



GENERAL EVENT POLICIES



Event-specific registration pages, published schedules, and venue instructions may supplement these General Event Policies. Programs are responsible for reviewing all current event-specific information before each event.

COACHES INFORMATION

Registration is open from the time doors open until 60 minutes before the final practice time. Teams must register before their scheduled practice. All event information is provided to coaches at registration. No formal meeting will be held, so teams may arrive at the competition at their convenience. Coaches are encouraged to ask any Star Spirit representative any questions they may have.

All non-USASF coaching staff must provide a valid background check before the event. Recreational programs and All Star programs should be legally separate entities.

PRACTICE AND PERFORMANCE SCHEDULES

All schedules are emailed to coaches by 6:00 p.m. EST on the Sunday before the event. All times are subject to change due to cancellations and additions beyond our control. Star Spirit may update the performance order several times throughout the week; the schedule will be final on the Thursday before the event. Coaches will receive a copy in their registration packets; however, no additional paper copies will be available at the event. If you have a scheduling conflict, Star Spirit will do its best to accommodate all teams. Please notify us immediately by calling 1-219-380-5799. Practice times are strictly enforced. Teams that do not arrive at their scheduled time will forfeit their practice.

Although we make every effort to follow the performance order as closely as possible, the nature of any live event requires flexibility. We encourage you to stay informed of possible changes in performance times on the day of the event. Star Spirit cannot be held responsible for parents or spectators who miss performances or award ceremonies. All times are approximate, subject to change, and may fluctuate by as much as one hour in either direction.

PRACTICE AND PERFORMANCE AREAS

Star Spirit has a 54' x 42' spring floor. Dance teams will perform on the spring floor at all regional events and on a Marley floor at Dance Nationals. Practice areas vary by host venue, but at most events we provide a 54' x 42' dead-mat cheer floor, a 60' x 12' tumble strip, and a 12' x 42' dead-mat stretching area. Only athletes and coaches are permitted to enter the practice/warm-up area. All Star coaches must have a Green Light Background Check to access the practice area. Cleared coaches and personnel will receive a wristband for identification.

The Six Flags event is an outdoor event, weather permitting. The Six Flags event may not offer a spring floor in warmups. Six Flags may be held off-site.

PRACTICE TIMES

Practice times are strictly enforced. Any team that misses its practice time will forfeit its practice. Due to the high volume of crossovers, Star Spirit will do its best to accommodate teams.

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COMPETITION WAIVERS

Each participant must have a completed waiver to participate in any Star Spirit event. Any participant without a completed waiver before their practice time will be unable to perform. Waivers are available through Cheer Comp Genie under each competition, along with the registration form and Code of Ethics. Once a participant completes a waiver, no additional waiver is required for another Star Spirit event during that competitive season. Waivers may be turned in at registration when the number of participants is 25 or fewer; otherwise, they must be completed online through Cheer Comp Genie.

CROSSOVER FEES

Any participant who competes on more than one team within the same organization is considered a crossover. That participant will pay one full-price fee and the crossover fee for every additional team on which they compete.

COACHES FEES

Every program receives up to two coaches free per team. Each additional coach will be charged a \$25 fee for one-day events and a \$50 fee for two-day events. This fee applies to each additional coach and must be paid before receiving a coach wristband, which provides access to the coaches room and warm-up areas.

PHOTOS

Classic Photography takes team and candid photos during most Star Spirit events. Photos may be purchased at the event or online at www.classicphoto.org.

MUSIC

Please bring TWO high-quality copies of your music as a digital file or on an MP3 player, iPod, or phone. Be sure notifications are turned off when using a phone, iPod, or tablet. Please bring your own converter; one may or may not be provided.

One representative from your group or individual entry will be responsible for playing the music during the competition. That person must remain at the sound area throughout the entire routine. If the routine is delayed due to the responsible party's error, the routine timing will continue and penalties will apply.

SCORE SHEETS

Score sheets are available 20-30 minutes after each performance via email through Cheer Comp Genie. You have 20 minutes after receiving your score sheets to submit a score review. Questions and reviews received after the full 30-minute mark will no longer be eligible.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Star Spirit asks that the Code of Conduct be followed during all Star Spirit events to ensure a positive experience for all teams and individuals involved. It is available at www.starspiritproductions.com. Each team must complete a Code of Ethics form to compete at any Star Spirit event. This form is available through Cheer Comp Genie.

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CELL PHONE

Out of respect for the athletes and other spectators, please turn off all cell phones and pagers upon entering the performance areas. Cell phone recordings are permitted as long as they do not conflict with the judges' view.

CROWD CONTROL, FAN VIEWING, AND ACCESSIBLE SEATING

In the interest of public safety, Star Spirit asks you to identify the nearest exit in case of an emergency. Keep in mind that the nearest exit may not be in your direct view. For safety, please keep all aisles clear and open. We appreciate your cooperation.

At most Star Spirit events, there will be a FAN VIEWING AREA for friends and families of the team currently performing. Once your team's performance is finished, please exit promptly to make room for the next group of fans. All other seating is general admission, and seat saving is not permitted. For accessible seating or assistance for elderly guests, please see a Star Spirit representative.

CANCELLATION POLICY

If your team needs to cancel for any reason, the following policies will be enforced. All cancellations must be submitted in writing to a Star Spirit representative.

- Ninety or more days before an event, you are eligible to receive transfer credit for any event within the current season or the next season.
- There are no refunds 21 days or fewer before the event unless there are extenuating circumstances. Gyms are responsible for 75% of the invoice if they withdraw from a competition or conference within 14 days of the event date.

There are NO REFUNDS for teams or participants that do not appear at an event.

If your team's participant numbers change for any reason, there is NO REFUND for the difference. The credit may be applied to another event within the same competition season.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

If Star Spirit cancels an event due to inclement weather and the event is not rescheduled, your team will receive a full registration transfer to another Star Spirit event within one year. Host venues may require us to cancel due to unforeseen circumstances, in which case a backup date will be provided. If you cannot attend the backup date, you may transfer your fees to another event within the same competition season. Otherwise, if the facility is open, the event will proceed. Please make any necessary travel arrangements to arrive at the event on time and safely.

SCORE PROTEST POLICY

Any coach who believes a mistake has been made may file a protest with the Star Spirit Score Review Staff within 20 minutes of receiving the score or deduction email. ONE COACH per team may speak with a Star Spirit Score Review Staff member. Scores will be reviewed and discussed, and adjustments may be made. Only legitimate protests will be reviewed. All deduction protests must be submitted before the award ceremony. No changes will be made after that time, and all judges' decisions will be final.

Any coach who approaches a judge will not be given the opportunity for their complaint to be heard.

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RECREATION TEAM DETERMINATION

For the purpose of competing at a Star Spirit event, Recreational Cheerleading is defined below. All teams competing in these divisions must meet these criteria. We offer both Traditional Rec (cheers for another team) and Performance Rec.

Star Spirit follows The ONE Prime Finals TOP Rec divisions and YCADA divisions, including the applicable scoring systems for both.

1. A team must be affiliated with, report to, and be governed by an organization such as:

- YMCA
- Boys and Girls Club
- City/County Parks and Recreation Program
- Community Youth Organization
- Pop Warner Association
- Any other community-run program not associated with a school or All Star program

2. A team must be able to prove its relationship and affiliation with the organization if requested. The organization's president or a higher-ranking authority must submit a formal letter stating the organization's endorsement.

3. Team members must fulfill the age requirement for the division they are entering on or before August 31, 2026. Proof must be provided upon request.

4. Participants may not represent more than one recreational program in a season. Proof must be provided upon request.

A Recreational/Organizational team may do or have the following:

- Hold tryouts.
- Have its own practice facility or gym.
- Practice or attend tumbling classes at gymnastics or All Star facilities.
- Combine team members from other teams within the organization.

A team that does not meet all of the above criteria may be disqualified.

MUSIC/TIME LIMITS

Timing begins with the first movement, cheer, or note of music, whichever comes first. Any organized entrances, chants, spell-outs, tumbling, or similar activity will automatically start the clock. Teams will be assessed a penalty if the routine exceeds two minutes and 31 seconds.

- Cheer Teams - 2:30 maximum (exception: All Star Prep/Novice maximum of 2:00); may consist of all music or any combination of cheer and chant.
- Dance Teams - 2:15-2:30 (minimum 1:45). Studio Dance Teams - 3:00 maximum.
- All Small Group/Individual Performances - 2:00 maximum.

Music may be on a CD, iPod, phone, or tablet. It is to your advantage to use a high-quality CD. Please bring backup CDs. Star Spirit will not be responsible if your CD, iPod, phone, or tablet cannot be read by the sound equipment. Clearly label all CDs, iPods, phones, and tablets with your team's name.

When your team is called on deck, a coach or adult affiliated with your organization must report to the sound station. This representative is responsible for starting, pausing, and stopping your music and must remain at the sound station throughout the team's entire performance.

Turn off notifications when using a phone, iPod, or tablet. If you use an iPhone 7 or newer, you must provide the appropriate adapter to connect to the auxiliary audio cable.

COPYRIGHT

Star Spirit requires all teams to comply with U.S. copyright laws. Teams must produce a license for their music at registration to remain compliant. If you have questions about U.S. copyright laws, please ask your music provider for information.

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ROUTINE START

- **Cheer Teams** - Before the routine begins, participants must be positioned inside the performance-area boundary and must have one foot, hand, or body part on the floor. Exception: flyers may have their feet positioned in their base(s)' hands as long as the base(s)' hands are resting on the performance surface. Please remember that hair is not a body part!
- **Dance Teams** - Timing begins with the first movement or note of music, whichever comes first.
- **Tiny/Mini Teams ONLY** - For Tiny or Mini division teams, a coach may assist in placing participants in their first formation in a timely fashion but must then exit the mat immediately. Those coaches may remain seated in front of the mat to help visually guide the routine. NOTE: Excessive motions, words, jumping up and down, or other actions that could distract the judges will NOT be allowed.

PERFORMANCE AREA

Star Spirit will provide a 54' x 42' (nine-strip) spring floor on the main performance floor, a 54' x 42' (nine-strip) foam mat, and a 12' x 60' spring tumble track for the warm-up floor. Depending on the venue floor plan, these dimensions may vary slightly.

For dance teams, Star Spirit will provide a Worlds-sized Marley floor at selected events. At events where a Marley floor is not available, dance teams will perform on a 54' x 42' spring floor.

GENERAL UNIFORM GUIDELINES

No risque, sexually provocative, lingerie-looking, or lingerie-inspired uniforms or garments are allowed. All uniform pieces must adequately cover the athlete and be secured to eliminate possible wardrobe malfunctions. Appropriate undergarments must be worn. Athletes must also consider that a combination of uniform pieces may make a uniform appropriate or inappropriate. ALL garments must properly cover the athlete and the athlete's undergarments throughout the routine.

SPORTSMANSHIP/CODE OF CONDUCT

Star Spirit strives to produce events that are positive, friendly, enjoyable, and competitive for everyone involved and to uphold the highest standards of conduct and sportsmanship. Unsportsmanlike behavior may include, but is not limited to, profanity or approaching or taunting fans, parents, cheerleaders, coaches, Star Spirit staff members, or judges in a manner that does not show mutual respect and cooperation.

Any display of unsportsmanlike behavior by a team member, coach, or parent will be penalized. Teams that do not leave the warm-up area or floor promptly when their assigned time has ended will also be penalized.

- Penalties for unsportsmanlike conduct may include a deduction, removal of a coach, or disqualification.
- Unruly behavior by coaches/advisors, participants, or spectators will result in removal from the event with NO REFUNDS.
- Participants, coaches/advisors, and spectators may not contact judges during the competition.
- Judges' decisions are final concerning deductions, specific rulings, and final placement.
- Each team must complete a Code of Ethics form to compete at a Star Spirit event. This form is available on our website and must be signed and submitted at registration before the team takes the floor.