



USASF Cheer Event Sanctioning Standards 2023-2024

All USASF member competition event producers who produce cheer competitions must meet the following **minimum** standards for their competitions, which include All Star divisions, to be sanctioned. The USASF Sanctioning Compliance Committee will oversee all reported sanctioning non-compliance violations.

1. General Event Standards:

- a. A properly equipped EMT or athletic trainer is present and ready to handle emergencies.
- b. \$2,000,000 (Aggregate) in general liability insurance coverage.
- c. USASF membership rules, guidelines and policies must be followed.
- d. Only offer divisions, levels and categories from the approved USASF Age Grid and Levels.
- e. Have at least one USASF Certified Safety Judge onsite at the competition.
- f. Event Producer will enforce USASF Safety Rules, Age Grid and Levels and safety violations.
- g. Team performances will not be scheduled to start earlier than 7:00 am and run no later than 11:00 pm.
- h. Have a documented plan that outlines how to handle emergency situations on-site in competition venues and event management staff must review before producing an event.
- i. Make best efforts to follow the USASF Recommended Standards for Judges & Scoring at sanctioned competitions (below).
- j. All music played at sanctioned competitions must comply with applicable copyright law.
- k. All full-time employees, working at USASF Sanctioned Competitions, will have background checks through the USASF member database or an external process with equivalent standards.

2. Official (Timed) Event Warm Up Area Standards:

- a. Provide at least one full 42'X54' by 1 3/8" carpet bonded foam matted practice area.
- b. Any space provided for building or tumbling skills must be carpet bonded foam.
- c. If performance or practice areas are outdoors, provide suitable foul weather alternatives.
- d. Provide a method of cleaning practice mats of bodily fluids.
- e. Backstage time between when a team finishes warm-ups and is on the competition floor should be no sooner than 8 minutes and no longer than 30 minutes. NOTE: Teams delayed performing after 30 minutes should have the opportunity to warm up again or be given an area and posted a list of exercises to rewarm up their muscles: Quick Toe Raises, Squat Jumps, Jumping Jacks, Bridges, Running with High Knees and or Punches.
- f. All official warm-up mats should have a minimum clearance of 3' on all sides. NOTE: If an event producer has a decline border surrounding their performance surface, the length of the decline may be included in the mandated 3' clearance area.
- g. If a full-size spring floor (42'X54') is not provided as part of the warm-up rotation, a 12' by 60' tumbling surface must be provided that is of the same floor construction as the performance floor.

3. Event Performance Area Standards:

- a. Provide a 42'X54' performance floor matted with a minimum of 1 3/8" carpet bonded foam with panels joined by 4" tape. The performance floor will have a minimum clearance of 4' on the supporting surface before any obstruction. NOTE: If an event producer has a decline border surrounding their performance surface, the length of the decline may be included in the mandated 4' clearance area.
- b. An unobstructed ceiling height of 20' over the performance floor.
- c. If the performance floor is on a built stage, the stage must have a minimum of 4' of additional supporting surface beyond the 54'X42' performance floor. NOTE: If an event producer has a decline border surrounding their performance surface, the length of the decline may be included in the mandated 4' clearance area.



- d. Provide a method of cleaning performance mats of bodily fluids.
4. Disclosures
- a. Any minimum standards that are not met in the Warm-Up and or Performance Area must be disclosed to all competitors no later than at the point of registration (i.e. before payment received).

Event producers accepted for USASF membership after June 1, 2009, must be in business successfully conducting competitions for 3 years before they will be approved to hold USASF sanctioned competitions. Documentation and/or proof of holding legitimate and safe events may be requested by the USASF before approval. A competition will be sanctioned only if the management or executive staff of the event producer conducting the event has at least 3 years of experience conducting competitions. USASF Member Event Producers with less than 3 years experience may communicate they are USASF members "following" the USASF Cheer Event Sanctioning Standards but will be under review by the USASF through the completion of the 3rd year of experience. They may only use the words "Provisionally Sanctioned Competition" until their third year of conducting events is complete and the events they wish to have sanctioned meet all other sanctioning criteria.

USASF Recommended Standards for Judges & Scoring at Sanctioned Competitions
(Proposed by NACCC, Gym Owners and Event Producers)

- Required judges' meeting/orientation/training before the start of the competition
- Have a separate safety and deduction judge per panel (it should not be the same person)
- When possible, there should be a separate difficulty and technique judge per category
- 5-minute minimum (6 min recommended) to watch and score routines
- Video playback capability
- Any score changes must be communicated to the judge
- Follow the 'USASF Routine Interruption Due To Injury' protocol for all sanctioned competitions (https://usasfmain.s3.amazonaws.com/Rules/USASF_Routine_Interruption_Guidelines.pdf)
- Scheduled meal and restroom breaks for judges
 - o Length of break should be considerate of distance/accessibility to restrooms and food. If several 6-min breaks are scheduled on paper, that looks nice. But if the restroom is a 3-4 min walk then most 6-min breaks get run through. Similarly, if food is a 20 min walk and have long lines with competition attendees, dinner cannot be 30 min unless a staff member is assigned to go buy food with the judge's money. EPs should be mindful if a teams performance is delayed by costume change or music failure, a bio break for judges is still necessary and should not be routinely skipped, nor a mealtime, to 'make up' lost time in the schedule.
- Access to water and/or refreshments while judging
 - o If no F&B is provided, EPs should communicate the plan and or options available.