



2023-2024

**POM DIVISION**

***JUNIOR/HS/COLLEGE***

DIVISION RULES AND REGULATIONS

*6<sup>th</sup> Edition*

The NCC reserves the right to add, change, delete, or combine any information provided below.

## General Rules

- 1. The NCC strictly adheres to all COVID 19 guidelines including but not limited to social distancing and requires all participants in all of its competition to do the same.**
2. All teams are required to submit all necessary documents by the given deadline to be eligible. The deadline for the submission of **COMPLETE** documents is **one (1) month** prior to the qualifiers (or the Finals in the event there are no qualifiers) the team will be joining.

If unable to submit at the given deadline a fine of **Php 4,000.00** will be implemented. The fine should be paid **BEFORE** the date of the qualifiers (or the Finals in the event there are no qualifiers) or else the team will **NOT** be allowed to perform.

For teams joining more than one division, only one (1) late fee applies for all deliverables.

3. All teams should be supervised during ALL official functions by a qualified advisor<sup>1</sup>/coach.
4. Athletes and coaches may not be under the influence of alcohol, narcotics, performance enhancing substances, or over-the-counter medications while participating in a practice or performance that would hinder the ability to supervise or execute a routine safely.
5. On the day of the competition all official team members must report to the competition area for verification. Only those on the Final Roster submitted a month before the Qualifiers will be allowed inside the competition area.

The Final Roster consists of the following:

1. Complete list of performers. A minimum of fifteen (15) and a maximum of thirty (30) performers are allowed. This number should already include spotters and lifters.
  2. Complete list of reserves. Only **five (5)** reserves are allowed. The list of reserves may **NOT** be changed once the team has registered.
  3. The coach, asst. coach and 2 other team officials are allowed to enter with the team provided they are included in the roster list.
6. Performance Sequence
    - a. If a team is not present during the drawing of lots, it will get the last pick in the lot.
    - b. For the Qualifiers, if a team arrives at the competition venue two (2) slots prior to its own performance slot it will be assessed a sanction of **thirty (30) points** and will be allotted the performance slot of two (2) slots after arrival.
    - c. At Qualifiers, the last performance slot is reserved for the defending champion of that regional competition.
    - d. The NCC reserves the right to determine the order of performance for all divisions in the National Finals.**
    - e. If a team misses its performance slot, it is automatically disqualified from the competition.

Note: If a team is not present at the allotted time given, the NCC reserves the right to draw a number on behalf of the team. Once the number has been picked it is final.

7. Run through<sup>2</sup>
  - a. Music should be provided at the time of the run through.
  - b. If a team misses their slot in the run through, they forfeit that time to rehearse.
  - c. Each team has a maximum of seven (7) minutes for its run through.<sup>3</sup>
8. All teams are required to take part in the Introduction of Teams. A penalty of **twenty (20) points** will be given to any team who doesn't comply.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Someone who can be held responsible for the Team/Squad.

<sup>2</sup> Only for Finals

<sup>3</sup> Time allotment might vary depending on the number of participating teams.

## Eligibility of Participants

1. Teams joining should comprise of **ALL GIRLS ONLY**.

2. **SCHOOL BASED DIVISIONS**

All grade school, high school and collegiate participants must be official students of the school they are representing and must meet all of their eligibility requirements.

- a. **Junior Division**

- i. Officially enrolled in **Grades 4 through 8** at the time of the competition.
    - ii. Should be in good academic and disciplinary standing.
    - iii. Teams joining should comprise of **ALL GIRLS ONLY**.
    - iv. Teams may join any of the following categories:
      1. **ALL GIRL JUNIOR POM**
      2. **ALL GIRL JUNIOR POM PAIRS**

- b. **Senior (High School) Division**

- i. Officially enrolled in **Grades 7 through 12** at the time of the competition.
    - ii. Should be in good academic and disciplinary standing.
    - iii. Teams may join any of the following categories:
      1. **ALL GIRL SENIOR POM**
      2. **ALL GIRL SENIOR POM PAIRS**

- c. **College Division**

- i. Officially enrolled at the time of the competition in a non-audit<sup>5</sup> course towards an Undergraduate degree.
    - ii. **RESIDENCY RULE WAIVED FOR THIS SEASON**
    - iii. Master's degree students are allowed to compete and represent the school they are currently enrolled in upon submission of necessary documents and a supporting letter from the dean.
    - iv. Cross enrollees are only allowed to represent the school they are cross enrolling from. Pertinent documents should be submitted.
    - v. Participants are eligible, if upon submission of documents, are still officially enrolled at the school they are competing for.
    - vi. Should be in good academic and disciplinary standing.
    - vii. Participants who are on Leave of Absence (LOA) status in the school they are representing are not eligible to compete in the NCC.
    - viii. **There is no maximum age limit for participants.**
    - ix. Teams may join any of the following categories:
      1. **ALL GIRL COLLEGE POM**
      2. **ALL GIRL COLLEGE POM PAIRS**

3. **Open Division**

Participants in this division should be at least **sixteen (16)** years of age by the date of the competition. There is no age limit for this division.

- a. Teams may join any of the following categories:
    - i. **Open All Girl POM**
    - ii. **Open All Girl POM PAIRS**

4. Teams are **NOT** allowed to use spotters and lifters from other schools.

NOTE: A cheerleader can compete in 2 or more separate divisions provided he/she is qualified and all required documents are submitted for **EACH** division he/she is participating in. Registration fees for each division apply.

5. Teams must submit the required official NCC forms on the specified deadline (*in alphabetical order of participants' last name*).

- a. The following should be submitted via email at [phil.ncc@gmail.com](mailto:phil.ncc@gmail.com)

- i. NCC Registration/Waiver Form and Roster List inclusive of the following:

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<sup>4</sup> Late = not ready

<sup>5</sup> A 4-year Bachelor's Degree Course

1. Name of all Participants, Reserves and Team Officials.
  2. Once submitted, names CANNOT be changed.
  3. If a participant is a minor, Guardian/Parent's signature is required.
  - ii. Official Registrar's List with registrar's signature and school dry seal (SCANNED COPY)
  - iii. Payment Deposit Slip (SCANNED COPY)
- b. The following ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS should be submitted in HARD COPY during registration on the DAY OF THE COMPETITION
- i. Original NCC Registration/Waiver Form
  - ii. **Signed original NCC Rules and Regulation Agreement Form**
  - iii. Official Registrar's List with registrar's signature with school dry seal
6. Substitutions may be made on a team only in the event of an injury or academic probation; all substitutes must meet the eligibility requirements stated above. The necessary documents must be submitted together with the team's eligibility forms and must be made known to NCC Officials.
7. Athletes with any **injuries and/or medical conditions should be cleared to perform both at the official run throughs and at the actual competition** by a certified doctor/physician. The NCC is not liable for any undeclared medical conditions.

### Sportsmanship

1. All participants and competitors must exhibit the highest level of sportsmanship before, during and after the competition.
2. All participants must take part in the oath of sportsmanship and be at the competition venue at the designated time.
3. All winners must come forward to accept their award immediately after their school is called for all prizes regardless of ranking.
4. All winning teams are to have a photo taken upon receipt of the award.
5. NCC officials can assess a **ten (10) point penalty** per occurrence against any team found to have violated the NCC's sportsmanship standards. Multiple sportsmanship infractions can result in disqualification and disbarment of the team from future NCC events.
6. The same level of sportsmanship is expected from the teams' school, family and other supporters of the team **whether watching live at the competition venue or virtually via TV broadcast or online streaming.**
7. Grave acts against sportsmanship such as but not limited to sabotage, physical violence, homicide, collusion, libel, stealing, vandalism, untoward incident, internet posting and the like shall be dealt with the full force of the law after an appropriate investigation is concluded.

### Apparel and Accessories

1. Team uniforms should have their school's name more prominent than any brand or sponsor name.
2. Soft-soled athletic shoes with adequate support must be worn while competing. Jazz shoes and/or boots, slippers, sandals, flip-flops, high heels, leather shoes, and bare feet are NOT allowed.
3. Jewelry of any kind including but not limited to ear, nose, tongue, belly button and facial rings, clear plastic jewelry, bracelets, necklaces, and pins are prohibited. Jewelry must be removed and may not be taped over. Rhinestones on the uniform are allowed. Face paint is allowed, but body jewelry like sticky rhinestones are prohibited.
4. Medical alert bracelets or necklaces may be worn, but should be removed from the neck/wrist area and be secured to the body under the uniform with tape.
5. Fingernails, including artificial nails, must be kept at an appropriate length (i.e. short, near the end of the fingers) to minimize risk for the participants.

6. Inappropriate and vulgar clothing will not be allowed. Emphasis will be on a balance of aesthetic appeal and **functionality taking into consideration the length, fit and style of the uniform to its wearer**. This applies to both male and female athletes. **No cross dressing allowed**. The focus should be on safety while doing the routine. Any violations will result with a minimum penalty of **ten (10) points per occurrence to a maximum of disqualification depending on the gravity of the offense**.
  - a. Skirt: maximum Thumb level short
  - b. Shorts: buttocks are fully covered/concealed and not skin tone
  - c. Top: no cleavage, fully supported, and appropriately covered.
7. No grease or anything slippery on uniform or body.
8. Stockings are NOT allowed for safety reasons.
9. The ONLY prop allowed are pompoms.
10. Any prop that may be attached to the uniform or body is still considered a prop and not apparel.
11. Neoprene, spandex supports, sleeves and the like are allowed. Braces, casts, etc., which are hard and unyielding or have rough edges or surfaces are prohibited.
12. Gloves, sweat bands and the like are not allowed to be worn by bases during stunts.
13. Cycling and panty shorts cannot be skin-toned.
14. Ribbons, rubber bands and hairpins should be properly secured.
15. Wigs are not allowed.
16. Tattoos of school logos, etc. are allowed; any other tattoos permanent or otherwise must be covered.

### Competition Area, Flooring and Venue

1. All competitors must start within the performance area and everyone must be supporting their own weight with at least one foot on the performance floor.
2. Teams will perform on a 54 feet (across) by 42 feet (wide) (54' x 42') carpeted floor, exercise mat or similar surface.
3. Performance area shall either be foam, spring floor, athletic mat or other material as decided upon by the NCC.
4. The floor shall be devoid of any other visible promotional material other than the NCC logo unless otherwise agreed on by the NCC.
5. Any and all official competition venues shall be at least 20 feet in height.
6. Stepping out of the competition area will be assessed a **five (5) point** deduction each incident.

### Routine Timing

1. The minimum length of the performance is two minutes (2:00) and the maximum length is two minutes and thirty seconds (2:30). A penalty of **five (5) points** will be given for every lack or excess of five (5) seconds and a fraction thereof.
2. A one-minute pre-set will be given to each team.
3. Timing will begin with the first organized movement of a cheer, sideline or dance, the first note of music, the first word of a cheer or sideline, or the building of a pyramid or stunt (i.e. the lifting of or support of another person off the ground). Competitors may do a spirited tumbling exit as long as it is within the given exit time.

4. The team should leave the floor immediately after their routine together with their props.

## Music

Performance music must adhere to the standards and practices of the official NCC rules and regulations. The music must be of good quality as this could affect the scoring by the judges.

1. Profane, vulgar, suggestive, offensive and inappropriate language is strictly prohibited. **Such language should be edited out of the routine music.** A penalty of **ten (10) points per occurrence** will be given to teams whose music/cheer has this content or **anything that may be construed as the above.**
2. Designate one representative from your group to run your music.
  - a. This person must remain at the sound table throughout the entire performance.
  - b. That representative is not allowed to touch the sound board except to push the play button (once) at the beginning of the routine and the stop button (once) at the end of the routine.  
Note: Teams will be penalized with a **ten (10) point** deduction if this is not followed.
3. Only **audio CD formats** are allowed in the competition. Bring four (4) quality-recorded compact discs of your music to the competition. CDs should be properly labeled with the schools Name, contact person, and contact number. When burning own music on CD, you **MUST** use a CD-R NOT CD-RW.
4. No digital music player will be allowed to be used in the competition (i.e. iPods, MP3 Players, CD Players).
5. Each team will be allowed to test their music at a given time before the competition. An NCC representative will properly time the music to be recorded and have it signed off by the team's coach and the NCC representative.<sup>6</sup>
- ~~6. Schools may bring a maximum of 3 bass drums and 2 snare drums to be situated at the audience bleachers.~~

## Medical Attention

1. It is the responsibility of the team or coach to report a dancer's injury or illness to the event organizer(s).
2. If at any time prior to or during competition a cheerleader is ill, injured, or his/her physical or emotional condition is at risk by participating, he/she may be declared ineligible to compete, or disqualified from competing further. The competition organizer(s), Competition Director and/or Head Judge reserves the right to withdraw any competitor who appears to have such serious disability or injury or needs medical attention.
3. The NDC reserves the right to request the submission of a physician's written authorization of a dancer to compete who is deemed medically or emotionally at risk by the competition organizer.

## Interruption of Performance

4. In the event the performance of the competing team is interrupted because of the NCC (i.e. event equipment, facilities, etc.) the team shall be given the option to either resume their performance from the place where the interruption occurred or repeat their entire performance.
5. In the event the performance of any team is interrupted because of failure of the team's own equipment or supplies, the team must either continue the performance or withdraw from the competition. Same holds true if an interruption is caused by any competitor or their coaches.

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<sup>6</sup> Qualifiers: sound check; Finals: run-through. This can change depending on the number of competing teams.

Note: If any competitor and/or their coach are found guilty of deliberately undermining another team's routine, they will be disqualified from the competition and the NCC has the right to suspend the team for two (2) years.

6. In the event of a minor injury (defined as the athlete is still able to support himself) the team must continue. In the event of major injury (i.e. immobility, unconsciousness, excessive bleeding) the NCC reserves the right to stop the performance to provide proper medical attention.

If the major injury was obtained less than one (1) minute into the routine, the team will have the option to repeat their entire performance and will be given the last slot in the competition to do so.

If the major injury was obtained more than one (1) minute into the routine, then the team will be judged according to where the performance ended.

7. In the event injury happens on the day of the competition, prior to the competition performance, the team is given the option to continue or withdraw.

## Props and Equipment

1. Wearable articles that may impede vision, movement, or may be deemed potentially injurious to the wearer or teammate are not permitted.
2. Any height increasing apparatus used to propel a competitor is prohibited.
3. Flags, banners, signs, pompons, and cheerleading megaphones are the only props allowed. Props with poles or similar support apparatus may not be used in conjunction with any kind of stunt. All props must be safely discarded out of harms way (i.e. throwing a hand sign or banner across or behind the mat from a stunt would be illegal).
4. Mascots are permitted to use any prop except fire, liquids, confetti, glitter and live animals.

## Technical Rules

### Scoring Information

1. A minimum of three (3) judges will score each routine.
2. Judges may score on a half point system (i.e. 40.5 points).
3. The total number of possible points for each routine is a maximum of **100 points**.
4. A technical judge will be assigned specifically to spot for performance errors.
  - a. **A One (1) point Technical Deduction** will be deducted from your total score each time a competitor has a **Bobble/Minor Mistake** on jumps, standing tumbling, running tumbling, stunts, and pyramids.
  - b. **A Three (3) point Technical Deduction** will be deducted from your total score each time a competitor has an **Obvious/Major Mistake** on jumps, standing tumbling, running tumbling, stunts, and pyramids, including wardrobe and accessory malfunctions **where safety is a concern**.
5. A penalty judge will be assigned specifically to spot for legalities especially when it comes to safety infractions. The judge will assess a **ten (10) point deduction** per occurrence for inappropriate choreography, music, language, uniforms/costuming (as set by the school). A routine including choreography, music selection and outfitting should be suitable for family viewing and listening.
6. A tabulator will compute final scores based on judges' scoring, including technical deductions and penalties based on the NCC Rules.

7. Tie Breakers are left up to the discretion of the judging panel.

8. The Head Judge reserves the right to decide on any and all contentious scoring and interpretation of the rules and regulations of the NCC.

Note: All judging and rule interpretation decisions are final.

**CRITERIA FOR JUDGING**

<i>CATEGORY</i>	<i>POINTS</i>
<b>I. Choreography</b>	
• Creativity / Complements the Music / Originality	10
• Routine Staging / Visual Effects Formations, transitions, visual impact, levels	10
• Difficulty	10
	30
<b>II. Technique</b>	
▪ Pom Execution Demonstration of strong and powerful motions Correct placement, clean lines, body control and precision	10
▪ Dance Execution Correct placement and levels, body control, extension, balance, style in movement	10
▪ Execution of Skills Proper execution of turns/jumps/leaps/partner work, etc.	10
	30
<b>III. Group Execution</b>	
▪ Timing and Musicality	10
▪ Synchronization and Movement Uniformity	10
▪ Spacing	10
	30
<b>IV. Overall Effect</b>	
▪ Communication / Projection / Appeal Ability to connect effectively with the audience Music / Costume Appropriateness	10
	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

**Penalties and Technical Deductions**

Penalties
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**10 Points for EACH occurrence:**

- \* Not meeting the NCC's Performance Requirements
- \* Violating the NCC's Rules
- \* Requesting spotters to leave the competition floor during a performance (Mount only)
- \* Inappropriate movements, music, language (including music), uniform/wardrobe
- \* Wardrobe malfunction leading to exposed body parts
- \* A competitor steps or falls completely off the Competition Floor
- \* Safety Rule violations
- \* Routine Timing violations

**50 Points**

- \* Performing an illegal skill in a division with Level Guidelines

**CLARIFICATION:** If an injured competitor walks off the floor, no penalty will be assessed. A competitor that walks off should not return to the competition floor.

**Technical Deductions**

- Jumps/ Leaps/ Turns / Kicks
  - Falling -- any body part, other than feet, hitting the ground
  - Incomplete/Popped skill
  - Unattempted skill
- Malfunctions
  - Dropped Poms / Props

Obvious/ Major Mistakes – 3 Points

Bobble/ Minor Mistakes – 1 Points

**Video Taping of the Event**

Video taping of the NATIONAL CHEERLEADING CHAMPIONSHIP High School and Collegiate Cheer Program for commercial purposes is NOT permitted. The NCC holds the sole copyright to any reproduction.

**Protests on Eligibility**

1. All official protests on **eligibility** must be submitted one (1) week before the Qualifiers. Any protests on eligibility submitted after the given deadline shall not be entertained.
  - a. All protests must be accompanied by supporting documents.
  - b. Protests may be appealed once, after which the decision of the NCC board is final.
2. Questions on Eligibility  
Any team found to have violated eligibility requirements, found at any time, will be assessed a two (2) year suspension from NCC competitions and other related activities and their participation in the current year will be null and void.

**Finality of Decisions**

By participating in this championship, each team agrees that all decisions by the judges **ARE DEEMED FINAL**. Reviews and corrections shall also be at the sole discretion of the judging committee. Clarificatory questions and issues shall be addressed at the discretion of the same. Each team acknowledges the necessity for the judges to make prompt and fair decisions in this competition and each team therefore expressly waives any legal, equitable, administrative or procedural review of such decisions.

**Choreography**

1. Suggestive, offensive, or vulgar choreography is prohibited. Choreography should be appropriate for all audience members. Vulgar or suggestive material is defined as any movement or choreography implying something improper or indecent, appearing offensive or sexual in content, and/or relaying lewd or profane gestures or implications. A 10 point penalty per occurrence will be assessed for violators.
2. Teams should be performing holding pompoms during 90% of the routine.
3. Stunts and Pyramids are strictly prohibited.

### ***Tumbling and Tricks***

1. Tumbling with hip over head rotation that require hand support are NOT allowed while holding pompoms.  
*Exception: Forward rolls and Backward rolls.*
2. Tumbling over or under another individual is not allowed.
3. Drops including but not limited to knee, seat, thigh, front, back, and split drops from a jump, stunt, airborne or inverted position are prohibited unless the majority of the weight is first borne on the hands/feet, which breaks the impact of the drop.

### ***Dance Lifts and Partnering***

1. Jumping or tossing from one cheerleader to another is NOT allowed.
2. Jumping or tossing from one dancer to or from the performance surface is NOT allowed.
3. Jumping, tumbling or leaping off another dancer while sitting, standing or stepping on the dancer is allowed as long as there is hand/arm to body contact with a third dancer.

#### **Dance Lifts**

1. Dance lifts are permitted and are defined as an action in which a dancer(s) is elevated from the performance surface and set down.
2. A lifting dancer must maintain direct physical contact with the performance surface at all times.
3. A lifting dancer(s) must have constant hand/arm contact with the body of the lifted dancer(s) at all times.
4. A lifting dancer(s) must maintain control of the momentum, positioning, changes in position and return to the performance surface of the lifted dancer(s).
5. Swinging lifts are allowed provided the lifted dancer's body does not make a complete circular rotation and is in a face up position at all times.
6. Hip over head rotation of the lifted dancer(s) may occur as long as her hips maintain a level at or below the shoulder height of a standing dancer. (Exception: Chorus line flips and assisted back tucks are NOT allowed.)

#### **Partnering**

1. Dance partnering skills are permitted and are defined as an action in which two dancers use support from one another but are NOT elevated.
2. Body to body contact must be maintained throughout the duration of the skill. One partner must maintain constant contact with the performing surface.

**NCC OFFICE ADDRESS**

**National Cheerleading Championship Office  
209 M. Paterno St.  
San Juan, Metro Manila**

**NCC ACCOUNT NUMBER**

**National Cheerleading Championship  
BPI Checking Account # 2421002269  
Megamall Branch**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

*The NCC herein acknowledges any and all references made to the ICU, SEACO, IASF, USASF and COA rules and regulations and to the Cheer Glossary of Terms of the USASF, COA and NLCC and herein respects any and all copyrights and intellectual property rights of said organizations.*