

New England Cheerleaders Assoc. Inc.

NECA Open Event

P.O. Box 124
Uncasville, CT 06382

www.CheerNECA.com
necastaff@gmail.com
(860) 630-0577

To: Cheerleading Coaches

Re: NECA Open Cheerleading Championship

Date: Saturday February 28, 2026

Dear Cheerleading Coach,

We are happy to confirm your registration for the NECA Open Cheerleading Championship to be held at East Haven High School in East Haven, CT on Saturday, February 28, 2026. **Please be sure you have read the guidelines/skill restrictions for the division(s) you have entered and that you have chosen the appropriate division for your team.** Divisions and descriptions are available at www.cheerNECA.com located on the NECA Open page. If you feel you have entered the incorrect division for any reason, please email necastaff@gmail.com ASAP to correct this.

Team registration times will be assigned based on the number of teams participating. Estimated session times are listed below. **THESE ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.** A **draft** of the order of the appearance **will be e-mailed** to all head coaches the **Saturday before** the event. A final schedule will be posted the THURSDAY before the event at www.cheerNECA.com.

- Session 1 (youth/middle, JV, novice and/or intermediate varsity): 9:30am-1pm
- Session 2 (advanced, coed, and open varsity): 1:30pm-4:30pm
- Session 3 (college cheer and dance): 4:45pm-6pm
- Please plan to arrive as close to your assigned registration times as possible to allow all teams the opportunity to register on time for their warm-up.

Enclosed is a RELEASE FORM & SPORTSMANSHIP CODE that must be copied and distributed to each member of your team. Forms must be turned in the day of the competition upon check-in. If you have any questions please write to necastaff@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you at the competition!

Respectfully,

Priscilla Lutz, President

Alexandria Field, Vice President and Director of Camps

Kirsten Smith Maskell, Director of Judges

Tanya Webster, Director of Competitions

IMPORTANT REMINDERS COACHES, CHEERLEADERS, PARENTS SCHOOL & RECREATIONAL

The New England Cheerleaders Association and East Haven High School wish to make your competition experience a positive one by reminding you of the following:

- ❖ Teams should arrive as close to their assigned registration time as possible. The first 5 teams competing in any given session will be registered first in order for the event to begin on time.
- ❖ Buses may drop cheerleaders off in the roundabout in the front entrance of the school.
- ❖ Coaches must have all release forms collected and ready to turn in at the registration table along with any balance of payment due. This will keep the line moving more quickly.
- ❖ **Three (3) coaches per team** will be allowed admittance at team registration. Coaches will be given a bracelet upon arrival and must wear it at all times. For the safety of our athletes only certified coaches who are officially recognized by your school/program's insurance policy will be allowed a coach's pass and have access to team areas/warm-ups.
- ❖ Teams will be designated a "team meeting area" upon arrival. Please DO NOT STUNT, JUMP, OR TUMBLE in these areas.
- ❖ Team meeting areas **MUST BE KEPT CLEAN**. Monitors will be used to ensure that the auditorium is kept in order and supplies are available. Please clean up after yourself and respect EHHS school property as if it were your own.
- ❖ We cannot express enough that there will be hundreds of people in and out of the facility all day long. We have a monitor in all areas. It is an unfortunate reality, however, that items are sometimes lost, stolen, or misplaced. PLEASE help us to avoid this by keeping valuables with you, reporting suspicious activity, and labeling gear so we can return it to the rightful owner if found.
- ❖ Do not leave valuables in the locker rooms, bathrooms, or elsewhere unattended. Keep them with you at all times. NECA and EHHS are not responsible for lost or stolen items.
- ❖ The competition will be photographed by a professional photographer and photo viewing stations will be available immediately after each performance to allow athletes to see themselves in action!
- ❖ Signs, banners, and balloons are prohibited in the stands out of respect and as a safety precaution.
- ❖ School property **MUST** be respected and preserved. **NO GLITTER OR BODY PAINT IS ALLOWED**. Destruction of school property will result in appropriate disciplinary action including disqualification.
- ❖ **For your Safety:** Cheerleaders may not jump, stunt, or tumble anywhere except in the designated matted areas.

We hope you have a safe and enjoyable competitive experience... GOOD LUCK!

NECA Open Cheer & Dance Championship

Saturday, February 28, 2026

LOCATION: East Haven High School
35 Wheelbarrow Lane
East Haven, CT 06513

GENERAL SCHEDULE:	8:30	Doors Open for Spectators
	9:30 – 1:00	Session 1 (youth/rec/middle, JV, and varsity intermediate)
	1:30 – 4:30	Session 2 (varsity advanced, varsity open, and coed)
	4:45-6:00	Session 3 (college cheer and dance)

Times are approximations and are subject to change.

GENERAL ADMISSION:		One Session	Full Day Pass
Adult		\$15	\$20
Seniors		\$13	\$18
Students		\$10	\$15
Children (5 and under)	Free		Free

Admission passes sold by session.

Please pass along to your athletes' families:

In order to maintain a safe capacity and to allow ALL families the opportunity to watch their children compete we will be selling admission passes by sessions.

The "session only" spectators MUST EXIT after each awards ceremony. Officials will help enforce this policy to ensure a safe capacity is maintained throughout the day.

A FULL DAY PASS will be available for spectators who wish to remain for multiple sessions. We appreciate your support and help with getting the word to your families and fans.

NECA Open Cheer & Dance Championship

Saturday, February 28, 2026

“Team Tips”

Here are some tips to help you have a successful check-in and a “stress free” day!

BUSES: Drop off and pick up should be at the roundabout entrance for East Haven High School. Please then proceed to park behind the school in the far parking lot. Buses may NOT park alongside the building for the duration of the competition. **Please note that drivers will have to pay admission if they wish to watch the competition.**

Simple steps to follow today... have a great day!

1. **TEAM CHECK-IN:** Times are suggested on the order of appearance and are approximately 1 hour prior to your “report to warm-up” time. Teams traveling together may check-in together. Proceed to the registration table inside the back entrance to the school.

2. **TEAM MEETING AREAS:** It’s important that we keep the lobby, entry, and exits clear SO... Teams will be directed to proceed right to their TEAM MEETING AREA to regroup. We will have restrooms open in each area. You may leave your things in your TEAM MEETING AREA while you compete, HOWEVER, we recommend not leaving valuables unattended.

WHILE YOU WAIT... You do not have to stay in your team meeting area until warm-ups. Please feel free to visit the lobby for food, snacks, vendors, etc. Teams MAY NOT sit in the bleacher seats during the competition. We must reserve these seats for your families and friends. We will have a section available for teams who are traveling together with a younger team or dance team and will be there the whole day. Just ask us when you arrive!

3. **WARM-UPS:** Your “Report to Warm-Up Time” is on your order of appearance. It will give you approximately 10 minutes of stretching time prior to your first warm-up mat. We will have signs leading the way.

Mat A = 2-3 strips

Mat B = 2-3 strips

Mat C = 7 strips

*Coach’s choice as to what is done on each mat. You have 5 minutes on each.

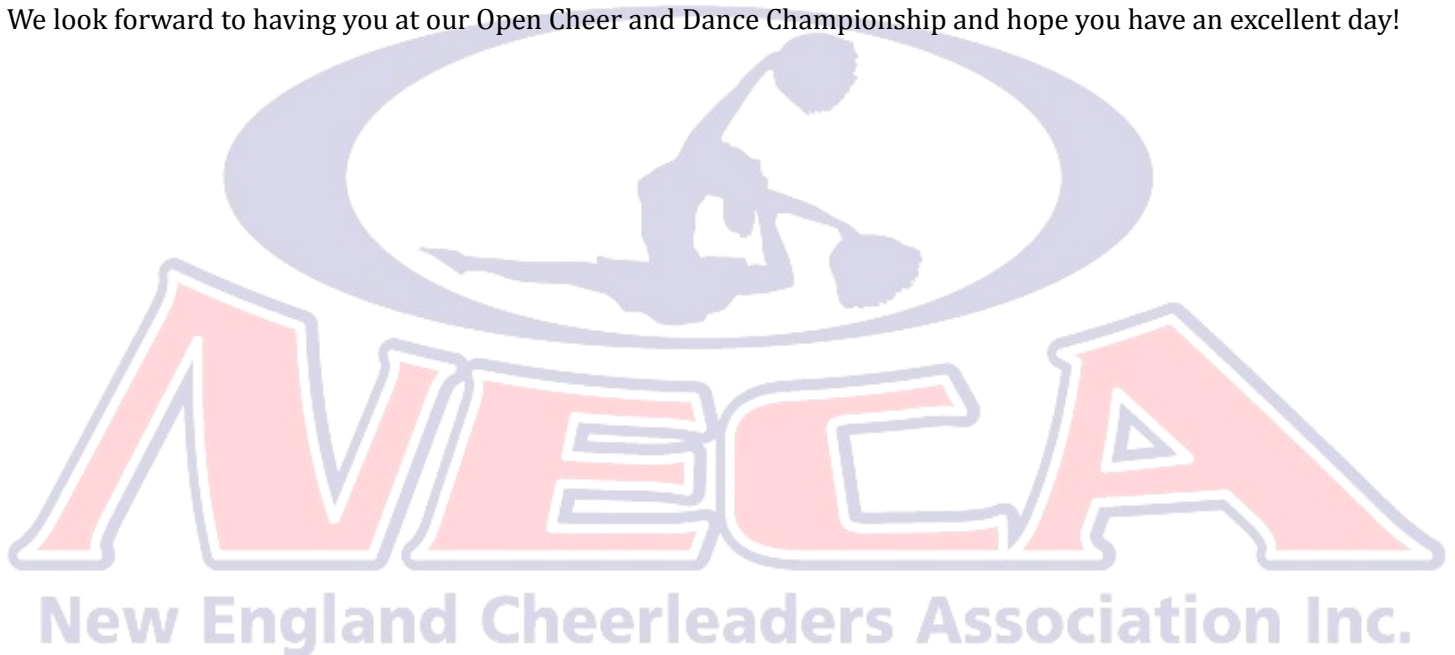
4. **ON DECK, DOUBLE DECK:** Coaches will stay with their teams on “double deck.” **When your team is “on deck” you need to bring your music to the music station.** Coaches must have a representative to play their music who remains at the music station.

5. **MUSIC:** Please ensure that you have back-up copies of your music. **If you are using a personal device for music, notifications or volume issues will not be considered an interruption of routine.** Please be sure your music is licensed and you have proper paperwork due to the new licensing policies. Info on this can be found at <http://usacheer.net/presssafety/music>

6. **COMPETE & AFTER:** Bring all that hard work to the performance mat. Don't be nervous. ENJOY EVERY MINUTE OF IT! After you compete, NECA staff will point you to the appropriate gym exit so you can hydrate and RELAX! Feel free to use your team meeting area right up until the time before awards.
7. **AWARDS & STAGING:** Approximately 10-15 minutes before awards ALL CHEERLEADERS AND COACHES who competed in the sessions should do the following.
 - a. Gather your belongings from your TEAM MEETING AREA.
 - b. Be sure to clean up after yourselves and don't leave anything behind. TEAM MEETING AREAS will be occupied by the time your awards are over so let's leave it nice and clean for the next group!
 - c. Head back down the warm-up hallway for staging for awards. NECA staff will meet you there and help get you ready for the awards ceremony.

After our awards ceremony we ask that you clear the competition in a timely fashion in order to prevent any delays in beginning our next session.

We look forward to having you at our Open Cheer and Dance Championship and hope you have an excellent day!



NECA LIABILITY WAIVER

TEAM/GYM NAME: _____ LOCATION OF GYM: _____

PARTICIPANT'S NAME: _____ D.O.B. (Date of Birth) _____ Age: _____

PARTICIPANT'S STREET ADDRESS: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

RELEASE OF LIABILITY FOR MINOR PARTICIPANTS

In consideration of my minor child/ward ("my child") being allowed to participate, in any way, in the NEW ENGLAND CHEERLEADERS ASSOCIATION INC. NECA Open Cheerleading Championship or NECA Classic All-Star Cheer & Dance Championship, and related activities and events; I, the undersigned, hereby agree that:

1. The risk of injury, to my child, from the activities involved with these programs is significant, including the potential for permanent disability and death, and while particular rules, equipment, and personal discipline may reduce this risk, the risk of serious injury does exist: and,
2. For myself, my spouse, and child, I knowingly and freely assume all such risks, both known and unknown, even if arising from the negligence of the releasees or others, and assume full responsibility for my child's participation: and,
3. I willingly agree to comply with the rules and conditions, for participation in the New England Cheerleaders Association Inc. NECA Open Cheerleading Championships and NECA All-Star Cheerleading Championships. If I observe any unusual, significant concern in my child's readiness for participation in the aforementioned competitions, I will remove my child from participation and bring such to the attention of the nearest official immediately: and,
4. I, for myself, my spouse, my child, and on behalf of my/our heirs, assigns, personal representatives, and next of kin, hereby release the New England Cheerleaders Association Inc., its officers, officials, agents and/or employees, other participants, sponsoring agencies, sponsors, advertisers, and if applicable, owners and lessors of premises used to conduct the NECA Open Cheerleading Championships and/or NECA All Star Cheerleading Championships ("Releasees"), with respect to any and all injury, disability, death, harm, loss or damage to person or property incident to my child's involvement or participation in these competitions, whether arising from the negligence of the releasees or otherwise, to the fullest extent permitted by law.
5. I, for myself, my spouse, my child, and on behalf of my/our heirs, assigns, personal representatives and next of kin, HEREBY INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS all the above releasees from any and all liabilities incident to my involvement or participation in these programs, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THEIR NEGLIGENCE, TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW.

PARENT/GUARDIAN : *I have read this release of liability and assumption of risk agreement, and fully understand its terms, as well as understand that I have given up substantial rights by signing it, and sign it freely and voluntarily without any inducement. Furthermore, I understand that photos taken at this event are property of NECA and may be used for advertising and promotional purposes. By signing below, I acknowledge/accept this.*

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

PRINT NAME

DATE

PARTICIPANT: *I understand the seriousness of the risks involved in participating in this program, my personal responsibilities for adhering to the rules and regulations, and accept them as a participant. Furthermore, I understand that photos taken at this event are property of NECA and may be used for advertising and promotional purposes. By signing below, I acknowledge/accept this.*

PARTICIPANT'S SIGNATURE

PRINT NAME

DATE

NECA SPORTSMANSHIP CODE

NECA believes strongly in the importance of good sportsmanship and expects all participants, coaches, parents, and/or spectators to treat each other with the highest regard. The following rules will be in effect from the time each individual enters the facility until the time that they leave.

1. The gym owner and/or coach is responsible for the behavior of his or her athletes at all times.
2. The gym owner and/or coach is responsible for seeing that parents and/or other persons affiliated with the team conduct themselves according to the sportsmanship code.
3. Cheerleaders, coaches, and persons affiliated with the team must display sportsmanlike behavior at all times.
4. Unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated and may lead to penalty deductions for the team and/or removal from the facility.
5. Penalties may 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 in a disrespectful manner.
 - b. Declining 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.
 - e. Inappropriate or untimely cheering that in effect can be viewed as negative towards a person or group of persons.

We know how hard all of our coaches and cheerleaders have worked this season and want to ensure that everyone has a positive experience at our NECA events. Please keep in mind that the most important thing is our cheerleaders. Giving them the opportunity to compete in a safe, positive environment and allowing them to be recognized for their accomplishments is our top priority. We thank you for your cooperation and adherence to this code.

Sincerely,

The NECA Staff

Signature of Athlete: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Parent: _____ Date: _____