



BRITISH CHEERLEADING ASSOCIATION

COMPETITION RULES 2008 SEASON

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British Cheerleading Association

# COMPETITION RULES

and safety guidelines 2008 season

General Rules format used for BCA competitions



## COMPETITION OVERVIEW

**GUIDELINES** - Guidelines for your routine are as detailed here. Strict compliance with all rules is required. A penalty will be deducted from your score for each rule infraction. The amount of the penalty depends on the severity of the infraction. All rule clarifications must be submitted via the BCA Office prior to the event. The Judges decisions are final. No discussion with Judges or Table Officials will be permitted. During the event a BCA Competition Liaison Officer will be available for questions or clarification. A formal submission system is available if required.

**QUALIFICATION:** Competitions are open to all, including Squads from other countries.

**SQUAD MEMBER ELIGIBILITY** - Eligibility is determined as stated against each Division, not all divisions may be offered for every event. For University Divisions BUSA eligibility rules will apply.

**SQUAD ROSTER** - An Official Roster form will be included in your entry mailing package. All participants must be listed by name, and other details as specified on the entry form. You must sign and return this entry form. Any substitutions (from your original entry form) must be approved by the BCA. Competitors will be required to prove age or identity. In the interests of fairness to all I.D. checks will be made.

**INSURANCE** – All UK based squads will be required to mail a copy of their Public Liability Insurance with your entry. This requirement is additional to BCA's own Public Liability Insurance Cover, and is intended in your best interests.

**DISQUALIFICATION** - Any squads with false information on their roster will be disqualified. Any cheerleader, coach, or supporter of your squad, involved in any act of harassment of Judges Scorekeepers or Officials, or conduct deemed likely to bring Cheerleading into disrepute will result in your entire squad being disqualified.

**JUDGES** - An impartial panel of expert qualified judges from will judge the competitions, and where possible including leading experts from America. Judging will be to internationally recognised cheerleading standards.

**UPDATE MAILINGS** - You will be mailed "*Competition Updates*" after we receive your Registration. You must read each update for current information and rule changes.

**SCORE FORMS** - Each squad will receive copies of their "*Judges Scoring Forms*" as well as the "*Officials Tally Sheet*" for the competitions. These forms will be mailed to you by BCA immediately following the event to enable security copies to be made.

**AWARDS AND TROPHIES:** There will be separate Awards and Trophies for each division.

**PRESS:** It is the responsibility of coaches to supervise all Press and Media interviews involving members of their club to ensure the wholesome image of the sport is upheld.

**CHILD PROTECTION:** The BCA Child Protection Policy applies to all BCA events.

**VIDEO / PHOTOGRAPHY / MOBILE PHONES:** For performers safety and child protection compliance the use of cameras and video equipment at BCA events is limited to accredited and CRB cleared personnel only. In keeping with other indoor events any use of mobile phones in the auditorium is also prohibited.



## BCA COMPETITION NOTES AND POLICIES

### **CLOSING DATE FOR COMPETITION ENTRIES IS AS SPECIFIED ON THE ENTRY FORM.**

Competition entries must be received by BCA by the closing date, including fully completed forms and all entry fees. No entries or roster changes will be accepted after this date.

### **Competing Order**

The competing order will be determined by the date of received entries. The first completed entry received for a division will compete last, the next second to last. BCA thus gives positive encouragement for efficient organisation.

### **Event I.D. Cards**

All British based performers must have valid BCA photo ID Cards to validate age and identity. You may only be registered with one club. Solo entries will not be accepted without entrants having valid ID Card Numbers on their entry forms. For other divisions new ID Card applications must be made early enough to allow time to process and create the Cards. Checks will be made before the event, at registration and spot checks throughout the event to ensure fairness to all.

### **Cancellations and Refunds**

Team members who must withdraw from competition due to injury, illness, or other reason may do so at any time. Withdrawals from team rosters must be received in writing prior to closing date in order to receive a full refund. Absolutely no refunds (for withdrawals or otherwise) will be made after closing date.

### **Direct Substitution**

Substitution of an individual as a direct replacement for a withdrawn performer in the same team and division may be accepted up to 4 weeks beforehand providing the replacement performer has a valid ID Card and is eligible for the same team.

### **Double Duty**

Double duty substitution of a performer between teams / divisions will only be permitted in extreme circumstances such as a documented valid emergency / injury, in order to maintain the best interests of performers safety. Such double duty requests must be received in writing by BCA at least 4 weeks before the event and are subject to

BCA discretion, including valid eligibility for both divisions.

If there are any questions regarding the legality of a substitution, please contact BCA for assistance before making the substitution.

### **Interruption of Routine**

- In the event your routine is interrupted because of failure of competition equipment, facilities, etc., you will be permitted to restart your routine from the beginning.
- In the event your routine is interrupted because of failure of your equipment, supplies or personnel, you may either continue or withdraw from the competition.
- In the event that an injury occurs during your performance, you may either continue or withdraw from the competition.
- BCA Event Directors / Judges reserve the right to stop a routine due to injury.

### **Tie Break**

In the event of a tie, the highest score in the most significant scoring category will determine the winner. If the tie remains in effect because of identical scores in that category, the highest score in the next most significant scoring category will determine the winner. Should the tie still remain, a judges' ballot will break the tie.

### **Surface / Flooring**

At BCA competitions, all cheer teams, individual competitors, and group stunt competitors will compete on a 42' X 42' Tiffin carpeted cheerleading safety floor. Dance teams will compete on a wood floor or similar suitable surface.

### **Choreography**

All choreography should be age appropriate and suitable for family viewing. Inappropriate moves and/or gestures, to include profane vulgar or suggestive lyrics in music, may result in a penalty at the discretion of the judging panel. Judges' decisions are final.

### **Skill Level Divisions - Penalties**

- Performing a technique outside the boundaries of your division level will incur a penalty of 10 points.



BCA's Competition Rules and Safety Guidelines comply with the technical and safety aspects of IASF 2007-08, and where required elements of NFHS standards for 2007/08, as applicable to UK duty of care compliance. You are expected to be conversant with the rules and safety requirements. Copies of the NFHS Rule Book are available through the BCA.

Wherever possible Rules are quoted exactly as the standards. However, division ages ranges reflect the general structure of British and European squads, and are designed to allow all squad age ranges to compete.

### **NATIONALS / INTERNATIONALS**

Solo's, and Partner Stunt groups (where applicable) will perform once.

All Dance Teams will compete in a preliminary round, with qualifiers progressing through to Finals. At least two thirds of each dance division will qualify to compete in the Final.

Cheer Teams will compete in round one, then compete again in reverse competing order in round two. After round one coaches will receive:

- Judges audio commentary tape with helpful comments and advice.
- See overall scores and divisional standings after round one.
- Obtain advice on any infractions given.

Cheer team results will be on the aggregate scores over both rounds.

### **Penalties**

- You will have the opportunity to be advised on all penalties after day one.

Repeating the proscribed technique again on day two will incur a day two penalty of 20 points.



**BRITISH CHEERLEADING ASSOCIATION  
102 WHITE HORSE ROAD  
WINDSOR, BERKSHIRE  
SL4 4PH, ENGLAND**

**Telephone & Fax 01753 867 713  
Mobile 07808 2 555 20  
E-mail BritCheer@aol.com**

### **☎ or FAX Calling BCA from abroad**

Dial the (0) prefix within Britain. Dial (0044) from Austria, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, and Switzerland. Dial (00 \* 44) from Belgium, (9800 1 0440) from Finland, (019 \* 44) from France, (09 \* 44) from the Netherlands, (095 44) from Norway, and (009 \* 44) from Sweden. Note: \* = wait for second dialling Tone. Dial (01144) from the USA or Canada.