



NEW ENGLAND OPEN CHEER & DANCE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT INFORMATION PACKET

SAFETY GUIDELINES: The National Federation of State High School Associations Spirit Guidelines (NFHS) & The American Association of Cheerleading Coaches and Administrators (AACCA) will serve as the foundation for all rulings. **It is the coaches' responsibility to choose the level of skill that is safest and most appropriate from our divisions description sheet.** Basket tosses and similar multi-based tosses are prohibited for elementary, middle school and junior high.

SANCTIONING: The event is a sanctioned and approved activity by **CAS** (Connecticut Association of Schools) and adheres to the policies for *out of state* spirit events required by our New England States. Please remember that some state associations require you to get permission to participate in an *out of state* event. We welcome all of our New England Schools to this event!

SCORING: Teams are scored by 4 judges using category score sheets (category judging). There will be 2 panels of judges to ensure sufficient time between teams. The **CT STATE SCORE SHEETS** will be used for this event.

DIVISIONS & LEVELS

<p>The "traveling" SILVER CUP will be awarded to the first place team in the VARSITY OPEN division.</p> <p>The top team in the VARSITY OPEN and in the VARSITY CO-ED division will receive customized championship belts!</p> <p>(There must be a minimum of 3 teams competing in each of the OPEN and CO-ED divisions to qualify to receive the championship belt)</p>	DIVISIONS	AGE/GRADE	CATEGORY	SKILL LEVELS
	YOUTH/REC/MIDDLE	8 TH grade and Under	Cheer and Dance	Novice, Intermediate, Advanced
	JUNIOR VARSITY	*enrolled student	Cheer and Dance	Non Tumble (NT), Tumble
	VARSITY ALL-GIRL	*enrolled student	Cheer and Dance	NT, Intermediate, Advanced, Open (Elite Level)
	VARSITY CO-ED	*enrolled student	Cheer and Dance	N/A
	TOP STUNT YOUTH	Age 12 and Under	Stunt	N/A
	TOP STUNT JV	Age 13+ or /JV	Stunt	N/A
	TOP STUNT VARSITY	*varsity member	Stunt	N/A
	TOP JUMPER/TUMBLER	*enrolled student	Cheer	N/A

SPLIT OF DIVISIONS *Youth/Rec/Middle School divisions will be divided by skill level entered and may be further divided by age at the discretion of the event producer. Varsity divisions will be divided first by skill level entered and then by school size. Divisions may be added.

SKILL LEVELS NECA offers skill levels to promote the concept of "level play". The skill levels are novice, intermediate, advanced, and open (elite). They give coaches the opportunity to select the appropriate competitive level for their team. Skills are restricted to those determined "legal" by the NFHS and/or AACCA. Skill level descriptions can be found by clicking on the "divisions" link. **Please be sure to know the skill restrictions of the level you enter as point deductions will be taken for skills performed out of level.**

DANCE DIVISIONS Dance Divisions will be available at four age levels; Youth, Junior High/JV, Varsity, and College. Please designate the style of dance you wish to enter; jazz, hip hop, kick, and/or pom. If there are less than 3 dance teams in any given style we will declare the division "open" (any style). Dance teams may be all-girl or co-ed.

GENERAL COMPETITION INFORMATION

QUESTIONS OR ASSISTANCE We are here to help! If you have any questions regarding the rules & policies outlined for this event please contact us via e-mail so that we may take the time to evaluate your question and get you a quicker response. E-mail inquiries to Info@CheerNECA.com.

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS The minimum number of participants for cheer/dance may be 5. The maximum number of varsity and junior varsity members on the mat is 20. Youth and junior teams may have up to 35 members. The safety of our athletes will be the priority.

COMPETITION SURFACES The competition and practice surface for cheer teams will be a cheerleading mat measuring 42' by 42'. Additional practice mats will be provided for tumbling and stunt warm-up. All skills must be performed on matted surfaces. Stunting, jumping, and tumbling are not allowed outside these areas. Dance teams may opt to compete on a cheerleading mat or gym floor depending on preference and the style of dance being performed.

TIMING & ROUTINE FORMAT

1. Youth/Rec/Middle School Cheer and Dance teams will have a maximum of 3 minutes to compete.
2. Varsity Cheer and Dance Teams will have a maximum of 2 minutes and 30 seconds to compete.
3. Stunt Groups will have a maximum of 1 minute to compete.
4. Top Gun Tumblers will perform one standing skill/pass and one running skill/pass.
5. Top Gun Jumpers will perform 3 connected jumps.
6. Timing will start with the first organized movement, voice, or beat of music.
7. Routines must be appropriate and suitable for "family viewing". Crude or suggestive movements will result in a deduction at the discretion of the head judge.

MUSIC

1. All music must be properly licensed per U.S. Copyright Laws. By registering your team to compete with NECA, you are also agreeing to these terms, and will be able to provide proof of licensing paperwork if asked to do so. More information on proper music licensing can be found at www.USACheer.net.
2. All music must be appropriate and suitable for "family viewing". A 5 POINT deduction will be assessed for any music that is inappropriate in nature. A 10 POINT deduction will be assessed for profanity (swearing/discrimination) in music.
3. One coach or representative must be present at the music station. This representative must make their way to the music station ONE TEAM PRIOR to their teams' performance to help ensure the competition stays on schedule. This person is responsible for starting/stopping the music and MUST REMAIN in the music area throughout the performance.
4. In the event team performance is interrupted due to failure of the teams' equipment or method, the team must continue the routine or forfeit.
5. In the event team performance is interrupted due to a failure of the tournament equipment or method, the team will be allowed to repeat their performance at the discretion of the head judge.
6. If it is decided by the head judge that a team will repeat their performance they must perform it "full out" from the beginning. Judging will resume from the point at which the performance was interrupted. All point deductions will carry over from the 1st performance to the point of interruption. The point of interruption is determined by the head judge.
7. Portable devices such as iPod or cell phone are preferred method to play music, however any notification interruption by said device (call, text, voicemail alerts) will NOT be considered a technical malfunction, and the routine must continue.

SPORTSMANSHIP

NECA believes strongly in the importance of good sportsmanship and expects all participants, coaches, parents, and/or spectators to treat each other in the highest regard. Gym owners and participants will need to sign off on the NECA Sportsmanship Code prior to the event. The following rules will be in effect from the time each individual enters the facility until the time that they leave.

1. Coaches are responsible for the behavior of their teams at all times.
2. Participants, coaches, parents, and/or spectators are to display sportsmanlike behavior at all times.
3. Penalties will be assessed for "unsportsmanlike" behavior which may include but is not limited to the following:
 - a. Approaching judges, event staff, coaches, spectators, and other cheerleaders with disrespect.
 - b. Refusing to follow instructions of event staff and/or site personnel.
 - c. The use of profanity or obscene gestures (either on or off the competition surface).
 - d. Chanting or shouting negative remarks at other teams, cheerleaders, staff, and/or spectators.

INTERRUPTION OF PERFORMANCE (DUE TO INJURY) Event officials reserve the right to stop a performance due to perceived injury. If the routine has been stopped by an event official for the purpose of an injury, the team will be given the opportunity to rotate one more time through the warm-up stations to regroup. Every effort will be made to have the team compete within their existing division. The team will then have the option of performing their routine again. The routine must be performed "full out" from the beginning. Judging will resume from the point at which the injury/interruption occurred as determined by the head judge. All point deductions accumulated to that point will carry over from the 1st performance. If a team/coach prefers not to perform a second time they may take the score they have received up to that point. Any skills not performed will result in a "0" for those categories.

GENERAL COMPETITION INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

JUDGING & SCORING

1. NECA will use the CT state score sheets for this event.
2. Sample score sheets are available upon request.
3. Scoring is based on a tenth of a point.
4. Point Deduction and Safety judges will assess each performance from beginning to end.
5. A head judge will oversee the panel and the point deduction/safety judges.
6. Decisions of the head judge are final and may not be changed once placements are announced.
7. Coaches should not approach the judges table under any circumstance.
8. Score sheets will be available at the coach's information center after each awards ceremony.

AWARDS & HIGHLIGHTS

1. ALL TEAMS will receive an official NECA plaque.
2. STUNT GROUPS placing 1ST -3RD will receive Olympic medals.
3. TOP JUMPERS and TOP TUMBLERS will receive Olympic medals.
4. FREE GIFTS FOR COACHES!
5. OPEN DIVISION CHAMPS will receive the coveted SILVER CUP (traveling since 1983)!
6. CO-ED division, and OPEN division CHAMPS will receive a **CUSTOMIZED NECA CHAMIONSHIP BELT!!**

REGISTRATION DETAILS

1. Early registration fee is \$325 per team entered and is due December 1, 2023.
2. On time registration fee is \$350 per team entered and is due 2 weeks prior to the event date.
3. Top Gun Stunt registration fee is \$40 per stunt group entered.
4. Top Gun Jumper/Tumber fee is \$10 per student.
5. Competition fees are non-refundable and non-transferrable.
6. Print out the registration form by clicking on "registration packet".
7. Please include up to 2 coaches on your roster. They must be officially recognized and insured coaches from your school in order to obtain a coaches pass and access to warm-up and competition area.
8. Mail forms with check or money order to the address on the form. DECEMBER 1ST FOR EARLY BIRD!
9. Questions or changes in the number of participants should be emailed to info@cheerNECA.com.
10. The order of appearance will be emailed to coaches as a draft the week prior to the event.
11. The final order of appearance will be posted the Wednesday prior to the event.
12. Please inform families that we are unable to give out times until the final order is posted.
13. Requests for division changes cannot be accepted once the final order is posted.
14. Should you need to withdraw your team from the event please make every effort to contact NECA by calling 860-848-0040. On the day of the event please email info@cheerNECA.com.

COMPETITION DAY

1. Teams MUST register together (as a group) with their coach/approved school official.
2. Each team member must have an official signed copy of the release form in order to participate.
3. All release & sportsmanship forms should be brought to check-in on the day of the event. Please do not mail copies to NECA.
4. Final check in & warm-up times will be available online at www.cheerneca.com the Thursday prior to the event. Coaches should verify times the day before the event.
5. Any last minute weather updates will be posted on our website and/or be sent through group e-mail.
6. Teams MUST appear for their warm-up or they automatically forfeit their warm-up.
7. Helium balloons are NOT ALLOWED in the facility nor are banners to be affixed to any surface.
8. General admission is \$15 adult, \$13 seniors, \$10 students. Children under 5 are FREE!
9. **COACH'S INFORMATION CENTER** The coaches' information center will be the place for team registration, legality questions and concerns. We ask that all questions regarding score sheets, legalities, and event policy be brought to the coach's information center by the head coach so we may locate the appropriate event official to assist you.