

## USASF Cheer Divisions for 2014-2015

**Items below that are highlighted show significant 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.*

<b>USASF All Star Cheer Divisions for 2014-2015</b>				
Cheer Divisions	Age	Female/Male	Number on Squad	Levels
<b>Tiny Cheer</b>				
Tiny	• 5 yrs & Younger	• Female/Male	• 5 - 32 Members	1
<b>Mini Cheer</b>				
Mini	• 8 yrs & Younger	• Female/Male	• 5 - 32 Members	1, 2
<b>Youth Cheer</b>				
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
<b>Junior Cheer</b>				
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
<b>Senior Cheer</b>				
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
<b>International Open Cheer – Please see clarifications in the text below under the title "International Open Cheer Levels 5 and 6".</b>				
International Open 5	• 14 yrs & Older*	• No Males	• 5 - 24 Members	5
International Open Co-Ed 5	• 14 yrs & Older*	• 1 - 12 Males	• 5 - 24 Members	5
International Open 6	• 17 yrs & Older	• No Males	• 5 - 24 Members	6
International Open Co-Ed 6	• 17 yrs & Older	• 1 - 15 Males	• 5 - 24 Members	6
<b>Special Needs Cheer</b>				
Special Needs	• Any Age	• Female/Male	• Unlimited	2**
<b>Open</b>				
Open 4	• 17 yrs & Older	• Female/Male	• 5 - 32 Members	4

(Same Grid – Different Format)

<b>USASF Level 1</b>				
Level 1	Tiny	• 5 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
<b>USASF Level 2</b>				
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
<b>USASF Level 3</b>				
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
<b>USASF Level 4</b>				
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
<b>USASF Level 4.2</b>				
Level 4.2	Senior	• 10 yrs – 18 yrs	• Female/Male	• 5 - 32 Members
<b>USASF Level 5</b>				
Level 5	Youth* (See Restrictions Below)	• 11 yrs & younger	• Female/Male	• 5 - 36 Members
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 Restricted* (See Restrictions Below)	• 10 yrs – 18 yrs	• Limit 0 - 4 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 Co-Ed 5	• 14 yrs & older*	• 1 - 12 Males	• 5 - 24 members
<b>USASF Level 6</b>				
Level 6	International Open 6	• 17 yrs & older*	• No Males	• 5 - 24 members
Level 6	International Open Co-Ed 6	• 17 yrs & older*	• 1 - 15 Males	• 5 - 24 members

ADDITIONAL DIVISIONS			
<b>Special Needs – Level 2 (In Addition to No Basket Tosses Permitted)</b>			
Special Needs	• Any Age	• Female/Male	• Unlimited
<b>Cheerleading Prep Divisions</b>			
Tiny Prep Level 1	• 5 yrs & Younger	• Female/Male	• 5 - 36 Members
Mini Prep Level 1 & 2	• 8 yrs & Younger	• Female/Male	• 5 - 36 Members
Youth Prep Level 1, 2 & 3	• 11 yrs & Younger	• Female/Male	• 5 - 36 Members
Junior Prep Level 1, 2 & 3	• 14 yrs & Younger	• Female/Male	• 5 - 36 Members
Senior Prep Level 1, 2 & 3	• 10 yrs – 18 yrs	• Female/Male	• 5 - 36 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 2014-15 season, except for Levels 5 & 6 as noted.

The age of the competitor as of **August 31, 2014** will be the age used for competition purposes throughout the 2014-2015 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 but turns 14, within the same calendar year (on or before Dec 31) of the event is eligible to compete in that event on an International Open 5 (all girl or co-ed).**

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**

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

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 basket 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:

Rev. 5/20/14

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 “Small Gym” divisions. If splitting further by size, then event producers must use a name such as “Division I”, “Division II” or “Division A”, “Division 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 “Small Gym” division, then the definition of a “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 and Level 4.2).

A “Small Gym” is defined as having one physical address for its location and has **75 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 75 or less athletes.

It is up to the event producer’s discretion as to how to monitor this.

Divisions that are designated as “Small Gym” must use the definition of a “Small Gym” listed above.

#### **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 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 RESTRICTED SPLITS**

Event producers 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 **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

Rev. 5/20/14

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.

### ***SMALL GYM COMPETITIONS***

Event producers may at their discretion offer separate competitions designated for "Small Gyms" only. Any USASF/IASF division may be offered at "Small Gyms" only events. A "Small Gym" is defined as having one physical address for its location and has 75 or less athletes registered in its competitive cheer program as of 11/1/14. A gym must be declared as a "Small Gym" for the season by the 11/1/14 deadline. Exhibition teams, all star "prep" athletes, crossover athletes, special needs teams and dance teams do not count toward the 75 or less athletes.

If at any time during the season the gym's membership goes above 75 athletes, then it may no longer be considered a "Small Gym." A gym may not declare themselves a "Small Gym" after the 11/1/14 deadline regardless of the number of athletes gained/lost during the season.

It is up to the event producer's discretion as to how to monitor "Small Gym" status for their particular event, given the definition provided above.

Competitions that are designated as "Small Gym" must use the definition of a "Small Gym" 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 may crossover to **one additional** gym's Level 6 team provided (s)he meets the age requirement.

For the 2014-15 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 that have been put in place for all athletes. Any exception to this rule must be obtained in writing from the USASF.

### ***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.