



2020-2021 GENERAL GUIDELINES

GENERAL:

- GMCE attendees must follow all USASF, YCADA & USA cheer rules and regulations. Violation can result in a point deduction and/or disqualification.
- Coach's credentials must be worn and visible at all times. You will not be allowed to enter the warm up area, coach's room or VeriScore without these valid credentials.
- All participating All-star coaches that need access to the warm-up area at events are required to be a USASF Professional Member and complete and pass the associated background check and SAFESPORT training.
- Any program with non-coaching staff (trainers, team moms, photographers, etc.) that needs access to the warm up room will also need to complete and pass the associated background check and SAFESPORT training. We will NOT accept screenshots or emails of background checks from coaches, owners, or personnel. For more information on how to become a Professional Member of the USASF, [click here](#).
- GMCE has the right to remove any persons from a competition for any reason including, but not limited to, unsafe or unsportsmanlike conduct.
- No stunting and/or tumbling will be allowed other than the performance floor or warm up area.
- It is GMCE's NUMBER ONE priority to keep athletes and families safe, in the event of any suspicious activity and/or illicit behavior is suspected please report to a GMCE staff member IMMEDIATELY.
- Team's choosing to exhibition will not be scored.
- It is the coaches' responsibility to make sure that all spectators for that team keep all objects (cameras, signs, children, etc.) at eye level while in the event that VIP seating is provided. If the judge's view of the performing surface is compromised, your team may be subject to an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty at the discretion of the safety officials.
- Coaches for TINY teams only will be allowed to sit on the stage during their teams' performance with the following restrictions:
 - *Must sit flat on the floor on the designated spot at the front of the performing surface
 - *Maximum of three (3) coach's/assistants per team

PROPS- A team that utilizes props in their routine will need to present the email verification of usage to the scoring director prior to their respective division beginning. NO EXCEPTIONS.

SCORING & JUDGING PROCEDURES:

- DAY 1:
 - The coach or gym owner/director will receive an email and/or text through Cheer Replay at a minimum of 15 minutes of their team's performance. This will state if they have a safety and/or point deduction (with a video of the exact clip where the infraction takes place). Please be sure the email on file to receive this is a coach or owner that **will be in attendance** at the event.

- Score sheets will be available for pickup at the VeriScore station at a minimum of thirty minutes after a team's performance. ○ 1 Day Event-Division rankings will be emailed out to the designated email on file at the conclusion of the awards ceremony.
 - Day 1 of a 2-day Event-Division rankings will be emailed out to the designated email on file at a minimum of 1 hour following the completion of the division.
- DAY 2: ○ The coach or gym owner/director will receive an email and/or text through Cheer Replay at a minimum of 15 minutes of their team's performance. This will state if they have a safety and/or point deduction (with a video of the exact clip where the infraction takes place). Please be sure the email on file to receive scores sheets is a coach or owner that will be attending the event.
 - Score sheets will be emailed 30 minutes after the routine competition.
 - Day 2- Division Rankings will be emailed out to the designated email on file at the conclusion of the awards ceremony.
- 1 Day Event-Division rankings will be emailed out to the designated email on file at the conclusion of the awards ceremony
- Scoring officials will only discuss YOUR routine and DIFFICULTY scores. Execution scores will NOT be discussed. You cannot challenge scores and/or deductions of other teams. ONLY 2 COACHES will be permitted in VeriScore when discussing scores with officials.
- The scoring split for a 2-day event is 40% for Day 1 and 60% for Day 2.

In the event of a tie:

- One Day Events
 1. The team with the least amount of deductions will win.
 2. If deductions for both teams remain equal or zero, technique only scores (does not include combination difficulty/technique categories scores such as dance) on each score sheet will be added and the highest total will win (DOES NOT APPLY TO SCHOOLS).
 3. The team with highest performance score will win.
 4. A panel including the head judge, competition officials, etc. will review both routines and select the winner. ▪ Two Day Events
- 1. The team with the least amount of deductions on day 2 will win.
- 2. If the deductions for Day 2 are equal or zero, the team with the least amount of deductions for Day 1 will win.
- 3. If deductions for both teams remain equal or zero, the team with the highest total Performance score for Day 2 will win.
- 4. If the Performance scores remain equal, the team with the highest Performance score for Day 1 will win.
- 5. If the Performance scores remain equal, a panel including the head judge, competition officials, etc. will review both routines and select the winner.
- **USASF COACH APP:** Coaches who have submitted a skill video 7 to 10 days prior to the event through the app and are using it to reference during request review with the scoring officials MUST have the video pulled up before entering the VeriScore station. This will help to keep the flow of performance and awards running smoothly for all teams in attendance.

CANCELLATION POLICIES:

Team Cancellation

If your team needs to cancel their performance prior to an event, please contact your sales representative IMMEDIATELY by emailing AND calling their cell phone. Your cancellation will not be effective until the date we receive your email with the subject "CANCELLATION NOTICE." The following team cancellation policies shall apply:

- If we receive your Cancellation Notice 60 or more days prior to the first day of the event, you may either transfer the payment to another event during the same competition season or request a full refund in accordance with the Transfer/Refund policy set forth below.
- If we receive your Cancellation Notice 59-30 days prior to the first day of the event, you must transfer the payment to another event occurring during the same competition season in accordance with the Transfer/Refund policy set forth below.
- If we receive your Cancellation Notice 29 days or less before the first day of the event, there is NO REFUND.
- If your team needs to reduce participant numbers for ANY reason within 7 days of the event, then there is NO REFUND of the difference.

Cancellation of the Event

If an event is cancelled for any reason (including, but not limited to, closure of the event facility, adverse weather conditions, pandemic or natural disasters) the following policies shall apply:

- If the event is rescheduled during the same competition season, your payment will be applied to the rescheduled event. If you cannot attend the rescheduled event, you can request a full refund in accordance with the Transfer/Refund policy below.
- If the event is not rescheduled during the same competition season, you may either transfer the payment to another GMCE event occurring during the same competition season, the next competition season or request a full refund in accordance with the Transfer/Refund policy set forth below.

PLEASE NOTE: If the facility is open, the competition WILL take place unless GMCE notifies you that the event has been cancelled.

Transfer/Refund

In the event of a cancellation under which you are permitted to receive a refund, transfer your payment, or both; you will have 30 days to request your "TRANSFER/REFUND REQUEST" via email to info@gmce.com. If we do not receive your Transfer/Refund Request within the 30-day period, no transfer or refund will be permitted or given.

Except for situations where the GMCE staff deems necessary, absolutely NO REFUNDS OR TRANSFERS shall be permitted under any other circumstances, including, but not limited to, a no-show, dropout or scratch. Both parties agree that any payment forfeited to or retained by GMCE shall constitute liquidated damages to reimburse GMCE for the costs and expenses that GMCE incurs in such cancellation.

CROSSOVER POLICIES:

GMCE allows cheer and dance participants to perform for more than one team and/or additional performances within the same organization. Each participant must pay the full registration fee for the first performance and the next performance will be discounted. If a member of one organization crosses over to a new organization (EX: School and All-Star team), then the participant must pay the FULL registration fee for BOTH organizations.

Registration must indicate all crossover information and payment. GMCE will do its best to allow 20 minutes between performances; however, GMCE cannot guarantee separations between warm-uP times, awards ceremonies or for coaching conflicts.

CHANGES & SCHEDULE POLICIES:

All division corrections or changes must be submitted one week before the event or a **\$200 fee** will be charged per team. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

NATIONAL CHAMPION AWARDS:

All National Champions will receive a GMCE National Champion apparel or other item at our National events. For apparel, the sizes range from Youth Small to Adult X-Large. GMCE will not be able to provide additional sizes or items in place of the award for the event.

Athletic Performance Policy:

Judges reserve the right to assess warnings and/or deductions when a team's choreography, uniform, make up, bows, etc. do not meet the standards of 'appropriate' as described in the USASF Athletic Performance Standards.

ELIGIBILITY:

To be eligible to compete at GMCE events, all teams, regardless of division and classification, MUST follow the published Division and Rule Guidelines for GMCE and USASF. All-star organizations must submit their official event roster via USASF and upload into the RegChamp Registration system. All participating athletes must be registered members of USASF. (Exception...Rec and School athletes)

CHALLENGES OF AGE:

If a dispute regarding a participant's age arises, the coach/director MUST provide an official document that legally verifies and certifies the correct name and age of the team member in question. Acceptable forms of certified identification include, but not limited to a birth certificate, passport, school-issued identification card, USASF ID card or a valid, state-issued driver's license. If the dispute is found to be accurate, the team may be disqualified from competition. GMCE will use the official USASF event roster for date of birth verification for all-star teams.

Coaches or Owners of a competing team, within the same division, may challenge the age of another team by reporting to VeriScore located by the judge's riser & submitting their challenge in writing. The challenging coach must provide proof of ineligibility. If sufficient evidence is provided, GMCE will request that the challenged team provide proof of eligibility for age verification. GMCE will use the official USASF event roster for date of birth verification for all-star teams prior to the event.

At the time of the challenge, the coach or owner must present a check in the amount of \$500 made payable to the St. Jude Children's Hospital. If the challenge is deemed to be valid, the check provided will be voided. If the challenge is invalid, the fees will be donated to the afore mentioned hospital. All age challenges may ONLY be made the day(s) of the event. At that time, GMCE will research the possible age violation with USASF and provide an answer to the challenging company within 5 business days.

MUSIC GUIDELINES:

All programs attending GMCE are required to follow the USA Cheer music guidelines while attending any GMCE event. Please review the Music` Copyrights Educational Initiative provided by USA Cheer to be sure you are in complying with the music guidelines. If deemed necessary, GMCE has the right to request a copy of written confirmation and/or proper licensing for the music used during a routine. <https://www.usacheer.org/music>

If there are concerns regarding a team's use of music, a challenge may be completed immediately following the team's performance. A challenge can only be made by the coach or owner of a program that is competing within the same division as the team being questioned. The challenging coach or owner must submit their challenge in writing at VeriScore located by the judge's riser. At that time, the coach or owner must present a check in the amount of \$500 made payable to St. Jude's Children's Hospital. If a challenge is deemed to be valid, the check provided will be

voided. If the challenge is invalid, the fees will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House. All challenges will be reviewed and finalized within 72 hours following the end of the event.

Each program is required to have at least one representative at the music station during their team(s) performance. This representative is responsible for starting the team's music, as well as stopping the music in case of technical malfunction or injury. GMCE asks all programs to bring a minimum of TWO (2) copies of their music. GMCE will ONLY be accepting the following types of music: CDs, iPods, iPhones & MP3 Players. Please make sure all devices have a headphone jack that allows the device to be connected to the sound system, are fully charged, have the volume at maximum level and are placed in airplane mode. Once the play button has been pressed on iPods, iPhones & MP3 Players, they must be placed on the DJ table. If using a CD, please make sure it's unscratched so it does not skip. If your IPHONE or other device requires an adapter of any kind, you must provide the adapter.

ROUTINE INTERRUPTION:

GMCE sound technicians and/or event staff will not be responsible for any labeling mistakes or poorly recorded music and will assume no responsibility for the quality of the recording or its compatibility with the venue's equipment. However, if your routine is interrupted by our equipment failure, the failure of your CD or from GMCE staff you will have the following options:

- Your team must perform their routine full out, by using your own player or your back up copy of your music. The team must perform the routine again in its entirety, but judging will resume from the point at which the injury/interruption occurred as determined by the judges. All point deductions accumulated to that point (if any) will carry over.
- Your team may use the original performance with the interruption.

INJURY INTERRUPTION

Routine Stoppage

1. The only individuals that may stop a routine for injury are: Competition Officials, Gym Owners/Coach from the team performing, Injured Individual, and/or USASF Certified Safety Judge
2. An injured athlete may create a potential safety hazard because of the inability to hold, support, spot or catch. For the safety of all athletes competing, a routine may be interrupted if:
 - a. An athlete is clearly injured
 - b. An athlete is questionably injured and does not resume their role in the routine within 5 seconds of questionable injury
 - c. An athlete leaves the competition floor due to an injury
3. In the event that a routine is interrupted due to injury, it will be at the competition officials' discretion whether or not that team will be allowed to perform again at a later time

Athlete Returning to Competition

1. An injured participant may not return to the competition floor unless the competition officials receive clearance from all of the representatives listed below:
 - a. Event Medical Personnel attending to that participant
 - b. Parent/Guardian (if present)
 - c. Head Coach/Gym Owner of competing team
2. In the event of a suspected head injury, the participant cannot return to perform without clearance from a licensed medical professional (MD or DO) that has training related to head injuries

Team Performance

In the event that a team is allowed to perform again following a routine interruption, the new performance time will be at the sole discretion of the competition official. The team must perform the routine again in its entirety, but judging will resume from the point at which the injury/interruption occurred as determined by the judges. All skills must be performed full out from the beginning of the routine. All point deductions accumulated to that point (if any) will carry over.

If an injury occurs during warm ups, GMCE will do their best to work your team back into the schedule, as close as possible to your original performance time. Furthermore, it will be up to the GMCE officials as to when or if to schedule your teams performance.

SPOTTERS:

In an effort to promote a higher level of safety for competing athletes, GMCE will allow programs to provide spotters at GMCE competitions. We feel that the program is more qualified to provide spotters because of their familiarity with routine skills and safety concerns. The use of spotters is left to the discretion of the coach or gym owner. Teams may use up to four spotters for each performance; however, spotters are not required.

Definition of Spotter

Individuals on the competition floor provided as a safety precaution to spot certain elements of a routine. Additional spotters:

- Should only be used during the stunt, pyramid, and/or basket toss section. Additional spotters are provided for added safety and should stand at the back of the floor when not spotting those sections
- Will not touch skills being performed unless to save skills being performed. Additional spotters should only be used to prevent a fall to the competition floor. Any touch or assist to a skill that is not “falling” will be given a major fall deduction.
- Should be dressed so that they are presentable, professional, and distinguishable from the performing athletes.
- Should NOT verbally coach during the routine.
- Should not dress or act in a manner that distracts from the athletes and their performance.
- Must be at least 18 years old and familiar with spotting the skills being executed by the performing team.

PARTICIPATION WAIVER:

All participants must have a waiver signed by their legal guardian to attend any GMCE events, if not already covered under the USASF sanctioning body. GMCE waivers are sent via email through your program’s registration account or by paper individually depending on what the coach prefers. If a blank physical waiver is required for a physical signature, please contact your sales representative on how to do so.