

Greetings to all Cheerleading Coordinators and Coaches!

I hope your season is off to a great start. Would you believe it is already time to start thinking about competition? Since last November we have been busy planning the 19th Annual New England Cheer & Dance Competition. We have been reviewing feedback from coaches on alterations they'd like to see, securing top notch judges and spotters, and there are a few exciting new changes which we feel will help make this competition one of the highlights of your season.

This year's competition will again be held at the Reggie Lewis Track and Field Center, the number one indoor track arena in the United States. The feedback from coaches about this facility has been fantastic. This will be our permanent home for the competition. Cheerleaders can be dropped off right at the entrance, and ample parking is available between 100 and 500 yards away, with signs to direct you and security personnel on hand to assist you and your fans.

*** Arrival/check-in times, Stretching, Stunt and Competition times will be much more specific this year. These times will be assigned during the week prior to the competition and will be available for viewing on our website on Friday, November 11 at (ayosinoffcheerdancecamps.com). An example of how this new form of scheduling will work is included in this package and is currently available online. Please bring your own CD (not cassette tape) to our DJ before your performance.**

- As your team arrives to check-in, there will be two locker rooms available to them, as well as two separate bathrooms.
- The order of appearance will be alphabetical for each division, A to Z this year. We believe this helps you plan your day more accurately. Teams who are delayed in their arrival may be placed at the end of their division.
- Your team's stretching time will be confirmed upon their arrival, until then there is a large aerobics room or section 1 of the gym for them to relax in.
- The practice gym is divided into two sections. Side 1 is for squads awaiting their practice times, Side 2 is for the safety judges to work in. No teams will be permitted on Side 2 until their assigned Stretching time arrives. Squads are welcome to begin their warm-up and stretching on Side 1 whenever they choose.
- Once a team has completed their Stretching and safety checks on the Stunt mat, they will be escorted to the competition area where they will be seated in lines by their competition mat. After they have performed they will then return to the other side of their mat to view the rest of the competition. We have had two panels of judges to minimize down time for the cheerleaders and fans for years now, and this latest technique has a number of advantages over the old way. The mats are set back-to-back (though separated by a number of yards) and each mat has its own panel of judges seated with their backs to the crowd. This set-up allows fans to be right in front of their teams as they perform. Signs will be posted, visible upon entering the facility indicating which divisions will be facing which sides, so fans can select where to sit. If your team is assigned to compete on the 'A' mat, instruct your fans to turn left upon entering the field house, the 'B' mat will be to the right. This information will also be available online prior to the competition.

You must check the web site (ayosinoffcheerdancecamps.com) on Friday, November 11th for the finalized schedule or call 617-877-8049 to confirm your check-in and competition times. If you have any questions about these latest innovations, please don't hesitate to call Lisa Moskow, head judge, at 413-531-2095 for more information or clarification.

Please pick-up pre-ordered flowers in front of the practice gym. Color Guard Videos will be creating a VHS or DVD of each division. We are looking forward to seeing you this year, and best wishes for a successful season!

Greetings to all Dance, Hip Hop & Step Coordinators and Coaches!

I hope your season is off to a great start. Would you believe it is already time to start thinking about competition? Since last November we have been busy planning the 19th Annual New England Cheer & Dance Competition. We have been reviewing feedback from coaches on alterations they'd like to see, securing top notch judges, and there are a few exciting new changes which we feel will help make this competition one of the highlights of your season.

This year's competition will again be held at the Reggie Lewis Track and Field Center, the number one indoor track arena in the United States. The feedback about his facility from coaches has been fantastic. This will be our permanent home for the competition. Dancers can be dropped off right at the entrance, and ample parking is available between 100 and 500 yards away, with signs to direct you and security personnel on hand to assist you and your fans.

· Arrival/check-in times, Stretching, Spacing and Competition times will be much more specific this year. These times will be assigned during the week prior to the competition and will be available for viewing on our website (ayosinoffcheerdancecamps.com). An example of how this new form of scheduling will work is included in this package and is currently available online. Please bring your own CD (not cassette tape) to our DJ before your performance.

· As your team arrives to check-in, there will be two locker rooms available to them, as well as two separate bathrooms.

· The order of appearance will be alphabetical for each division, A to Z this year. We believe this helps you plan your day more accurately. Teams who are delayed in their arrival may be placed at the end of their division.

· Your team's stretching time will be confirmed upon their arrival. Please bring your team immediately into the field house and your team will be called by our head judge for their spacing, etc. Spacing time will be 4 minutes for each team in the area they will be performing on.

· Once a team has completed their official Stretching and Spacing times, they will be directed to the competition area where they will be seated in lines by their performance area. After they have performed they will then return to the other side of their area to view the rest of the competition.

· Your team's performance will be directly on the rubber floor of the field house.

We will again have two panels of judges to minimize down time for the performers and fans. Performance spaces are back to back, with a couple of yards between, and each space has its own panel of judges seated with their backs to the crowd. This set-up allows fans to be right in front of their teams as they perform. Signs will be posted, visible upon entering the facility indicating which divisions will be facing which sides, so fans can select where to sit. If your team is assigned to compete on the 'A' side, instruct your fans to turn left upon entering the field house, the 'B' side will be to the right. This information will also be available online prior to the competition. **You must check the web site (ayosinoffcheerdancecamps.com) on Friday, November 11th for the finalized schedule or call 617-877-8049 to confirm your check-in and competition times.** If you have any questions about these latest innovations, please don't hesitate to call Lisa Moskow, head judge, at 413-531-2095 for more information or clarification.

Please pick-up pre-ordered flowers in front of the practice gym. Color Guard Videos will be creating a VHS or DVD of each division.

We are looking forward to seeing you this year, and best wishes for a successful season!

TO ALL COACHES

When your team arrives, they should enter from the Malcolm X Blvd. side of the building, through the area marked "Cheerleaders/Dancers and Coaches only." Only coaches with their cheerleaders and dancers will be allowed in through this entrance. You must check in at the registration table located immediately when you walk in the door. Here you will turn in your squad's medical release forms, and each team's assigned Stretching, Stunting or Spacing, and Competition times will be confirmed. To avoid delays and confusion, please make every effort to check in at the time designated for your team. **Please bring your own CD (not cassette tape) to our DJ before your performance.**

The Safety judges will be on hand during Stunting time. They are there to help eliminate any illegal stunts prior to your teams' performance in the competition. They will offer suggestions to assist you in revising your routine to keep it within the rules. As the coach, you are responsible for ensuring that all rules for your division are followed, and that the length of your routine is within the acceptable guidelines. If a rule violation is observed during the competition, it will be noted on your score sheet, and points will be deducted if appropriate.

Teams will again be receiving an oral critique of their performance. Most coaches have expressed the opinion that this is even more valuable than written comments from the judges. We are using the same score sheets as last year. If you would like a copy, one will be forwarded to you, along with the directions the judges receive for scoring.

Please remember that you may pre-order flowers, DVDs, and New England Cheer & Dance Competition T-shirts, which will also be sold at the event. In the past, pre-ordering tickets has been the only way to avoid the lines which normally occur at the ticket booth on the day of the event. Pre-ordered flowers will be waiting for you when you register.

An estimated schedule has been included based on last year's attendance to help you begin planning your day. A sample of the new style of scheduling has been included as well. **Specifics for YOUR team for this year's tournament can be found on the website (ayosinoffcheerdancecamps.com) on Friday, November 11th. It is crucial that you check this site or call 617-877-8049 or 413-531-2095 for your assigned Check-in and Competition times.** We believe this new method will keep the competition running on time, and help squads and fans plan their day more accurately. Our goal is to have squads arrive, warm-up, and compete all within a reasonable amount of time. If you have any questions or have trouble accessing the website, please don't hesitate to call for assistance.

We are looking forward to another great year- see you there!!