



**2016-17**

# **COMPETITIVE CHEER MANUAL**

**South Carolina High School League**

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## GENERAL

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First Date for Practice .....	July 29
First Date for Competition .....	August 29
Number of Contests Permitted .....	Eight (8) per school (6 JV)
Deadline for Notification of Entry .....	October 21
Required minimum number of contests.....	<b>Two</b>
Qualifying .....	Classes AAAA & AAA November 8 Class AAAAA November 12
State Competition .....	November 19
Eligibility Due.....	7 days before first competition
Spring Practice/Team Selection .....	15 days permitted (April 5 - May 31)

Competitive season ends when a team is eliminated from a qualifier or the state competition. The High School League Executive Committee must approve any exceptions.

The National Federation Spirit Rule Book and the High School League Competitive Cheerleading Manual will be used for all High School League competitions.

The High School League strongly recommends that all competitive cheer coaches take the American Association of Cheerleading Coaches and Advisors safety certification course.

### SQUAD RESTRICTIONS

All classifications are allowed a maximum of 24 team members on the mat.

### COMPETITIVE AREA

A matted surface with a 42 x 42 minimum will serve as the competitive area. The routine must be performed within the boundaries of the competitive area.

Only SCHSL pass holding coaches, competitors, and officials are permitted in the competitive area. **(which includes playing music, parade of teams and any warm-up areas).**

### UNIFORMS

All team members must be dressed in the adopted school uniform. Mascots will not be a part of the judged routine. 5 points will be deducted per uniform violation (10 point maximum).

### INJURY

The host school is responsible for the availability of medical services. First aid and medical supplies should be made available in case of injury. The tournament director is responsible for emergency medical telephone numbers such as paramedics. Ideally, a physician should be present or on call.

If an injury occurs during the routine, the head coach, judge or SCHSL official may stop the competition until the injured person is removed from the competitive area. A team with an injured person may be given the opportunity to perform the entire routine at the end of their classification competition.

Using the professional judgment of the medical personnel at the site, the head judge will not allow an unconscious or apparently unconscious player to return to competition without written authorization from a physician.

Contestants, who are bleeding, have an open wound, or an excessive amount of blood on the uniform may not participate in any event until appropriate treatment has been administered.

## **PROCEDURES**

Teams will be called to the competitive area by the announcer prior to their performance. Three teams will be announced each time - "Performing", "On-Deck", and "In the Hole."

A practice/warm-up area should be made available. Schools should furnish their own equipment and music for use in the practice/warm-up area.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Please see the SCHSL handbook for the important information on the following:

- Academic Eligibility of Athletes
- Scouting
- Sportsmanship
- Mandatory Competitive Cheer Clinics for Coaches
- Scholar Athletes for Competitive Cheerleaders
- Out of Season Practice

## QUALIFYING REGULATIONS

AAAAA A statewide qualifier will be held at River Bluff HS on Nov. 12

The top 16 teams and any ties at 16 will advance to the state finals.

AAAA & AAA A statewide qualifier will be held at A C Flora HS on Nov. 8.  
Class AAAA & Class AAA

The number of teams who qualify for the state finals will be 3/4 of the total number of teams who actually compete at the statewide qualifier. The number cannot exceed 16 to advance to state.

## ORDER OF COMPETITION

The SCHSL will conduct a random draw to determine the order of competition at the state finals for all classes.

The High School League will conduct a random draw to determine the order of competition for all statewide qualifiers.

## TEAMS

Each school may enter one team. **Members of the competitive team must have been a member of a support cheerleading squad during the year.** All participants must be listed and properly certified on an eligibility report to the High School League. The performing cheerleaders may be anyone certified on the eligibility report. Substitutions may be made at any time. Spotters that help within the confines of the routine must be team members. Safety spotters will be provided. Any team having more than one male will be considered a coed team. A state championship for coed cheer will be provided if 16 or more schools enter state competition.

## AWARDS

Region Each region will determine the awards to be given.

State Trophies - 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place team trophies will be awarded in each classification in the state finals.

Medals - Individual medals will be awarded to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place team members and coach in each classification.

# JUDGES

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## REQUIREMENTS

Judges must be registered and certified with the S. C. High School League.

Judges will use the National Federation Spirit Rule Book as the official rules of competitive cheer.

The High School League Office will assign Judges all regular season competitions, all qualifiers and the state finals.

All decisions of the judges are final.

Regular Season: A minimum of three judges, a safety judge and a scripter are recommended for all competitions.

Qualifiers & State Finals: Five judges will evaluate performances at the qualifiers and state finals. High & low scores will be dropped.

### Fees: Judges

1 - 16 teams .....	\$58.00 per judge plus mileage
17 – 32 teams .....	\$80.00 per judge plus mileage
33 – 48 teams .....	\$100.00 per judge plus mileage
49 & up teams.....	\$129.00 per judge plus mileage

Mileage is 45 cents per mile.

Spotters..... \$50 per competition

## REMINDER

### ALL CLASSES

**Notification of Entry form is due OCTOBER 21, 2016**

This form can be found on the League website under AD Notebook.

[www.schsl.org](http://www.schsl.org)

## **AACCA Safety Workshops and Test**

July 26, 2016

SCACA Clinic in Charleston

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**Register on line** <http://www.aacca.org/coursefinder.aspx?instructor=26>

Contact: Elaine Elliott 803-606-0728 or [elainelliott@aol.com](mailto:elainelliott@aol.com)

## **CHEER JUDGE TRAINING**

**You must attend one of the following dates:**

TBA

Contact: Elaine Elliott 803-606-0728 or [elainelliott@aol.com](mailto:elainelliott@aol.com)

# ROUTINE EVALUATION

## TIME

The length of the routine shall be a maximum of two minutes-thirty seconds (2:30). Teams may begin from any position on the mat(at least one foot must be on the mat at the start of the routine) and the time of the routine will begin with the first word, musical sound, or movement of any team member and will stop with the last word or movement of any team member. If the routine concludes with a pyramid, the final dismount is not timed.

## MUSIC

CD's of the music must be furnished by the participating schools, be production-quality, be well labeled, and be presented to the sound technician at the competition. Schools must have backup music available. Working with the sound technician, the coach/representative for the team is responsible for starting and stopping the music during the routine. In the event your routine is interrupted due to failure of host equipment, facilities, etc., you may restart your routine from the beginning of the routine. (SCHSL officials reserve the right to stop a performance due to injury). **Any adult operating the music must have been issued a High School League pass. Only one adult may be present at the table to play music. If a student operates the music, s/he may have another student accompany them.**

## CHEER

There will be a maximum of two minutes (2:00) of music allowed in the routine. A cheer section with words and without music is required. The cheer section must be a minimum of 20 seconds.

## TIME INFRACTIONS

Time infractions occur for overtime of competition, violation of length of music and not meeting required cheer section minimum. A one-time five points deduction will be assessed for each time infraction.

## ROUTINE REQUIREMENTS

The routine must include cheer and dance. There will be a maximum of two minutes (2:00) of music allowed in the routine. . The cheer section must be a minimum of 20 seconds. The length of the routine shall be a maximum of two minutes-thirty seconds (2:30).

Tumbling skills are only permitted within the body of the routine. Tumbling cannot be performed beyond the competitive area.

Props are not allowed with the exception of poms, sign, flag, and megaphones. A prop is an object that can be manipulated or used as a base (except an unfolded flat mat). Non-team members may place poms on the competitive area before routine begins, but may not assist during the routine.

## SCORING

Deductions will be made for the following:

Safety violations .....	10 points each occurrence (per judge)
Boundary violation.....	5 points for each occurrence (10 pt. max.)
Improper uniforms .....	5 points for each occurrence (10 pt. max.)
Time infractions - overtime of routine .....	5 points
- length of music.....	5 points
- length of cheer .....	5 points

**Unsportsmanlike conduct** by any team member/coach minimum 5 points per judge

## TIE-BREAKING PROCEDURE

1. Using Five Judges
  - a) If a tie occurs, all judges' scores are totaled.
  - b) If a tie still remains, the head judge will determine the ranking of the tied teams.





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### NOTIFICATION OF ENTRY FOR COMPETITIVE CHEER

(Due on or before **OCTOBER 21, 2016**)

SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

#### Classes AAAAA, AAAA & AAA (Select one below)

We will compete for the State Competitive Cheer Championship.

We will not compete for the State Competitive Cheer Championship.

#### Class AA & A (Select one below)

We will compete for the Class AAA State Competitive Cheer Championship.

We will enter the Class AA Invitational.

We will not compete.

Name of Cheer Coach: \_\_\_\_\_

Cheer Coach E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Cheer Coach Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Person completing this report: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**This form can be found on the League web site,  
[www.schsl.org](http://www.schsl.org), under AD Notebook.**

# COMPETITIVE CHEER 2016-2017 YEAR OUTLINE

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April 5 - May 31 .....Allowed tryouts any 15 days. The remaining days may be used for practice (nothing mandatory)

June 1 - July 24.....Can practice or attend camp as much as you like.

July 25 – July 28.....DEAD PERIOD  
Cannot practice or attend team camp.

July 29.....First Practice

August 29.....First Competition

October 21 .....Deadline for Notification of Entry (All Classes)

## Qualifiers

November 8-12.....November 8 - A. C. Flora HS Statewide AAAA & AAA  
November 12 - River Bluff HS Statewide AAAAA

**Season is over if you do not qualify for State.**

November 19.....Colonial Life Arena, Columbia  
Time: 11:00 am (Class AAA)

November 20 - December 4 .....Dead Period for all sports not in season.

December 5 - January 30, 2017....Practice as much as you like with any number of athletes (grades 7-12).

January 31 - March 5, 2017 .....Dead Period for all sports not in season.

March 6 - April 2, 2017 .....Practice as much as you like with any number of athletes (grades 7-12).

April 4 - May 31, 2016 .....Allowed tryouts any 15 days. The remaining days may be used for practice (nothing mandatory)