

The Road to the 2018 ICU World School Cheerleading Championship



February 22, 2017

The OCF is excited to announce that at the 2017 National Cheerleading Championship being held on April 1-2 at the Powerade Centre in Brampton, we will be offering three Bids to the 2018 ICU World School Cheerleading Championship! The OCF is eligible to award one “Paid Bid”, (covering the cost of hotels, competition fees, transport to, and entry into the Disney World Parks and Resort) and two “At Large Bids”. Below is the information in regards to the bids and how teams will be judged.

Please read the document thoroughly as there is new information! Due to the difference in competition rules between Ontario and the ICU, these bids are only open to High School Intermediate & Advanced Divisions and High School Coed Intermediate & Advanced teams. Should you have any questions after reading this please contact the OCF at info@ocfcheer.com.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Eligible Divisions

OCF Divisions	ICU – Varsity Divisions	ICU – Non-Tumbling Divisions*
High School Division Intermediate, Advanced & Non-Tumbling	Small Varsity -5-12 female members Medium Varsity -13-16 female members Large Varsity – 17-20 female members Super Varsity- 21-30 female members	Small Varsity Non-Tumbling - 5-12 members (up to 2 males) Medium Varsity Non-Tumbling - 13-16 members (up to 2 males) Large Varsity Non-Tumbling – 17-20 members (up to 2 males) Super Varsity Non-Tumbling – 21-30 members (up to 2 males)
High School Coed Intermediate & Advanced	Small Coed Team Cheer - 5-20 members (1-4 males) Medium Coed Team Cheer -21-25 members (4- 7 males) Large Coed Team Cheer - 21-30 members (8 males or more)	

*The Non-Tumbling division will prohibit all tumbling, except for inversions into load in positions, stunts, and pyramids.

Competitors’ Age

Because the Bids are given out nearly a year in advance, it is expected that some athletes will win the Bid but will be unable to attend in the following season. All teams who are awarded a Bid are expected to follow all OCF policies and regulations and OFSAA Eligibility requirements which may be found on pages 19-25 of the OFSAA By-Laws, http://www.ofsaa.on.ca/sites/default/files/bylaws_sept_2016.pdf

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Replacements/Substitutions at Bid-Qualifying Events

All athletes competing at the Bid-Qualifying event must be listed on the official roster submitted to the OCF at the time of registration. Should a team need to make any substitutions before competing at the bid-qualifying event, they must inform the OCF a week in advance.

The 2018 ICU World School Cheerleading Championship Full Bids

The Full Paid Bid is awarded to the best team in one of the Worlds divisions at the 2018 ICU World School Cheerleading Championship qualifying event. The OCF has the discretion to select the divisions and determine the process by which the bids are awarded.

The team awarded a Paid bid will have their hotel costs, competition fees, transport between the Orlando airport and the Disney World Parks and Resort covered by the ICU. Additional expenses incurred, such as flight costs, meals, and souvenirs, will be the responsibility of the team.

The 2018 ICU World School Cheerleading Championship “At Large” Bids

“At Large” bids are generally awarded to runner-up teams or the next highest scoring teams to the “Paid” bid-winning team, however, the OCF has the discretion to select the divisions and determine the process by which the bids are awarded. Recipients of “At Large” bids are eligible to compete at the 2018 ICU World School Cheerleading Championship; however, they must pay for their own Worlds Accommodation Packages and all other related expenses.

Bid Receiving Requirements

A team that is awarded and accepts an OCF Bid to the 2018 ICU World School Cheerleading Championship, may choose to compete in the same division at the 2018 Worlds as they did in the qualifying event or they may also choose to change divisions if this change better suits their team.

Teams Attending Worlds Requirements:

- Must represent an OFSAA High School, or similar organization in the province of origin
- Must have Credentialed Coaches by a recognized Cheer Coaching Certification program

Timing Requirements for Bid Acceptance

“Paid” and “At Large” bid winners must accept the bid in writing to the OCF. The letter must be faxed or scanned and emailed within seven days after the last day of the event where the bid was received. This means each team will need to have made up their minds prior to the 2018 ICU World School Cheerleading Championship qualifying event about whether they are going to accept the bid should they receive one. Should a team already have been awarded a bid to the 2018 ICU World School Cheerleading Championship, decline acceptance of a “Paid”/“At Large”, or fail to accept the “Paid”/“At Large” bid by the seven-day deadline, that bid may be transferred to an alternative team at the OCF’s discretion.

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ADJUDICATION

Judging Panel

The judging group will consist of: The Head Judge, six panel Judges, and a Safety/Deduction Judge. All will be involved in the final decision regarding the awarding of Bids.

Score Sheet

The OCF school score sheet will be used for these divisions and awarding of Bids. Teams should be aware that the 2018 ICU World School Cheerleading Championship will be using the UCA Score Sheets and rules. These can be found here:

<https://uca.varsity.com/Competitions/Rules-Divisions-And-%20Scoring>

Cheer

Please refer to the next two pages for tips on performing an effective cheer.

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Tips for Competitions - The Cheer

Here are helpful hints to transition those spirit raising cheers and sidelines to the competition mat. Remember, your number one focus should be to lead the crowd and execute a solid performance.

Successful teams are not only those that demonstrate athleticism, they are teams that perform a crowd leading, spirit raising, entertaining, and well executed routine.

Coaches, it is your responsibility to familiarize both yourself and your athletes with the score sheet. A few things to do as you prepare your team for this competitive journey are:

- Determine your team strengths and weaknesses, (ie. tumbling vs. building). Remember, your goal is to maximize your score sheet.
- Choreograph your routine based on skills you already have.
- Always use proper progression, this will give you a chance to build confidence and increase difficulty gradually throughout your competitive season and still execute a clean routine!

Below is some insight to what judges are looking for when evaluating each competition cheer. As you finalize those routines, step back and look at your cheer from a judge's point of view. Look at the score sheet and this outline as a questioner. Ask yourself, are we meeting the needs of the score sheet.

What is Crowd Effective Material?

- Cheers should be easy to follow and pick up.
- Try to keep a moderate pace and no abrupt transitions.
- Spread out and YELL loud!
- Cheers should also encourage crowd participation. Consider using Pep Rally or Game Day material that includes your Mascot, School Colors, or Letters. Spread out your formations to cover the crowd, just like would at a game or pep rally!
- Remember: Cheers are NOT crowd effective if your focus is showcasing skills, and your team is no longer leading the crowd. Your goal is to engage, involve and lead the crowd from beginning to end.

Use of Signs, Or Poms, or Megaphones

- The use of your props should not be used as a decoration or gimmick. Signs, should be easy to read and used effectively. Poms should be used to help direct the crowd to yell specific colors or responses. Megaphones, should be used to project voices.
- Remember: Teams do not need to utilize all three props! Nor, will they necessarily receive full credit for having them all on the floor. Use your props so they are effective when leading the crowd and you will be rewarded!

Use of Motions to Lead the Crowd

- Use motions to help lead the crowd. This will help control the pace and give your crowd direction of when to yell. Motions should be used in the stunts and pyramids if your tops are not holding signs.
- Reminder – It is better to have participants lead the crowd then front spot stunts.

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What type of incorporations should I use in my cheer?

Incorporations

Proper Use of Skills to Effectively Lead the Crowd

- Stunts are used to make cheerleaders visible, so the crowd can see and follow you.
- Consider using, Elevators, Extensions, Liberties, Stags and Hitches. Cheerleaders should always face the crowd, it helps to keep them engaged.
- The use of Stretches, Arabesque, and complicated transitions are NOT prohibited, however these skills should be used wisely. If you lose the overall crowd engagement, you could ultimately hurt your incorporation score.
- Tumbling/Jumps ♣ Think S – S – S - Single Synchronized Skills ♣ Performing single skills will give you a chance to perform on crowd responses. For example, single jump, or standing tumbling skill. ♣ Remember: Running tumbling and jump combos make it difficult to lead the crowd.

Execution of Incorporations

- Be sure your skills are 100% performance ready. The execution of your props and skills should be well organized and not hinder crowd leading.
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What are judges looking for when scoring the Overall cheer?

Cheer Impression

- The overall cheer impression score is based on the overall flow from beginning to end, this includes transitions throughout. Judges will evaluate the energy level and crowd leading skills from the team. Please note: This is the only section the cheer panel will award difficulty points of skills incorporations in the cheer.