

2016 USA collegiate Cheer & Dance Championships

March 19-20, 2016 • Anaheim, California

We look forward to your participation at the USA Collegiate Championships in southern California, March 19-20, 2016. Any school-based college team is welcome to register – no pre-qualification is necessary.

All competition will take place at the Anaheim Convention Center. Preliminary competition for college school-based teams will take place on Saturday late afternoon/ evening, with finals Sunday late afternoon/evening. Competition will conclude approximately 11:00 p.m. on Sunday. All official warm-up and performance venues are at the Anaheim Convention Center.

All teams will compete at prelims on Saturday and advance to finals on Sunday.

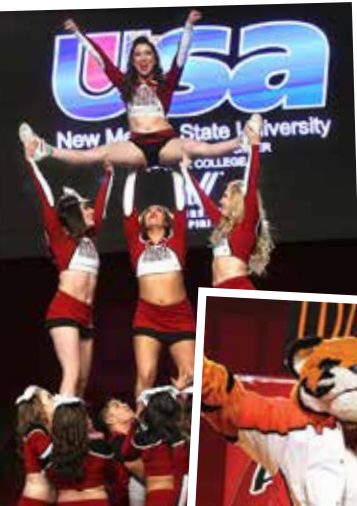
Registration is completed on-line. Please fill out the attached additional forms and send them into the USA office no later than February 5, 2016.

The competition also offers fun at the Downtown Disney® District, Disneyland® Park and Disney California Adventure® Park. The Downtown Disney® District is located within the Disneyland® Resort and is walking distance from the competition's host hotel. It offers dining, entertainment and shopping. A separate theme park admission ticket is not necessary to visit the Downtown Disney® District.

A 2-day or 3-day Park Hopper® Pass may be used throughout the weekend to visit both theme parks. You can use a 1-day Park Hopper® Pass to Disneyland® Park and Disney California Adventure® Park or a 1-day pass to Disneyland® Park or Disney California Adventure® Park. Discounted tickets are available at the event at the Anaheim Convention Center Box Office through the United Spirit Association. (Quantities limited.)

 unitedspiritassociation


VARSITY
SPIRIT



General Information

ELIGIBILITY: All team members must be registered full-time students of the school they represent (college or university) and must be official members of the school's spirit squad (no Club Teams). Transcripts for each competitor, or a letter from the Dean of Students or registrar's office, must be submitted upon registering for the USA Collegiate Championships. Although a team may register for the competition prior to this date, documentation of full-time status must not be dated any earlier than **December 1, 2015**. Any exceptions to the above (i.e. graduating seniors, graduate students, etc.) must be pre-approved in writing by the USA prior to the competition.

Individual names on the team roster must match the name given on the transcript or in the letter from the Dean of Students/registrar's office.

A team that violates eligibility rules and/or contains members who are deemed to be ineligible may forfeit any title and/or may be prohibited from entering the competition the following year.

Any interpretations or decisions of eligibility for the 2016 USA Collegiate Championships will be rendered by the Rules Committee, which is comprised of, but not limited to, the Tournament Director, the USA Cheerleading Program Director or Song/Pom/Dance Program Director and the Director of Special Events. The Rules Committee will render a judgment in a manner consistent with the general goals of the tournament.

If a team fails to produce this proof of eligibility for each team member prior to registration at the event, they will not be allowed to perform. Proof of eligibility must be submitted to the USA office on or before February 5, 2016. If submitted after February 5, 2016 then a \$25 processing fee will occur, in addition to a team not being eligible for the "Early Bird" registration fee. It is the advisor's/coach's responsibility to provide this information to the United Spirit Association by the stated deadline in the registration confirmation.

Any exceptions to the above must be pre-approved in writing by the USA office prior to the event.

Each school-based cheer team from the United States must be accompanied by a current ACCA certified coach, representing that team, in order for the team to be eligible to compete. Proof of certification must be provided with the team eligibility materials.



ADDITIONAL VARSITY BRANDS TEAM/INDIVIDUAL REQUIREMENTS:

1. Any university or college competing in a Varsity College National Championship and/or Collegiate Championship shall not permit a student-athlete to represent their school unless the student-athlete meets all applicable eligibility requirements, and the coach and program administrative supervisor has certified the student athlete's eligibility.
2. **A student-athlete may only represent ONE (1) school in a National Championship and/or Collegiate Championship competition for each academic year.** For example, a student-athlete may not compete for one school in January, transfer and compete for another school in April.
3. At the Junior College level, any student-athlete will be only eligible to compete in a **maximum of three (3) National Championships** during the course of his/her college career.
4. A student-athlete can be a part of the institution's cheer/dance spirit squad but will only be allowed to compete for a **maximum of five (5) National Championships** during the course of his/her college career, regardless of the number of universities or colleges she/he has attended.
5. A student-athlete may not compete in more than **five (5) National Championships** in combined Junior College and/or 4-year college/university.
6. Individual Championships such as Partner Stunt and Group Stunt will follow **five (5) year eligibility rules**.
7. An alternate or injured student-athlete that does not take the competition floor will not be perceived as a competing member and will not count towards the maximum of **five (5) National Championships**.
8. This will apply for any student-athlete competing at any one of the Varsity Brands College National Championships (UCA/UDA, NCA/NDA), as well as any other designated College National Championship.

Whether an individual competes at USA Collegiate Championships and at either UCA or NCA within the same season or the individual competes at USA Collegiate Championships solely, this will count as one year of eligibility/one championship toward that athlete's

maximum eligibility permitted during the athlete's collegiate participation.

9. Verification of eligibility will be required by the school's Registrar's Office and the program's administrative supervisor, in addition to the coach. It will be the responsibility of these individuals to verify that all student-provided information and documentation is correct and valid.
10. Teams violating this rule could forfeit their titles and/or rankings, as well as be prohibited from entering any other Varsity Brands Championship the following year.

DIVISIONS: The contest director may delete, combine or divide categories/divisions as deemed necessary. If divisions are altered, adjustments will be made in the awards. Categories/divisions will be subdivided into 2-year and 4-year institutions. School-based divisions with 10 or more teams may be subdivided again based upon school size and/or team size.

MUSIC: All contestants who use music must provide their own CD or MP3 device for use on the event provided sound system. Music must be recorded at the correct tempo on a high quality CD or loaded onto an MP3 device. It is not recommended that a smart phone be used for playing music, due to interference that may be caused during a routine. No cover may be on any MP3 player so that a jack may be easily inserted into the device. Music on CD must be labeled with the school name, division, team size, and be ready to play. One or several selections of music may be used. A sound system will be provided. Due to variability in sound systems, a back-up MP3 device must be available and present at the time of performance. Speed control is not available. Music checks on the main sound system are not permitted. A representative must be present at the sound system at the time of performance. Directors/coaches are asked to hold onto their own music until the time of performance and to take music back following the performance. **Due to greater room for technical error with some CDs you must have a back-up MP3 of your routine available.**

ENTRANCE/EXIT: Judges are looking for enthusiasm and showmanship during entrances and exits. Teams are encouraged to move on and off the floor as quickly as possible.

General Information

PENALTIES: Points will be deducted from the final team average for violations of safety rules and/or time limits.

A) **SAFETY RULES:** 3 points will be deducted from the final team average for each occurrence of an illegal procedure. For example, if all squad members execute an illegal stunt, the squad will receive one 3-point penalty. If the same squad performs the same or another illegal stunt within the same routine, they will receive a second 3-point penalty.

You must adhere to the appropriate 2015-16 safety rules for collegiate school-based cheer and dance programs found on the USA website: usa.varsity.com.

B) **TIME:** Timing will begin on the first note of music, the first word of the cheer, the first organized cheer, or the first movement, whichever occurs first, and stop with the end of the cheer or last note of music.

There will be a one-point penalty off the final averaged score for every 10 seconds over the time limit (1-10 seconds over = 1 point penalty, 11-20 seconds over = 2 point penalty, etc.)

Timing for prop set-up in the Mascot division will begin at the drop of the starter's hand. Set-up timing will stop when the routine begins.

APPROPRIATENESS OF CHOREOGRAPHY, MUSIC, OUTFITTING:

All facets of a performance or routine, including choreography, music selection and outfitting, should be suitable for family viewing and listening. Uniforms for all team types should be appropriate for the age of the participants performing the routine.

In general, performances from school-based teams, including but not limited to the actual routine, signs, cheers, chants and hand signals/gestures, should adhere to outfitting, performance and music guidelines and criteria in place and approved by the administration or institution to which the school team belongs. A Collegiate Image Category/Score is included on the school-based scoresheets.

Deductions will be given for vulgar or suggestive choreography, which includes, but is not limited to, movements such as hip thrusting and inappropriate touching, gestures, hand/arm movements and signals, slapping, positioning of

body parts and positioning to one another. Deductions will be given for music or words unsuitable for family listening, which includes, but is not limited, to swearwords and connotations of any type of sexual act or behavior, drugs, mention of specific parts of the body torso, and/or violent acts or behavior. Removing improper language or words from a song and replacing with sound effects or other words constitutes inappropriate, and deductions will be made accordingly.

Any uniform, movement, or music in which the appropriateness is questionable or with which uncertainty exists should be submitted to the USA for approval.

PERFORMANCE AREA: A 54' x 42' carpet bonded foam mat (non-spring) will be used for all cheerleading performances. The floor size that will be used for Group Stunt and Partner Stunt divisions will be announced with the preliminary performance schedule.

All stunts and tumbling must be completed on the mat surface. There will be a three-point deduction off your final averaged score for each infraction of this rule.

The warm-up/practice area will consist of carpet bonded foam mat strips.

All dance team divisions will perform on a marley, parquet, stage, basketball/gym court or similar type dance floor. Warm-up surfaces may differ.

PERFORMANCE ORDER: Typically, performance order is based on the receipt of registrations. The first registration received will be the last to perform in that division and the last registration received will be the first to perform. Adjustments may be necessary due to division/team conflicts.

INSURANCE: Each participant must have his/her own personal insurance. The USA directors/sponsors will not be responsible for any injuries occurring at this event. First aid staff will be on-site during the event.

JUDGING: The event will utilize professional judges from various spirit organizations and/or backgrounds to create a fair competition for everyone.

ENTRY DEADLINE: Registration is completed on-line. **Early bird** entries must be submitted and paid by February 5, 2016 and proof of team members' eligibility and all other forms must be submitted to the USA office by this date. **On-Time Registration Fee:** The on-time registration fee will apply to those registrations submitted on-line, paid and paperwork received in the USA office February 6-March 4, 2016.

New registrations will not be accepted the 2 weeks prior to the event. Completed entry forms with full payment or a purchase order must be in the USA office in order to register for the competition. Forms of payment accepted: school purchase order, school check, money order, cashier's check and/or credit card. Personal checks, organizational checks, cash or individual payments are not accepted. Declined credit cards are a basis for immediate cancellation of your registration. Faxed entries must be accompanied by a Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover or purchase order. (School name must appear on the PO.) School purchase orders must be paid in full at least 5 days prior to the event. Teams will be responsible for the full registration fees for cancellations past the refund deadline and/or "no shows" on the day of the event. Entry forms without payment will not be accepted. There will be a \$50 return check fee. The USA reserves the right to deny registration to any team.

Competition may close prior to the "Early Bird" entry deadline if capacity is reached.

Refunds will be given only if notice of cancellation is submitted in writing 15 days or more prior to the event. March 4th is the final day for this submission. **Refunds are processed 2-4 weeks after the event, Refunds will be mailed 4-6 business weeks after the event.**

The competition is subject to cancellation. The United Spirit Association will not be held responsible for any losses incurred by a team as a result of competition cancellation, with the exclusion of a full refund of team registration fees.

Follow us on...



For More Information Call: **800.886.4USA**



Categories/Division Rules

SHOW CHEER

NUMBER ON TEAM: Five to thirty-six in all divisions.

For the Large Co-Ed Division, no more than half plus one (rounding up) of the total number of team members may be male. (i.e. 8-9 total participants = 5 maximum males, 16-17 total participants = 9 maximum males, etc.)

DIVISIONS: See enrollment form.

ROUTINE PROCEDURE: Execute a routine of your choice using all music or a combination of music and words. Audience participation and props (spell-out letters; Go, Fight, Win signs, etc.) are encouraged for school-based programs. You must adhere to the appropriate 2015-16 AACCA College Safety Rules (school-based programs) found on the USA website: usa.varsity.com.

TIME LIMIT: Maximum 2 ½ minutes

HIP HOP

NUMBER ON TEAM: Four or more.

DIVISIONS: See enrollment form.

ROUTINE PROCEDURE: A routine where dancers perform street style movement with an emphasis on execution, uniformity, body control, rhythm, creativity, visual effect and musical interpretation. A combination of hip hop styles is permitted and can include (but are not limited to): body control/isolations, popping, locking, tutting, breaking, etc. Jazz technique (i.e. turns/leaps) will not be credited in this division. You must adhere to the 2015-16 USA College Dance Safety Rules found on the USA website: usa.varsity.com.

TIME LIMIT: Maximum 2 ½ minutes

DANCE

NUMBER ON TEAM: Four or more.

DIVISIONS: See enrollment form.

ROUTINE PROCEDURE: Execute any type of dance routine with the exception of a routine where the majority of choreography is hip hop. A combination of dance styles is permitted (i.e. jazz, lyrical, pom). Emphasis is placed on execution, visual effect, uniformity, creativity, proper execution/technique of skills and overall impression. You must adhere to the 2015-16 USA College Dance Safety Rules found on the USA website: usa.varsity.com.

TIME LIMIT: Maximum 2 ½ minutes

GROUP STUNT

NUMBER ON TEAM: Five maximum, including spotter (all female or all male).

DIVISIONS: See enrollment form.

ROUTINE PROCEDURE: The participants all must be from the same school. Execute stunts of your choice. Background music is encouraged. You must adhere to the appropriate 2015-16 AACCA College Safety Rules (school-based programs) found on the USA website: usa.varsity.com.

TIME LIMIT: 1 minute maximum.

PARTNER STUNTS

NUMBER ON TEAM: Two members, plus a spotter.

DIVISIONS: See enrollment form.

ROUTINE PROCEDURE: The participants all must be from the same school. Execute single-based partner stunts of your choice. Background music is encouraged. You must adhere to the appropriate 2015-16 AACCA College Safety Rules (school-based programs) found on the USA website: usa.varsity.com.

TIME LIMIT: Maximum 1 minute

MASCOT

NUMBER ON TEAM: Mascots may perform as individuals or as mascot groups. Participants in this division must be the official mascot(s) of the school and must wear their official mascot uniform. Additional team members, i.e. cheerleaders and dancers, are not permitted to be visible and perform as part of this routine.

ROUTINE PROCEDURE: Execute any type of skit or novelty routine. Use of a theme and crowd involvement are encouraged. Contestants may use music, props, costumes and accessories. Please, no use of water or other substances that would be harmful to the floor. Individuals assisting with props may not be visible during the routine. Materials that require clean up (i.e. confetti) are not permitted. All props/sets/accessories must (either assembled or disassembled) be able to fit through a standard door measuring 7'h x 3'w. Stunting and/or tumbling is not allowed.

TIME LIMIT: 2 minutes maximum for the routine. You will be limited to 1 minute to set-up your props and 1 minute to break-down your props. (See time penalty)



Disneyland® Resort Tickets & Hotel Accommodations



©Disney

DISNEYLAND® RESORT

The Disneyland® Resort also includes fun at the Downtown Disney® District, Disneyland® Park and Disney's California Adventure® Park. The Downtown Disney® District is located within the Disneyland® Resort and is walking distance from the competition's host hotel. It offers dining, entertainment and shopping. A separate admission ticket is not necessary to visit the Downtown Disney® District.

A 2-day or 3-day Park Hopper® Pass may be used throughout the weekend to visit both theme parks. You can use a 1-day Park Hopper® Pass to Disneyland® Park and Disney California Adventure® Park or a 1-day pass to Disneyland® Park or Disney California Adventure® Park on Saturday, Sunday or Monday. Discounted tickets may be purchased at the event at the Anaheim Convention Center Box Office through the United Spirit Association. (Quantities limited.)

Disneyland® Resort Ticket Prices As Follows:

- \$99.00 per person** (1-Day 1 Park)
- \$146.00 per person** (1-Day Park Hopper Pass)
- \$184.00 per person** (2-Day Park Hopper Pass)
- \$220.00 per person** (3-Day Park Hopper Pass)
- \$258.00 per person** (4-Day Park Hopper Pass)



RED LION HOTEL
ANAHEIM

RED LION HOTEL ANAHEIM

Headquarters for the 2016 Collegiate Cheerleading & Dance Championships will be the Red Lion Hotel, which is walking distance to the Anaheim Convention Center and the Disneyland® Resort. The Red Lion Hotel offers a fitness center, laundry facility, on-site restaurant, outdoor pool, room service and all guest rooms have a refrigerator, microwave and in-room safe.



Guest rooms have been reserved at a discounted rate for the USA Collegiate Championships participants and guests. For reservations please call the Red Lion Hotel directly at 800-733-5466 and ask for the group block rate for the United Spirit Association. Rates are as follows:

\$149 Single/Double Occupancy, \$159 Triple Occupancy, \$169 Quad Occupancy

Reservations must be made by February 17, 2016 in order to get the discounted rate.



For additional transportation, hotel and activity options, contact Gretchen Noack, with Adventures America, a tour company that specializes in travel for performing arts groups. They can assist you with all the arrangements for your group trip. Call 866-656-6105 or Gretchen@adventuresamerica.com.



Checklist

For your convenience, we are providing you with a checklist of all the items you need to submit to register for the 2016 USA Collegiate Championships.



Use this symbol to guide you to forms that need to be completed and returned to United Spirit Association. (Pages 7-15)

Checklist

Registration Form Completed On-line

Squad Roster

Articles of Understanding

On Site Contact Information Sheet

Medical Release/Appearance Form

Documentation of Full-Time Status

Disneyland® Resort Tickets (Optional)

Send in completed packet with payment to:

United Spirit Association
ATTN: Collegiate Championships
5770 Warland Drive, Suite B
Cypress, CA 90630

Documentation of full-time status dated **no earlier than December 1, 2015** and **no later than February 5, 2016** must also be submitted to the USA Office in order to receive the early-bird registration fee.

1.800.886.4USA | **usa.varsity.com**



Squad Roster

(Please print or type. Form may be duplicated.)

School/Team _____

Division _____

Advisor/Coach _____

PLEASE LIST COMPETITOR NAMES IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER.

TEAM MEMBERS	Sex (M/F)	TEAM MEMBERS	Sex (M/F)
1.		19.	
2.		20.	
3.		21.	
4.		22.	
5.		23.	
6.		24.	
7.		25.	
8.		26.	
9.		27.	
10.		28.	
11.		29.	
12.		30.	
13.		31.	
14.		32.	
15.		33.	
16.		34.	
17.		35.	
18.		36.	

TOTAL Female Team Members: _____

TOTAL Male Team Members: _____

THIS FORM IS DUE FEBRURAY 5, 2016. PLEASE DO NOT FAX THIS FORM. ALL ORIGINALS NEED TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE USA OFFICE.



Articles of Understanding (1 of 4)

I. GENERAL RULES

A. The competition will follow the same general information/stunt and safety rules as set forth in the 2015-16 AACCA College Cheer-leading Safety Rules in addition to those rules listed in the 2016 Collegiate Championships brochure. Dance team rules follow the 2015-16 USA College Dance Safety Rules. All of these documents and/or links to other websites where they may be found are available on-line at usa.varsity.com.

Each school-based cheer team from the United States must be accompanied by a current AACCA certified coach in order for the team to be eligible to compete. Proof of certification must be provided with the team eligibility materials. AACCA certification may be obtained on-line by visiting www.aacca.org and linking to the appropriate website for the on-line certification course.

B. The competition will consist of the following categories/divisions: **Show Cheer** (5-36 members on team) – 3 divisions: College All-Girl, Sm. College Co-Ed (1-4 males), Lg. College Co-Ed (5-19 males- no more than half plus one (rounding up) of the total number of team members may be male), **Hip Hop** (4 or more members on team), **Dance** (4 or more members on team) **Group Stunt, Partner Stunt and Mascots**.

C. All team members must be registered full-time students of the school they represent (college or university) and must be official members of the school's spirit squad (no Club Teams). Transcripts for each competitor, or a letter from the Dean of Students or registrar's office, must be submitted upon registering for the USA Collegiate Championships. Although a team may register for the competition prior to this date, documentation of full-time status must not be dated any earlier than **December 1, 2015**. Any exceptions to the above (i.e. graduating seniors, graduate students, etc.) must be pre-approved in writing by the USA prior to the competition.

Individual names on the team roster must match the name given on the transcript or in the letter from the Dean of Students/registrar's office.

A team that violates eligibility rules and/or contains members who are deemed to be ineligible may forfeit any title and/or may be prohibited from entering the competition the following year.

Any interpretations or decisions of eligibility for the 2016 USA Collegiate Championships will be rendered by the Rules Committee, which is comprised of, but not limited to, the Tournament Director, the USA Cheerleading Program Director or Song/Pom/Dance Program Director and the Director of Special Events. The Rules Committee will render a judgment in a manner consistent with the general goals of the tournament.

If a team fails to produce this proof of registration prior to performance they will not be allowed to perform.

It is the advisor/coaches responsibility to provide this information to competition officials by the stated deadline in the registration confirmation.

1. Any university or college competing in a Varsity College National Championship and/or Collegiate Championship shall not permit a student-athlete to represent their school unless the student-athlete meets all applicable eligibility requirements, and the coach and program administrative supervisor has certified the student athlete's eligibility.
 2. **A student-athlete may only represent ONE (1) school in a National Championship and/or Collegiate Championship competition for each academic year.** For example, a student-athlete may not compete for one school in January, transfer and compete for another school in April.
 3. At the Junior College level, any student-athlete will be only eligible to compete in a **maximum of three (3)** National Championships during the course of his/her college career.
 4. A student-athlete can be a part of the institution's cheer/dance spirit squad but will only be allowed to compete for a **maximum of five (5)** National Championships during the course of his/her college career, regardless of the number of universities or colleges she/he has attended.
 5. A student-athlete may not compete in more than **five (5)** National Championships in combined Junior College and/or 4-year college/university.
 6. Individual Championships such as Partner Stunt and Group Stunt will follow **five (5)** year eligibility rules.
 7. An alternate or injured student-athlete that does not take the competition floor will not be perceived as a competing member and will not count towards the maximum of **five (5)** National Championships.
 8. This will apply for any student-athlete competing at any one of the Varsity Brands College National Championships (UCA/UDA, NCA/NDA), as well as any other designated College National Championship.
 9. Verification of eligibility will be required by the school's Registrar's Office and the program's administrative supervisor, in addition to the coach. It will be the responsibility of these individuals to verify that all student-provided information and documentation is correct and valid.
 10. Teams violating this rule could forfeit their titles and/or rankings, as well as be prohibited from entering any other Varsity Brands Championship the following year.
- D. Categories/divisions may be subdivided or combined at the discretion of the competition director if the total number of teams in a division warrants this. **The USA reserves the right to adjust days of performance for all divisions based upon final competition enrollment.**
- E. The maximum squad size for all cheer teams is 36 participants. For the Dance and Mascot divisions there is no limit to the number of individuals permitted on a team, as long as the routine can be performed safely within the given floor size constraints.



Articles of Understanding (2 of 4)

- F. Timing of a routine will begin on the first note of music, the first vocal command (for cheer squads), or the first cheer movement, and will stop with the end of the cheer or the last note of music. Timing for prop set-up in the Mascot category will begin at the drop of the starter's hand. Set-up timing will stop when the routine begins. Penalties for exceeding the total routine time limit will be deducted from the final averaged score. Please refer to the College Championships information for time limits in each category. (Available on-line at usa.varsity.com.) **We recommend that you "time" your performance several times prior to the competition and give yourself at least five seconds of "cushion" to allow for speed variations in sound equipment.**
- G. Teams may use as many songs in the musical portion of their routines as they like.
- H. Judges are looking for enthusiasm and showmanship during entrances and exits. Teams and individuals are encouraged to move on and off the floor as quickly as possible. Set-ups and break-downs will be timed in the Mascot category.
- I. A 54' x 42' carpet bonded foam mat (non-spring) will be used for all cheerleading performances. The floor that will be used for Group Stunt and Partner Stunt divisions will be decided after registration for the event has been received. All stunts and/or tumbling must be completed on the mat surface. There will be a three point deduction off your final averaged score for each infraction of the rule. All dance team divisions will perform on a marley, parquet, stage, or similar type dance floor.
- J. **Competition Standard for Spotters**
"Team Spotters" = are part of the performing team and required as part of specific types of stunting/pyramid/toss, etc. skills.

"Additional (Routine) Spotters" = Individuals on the competition floor provided as a safety precaution to spot certain elements of a routine. These are in addition to the team and do not take the place of "team spotters" required by specific types of stunting/pyramid/toss, etc. skills.

In an effort to promote a higher level of safety for competing athletes, USA will provide additional spotters at all USA school and recreational/youth cheer competitions. School and recreational/youth cheer programs do not always have a large number of staff and coaches available to spot routines. To ensure that the safety of participants is not compromised due to limited number of team provided spotters, "additional (routine) spotters" will be provided by the USA.

These USA-provided "additional (routine) spotters" will be mandatory on the competition floor.

Reminder – To provide the safest competitive environment, teams should not attempt skills beyond their ability level.

II. INTERRUPTION OF PERFORMANCE

- A. If, in the opinion of the competition officials, a squad's routine is interrupted due to failure of competition equipment, facilities or other factors attributed to the competition, rather than the squad, the squad affected may be allowed to re-present its routine from the beginning. The degree and effect of the interruption will be determined by competition officials as will the decision to allow a team to re-present its routine.
- B. In the event a squad's routine is interrupted because of failure of the squad's equipment or an error on the part of a squad representative, the squad must either continue the routine, withdraw from the competition or be placed elsewhere in the division with a **3-point penalty** from the final averaged score for "unnecessary change of performance order".
- C. In the event that an injury causes the squad's routine to be interrupted, the squad will be allowed to re-present the routine in its entirety, but will be evaluated ONLY from the point where the interruption occurred, or the team may withdraw from the competition. Either of these options is at the discretion of the competition official. The competition officials reserve the right to stop the routine due to injury.
- D. **Uniform Distractions**
The Safety Judge, Head Judge or any other competition official reserves the right to stop a routine, assess a deduction, and/or disqualify a team for a uniform distraction (e.g. garment not being securely fastened/attached, straps break, pants split, etc.). Each performer is required to take the necessary steps to avoid inappropriate exposure prior to the performance. If a judge stops the routine the penalty will vary from 3 points to possible disqualification of the routine.
- E. Competition officials reserve the right to stop a routine at any time.

III. APPROPRIATENESS OF CHOREOGRAPHY, MUSIC, OUTFITTING

All facets of a performance or routine, including choreography, music selection and outfitting, should be suitable for family viewing and listening. Uniforms for all team types should be appropriate for the age of the participants performing the routine.

In general, performances from school-based teams, including but not limited to the actual routine, signs, cheers, chants and hand signals/gestures, should adhere to outfitting, performance and music guidelines and criteria in place and approved by the administration or institution to which the school team belongs. A Collegiate Image Category/Score will be included on the 2016 scoresheets.



Articles of Understanding (3 of 4)

Deductions will be given for vulgar or suggestive choreography, which includes, but is not limited to, movements such as hip thrusting and inappropriate touching, gestures, hand/arm movements and signals, slapping, positioning of body parts and positioning to one another. Deductions will be given for music or words unsuitable for family listening, which includes, but is not limited, to swearwords and connotations of any type of sexual act or behavior, drugs, mention of specific parts of the body torso, and/or violent acts or behavior. Removing improper language or words from a song and replacing with sound effects or other words constitutes inappropriate, and deductions will be made accordingly.

Any uniform or music in which the appropriateness is questionable or with which uncertainty exists should be submitted to the USA for approval prior to the performance taking place.

IV. PRELIMINARY AND FINAL COMPETITION

All divisions will advance from prelims to finals. The judges and tournament officials have full authority to make final determination of the number of squads/teams selected for the finals in each division. Any team that competes in a division with a prelims and finals must compete twice to be considered for final placement in that division.

V. HOW TO HANDLE PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS

Any questions concerning the rules or procedures of the competition will be handled exclusively by the captain or the advisor of the squad and will be directed only to the Competition/Venue Director or their designee. Such questions must be made prior to the squad's competition performance. Any questions concerning the performance of the squad must be made to the Competition/Venue Director immediately after the performance. **Should a director or coach wish to lodge a formal complaint against another team in the competition for any violation of "Articles of Understanding" or competition rules, this complaint must be submitted in writing, signed, dated and presented to the Competition/Venue Director prior to any awards ceremony for which the team in question may be eligible to receive an award. It is to the discretion of the Competition/Venue Director whether investigation into the complaint will be completed prior to or after the awards ceremony.**

VI. SPORTSMANSHIP

All participants and spectators affiliated with them agree to conduct themselves in a manner displaying positive sportsmanship throughout the competition. The advisor and/or captain of each squad is responsible for seeing that squad members, coaches, parents and any other persons affiliated with the squad conduct themselves accordingly. Un-sportsmanlike conduct will include, but is not limited to, approaching other teams, competition judges and/or any competition personnel with inappropriate comments, outbursts or gesture; confrontation with members of another team and/or between spectators of teams. Cases of un-sportsmanlike

conduct at any time during the Championships event are grounds for disqualification and the USA also has the right to deny entrance to or to remove an individual from the competition site. Additionally, disbarment from future USA events may occur.

VII. SCORES AND RANKINGS

Individual judge's score sheets are for the exclusive use of each particular judge. Each judge has the responsibility and authority to review and submit his or her final scores prior to the final results of each division being announced. Score sheets will be available only to advisors, directors or captains at the conclusion of the competitions. No scores or rankings will be given over the phone. If the recaps are not available at the competition, then advisors/coaches may request detailed recaps for each category/division by calling the main USA office no earlier than 1 week following the competition.

VIII. APPEARANCES, ENDORSEMENTS AND PUBLICITY

All squads winning titles, awards or prizes agree to have all appearances, endorsements and publicity approved through the USA office.

IX. INTERPRETATIONS AND RULINGS

Any interpretation of any aspect of these Articles of Understanding or any decision involving any other aspect of the competition will be rendered by the Competition Rules Committee. The Rules Committee will render a judgement in an effort to insure that the competition proceeds in a manner consistent with the general spirit and goals of the competition. The Rules Committee will consist of, but not limited to, the Tournament Director, the USA Cheerleading Program Director or Song/Pom/Dance Program Director and the Director of Special Events.

X. FINALTY OF DECISIONS

By participating in this competition, each squad agrees that decisions by the judges will be final and will not be subject for review. Each squad acknowledges the necessity for the judges to make prompt and fair decisions in this competition and each squad therefore expressly waives any legal, equitable administrative or procedural review of such decisions.

Any squad that does not adhere to the terms and procedures in the "Articles of Understanding" may be disqualified from the competition and automatically forfeit the right to any awards presented by the competition. In addition, the squad may also forfeit the opportunity to participate in any competition produced by the United Spirit Association the following season or subsequent seasons. Any fees (team and/or spectator based) associated with participation in the event will be forfeited in the event of disqualification.



Articles of Understanding (4 of 4)

We have reviewed the "Articles of Understanding" with our entire squad and we accept the "Articles of Understanding" as a fair and integral part of the rules of this competition and agree to adhere to the rules, policies and procedures contained herein.

School Name _____

City/State _____ Date _____

Advisor/Coach/Director's **Name/Signature** _____

Program's Administrative Supervisor

Name/Signature _____

THIS FORM IS DUE NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 5, 2016

Please list the name of the person who will be authorized to pick up the team scoresheets and the team registration packet at the competition. The registration packet includes tickets and competition wristbands for any of the packages purchased. This person will need to show a form of **picture identification** before receiving the registration packet and/or score sheets. Materials will be distributed only to the person listed below and will be distributed at one time.

School Representative: _____ (please print)



On-Site Contact Information Sheet

During the Championship weekend, we would like to have contact information for each team in case we need to reach you. Please fill out the information below and return it to the USA office with your registration materials.

TEAM: _____

DIVISIONS: _____

DIRECTOR/CONTACT PERSON: _____

CELL PHONE: () _____

Please fill out the section below. We must provide this information to the Anaheim Convention Visitor's Bureau:

HOTEL: _____

HOTEL ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ PHONE NUMBER: () _____

Please list the numbers of rooms your team and parents/family/friends will be booking each night in the hotel.

# of Rooms:	Mar. 17	Mar. 18	Mar. 19	Mar. 20	Mar. 21	Mar. 22
	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____



ADULT - Medical Release/Appearance Form

(Release and Waiver form for Adults - Participants 18 Years and Older)

This form is due in the USA office no later than February 5, 2016. Please do not fax this form.

Every participant must have submitted a completed and signed release form in order to participate. Please use blue ink. Photocopies will not be accepted.

Participant Name, School /Team Name, Address, Division, City, State, Zip, Event Location, Phone Number, Event Date, E-mail, Cheer, Dance

Liability Release: For good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, I agree to participate in the above Event to be conducted by Varsity Spirit LLC dba United Spirit Association.

I hereby warrant that I have read this Liability Release in its entirety and fully understand its contents. I am aware that this Liability Release releases from liability and contains an acknowledgement of my voluntary and knowing assumption of the risk of injury or illness.

Adult Participant Signature X Date

Appearance Agreement. I understand that Varsity Spirit LLC dba United Spirit Association from time to time produces promotional material relating to its programs. I understand that as a participant and/ or a spectator at the Event, I may be included in videotapes, photographs, DVDs, Podcasts and videocasts taken during the Event.

Medical Release: I acknowledge and agree that such participation subjects me to possibility of physical illness or injury (minimal, serious, catastrophic and/ or death) and that I acknowledge that I am assuming the risk of such illness or injury by participating in the Event.

I represent that any medication to which I am allergic or medications that I am currently taking are listed below. I agree that I shall bring medications which I am currently taking with me to the Event and that I shall consume the prescribed dosage for such medications.

Medications (if any):

Allergic to (if any):

I acknowledge that I suffers from the following conditions:

I hereby warrant that I have read this Adult Release and Waiver Form in its entirety and fully understand its contents. I am aware that this Adult Release and Waiver Form releases from liability and contains an acknowledgement of my voluntary and knowing assumption of the risk of injury or illness.

Adult Participant Signature X Date

Participant Birthdate:

Participant SS# (Not required but helpful for quick verification of insurance policy by hospital/clinic.)

Witness Signature X Date

Witness Address



MINOR - Medical Release/Appearance Form

(Release and Waiver form for Minors - Participants Under 18 Years of Age)

This form is due in the USA office no later than February 5, 2016. Please do not fax this form.

Every participant must have submitted a completed and signed release form in order to participate. Please use blue ink. Photocopies will not be accepted.

Minor's Name _____	Name of Parent or Legal Guardian _____
Address _____	School /Team Name _____
City, State, Zip _____	Division _____
Phone Number (_____) _____	Event Location Anaheim Convention Center
E-mail _____	Event Date March 19-20, 2016 Cheer <input type="checkbox"/> Dance <input type="checkbox"/>

Liability Release: For good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, I _____, as parent or legal guardian of _____, a minor (hereinafter "Minor"), hereby grant the permission necessary to allow Minor to participate in the above Event to be conducted by Varsity Spirit LLC dba United Spirit Association. I, in my own behalf and on behalf of Minor, further agree to release and to hold harmless Varsity Spirit LLC dba United Spirit Association, Varsity Spirit's Corporate Sponsors (hereinafter "Sponsors"), the Hosting site, (university, hotel, convention center, high school) on whose premises the Event will occur (hereinafter the "Location"), the affiliates of Varsity Spirit LLC dba United Spirit Association and the Location, U.S. All Star Federation, Inc., a not for profit corporation ("USASF"), American Association of Cheerleading Coaches and Administrators, Inc., a not for profit corporation ("AACCA") and the respective directors, officers, representatives, members, agents and employees of Varsity Spirit LLC dba United Spirit Association, Sponsors, and their respective affiliates (hereinafter collectively "Releasees") from any and all liability whether caused by negligence of the Releasees or otherwise for any claim, judgment, loss, liability, cost and expenses (including, without limitations, attorney's fees and costs) arising out of or connected with the Event, including any claim arising out of or connected with any illness or injury (minimal, serious, catastrophic and / or death) that Minor may incur or sustain during the Event, all activities associated with the Event and while traveling to and from the site for the Event whether or not the Event actually occurs. I further expressly agree to indemnify and hold harmless Releasees and Releasees' heirs, successors, assigns, executors and administrators against loss from any further claims, demands or actions that may subsequently be brought by Minor or by any other persons on the account of damages of any character resulting to Minor in any way from the foregoing activities. I further agree to reimburse and to make good to Releasees any loss or costs Releasees may have to pay as a result of any such action, claim or demand.

I, in my own behalf and on behalf of Minor, hereby warrant that I have read this Liability Release in its entirety and fully understand its contents. I, in my own behalf and on behalf of Minor, am aware that this Liability Release releases Releasees from liability and contains an acknowledgement of my voluntary and knowing assumption of the risk of injury or illness. I, in my own behalf and on behalf of Minor, further acknowledge that nothing in this Liability Release constitutes a guarantee that the Event will occur. I, in my own behalf and on behalf of Minor, have signed this document voluntarily and of my own free will.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian: X _____ **Date:** _____

Supervision: A chaperone/Adult (age 21 and over) is required to attend with participants. This Chaperone will be responsible for the participants at all times. Varsity Spirit LLC dba United Spirit Association, AACCA and USASF are not responsible for participants' supervision..

Appearance Agreement: I understand that Varsity Spirit LLC dba United Spirit Association from time to time produces promotional material relating to its programs. I understand that as participant and/ or a spectator at the Event that Minor may be included in videotapes, dvds, podcasts and videocasts or photographs taken during the Event. Therefore, without reservation or limitations, I, in my own behalf and on behalf of Minor, hereby assign, transfer and grant to Varsity Spirit LLC dba United Spirit Association, its successors, assignees, licensees, sponsors, any television networks, and all other commercial exhibitors the exclusive right to photograph and / or videotape Minor and to utilize such videotapes and photographs and Minor's name, face likeness, voice and appearance as a part of the Event or in any other media now in existence or hereafter developed, in advertising and promoting the Event, in advertising and promoting similar future events or in advertising and promotions relating to Varsity Spirit LLC dba United Spirit Association without reservations and limitations. I further understand that neither Varsity Spirit LLC dba United Spirit Association nor any third party is under any obligation to exercise any of the foregoing rights, licenses and privileges herein granted. I waive any right to inspect or approve the programs, copies thereof and any promotional materials related thereto.

Medical Release: I, in my own behalf and on behalf of Minor, acknowledge and agree that such participation subjects Minor to possibility of physical illness or injury (minimal, serious, catastrophic and/ or death) and that I, in my own behalf and on behalf of Minor, acknowledge that Minor is assuming the risk of such illness or injury by participating in the event. In the event of such illness or injury, I authorize Varsity Spirit LLC dba United Spirit Association to obtain necessary medical treatment for Minor and hereby, in my own behalf and on behalf of Minor, release and hold harmless Releasees in the exercises of this authority. I further acknowledge and understand that I will be responsible for any and all medical and related bills that may be incurred on behalf of Minor for any illness or injury that Minor may sustain during the Event and while traveling to and from the site for the Event whether or not the Event actually occurs.

I represent that any medication to which Minor is allergic or medications that Minor is currently taking are listed below. I agree that Minor shall bring medications which Minor is currently taking with him / her to the Event and that he / she shall consume the prescribed dosage for such medications.

Medications (if any): _____

Allergic to (if any): _____

I acknowledge that the Minor suffers from the following conditions: _____

I, in my own behalf and on behalf of Minor, hereby warrant that I have read this Liability Release and Waiver Form in its entirety and fully understand its contents. I, in my own behalf and on behalf of Minor, am aware that this Liability Release and Waiver Form releases from liability and contains an acknowledgement of my voluntary and knowing assumption of the risk of injury or illness. I, in my own behalf and on behalf of Minor, further acknowledge that nothing in this Liability Release and Waiver Form constitutes a guarantee that the Event will occur. I, in my own behalf and on behalf of Minor, have signed this document voluntarily and of my own free will.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian: X _____ **Date:** _____

Relationship to Minor: _____ Minor Birthdate: _____

Minor SS# _____ (Not required but helpful for quick verification of insurance policy by hospital/clinic.)

I, identified above as Minor, acknowledge that I have read this Release and Waiver form.

Signature of Minor: X _____ **Date:** _____



Disneyland® Resort Tickets

Athletes/Spectators attending Collegiate Championships, March 19-20, 2016, have the opportunity to pre-purchase discounted Disneyland® Resort Tickets through the USA. **Fill out the information below and fax (1.866.761.9365) or email (kbetts@varsity.com) with payment no later than February 5, 2016.** Tickets can be sent fed ex in advance or picked up during USA registration hours for the event starting Friday, March 18th by the contact listed below.

(Please Print or Type)

School/Team Name _____ Purchaser's Name _____

Purchaser's Address (Not a P.O. Box) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Cell Phone () _____ E-mail: _____

DISNEYLAND® RESORT TICKETS

of tickets

_____ \$99.00 per person (One-Day Disney California Adventure® Park only) \$ _____

_____ \$99.00 per person (One-Day Disneyland® Park only) \$ _____

_____ \$146.00 per person (1-day Park Hopper® Pass) \$ _____

_____ \$184.00 per person (2-day Park Hopper® Pass) \$ _____

_____ \$220.00 per person (3-day Park Hopper® Pass) \$ _____

_____ \$258.00 per person (4-day Park Hopper® Pass) \$ _____

TOTAL DUE: \$ _____

Please choose one:

_____ Send tickets via Fed Ex (Please charge my card the additional \$25 fee)

_____ Please hold tickets at USA registration for the person listed above.

For tickets sent via Fed Ex. - Please note the USA is not responsible for replacing the Disneyland® Resort Theme Park tickets if they are lost by Fed Ex. A signature will be required upon delivery. Tickets cannot be sent outside of the United States. There will be an additional fed ex shipping fee of \$25 added to your ticket purchase.

- VISA
- MASTERCARD
- AMERICAN EXPRESS
- DISCOVER CARD

Card Number		Dollar Amount	
Expiration Date	CVV#	Cardholder's Name (please print)	
Cardholder's Signature			Telephone
Billing Address			Billing Zip Code

United Spirit Association, 5770 Warland Drive. Suite B, Cypress, CA 90630
800.886.4USA/866.761.9365 fax