

USASF Cheer Divisions for 2015-2016

Items below that are highlighted show changes that were made to the 2014-15 Cheer Age Grid.

The divisions listed below will be split into "Small" (5-20) and "Large" (21-32/36) if there will be at least 2 teams in each of the "Small" and "Large" divisions. See below for Senior Level 5 split information.

USASF All Star Cheer Divisions for 2015-2016				
Cheer Divisions	Age	Female/Male	Number on Squad	Levels
Tiny Cheer				
Tiny	• 6 yrs & Younger	• Female/Male	• 5 - 32 Members	1
Mini Cheer				
Mini	• 8 yrs & Younger	• Female/Male	• 5 - 32 Members	1, 2
Youth Cheer				
Youth	• 11 yrs & Younger	• Female/Male	• 5 - 32 Members	1,2,3,4
Youth* (See Restrictions Below)	• 11 yrs & Younger	• Female/Male	• 5 - 36 Members	5
Junior Cheer				
Junior Restricted* (See Restrictions Below)	• 14 yrs & Younger	• Limit 0 - 4 Males	• 5 - 36 Members	5
Junior	• 14 yrs & Younger	• Female/Male	• 5 - 32 Members	1,2,3,4
Junior	• 14 yrs & Younger	• No Males	• 5 - 36 Members	5
Junior Co-Ed	• 14 yrs & Younger	• 1 or more Males	• 5 - 36 Members	5
Senior Cheer				
Senior Restricted* (See Restrictions Below)	• 10 yrs – 18 yrs	• Limit 0 - 4 Males	• 5 - 36 Members	5
Senior	• 10 yrs – 18 yrs	• Female/Male	• 5 - 32 Members	1, 2
Senior	• 10 yrs – 18 yrs	• No Males	• 5 - 32 Members	3, 4
Senior Co-Ed	• 10 yrs – 18 yrs	• 1 or more Males	• 5 - 32 Members	3, 4
Senior	• 10 yrs – 18 yrs	• Female/Male	• 5 - 32 Members	4.2
Senior#	• 12 yrs – 18 yrs	• No Males	• 5 - 36 Members	5
Senior Small Co-Ed	• 12 yrs – 18 yrs	• 1 - 4 Males	• 5 - 20 Members	5
Senior Medium Co-Ed	• 12 yrs – 18 yrs	• 1 - 8 Males	• 5 - 30 Members	5
Senior Large Co-Ed	• 12 yrs – 18 yrs	• 1 - 18 Males	• 5 - 36 Members	5
International Open Cheer – Please see clarifications in the text below under the title "International Open Cheer Levels 5 and 6".				
International Open 5	• 14 yrs & Older*	• No Males	• 5 - 24 Members	5
International Open Small Co-Ed 5	• 14 yrs & Older*	• 1 - 4 Males	• 5 - 24 Members	5
International Open Large Co-Ed 5	• 14 yrs & Older*	• 5 - 12 Males	• 5 - 24 Members	5
International Open 6	• 17 yrs & Older	• No Males	• 5 - 24 Members	6
International Open Small Co-Ed 6	• 17 yrs & Older	• 1 - 4 Males	• 5 - 24 Members	6
International Open Large Co-Ed 6	• 17 yrs & Older	• 5 - 15 Males	• 5 - 24 Members	6
Special Needs Cheer				
Special Needs	• Any Age	• Female/Male	• Unlimited	2**
Open				
Open 4	• 17 yrs & Older	• Female/Male	• 5 - 32 Members	4

(Same Grid – Different Format)

USASF Level 1				
Level 1	Tiny	• 6 yrs & younger	• Female/Male	• 5 - 32 Members
Level 1	Mini	• 8 yrs & younger	• Female/Male	• 5 - 32 Members
Level 1	Youth	• 11 yrs & younger	• Female/Male	• 5 - 32 Members
Level 1	Junior	• 14 yrs & younger	• Female/Male	• 5 - 32 Members
Level 1	Senior	• 10 yrs – 18 yrs	• Female/Male	• 5 - 32 Members
USASF Level 2				
Level 2	Mini	• 8 yrs & younger	• Female/Male	• 5 - 32 Members
Level 2	Youth	• 11 yrs & younger	• Female/Male	• 5 - 32 Members
Level 2	Junior	• 14 yrs & younger	• Female/Male	• 5 - 32 Members
Level 2	Senior	• 10 yrs – 18 yrs	• Female/Male	• 5 - 32 Members
USASF Level 3				
Level 3	Youth	• 11 yrs & younger	• Female/Male	• 5 - 32 Members
Level 3	Junior	• 14 yrs & younger	• Female/Male	• 5 - 32 Members
Level 3	Senior	• 10 yrs – 18 yrs	• No Males	• 5 - 32 Members
Level 3	Senior Co-Ed	• 10 yrs – 18 yrs	• 1 or more Males	• 5 - 32 Members
USASF Level 4				
Level 4	Youth	• 11 yrs & younger	• Female/Male	• 5 - 32 Members
Level 4	Junior	• 14 yrs & younger	• Female/Male	• 5 - 32 Members
Level 4	Senior	• 10 yrs – 18 yrs	• No Males	• 5 - 32 Members
Level 4	Senior Co-Ed	• 10 yrs – 18 yrs	• 1 or more Males	• 5 - 32 Members
Level 4	Open	• 17 yrs & older	• Female/Male	• 5 - 32 Members
USASF Level 4.2				
Level 4.2	Senior	• 10 yrs – 18 yrs	• Female/Male	• 5 - 32 Members
USASF Level 5				
Level 5	Junior	• 14 yrs & younger	• No Males	• 5 - 36 Members
Level 5	Junior Co-Ed	• 14 yrs & younger	• 1 or more Males	• 5 - 36 Members
Level 5	Senior#	• 12 yrs – 18 yrs	• No Males	• 5 - 36 Members
Level 5	Senior Small Co-Ed	• 12 yrs – 18 yrs	• 1 - 4 Males	• 5 - 20 Members
Level 5	Senior Medium Co-Ed	• 12 yrs – 18 yrs	• 1 - 8 Males	• 5 - 30 Members
Level 5	Senior Large Co-Ed	• 12 yrs – 18 yrs	• 1 - 18 Males	• 5 - 36 Members
Level 5	International Open 5	• 14 yrs & older*	• No Males	• 5 - 24 members
Level 5	International Open Small Co-Ed 5	• 14 yrs & older*	• 1 - 4 Males	• 5 - 24 members
Level 5	International Open Large Co-Ed 5	• 14 yrs & older*	• 5 - 12 Males	• 5 - 24 members
USASF Level 6				
Level 6	International Open 6	• 17 yrs & older*	• No Males	• 5 - 24 members
Level 6	International Open Small Co-Ed 6	• 17 yrs & older*	• 1 - 4 Males	• 5 - 24 members
Level 6	International Open Large Co-Ed 6	• 17 yrs & older*	• 5 - 15 Males	• 5 - 24 members
USASF Restricted Divisions				
Level 5	Youth* (See Restrictions Below)	• 11 yrs & younger	• Female/Male	• 5 - 36 Members
Level 5	Junior Restricted* (See Restrictions Below)	• 14 yrs & Younger	• Limit 0 - 4 Males	• 5 - 36 Members
Level 5	Senior Restricted* (See Restrictions Below)	• 10 yrs – 18 yrs	• Limit 0 - 4 Males	• 5 - 36 Members

ADDITIONAL DIVISIONS			
Special Needs – Level 2 (In Addition to No Tosses Permitted)			
Special Needs	• Any Age	• Female/Male	• Unlimited
Cheerleading Prep Divisions			
Tiny Prep Level 1	• 6 yrs & Younger	• Female/Male	• 5 - 32 Members
Mini Prep Level 1 & 2	• 8 yrs & Younger	• Female/Male	• 5 - 32 Members
Youth Prep Level 1, 2 & 3	• 11 yrs & Younger	• Female/Male	• 5 - 32 Members
Junior Prep Level 1, 2 & 3	• 14 yrs & Younger	• Female/Male	• 5 - 32 Members
Senior Prep Level 1, 2 & 3	• 10 yrs – 18 yrs	• Female/Male	• 5 - 32 Members

The information below is associated with the Age Grid above.

The list above is a "menu" of divisions that may be offered by an individual event producer. An event producer does not have to offer every division listed above. **However, a USASF member event producer may only offer divisions from the grid above and/or combine/split divisions based upon the guidelines below, unless prior written approval is received from the USASF.** Divisions/rules that are "less" or "more" restrictive than those listed are not permitted without written permission from the USASF.

The maximum size for a team is 32 competitors on the floor for the 2015-16 season, except for Levels 5 & 6 as noted.

The age of the competitor as of **August 31, 2015** will be the age used for competition purposes throughout the 2015-2016 season for all club divisions.

***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, 2015. She is competing at a competition on November 7, 2015. 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.

The USASF recognizes the concern with fielding teams of a broad age range and highly recommends that individual gyms/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.

Sr 5 and Sr 5 Restricted/Jr 5 and Jr 5 Restricted

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.**

Co-Ed Combining

For Junior Co-Ed Level 5, if there is only ONE co-ed competing, then the all girl and one co-ed team must be combined into one Junior Level 5 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 = Five 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.

The athletes who perform a routine must remain the same from start to finish and MAY NOT be replaced by another athlete at anytime during the performance.

**** -- SPECIAL NEEDS TEAMS**

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

WHEN TO SPLIT DIVISIONS:

SMALL/LARGE SPLITS

Event producers **will** split the division into "Small" and "Large" divisions 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 – 20 members

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

International Open 5/6 and International Open Level 6 is not permitted to split into Small and Large.

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

#SMALL/MEDIUM/LARGE SPLITS – For Senior Level 5 Only

Event producers will split the Senior Level 5 division into “Small” and/or “Medium” and/or “Large” divisions when there are at least **two** teams that will ultimately be registered in each respective division. The designation of “Small”, “Medium” and “Large” divisions must follow the team sizes below:

Small = 5 – 20 members
Medium = 21 – 30 members
Large = 31 – 36 members

An event producer must keep teams of 21 – 36 members in “Large” division, unless there are enough teams to split 2 teams each into “Medium” and “Large.”

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

A/B SPLITS

If after splitting divisions into “Small” and “Large” (“Medium” for Senior Level 5) there are **10 or more** teams in the “Small” or “Large” division, then event producers may split that division further by squad size or into “**Division II**” divisions. If splitting further by size, then event producers 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. If splitting into a “**Division II**” division, then the definition of “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), then event producers 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 **one** team will be left in a division.

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

“DIVISION II” (formerly Small Gym divisions)

A “**Division II**” gym is defined as having **125 or less** athletes registered in its competitive cheer program. 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 “**Division II**” status for their particular event, given the definition provided above.

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

NOTE: Multi-location programs must follow the USASF “Definition of a Program” and declare their status before November 1, 2015 as either: (1) multiple locations sharing athletes; or (2) multiple locations not sharing athletes. Based on their declaration with the USASF, individual locations may or may not qualify for **Division II**.

Once a **Division II** gym registers 126 athletes or more, the gym must move to **Division I** 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** document.

CO-ED SPLITS

After splitting divisions by size, an event producer may only split Senior Restricted Level 5 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 **two** teams that will ultimately be registered in each respective division.

After splitting divisions by size, an event producer may only split Senior Level 4.2 into Senior Level 4.2 and Senior Co-Ed Level 4.2 when there are at least **two** teams that will ultimately be registered in each respective division.

Event producers will split divisions first by size (when applicable) and then by co-ed vs. all girl (when applicable only for Senior Restricted 5 and Level 4.2). No other division may be split into Co-Ed.

SENIOR or JUNIOR RESTRICTED SPLITS

Event producers will split these divisions into Small Senior Restricted and Large Senior Restricted, and then Senior **or Junior** Restricted and Senior **or Junior** Restricted Co-Ed when there are at least **two** teams that will ultimately be registered in each respective division.

Event producers will split divisions first by size (when applicable) and then by co-ed vs. all girl (when applicable).

WORLDS SPLITS

Event producers 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 it means that a division is left with only one team performing.

NOTE: For Worlds qualifying divisions at an event where Worlds bids will be awarded, an event producer may leave these divisions split regardless of the number of teams competing in them.

DIVISION II COMPETITIONS

Event producers may, at their discretion, offer separate competitions designated for "Division II" gyms only. At a "Division II" only event, any approved USASF division found on the USASF age grid may be offered by an event producer. "Division II" is defined as having 125 or less athletes registered in its competitive cheer program. 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 are less.

If at any time during the season the gym's membership goes above 125 athletes, then it will no longer qualify as a "Division II" gym for the remainder of the season.

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.

Competitions that are designated as "Division II" must meet the definition of a "Division II" gym as listed above.

INDIVIDUAL/GROUP STUNT/ PARTNER STUNT COMPETITION

The divisions of "Group Stunt", "Partner Stunt" and "Individual" may be offered by an event producer at their discretion. The age, level and female/male restrictions designated above must remain in place for stunt divisions (i.e. no Mini Stunt Group may perform at L5).

INTERNATIONAL TEAMS

For non-U.S. teams competing in any U.S. based competition, as well as for those teams competing at the 2015 WORLDS, these teams must follow the USASF Age Grid for Club divisions and the IASF Age Grid for International divisions.

CROSSOVERS

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

For the 2015-16 season, an all-star cheerleader is limited to crossing over to 2 (two) additional cheer teams from their gym per competition. Therefore, an athlete may compete on one team and crossover to two more teams from the same gym during the competition.

An event producer may choose to be more restrictive than the rules above for crossovers limiting the number of teams an athlete may crossover to further; however an event producer may not be less restrictive than this.

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

Crossovers between all-star prep and traditional all-star 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 (see exception below) that have been put in place for all athletes. Any additional exception to these rules 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 3 performers maximum. Any number that exceeds 3 will result in the team being perform in "exhibition" only.

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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 that are on the current age grid

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 are not permitted at the same event.