



UPDATED: July 29, 2025

## **BC Sport Cheer Certification Policy**

### **Preamble**

This certification policy is intended to outline the requirements expected of coaches, coaches-in-training, teacher sponsors, gym owners/managers, and recommendations for guest coaches/choreographers.

### **1) Definitions**

- a) The following terms have these meanings in this Policy:
  - i) “BCSC” refers to BC Sport Cheer, the provincial sport organization for cheerleading.
  - ii) “Coach” refers to a person with knowledge and skills who instructs or trains a team or performer. This includes coaches of both competitive and recreational teams/athletes/programs, regardless of whether scholastic, all-star, or performance cheer. This also includes coaches of cheer and/or tumbling classes/camps/lessons.
  - iii) “Coach-in-Training” refers to a person who is learning and receiving guidance to develop the knowledge and skills required to coach. This includes those who are 14-16 years old and assigned to a CIT role within their program. A Coach-in-Training must be accompanied by an at-level coach at competitions, and is not permitted in coaches rooms.
  - iv) “Junior Coach-in-Training” refers to a person who is learning and receiving guidance to develop the knowledge and skills required to be a coach, and is not yet old enough to take NCCP courses. This includes those who are between the ages of 12 and 13, and assigned to a Junior Coach-in-Training role within their program. A Junior Coach-in-Training must be accompanied by an at-level coach at competitions, and is not permitted in coaches rooms.
  - v) “Admin” is a global term used in BCSC policies referring to scholastic Teacher Sponsors, all-star Gym Owners/Managers, Volunteers or other gym personnel.
  - vi) “Gym Owner/Managers” refers to a person who is by legal or rightful title a partial or full owner of an all-star gym or the person responsible for managing the operations of a for-profit or not-for-profit all-star gym.
  - vii) “Teacher Sponsor” refers to an individual who is an employee of a school and is responsible for supervision and administrative duties for a scholastic team.
  - viii) “Guest Coach/Choreographer” refers to a person with knowledge and skills who is not a registered coach with an all-star gym or scholastic program and is hired to provide coaching and/or choreography

- ix) services to the program.
- x) “Volunteer” means a person or persons who are employed by an all-star gym in an administrative or other capacity who may need to accompany a team into the warm-up space.
- xi) “Event Producer” means a person or organization organizing and hosting an event or competition.
- xii) “Program” means an all-star, scholastic or recreational program consisting of one or more teams.

## 2) Purpose

- a) The purpose of this policy is to:
  - i) Define the roles within a program.
  - ii) Ensure there is consistency in all programs of roles and authority.
  - iii) Ensure all participants are treated fairly and equitably.
  - iv) Reflect high standards within the sport.
  - v) Ensure transparency and accountability for all.

## 3) Benefits of Certification

- a) The benefits of certification include:
  - i) Legal necessity.
  - ii) Athlete Safety.
  - iii) Credibility, professionalism and an increased level of trust.
  - iv) Personal growth rooted in skill development and mastery.
  - v) Practical application of coaching knowledge and techniques.
  - vi) Recognition and networking within the sport community.
  - vii) Provides standards and leadership within the sport community.

## 4) Requirements

- a) **Coach Requirements** include:
  - i) being a member of good standing with BC Sport Cheer and Cheer Canada.
  - ii) being at least 16 years of age (the minimum age to be credentialed).
  - iii) having an active membership in Cheer Canada’s registration platform for the current season with a Coach profile and all required credentials uploaded:
    - (1) NCCP Locker Transcript showing completion of:
      - (a) Understanding Rule of Two,
      - (b) Emergency Action Plan,
      - (c) Making Headway,
      - (d) Safe Sport,
      - (e) Make Ethical Decisions,
      - (f) Planning a Practice
    - (2) Criminal Record Check with Vulnerable Sector Check (every

2 years) if 18+

- (3) Valid First Aid & CPR-C +AED (every 3 years)
- (4) Valid BCSC Credentialing Certificate OR ICU / USASF / IASF Certificate plus Practical Field Form (every 3 years)
- (5) Cheer Canada Technical Course for each new level of cheerleading certification

**b) Coach-in-Training (CIT) Requirements** include:

- i) being a member of good standing with BC Sport Cheer and Cheer Canada.
- ii) being at least 14 years of age (the minimum age to have an NCCP Locker account).
- iii) having an active membership in Cheer Canada's registration platform for the current season with a CIT profile and all required credentials uploaded:
  - (1) NCCP Locker Transcript showing completion of:
    - (a) Understanding Rule of Two,
    - (b) Emergency Action Plan,
    - (c) Making Headway, and
    - (d) Safe Sport.

(2) Cheer Canada Technical Level 1 course

**c) Junior Coach-in-Training (JCIT) Requirements** include:

- i) being a member of good standing with BC Sport Cheer and Cheer Canada.
- ii) being at least 12 years of age and younger than 14 years of age.
- iii) having an active membership in Cheer Canada's registration platform for the current season with a Junior CIT profile and all required credentials uploaded:
  - (1) BCSC Junior CIT program certificate

**d) Admins Requirements** include:

- i) being a member of good standing with BC Sport Cheer and Cheer Canada.
- ii) being at least 18 years of age
- iii) having an active membership in Cheer Canada's registration platform for the current season with an Admin profile with all required credentials uploaded:
  - (1) NCCP Locker Transcript showing completion of:
    - (a) Understanding Rule of Two,
    - (b) Emergency Action Plan,
    - (c) Making Headway, and
    - (d) Safe Sport.
  - (2) Criminal Record Check with Vulnerable Sector Check (every 2 years)



**b) Guest Coach/Choreographer Recommendations** include:

- i) being a member in good standing with their jurisdiction's governing body.
- ii) having a Criminal Record Check with Vulnerable Sector Check within 2 years
- iii) completion of NCCP Safe Sport and Understanding the Rule of Two courses or equivalent if from outside of Canada.

**5) Important Dates and Deadlines**

a) All programs must adhere to the following dates and deadlines:

- i) All programs must have a program profile set up by BCSC by September 30th each year in the Cheer Canada registration platform.
- ii) All Coaches, CITs, and Admins must have their applicable profile set up and activated, and all required documentation uploaded in the Cheer Canada registration platform by October 31st of each year.
- iii) All Coaches, CITs, JCITs and Admins who have met all requirements outlined in Section 4, as applicable will be approved by BCSC and will be issued a new BCSC ID card, or will have their stickers validated at their first competition of the season.
- iv) All Coaches, CITs, JCITs and Admins who are missing items will be notified, along with their Voting Member contact, as applicable, and be provided with a deadline for compliance as per section 6.
- v) Names of approved Coaches, CITs, JCITs and Admins will be published to the BCSC website.
- vi) Names of all approved Coaches, CITs, JCITs and Admins will be provided to Event Producers as eligible to enter the warm-up area at sanctioned events.
- vii) BCSC will periodically review the credentials database to assess expired credentials and will notify the member, along with their Voting Member contact and will be provided with a deadline for compliance as per section 6.

**6) Non-Compliance**

a) Coaches, CITs, JCITs and Admins who have not complied with the requirements as described in Section 4, as applicable, will:

- i) receive a reminder via email, cc'd to their Program Voting Member, as applicable, detailing what requirements are outstanding, and a deadline for completion.
- ii) will not be approved for access to restricted areas at competitions/events.

By registering membership with BCSC, members acknowledge that they have read and agree to abide by this policy.