

NECA OPEN CHEERLEADING CHAMPIONSHIP

NEW ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP!

NECA will award one high school senior a \$500.00 scholarship to use towards higher education. Details are available at www.cheermeca.com or by e-mailing info@cheermeca.com to request a scholarship application packet.

Only available at NECA events!

Over \$30,000 in overnight camp scholarships will be awarded!

The "traveling" SILVER CUP will be awarded to the first place team in the open division.

DIVISIONS	GRADE LEVEL	MEMBERS	SKILL LEVELS OFFERED
Recreational	8th and under	5-36	Pee Wee, Youth, Junior, Senior
Youth/Elementary School	6th and under	5-36	Novice, Advanced
Junior High/Middle School	9th and under	5-36	Intermediate, Advanced
Junior Varsity Non-Tumble	11th and under	5-36	n/a
Junior Varsity Tumble	11th and under	5-36	n/a
Varsity Co-ED	12th and under	5-36	n/a
Varsity Non-Tumble	12th and under	5-36	Intermediate
Varsity Tumble	12th and under	5-36	Novice, Intermediate, Open
College	HS graduate	5-36	All-Girl, Co-Ed
Dance	Per division	5-36	Youth, JR.High, JV, Varsity, College
Stunt: All-Girl	Per division	4-5	Youth, JR.High, JV, Varsity, College
Stunt: Co-Ed	Per division	2-3	Varsity, College

SAFETY GUIDELINES:

The National Federation of State High School Associations Spirit Guidelines (NFHS) & The American Association of Cheerleading Coaches and Administrators (AACCA) will serve as the foundation for all rulings for school and recreation cheer and dance teams as well as college teams. Youth teams must follow safety guidelines outlined by their respective organizations. All coaches are responsible for the safety of their cheerleaders and should use appropriate judgment when allowing teams to perform skills. **NEW AACCA RULING-Basket tosses, elevator tosses, multi-based tosses, & double twisting dismounts are prohibited for youth/junior recreational, elementary, middle, & junior high schools.**

NOTE:

NECA has placed "skill limitations" in the novice and intermediate divisions to assist coaches in selecting the appropriate division for their teams. Please read descriptions and consider carefully when selecting. It is the coach's responsibility to know the limitations of the division they enter. Division changes will be at the discretion of the tournament director and NO division change will be made within one week of the event.

DIVISIONS & DESCRIPTIONS

Pee Wee & Youth Novice: Stunts in this division are limited to shoulder level. Extended stunts, twist dismounts, and basket tosses are prohibited. Back tucks, punch fronts, layouts, and full twisting tumbling skills are prohibited. One-legged stunts AT SHOULDER LEVEL are allowed.

Youth Advanced: There are no additional skill limitations in this division. League, State, or National Federation Guidelines should be used.

Junior High Intermediate: The following skills are prohibited: extended "one-legged" stunts that are not braced first at shoulder level, twist dismounts, basket tosses, back tucks, layouts, punch fronts, and full twisting tumbling.

Junior High Advanced: Basket tosses & double twist dismounts are prohibited. There are no additional skill limitations in this division. National Federation Guidelines will be followed.

Junior Varsity: National Federation Guidelines followed.

Junior Varsity Non-Tumble: Tumbling is not allowed in this division. This includes handstands and forward rolls. National Federation Guidelines followed.

Varsity Cheer: All varsity teams must adhere to National Federation Guidelines. NOTE: there are additional "skill limitations" or restrictions for the novice and intermediate divisions to assist coaches in selecting the appropriate division for their team(s) abilities. Please read carefully and select the appropriate division. It is the coach's responsibility for knowing the rules of each division.

- **Varsity Novice:** The following skills are prohibited: extended "one-legged" stunts that are not braced first at shoulder level, twist dismounts, back tucks, punch fronts, layouts, and full twisting tumbling.
- **Varsity Intermediate Non-Tumble:** Tumbling is not allowed in this division. This includes handstands and forward rolls. The following stunts are prohibited; double twisting dismounts.
- **Varsity Intermediate Tumble:** The following stunts are prohibited; double twisting dismounts and/or full twisting tumbling.

- **Varsity Open:** Teams follow National Federation Rules exclusively.
- **Varsity Co-Ed:** Teams involving one (1) or more male participants. NECA will offer a small (1-4 males) and a large (5+males) varsity co-ed division if the number of registrations warrants it. National Federation Guidelines followed.

College Cheer: Divisions include both All-Girl and co-ed. NECA will offer a small (1-4 males) and a large (5+males) varsity co-ed division if the number of registrations warrants it. College Teams must follow recognized college cheerleading guidelines. The routine may or may not be performed entirely to music.

- **Top Gun Stunts (All-Girl):** Levels include pee wee, youth, junior high, junior varsity, varsity, and college. Top gun groups will include no more than 5 members (including the spotter) and will be allowed a maximum of 1 minute to demonstrate their skills.
- Stunting sequences must be continuous and be performed entirely to music.
- The flyer is allowed to return to the ground during the routine.
- The spotter is allowed contact with the stunt.
- No participant may compete in more than one top gun group; however teams may enter more than one group per school.
- Tumbling, Jumps, Dance and/or Cheer are not permitted in this category. Deductions will be taken if these skills are preformed.
- Scholastic and recreation teams will follow skill limitations outlined in the divisions and descriptions section according to the top gun division they enter.
- College teams will follow national college guidelines.

- **Top Gun Stunts (Co-Ed):** Levels include varsity and college. Co-Ed groups will follow the same rules as the All-Girl groups with the following exceptions:
- Co-Ed groups may include no more than 3 members (including the spotter).
- The main participants must be 1 male and 1 female partner.
- The spotter is only allowed contact during dismounts.

GENERAL COMPETITION INFORMATION Competition Day

1. Team Registration times will be posted online the week of the event at www.cheermeca.com.
2. Teams MUST register together (as a group) with their coach/school official.
3. Each team member must have an official signed copy of the release form to participate.
4. There will be no changes to the order of appearance once it is posted.
5. There will be no division changes on the day of the event.
6. The first five teams in each session, must arrive and be stretched in time for the start of warm-ups.
7. Teams who fail to appear for warm-up may NOT be allowed to compete.
8. Spray Glitter, Lose Glitter, and/or Body Paint MAY NOT be used at this event by cheerleaders OR spectators due to possible damage to the facility.
9. Entrants agree that the time, manner, and method of judging shall be solely within the discretion of the competition director and/or head judge and the decisions of all judges are final.
10. Dance teams must have soft soled/rubber shoes on the competing surface.
11. Video taping of the event is prohibited. The competition will be professionally recorded and available for purchase.
12. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited from this event. Cigarette smoking is not allowed on the school grounds.
13. Banners and large signs are prohibited.
14. **It is very important that if your team will be unable to attend after registering, that you contact the NECA Office at (860) 848-0040 or (888) 551-1388 at the earliest possible date.**

NECA COMPETITION RULES

General Rules

1. The use of props is prohibited with the exception of signs, poms, and/or megaphones.
2. Glitter is NOT permitted on the hair, body, face, or uniform. This rule pertains to scholastic, recreation, AND College Teams. Signs made with glitter must be laminated.
3. Jewelry is not permitted for any team (exception: medical/religious medals must be taped to the body).

COMPETITION SURFACES

1. The competition surface will be a cheerleading mat measuring approximately 42'x42'.
2. Practice surfaces will be a cheerleading mat measuring 42'x42' and additional mats for skills.
3. All skills must be to be performed on matted surfaces. No stunting or tumbling is permitted outside these areas.

Music & Timing

1. Timing will begin with the first movement, voice, or beat of music.
2. Teams have a maximum of 3 minutes to perform. Stunt groups will have a maximum of 1 minute. Music specifications are as follows:
 - a. Cheer Divisions: Must adhere to state regulations.
 - b. Pom/Dance Divisions: music MUST be used throughout routine.
 - c. College Divisions: music may or may not be used throughout routine.
 - d. Top Gun Stunt Groups: music MUST be used (limit 1 minute).
3. Deductions will be assessed for going over the time limit.
4. Teams must have a representative to play their music.
5. All music must be appropriate and suitable for "family viewing".
6. Music must be furnished on a high quality CD. A "back-up" should be "in-hand" in case the original is damaged.
7. **IMPORTANT:** Test your CD's in several players before the competition (house, car, boom box, etc.) to avoid compatibility issues.
8. CD-RW should not be used.
9. Music must be cued and ready to begin.
10. In the event team performance is interrupted due to failure of the tournament equipment, that team will be allowed to start from the beginning of their routine or the point of the failure.
11. In the event team performance is interrupted due to failure of the team's equipment, supplies or method, the team must either continue or forfeit the competition.
12. NECA and/or facility medical staff reserves the right to stop a performance due to injury if deemed necessary.