

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, 2017. 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).

2017-2018 Division Guidelines

* It is the responsibility of the directors and/or coaches to adhere to all division guidelines of USASF and Epic Brands. Please distribute a copy to all directors, coaches, and choreographers.

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, 2017.
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.)
5. Must follow the USASF Program Definition when declaring Division 1 or Division 2 status for the season.

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, 2017.
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, 2017

GENERAL ATHLETE GUIDELINES

- Athletes participating at USASF sanctioned events must be registered members of the USASF for the current season.
- All athletes taking the floor at USASF sanctioned events must appear on an Official USASF Event Roster.
- The athletes who perform a routine must remain the same from start to finish and *MAY NOT* be replaced by another athlete at any time during the performance.

INTERNATIONAL OPEN LEVELS 5 AND 6

- The USASF recognizes the concern with fielding teams of a broad age range and highly recommends that individual programs/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.
- The eligible age for the athletes will be determined by the "calendar year of The 2018 Cheerleading Worlds ®" (December 31, 2018) for its age cutoff date. *A calendar year is considered January 1st – December 31st.*
 - **International Open Level 5 teams:** *An athlete must be at least 14 years of age on or before December 31, 2018. Please note: Athletes that are not 14 on or before December 31, 2017 may not compete with an International Open Level 5 team before November 1, 2017.*
 - **International Open Level 6 teams:** *An athlete must be at least 17 years of age on or before December 31, 2018. Please note: Athletes that are not 17 on or before December 31, 2017 may not compete with an International Open Level 6 team before November 1, 2017.*
- **NON-US TEAMS COMPETING IN ANY US BASED COMPETITION & TEAMS COMPETING AT WORLDS** must follow the **USASF Age Grid** for Club divisions and the **IASF Age Grid** for International divisions.

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 by team size as All Star Cheer Club Divisions.
- All Star Cheer Prep Divisions can be offered at both 1 and 2-day events. **HOWEVER**, if offered at 2-day events, All Star Cheer Prep divisions will perform **ONE TIME ONLY**.
- Crossovers between All Star Prep Cheer and traditional All Star Cheer Club Divisions are not permitted at the same event.
- Please refer to the USASF 2017-2018 Cheer Safety Rules for modifications. The specific page number is referenced in the Table of Contents of the USASF 2017-2018 Cheer Safety Rules.

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 (see exception addressed in Unplanned Athlete Replacement guidelines) that have been put in place for all athletes. Any additional exception to these rules must be obtained in writing from the USASF.
- Epic Brands may offer a team of less than 5 participants to perform as exhibition only, as long as they meet the safety rules and age restrictions of the Age Grid.

CROSSOVERS

- An All Star cheer athlete is limited to crossing over to **2 (two)** additional cheer teams from their program per competition. Therefore, an athlete may compete on one team and crossover to two more teams from the same program during the competition.
- An individual will not be permitted to crossover from one program to another within the same event. (Exception: An athlete from one program without a Level 6 team may crossover to **one additional** program's Level 6 team so long as they do not exceed the maximum number of teams permitted.)
- Crossovers between All Star Prep Cheer and traditional All Star Cheer Club Divisions are not permitted at the same event.
- Crossover limitations above do not include athletes that crossover from cheer to dance.
- An Epic Brand may choose to be more restrictive than the rules above for crossovers limiting the number of teams an athlete may crossover to further; however Epic Brands may not be less restrictive than this.

2017-2018 Division Guidelines

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UNPLANNED ATHLETE REPLACEMENT

- In the event of a missing/absent member of a team a program may replace that athlete with another performer from that program that is a registered member of the USASF for the current season.
- A replacement is defined as an individual who was not on the team's Official USASF Event 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 3 performers maximum. Any number that exceeds 3 will result in the team performing in "exhibition" **only**.

INDIVIDUAL/GROUP STUNT/PARTNER STUNT/SPECIALTY COMPETITION

- Specialty divisions for individuals, small groups (2-4 members), partner stunt or group stunt (with up to 5 participants) may be offered by Epic Brands at their discretion.
- The age, level and female/male restrictions designated on the USASF All Star Cheer Club Divisions Age Grid must remain in place for **stunt divisions** (i.e. no Mini Stunt Group may perform at L5 stunting skills).
- The age and level restrictions designated on the USASF All Star Cheer Club Divisions Age Grid must remain in place for these specialty divisions (i.e. no Tiny Individual may perform at L4 tumbling skills).

COMBINING DIVISIONS

CO-ED COMBINING

- Junior Co-Ed Level 5 & Junior Level 5
- Senior Co-ed Level 3 & Senior Level 3
- Senior Co-Ed Level 4 & Senior Level 4

A combination applies to single registrations in EITHER division:

- If there is one co-ed registration and/or one all-girl registration, the division **may** be combined.
- After the division is combined, the event producer **must** follow the mandatory split guidelines if applicable.

USASF CLUB SENIOR ALL-GIRL LEVEL 5 DIVISIONS (AT BID OR NON-BID GIVING EVENTS)

Level 5 Senior X-Small, Senior Small, Senior Medium and Senior Large

When registrations leave a division with a single team, the event producer will look at all possible combinations to ensure competition across divisions. The event producer **may** combine divisions in one or more of the following permissible combinations:

- X-Small & Small
- X-Small, Small & Medium
- X-Small & Medium (if no small teams are registered)
- Small & Medium
- Small, Medium & Large
- Small & Large (if no medium teams are registered)

USASF CLUB SENIOR CO-ED LEVEL 5 DIVISIONS (AT BID OR NON-BID GIVING EVENTS)

Level 5 Senior X-Small Co-ed, Senior Small Co-ed, Senior Medium Co-ed and Senior Large Co-ed

When registrations leave a division with a single team the event producer **may** combine divisions in one of the following permissible combinations:

- X-Small & Small
- X-Small, Small & Medium
- X-Small & Medium (if no small teams are registered)
- Small & Medium
- Small, Medium & Large
- Small & Large (if no medium teams are registered)

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USASF INTERNATIONAL DIVISIONS: CO-ED DIVISIONS ONLY (AT BID OR NON-BID GIVING EVENTS)

When registrations leave a division with a single team the event producer **may** combine divisions in one of the following permissible combinations:

- International Open Small Co-ed Level 5 & International Open Large Co-ed Level 5
- International Open Small Co-ed Level 6 & International Open Large Co-ed Level 6

PROHIBITED COMBINATIONS:

- **Senior Level 5 X-Small** and **Senior Level 5 Large** size teams **may not** be combined into one division.
- **International Open (All-Girl)** and **International Open Co-ed** divisions **may not** be combined into one division.
- **Teams of different levels may not** be combined into one division.
- **Teams of different ages may not** be combined into one 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.

SPLITTING DIVISIONS

SPLIT PARAMETERS

(A) If it is not possible to implement the mandatory split for any given division, the event producer may move to the any of the next permissible splits so long as there will be at least two teams in each division.

(B) If the mandatory split is implemented, and the event producer chooses to implement an additional split, they may choose to implement any or all of the additional splits so long as they follow the guidelines as outlined below.

PROHIBITED SPLIT

International Open divisions are not permitted to be further split by team size.

MANDATORY CO-ED SPLITS

Co-ed splits only apply to the divisions listed below. If the division is not listed below, a co-ed split is NEVER an option:

When to use the co-ed split: When there will be 2 or more teams in each respective division

Senior Restricted Level 5

- First Split (if possible): Co-ed | All-Girl
- Second Split (if possible): Team Size
- Optional Splits, when applicable

Senior Level 4.2

- First Split (if possible): Co-ed | All-Girl
- Second Split (if possible): Team Size
- Optional Splits, when applicable

Junior Restricted Level 5

- First split (if possible): Team Size
- Second Split (if possible): Co-ed | All-Girl
- Optional Splits, when applicable

For Junior Restricted Level 5: If a division cannot be split by size (i.e. 5 total teams comprised of 4 small and 1 large), but can be split into co-ed and all-girl divisions with at least two teams remaining in each division, then the event producer **may** make this split at their discretion, despite not having split the division into small and large. **This is an optional split.**

For Senior Restricted Level 5 or Senior 4.2: If either division cannot be split by co-ed and all-girl but can be split by team size with at least two teams remaining in each division, then the event producer **must** make this split. Splits may only occur when there are at least **two** teams that will ultimately be registered in each respective division.

No other division may be split into Co-Ed.

With the exception of the divisions listed above, all non-Worlds divisions will split as follows so long as there are at least 2 teams in each division after the split occurs:

Mandatory Split (required to split if 2 or more teams will be in each division): Team Size

Optional: Further Split by Team Size

Optional: Division Split for DI and DII

Optional: A|B Division Split



2017-2018 Division Guidelines

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MANDATORY SPLIT: TEAM SIZE SPLIT [when applicable]

Levels 1-4 & 4.2: SPLIT FOR SMALL / MEDIUM TEAM SIZES

Epic Brands **must** split the division into Small and Medium divisions when there are at least **two** teams that will ultimately be registered in each respective division. The designation of Small and Medium divisions must follow the team sizes below:

Small = 5–22 members

Medium = 23–30 members

Levels 5R & Junior 5 Divisions (ONLY): SMALL / LARGE SPLITS

Level 5R: Youth, Junior, Senior & Level 5: Junior, Junior Co-ed

Epic Brands **must** split the Level 5R and/or Level 5 Junior Divisions into Small and Large team size when there are at least **two** teams that will ultimately be registered in each respective division. The designation of Small and Large divisions must follow the team sizes below:

Small = 5–22 members

Large = 23–38 members

ADDITIONAL OPTIONAL SPLITS [when applicable]:

Epic Brands may or may not choose to further split divisions in the interest of competition. The splits outlined below are OPTIONAL and may be applied in any order. No division may be subdivided further if it means that only one team will be left in a division

1. SPLIT BY TEAM SIZE

Levels 1-4 & 4.2: SPLIT FOR X-SMALL / SMALL / MEDIUM TEAM SIZES

Epic Brands **may** split the division into X-Small and Small divisions when there are at least **two** teams that will ultimately be registered in each respective division. The designation of X-Small and Small divisions must follow the team sizes below:

X-Small = 5-14 members

Small = 15-22 members

If the division is unable to be split by Small and Medium because there is only one team with 23-30 members but there are enough teams to split the division into X-Small and Small/Medium, the event producer may split according to the following team sizes:

X-Small = 5-14 members

Small/Medium = 15-30 members

LEVEL 5R & Junior 5 Divisions SMALL: SPLIT FOR X-SMALL / SMALL

Level 5R: Youth, Junior, Senior & Level 5: Junior, Junior Co-ed

Epic Brands **MAY** split the Level 5R and/or Junior Level 5 Divisions into X-Small and Small Team size when there are at least **two** teams that will ultimately be registered in each respective division. The designation of X-Small and Small divisions must follow the team sizes below:

X-Small = 5–14 members

Small = 14–22 members

Epic Brands must keep teams of 5-22 members in Small division, unless there are enough teams to split 2 teams each into X-Small and Small

LEVEL 5R & Junior 5 Divisions LARGE: SPLIT FOR MEDIUM / LARGE

Level 5R: Youth, Junior, Senior & Level 5: Junior, Junior Co-ed

Epic Brands **MAY** split the Level 5R and/or Junior Level 5 Divisions into Medium and Large Team size when there are at least **two** teams that will ultimately be registered in each respective division. The designation of Medium and Large divisions must follow the team sizes below:

Medium = 23-30 members

Large = 31-38 members



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Epic Brands **must** keep teams of 23–38 members in Large division unless there are enough teams to split 2 teams each into Medium and Large

2. SPLIT BY DIVISION: DI / DII

Epic Brands **may** split the division into Division I (DI) and Division II (DII) when there are at least **two** teams that will ultimately be registered in each respective division. The designation of DI and DII divisions must follow the USASF Division II definition.

“DIVISION II” Definition

- A “Division II” PROGRAM is defined as having **125 or fewer** athletes registered in its competitive cheer program. Exhibition teams, crossover athletes, special needs teams and dance teams do not count toward the 125 or fewer athletes. All Star Cheer Prep athletes **are** counted toward the 125 athletes or fewer.
- It is up to the event producer’s discretion as to how to monitor “Division II” status for their particular event, given the definition provided above.
- Multiple-location programs must follow the Program Classification as outlined in USASF PROGRAMS: CLASSIFICATIONS & PROGRAM DEFINITION
- Once a program has 126 competitive cheer athletes or more, the program is no longer eligible for Division II status for the remainder of the competitive season regardless of the number of athletes may have in their program at any given time.
- For further information/clarification see **USASF PROGRAMS: CLASSIFICATIONS & PROGRAM DEFINITION**

3. A/B SPLIT

If after implementing the mandatory split there are **10 or more** teams in any given division, then Epic Brands **may** split that division further by squad size. The Epic Brands must use a name such as “Group A”, “Group B” to denote the split and must clearly define the number of competitors permitted on the team for each of these particular divisions.

SPLIT EXCEPTION FOR TEAMS FROM THE SAME PROGRAM

Teams from the same program **regardless of their location** will not have to compete against themselves if they have 2 teams of different size that coincide with the **MANDATORY SPLIT TEAM SIZE** for their respective levels. A mandatory split would occur even it means that a division is left with only one team performing.

Levels 1-4 and 4.2: Teams from the same program will not compete against themselves if they have a Small and Medium team in the same division and level. *There is NOT a mandatory split for X-Small and Small teams sizes from the same program in the same division and level.*

Levels 5R and Junior Level 5: Teams from the same program will not compete against themselves if they have a Small and Large team in the same division and level. *There is NOT a mandatory split for X-Small/Small or Medium/Large teams sizes from the same program in the same division and level.*

NOTE: *Teams of the same size from the same program will NOT be split and **must** compete against each other.*



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SCHOOL and RECREATION CHEER DIVISIONS

School divisions are based on participant's grade as of the 2017-2018 school year.

Recreation divisions are based on participant's age as of August 31, 2017.

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, 2017.
School Dance divisions are determined by the grade of the team members as of the 2017-2018 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 (formerly 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 designation 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 and SPLITTING DIVISIONS

Epic Brands may not further combine or split categories and/or divisions by style, level, skill, age or ability, other than outlined below. Written approval is to be received from the USASF for All-Star divisions. All divisions will be combined first by size, then by gender, then by category when applicable.

1. Primary Age Divisions will be combined first by team size when applicable, then by gender.
2. A "Dance" Category may be offered to combine categories (by Age Division) when fewer than three teams are registered in a Category. Specific rules apply. See below.
3. Prep Divisions/Categories may be split when there are three or more teams registered in a Category. Specific rules apply. See below.

1. Combining by Small and Large Team Size

If there are fewer than three teams in Small and/or Large in Mini, Youth, Junior, Senior and/or Open Divisions within the same Category, Small and Large divisions must be combined. (Example: If there are two teams in Senior Small Pom and five teams in Senior Large Pom, Divisions will be combined into Senior Pom.)

2017-2018 Division Guidelines

* It is the responsibility of the directors and/or coaches to adhere to all division guidelines of USASF and Epic Brands. Please distribute a copy to all directors, coaches, and choreographers.

- a. Small and Large will **not** combine if it means that a program will compete against itself. *(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.)*
- b. When there are 10 or more teams in any Small or Large division, Epic Brands may further split that division by team size, provided a minimum of three teams remain in all resulting divisions.

2. Combining Age and Gender

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

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

3. Combining Categories to Create a “Dance” Category

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

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, the event producer 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.

4. Splitting All-Star Tiny:

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.)*
- 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.

5. Splitting All-Star Prep:

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.



2017-2018 Division Guidelines

* It is the responsibility of the directors and/or coaches to adhere to all division guidelines of USASF and Epic Brands. Please distribute a copy to all directors, coaches, and choreographers.

SMALL / LARGE SIZE SPLITS / DEFINITION (REC and SCHOOL)

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.

Small = 4 – 14 dancers

Large = 15 or more dancers

CROSSOVERS

Dancers will not be permitted to crossover from a 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.

All-Star Prep:

- a. Dancer(s) may compete in a Prep and a Non-Prep category with the following limitations.
 - i. They may not compete in routines in the same category. (i.e. Dancer(s) may not compete in Youth Hip Hop and Youth Prep Hip Hop)
 - ii. They may not compete in routines in the same category in a different age division. (i.e. Dancer(s) may not compete in Youth Prep Pom and Junior Pom)
 - iii. Jazz & Contemporary/Lyrical ONLY:
Dancer(s) may not crossover and compete in Prep and Non-Prep performances in the Jazz & Contemporary/Lyrical categories. (i.e. Dancer(s) may not compete in Youth Prep Contemporary/Lyrical and Youth Jazz)
- 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). (Exception: When only one team is registered in a Prep Division Category the team may move to the Non-Prep category at that particular event without breaking Crossover Rule 2b at future events.)

ALL-STAR AGE REQUIREMENTS:

(Age Requirements, Divisions and Categories for the 2018 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, 2017 will be the age used for competition purposes throughout the 2017-18 season for Tiny, Mini, Youth, Junior and Senior Age Divisions. *All USASF member athletes must be 3 years of age in order to participate.* (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. *Athletes that are not 14 on or before December 31, 2017 may not compete with an Open team before November 1, 2017.* 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.