

ORGANIZATION AFFILIATION POLICIES

Recreation Organization

For the purpose of competing, Recreational Cheerleading is defined below. All teams competing in these divisions must meet these criteria in order to compete in these divisions:

1. Must be affiliated with, report to, and be governed by an organization such as the following:
 - a. YMCA
 - b. Boys and Girls Club
 - c. City/County Parks and Recreation Program
 - d. Community Youth Organization
 - e. Pop Warner Association
 - f. Any other community run program not associated with a school or all-star program
2. A team must be able to prove their relationship and affiliation with their said organization if requested. Their organization's President or higher seated authority must submit a formal letter stating their endorsement.
3. 50% of the team must have cheered for a sport (i.e. football or basketball) with that association or organization within that cheer season. Proof must be provided upon request.
4. A team may not have more than 25% all-star athletes on its teams. Proof must be provided upon request.
5. Team members must fulfill the age requirement for the division that they are entering on/before August 31, 2016. Proof must be provided upon request.
6. Participants may not represent more than one recreational program in a season. Proof must be provided upon request.

A Recreational/Organizational teams may do or have the following:

1. Can hold tryouts.
2. Can have their own practice facility or gym.
3. Can practice and/or attend tumbling classes at gymnastics or All Star facilities.
4. Can combine team members from other teams within the organization.

If a team does not meet all of the above criteria they may be disqualified.

Rec Teams who do not cheer for a sport (exception Dance teams), unless they submit their non-cheer waiver/letter, or are affiliated with All-star programs or Schools, even if it is a half-year or introductory team, will need to register in the All-Star Prep (must be a USASF member) or School division that best suits their ability level. They are NOT considered a Rec team and cannot register in the Rec Divisions listed.

PERFORMANCE REC is defined as a competitive rec division that has level restrictions and will be judged on the Performance Rec Score Sheet. Teams in these divisions often practice more, have competition practices and/or compete on a regular basis.

TRADITIONAL REC is defined as a lower commitment and/or entry level rec division. Teams in this division often practice less, focus on cheering for athletic teams and/or compete very sporadically and will be judged on the Traditional Rec Score Sheet.

In order to maintain the integrity of this division, the following skill caps will be in place for these divisions:

- 1) No basket tosses allowed at any level
- 2) No stunt quantity or coed quantity requirement
- 3) Jumps are capped to the high range
- 4) Stunt difficulty, pyramid difficulty, standing tumbling difficulty and running tumbling difficulty are capped at mid-range.

Programs must choose one Rec Type (Performance or Traditional) and ALL teams within the program must compete in these divisions. Your specific Rec Type (Performance or Traditional) is declared by registering/competing at your 1st event. You may compete up at any point during the season (i.e. move from Traditional to Performance), but **MAY NOT** compete down (i.e. Performance to Traditional).

2016-2017 Division Guidelines

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School Organization

1. A team who is governed by their school administration and primary affiliation is with an accredited Elementary, Middle, Junior High or High School and whose primary purposes are to increase school spirit at pep-rallies, tailgates and school-sponsored athletic contests. Team members must be officially enrolled as full-time students with the institution for which they cheer.
2. Must be an official student of the school team they represent.
3. Team members must fulfill the age requirement, and must be in the grade for the appropriate division for the current school year. No team member may be over the age of 19, be a high school graduate or possess a GED.
4. The Participants may not represent more than one school (Exception – If a secondary institution [i.e. High School], allows eighth grade students to participate on its high school team.)

College Team

1. A team whose primary affiliation is with an accredited College, University or post-secondary institution, and whose primary purposes are to increase school spirit at pep-rallies, tailgates and school-sponsored athletic contests.
2. Team members must be officially enrolled as full-time students continuously throughout the academic calendar year, with the institution for which they cheer. No age restriction is imposed.

All-Star Organization

1. All-Star is defined as a team which is based out of a private gym or studio, whose sole purpose is to compete at cheerleading/dance events. Moreover, this type of team does not cheer/dance or support any other athletic team or sport.
2. Team members must fulfill the age requirement, for the division that they are competing, on/before August 31, 2016.
3. Must be associated with a USASF member gym which requires all member gym athletes to be registered with USASF for a valid Athlete ID #.
4. Participants may not represent more than one all-star organization within the same event (Exception: An athlete from one gym may crossover to **one** additional gym's Level 6 team provided he/she meets the age requirement.)

All-Star Prep Teams

1. All-Star Prep is defined as a team which is based out of a private gym or studio, whose sole purpose is to compete at cheerleading/dance events. Moreover, this type of team does not cheer/dance or support any other athletic team or sport.
2. Team members must fulfill the age requirement, for the division that they are competing, on/before August 31, 2016.
3. Must be associated with a USASF member gym which requires all member gym athletes to be registered with USASF for a valid Athlete ID #.
4. All-Star Prep Divisions are for teams that do not allow the same commitment/participation (full-year) guidelines or requirements as a competitive all-star team.
5. Typically practice and/or compete less than full year All-Star teams.
6. Teams are often half-year teams or teams that are intended to offer a shorter season, more relaxed environment and/or often less travel.
7. Teams are designed with the purpose of introducing athletes into competitive cheerleading with a lower commitment than a full-year team.

Note: Full-year All-Star teams should compete in the appropriate All-Star division, NOT the All-Star Prep division. Team members may not cross from an All-Star division to and All-Star Prep division at the same event. Rec teams that cheer for a Rec league sport should compete in a Rec division.

*For Dance, the Prep Division is offered for emerging teams. The Prep Division is in the OPEN/DANCE CATEGORY. All styles will be judged against each other in this category, unless the splitting rule applies. A dancer may not compete in a non-prep category and a Prep Category within the same style. Dancer(s) may compete in a Prep and a Non-Prep category in a different routine style **ONLY Please see USASF Dance Rules for Skill restrictions in the Prep Division.***

Exhibition Team

1. Exhibition teams perform at an event for evaluative / comment purposes only (Note: The team will still be categorized either as a recreation, all-star, school, college, etc. for purposes of scheduling and division assignments.)
2. Team members must fulfill the age requirement, for the division that they are competing.
3. Teams that perform in "exhibition" or "evaluation only" at an event must adhere to the Division/Age Grid and Level Rules as would any other team. (Team age/allowable level is defined by the oldest athlete on the team based on their organization's Division/Age Grid – i.e. Level 4 for Rec)
4. Team is responsible for payment of all registration fees.
5. Teams will receive a trophy, comment sheets and (at selected events) promotional items.
6. Teams are automatically ineligible for prize money and any National Championship merchandise.



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Special Athlete/Needs Team

1. Special Athlete teams are comprised of individuals with intellectual or physical disabilities. (**Note:** The team will still be categorized either as a recreation, all-star, etc. for purposes of scheduling and division assignments.)
2. They can be based out of a private gym, studio, school, and organization or similar.
3. No age and/or grade restrictions are imposed.
4. Special Athlete teams may not exceed past USASF Level 2 rules.
5. Special Athlete teams will exhibit at all events with the exception of the All-Star Special Athlete Competitive division.

Parent Team

1. Parent teams are teams whose members are at least 18 years old and are the guardians (biological or legal) of a child of any age, which is competing at the same event. (**Note:** The team will still be categorized either as a recreation, all-star, etc. for purposes of scheduling and division assignments.)
2. No maximum age restriction is imposed.
3. Recreation Parent Team may perform skills up through Level 4 skills and All-Star Parent Teams may perform skills up through Level 6.
4. Team will not receive promotional items at selected events.

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ALL-STAR CHEER DIVISIONS

All-Star divisions are based on participant's age as of August 31, 2015

COMBINING DIVISIONS

CO-ED COMBINING

For Junior Co-Ed Level 5, if there is only one co-ed competing, then the all-girl and the one coed team must be combined into one Junior division (i.e. Four Junior Level 5 teams and one Junior Co-Ed Level 5 team = 5 Junior Level 5 teams for competition). If the Junior teams were split into "Small" and "Large", then the Co-Ed team must be placed with the teams closest to its size.

For Senior Co-Ed Levels 3 and 4, if there is only one co-ed competing in a respective level, then that level must be combined into one Senior division (i.e. Four Senior Level 3 teams and one Senior Co-Ed Level 3 team = 5 Senior Level 3 teams for competition). If the Senior teams were split into "Small" and "Large", then the Co-Ed team must be placed with the teams closest to its size.

RESTRICTED (LEVEL 5) COMBINING / RESTRICTIONS

Senior Restricted Level 5 and Senior Level 5 divisions may not be combined into one division. Junior Restricted Level 5 and Junior Level 5 divisions may not be combined into one division.

Please go to www.USASFRULES.com for the additional restrictions for the Senior 5 Restricted division.

SPLITTING DIVISIONS

SMALL/LARGE SPLITS

Epic Brands will split divisions first by size (when applicable) and then by co-ed vs. all girl (when applicable only for Senior Restricted Level 5, Junior Restricted Level 5 and Senior Level 4.2).

Small = 5 – 20 members

Large = 21 – 32 members (36 members for Level 5)

International Open Level 5 or Level 6 teams are NOT permitted to split into "Small" and "Large".

SMALL/LARGE SPLITS – Senior Level 5 ONLY

Epic Brands will split the division into "Small" and/or "Medium" and/or "Large" divisions when there are at least (2) two teams that will ultimately be registered in each respective division.

Small = 5 – 20 members

Medium = 21 – 30 members

Large = 31 – 36 members

International Open Level 5 or Level 6 teams are NOT permitted to split into "Small" and "Large".

Epic Brands must keep teams of 21 – 36 members in the "Large" division unless there are enough to split (2) two teams into "Medium" and "Large".

NOTE: For Worlds qualifying divisions (at an event where Worlds bids will be awarded), Epic Brands may leave Senior Level 5 divisions split regardless of the number of teams competing in the division.

A /B SPLITS

If after splitting divisions into "Small" and "Large" ("Medium" for Senior Level 5), Epic Brands may further subdivide if there are (10) ten or more teams in that division by team size or into "Division II" divisions. Epic Brands will use "A" and "B" to denote the split and clearly define the number of competitors permitted on the team for each of these particular divisions. If splitting into a "Division II" division, then the definition of a "Division II" (small Gym) listed below must be followed.

If it is not possible to split into "Small" and "Large", because there is only one "Large" team and multiple "Small" teams (or vice versa), Epic Brands may split a division using the above guidelines if the division has 10 or more teams.

No division may be subdivided further from the "Small", "Large" or "Medium" (Senior Level 5) classification if it means that only (1) one team will be left in a division.



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“DIVISION II” (formerly Small Gym divisions)

A “Division II” gym is defined as having one physical address for its location and has 125 or less athletes registered in its competitive cheer program at the time of competition. Exhibition teams, crossover athletes, special needs teams and dance teams do not count toward the 125 or less athletes. “Prep” athletes are counted toward the 125 athletes or less. It is up to the event producer’s discretion as to how to monitor this.

Divisions that are designated as “Division II” must use the definition of “Division II” listed above.

CO-ED SPLITS

After splitting by size, Senior Restricted Level 5 may be split into Senior Restricted Level 5 and Senior Restricted Co-Ed Level 5 or Junior Restricted Level 5 and Junior Co-Ed Restricted Level 5 when there are at least (2) two teams that will ultimately be registered in each respective division.

After splitting by size, Senior Level 4.2 may be split into Senior Level 4.2 and Senior Co-Ed Level 4.2 when there are at least (2) two teams that will ultimately be registered in each respective division.

JUNIOR/SENIOR RESTRICTED SPLITS

Epic Brands will split these divisions into Small Senior Restricted and Large Senior Restricted and then Senior Restricted and Senior Restricted Co-Ed when there are at least (2) two teams that will ultimately be registered in each respective division.

WORLDS SPLITS

Epic Brands may also, at their discretion, split divisions into “Worlds Qualifying” and “Non-Worlds” qualifying divisions as long as the levels, age and female/male restrictions designated above remain the same for each division.

SPLIT EXCEPTIONS

Teams from the same gym will not have to compete against themselves if they have a “Small” and “Large” team in the same division (i.e. Small Junior Level 2 and Large Junior Level 2). A mandatory split in the division would occur in this situation, even if it means that a division is left with only (1) one team performing.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Special Needs teams are limited to Level 2 rules, in addition to no basket tosses permitted.

DIVISION II COMPETITIONS

Epic Brands may at their discretion offer separate competitions designated for “Division II Gyms” only. Any Epic Brands division may be offered at “Division II” only events. A “Division II” is defined as having one physical address for its location and has 125 or less athletes registered in its competitive cheer program as of 11/1/2015. A gym must be declared as “Division II” for the season by the 11/1/15 deadline. Exhibition teams, crossover athlete, special needs teams and dance teams do not count toward the 125 or less athletes. All-Star Prep athletes are counted toward the 125 athletes or less.

If at any time during the season the gym’s membership goes above 125 athletes, then it may no longer be considered a “Division II.” A gym may not declare themselves a “Division II” after the 11/1/2015 deadline regardless of the number of athletes gained/lost during the season. It is up to Epic Brands discretion as to how to monitor “Division II” status for their particular event, given the definition provided above.

Divisions that are designated as “Division II” must use the definition of a “Division II” gym listed above.

CROSSOVERS

An individual will not be permitted to crossover from (1) one program to another within the same event (Exception: An athlete from one gym, without a Level 6 team, may crossover to (1) one additional gym’s Level 6 team provided he/she meets the age requirement.)

For the 2016-2017 season, an athlete is limited to crossing over to (2) two additional cheer teams for their gym per competition. Therefore an athlete may compete on (1) one team and crossover to (2) more teams from the same gym during the competition.

Epic Brands may choose to be more restrictive than the rule above for crossovers limiting the number of teams an athlete may crossover to; however Epic Brands may not be less restrictive than this.

Crossover limitations do not include athletes that crossover from cheer to dance.



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INTERNATIONAL OPEN LEVELS 5 AND 6

For all International Divisions (5 and 6), the eligible age for the athletes will be determined by the “calendar year of the competition” (Dec. 31 of the same year that the competition occurs) for its age cutoff date. Example: An athlete that is 13 turns 14 on December 12, 2016. She is competing at a competition on November 7, 2016. She is permitted to compete in International Open 5 (all girl or co-ed) because she turns 14 within the same calendar year as the event in which she is competing. A calendar year is considered January 1st – December 31st.

ALL STAR CHEERLEADING PREP

All teams are combined female/male - prep teams will not be classified as co-ed, regardless of the number of males on a team.

Follows same rules for splitting small & large as traditional All-star.

Divisions can be offered at both 1 and 2-day events. HOWEVER, if offered at 2-day events, “prep” divisions will perform ONE TIME ONLY.

Crossovers between All-Star Prep and traditional All-star teams are not permitted at the same event.

EXHIBITION PERFORMANCES

Teams that perform in “exhibition” or “evaluation only” at an event must adhere to the USASF Age Grid and Level Rules as would any other team. “Exhibition” or “evaluation only” status does not allow a team to violate the safety rules or age restrictions that have been put in place for all athletes. Any exception to this rule must be obtained in writing from the USASF.

UNPLANNED ATHLETE REPLACEMENT

In the event of a missing/absent member of a team a gym may replace that athlete with another performer from that gym. A replacement is defined as an individual who was not on the team’s printed USASF roster taking the place of another athlete at an event. This usually occurs as a result of illness/injury.

If the replacement athlete does not meet the age requirements for that particular division (this includes a coach), then the team is permitted to perform in “exhibition” only. Performing competitively for a team with a replacement member who does not meet division age requirements is not permitted. All appropriate general safety rules and level rules must be followed for the team regardless of the age of performers on the team.

An unplanned replacement of an athlete(s) is limited to is limited to 3 performers maximum. Any number that exceeds 3 will result in the team performing in “exhibition” only.

INDIVIDUAL/GROUP STUNT/PARTNER STUNT COMPETITION

The divisions of “Group Stunt”, “Partner Stunt” and “Solo/Duet-Trio” may be offered by Epic Brands at their discretion. The age, level and female/male restrictions designated above must remain in place for stunt divisions (i.e. Mini Group Stunt may NOT perform at Level 5).



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SCHOOL and RECREATION CHEER DIVISIONS

School divisions are based on participant's grade as of the 2016-2017 school year.

Recreation divisions are based on participant's age as of August 31, 2016.

Note: If a school district allows for athletes below 9th grade to compete at the "high school level", the athlete is eligible.

COMBINING OF DIVISIONS

CO-ED COMBINING

Co-Ed at any level will be combined with their similar All-Girl divisions (i.e. Varsity Small, Varsity Large) if there are not at least (2) two or more teams in the Co-Ed division for that level.

SPLITTING DIVISIONS

NOTE: Epic Brands will split divisions first by size (when applicable) and then by Co-ed vs. All-Girl (when applicable).

SMALL/LARGE SPLITS

For divisions that have not previously assigned a "Small" and/or "Medium"/ "Large" designation based on total team size (i.e. PeeWee Rec Level 2), Epic Brands will split the division into "Small" and/or "Medium"/ "Large" divisions when there are at least (2) two teams that will ultimately be registered in each respective division.

School

Small = 5 – 16 members

Large = 17+ member

OR

Small = 5 – 16 members

Medium = 17 – 20 members

Large = 21+ members

Recreation

Small = 5 – 20 members

Large = 21+ members

A / B SPLITS

If an organization has teams competing in the same division, Epic Brands will further split the division into "A" and "B" (i.e. PeeWee Rec A Level 2, PeeWee Rec B Level 2). Company must use denotation of "A" and "B" and must clearly define the number range split for each of these particular divisions.

I / II SPLITS

For previously assigned "Small" and "Large" divisions, Epic Brands may further subdivide if there are (10) ten or more teams in the division. Company must use denotation of "I" and "II" to denote the split and must clearly define the number range split for each of these particular divisions. Division may not be subdivided further from "Small" and "Large" if it means that only (1) one team will be left in the division.

CO-ED SPLITS

For Co-Ed divisions (i.e. Varsity Co-Ed Advanced), Epic Brands will split the division into "Small" and "Large" divisions when there are at least (2) two teams that will ultimately be registered in each respective division. Company must use denotation of "Small" and "Large" (i.e. Varsity Small Co-Ed Advanced, Varsity Small Co-Ed Advance).

School – Varsity Co-Ed

Small = 2 – 4 males

Large = 5 + males

CROSSOVERS

An individual will not be permitted to crossover from a similar program to another within the same event (i.e. one School to a different School, one Rec team to a different Rec team, etc.).

ALL-STAR/STUDIO, SCHOOL, and RECREATION DANCE

All-Star/Studio and Recreational Dance divisions are determined by the age of the oldest member and age of team members are as of August 31, 2016.
School Dance divisions are determined by the grade of the team members as of the 2016-2017 school year.

CATEGORIES (See Division sheets for available categories for your division)

JAZZ: A jazz routine encompasses traditional or stylized hard-hitting, crisp and/or aggressive approach to movement and can include moments of softness while complementing musicality. Emphasis is placed on body alignment, extension, control, uniformity, communication and technical skills.

POM: A Pom routine contains important characteristics such as strong pom technique (clean, precise and sharp motions), synchronization, visual effects and may incorporate Pom Skills (i.e. pom passes, jump sequences, leaps/turns, kick lines, etc). Poms must be used 80% of the routine.

HIP HOP: A Hip Hop routine can incorporate any street style movement with an emphasis on execution, style, creativity, body isolations and control, rhythm, uniformity and musical interpretation.

LYRICAL/CONTEMPORARY: A contemporary or lyrical routine uses organic, pedestrian and/or traditional modern or ballet vocabulary as it complements the lyric and/or rhythmic value of the music. Emphasis is placed on control, sustained, expressive movement, body placement, contraction/release, use of breath, uniformity, communication and technical skills.

KICK: A kick routine emphasizes control, height uniformity, extension, toe points, timing and creativity of a variety of kick series and patterns. A kick is defined as one foot remaining on the floor while the other foot lifts with force. Kicks and kick series must comprise 80% of the routine.

VARIETY: A Variety routine must incorporate a blend of at least two or more dance styles listed in the Categories. (Jazz, Pom, Hip Hop, Contemporary/Lyrical and/or Kick) All styles will compete together in this category. The style of dance performed will determine which "category" rules a team will follow in the appropriate age division.

DANCE (OPEN): A routine in this category may incorporate any one style or combination of styles outlined in the category listings. All styles will be judged against each other in this category. The style of dance performed will determine which "category" rules a team will follow in the appropriate age division.

PREP: The Prep Category is offered for emerging teams and dancers. All Category styles in each Age Division will compete together in Prep (Prep Jazz, Prep Pom, Prep Hip Hop, Prep Contemporary/Lyrical, Prep Kick and/or Prep Variety), or may be split when the Splitting Rule for Prep applies. (See "Combining and Splitting," below. Also see "Crossovers," below, for rules about participating on Prep and Non-Prep teams within the same style.)

Please see USASF Dance Prep Rules for restrictions in the Prep Category.

COMBINING DIVISIONS

Epic Brands will combine division first by size (when allowed), then by gender (when allowed).

SMALL and LARGE COMBINING

If there are fewer than 3 teams in Small and/or Large in the Mini, Youth, Junior, Senior and/or Open Divisions within the same Category, Small and Large divisions must be combined (Example: If there are 2 teams in Small Senior Pom and 5 teams in Large Senior Pom, Epic Brands will combine into Senior Pom. Epic Brands will not combine these if it means that a program will compete against itself.)

Divisions will not be combined if a program is registered in the same category and different size. (Example: Senior Small Pom and Senior Large Pom teams from the same program will not be combined into one division that would cause them to compete against each other. If a program chooses to register two teams in the same Age, Team Size and Category (like Senior Small Pom), the teams will compete against each other.)

When there are 10 or more teams in any "Small" or "Large" division, then Epic Brands may split that division further by team size, provided a minimum of three teams remain in all resulting divisions.

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CO-ED and MALE COMBINING

If there is only one team registered in any Junior, Senior or Open Division within the same Category, Epic Brands will combine (in this order), as long as a program is not forced to compete against itself:

- a. Jr. Coed with Jr. Male, Sr. Coed with Sr. Male and Open Coed with Open Male
- b. Jr. with Jr. Coed, Sr. with Sr. Coed and Open with Open Coed
- c. Jr. with Jr. Male, Sr. with Sr. Male and Open with Open Male

CATEGORY COMBINING

Epic Brands may combine styles into a DANCE (Open) category (any style) instead of separate categories (i.e. Jazz, Pom, Hip Hop, and Variety) in any age division (i.e. Varsity DANCE instead of Varsity Jazz, Varsity Pom, Varsity Hip Hop and Varsity Variety).

The "Dance" Category (formerly known as "Open") may be offered to establish competition when fewer than three teams are registered in any Category within an Age Division. If combined, all Category styles (Jazz, Pom, Hip Hop, Contemporary/Lyrical, Kick or Variety), in each Division, (Tiny, Mini, Youth, Junior, Senior or Open), will compete together in this category. Example: When one team is registered in Junior Jazz and two teams are registered in Junior Pom, Epic Brands may combine Junior Jazz and Junior Pom to create Junior Dance.

Exceptions:

- a. Categories will not combine into Dance if there are three or more teams registered in a category. Example: If there are 3 teams in Junior Jazz, 2 in Junior Pom, 2 in Junior Hip Hop and 1 in Junior Kick, the event producer will combine the Pom, Hip Hop and Kick teams into the Junior Dance Division/Category and will leave Junior Jazz as a separate Division/Category. Note: There should always be more than one team in the Dance category.
- b. Categories and Divisions will not combine into Dance if it means that a program will compete against itself. (Example: Junior Jazz and Junior Pom teams from the same program will not be combined into one division that would cause them to compete against each other. If a program chooses to register two teams in the same Age, Team Size and Category, the teams will compete against each other.)
- c. The "Dance category is not a Worlds Bid category.

SPLITTING DIVISIONS

Epic Brands will split division first by size (when allowed), then by gender (when allowed).

DANCE (OPEN) CATEGORY SPLITS

Epic Brands may split a DANCE (Open) category (any style) into separate categories (i.e. Jazz, Pom, Hip Hop and Variety) if there are least (3) three teams in each Category

ALL-STAR PREP DIVISION SPLITS

All performances, regardless of style, in these division categories will be judged against each other unless one of the splitting rules applies. Then, Epic Brands will split Prep into separate Categories (Prep Jazz, Prep Pom, Prep Hip Hop, Prep Contemporary/Lyrical, Prep Kick or Prep Variety) by Age Division if:

- a. There are two teams from the same program registered in the same Age Division. (Example: Junior Prep Jazz and Junior Prep Pom teams from the same program will not compete against each other. However, if a program chooses to register two teams in the same Age, Team Size and Category, the teams will compete against each other.)
- b. There are three or more teams in the same Category, and at least two remaining performances in any one category including the "Dance" Category.

SMALL / LARGE SPLITS

Epic Brands will split divisions into "Small" and "Large" if there are (6) six or more teams in the division before the split occurs. There must be a minimum of (3) three teams in each division once the split occurs. No division may be split if it means that (1) one or (2) two teams will be left in a division alone. Epic Brands mandatory will split these divisions if it means that a program will be competing against itself.

All-Star Tiny Division ONLY:

All performances, regardless of style, in these division categories will be judged against each other unless one of the splitting rules applies. Then, Epic Brands will split Tiny into separate Categories (Jazz, Pom, Hip Hop, etc.), if:

- a. There are two teams from the same program registered in the same Age Division. (Example: Tiny Jazz and Tiny Pom teams from the same program will not compete against each other. However, if a program chooses to register two teams in the same Age, Team Size and Category, the teams will compete against each other.)

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- b. Epic Brands must split Tiny Divisions within the same category into Small and Large (as outlined in grid) if there are 10 or more teams in the division before the split occurs. There must be at least 3 teams in each division once the split occurs.
- c. There are three or more teams in the same Category, and at least two remaining performances in any one category including the “Dance” Category.

Small = 4 – 14 dancers

Large = 15 or more dancers

CROSSOVERS

Dancers will not be permitted to crossover from similar program (i.e. School to School, Rec to Rec, etc.) to another program within the same event.

Dancer(s) may compete in more than one division and/or category as long as they abide by the age requirements in all divisions in which they compete.

Prep:

- a. Dancer(s) may compete in a Prep and a Non-Prep category in a different routine style **ONLY**. Example: Dancer(s) may compete on a Prep Jazz Team and a Senior Pom Team, but may not compete on a Prep Jazz Team and a Senior Jazz Team.
- b. Dancer(s) may progress from a Prep to a Non-Prep Team in the same category style over time, but may not first compete on a Non-Prep team and later compete on a Prep team in the same style. (Clarification, dancers may only move forward in levels of progression, not backward).

AGE REQUIREMENTS:

(Age Requirements, Divisions and Categories for the 2017 Dance Worlds can be found at www.usasf.net and in The Dance Worlds Bid Packet.)

1. The Division (age) of a team is determined by the age of the oldest competitor.
2. Any team, from any country, may enter any USASF Division as long as they abide by the age requirements of that Division.
3. The age of the competitor as of August 31, 2016 will be the age used for competition purposes throughout the 2016-17 season for Tiny, Mini, Youth, Junior and Senior Age Divisions. (Note: Junior teams that compete for a Bid to The Junior Dance Worlds will follow the age requirements outlined in the application process when posted on USASF.net)
4. For Open (International) Divisions, the eligible age for the athletes will be determined by the “calendar year of the competition” (Dec. 31 of the same year that the competition occurs) for its age cutoff date. Example: An athlete that is 13 turns 14 on December 12, 2016. If she is competing at a competition on November 7, 2016, she is permitted to compete in the Open division because she turns 14 within the same calendar year as the event in which she is competing. A calendar year is considered January 1st – December 31st. The USASF recognizes the concern with fielding teams of a broad age range and highly recommends that individual programs be vigilant in monitoring participants of various ages on the same team and that, whenever possible, a team’s composition is made up of participants of similar ages.