

# SUFFOLK COUNTY YOUTH CHEERLEADING ASSOCIATION COMPETITION OPERATIONAL GUIDELINE BYLAWS 6/5/17

Updated – 7/29/19

- i. Each participating League must state what towns it services.
- ii. Participant registration happens approximately January through September of that Competition year.
- iii. Registration cost must keep in mind that Youth Recreation exists for all members of a community. Attention must be made to cost effectiveness so that any family may participate regardless of household income. Approximate cost includes insurance fees, uniform insurance/replacement, equipment, public facility usage, and local competition fees. Additional fees for competition may be collected for purchase of a personal uniform, music, choreography, clean ups, camp, one-day clinics, and competition equipment. Fundraising may be encouraged to off- set these fees. General costs should be \$250.00 and not exceed \$500.00 per child.
- iv. The SCYCA season begins on July 1st, and ends with the final endorsed SCYCA competition of the year. It is recommended for the first two weeks or 4 dates of the season be used to work on conditioning, basic cheer techniques in sideline cheers, jumps, body positions. The next two weeks basic stunt progressions and competition choreography can begin. Directors/Coaches must recognize the entire squads' particular ability and limit the squads' activities accordingly. Stunts (partner stunts, pyramids, tumbling) shall be modified to the appropriate surface area.
- v. The day-to-day instruction and coaching is from a volunteer source. Gym/mat space can be rented but NO professional instruction may be received on a day-to-day basis. Each SCYCA rostered competition team within a league may utilize outside professional resources for a maximum of 15 hours per season; which runs July 1st through November 30th of each year.
  - Professional resources will be defined as; choreography, assistance with stunting, tumbling and/or cheers which is provided by a paid individual, gym or business. Payment in any form of money, trade or barter of services will be considered a paid professional.
  - Professional resources do not include volunteers that donate their time to a league or Varsity Cheer Teams doing a fundraiser.
  - Hours may be divided throughout the season as a team/league sees fit. Hours should be documented and recorded. Hours are not transferable from one team to another; 15 hours shall be available to each age group team in a league if the league chooses to utilize the assistance.
- vi. (rule amended 5/16/18) Generally, games begin the second week in September and run through November. Approximately six weeks before competition season begins.

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All competition teams, ages 5 through 11, must be scheduled for sideline activities/cheering at 3 games. All girls on the 12 or 13/14 year old competition teams will be exempt from sideline cheer, since the point is for youth recreational cheerleaders to learn composure, expectations, and etiquette on the sidelines at games, and these girls will be doing that for their school teams.

**All Game Day Competition Cheerleaders must be scheduled for a minimum of 3 games regardless of the cheerleaders age.**

If for any reason, you cannot be scheduled to cheer at 3 games at home or away, you can cheer at community events that occur within your designated boundaries. (i.e. homecoming, high school football games, parades, runs, breast cancer events.)

Cheering at SCYCA approved events will also be allowed even though they are not within your designated community (i.e. Long Island Duck Game, NY Mets, NY Giants, College/University) If your event is not listed, please contact the SCYCA Board for review.

All events must occur during the SCYCA cheer season, July 1<sup>st</sup> through November 30<sup>th</sup>, to satisfy the requirement. All cheering must be done under the guidance of the league.

## vii. Age Divisions and Rosters:

### 1) AGE DIVISIONS

Competition age divisions are 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13/14. The participant's age on November 30<sup>th</sup> of the current year shall be the participant's age for the coming season. All girls can cheer through 9<sup>th</sup> grade, provided they don't turn 15 before 12/1. Each team's competition age division is determined by the OLDEST child's age on that team. A 2-year maximum age difference will be allowed on any given team. (ex.) 8 yr old can compete on a 10 yr old team; a 7 yr old would be too young.) There is an exception to this ruling... A 13/14-year-old team would be allowed to have 11 year olds on it due to the mixed age group.

**-A 3 year maximum age difference will be allowed for Game Day competition teams. Due to the exception in this SCYCA rule, no 7 year old may extend into any full extension stunt.**

**For the 2019 season, the maximum age for Game Day Cheerleaders is 10 years old.**

- i. There is an exception to the rule... Each league will be allowed 1 child per team with a maximum of 3 per league that are a "special situation". These children will be allowed to cheer no more than 1 age division below their rightful age division. These cheerleaders must be made known to the SCYCA Board and on said leagues official roster submitted to SCYCA at the September meeting.

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- ii. Age rulings do not apply to any special needs teams.
  - iii. It is the Directors/Coordinators position to deem which children from their league are capable of cheering on any given team. At SCYCA competitions the safety judge will rule over the mat and deem if there are any safety concerns regarding age.
  - iv. NUMBERS ON TEAMS there is no limit to your roster. There IS a limit of 28 members of a team on the competition floor as per 7 stripes of competition mat. A competition site may have more mat strips so that a team with more than 28 can compete. *As National trend no more than 4 children per strip of mat.*
- 2) Coordinators must be listed on the SCYCA membership form. If you have a league with 5 or more age divisions competing you must email the name of your 4<sup>th</sup> coordinator, for competition only, to the SCYCA email no later than September 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 3) Competition rosters:
- i. Must state: League name, Age division, Team mom, Coaches and Junior Coaches first and last name, Name of Cheerleaders, Birth date & Town of residence. The Roster must have all cheerleaders for that age division listed from youngest cheerleader to oldest.
  - ii. -Each league needs to have a current copy of every participant's birth certificate for review at any time by a member of the Board or competition host.
- 4) Official team rosters for each team in each division shall be submitted to SCYCA at the annual September meeting.
- 5) Rosters will be reviewed by general Board members, questions about eligibility can be addressed prior to the season.
- 6) Names may be added or deleted from the official rosters prior to the first SCYCA competition.
- 7) All official rosters must be typed.
- 8) No player may participate in more than one division or on more than one team. Players name may NOT appear on more than one roster.
- 9) Individual situations need to be addressed on a case-by-case basis with the Executive Board.
- 10) No member/organization shall actively recruit players for the purpose of building its ranks or the purpose of building "super" teams.
- 11) A majority of participates must represent said organizations boundaries

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vii. Competition teams may be allowed to compete in, in or out of season, competitions as long as the following criteria is met:

1. No more than 1/3 of a participating team may be from any one rostered SCYCA team who will be competing in the upcoming season.
2. For all teams who attend out of season competitions under the coaching, guidance and/or insurance of a SCYCA member league, a roster shall be provided to the SCYCA board which includes: the name and date of birth of each cheerleader and the team that the cheerleader participates on during the SCYCA season. Failure to provide this roster may result in the league being expelled from SCYCA.

*This is in an effort to avoid any majority of a rostered team from practicing out of season.*

i. **In Addition:**

- As stated in by-law C, the SCYCA season begins July 1st, and ends with the last endorsed SCYCA competition of the season. Once the season ends, teams are no longer considered "rostered" SCYCA teams, however, SCYCA does not allow previously rostered teams from practicing as a team in the off-season.
- SCYCA leagues may hold clinics, but strong effort must be made to allow participants from all ages to learn skills together, and to not allow previously rostered teams to practice together. If athletic development is done under the insurance of a separate business entity, then SCYCA will hold no jurisdiction.

viii. I. EXHIBITION TEAMS

- a) A league can decide to have one or more of their teams' exhibit and NOT compete. This would be for the purpose of learning competitive cheer. They may change their status at any time. They will exhibit in front of a crowd and spectators and be given constructive comments. If scored it will not count in the standings or will they receive any competitive awards.
- b) Special Needs teams may exhibit at competitions. Hosts will determine the fee and distribution of awards.

i. HOSTING A SCYCA COMPETITION

- a) Registration fees for teams to participate in competition is set at \$100 (Aug 2021)
- b) Spectator entry fees are set at (Aug 2021):
  - 1 Session \$10 adult/\$5 child/Free child >3 years of age
  - 2 Sessions \$15 adult/\$8 child/Free child >3 years of age
  - 3 or more Sessions \$20 adult/\$10 child/ Free child >3 years of age

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c) Medals: (Aug 2021)

For ALL age divisions (5 - 13/14), 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place TROPHIES and MEDALS will be given in each age division, it's the competition hosts' discretion if they would like to give 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and so on places in any given age division.

d) Spectator Banners will be limited to one per league (4/18/16)

-Banners may not be larger than 3'X5'

- Hosts will tell a representative of each league where banners will be hung.

-In the case of a mathematical error, the trophy will not be taken from the team first awarded. An additional trophy will be given to the actual winning team.

-In the case of a tie, and additional trophy will be ordered. Both teams will have the opportunity to take pictures with the trophy.

## ii. JUDGES:

a) In an effort to assure a vast selection and variety of judges SCYCA hosts are requested to have a list of 6-8 judges who they would like to ASK/REQUEST to judge their competition by the July meeting or by email prior to the July meeting.

When narrowing their list: Of the three scoring judges and one safety judge

- 1 MUST be NY State Certified. .
- All Judges must have attended a judges workshop
- In addition – It is suggested that your other judges be 1 school coach/1 from cheer business/1 from lists of judges. You can only have 1 judge from a cheer business on your judging panel.
- It is suggested if a judge cancels on you, you ask them to get a replacement- someone from their same affiliation and who has not yet judged for this youth cheerleading association in the given season.
- Payment is \$350 per judge.
- Current coaches should be asked by their HOME competitions and perhaps NOT for competitions that their Home Towns teams are competing in
- As a host, you have the right to ask whom you would like.

## BADGES:

Every SCYCA league receives 3 Coordinator Badges per league and 4 Coach and 2 Team Mom Badges per age division said league is competing in.

a) In addition - A 4<sup>th</sup> Coordinator badge will be given to leagues with 5 or more competing teams. This 4<sup>th</sup> badge is for competition purposes only.

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- b) Each league will get 3 Jr. Coaches badges per age division their league has competing. You can use Jr. Coaches badges as you see fit for your league. They will not be assigned to any age division, but assigned to a league. For example if you have 9 teams competing you get 27 Jr. coaches badges to use as you wish.

## DANCE/MUSIC

Dance/ Music incorporation for all age groups may be a maximum of 1:30 seconds of the team's overall performance. Music does not have to be used consecutively (ex. 30 secs of music, 1:20 secs of cheer and 1:00 secs of music).

For the 2019 season competition Game Day judged sections will be the following:

Competition #1: Parts 1 and 2 will be judged and receive a score. Teams may opt to include another section or sections, but these additional sections will not receive a score.

Band Chant 30 seconds

Situational Sideline 30 seconds

Competition #2 Parts 1, 2 and 3 will be judged and receive a score. Teams may opt to include another section, but this section will not be scored.

Band Chant 30 seconds

Situational Sideline 30 seconds

Crowd Involvement 1 minute

Competition #3 All Parts of the Game Day routine will be judged and receive a score.

Band Chant 30 seconds

Situational Sideline 30 seconds

Crowd Involvement 1 minute

School Fight Song 1 minute

## RULES AND SCORE SHEETS

### **SCYCA COMPETITION PHILOSOPHY**

**All rules are based on the National Federation of State High School Association's rulebook and AACCA guidelines. Below are our Division group regulations as well as any other amendments.**

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**SCYCA follow the philosophy that any child cheering in a specific Division can perform the stunts permitted within that division. We put the responsibility on the League to make sure the child has passed the progressions needed to compete in that division.**

**RULE 1: GLOSSARY**

**RULE 2: GENERAL RISK MANAGEMENT**

**RULE 3: CHEERLEADING RISK MANAGEMENT**

**RULE 4: DANCE/DRILL/POM RISK MANAGEMENT**

**GUIDELINE TO CONTINUE WITH RUBRIC/ SAFETY COMMITTEE ADDITIONS**