

COMPETITION AND EXHIBITION RULES

1. Eligibility: Entries in competition are limited to Bert Bell Cheerleading Conference members only, who are in good standing for the current year. Cheerleaders MUST cheer for 50% of all scheduled games. Special circumstances must be brought to the Bert Bell Cheerleading board's attention.
2. Fees: A registration fee will be negotiated and agreed upon at the September general meeting.
 - A. Fees are due by the October meeting. The fee is non-refundable.
 - B. There will be a fee for both competition and exhibition teams.
3. Competition Committee Definition & Responsibilities:
 - A. At the November meeting a committee including the executive board, a member of the Bert Bell football board, and a representative from each division will be established to coordinate the next year's event. Committee responsibilities may be divided up as needed to accomplish the tasks.
 - B. Committee Responsibilities:
 1. By the August meeting, the committee must have secured and possess a signed contract for an appropriately sized competition facility.
 2. Send each competing organization a copy of the competition judging sheets, a gym diagram with mat dimensions and a map to the gym location.
 3. Employ a competent announcer who can keep the crowd under control.
 4. Arrange for a professional sound system.
 5. Arrange for competition T-Shirts design, procurement, and pre-sales forms.
 6. Arrange for a food and beverage vendor.
 7. Produce a program to include information on all competing and exhibiting teams.
 8. Determine a schedule to staff the cheerleader check-in, ticket, T-shirt, fund raiser and event program tables throughout the competition day. Each league will be required to contribute a certain number of people to staff some of these areas at appointed times of the day.
 9. Set ticket prices and arrange for ticket pre-sales. Additionally, any maximum seating capacity restrictions should be published so all organizations can effectively communicate to their parents.
 10. Determine event fund raiser items and arrange for pre-sale forms where appropriate.
 11. Arrange for videographer and pre-sale forms.
 12. Provide cash boxes and seed cash for ticket, T-shirt, fund raiser and event program tables.
4. Competition Day Format requirements:
 - A. Cheerleading mats measured off in a 52' by 52' square with an "X" marked in the center of the mat.
 - B. Have enough tables to seat six judges and the four Bert Bell board members in front of the competition mat and ensure the area is cordoned off appropriately to keep the crowd at distance.
 - C. Have enough tables to sell tickets, T-shirts, fund raiser items and event programs at.
 - D. Have a separate walk-through and tumbling area for teams to warm-up on in facilities with sufficient height and size.
 - E. Have a holding area for cheerleaders big enough for cheerleaders in the current session.
 - F. Have a cheerleading check-in and registration area apart from the general ticket area.
 - G. Have a professional sound system and announcer available to run the event and provide direction to the audience throughout the day.
5. Registration:
 - A. Registration will begin one (1) hour before the start time of the competition.
 - B. Each club will be given 5 minutes for tumbling/stunting and five (5) minutes to walk through their routine in the designated warm-up areas for each competition and exhibition squad.
 - C. Exhibition squads may opt not to do their walk through; these teams must notify board by October meeting.
 - D. ID cards and rosters will be checked the day of competition. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

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6. Age Division Requirements: The ages for competition only are determined as of August 31st, the exceptions to that are seven year olds must turn seven (7) by June 30th and they may be no older than fifteen (15) years old as of November 30th as dictated by Bert Bell Football registration rules.
 - A. Exhibition Squads: There will be a limit of four (4) exhibition squads from each organization. No more may be entered. Each exhibition team can consist of cheerleaders ages 7-15 years.
 - B. Competition Squads:
 1. Pee Wee Division Squads: Can consist of cheerleaders ages 7-9 years.
 2. Youth Division Squads: Can consist of cheerleaders ages 7-10 years.
 3. Junior Division Squads: Can consist of cheerleaders ages 9-12 years.
 4. Senior Division Squads: Can consist of cheerleaders ages 11-15 years.
7. Competition squad requirements:
 - A. No cheerleader will be permitted to cheer on two Competition squads but may perform on both an Exhibition and a Competition squad. If a cheerleader is on two competition squads, both squads will be disqualified.
 - B. A club may not have more than one team in any Division and Category. A club may have a Junior Intermediate and Junior Elite team but may not have two Junior Elite teams even if one is Small and one is Large.
 - C. Competition rosters must be submitted by the September meeting.
8. Order of Performance: The lottery will take place at the September general meeting.
 - A. Exhibition Squads will perform in the lottery order.
 - B. Any organization not present at the September meeting will automatically be placed in first performance position. If more than one organization is not present, then the organizations will be placed in alphabetical order.
9. Routine:
 - A. Skill Level Categories: Skill levels will be available to the following Age Divisions: Novice – All (PeeWee, Youth, Junior, Senior), Intermediate – Youth, Junior and Senior, Elite – Junior and Senior.
 1. Novice Level
 - a. Standing tumbling limited to a cart wheel, round off and single back-handspring
 - b. Running tumbling limited to a single round-off back-handspring
 - c. Dismounts limited to simple cradles and straight drops, no twists allowed
 - d. No basket tosses
 - e. Single leg stunts limited to prep-level liberty only
 - f. Extension stunt limited to two-legged only
 - g. Pyramids (braced or non-braced) limited to prep-level or below
 2. Intermediate Level
 - a. Standing tumbling limited to a cartwheel, round-off and back-handspring (series permitted)
 - b. Running tumbling limited to multiple back-handsprings
 - c. Dismounts limited to basic cradle or straight drop from one-legged stunts. Single full twists are permitted from two-legged stunts.
 - d. Basket tosses are permitted. No twists or helicopters
 - e. Single leg stunts are limited to extended liberties
 - f. Pyramids must follow AACCA High school and youth rules
 3. Elite Level
 - a. Dismounts limited to a single full twist
 - b. Basket tosses limited to a single twist.
 - c. All tumbling, stunts and pyramids must follow AACCA High school and youth rules
 - B. Size of squads: any organization regardless of numbers may put up to 30 cheerleaders on the floor. If a Division gets very large there may be a split of the division as follows:
 1. Small squad less than 15
 2. Large squad 15 – 30

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- C. Request of division and skill level: Squads must put their request for division and skill level categories in by October 15. NO EXCEPTIONS!
- D. Actual Routine:
 - 1. Cheer/Dance combined for TWO TO TWO AND A HALF MINUTES (2-2 ½). IT IS MANDATORY TO DANCE TO A MINIMUM OF 20 SECONDS WITH A MAXIMUM OF ONE MINUTE 30 SECONDS.
 - 2. Exhibition squads may perform for a maximum of TWO MINUTES. Props are allowed.
 - 3. Ten (10) point penalty for going over/under time on total routine. Will allow a five second grace period (1.55 or 2.35). This deduction will be applied to the final score.
 - 4. Five (5) point penalty for going over/under for dance/music routine. No grace period. This deduction will be applied only once to the final score.
 - 5. Ten (10) point penalty for each illegal stunt. This will be deducted from the final score.
 - 6. Five (5) point penalty for any jewelry worn. This deduction will be applied only once to the final score.
 - 7. Only at the beginning of the routine may tumbling start off the mat. Tumbling must finish on the mat. Any cheerleader who goes off the mat at any time during cheer or dance routine will receive a five (5) point deduction each time it occurs. This will be taken off the final score.
 - 8. Props (pompoms, megaphones, banners, flags and signs only) are permitted in the competition routines. The cheerleaders must carry them on and off the mat. Only cheerleaders can use props on the mat. If the cheerleaders do not carry the props on and off the mat, a five (5) point deduction will be taken off the final score. Signs and pompoms may be off the mat. If banners or flags are on poles then they must be approved.
- E. Three adult spotters are provided by Bert Bell. Any organization that would like to add more spotters may do so, however, they may not be coaches. The spotters must be familiar with the routine and only assist if a cheerleader is falling. He/She may not help a cheerleader into a stunt. Spotters must wear sneakers. Spotters must know the proper way to spot.
- F. No Cheer or Dance motions may be used by Competition squads, which includes but is not limited to; NCA, UCA, ECA, FCC, etc. As determined by the judging coordinator. Words of the cheer may be used but not the motions to the cheer. No entire eight counts may be used. Any squad using a cheerleading camp routine will be disqualified and automatically receive Honorable Mention.
- G. No paid choreographers are permitted for Bert Bell Competition routines.
- H. UCA/NCA/AACCA guidelines will be followed at all times.

10. Judges:

- A. The number of judges will be voted upon at the August meeting. They must be UCA or NCA affiliated and not with any particular competing organization. No judge may have prior coaching or mentoring experience with any competing organization.
- B. A UCA or NCA certified official will be judging coordinator. He/She is responsible for answering any questions prior to competition.
- C. Judging sheets will be immediately taken to two (2) independent auditors (adults) for tallying. The two (2) independent auditors will tally the sheets and run an adding machine tape for each sheet, which will be stapled to each sheet. A master sheet will be given to each squad with all the scores of the participants. All individual score sheets will be available at the end of competition. No coaches from Bert Bell Cheerleading Conference will approach a judge. If questions, contact the Independent Judging Coordinator.
- D. A written criteria should be given to judges for more efficient scoring.
- E. Independent Judging Coordinator/Tallier will complete the announcement sheet for each category to be used for announcement of awards. All competing squads will be listed on the award announcement sheet.
- F. Any changes made on the score sheet must be initialed by judge, independent judging coordinator and Bert Bell representative.
- G. The Bert Bell President will review deductions taken off final score before announcements.

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11. Requirements for the judge table:

- A. Those allowed to sit at the judge table during the entire competition include; Officers of the Bert Bell Cheerleading League, judges, timers, and judging coordinator. No other representative, coach or individual will be permitted to sit at any time.
- B. The two timers shall be the Secretary and Treasurer.
 - 1. Another board member may take the position depending on circumstances.
 - 2. The timers must be in good standing with the cheerleading league.

12. Requirements for Day of Competition

- A. The treasurer will be the timekeeper for the walk-throughs or will appoint a representative ahead of time.
- B. The only people allowed in the walk through gym are as follows; a board member, coach/cheerleader/holding room parent from the team performing, the time keeper, security personnel and the host of competition.
- C. The president shall oversee all parts of the competition and is responsible for making sure the event runs smooth.
- D. The cheerleading board and each cheerleading director shall be given special ID tags prior to competition.