

2021-2022 USASF Cheer Age Grid

All adjustments in BLUE indicate a change/addition since the early release in March 2021
(Most COVID adjustments that were made last season have now been removed for the '21 -'22 season)

We do not anticipate additional changes but reserve the right to make changes if needed



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2021-2022 Cheer Age Grid

This document contains the division offerings for the 2021-2022 season in the following tiers:

- All Star Elite
- All Star Elite International
- All Star Prep
- All Star Novice
- All Star FUNdamentals
- All Star CheerABILITIES Exceptional Athletes (formerly Special Needs)

The age grid provides a "menu" of divisions that may be offered by an individual event producer. An event producer does not have to offer every division listed. **However, a USASF member event producer must only offer divisions from the age grids herein and/or combine/split divisions based upon the guidelines herein, 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.

USASF MEMBER TERM

- The USASF Member Term runs from June 1st, 2021 – May 31st, 2022
- Seasonal, Fall Prep teams for fall season only: June 1st, 2021 – December 31st 2021
 - Fall Only Prep athletes do not count towards D1/D2 status
 - Fall Only Prep athletes can adjust their membership to the full USASF member term if they choose to extend beyond December 31 but would then be counted towards D1/D2

AGE OF ATHLETE FOR ALL DIVISIONS (see page 17 for an overview of all ages and divisions)

- An athlete's date of birth must be on or between the dates listed to be eligible for the division.
 - **Target Ages** are reflective of the typical age range athletes are during the **birth years** listed for each division.
- Background checks and Adult Athlete Specific SafeSport Training are an eligibility requirement for "Adult Athletes".
[Adult Athlete: Any athlete that turns 18 years old prior to 6/1/22.](#)

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.
- All Star Programs may not also have a Rec team that competes and/or performs at **any** USASF Sanctioned event.
- Background checks and Adult Athlete Specific SafeSport Training are an eligibility requirement for "Adult Athletes".
[Adult Athlete: Any athlete that turns 18 years old prior to 6/1/22.](#)

CROSSOVERS (Please see **Unplanned Athlete Replacement Section for additional information**)

- An All Star cheer athlete is limited to crossing over to **2 (two)** additional cheer teams within their program per competition. Therefore, an athlete may compete on one team and crossover to two more teams within the same program during the competition.
- An individual will not be permitted to crossover from one program to another during the same event.
- Exception: An athlete from one program without a Level 7 team may crossover to **one additional** program's Level 7 team so long as they do not exceed the maximum number of teams permitted.
- Crossover limitations herein do not include athletes that crossover from cheer to dance.
- An event producer may choose to be more restrictive than the USASF rules for crossovers whereby they may choose to limit the number of teams and/or levels an athlete may crossover to, however, an event producer may not be less restrictive than the limitations outlined herein.
- Athletes are not permitted to be on two teams in different competitive tiers: There are no crossovers between Prep and Elite or Prep and Elite International.
- International Divisions are considered an Elite Tier. Therefore, an athlete is permitted to cross between an All Star Elite team and an Elite International team. An athlete may not be on All Star Prep and an Elite or International team.
- Crossovers are permitted between evaluation (ratings only) and/or exhibition teams and elite. Athletes are permitted be on a Novice team and a Prep team or a Novice team and Elite team or a Novice Team and Elite International team.

MOVING TIERS

- Athletes are permitted to move up a tier without approval from the USASF. *Athletes may move from:*
 - *Novice to Prep* *Novice to Elite or Elite International* *Prep to Elite or Elite International*
- **Once an athlete has competed on an Elite or International Elite team, they are not permitted to move down to a Prep team without approval) from the USASF, through their Regional Director.**
 - *Moving from All Star Cheer Elite Club Divisions to All Star Prep Cheer is prohibited.*
 - *Moving from International Elite Cheer Divisions to All Star Prep Cheer is prohibited.*
- If a program wants to move an athlete down from a higher tier (Elite or Elite International) to a lower tier (Prep) during the same season they must request approval from the USASF, through their regional director. Approval **may** be granted for an individual athlete, one time, and the athlete **cannot** return to the prior tier during the season.

UNPLANNED ATHLETE REPLACEMENT (FOR SUDDEN SITUATIONS and/or COVID Related Issues)

This section outlines what is permitted when an athlete is unable to attend an event on short or no prior notice. This addresses emergency situations that may arise, such as illness or circumstances that were unplanned or unpredictable (such as accidents, family emergencies, COVID, etc.). Typically, when 24 hours or less notice (or longer if it is a COVID related issue) is given to the coach and adjustments must be made to allow the program to still take the floor at an event. The program must request approval from the USASF, through their Regional Director.

- 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 and/or COVID related issue.
- 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**. One replacement athlete may be of a different tier if necessary.

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.
- An Event Producer 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.
- All athletes taking the performance floor at a USASF Sanctioned event must meet the athlete requirements for attending a sanctioned event and entering the warm-up room. *This applies to all athletes **competing or performing** for a US based All Star Cheer or Dance Program, including athletes on All Star Novice, All Star Prep Teams, and All Star Elite teams. This applies to **Competitive, Show Teams and Exhibition Teams (including Parent Teams)**:*
 - Athlete membership paid for the current membership term. Exception: Athletes with Special Needs competing on a CheerAbilities team receive a complimentary athlete membership to the USASF.
 - Listed on the roster as an active or reserve athlete for the team(s) with which he/she will be entering the warm-up room and performing.
- Programs who choose to take FUNdamentals class participants to exhibition will need to upgrade from free FUNdamentals athlete to a paid athlete (either Novice, Prep, or Elite) and will need to make their exhibition participants in a "grouping" fit a USASF division (Tiny, Mini, Youth, Junior or Senior) and roster the grouping as a "team" to create a roster and associate it to the sanctioned event.

USASF All Star Cheer ELITE TIER CLUB Divisions 2021-2022

Target Ages	Birth Year	Level	Division	Female/Male	Number on Team
5-6 years old	2014-2016	1	Tiny	Female/Male	5-30 Members
5-8 years old	2012-2016	1	Mini	Female/Male	5-30 Members
5-11 years old	2009-2016	1	Youth	Female/Male	5-30 Members
6-15 years old	2005-2015	1	Junior	Female/Male	5-30 Members
12-18 years old	6/1/02-2009	1	Senior	Female/Male	5-30 Members
5-8 years old	2012-2016	2	Mini	Female/Male	5-30 Members
5-11 years old	2009-2016	2	Youth	Female/Male	5-30 Members
6-15 years old	2005-2015	2	Junior	Female/Male	5-30 Members
12-18 years old	6/1/02-2009	2	Senior	Female/Male	5-30 Members
5-11 years old	2009-2016	3	Youth	Female/Male	5-30 Members
6-15 years old	2005-2015	3	Junior	Female/Male	5-30 Members
12-18 years old	6/1/02-2009	3	Senior	No Males	5-30 Members
12-18 years old	6/1/02-2009	3	Senior Co-Ed	1 or more Males	5-30 Members
8-11 years old	2009-2013	4	Youth	Female/Male	5-30 Members
8-15 years old	2005-2013	4	Junior	Female/Male	5-30 Members
12-18 years old	6/1/02-2009	4	Senior	No Males	5-30 Members
12-18 years old	6/1/02-2009	4	Senior Co-Ed	1 or more Males	5-30 Members
13 years +	2008 or before	4	Senior Open	Female/Male	5-24 Members
12-18 years old	6/1/02-2009	4.2	Senior	No Males	5-30 Members
12-18 years old	6/1/02-2009	4.2	Senior Co-Ed	1 or more Males	5-30 Members
9-11 years old	2009-2012	5	Youth	Female/Male	5-38 Members
9-15 years old	2005-2012	5	Junior	Female/Male	5-38 Members
12-18 years old	6/1/02-2009	5	Senior	No Males	5-38 Members
12-18 years old	6/1/02-2009	5	Senior Co-Ed	1 or more Males	5-38 Members
13 years +	2008 or before	5	Senior Open	No Males	5-24 Members
13 years +	2008 or before	5	Senior Open Co-Ed	1 or more Males	5-24 Members
9-15 years old	2005-2012	6	Junior	No Males	5-38 Members
9-15 years old	2005-2012	6	Junior Co-Ed	1 or more Males	5-38 Members
13-18 years old	6/1/02-2008	6	Senior XSmall *	No Males	5-16 Members
13-18 years old	6/1/02-2008	6	Senior Small *	No Males	17-22 Members
13-18 years old	6/1/02-2008	6	Senior Medium *	No Males	23-30 Members
13-18 years old	6/1/02-2008	6	Senior Large *	No Males	31-38 Members
13-18 years old	6/1/02-2008	6	Senior XSmall Co-Ed *	1-2 Males	5-16 Members
13-18 years old	6/1/02-2008	6	Senior Small Co-Ed *	1-5 Males	5-22 Members
13-18 years old	6/1/02-2008	6	Senior Medium Co-Ed *	1-8 Males	5-30 Members
13-18 years old	6/1/02-2008	6	Senior Large Co-Ed *	1-19 Males	5-38 Members
13 years +	2008 or before	6	Senior Open *	No Males	5-24 Members
13 years +	2008 or before	6	Senior Open Small Co-Ed *	1-4 Males	5-24 Members
13 years +	2008 or before	6	Senior Open Large Co-Ed *	5-12 Males	5-24 Members
			<i>* Indicates Worlds Eligible Division</i>		

USASF All Star Cheer ELITE TIER INTERNATIONAL Divisions 2021-2022

Target Ages	Birth Year	Level	Division	Female/Male	Number on Team
9-16 years old	2004-2012	1	U17	Female/Male	10-24 members
13-18 years old	2002-2008	1	U19	Female/Male	10-24 members
9-16 years old	2004-2012	2	U17	Female/Male	10-24 members
13-18 years old	2002-2008	2	U19	Female/Male	10-24 members
9-16 years old	2004-2012	3	U17	Female/Male	10-24 members
13-18 years old	2002-2008	3	U19	No males	10-24 members
13-18 years old	2002-2008	3	U19 Co-ed	Female/Male	10-24 members
9-16 years old	2004-2012	4	U17	No Males	10-24 members
9-16 years old	2004-2012	4	U17 Co-ed	Female/Male	10-24 members
13-18 years old	2002-2008	4	U19	No Males	10-24 members
13-18 years old	2002-2008	4	U19 Co-ed	Female/Male	10-24 members
13 years +	2008 or before	4	International Open	No Males	10-24 members
13 years +	2008 or before	4	International Open Co-Ed	Female/Male	10-24 members
13 years +	2008 or before	6	International Open	No Males	10-24 members
13 years +	2008 or before	6	International Open Small Co-Ed	1-4 Males	10-24 members
13 years +	2008 or before	6	International Open Large Co-Ed	5-16 Males	10-24 members
13 years +	2008 or before	6	International Open NT	No Males	10-30 members
13 years +	2008 or before	6	International Open Co-Ed NT	1-20 Males	10-30 members
13 years +	2008 or before	6	International Global	No Males	10-24 members
13 years +	2008 or before	6	International Global Co-Ed	1-16 Males	10-24 members
16 years +	2005 or before	7	International Open	No Males	10-24 members
16 years +	2005 or before	7	International Open Small Co-Ed	1-4 Males	10-24 members
16 years +	2005 or before	7	International Open Large Co-Ed	5-16 Males	10-24 members

USASF sanctioned events may **ONLY** offer these International divisions. All divisions offered by the IASF **are not** all offered at USASF sanctioned events. Please see the International division list on this page to ensure division offerings at USASF sanctioned events. Competitions that follow IASF Guidelines may have additional rules/ restrictions for the International Divisions. Please check with the Event Producer directly for further information.

Please note the following:

- Minimum number of athletes for all divisions is 10. A penalty may be assessed for taking the floor with fewer than 10 athletes.
- The maximum numbers of males on a Co-Ed Division team may not exceed 2/3 of the total athletes on the team.
- Routine time limit for International Divisions is a maximum of 2:30.
 - Exception: Routine time limit for NON - TUMBLING Divisions is a maximum of 2:00.
 - Exception: Global Divisions - Time Limit: 3:30. Cheer = 30 seconds(minimum) 40 second (maximum), 20 seconds to move from cheer to and set for music portion, 2:30 maximum for music portion.

“U Format”: Please note there is still a bottom age for these divisions. Use the Birth Year Column to verify athlete eligibility for all divisions.

USASF All Star Cheer PREP TIER Divisions 2021-2022

Target Ages	Birth Year	Level	Division	Female/Male	Number on Team
5-6 years old	2014-2016	1.1	Tiny	Female/Male	5-30 Members
5-8 years old	2012-2016	1.1	Mini	Female/Male	5-30 Members
5-11 years old	2009-2016	1.1	Youth	Female/Male	5-30 Members
6-15 years old	2005-2015	1.1	Junior	Female/Male	5-30 Members
10-18 years old	6/1/02-2011	1.1	Senior	Female/Male	5-30 Members
5-8 years old	2012-2016	2.1	Mini	Female/Male	5-30 Members
5-11 years old	2009-2016	2.1	Youth	Female/Male	5-30 Members
6-15 years old	2005-2015	2.1	Junior	Female/Male	5-30 Members
10-18 years old	6/1/02-2011	2.1	Senior	Female/Male	5-30 Members
5-8 years old	2012-2016	2.2	Mini	Female/Male	5-30 Members
5-11 years old	2009-2016	2.2	Youth	Female/Male	5-30 Members
6-15 years old	2005-2015	2.2	Junior	Female/Male	5-30 Members
10-18 years old	6/1/02-2011	2.2	Senior	Female/Male	5-30 Members
5-11 years old	2009-2016	3.1	Youth	Female/Male	5-30 Members
6-15 years old	2005-2015	3.1	Junior	Female/Male	5-30 Members
10-18 years old	6/1/02-2011	3.1	Senior	Female/Male	5-30 Members
5-11 years old	2009-2016	3.2	Youth	Female/Male	5-30 Members
6-15 years old	2005-2015	3.2	Junior	Female/Male	5-30 Members
10-18 years old	6/1/02-2011	3.2	Senior	Female/Male	5-30 Members

Please refer to the USASF 2021-2022 Cheer Rules for routine rules and guidelines. The specific page number is referenced in the Table of Contents of the USASF 2021-2022 Cheer Safety Rules.

ALL STAR CHEER PREP GUIDELINES

- All teams are combined female/male - prep teams will not be classified as co-ed, regardless of the number of males on a team.

USASF All Star Cheer NOVICE TIER Divisions 2021-2022

Target Ages	Birth Year	Level	Division	Female/Male	Number on Team
3-6 years old	2014-2018	1 w/Restrictions	Tiny	Female/Male	3 + Members
5-8 years old	2012-2016	1 w/Restrictions	Mini	Female/Male	5 + Members
5-11 years old	2009-2016	1 w/Restrictions	Youth	Female/Male	5 + Members
6-15 years old	2005-2015	1 w/Restrictions	Junior	Female/Male	5 + Members
10-18 years old	6/1/02-2011	1 w/Restrictions	Senior	Female/Male	5 + Members
5-8 years old	2012-2016	2 w/Restrictions	Mini	Female/Male	5 + Members
5-11 years old	2009-2016	2 w/Restrictions	Youth	Female/Male	5 + Members
6-15 years old	2005-2015	2 w/Restrictions	Junior	Female/Male	5 + Members
10-18 years old	6/1/02-2011	2 w/Restrictions	Senior	Female/Male	5 + Members
5-11 years old	2009-2016	3 w/Restrictions	Youth	Female/Male	5 + Members
6-15 years old	2005-2015	3 w/Restrictions	Junior	Female/Male	5 + Members
10-18 years old	6/1/02-2011	3 w/Restrictions	Senior	Female/Male	5 + Members

Please refer to the USASF 2021-2022 Cheer Rules for routine rules and guidelines. The specific page number is referenced in the Table of Contents of the USASF 2021-2022 Cheer Safety Rules.

ALL STAR NOVICE GUIDELINES

- All teams are combined female/male - novice teams will not be classified as co-ed, regardless of the number of males on a team.
- An Event Producer may offer a team of less than 5 participants, as long as they meet the age restrictions of the Age Grid. Prior approval from the Event Producer is required.

ALL STAR NOVICE SELECT

- The USASF will be offering a Novice Select option that will be available to all USASF Member Programs. This resource will provide music, a framework of a Novice routine and a skill list to choose from. This was created to help newer coaches/programs learn how to put together routines while reducing the cost of music and choreography fees.
- The Novice Select routines will perform in the Novice Divisions.

USASF All Star Cheer FUNdamentals Program for 2021-2022

This is an in-house program only.

Teams will not compete but may choose to exhibition the USASF provided choreography (see exhibition guidelines).

FUNDamentals GUIDELINES

As a benefit of membership, the US All Star Federation offers a true entry level class program for USASF member programs to utilize as an offering to customers. This program will be an in-house class format. FUNDamentals is an opportunity for athletes to experience All Star in a seasonal, lower commitment, lower cost, entry level, non-competitive format. Progressions will be used to further separate the rules into smaller sections that are more conducive to the shorter season and will include a variety of skill sets. A coach will be able to choose the progression that is best suited for their athletes and has an opportunity to offer three concurrent class sessions.

The program includes:

- Music
- Curriculum that leads to Choreography
- Lesson/Practice Plans will be provided to USASF
- Parent Engagement Tools
- Activity Book for Participants
- Implementation Guide
- Member programs who wish to utilize this benefit will opt-in to the FUNDamentals Program. Opt-in is done by the program, through their USASF Member profile.
- Members must agree to the FUNDamentals terms and conditions to have access to the FUNDamentals resources. Terms and conditions can be found in the program member profile.
- The intent of the FUNDamentals offering is to have a program that INTRODUCES interested participants to All Star Cheer. It is designed as an in-house **class** program. It is not meant to create a team or go to an event. A Program, however, may **choose** to take Fundamentals class participants to a Sanctioned Event to perform their routine as an **exhibition**, provided they adhere to the following:
 - May not enter as a team that would be ranked or compete.
 - Must request a one-day music license from the USASF to use the music outside their All Star facility.
 - May wear t-shirt and shorts or practice wear for their exhibition performance
 - Meet all membership and sanctioned event requirements for Exhibition Performances. Programs who choose to take FUNDamentals class participants to exhibition will need to upgrade from free FUNDamentals athlete to a paid athlete (either Novice, Prep, or Elite) and will need to make their exhibition participants in a “grouping” fit a USASF division (Tiny, Mini, Youth, Junior or Senior) and roster the grouping as a “team” to create a roster and associate it to the sanctioned event.
- Exhibition performances may be performed on spring floor or carpet bonded foam.

USASF All Star Cheer CHEERABILITIES Divisions 2021-2022

Target Ages	Birth Year	Level	Division	Female/Male	Number on Team
5+ years old	2016 or before	1 w/Restrictions	Novice	Female/Male	5 + Members
5+ years old	2016 or before	2 w/Restrictions	Elite	Female/Male	5 + Members
5+ years old	2016 or before	2 w/Restrictions	Exhibition	Female/Male	5 + Members

ALL STAR CheerABILITIES

Please refer to the USASF 2021-2022 Cheer Rules for routine rules and guidelines. The specific page number is referenced in the Table of Contents of the USASF 2021-2022 Cheer Safety Rules.

Guidelines for Combining and/or Splitting Divisions

The USASF provides guidelines for COMBINING and/or SPLITTING divisions in the best interest of providing a competitive environment. Whenever possible, there should be at least 2 teams in any given division and level. The guidelines listed herein will provide the basis for how this will be accomplished.

Definitions for this section:

May means that an event producer is **permitted** to combine or split but is not required. Anything that reads **may** is left to the discretion of the event producer.

Must means that an event producer is **required** to combine or split if the division meets the criteria set forth in the guidelines.

May not means that the event producer is **prohibited** to combine or split the division.

- Teams of different ages may not be combined into one division.
- Teams of different levels may not be combined into one division.
- **International** and **Open Divisions** may not split by Small/ Medium /Large team size.

DI/DII: Each Division is outlined with steps for how to split. The **first step** is for an Event Producer to decide if they are going to guarantee DII splits in all divisions with DII only events or DII only sessions (**see page 14**)

- *Teams from outside the U.S. competing at USASF Sanctioned Events will automatically be considered DI as DI/DII status may only be verified through the USASF member system.*

LEVELS 1 - 4.2 - Elite Tier

(Does not include Novice, Prep, Open or International Divisions)

- **Only Senior 3 Co-ed, Senior 4 Co-ed & Senior 4.2 Co-ed are guaranteed, stand-alone divisions. No other division may be split into Co-Ed and All Girl.**
- **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 (Small and Medium). A mandatory split would occur.
 - Teams of the same size from the same program will NOT be split and **must** compete against each other.

Step 1:

Small/ Medium SPLIT: Small (5-22), Medium (23-30)

An event producer **MAY** offer guaranteed Small and Medium Division splits at their discretion as long as there is at least one team per division. Event producers **must** split the division into Small and Medium divisions when there are at least **two** teams registered in each division.

Step 2: Event producers may or may not choose to further split divisions in the interest of competition. The splits below are OPTIONAL and may be applied in any order. They may choose to implement any or all of the additional splits so long as they follow the guidelines. No division may be subdivided further if it means that only **one** team will be left in a division.

A/B SPLIT

If after implementing the Small/Medium split there are **10 or more** teams in any given division, then event producers **may** split that division further by squad size. The 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 division.

OR

DI | DII SPLIT (see page 14)

If after implementing the Small/Medium split Event producers **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.

SENIOR OPEN 4 DIVISIONS- Elite Tier

- **Teams from the same program:**
 - Teams of the same size from the same program will NOT be split and **must** compete against each other.
- **Open Divisions** may not split by Small/ Medium team size.

STEP 1: Event producers **may** split the division by co-ed and all-girl when there are at least **two** teams registered in each division. If there are not two team registered for each division the Event Producer **must** move on to Step 2 leaving the co-ed and all-girl teams combined.

STEP 2: Event producers may or may not choose to further split divisions in the interest of competition. The splits below are OPTIONAL and may be applied in any order. They may choose to implement any or all of the additional splits so long as they follow the guidelines. No division may be subdivided further if it means that only one team will be left in a division.

A/B SPLIT

If there are **10 or more** teams in any given division, then event producers **may** split that division further by squad size. The 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 division.

OR

DI | DII SPLIT (see page 14)

An Event producer **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.

LEVEL 5 - Elite Tier

- **Only SENIOR & SENIOR OPEN 5 All Girl & Co-ed are guaranteed, stand-alone division**
- **Open Divisions** may not split by Small/ Medium team size but may use the optional **A/B** or **DI/DII** split.
- **Youth teams may NOT be split into Co-Ed and All Girl**
- **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 (Small and Large). A mandatory split would occur.
 - There is NOT a mandatory split for Medium/Large team sizes from the same program in the same division and level.
 - Teams of the same size from the same program will NOT be split and **must** compete against each other.

STEP 1:

Small/ Large SPLIT: Small (5-22), Large (23-38)

An event producer **MAY** offer guaranteed Small and Large Division splits at their discretion as long as there is at least one team per division. Event producers **must** split the division into Small and Large divisions when there are at least **two** teams registered in each division.

STEP 2

JUNIOR 5 teams **may** split by co-ed and all-girl when there are at least **two** teams registered in each division. If there are not two team registered for each division the Event Producer **must** move on to Step 3 leaving the co-ed and all-girl teams combined.

STEP 3: Event producers may or may not choose to further split divisions. The splits below are OPTIONAL and may be applied in any order. They may choose to implement any or all of the additional splits so long as they follow the guidelines. No division may be subdivided further if it means that only one team will be left in a division.

Medium/Large SPLIT: Medium (23-30), Large (31-38)

Event producers **MAY** split into Medium and Large Team size when there are at least **two** teams registered in each division.

OR

A/B SPLIT

If after implementing the Small/Large split there are **10 or more** teams in any given division, then event producers **may** split that division further by squad size. The 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 division.

OR

DI | DII SPLIT (see page 14)

If after implementing the Small/Large split Event producers **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.

LEVEL 6 JUNIORS ONLY - Elite Tier

Co-ed / All- Girl: If there is one co-ed registration and one all-girl registration, the divisions **may** be combined.

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 (Small and Large). A **mandatory split** would occur.
- There is NOT a mandatory split for Medium/Large team sizes from the same program in the same division and level.
- Teams of the **same size** from the **same program** will NOT be split and **must** compete against each other.

STEP 1:

Small/ Large SPLIT: Small (5-22), Large (23-38)

An event producer **MAY** offer guaranteed Small and Large Division splits at their discretion as long as there is at least one team per division.

Event producers **must** split the division into Small and Large divisions when there are at least **two** teams registered in each division.

STEP 2: Event producers may or may not choose to further split divisions in the interest of competition. The splits below are OPTIONAL and may be applied in any order. They may choose to implement any or all of the additional splits so long as they follow the guidelines. No division may be subdivided further if it means that only one team will be left in a division.

Medium/Large SPLIT: Medium (23-30), Large (31-38)

Event producers **may** split into Medium and Large Team size when there are at least **two** teams registered in each division.

OR

A/B SPLIT

If after implementing the Small/Large split there are **10 or more** teams in any given division, then event producers **may** split that division further by squad size. The 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 division.

OR

DI | DII SPLIT (see page 14)

If after implementing the Small/Large split Event producers **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.

WORLDS DIVISIONS (at bid or non-bid giving events)
SENIOR OPEN 6 DIVISIONS- Elite Tier
(Does not include International Divisions)

- **Teams from the same program:**
 - Teams from the same program will NOT be split and **must** compete against each other.
- **Open Divisions** may not split by Small/ Medium team size.
- **Co-Ed:** If there is only one registration in Small Co-ed or Large Co-ed an Event Producer **may** combine the divisions.
All Girl and Co-ed teams **may not** be combined.

STEP 1: Event producers may or may not choose to further split divisions in the interest of competition. The splits below are OPTIONAL and may be applied in any order. They may choose to implement any or all of the additional splits so long as they follow the guidelines. No division may be subdivided further if it means that only one team will be left in a division.

A/B SPLIT

If there are **10 or more** teams in any given division, then event producers **may** split that division further by squad size. The 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 division.

OR

DI | DII SPLIT (see page 14)

An Event producer **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.

LEVEL 6 SENIORS ONLY - Elite Tier Divisions Only

(Does not include Open or International Divisions)

- **Team Size:** XSmall, Small, Medium and Large divisions **may not** be combined.
- **Co-Ed:** Senior Open Small Co-ed & Senior Open Large Co-ed, the divisions **may** be combined.
- **Teams from the same program:**
 - Teams of the same size from the same program will NOT be split and **must** compete against each other.

STEP 1: Event producers may or may not choose to further split divisions in the interest of competition. The splits below are OPTIONAL and may be applied in any order. They may choose to implement any or all of the additional splits so long as they follow the guidelines. No division may be subdivided further if it means that only one team will be left in a division.

A/B SPLIT

If there are **10 or more** teams in any given division, then event producers **may** split that division further by squad size. The 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 division.

OR

DI | DII SPLIT (see page 14)

An Event producer **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.

LEVELS 6-7 - SENIORS ONLY - INTERNATIONAL Elite Tier Divisions Only

(Includes Non-Tumbling and Global Divisions)

- **International Divisions** **may not** split by Small/ Medium/ Large team sizes.
- **Co-Ed:** If there is only one registration in Small Co-ed or Large Co-ed an Event Producer **may** combine the divisions.
All Girl and Co-ed teams **may not** be combined.
- **Teams from the same program:**
 - Teams from the same program will NOT be split and **must** compete against each other.

SPLIT BY DIVISION: DI | DII

Event producers **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 / DII divisions must follow the USASF D II definition and is only available to USASF member teams.

“DIVISION II” Definition

- A “Division II” PROGRAM is defined as having **125 or fewer** athletes registered in its competitive cheer program. Fall Prep Only athletes, Exhibition teams, crossover athletes, FUNDamental athletes, Novice athletes, CheerABILITIES athletes and dance teams do not count toward the 125 or fewer athletes. All Star Cheer Elite and 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.
- Multiple-location programs must follow the Program Classification as outlined in USASF PROGRAMS: CLASSIFICATIONS & PROGRAM DEFINITION

Once a program has 126 (or more) competitive Elite and/or Prep (not including Fall Prep Only athletes) cheer athletes, **OR “opts-in” to compete DI** the program is no longer eligible for Division II status for the remainder of the competitive season regardless of the number of athletes that may have in their program at any given time.

Events that allow any program, regardless of division eligibility, will be referred to as “Open” events.

When the DI | DII split is available at an open event, all teams from the program must compete in the same Division. There may be some divisions that do not meet the requirements for splitting, therefore leaving DI and DII programs competing against each other. This is permitted and will not force a DII program to “opt-in” to DI for all teams. HOWEVER, if there is a DI | DII split and a DII program CHOOSES to have one of their teams compete in the DI split – ALL TEAMS must compete in DI splits at this event and ALL FUTURE EVENTS.

* For further information/clarification see **USASF PROGRAMS: CLASSIFICATIONS & PROGRAM DEFINITION**

DII ONLY - EVENTS / SESSIONS

An event producer may **guarantee** DII splits in **all** divisions with DII only events or DII only sessions.

Programs that do not qualify for DII based on program numbers OR programs that qualify as DII but opt-in to DI for the current season would not be permitted at a DII only event.

Events that allow any program, regardless of division eligibility, will be referred to as “Open” events. DII only events will be referred to as “DII” events.

Events that follow the USASF guidelines combinations/splits which result in DII splits for some divisions do not need to follow the guidelines below.

An event producer may offer both an Open event and DII event on the same day in the same venue as long as they:

1. Clearly indicate they are separate events from the beginning. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. All communication to potential customers
 - b. Listing them as separate events on all advertising, promotional materials and website.
2. Include “DII only” or “Division II only” in their event description and event name.
3. Create separate events in the USASF member portal and instruct all programs to associate their roster to the CORRECT event
4. Structure the day in such a fashion that all programs attending the two events (Open and DII) are not co-mingled in any fashion.

Examples:

- a. Events in a single venue should start one event early in the day and complete the awards ceremony or ceremonies prior to the performances of the other event beginning. A clear separation in the schedule with performances and awards concluding for one before the other begins.
 - b. Events in a facility with multiple venues (such as halls) may run them concurrently HOWEVER each venue (or hall) should be designated for either Open or DII. The 2 events should not take place in the same hall.
5. Awards must be based on the separate events. For example, you may not pool the scores from both the Open and the DII events to determine a single grand champion or level champions.
 6. **DII only sessions:** An EP may offer guaranteed DII only sessions at an Open event in the beginning, end or throughout the event. If so, the above applicable guidelines must be followed, by session, and may not co-mingle with the Open sessions/awards.

Examples:

 - a. A DII session may not have one panel as DII and another panel alternating with Open divisions.
 - b. A DII session may not have DII teams compete first followed by Open teams in the same session and then have them together for the announcement of awards.
 7. **Worlds Bid Events:** When an event producer hosts both a “DII only” Event and an “Open” Event in the same weekend and the World Bid Giving divisions are associated to the “Open Event”, a DII eligible program may:
 - a. Register the Worlds eligible team (or teams) ONLY for and associate their roster(s) to the OPEN event.
 - b. Register and associate all of their non-Worlds teams from their program to the DII only event.

USASF Elite Tier - Splitting Divisions Overview

*(These splits are **not** guaranteed. Please look at pages 10- 14 for the guidelines needed to make these splits for each specific division)*

USASF All Star Elite Level 1					
<i>Level</i>	<i>Division</i>	<i>1st Split Size</i>	<i>2nd Split CO-ED / All Girl</i>	<i>3rd Split Optional</i>	<i>Number of athletes</i>
1	Tiny	Team Size: Sm./Med.	n/a	A/B Split or D/DII Split	5-30 Members
1	Mini	Team Size: Sm./Med.	n/a	A/B Split or D/DII Split	5-30 Members
1	Youth	Team Size: Sm./Med.	n/a	A/B Split or D/DII Split	8-30 Members
1	Junior	Team Size: Sm./Med.	n/a	A/B Split or D/DII Split	8-30 Members
1	Senior	Team Size: Sm./Med.	n/a	A/B Split or D/DII Split	8-30 Members
USASF All Star Elite Level 2					
<i>Level</i>	<i>Division</i>	<i>1st Split Size</i>	<i>2nd Split CO-ED / All Girl</i>	<i>3rd Split Optional</i>	<i>Number of athletes</i>
2	Mini	Team Size: Sm./Med.	n/a	A/B Split or D/DII Split	5-30 Members
2	Youth	Team Size: Sm./Med.	n/a	A/B Split or D/DII Split	8-30 Members
2	Junior	Team Size: Sm./Med.	n/a	A/B Split or D/DII Split	8-30 Members
2	Senior	Team Size: Sm./Med.	n/a	A/B Split or D/DII Split	8-30 Members
USASF All Star Elite Level 3					
<i>Level</i>	<i>Division</i>	<i>1st Split Size</i>	<i>2nd Split CO-ED / All Girl</i>	<i>3rd Split Optional</i>	<i>Number of athletes</i>
3	Youth	Team Size: Sm./Med.	n/a	A/B Split or D/DII Split	8-30 Members
3	Junior	Team Size: Sm./Med.	n/a	A/B Split or D/DII Split	8-30 Members
3	Senior	Team Size: Sm./Med.	n/a	A/B Split or D/DII Split	8-30 Members
3	Senior Co-Ed	Team Size: Sm./Med.	n/a	A/B Split or D/DII Split	8-30 Members
USASF All Star Elite Level 4/4.2					
<i>Level</i>	<i>Division</i>	<i>1st Split Size</i>	<i>2nd Split CO-ED / All Girl</i>	<i>3rd Split Optional</i>	<i>Number of athletes</i>
4	Youth	Team Size: Sm./Med.	n/a	A/B Split or D/DII Split	8-30 Members
4	Junior	Team Size: Sm./Med.	n/a	A/B Split or D/DII Split	8-30 Members
4	Senior	Team Size: Sm./Med.	n/a	A/B Split or D/DII Split	8-30 Members
4	Senior Co-Ed	Team Size: Sm./Med.	n/a	A/B Split or D/DII Split	8-30 Members
4	Senior Open	n/a	Co-Ed / All Girl	A/B Split or D/DII Split	8-24 Members
4.2	Senior	Team Size: Sm./Med.	n/a	A/B Split or D/DII Split	8-30 Members
4.2	Senior Co-Ed	Team Size: Sm./Med.	n/a	A/B Split or D/DII Split	8-30 Members
USASF All Star Elite Level 5					
<i>Level</i>	<i>Division</i>	<i>1st Split Size</i>	<i>2nd Split CO-ED / All Girl</i>	<i>3rd Split Optional</i>	<i>Number of athletes</i>
5	Youth	Team Size: Sm./Lg.	n/a	Med./Lg. or A/B or D/DII Split	8-38 Members
5	Junior	Team Size: Sm./Lg.	Co-Ed / All Girl	Med./Lg. or A/B or D/DII Split	8-38 Members
5	Senior	Team Size: Sm./Lg.	n/a	A/B Split or D/DII Split	8-38 Members
5	Senior Co-Ed	Team Size: Sm./Lg.	n/a	A/B Split or D/DII Split	8-38 Members
5	Senior Open	n/a	n/a	A/B Split or D/DII Split	8-24 Members
5	Senior Open Co-Ed	n/a	n/a	A/B Split or D/DII Split	8-24 Members
USASF All Star Elite Level 6					
<i>Level</i>	<i>Division</i>	<i>1st Split Size</i>	<i>2nd Split CO-ED / All Girl</i>	<i>3rd Split Optional</i>	<i>Number of athletes</i>
6	Junior	Team Size: Sm./Lg.	n/a	Med./Lg. or A/B or D/DII Split	8-38 Members
6	Junior Co-Ed	Team Size: Sm./Lg.	n/a	Med./Lg. or A/B or D/DII Split	8-38 Members
6	Senior XSmall (Worlds Division)	n/a	n/a	A/B Split or D/DII Split	8-16 Members
6	Senior Small (Worlds Division)	n/a	n/a	A/B Split or D/DII Split	17-22 Members
6	Senior Medium (Worlds Division)	n/a	n/a	A/B Split or D/DII Split	23-30 Members
6	Senior Large (Worlds Division)	n/a	n/a	A/B Split or D/DII Split	31-38 Members
6	Senior XSmall Co-Ed (Worlds Division)	n/a	n/a	A/B Split or D/DII Split	8-16 Members
6	Senior Small Co-Ed (Worlds Division)	n/a	n/a	A/B Split or D/DII Split	8-22 Members
6	Senior Medium Co-Ed (Worlds Division)	n/a	n/a	A/B Split or D/DII Split	8-30 Members
6	Senior Large Co-Ed (Worlds Division)	n/a	n/a	A/B Split or D/DII Split	8-38 Members
6	Senior Open (Worlds Division)	n/a	n/a	A/B Split or D/DII Split	8-24 Members
6	Senior Open Small Co-Ed (Worlds Division)	n/a	n/a	A/B Split or D/DII Split	8-24 Members
6	Senior Open Large Co-Ed (Worlds Division)	n/a	n/a	A/B Split or D/DII Split	8-24 Members

TIER	DIVISIONS	TARGET AGES	USASF ATHLETE BIRTH YEAR ("x" indicates eligible for that division)																		
			2001 or before	1/1/2002-5/31/2002	06/01/02 - 12/31/02	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
ELITE CLUB	Senior Open(L4/L5/L6)	13+	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x										
	Senior (L6)	13-18			x	x	x	x	x	x	x										
	Senior (L1-5)	12-18			x	x	x	x	x	x	x										
	Junior (L5-6)	9-15						x	x	x	x	x	x	x							
	Junior (L4)	8-15						x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x						
	Junior (L1-3)	6-15						x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
	Youth (L5)	9-11										x	x	x	x						
	Youth (L4)	8-11										x	x	x	x	x					
	Youth (L1-3)	5-11										x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
	Mini (L1-2)	5-8													x	x	x	x	x		
Tiny (L1)	5-6															x	x	x			
PREP	Senior Prep (L1.1, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2)	10-18			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x							
	Junior Prep (L1.1, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2)	6-15						x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
	Youth Prep (L1.1, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2)	5-11										x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
	Mini Prep (L1.1, 2.1, 2.2)	5-8													x	x	x	x	x		
	Tiny Prep (L1.1)	5-6															x	x	x		
NOVICE	Senior Novice(L1-3 w/restrictions)	10-18			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x							
	Junior Novice (L1-3 w/restrictions)	6-15						x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
	Youth Novice(L1-3 w/restrictions)	5-11										x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
	Mini Novice (L1-2 w/restrictions)	5-8													x	x	x	x	x		
	Tiny Novice(L1 w/restrictions)	3-6															x	x	x	x	x
CheerAbilities	CheerAbilities Elite (L2 w/restrictions)	5+	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
	CheerAbilities Novice (L1 w/restrictions)	5+	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
	CheerAbilities Exhibition (L2 w/restrictions)	5+	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
ELITE INTERNATIONAL	International Open (L7)	16+	x	x	x	x	x	x													
	International Open/NT/Global (L6)	13+	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x										
	International Open (L4)	13+	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x										
	International U19 (L1-4)	13-18		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x										
	International U17 (L1-4)	9-16					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x						

Use the **Birth Year** column to verify athlete eligibility for all divisions. The **Target Ages** are reflective of the typical age range athletes are at some point during the 2021 calendar year based on their birth year.