be brought into the event center. Concessions will be available.

Parking: School buses will be required to park between the Aurora Cooperative Pavilion and Tom Dinsdale Automotive Cattle Barn. A map will be provided upon arrival.

Media: Media outlets and high school media need to enter through the team doors to check-in. All media individuals will check out a media vest which needs to be worn to have access to the performance floor. Media is NOT allowed to follow teams during warm-ups. **No more than two individuals per high school media/yearbook team will be allowed to take photographs.**

Lodging: Area hotels provide services that are critical to the success of the State Cheer and Dance Championships. The Grand Island/Hall County Convention & Visitors Bureau website has a complete listing of area hotels on their website. For lodging information, please visit www.visitgrandisland.com.

Apparel: Custom Sports will have apparel for sale. Please visit our website www.ncacoach.org for further information regarding state championship apparel. Click on the Cheer & Dance tab and follow the link for Custom Sports.

Photos: Callam Sports Photography will be providing team photos and action photography of the event. Information and order forms will be available on the NCA website www.ncacoach.org.

Streaming: Please visit our website www.ncacoach.org for the most up-to-date information regarding Video and Live Streaming information. Click on the Cheer & Dance tab and follow the link for Mr. Video.

Registration

*** DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2026 ***

- Only **varsity** teams from NSAA member schools are eligible to compete in the State Championship.
- Coaches MUST be a member of the Nebraska Coaches Association for their team to participate.
- **Schools may only co-op if the schools participate as an official co-op team in NSAA girls basketball. All other co-ops or mergers are strictly prohibited and will be denied entry into this event.**

Where to Register: Go to www.ncacoach.org – click on the Cheer & Dance tab and follow the link 'Register for the 2027 State Cheer & Dance Championships.

Who Needs to be Registered? **Every student competing, including alternates, must be on the on-line registration form. When registering an alternate, you MUST select the 'ALTERNATE' box AND the 'CATEGORY' he/she may participate in.**
NOTE: Alternates will not be counted in the certified squad participation number.

If you need to make changes to the roster after you have registered, you will need to call Tina at the NCA office (402)434-5675 so she can make the necessary changes. DO NOT REGISTER AGAIN.

Cost:

1) There is a one-time cost of **$175.00** per team for up to 10 members.
2) There is an additional charge of **$25.00** per person over 10 team members.
3) If your team chooses to compete in more than one category there is an additional **$125.00** fee.
4) **Only TWO categories may be entered per team. Teams should register separately for Unified Sideline Cheer. This will not count as one of the categories.**

Payment: Schools can make payment by sending a check or may call the office to make a credit card payment (4% convenience fee will be added) by **5PM DECEMBER 4**.

Required Forms:

1. **Parent/Legal Guardian Release Form** (page 23) completed by each participant and alternate(s). The coach must submit ALL forms together by **5PM DECEMBER 4**, with registration and payment to be considered registered for the event.

2. **Rules, Music, Safety Course, and Squad Size Agreement Form** (page 24) must be signed by Athletic Director and Head Coach. Head coaches MUST certify the squad size, which is the number of members competing, NOT including alternates. The coach must submit ALL forms together with registration and payment by **5PM DECEMBER 4**, to be considered registered for the event.

3. **ALL** head coaches must complete the **Online NFHS Cheer & Dance Safety course by December 4th**. This is good for 4 years, so if you completed the course after **February 18, 2023** you are up to date.

4. **Music Proof of Purchase and License** must be submitted by the coach with registration and payment by **5PM December 4** to be considered registered for the event. (see page 9 for more details)

DO NOT MAIL FORMS

All FORMS MUST BE SCANNED AS ONE FULL DOCUMENT AND SUBMITTED TOGETHER.
DO NOT send as separate scans.
Scan and email them to staff@ncacoach.org by **December 4.**

Your team will officially be registered once all forms and payment have been received.

NO ENTRIES OR PAPERWORK WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 5PM DECEMBER 4.

REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST
(ALL ITEMS MUST BE COMPLETED, PAID FOR, AND RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 4th)

_____1. Join 2026-2027 NCA as a PAID member by registering online - **REQUIRED AS A HEAD COACH**

_____2. ALL head coaches must complete the Online NFHS Cheer & Dance Safety course ($85) by December 12th. This is good for 4 years - if you completed the course **after February 18, 2023** you are up to date. (Scan & Email a copy of Certificate)

Head Coaches of Unified Cheer Teams will need to complete the NFHS Online Coaching Unified Sports course (no fee) by December 4th. This is good for 4 years - - if you completed the **course after February 18, 2023** you are up to date. (Scan & Email a copy of Certificate)

_____3. Register and Pay for team registration. If using a credit card, payment must be made when registering OR you will need to call the office if paying later. (NOTE: There is a 4% convenience fee). You cannot go back in to pay later, you will have to call the office. **DO NOT REREGISTER! Please plan ahead if your school requires pre-approval for check payments.** Check payments MUST be received on or before December 4th. Mail to NCA, 500 Charleston, Ste 2, Lincoln, NE 68508. Online Team Registration **OPENS NOVEMBER 2, 2026.**

_____4. Parent/Legal Guardian Release and Waiver (page 23) - Form **MUST** be completed for each participant/alternate.

_____5. Rules, Music & Safety Course, & Squad Size Agreement Form (page 24) - Form **MUST** be signed by Athletic Director and Head Coach.

_____6. A copy of Music Proof of Purchase & License if mixing music

_____7. Submit items 3, 4, 5, and 6 **ALL TOGETHER AS ONE SCANNED DOCUMENT**. SCAN and email them to staff@ncacoach.org PHOTOS OF DOCUMENTS ARE NOT ACCEPTED. **MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5PM DECEMBER 4TH.**

*****NOTE*****

Your registration will not be complete until all the above items are completed and received by the NCA Staff.

No payments, registrations, or forms will be accepted after 5PM December 4th.

NFHS/USA CHEER SPIRIT RULES BOOK

IMPORTANT: Coaches should purchase a copy of the NFHS/USA Cheer Spirit Rules Book using this link. Coaches should familiarize themselves with the rules as the NFHS/USA Cheer Spirit Rules Book will be used for video reviews and will be used by judges to score all routines.

CODE OF CONDUCT

NCA encourages and supports sportsmanship, integrity and fairness among participants and coaches. To ensure the most positive experience for all attendees, NCA asks that the following Code of Conduct be adhered to during the NCA State Cheer & Dance Championships:

1. Any questions or concerns that affect a team's performance or experience must be communicated by the coach to the Event Director. The appropriate Official will then be called to discuss the situation with the coach.
2. Participants, coaches, or spectators are prohibited from contacting the Judges during the competition.
3. Judges scores are final, and results may ONLY be reviewed for clarification
4. In the event of a tabulation error, results will be reviewed and adjusted as deemed necessary.
5. Any unruly, aggressive, or belligerent behavior by participants, coaches, or spectators toward any other attendee or Event Staff will result in a deduction, potential team disqualification, removal from the event and/or barred participation from future NCA State Cheer & Dance Championships.
6. NCA reserves the right to remove any person(s) from a competition for unsafe or unsportsmanlike conduct.

VENUE REGULATIONS

All individuals must adhere to BigIron Events Center Rules & Regulations:

1. All tickets are general admission and may be purchased online or at the Ticket Office. Further information regarding ticket sales will be posted on the NCA Cheer and Dance page by mid-January.
2. Fans must stay off the performance floor before, during and after all sessions.
3. ADA Seating will be available during the event.
4. There will be a designated area for school affiliated nursing mothers.
5. No coolers or outside food or drink are allowed in the facility. Teams will be able to purchase salads/sandwiches which will be in the team eating area in the South Arena Upper Concourse.
6. Use this link to see all BigIron Events Center policies.

CATEGORIES & CLASSES

A) Performance Routine Categories - Classes A/B/C1/C2/D

a) Traditional Non-Tumbling/Non-Building
b) Traditional Tumbling & Stunting

B) Game Day (Optional Limited Stunting)**- Classes A/B/C1/C2/D**

1. If a class has 18 or more registered teams, it will be split into large & small divisions. In the event of an odd number of teams registered above 18, the small division will include one more team than the large division - unless two or more teams at the split point have the same number of participants. (See Rule #3)
2. Division placement (large or small) will be determined based on the certified squad size listed at the time of registration, excluding alternates.
3. If multiple teams at the split point have the same number of participants, NCA will contact the head coaches of those teams. Each coach will have the option to choose placement in either the large or small division. (Example: If teams ranked 9, 10, 11 out of 18 all have 12 participants, those coaches will choose which division to compete in.) *Note: NCA will not disclose the list of teams competing in each division.*
4. Final division placements will be announced with the release of the first draft of the competition schedule.
5. Injuries or other changes that result in a smaller squad size will NOT be accepted as a reason to change division placement.
6. Any team competing with more participants than their certified squad size will be disqualified from receiving a score on the day of the competition.
7. Teams may compete with a smaller number of participants than their certified squad size without penalty.

C) Unified Sideline (Building) **- Classes A/B/C/D**

CATEGORIES & CLASSES - continued

At the time of registration closing **(12/04/2026)** there must be a minimum of at least FOUR TEAMS registered for the category (per class) to be included as a state championship event within the classification of schools. The NCA reserves the right to merge or combine classifications. If your school enters a category that has fewer than four teams entered, your school will be able to select one of the following choices:

1. Accept the merger of classifications within the category during the same day of competition;
2. Move to a new category of competition;
3. Receive a full registration refund.

No refunds will be issued to a school that drops from an event after the schedule of the state championship is released. If the number of schools competing in a category drops below four school entries after the schedule is released, the category will remain as scheduled with full awards.

PARTICIPANT/SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY

1) Only Varsity teams will be allowed to compete. **A varsity team is defined by those cheerleaders (Grades 9-12) that will cheer at more than 5 varsity contests in which a varsity sports team from their high school is involved. One varsity team per school.**
2) Teams must be from NSAA member schools only.
3) A school's class size is determined by using the NSAA classification for girls basketball. **Schools may only co-op if the schools participate as an official co-op team in NSAA girls basketball. All other co-ops or mergers are strictly prohibited and will be denied entry into this event.**
4) No All-Star or Studio teams are allowed.
5) There will be **three categories in the Cheer division. Teams may enter two of the three available categories**. This must be specified on the registration form. **Unified Sideline does not count as one of the categories.**
6) A team may opt to move up and compete in a larger class; however, a team may not move down and compete against a smaller class. (Example: A Class B team competing in a game day routine may opt to compete against Class A game day teams. They may not compete against Class C or D game day teams.)
7) Head coaches MUST have completed the NFHS Online Cheer & Dance Safety course ($85) by December 11th. This is good for 4 years - if you completed the course **after February 18, 2023** you are up to date.

UNIFORM GUIDELINES

1) All participant uniforms must cover the midriff when standing at attention. Covered midriff does include flesh or nude colored body suits and liners, however fringe would not count as a cover.
2) Any team in violation of the uniform guidelines will be assessed a five (5) point per judge deduction.
3) School teams must display an overall appearance conducive to serving as public representatives of their school regarding traditional and appropriate attire, conservative make-up and uniformity.
4) Hair guidelines:
    a. Hair for all athletes must be secured off the face.
    b. Bows are not required. If worn, bows must:
        - Must be securely fastened and appropriate for the activity.
        - Be positioned in a manner to minimize risk for all participants.
5) Glitter that does not readily adhere on the hair, face, body, uniform, or costume is illegal. Glitter may be used on signs or props only if laminated or sealed. **Spraying or applying glitter on any hair, body or clothing is NOT allowed in the Pinnacle Bank Expo Center or the BigIron Events Center and Arena.**
6) Jewelry of any kind is prohibited during participation (if you weren't born with it, you can't wear it, tape over it or conceal it) except for the following: Religious medals and medical medals are not considered to be jewelry. A religious medal without a chain must be taped and worn under the uniform. A medical alert medal must be taped and may be visible.
7) Wearing temporary tattoos of school logo on the cheek is legal.

GENERAL SAFETY GUIDELINES

1) Cheerleading squads should be placed under the direction of a qualified and knowledgeable advisor or coach.
2) All practice sessions should be supervised by the coach and held in a location suitable for the activities of cheerleaders (i.e. use of appropriate mats, away from excessive noise and distractions, etc.).
3) Advisors/coaches should recognize a squad's particular ability level and should limit the squad's activities accordingly. "Ability level" refers to the squad's talents as a whole and individuals should not be pressed to perform activities until safely perfected.
4) All cheerleaders should receive proper training before attempting any form of cheerleading gymnastics (tumbling and jumps).
5) Professional training in proper spotting techniques should be mandatory for all squads.
6) All cheerleading squads should adopt a comprehensive conditioning and strength building program.
7) An appropriate warm-up routine should precede all cheerleading activities.
8) Prior to the performance of any skill, the immediate environment for the activity should be taken into consideration including, but not limited to proximity of non-squad personnel, performance surface, lighting and/or precipitation. Technical skills should not be performed on concrete, asphalt, wet or uneven surfaces or surfaces with obstructions.
9) As a general rule, all programs should qualify cheerleaders according to accepted teaching progressions. Appropriate spotting should be used until all performers demonstrate mastery of the skill.
10) Supports, braces, etc., which are hard and unyielding or have rough edges or surfaces must be appropriately covered. A participant wearing a cast (excluding a properly covered air cast) shall not be involved in any tumbling.
11) Squad members must wear athletic shoes (no gymnastic slippers).
12) When discarding props (signs, etc.) that are made of solid material or have sharp edges/corners, team members must gently toss or place the props so that they are under control.

COMPETITION PERFORMANCE AREA

1) Participants must start in the competition area with at least one foot on the ground.
2) Teams may line up anywhere inside the competition area.
3) Nebraska State Cheerleading Competition complies with the NFHS & USA Cheer surface ruling that school-based programs may not compete on a spring floor.
4) Approximate floor size will be **54 feet wide by 42 feet deep** (9 strips).
5) Boundary for the Nebraska High School Cheer Competition – any team member stepping outside or touching the outside of the performance area will cause the squad to receive a penalty per occurrence.
6) Signs or props may be safely placed or dropped outside the competition area by a team member who must remain inside the competition area. A penalty will be assessed for Props (signs, etc.) that are made of solid material or have sharp edges/corners released from a top person. A point penalty will be assessed for persons on the ground throwing hard props (signs, megaphones, flags, etc.)
7) All team mascots, props, center markers, etc. are prohibited. The center will be marked on all performance surfaces.

COMPETITOR WARM-UP AREA

Information regarding warm-up area, time and space will be available on the NCA event web page.

MUSIC GUIDELINES

LEGAL MUSIC OPTIONS

Option #1: Cover Music for Mixes

- Cover music **MUST BE OBTAINED** from a music provider listed on the link: Music Provider Directory
  - Provides single song, dance mix, or edits of proper licensing songs. The music they provide are cover songs that have been properly licensed and in compliance.
- Sound Effects may be included, but must be purchased
- Submit a Proof of Purchase **AND** a copy of the License (see pgs. 20-21 for samples)

Option #2: Single Song

- Purchase a single song as the music for the entire routine from iTunes, Amazon, etc.
- Music MAY NOT be re-mixed, such as adding sound effects, changing tempo, or mixing with any other recordings.
- You MAY edit for timing purposes, but the recording needs to remain in the original order. You cannot use more than one recording per track.
- Submit a Proof of Purchase showing payment (see pg. 22 for sample)

Option #3: Varsity Spirit Camp Music

- You can use Clementune music that Varsity has provided at summer camps or clinics and can be purchased at the Varsity store.
- You must provide a receipt showing payment and the music that was purchased.

Option #4: Fight Songs/Band Music

- If using a recording of your marching band playing the School's Original Fight Song you will need to get the school's permission to use the song and recording. You **MUST** provide a letter granting permission to use the fight song on school letterhead from your administrator.
- If you need another option for "Marching Band" music, you may legally purchase a band playing a recording from an authorized provider (iTunes, Amazon, etc.). This song **MAY NOT** have any edits other than for timing purposes.

For further clarification regarding copyright laws, coaches are highly encouraged to complete the free "Understanding Copyright and Compliance Course" offered through the NFHS.

*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.

*All music MUST be on a MOBILE DEVICE. Please bring any necessary adapters for your device to fit a standard, 3.5mm auxiliary cord. Please have back-up music readily available on an alternate mobile device or CD.

TIME LIMITATIONS

1) **Traditional Non-Tumbling/Non-Building & Traditional Tumbling/Stunting Routines -** Each team's presentation must include at least one cheer or sideline chant. The musical portion must not exceed **one minute and forty-five seconds**, total time limit is **two minutes and thirty seconds**. Timing will begin with the first movement, voice, or note of music, whichever comes first. No tumbling will be allowed in the non-tumbling division. Ex: Forward rolls, cartwheels, assisted tumbling, hand stands and head stands, etc. will not be permitted. No Stunting will be allowed in the non-building division.
2) If a team exceeds the time limit, a penalty will be assessed for each violation. 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.
3) All introductions (tumbling, entrances, chants, spell-outs, etc.) are considered part of the routine and are timed as part of the performance. Stunts are not allowed during the team's entry to the floor or any time prior to starting the performance. There should not be any organized exits or other activities after the official ending of the routine. All team breaks, rituals and traditions need to take place prior to entering the mat.

ALLOWABLE STUNTS & LIFTS - TIER 1 & TIER 2

* There will be no additions or changes to skill restrictions for the 2027 state championships per the Nebraska Coaches Association.
* Below are the allowable stunts and lifts. Tier 1 is the highest possible stunts and lifts allowed at the NSAA Sub-District, District and State events. Tier 2 is the highest possible stunts or lifts allowed at the annual Nebraska State Cheer & Dance Championships.
* Head coaches should consult with their local school administrators to ensure coaches, parents, athletes, and school officials are all in agreement regarding what restrictions will be followed outside of the Nebraska Coaches Association administered Nebraska State Cheer and Dance Championships and the Nebraska School Activities Association Sub-District, District and State events.
* The Nebraska Coaches Association has no authority to regulate stunts or lifts outside of the annual Nebraska State Cheer and Dance Championships.

TUMBLING/JUMPS

Tier 1 & Tier 2

1) Dive rolls are prohibited.
2) Flips & Twists greater than one rotation are prohibited.
3) A forward three-quarter flip to the seat or knees is prohibited.
5) Participants may not tumble over or under individuals.
6) Participants may not tumble over props including poms. Exception: A forward roll over a prop is legal.
7) Landings for all jumps must bear weight on at least one foot. (Ex.: A toe touch jump or kick to a hurdler position, to the seat, knees, or landing with both feet back or to a push-up position are prohibited.)
8) Knee drops are prohibited.
9) Drops to a prone position on the performing surface from an airborne or handstand position are illegal. (Example: landing in a pushup position from a back flip, toe touch, or back handspring are all illegal).

STUNTS/LIFTS/TWISTS

Tier 1

1) Limited to shoulder level or below.
2) All vertical shoulder level stunts/lifts must have a spotter.
3) Vertical shoulder level stunts must remain on two feet unless mounting or dismounting.
4) Twisting mounts and dismounts are limited to ½ twist.

Tier 2

1) Allows extensions, but not one-foot balance stunts (example - Liberties).
2) Extended vertical stunts must remain on two feet unless mounting or dismounting.
3) Extended stunts require a spotter by NFHS rule.
4) Shoulder level stunts may balance on one foot.
5) Twisting mounts and dismounts are limited to ½ twist.
6) All vertical shoulder level stunts/lifts must have a spotter.

RELEASE DISMOUNTS/INVERSIONS/TOSSES

Tier 1

1) Popoff allowed
2) Inversions & tosses are prohibited

Tier 2

1) Allows low level inversions which may not pass through extended level.
2) Inversions can only release to a cradle or the performing surface.
3) Foldovers are prohibited (example - yoyos).
4) Allows release dismounts cradle/popoff from shoulder level.
5) No release moves will be allowed from extended level.

TIER BASED SKILLS RESTRICTIONS FOR ALL NCA CHAMPIONSHIP CATEGORIES

To stunt or perform lifts at games and other NSAA events, you must:

- Complete the USA Cheer Safety & Risk Management Course
- Follow the NFHS rules, with the additional restrictions below:
  - All vertical shoulder level and above stunts/lifts must have a spotter.
  - All extended level stunts/lifts must remain on two feet except during the mount or dismount of the stunt/lift.
  - Twisting mounts and dismounts are limited to 1/2 twist.

	Tier 2	Notes for Tier 2
Stunts/Lifts	May extend. Extended vertical stunts must remain on two feet unless mounting or dismounting	Allows extensions, but not one- foot balance stunts like Liberties. Extended stunts require a spotter by NFHS rule. Shoulder level stunts may balance on one foot.
Twists	Twisting mounts and dismounts are limited to 1/2 twist	No change
Released dismounts (cradle, pop off)	Allowed from shoulder level.	An extension must lower to shoulder level before cradling or popping to the ground.
Inversions	Inversions may not pass through extended level. Inversions can only release to a cradle or the performing surface. Foldovers are prohibited	Allows low level inversions. Does not allow inversions to release transition to a stunt and does not allow fold overs like yoyos.
Tosses	Prohibited	Stays the same

SPOTTER POLICY

To promote a higher level of safety for competing athletes, Spotters will be supplied for the Game Day division to ensure that the safety of participants is not compromised. Note: To provide the safest competitive environment, teams should not attempt skills beyond their ability level.

JUDGING PANELS

Judges will be provided by Varsity Spirit, and they will be responsible for scoring each school performance according to the NCA competition score sheets.

1) Panel Head Judge – A Panel Head Judge is responsible for overseeing a designated panel of judges. The Panel Head Judge will also fill out his/her own score sheet for each performance.
2) Panel Judge – Panel Judges are responsible for scoring each team's performance based on the NCA score sheets. Each Panel Judge will fill out a score sheet for each performance.
3) Safety Judge – The Safety Judge is responsible for administering all safety violations, time violations, and boundary violations.
4) Quality Judge – The Quality Judge is responsible for overseeing the entire Judging Panel that consist of Head Panel Judges, Panel Judges, and Safety Judge.

The identity and contact information of Judges will not be provided to schools, coaches, teams, or fans.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Performance Routines (Traditional Non-Tumbling/Non-Building and Traditional Tumbling/Stunting)

1) The judges will score teams using the criteria listed on the score sheets. Each team will be evaluated on a 100-point system. **ALL TEAMS BEGIN THE COMPETITION WITH 0 POINTS.**
2) Any deductions or violations will be taken off the final score:
   a) Traditional Non-Tumbling/Non-Building is NON-BUILDING. The best practical way to ensure your team is not implementing a lift - NO individual can be supported above the level of the floor by another individual or individuals.
   b) LIMITED STUNTING will be allowed in the Traditional Tumbling/Stunting routine. Traditional Tumbling/Stunting routines will be evaluated on the running & standing tumbling, jumps, pyramids, and stunts that follow the NFHS and Nebraska Limited Stunting Rules.

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 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.

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 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.

C. INJURY

1) The only people that may stop a routine for injury are: a) competition officials, b) the advisor/coach from the team performing or 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) 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. ***In the event of a suspected concussion, the participant cannot return to perform without clearance from a medical professional, even with a waiver from a parent or legal guardian.***

SPORTSMANSHIP

1) 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.
2) 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.
3) Noisemakers of any kind are prohibited at this competition (i.e., drums, horns, bells, etc.).

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 and will automatically forfeit any right to any prizes or awards presented by the competition and may also forfeit the opportunity to participate in a competition for the National Championship.

DEDUCTIONS

Any team in violation of these Rules and Regulations or any of the above-mentioned guidelines will be assessed a deduction for each violation as specified on the point deduction sheet. **(Some deductions may be given per occurrence.)**

VIDEO REVIEWS

1) Prior to submitting a video, please review the 2027 NCA Cheer Handbook and the NFHS/USA Cheer Spirit Rules Book to locate rulings concerning the legality of any tumbling, lifts or stunts.
2) Video reviews **MUST** be submitted to the Nebraska Coaches Association, **by the head coach**, via this link - https://forms.gle/AAsJy9yx13xdzgV48
3) Videos sent directly to UCA **WILL NOT** be reviewed.
3) Videos must be received prior to **January 8, 2027**. If received after the deadline the video will not be reviewed.

HOW TO HANDLE PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS

1) RULES & PROCEDURES - Any questions concerning the rules or procedures of the competition will be handled exclusively by the advisor/ coach of the team and will be directed to the Competition Director. Such questions should be made prior to the team's competition performance.
2) PERFORMANCE - Any questions concerning the team's performance should be made to the Event Director immediately after the team's performance.
3) **Deduction sheets –** Coaches may check on team deductions in Section 207 on the concourse level. Coaches will be required to initial and timestamp the deduction sheet once it has been viewed. Deduction sheets should be viewed at the designated area within 20 minutes of their completed performance. Coaches will have 15 minutes from when their deduction worksheet is viewed to dispute the ruling. Any disputes made after that time frame will not be considered. If a dispute is submitted, the entire routine will be reviewed, including the deduction in question. Deduction sheets will be distributed in results packets at the end of competition.

FINALITY OF DECISIONS

1) By participating in this championship, each team agrees that the decisions by the judges will be final and results may ONLY be reviewed for clarification.
2) Any tabulation errors must be addressed on site, by the head coach, within **30 minutes** of the conclusion of the awards ceremony. In the event of a tabulation error, results will be reviewed and adjusted as deemed necessary.
3) Each team acknowledges the necessity for the judges to make prompt and fair decisions in this competition and each team therefore expressly waive any legal, equitable, administrative or procedural review of such decisions.
4) **JUDGES' SCORES ARE FINAL. TEAM RESULTS ARE CONFIDENTIAL AND WILL NOT BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ANY OTHER PARTIES BY THE NCA OR VARSITY.**

SCORES AND RANKINGS

Each judge has the responsibility and authority to review and submit his/her final score and rankings prior to the calculation of final scores.

All ties in each division or group will remain except for first place.

First Place Tie Breakers for Non-Tumbling/Non-Building, Traditional Tumbling & Stunting and Unified Sideline include:

- **Tie Breaker A: The tie will first be broken by carrying the decimal places out for the total score.**
- **Tie Breaker B: The "Crowd Leading" section score will be used to break the tie.**
- **Tie Breaker C: The "Cheer Overall Impression" section score will be used to break the tie.**

First Place Tie Breakers for Game Day:

- **Tie Breaker A: The Crowd Leading Score will be utilized to break the tie**
- **Tie Breaker B: The Fight Song Score will be utilized to break the tie**

Scores and rankings will be available only to advisors or head coaches at the conclusion of the competition. **JUDGES SCORES ARE FINAL. TEAM RESULTS ARE CONFIDENTIAL AND WILL NOT BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ANY OTHER PARTIES BY THE NCA OR VARSITY.**

SCORE SHEETS

Scoresheets are available in a separate document from the website www.ncacoach.org, under the cheer/dance tab.

INTERPRETATIONS AND/OR RULINGS

Any interpretation 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 make a judgment 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.

TROPHIES AND MEDALS

1) Trophies will be provided to the 1st and 2nd place teams in each category.
2) Individual medals will be awarded to participants on each first-place team.
3) The top five teams will be announced at the awards ceremony.
4) Teams will gather on the floor. Please follow the directions of the announcer.
5) Team photos of the 1st & 2nd place teams will take place on the floor as results are announced.
6) Teams will need to exit immediately following the awards ceremony so NCA Event Staff can prepare for the next session of competition.
7) **NO PARENTS or SPECTATORS WILL BE ALLOWED ON THE FLOOR. COACHES PLEASE COMMUNICATE THIS EXPECTATION WITH PARENTS/SPECTATORS PRIOR TO AND DURING THE COMPETITION. Coach's assistance to keep parents and spectators off the floor is expected.**

NOTE: For the awards ceremony to continue to be held in this manner the cooperation of coaches, teams, parents, and spectators is required. Please communicate with families of participants prior to and during the competition.

2027 GAME DAY RULES

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

The total number of participants for a school team is determined by counting all spirit-leading participants including cheerleaders, mascots, and flag corps members. Mascots and flag corps members may participate but cannot be involved in the execution of cheer skills. The use of a live band and/or drum line to supplement the Game Day environment is not permitted. No twirlers permitted.

Teams will be evaluated on the practicality of Game Day material, the ability to effectively lead and engage the crowd, proper skill incorporations, performance, motions, dance, and overall routine. Game Day practicality is heavily emphasized. Performances should be prepared as they would be for sideline crowd-leading at a school sporting event. Routines should not appear overly choreographed or utilize unnatural, overly aggressive, distracting crowd-leading techniques. **To maximize scoring potential, routines should adequately utilize time allowances for each element.**

While spirited entrances are allowed, there should be no choreographed or "organized" entrances (movement or voice) when taking the floor. **Teams cannot build stunts or execute skills off the performance floor prior to the beginning of the routine—all skills must be executed DURING the routine and on the mat.** Mascots and flag corps members must enter the floor with the team and should be used to raise crowd energy and participation.

GAMEDAY FORMAT

The competition will consist of three Game Day elements. There should be no "organized" entrances when taking the floor for any of the performances. Teams cannot build stunts or execute skills off the performance floor prior to the beginning of the routine—all skills must be executed DURING the routine and on the mat. Mascots and flag runners must enter the floor with the team and should be used to raise crowd energy and participation. There is a maximum time limit of 3-minutes to complete the entire routine: all 3 elements.

1- Band Chant:

- Marching band music or drum cadence performance that encourages crowd interaction.
- Should have emphasis on crowd appeal and practicality.
- Teams will be announced, take the floor, and timing will begin with the first beat of music or organized movement, whichever comes first. Teams are discouraged from adding any words or organized movement following the end of the Band Chant music.
- No stunts or tumbling are permitted in this section. Jumps and kicks are allowed.

2 - Crowd Leading:

- SITUATIONAL RESPONSE: To imitate the Game Day environment, each team will respond to a situational cue given by the announcer, as heard at a football or basketball game. Following the completion of the Band Chant, the announcer will give each team a game scenario indicating an offense or defense situation. Teams should show their definitive understanding of the situation with either an OFFENSE or DEFENSE crowd-leading response, which will begin the squad into the Crowd Leading section of the Final Round Performance. Teams should focus on crowd effectiveness, motion technique and skills -**this includes stunts, jumps and/or tumbling** - relevant to game day. A general response would not meet the criteria.
- Skill restrictions:
    - No basket, sponge or elevator tosses allowed (cradles are considered dismounts, not tosses). Coed and "quick" tosses are permitted.
    - No inversions
    - No twisting dismounts from stunts
    - Single leg stunts are limited to shoulder level liberties and liberty hitches
    - No running tumbling
    - Standing tumbling is limited to one tumbling skill at a time. A back tuck is the most elite standing tumbling skill allowed

3 - Fight Song:

- Traditional school fight song performed to recorded marching band music.
- Added or "Incorporated" skills – **this includes stunts, jumps and/or tumbling** - are a component of the Fight Song score sheet. Up to three **CONSECUTIVE** eight-counts should be incorporated with stunts, tumbling and/or jumps. The three 8 counts of added skills (incorporation) can take place at any point in the routine and can (but does not have to) be repeated once if desired. **IF** repeated, the incorporation must repeat **exactly as initially performed**. To properly count any incorporation, start counting the 8-counts with the "dips" of the added skill(s)—the dip to jump, dip to tumble, dip of top person to load stunt, etc.). **REGARDLESS OF WHEN THE MUSIC ENDS**, counting of 8 incorporated counts will continue until the **routine** is complete or the skills are completed and back on the ground.
- Teams are discouraged from adding extended crowd leading sections following the completion of the Fight Song music.
- Skill restrictions:
    - No basket, sponge or elevator tosses allowed (cradles are considered dismounts, not tosses). Coed and "quick" tosses are permitted.
    - No inversions
    - No twisting dismounts from stunts
    - Single leg stunts are limited to shoulder level liberties and liberty hitches
    - No running tumbling
    - Standing tumbling is limited to one tumbling skill at a time. A back tuck is the most elite standing tumbling skill allowed

Please see chart at the end for Skill Restrictions based off Tier

The entire performance will be executed in a continuous order. To continue the feel of a Game Day environment, spirited crowd-leading interaction between each section is expected.

INTERFERENCE

Coaches and/or athletes not on the performance floor may NOT assist or direct the squad (either verbally or nonverbally) with the situational response.

TIME LIMITATIONS

1. Timing will begin with the first group movement, voice, or beat of music, whichever comes first. Timing will not include the team spiriting, rallying, or unchoreographed individual skills performed during rally.
2. Acknowledging the potential variance in sound system and timing devices, judges will not issue a deduction until their stopwatches show a time of five (5) seconds over the time limit.
    a. Three (3) point deduction for 1-5 seconds over, Five (5) point deduction for 6-10 seconds over and Seven (7) point deduction for 11 seconds and over.
3. It is recommended that all teams practice and time performances prior to competition to allow for variations in sound equipment.
4. Introductions and exits:
    a. All team breaks, rituals, and traditions need to take place backstage before a team is in the "on deck" or next to perform position.
    b. Teams should take the floor immediately **with spirit and enthusiasm**, but without excessive gestures (i.e., teams must refrain from chest bumps, hugs, and handshakes) before and after the performance.
        i. No "tumbling" in.
        ii. Stunts are not allowed during the team's entry to the floor or any time prior to starting the performance.
    c. All teams should refrain from any type of excessive celebration following the team's performance. Any team in violation will receive a ONE-point deduction.
    d. There should not be any organized exits or other activities after the official ending of the routine.

DEDUCTIONS **These deductions below are ONLY FOR THE GAMEDAY CATEGORY.**

Deduction points will be subtracted from the final score. The following is a **sample** of potential rule infractions and point deductions (see next page). Teams should refer to the Time and Deduction Sheet for each performance on any deductions given.

Area	Specific Examples	Deduction Points
Participant allowance	Exceed maximum participants; Competes in the wrong classification	Disqualification from contest
Music licensing	Failure to meet licensing requirement	Disqualification from contest
NFHS Spirit Rules and NCA Safety Rules	Utilization of skill or stunt not permitted by NFHS Safety Rules	5 points per rule violation
Time limit* *Window to allow for variance	Each violation	3 points for 1-5 seconds over limit 5 points for 6-10 seconds over limit 7 points for 11 seconds or more over limit ***3 second window considered above**
Time limit	Excessive celebration or organized entrance or exit	1 point
Performance floor	Any team member stepping with both feet outside the designated performance area	.5 Half of one point
Procedure or General Rule Violation (not a safety violation)	Team exceeds 8-count allowances in Fight Song Team adds stunts or tumbling in Band Chant Team's music includes VOICE OVERS or SOUND EFFECTS	3 points per rule violation

UNIFIED SIDELINE ROUTINE - GENERAL RULES

Head Coaches of Unified Cheer Teams will need to complete the NFHS Online Coaching Unified Sports course (no fee) by December 4th. This is good for 4 years.

a) Special Olympics Unified Sports® is an inclusive activities program that combines an **equal** number of Special Olympics athletes with intellectual disabilities and partners without intellectual disabilities on teams for competition and inclusive activities fostering an environment of social inclusion.
b) Students must be a bona fide member of an NSAA member school.
Students must have a recognized disability defined within 42 U.S.C. Section 12102 (ADA).
c) Students will follow the guidelines set forth in their individual education plans and/or local school eligibility requirements.
d) Classification of unified categories will be A/B and C1/C2/D.
e) Schools may be combined for Unified Sideline Cheerleading with an agreement between each board of education. Schools combining will remain within the same day of classification regardless of enrollment numbers.
f) Each team shall be made up of no less than 50% of athletes to partners as defined by Special Olympics of Nebraska. Teams may be comprised of boys, girls or co-ed. (Ex. A team of five consists of three athletes and two partners. A team of six consists of at least three athletes. Etc.)
g) Students must be in high school and partners without intellectual disabilities may be entered in two additional categories, including Unified Sideline Cheerleading.
h) A uniform for Unified Sideline Cheerleading can be a traditional cheerleading uniform ~ OR ~ t-shirt and shorts. The t-shirt may include a patch or screen of the Special Olympics/NCA cobranded logo.

Note: The above safety guidelines are general in nature and are not intended to cover all circumstances. All cheerleading gymnastics including tumbling and jumps should be carefully reviewed and supervised by a qualified adult advisor or coach. Cheerleading jumps and gymnastics may involve height and inversion of the body and there is an inherent risk of injury involved with any athletic activity. While the use of these guidelines in coordination with the NFHS Safety Course will help minimize the risk of injury, the American Association of Cheerleading Coaches and Administrators makes no warranties or representations, either expressed or implied, that the above guidelines will prevent injuries to individual participants.

UNIFIED SIDELINE ROUTINE -JUDGING CRITERIA

a) Jumps/Tumbling

Judges will credit:

*Attempts of a variety of skills and the connection of skills in running and standing tumbling. Watch for an attempt of a correct approach- lunge into a cartwheel, tucked chin into roll etc.
*Creative transitions to sides and between the approach or first steps into skill as a group or group tumbling.
*Timing of the entrance prior to a jump. EX clap, prep, punch, dip approach or simple punch dip.
*The attempt of a variety of jumps and transitions between jumps.
*The attempt of a variety of stunts and/or pyramids

Judges will not penalize:

*Athletes running across the floor with arms in air and dipping down or touching floor and standing back up - this is an attempt at a cartwheel or roundoff.
*Athletes may land in a flat position after a roll and have issues getting back up - do not penalize for timing or executions, but credit and comment if athletes get up on their own.
*For toes that are not pointed, bent legs, low height or timing of landing.
*For athletes involved in stunts, effort towards execution of the skill.

b) Formations

Judges will credit:

***A variety of movement without the partners leading or coaxing the athletes across the floor.

*Innovative formations with a natural flow or seamless patterns. Keep in mind there may be a few athletes that do not move or simply take a few steps forward, backward or side to side or crouch down, turn in a circle and stand back up. In these cases credit and comment on spacing in formations.

Judges will not penalize:

*For partners or assistants pushing wheelchairs or assisting sight impaired athletes to their spots.

c) Overall Presentation

Judges will credit:

*How well the movement compliments the routine through the variety of skills and use of the floor.

*Innovative use of skills that display visual effects and seamless patterns all while projecting confidence.

Judges will not penalize:

*A team for lack of skills but will give credit to teams with innovative skill sets and skills that fit the overall capabilities of the team as a whole.

NOTE: An assistant may help an athlete up after a forward roll to get to their feet and it will NOT result in a ZERO in the Jumps/Tumbling category.

d) Crowd Leading Ability & Crowd Skill Incorporations

Please see scoresheet for scoring criteria

UNIFIED SIDELINE ROUTINE – TIME LIMITATIONS

1) Total time limit is **one minute**. A routine will consist of a cheer/chant. Use of music is **not** permitted. Tumbling and jumps are permitted but not required. Sideline participants must follow the general safety rules and regulations. Timing will begin with the first movement or voice.

2) If a team exceeds the time limit, a penalty will be assessed for each violation. Please reference the point deduction sheet. 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.

3) All introductions (tumbling, entrances, chants, spell-outs, etc.) are considered part of the routine and are timed as part of the performance. Stunts are not allowed during the team's entry to the floor or any time prior to starting the performance. There should not be any organized exits or other activities after the official ending of the routine. All team breaks, rituals and traditions need to take place prior to entering the mat.

SongsForCheer

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Producer/Editor: COACH

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SCHOOL - COACH

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Items & Details	Amount

Charli xcx - Von Dutch

Label: 1) PM Radio Edits - 07
Album:
Alternate Versions: 6
License: Track License

$15.00

Project Details:
Editor Name: Dynamic Productions
School/Team/Squad Name: Varsity Cheer
How many people will receive this mix?: 3

Ti'sto & Tate McRae - 10:35

Label: 1) PM Radio Edits - 07
Album:
Alternate Versions: 6
License: Track License

$15.00

Project Details:
Editor Name: Dynamic Productions
School/Team/Squad Name: , Varsity Cheer
How many people will receive this mix?: 3

Taylor Swift - Call It What You Want

Label: 1) PM Radio Edits - 07
Album:
Alternate Versions: 7
License: Track License

$15.00

Project Details:
Editor Name: Dynamic Productions
School/Team/Squad Name:
How many people will receive this mix?: 3

Ciara - Level Up

Label: 1) VP Radio Edits - 07
Album:
Alternate Versions: 2
License: Track License

$15.00

Project Details:
Editor Name: Dynamic Productions
School/Team/Squad Name:
How many people will receive this mix?: 3

Sia feat. Kendrick Lamar - The Greatest

Label: 1) PM Radio Edits - 07
Album:
Alternate Versions: 5
License: Track License

$15.00

Project Details:
Editor Name: Dynamic Productions
School/Team/Squad Name:
How many people will receive this mix?: 3

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TOTAL	**$1.05**

NEBRASKA STATE CHEER & DANCE CHAMPIONSHIP - February 18–20, 2027
PARENT / LEGAL GUARDIAN RELEASE & WAIVER

Minor's Name:_____ **Parent/Legal Guardian Name:**_____
School:_____ **Parent Cell Phone:**_____

PLEASE READ BEFORE SIGNING

This form contains an assumption of risk, release and waiver of claims, indemnification provision, medical authorization, and media consent. I am signing individually and, to the fullest extent permitted by law, on behalf of the Minor.

1. PARTICIPATION AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK

I authorize the Minor to participate in the Nebraska State Cheer & Dance Championship (the "Event"). I understand that cheer, dance, stunts, tumbling, travel, crowds, equipment, surfaces, and related activities involve inherent risks, including falls, collisions, strains, sprains, fractures, concussion or other injury, illness, disability, and death. I knowingly and voluntarily assume those risks to the fullest extent permitted by law.

2. RELEASE AND WAIVER

To the fullest extent permitted by Nebraska law, I, for myself and on behalf of the Minor, release and hold harmless Varsity Spirit Corporation d/b/a Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA) and/or Universal Dance Association (UDA); NSG Corporation d/b/a National Cheerleaders Association (NCHA) and/or National Dance Alliance (NDA); Nebraska State Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NSIAAA); Nebraska Coaches Association (NCA); BigIron Events Center and its owner/operator; American Association of Cheerleading Coaches and Administrators, Inc. (AACCA); and their respective affiliates, directors, officers, representatives, members, agents, employees, volunteers, successors and assigns (collectively, "Releasees") from claims, demands, damages, losses, liabilities, costs and expenses arising from or related to the Minor's participation in the Event, including personal injury, illness, disability or death.

This release expressly includes claims arising from the ordinary negligence of a Releasee, to the extent such claims may lawfully be released. Nothing in this form releases or limits liability that cannot lawfully be released or limited, including liability for gross negligence or willful and wanton misconduct where prohibited by law.

3. TEAM SUPERVISION AND ROUTINES

A coach or responsible adult age 21 or older must attend with participating minors and is responsible for their supervision. I understand that the Event organizers and Releasees are not responsible for supervision that is the responsibility of the Minor's coach, school, team, parent, or legal guardian. I also understand that the Minor's team may create, direct, rehearse, and execute its own choreography and routines, including stunts, and that Releasees are not responsible for those matters except to the extent required by law.

4. INDEMNIFICATION

To the fullest extent permitted by law, I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Releasees from third-party claims, damages, liabilities, costs, and reasonable attorneys' fees arising from my or the Minor's negligent or wrongful acts or omissions in connection with the Event, or from claims brought by or through the Minor to the extent lawfully subject to indemnification.

5. PHOTO / VIDEO / MEDIA CONSENT

I understand that the Minor may appear in photographs, video, audio, broadcasts, websites, social media, and promotional materials made in connection with the Event. I grant Varsity Spirit, NSG, UCA, UDA, NCHA, NDA, their successors and authorized licensees, sponsors and promotional partners a nonexclusive, worldwide, royalty-free right to use the Minor's name, image, likeness, voice, and appearance for Event-related and organizational promotional purposes, without compensation. I waive any right to inspect or approve such materials.

6. MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION

If the Minor becomes ill or injured and I cannot be reached promptly, or when immediate care is reasonably necessary, I authorize Event personnel to obtain or arrange reasonable first aid, emergency medical evaluation, ambulance transportation, and medical treatment for the Minor. I understand that Event personnel are not medical professionals and that this authorization does not require any person to provide treatment. I accept responsibility for medical and related expenses incurred for the Minor, subject to applicable insurance.

Current medications (if any):_____ Allergies:_____

Medical Conditions/Restrictions:_____

Emergency Contact/Phone:_____

7. ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND SIGNATURE

I have read this form, understand its terms, and have had an opportunity to ask questions. I understand that I am giving up or limiting certain legal rights to the extent permitted by law. I sign voluntarily and represent that I am the Minor's parent or legal guardian and have authority to sign this form. The Event is not guaranteed to occur and may be postponed, modified, relocated, or cancelled.

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature:_____ Date:_____

Printed Name:_____ Relationship to Minor:_____

NEBRASKA COACHES ASSOCIATION

2027 RULES, MUSIC, SAFETY COURSE & SQUAD SIZE AGREEMENT FORM

COMPLETE AND RETURN BY DECEMBER 4, 2026 • EMAIL: staff@ncacoach.org

1. 2027 RULES & REGULATIONS ACCEPTANCE AGREEMENT

We have reviewed the 2027 Rules and Regulations with our entire team. We acknowledge that the Rules and Regulations are a fair and integral part of the championship and agree to comply with all rules, policies, and procedures contained therein.

---

2. 2027 MUSIC COPYRIGHT COMPLIANCE AGREEMENT

We confirm that we have reviewed the Music Guidelines and understand the copyright requirements presented by the Nebraska Coaches Association. We further confirm that all sound recordings used in our team's music will be used only with the written license or permission of the owner(s) of those sound recordings, as required.

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3. NFHS CHEER & DANCE ONLINE SAFETY COURSE AGREEMENT (required for all head coaches)

The NFHS Cheer & Dance Online Safety Course is required for all head coaches. Certification is valid for four (4) years.

☐ I confirm that I have completed the NFHS Cheer & Dance Online Safety Course.

Date of Course Completion:_____

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4. SQUAD SIZE CERTIFICATION AGREEMENT (based on NSAA Girls Basketball classification)

Cheer Category #1: _____
Number of Competing Members:_____
Class:_____
(A, B, C1, C2, D, or Unified)

Cheer Category #2: _____
Number of Competing Members:_____
Class:_____
(A, B, C1, C2, D, or Unified)

Dance Category #1: _____
Number of Competing Members:_____
Class:_____
(A, B, C1, C2, D)

Dance Category #2:_____
Number of Competing Members:_____
Class:_____
(A, B, C1, C2, D)

---

5. FINALITY OF JUDGES' DECISIONS

By participating in this championship, each team agrees that the decisions of the judges are final. Results may be reviewed only for purposes of clarification.

In the event of a tabulation error, the results may be reviewed and adjusted as deemed necessary. Each team acknowledges the necessity for judges to make prompt and fair decisions during the competition and, to the extent permitted by applicable law, agrees to waive any legal, equitable, administrative, or procedural review of such decisions.

JUDGES' SCORES ARE FINAL. TEAM RESULTS ARE CONFIDENTIAL AND WILL NOT BE PROVIDED TO ANY OTHER PARTY BY THE NEBRASKA COACHES ASSOCIATION (NCA) OR VARSITY.

By signing this form, we acknowledge and agree to the above agreements.

School Name:_____ Date:_____

Athletic Director Signature:_____ Athletic Director Name (printed):_____

Head Coach Signature:_____ Head Coach Name (printed):_____