

**Youth Cheerleading Alliance of Maine
(YCAM)
Policies and Procedures**

Team Rosters:

1. All team rosters for organizations participating in the upcoming season are due to YCAM no later than December 15th. This can be found directly on the website.
2. If an organization does not submit their roster(s) by December 15th, those teams will not be allowed to register for YCAM events and/or compete until a team roster is submitted.
3. No athlete can compete on multiple teams within the same program. This does not include competing on both a Rec team and an All-Star team, as they are two different programs. Example: ABC School has a 2nd grade athlete who competes for both a Rising and Shooting team for ABC School – Not Allowed. Example: ABC Gym has two Junior teams with one 12-year-old competing on both – Not Allowed.
4. Information needed for roster forms will include: Organization Name, Team Name(s), Head Coach's name, Email, Phone, Level and Division of Team registering for upcoming season, All Athletes Name's, Ages, Grades. Teams are allowed up to 20 athletes competing on the floor at one time and can name two alternates on their roster in case of illness/injury to competing athletes.
5. If there is a change to your rosters at any point during the season, you will need to submit a new roster change online ASAP.

Soliciting from Other Programs:

1. No organization should actively try to steal athletes from other programs for the purpose of growing their own programs or other malicious means. Athletes and parents may freely choose to change programs or expand into several programs during a season. Any organization found to be engaging in malicious activity or areas that may present a conflict of interest may be subject to misconduct policy.

Recreation Teams versus All-Star/Gym Teams:

1. All Star Teams are teams that are selected and competing outside of the October to March Maine basketball season and/or are gyms that operate programs year-round and may compete out-of-state or nationally.
2. Recreation Teams are teams that are typically teams sponsored by the town in which they reside and follow the October to March basketball season. Tryouts are typically held in late October or early November with the season ending mid-February or early March. These teams typically do not compete out of state.

Level and Divisions Policy:

1. All teams will follow the grade or age requirements for each division with no exceptions.
2. Mixed divisions need to have at least 4 of the 6 grades represented in order to compete under these divisions. The intent of mixed divisions is to allow programs that are new or who cannot field enough athletes for the regular divisions, a chance to compete and build their programs.
3. Once the season begins, teams will not be allowed to move in their divisions, unless it is to move up. Once a team has moved up, it cannot move back down during that season year.
4. If a team registers incorrectly or the team's structure for that year does not adhere to the guidelines around age, grade and/or Rec or All-Star teams for which they have registered, the Board reserves the right to adjust teams appropriately to meet this policy, as amended.
5. If a team disagrees with a Board decision, they may submit a formal appeal to the Secretary.

Coordinating or Hosting YCAM Events:

1. Programs interested in hosting a YCAM event for the next season, must notify the board, no later than the April meeting for scheduling purposes.
2. No YCAM event will be scheduled on the same day if they are within a 50-mile radius of each other.

Example from Bangor:

7 miles: Orono, ME

1 mile: Brewer, ME

11 miles: Old Town, ME

5 miles: Hampden, ME

25 miles: Ellsworth, ME

28 miles: Belfast, ME

41 miles: Lincoln, ME

40 miles: Bar Harbor, ME

43 miles: Camden, ME

12 miles: Bucksport, ME

7 miles: Hermon, ME

3. Competition entrance fees will be determined by the hosting location. YCAM members will receive \$25.00 off that entrance fee as part of their membership for each YCAM hosted competition.

4. Any returned check will be subject to a \$35.00 fee unless the fee from the withdrawing back is higher and then the returned check fee will be the higher of the two. Any organization with two returned checks will no longer be allowed to pay via check and will need to submit payment through other means.

Lead Official Responsibilities:

1. Lead Official will be responsible for coordinating, training, assigning of all officials for YCAM events. Official fees will follow the same structure and rate as the current year MPA rate for cheerleading in Maine.

Competition Set Up:

1. All competitions will require a 42x42 carpeted cheerleading mat, marked with a vertical down the center of the mat and horizontal line across the center of the mat.
2. All events will ensure safety of the athletes at all times, to include presence of an athletic trainer, licensed EMS or medical personnel and/or a stocked first aid kit.
3. U.S. copyright laws regarding music usage as part of performances, routines, competitions, school events, camps, etc. are in place to protect artists, promote creativity, and ensure that artists are compensated for their creations. This includes routines, competitions and performances of any kind in which music is used. Organizations will need to ensure compliance for all music used during a season and can find information through the USA Cheer Music Copyright website at <https://www.usacheer.org/music>
4. A coach's box will be provided at each competition, on the left side of the mat, as you are looking at it. The coach's box is for 1-2 coaches. Any other coach's or athletes cannot sit in the coach's box and will need to watch from another location. Only Rising and Tiny level coaches are allowed to sit at the front of the mat during their team's performance. All other coaches will need to be in the coach's box.
5. Tie scores are broken by the team with the least amount of total deductions during their routine. If a tie still exists, it is broken by the highest combined execution scores from those execution categories marked with a **.

Misconduct / Unsportsmanlike Behavior Policy:

1. Any coach or team participating in egregious misconduct or unsportsmanlike behavior, at a competition event, may face suspension from upcoming competitions or termination of membership from YCAM for a period of one (1) year, to include current and following season.
2. Any coach participating in or supporting egregious misconduct or unsportsmanlike behavior outside of competition events, such as cyber bullying or other such actions, may

face suspension from competition for the upcoming season or termination of membership from YCAM for a period of one (1) year, to include the next season.

Complaint and Appeal Policy:

1. Any member, participate, or affiliates with YCAM events during a season, has the right to file a complaint within that season.