



USASF Cheer Sanctioning Standards 2026-2027

All USASF member competition Event Producers who produce cheer competitions must meet the following minimum standards for their competitions, which include All Star divisions, to be sanctioned. The USASF Compliance Review Committee will oversee all reported sanctioning non-compliance violations.

1. General Event Standards:
 - a. A properly equipped EMT or athletic trainer is present and ready to handle emergencies.
 - b. \$2,000,000 (Aggregate) in general liability insurance coverage.
 - c. USASF membership rules, guidelines and policies must be followed.
 - d. Only offer divisions, levels and categories from the approved USASF Age Grid and Levels and USASF Sanctioned Competition Classification Chart.
 - e. Have at least one USASF Certified Legality Official onsite at the competition. If you are hosting an in-person competition with 100 or less All Star Cheer teams you may have a USASF Legality Official judge virtually with the following parameters:
 - They have access to a live stream of the event or videos from filmed routines
 - The Legality Official/ EP can use On Call if they have event questions during the event
 - Should a virtual option occur, Event Producers will disclose to all Club Owners no later than at the point of registration (i.e. before payment is received).
 - f. Event Producer will enforce the USASF Cheer Rules and Age Grid.
 - g. Team performances will not be scheduled to start earlier than 7:00 am and run no later than 11:00 pm.
 - h. Have a documented plan that outlines how to handle emergency situations on-site in competition venues and event management staff must review before producing an event.
 - i. Make best efforts to follow the USASF Recommended Standards for Judges & Scoring at sanctioned competitions (below).
 - j. All music played at sanctioned competitions must comply with applicable copyright law.
 - k. All full-time employees of USASF Member Event Producers working at USASF Sanctioned Competitions will have background checks through the USASF member database or other screening provider chosen by the Event Producer.
 - l. Have an individual on site designated by Event Producer responsible for routine stoppage.
2. Official (Timed) Event Warm Up Area Standards:
 - a. Provide at least one full 42'X54' by 1 3/8" carpet-bonded foam matted warm-up area.
 - b. Any space provided for building or tumbling skills must be carpet-bonded foam.
 - c. If warm-up area is outdoors, provide suitable foul-weather alternatives.
 - d. Provide a method of cleaning warm-up mats of bodily fluids.
 - e. Backstage time between when a team finishes warm-ups and is on the competition floor should be no sooner than 8 minutes and no longer than 30 minutes. NOTE: Teams delayed performing after 30 minutes should have the opportunity to warm up again.
 - f. All warm-up mats should have a minimum clearance of 3' on all sides.
 - g. If a full-size spring floor (42'X54') is not provided as part of the warm-up rotation, a 12' by 60' tumbling surface must be provided that is of the same floor construction as the competition floor.
3. Event Competition Area Standards:
 - a. Provide a 42'X54' competition floor matted with a minimum of 1 3/8" carpet bonded foam with panels joined by 4" tape. The competition floor will have a minimum clearance of 4' on the supporting surface before any obstruction. NOTE: If Event Producer has a decline border surrounding their competition surface, the length of the decline may be included in the mandated 4' clearance area.
 - b. An unobstructed ceiling height of 20' over the competition floor.



- c. If the competition floor is on a built stage, the stage must have a minimum of 4 feet of supporting surface beyond the 42' x 54' competition floor. NOTE: If an event producer has a decline border surrounding their performance surface, the length of the decline may be included in the mandated 4' clearance area.
 - d. Provide a method of cleaning competition mats of bodily fluids.
 - e. If the competition area/floor is outdoors, provide suitable foul-weather alternatives.
4. Disclosures
- a. Any minimum standards that are not met in the Warm-Up and or competition area must be disclosed to all Club Owners no later than at the point of registration (i.e. before payment is received) and to USASF as needed.

Event Producer Compliance Sanctioned Competitions

(This information may also be found in Section 6.2 of the Code of Conduct and Compliance and is duplicated here for convenience.)

Section 6.2: Sanctioned Competitions

C. For any USASF-sanctioned competition with All Star Classification, Event Producer Members must comply with the following provisions:

1. Event Producers must verify that every team representing a USASF Member Club competing in an All Star division has an official USASF roster associated with such competition. This may not be applicable to teams representing USASF Member Clubs in the All Star Event Trial and All Star Exhibition Classifications.
2. When Event Producers are notified by Member Clubs of any roster changes made (a) after the Competition locks or (b) after the team checked in, but before the team takes the floor, the Event Producer must make such changes to locked rosters to which they were notified prior to the competition closeout.
3. Event Producers must verify all Adult Members' eligibility and identification at sanctioned competitions prior to providing credentials (i.e. wristbands, lanyards, etc.) which permit access to restricted areas.
4. Event Producers must have a process by which they manage and monitor access to restricted areas (i.e. warm up, backstage, etc.).
5. Event Producers must ensure their USASF-sanctioned competition stays a NO RECRUITING ZONE.
6. During its USASF-sanctioned competition, the Event Producer must, to the best of its ability, investigate, address and resolve any reports or allegations of Noncompliance by Members in attendance, which includes roster violations.
7. Event Producers must disqualify teams with Roster violations, and if applicable, revoke awarded bids to the Cheerleading or Dance Worlds. This includes roster violations adjudicated by the USASF post-competition.
8. Within 72 hours after the conclusion of the competition:
 - a. Event Producer must complete close-out reports;
 - b. Assign World bids in the Member profile (if applicable); and
 - c. Using the Event Producer Reporting form for Non-Compliance the Event Producer will submit the details for non-compliance violations that were reported, investigated and resolved at the competition and the action that was taken by the Event Producer
 - i. Non-compliance that was resolved on site with no action taken,
 - ii. Non-compliance, including roster violations, that resulted in a warning, disqualification and/or removal from the competition.



USASF Recommended Standards for Judges & Scoring at Sanctioned Competitions

- Required judges' meeting/orientation/training before the start of the competition
- Have a separate Legality Official and a deduction judge per panel (it should not be the same person)
- When possible, there should be a separate difficulty and technique judge per category
- 5-minute minimum (6 min recommended) to watch and score routines
- Video playback capability
- Any score changes must be communicated to the scoring judge
- Use the [USASF Routine Interruption Suggested Guidelines](#) for all sanctioned competitions.
- Scheduled meal and restroom breaks for judges
 - Length of break should be considerate of distance/accessibility to restrooms and food. For example, if food is a 20-minute walk and has long lines with competition attendees, dinner cannot be a 30-minute break. Event Producers should be mindful that if a team's performance is delayed, a bio break for the judges is still necessary.
- Access to water and/or refreshments while judging
 - If no food and beverage is provided, Event Producers should communicate that to the judges and the options available.