

# Austrian Rulebook



Competition Season 2021-2022  
valid from September 2021 to August 2022

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## I. General Rules

The following rules, regulations and appendixes apply to competitions and championships held, supported or authorized by the "Österreichische Cheerleading und Cheer Performance Verband" (ÖCCV).

As stipulated by the statutes of the ÖCCV, all members of the ÖCCV are obliged to register their competitions or championships with the ÖCCV and the ÖCCV needs to approve the organization of such an event.

### 1. Miscellaneous

1. A club member of the ÖCCV and all its teams, athletes and coaches may be banned from Championships hosted by the ÖCCV if that club has outstanding financial obligations towards the ÖCCV or has taken actions that are considered damaging for the sport of Cheerleading or Performance Cheer. The decision to ban a club and the details of such a ban will be made by the managing board of the ÖCCV on a case-by-case basis.
2. A coach may be banned from Championships hosted by the ÖCCV if it has come to the attention of the ÖCCV that the team of that coach has performed skills in public that are not in conformity with the safety rules and level restrictions for the respective age group. The decision to ban a coach and the details of such a ban will be made by the managing board of the ÖCCV on a case-by-case basis.

### 2. Club Changes

1. If both clubs affected agree in writing, an athlete may change clubs during any time of the season.
2. A change requires that all outstanding financial issues have been settled with the club of origin.
3. Without the written consent of the club of origin, the change of an athlete from one club member of the ÖCCV to another club is not allowed during the following time period :
  - from 01 January until the end of the season, but no later than 15 July.
4. If the requirements stated above are not met, the respective athlete(s) may not
  - participate in any of the championships organized or sponsored by the ÖCCV,
  - participate in any international competitions where the qualification takes place at such championships,
  - participate in any open championships in Austria together with a team of another club member of the ÖCCV.
5. Clubs are obliged to inform their members of the applicable regulations about club changes in writing. If a club cannot prove that they have informed the respective athlete(s) about these regulations, they have to agree to a change once all outstanding financial issues have been settled with the club of origin.
6. For the change of an athlete from one club member of the ÖCCV to another club, the club of origin may have the right to be reimbursed by the receiving club (for more information see the "ÖCCV Gebührenordnung"). If applicable, without such payment from the receiving club, which may not be passed forward to the athlete, the club change is not possible.

### 3. Participation Requirements

#### A. General

1. All teams have to designate one official contact person throughout the competition.
2. All teams have to have at least one certified trainer for all Championships hosted by the ÖCCV (undergoing training or being registered for the waiting list for the next training will exceptionally be considered to meet that requirement). New clubs will be granted a two-year period to fulfill this requirement, starting from the first time competing at one of the Championships hosted by the ÖCCV.
3. The order of competing teams will normally be drawn by lot. The order of competition will be communicated no later than one week before the respective competition. That order of competition may not be changed. Exceptions may only be decided upon by the ÖCCV representative.

#### B. Registration

1. The registration for the championship takes place either online or in writing by sending in the filled out and signed registration forms to the ÖCCV representative. The registration for the championship is binding.
2. The deadlines for submitting the registration and number of participating Cheerleaders as well as the list of participants and substitutes (full names) and the list for accompanying persons (external spotters, trainers, mascots and supervisors) will be communicated through the respective competition announcement.

**C. Registration Fee**

1. By registering for a competition, teams acknowledge that the respective registration fees have to be paid to the ÖCCV or the organizer responsible. If the total amount of registration fees due has not been paid, the ÖCCV or the organizer responsible may ban the team from starting at the competition.
2. There is no right for refund of registration fees.

**D. Austrian Regional Championships**

1. Participation is open to cheerleaders from clubs both members and not members of the ÖCCV.
2. Every participant (including substitutes) of a club member of the ÖCCV has to be in the possession of a valid official cheerleading pass of the ÖCCV. Participants from clubs not member of the ÖCCV have to present a valid official photo identification proving age and nationality.
3. The managing board of the ÖCCV will determine the number and location of Regional Championships for each competition season.

**E. Austrian Cheerleading Championship**

1. Only teams from clubs members of the ÖCCV may compete at the Austrian Cheerleading Championship.
2. The qualification mode is the following:
  - a) Cheerleading and Performance Cheer teams for all categories and age groups have to compete at one of the Austrian Regional Championships (see above).
  - b) Those teams that have reached at least 65 % of the points possible (deductions considered) for the respective category in the respective qualification competition qualify for the Austrian Cheerleading Championship.
  - c) Wildcard Qualification: Teams that have not reached this 65 % point threshold may compete again at the InternATional Cheer Masters. If they reach at least 60 % of the points possible (deductions considered) at that competition, they also qualify for the Austrian Cheerleading Championship.
  - d) Only one team per club is allowed in each Cheerleading Level division. If a club has more than one team in a specific Level division, the may compete again at the InternATional Cheer Masters in the respective higher Level division to earn a Wildcard Qualification for the Austrian Cheerleading Championship.
  - e) If a club competes with more than one team in a Cheerleading Level division and decides not to use the Wildcard Qualification at the InternATional Cheer Masters (see E.2.d), one team must compete at the InternATional Cheer Masters and the other team at the Austrian Cheerleading Championship.
3. Every participant (including substitutes) must have citizenship or permanent residency for at least six (6) months in Austria at the time of the respective Austrian Cheerleading Championship.
4. Every participant (including substitutes) has to be in the possession of a valid official cheerleading pass of the ÖCCV.
5. Only one person from cheerleading orientated countries (US, Canada, Mexico and Japan) may participate per team. Exception: this person has permanent residency for more than two years in Europe. In the youth categories, three persons from cheerleading orientated countries (US, Canada, Mexico and Japan) may participate.
6. Every club member of the ÖCCV is obliged to register one person on the day of the Austrian Cheerleading Championship for the support of the competition, e.g. as volunteer or judge. If a club cannot meet this obligation, it has to pay a penalty fee to the ÖCCV of 300,00 Euros for that competition.
7. For reasons of good sportsmanship, it is not allowed to wear costuming that could suggest for a team to represent an official Austrian National Team (e.g. uniforms bearing the lettering "Austria").

**F. Other ÖCCV Competitions**

1. Participation in other ÖCCV competitions is open to cheerleaders from all clubs.
2. Every participant has to be in the possession of a valid photo identification (personal ID, passport or drivers license). This identification has to be shown at the check in.

#### 4. Age Groups

The following age groups will be available for the 2021-2022 competition season (until 31.08.2022):

Age groups for 2020-2021	Age	Time of birth
<b>Senior</b> Cheerleading Level 6, Group Stunt & Partner Stunt Performance Cheer & Cheerleading Level 5+ & below	15 or older 14 or older	2007 or before 2008 or before
<b>Junior</b> Performance Cheer Cheerleading Level 5 Cheerleading Level 4 and below	12 to 17 12 to 16 11 to 16	2010 to 2006 2010 to 2006 2011 to 2006
<b>Peewee</b> Youth Cheerleading Level 3 Performance Cheer & Mini Cheerleading Level 2	9 to 13 7 to 13	2013 to 2009 2015 to 2009
<b>Tiny</b> Performance Cheer & Cheerleading Level 1	5 to 8	2017 to 2014

The age of athlete is considered as the age that athlete will become in the year of the respective competition. Any team proven to be in violation of the age requirements will be automatically disqualified.

A more detailed overview of the age groups can be found at the end of this Rulebook.

#### 5. Divisions

##### Cheerleading:

In the age group Tiny, All Girl and Coed teams participate together and teams will receive written feedback from the judges instead of scoring points.

In Coed divisions at least one male athlete must be participating on the team.

In All Girl divisions, no males are allowed (Exception: maximum of one male athlete for Mini and Youth).

Partner stunt couple division must have one male and one female athlete and one spotter.

##### Performance Cheer:

Males and females are allowed to participate on the same team.

#### 6. Regulations for Division Levels

1. Teams and clubs are generally free to choose which division level they want to compete in within an age group.
2. However, if any team wins its respective lower level Division (i.e. Mini Level 2, Junior Level 4 or Senior Level 5) twice within the time span of three years, that specific teams has to advance to the higher level Division (i.e. Peewee Level 3, Junior Level 5 or Senior Level 6) the next year.
3. The rule stated above does not apply, if a club member of the ÖCCV already has a team in that respective higher division.
4. In acknowledgement that the lower level divisions of each age group are meant as a stepping stone, and in order to highlight the difference in skill level as well as to promote the top divisions, the following points will be implemented at the Austrian National Championships only:
  - a) The results of each age group (Peewee, Junior and Senior) will be combined into a unified ranking list for the results ceremony. In this list, all teams of the higher level division are listed first in the order of their placements and all teams of the lower level divisions will be listed afterwards in the order of their respective placements.
  - b) However, all teams of an age group will continue to receive medals, trophies and certificates according to the placement and rankings of their respective level division.

### A. Divisions for the Austrian Regional Championships

The following divisions with number of athletes exist for Cheerleading:

Division / Age group	Senior	Junior	Peewee	Tiny
Team Level 1	/	/	/	8 - 24
Team All Girl / Coed Level 2	/	/	8 - 24	/
Team All Girl / Coed Level 3	8 - 24	8 - 24	8 - 24	/
Team All Girl / Coed Level 4	/	8 - 24	/	/
Team All Girl / Coed Elite (L5)	8 - 24	8 - 24	/	/
Team All Girl / Coed Elite+ (L5+)	8 - 24	/	/	/
Team All Girl / Coed Premier (L6)	8 - 24	/	/	/
All Girl Group Stunt	up to 5	up to 5	/	/
Coed Group Stunt	up to 5	up to 5	/	/
Coed Partner Stunt	2	2	/	/

The following divisions with number of athletes exist for Performance Cheer:

Division / Age group	Senior	Junior	Peewee	Tiny
Performance Cheer Freestyle Pom	8 - 24	8 - 24	8 - 24	8 - 24
Performance Cheer Jazz	8 - 24	8 - 24	/	/
Performance Cheer Hip Hop	8 - 24	8 - 24	8 - 24	/
Doubles Freestyle Pom	2	2	/	/
Doubles Jazz	2	2	/	/
Doubles Hip Hop	2	2	/	/

### B. Divisions for the Austrian National Championships

The following divisions with number of athletes exist for Cheerleading:

Division / Age group	Senior	Junior	Peewee	Tiny
Team All Girl / Coed Level 2	/	/	8 - 24	/
Team All Girl / Coed Level 3	/	/	8 - 24	/
Team All Girl / Coed Level 4	/	8 - 24	/	/
Team All Girl / Coed Elite (L5)	8 - 24	8 - 24	/	/
Team All Girl / Coed Elite+ (L5+)	8 - 24	/	/	/
Team All Girl / Coed Premier (L6)	8 - 24	/	/	/

The following divisions with number of athletes exist for Performance Cheer:

Division / Age group	Senior	Junior	Peewee	Tiny
Performance Cheer Freestyle Pom	8 - 24	8 - 24	8 - 24	/
Performance Cheer Jazz	8 - 24	8 - 24	8 - 24	/
Performance Cheer Hip Hop	8 - 24	8 - 24	8 - 24	/

### C. Divisions for other ÖCCV competitions

The following divisions with number of athletes exist for Cheerleading:

Division / Age group	Senior	Junior	Peewee	Tiny
Team Level 1	/	/	/	8 - 24
Team All Girl / Coed Level 2	/	/	8 - 24	/
Team All Girl / Coed Level 3	8 - 24	8 - 24	8 - 24	/
Team All Girl / Coed Level 4	/	8 - 24	/	/
Team All Girl / Coed Elite (L5)	8 - 24	8 - 24	/	/
Team All Girl / Coed Elite+ (L5+)	8 - 24	/	/	/
Team All Girl / Coed Premier (L6) *	8 - 24	/	/	/
All Girl Group Stunt	up to 5	up to 5	/	/
Coed Group Stunt	up to 5	up to 5	/	/
Partner Stunt	2	2	/	/

\* Please note that if you intend to have your score counted for the European Cheer League, you have to fulfill the international criteria for the number of minimum athletes currently set at 16 persons.

Divisions without age groups	Participants	Minimum Age
Open Age Large Level 3	8 - 24	9 years
Open Age Small Level 2	6 - 12	7 years
Beginner Group Stunt Level 2	up to 5	7 years
ParaCheer Level 2	8 - 24	7 years

The following divisions with number of athletes exist for Performance Cheer:

Division / Age group	Senior	Junior	Peewee	Tiny
Performance Cheer Freestyle Pom *	8 - 24	8 - 24	8 - 24	8 - 24
Performance Cheer Jazz *	8 - 24	8 - 24	8 - 24	/
Performance Cheer Hip Hop *	8 - 24	8 - 24	8 - 24	/
Doubles Freestyle Pom	2	2	2	/
Doubles Jazz	2	2	2	/
Doubles Hip Hop	2	2	2	/

\* Please note that if you intend to have your score counted for the European Cheer League, you have to fulfill the international criteria for the number of minimum athletes currently set at 16 persons.

Divisions without age groups	Participants	Minimum Age
Open Age Performance Cheer Freestyle Pom	6 - 24	7 years
Open Age Performance Cheer Jazz	6 - 24	7 years
Open Age Performance Cheer Hip Hop	6 - 24	7 years
ParaCheer Freestyle Pom	8 - 24	7 years

### 7. Substitutes

Team divisions: up to 5 substitutes per team.  
 Group Stunt divisions: up to 2 substitutes per team.  
 Partner Stunt division: up to 2 substitutes per couple  
 (if 2 substitutes are registered then one must be male and one female athlete).  
 Doubles divisions: one substitute per team.

## 8. Cross-overs

Each athlete may only compete in one team in the specific division. Cross-overs to other divisions are allowed. Each athlete may only compete in one age group. Cross-overs to other age group are not allowed.

## 9. Time of the routine

- A. Team Cheerleading:
  - 1. Cheer portion: can be placed in the beginning or middle of routine. Time minimum requirement of thirty seconds (0:30).
  - 2. Maximum time between Cheer and Music portion: twenty seconds (0:20).
  - 2. Music portion: Maximum two minutes, fifteen seconds (2:15).
- B. Group Stunt / Partner Stunt: Maximum one minute (1:00).
- C. Performance Cheer Team: Maximum two minutes, fifteen seconds (2:15).
- D. Performance Cheer Doubles: Maximum one minute, thirty seconds (1:30).

## 10. Timing / Entrances

- 1. Timing of each portion will begin with the first choreographed movement or note of the music and end with the last choreographed movement or note of music whichever comes last.
- 2. If a team exceeds the maximum time limit of the Music portion or the time between Cheer and Music portion or if a team falls short of the minimum time limit of the Cheer portion, a penalty will be assessed for each violation. One (1) point deduction for 5-10 seconds and three (3) point deduction for 11 seconds and over per judge (see also point 14. Deductions).
- 3. Because penalties are severe, it is recommended that all teams time their performance several times prior to competition and leave several seconds cushion to allow for variations in sound equipment.
- 4. Each team must have a coach/representative to play their music. This person is responsible for bringing the music to the music table and pushing "play" and "stop" for the team.
- 5. All music must be on a CD. ECU recommends that you also bring mp3 type music file in case the sound systems has trouble reading your CD.
- 6. In order to keep the competition running on time, teams must enter the performance floor as quickly as possible. Teams will have limited time to enter the floor and start their routine. Elaborate choreographed entrances will not be allowed.

## 11. Image Policy

- 1. All choreography, uniforms, makeup and/or music should be age appropriate and acceptable for family viewing. Suggestive, offensive, or vulgar choreography, uniforms, makeup and/or music are inappropriate for family audiences and therefore lack audience appeal. 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. Inappropriate choreography, uniforms, makeup and/or music may affect the judges' overall impression and/or score of the routine. 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'.
- 2. All uniform pieces should adequately cover an athlete and must be secured to eliminate any possible wardrobe malfunction. When a skirt is worn as part of the uniform, briefs under the skirt are required. The skirt must fully cover the hips. The skirt must completely cover the briefs.
- 3. Uniform tops may not include an exposed midriff (crop top) except when worn by athletes competing in Senior divisions. Uniform tops must be secured by straps or material over at least one shoulder or around the neck.

## 12. Performance Surface

- 1. Performance Cheer: Marley dance floor or a wooden parquet floor surface. Minimum surface area of 12 meters x 12 meters.
- 2. Cheerleading: No spring floor, standard foam mat surface. Minimum Surface area of 12 meters x 12 meters.
- 3. Teams may line up anywhere inside the competition area.
- 4. No penalty for stepping outside the area.



### **13. How to handle procedural questions**

1. Rules & Procedure - Any questions concerning the rules or procedures of the competition will be handled exclusively by the advisor / coach of the team and will be directed to the Competition Director. Such questions should be made prior to the team's competition performance.
2. Performance - Any questions concerning the team's performance should be made to the Competition Director immediately after the team's performance and/or following the outcome of the competition.

### **14. Sportsmanship**

All participants agree to conduct themselves in a manner displaying good sportsmanship throughout the competition with positive presentation upon entry and exit from the performance area as well as throughout the routine. The advisor and coach of each team is responsible for seeing that team members, coaches, parents and other persons affiliated with the team conduct themselves accordingly throughout the entire event. Severe cases of unsportsmanlike conduct are grounds for disqualification.

### **15. Interruption of performance**

#### **A. Unforeseen Circumstances**

1. If, in the opinion of the competition officials, a team's routine is interrupted because of failure of the competition equipment, facilities, or other factors attributable to the competition rather than the team, the team affected should stop the routine.
2. The team will perform the routine again in its entirety, but will be evaluated only from the point where the interruption occurred. The degree and effect of the interruption will be determined by the competition officials.
3. If a team needs to re-perform a routine but fails to do the routine in its entirety, then this team will receive a score based on the lower level performance.

#### **B. Fault of Team**

1. In the event a team's routine is interrupted because of failure of the team's own equipment, the team must either continue the routine or withdraw from the competition.
2. The competition officials will determine if the team will be allowed to perform at a later time. If decided by officials, the team will perform the routine again in its entirety, but will be evaluated only from the point where the interruption occurred.
3. If a team needs to re-perform a routine but fails to do the routine in its entirety, then this team will receive a score based on the lower level performance.

#### **C. Injury**

1. The only persons that may stop a routine for injury are:
  - a) competition officials,
  - b) the advisor / coach from the team performing, or
  - c) an injured individual.
2. The competition officials will determine if the team will be allowed to perform at a later time. If the competition officials allow a routine to be performed at a later time, the spot in the schedule where the re-performance is to take place is at the sole discretion of competition officials. The team may perform the routine again in its entirety, but will be evaluated ONLY from the point where the interruption occurred.
3. If a team needs to re-perform a routine but fails to do the routine in its entirety, then this team will receive a score based on the lower level performance.
4. The injured participant that wishes to perform may not return to the competition floor unless:
  - a) The competition officials receive clearance from, first, the medical personnel attending to that participant, the parent (if present) AND THEN the head coach/advisor of the competing team.
  - b) If the medical personnel do not clear the participant, the participant can only return to the competition if a parent or legal guardian in attendance signs a return to participation waiver.
  - c) In the event of a suspected concussion, the participant cannot return to perform without clearance from a medical professional that has training related to head injuries, and waiting 24 hours, even with a waiver from a parent or legal guardian.

- d) In addition to the head injury policy, the ÖCCV encourages to be familiar with the specific policies and regulations where the competition is being held.

## **16. Interpretations and / or Rulings**

Any interpretation of any aspect of these Rules and Regulations or any decision involving any other aspect of the competition will be rendered by the Competition Rules Committee. The committee will render a judgment in an effort to ensure that the competition proceeds in a manner consistent with the general spirit and goals of the competition. If the interpretation needs to be made during an ongoing competition, it is made together by those committee members present and holding a function in the jury of the respective competition and the Head Judge.

## **17. Disqualification**

Any team that does not adhere to the terms and procedures of these "Rules and Regulations" will be subject to disqualification from the competition, will automatically forfeit any right to any prizes or awards presented by the competition, and may also forfeit the opportunity to participate the following year.

The following behaviour may, in any case, lead to disqualification:

- Assaults or insults to the judges, officials, participants, visitors;
- Competing of a non-registered person;
- Violation of the anti-doping-decree;
- Violation of age requirements;
- Unsportsmanlike conduct.

## **18. Judging Procedure**

1. As the teams perform, a panel of judges will score the teams using a 100 point system. If the panel consists of five or more judges, the highest score and the lowest score given for each team will be dropped and the remaining judges' scores will be added to determine the overall team score. For easier comparison, this final score will then be divided by the number of judges whose scores have not been dropped.
2. For the Austrian Cheerleading Championship, the team who receives the highest overall score from the jury in a category wins. In the event of a tie of two or more teams, all teams take the same place. The respective number of following places will remain unfilled. In the event of a tie for the first place, the high and low score will be added back into the total score. If the tie remains, the ranking points from each judge will be used to break the tie.
3. For the Austrian Regional Championships and the Austrian International Open (AIO), the team who receives the highest overall score from the jury in a category wins. In the event of a tie of two or more teams, all teams take the same place. The respective number of following places will remain unfilled.
4. If only one team competes in a category, this team will be judged, but will not receive a place in the official ranking.

## **19. Scores and Rankings**

1. Individual score sheets are for the exclusive use of each particular judge. Each judge has the responsibility and authority to review and submit his or her final scores and rankings prior to the final tally of the scores for all teams.
2. Scores and rankings will be available only to coaches or captains at the conclusion of the competition. No scores or rankings will be given over the telephone.
3. After each round of competition, teams will receive the judges' score sheets as well as their score and the top score in the group. In addition, teams will receive a ranking sheet with the names and scores of the teams' final placement.

## **20. Finality of Decisions**

By participating in this championship, each team agrees that judges' decisions are final and will not be subject for review. 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.

## 21. Jury

1. The judging panels generally consist of a minimum of three (3) scoring judges (who will give points for the routines), and at least one (1) safety judge.
2. The judging panels of the Austrian Cheerleading Championship consist of a minimum of five (5) scoring judges (who will give points for the routines), and at least one (1) safety judge (who will take time for the routines and take note of possible violations of the rules).
3. The choice of judges is made by the responsible representative of the ÖCCV.
4. All judges participate in a judges meeting prior to the competition, where the head judge is being designated. Jury protocols are being made showing the numbers of the judges, decisions made and so on. The deductions are marked by the head judge and will be deducted from the overall sum. A list of all places and rankings will be made for the jury protocol, the moderator and the ÖCCV.
5. The jury stays in a separate area, not open to the participants and coaches. For the award ceremony, the head judge has to be available for possible questions.

## 22. Penalties

1. In the case of rule violations the following deductions from the overall sum will be made:
  - In cases of illegal elements (Stunts, Tumbling, Toss, Pyramids, Props, etc.) a deduction of five (5) points per element is applied. The illegal element itself is taken out of the judging process.
  - In case of a missing spotter a deduction of five (5) points per missing spotter is applied.
  - In cases of drops from Stunts, Tumbling, Tosses or Pyramids a deduction of three (3) points per element is applied.
  - If a team exceeds the time limit for a routine, a penalty of one (1) points will be applied for 5-10 seconds and a penalty of three (3) points for 11 seconds and over.
  - In case of any other violation of the safety guidelines five (5) points are deducted per violation.
2. Violation of a specific rule in more instances at the same time (ripples included) will be considered as just one violation of that specific rule.
3. If a team has an objection to a specific deduction, it is possible to bring forward evidence to this end only within 10 minutes of the announcement of the deduction to the respective coach at the competition. After this time has passed, objections are not possible anymore.

## 23. Doping

1. Doping is not allowed in accordance with the rules of the "Bundessportorganisation" (BSO). Further information can be found on the website [www.nada.at](http://www.nada.at). Controls by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) can occur any time unannounced. In the case of a positive doping test the affected person will be banned from national and international competitions.
2. When applying for an ÖCCV official cheerleader pass (only needed for the Austrian Cheerleading Championship), a specific form has to be filled out by the responsible doctor, if medication on the doping list has to be taken. This form may be downloaded on the website [www.afboe.at](http://www.afboe.at) or be retained from the respective ÖCCV representative.

## 24. Participation in official international competitions

1. The ÖCCV reserves the right to decide to send national teams to the European Cheerleading Championship (ECU) and the World Cheerleading Championship (ICU).
2. The team names "Team Austria" or "National Team" or any variations thereof are reserved for the national teams sent by the ÖCCV.
3. Clubs not member of the ÖCCV may not participate in official international competitions of the ECU or ICU.
4. For official international competitions designed for club teams, the following principles apply:
  - a) Only teams that have reached at least 75 % of the points possible for the respective category in the respective qualification competition, designated by the ÖCCV Board at the beginning of each season, may qualify for official international competitions.
  - b) For the European Cheerleading Championship (ECU), the first and second team of the respective qualification competition qualifies for the respective Cheerleading and Performance Cheer categories

(please note that a qualification for the ECU in the Senior Cheerleading team divisions is only possible for Level 6 / Premier and in the Junior Cheerleading team divisions for Level 5 / Elite). If the first and / or second team does not participate, the teams following in the ranking may participate.

- c) A team may only compete at the European Cheerleading Championships if they also participate(d) in the Austrian Cheerleading Regional and National Championships in the respective category.
- d) In any case, the final clearance for official international competitions is made by the ÖCCV in consultation with the responsible representatives.

## II. Cheerleading Divisions

For the 2021-2022 competition season, the Safety Rules of the ECU (2020 version) will be applied.

They can be found at:

[https://www.cheerunion.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/2020\\_ECU\\_competition\\_rulebook-1.pdf](https://www.cheerunion.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/2020_ECU_competition_rulebook-1.pdf)

### 1. Score Sheets – Cheerleading

Distribution of points in Team divisions for Levels 1, 2 and 3:

Judging Criteria	Description	Points
Cheer Criteria	Crowd leading ability/ability to lead the crowd for teams Nation, use of signs, poms, or megaphone, practical use of Stunts/pyramids to lead the crowd, execution	10
Motions & Sharpness	Correct placement of Motions, Strength of Movement	10
Partner Stunts	Execution of skills, Difficulty (Level of skill, Number of bases, Number of Stunt Groups), Synchronization, Variety	25
Pyramids	Difficulty, Transitions Moving into or Dismounting out of Skills, Execution, Timing, Creativity	25
Tumbling	Group tumbling, Execution of skills, Difficulty, Proper Technique, Synchronization	10
Jumps	Difficulty, Variety, Execution	5
Flow of the Routine / Transitions	Execution of routine components: flow, pace, timing of skills, transitions	5
Dance	Choreography, Difficulty, Creativity	5
Overall Presentation, Crowd Appeal	Overall presentation, showmanship, crowd effect	5
TOTAL		100

Distribution of points in Team divisions for Level 4, Level 5 (Elite) and Level 6 (Premier):

Judging Criteria	Description	Points
Cheer Criteria	Crowd leading ability/ability to lead the crowd for teams Nation, use of signs, poms, or megaphone, practical use of Stunts/pyramids to lead the crowd, execution	10
Partner Stunts	Execution of skills, Difficulty (Level of skill, Number of bases, Number of Stunt Groups), Synchronization, Variety	25
Pyramids	Difficulty, Transitions Moving into or Dismounting out of Skills, Execution, Timing, Creativity	25
Basket Tosses	Execution of skills, Height, Synchronization (When Applicable), Difficulty, Variety	15
Tumbling (Jumps)	Group tumbling, Execution of skills (jumps in All Girl Divisions), Difficulty, Proper Technique, Synchronization	10
Flow of the Routine / Transitions	Execution of routine components: flow, pace, timing of skills, transitions	5
Overall Presentation, Crowd Appeal (Dance)	Overall presentation, showmanship, (dance in All Girl Divisions), crowd effect	10
TOTAL		100

Distribution of points in Group Stunt and Partner Stunts divisions:

Judging Criteria		Description	Points
Stunts und Tosses	Execution of Technique	Execution of proper technique to perform stunts, making the stunts appear to be easy.	30
	Difficulty	Difficulty, and the ability to perform stunts in the routine. Also includes not setting out of the stunts, continual transitions, one arm stunts, toss stunts, etc. (Difficulty based on progressions)	25
	Form and Appearance of Stunts	This includes not moving on stunts, arms straight, flexibility of stunts in good position, straight line with base and top, comfortable facial expressions, etc.	20
Overall Performance	Transitions	Pace of transitions, visual effect and creativity of the transitions, matching specific points in music, difficulty and technique maintained during transitions. There should be as few 'breaks' in the routine as possible.	15
	Showmanship	Excitement level of routine, routine is choreographed to music, and stunts hit to beats of music, creative stunts and/or visuals, quick pace, facials, and energy.	10
TOTAL			100

Distribution of points in the Open Age divisions:

Judging Criteria	Description	Points
Cheer Criteria	Crowd leading ability/ability to lead the crowd for teams Nation, use of signs, poms, or megaphone, practical use of Stunts/pyramids to lead the crowd, execution	10
Motions & Sharpness	Correct placement of Motions, Strength of Movement	10
Partner Stunts	Execution of skills, Synchronization, Variety	15
	Difficulty (Level of skill, Number of bases, Number of Stunt Groups)	10
Pyramids	Execution Transitions Moving into or Dismounting out of Skills, Timing, Creativity	15
	Difficulty	10
Tumbling	Group tumbling, Execution of skills, Difficulty, Proper Technique, Synchronization	10
Jumps	Execution, Variety, Difficulty	5
Flow of the Routine / Transitions	Execution of routine components: flow, pace, timing of skills, transitions	5
Dance	Choreography, Difficulty, Creativity	5
Overall Presentation, Crowd Appeal	Overall presentation, showmanship, crowd effect	5
TOTAL		100

### III. Performance Cheer Divisions

For the 2020-2021 competition season, the Safety Rules of the ECU (2020 version) will be applied.

They can be found at:

[https://www.cheerunion.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/2020\\_ECU\\_competition\\_rulebook-1.pdf](https://www.cheerunion.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/2020_ECU_competition_rulebook-1.pdf)

#### 1. Score Sheets – Performance Cheer

Distribution of points in Freestyle Pom divisions:

Judging Criteria		Description	Points
Technical Execution	Category Style Execution	Quality of Pom Technique: placement, control, precise and strong completion of movement	10
	Movement Technique Execution	Movement that has strength, intensity, placement, control, presence and commitment	10
	Skill Technique Execution	Ability to demonstrate appropriate level skills with correct placement, body alignment, control, extension, balance, strength and completion of movement	10
Group Execution	Synchronization / Timing with Music	Correct timing with team members and the music	10
	Uniformity of Movement	Movements are the same on each person, clear, clean and precise	10
	Spacing	Correct positioning/distance between individuals on the performance surface during the routine and transitions	10
Choreography	Musicality	Movement that complements the music accents, rhythm, tempo, phrasing, lyrics, style, etc. in a creative, unique and original manner	10
	Routine Staging / Visual Effects	Utilization of varied formations and seamless transitions. Visual impact of staging through group work, partner work, floor work, lifts, levels, opposition, etc.	10
	Complexity of Movement	Level of difficulty of movement, such as tempo, weight changes, directional changes, connectivity, continuity, intricacy of movement, etc. Difficulty of skills being credited in relation to correct technical execution.	10
Overall Effect	Communication / Projection / Audience Appeal & Appropriateness	Ability to exhibit a dynamic routine with showmanship and audience appeal Age appropriate music, costume and choreography that enhances the performance	10
TOTAL			100

Distribution of points in Hip Hop divisions:

Judging Criteria		Description	Points
Technical Execution	Category Style Execution	Groove and quality of authentic hip hop/street style	10
	Movement Technique Execution	Movement that has strength, intensity, placement, control, presence and commitment	10
	Skill Technique Execution	Ability to demonstrate appropriate level skills with correct placement, body alignment, control, extension, balance, strength and completion of movement.	10
Group Execution	Synchronization / Timing with Music	Correct timing with team members and the music	10
	Uniformity / Clarity of Movement	Movements are the same on each person, clear, clean and precise	10
	Spacing	Correct positioning/distance between individuals on the performance surface during the routine and transitions	10
Choreography	Musicality	Movement that complements the music accents, rhythm, tempo, phrasing, lyrics, style, etc. in a creative, unique and original manner	10
	Routine Staging / Visual Effects	Utilization of varied formations and seamless transitions. Visual impact of staging through group work, partner work, floor work, lifts, levels, opposition, etc.	10
	Complexity of Movement	Level of difficulty of movement such as tempo, weight changes, directional changes, connectivity, continuity, intricacy of movement, etc. Difficulty of skills being credited in relation to correct technical execution.	10
Overall Effect	Communication / Projection / Audience Appeal & Appropriateness	Ability to exhibit a dynamic routine with genuine showmanship and audience appeal Age appropriate music, costume and choreography that enhances the performance	10
TOTAL			100



Distribution of points in Jazz divisions:

Judging Criteria		Description	Points
Technical Execution	Category Style Execution	Continuity of movement and quality of style, extension and presence/carriage.	10
	Movement Technique Execution	Movement that has strength, intensity, placement, control, presence and commitment	10
	Skill Technique Execution	Ability to demonstrate appropriate level skills with correct placement, body alignment, control, extension, balance, strength and completion of movement	10
Group Execution	Synchronization / Timing with Music	Correct timing with team members and the music	10
	Uniformity of Movement	Movements are the same on each person, clear, clean and precise	10
	Spacing	Correct positioning/distance between individuals on the performance surface during the routine and transitions	10
Choreography	Musicality	Movement that complements the music accents, rhythm, tempo, phrasing, lyrics, style, etc. in a creative, unique and original manner	10
	Routine Staging / Visual Effects	Utilization of varied formations and seamless transitions. Visual impact of staging through group work, partner work, floor work, lifts, levels, opposition, etc.	10
	Complexity of Movement	Level of difficulty of movement, such as tempo, weight changes, directional changes, connectivity, continuity, intricacy of movement, etc. Difficulty of skills being credited in relation to correct technical execution.	10
Overall Effect	Communication / Projection / Audience Appeal & Appropriateness	Ability to exhibit a dynamic routine with genuine showmanship and audience appeal Age appropriate music, costume and choreography that enhances the performance	10
GESAMTSUMME			100

Distribution of points in Doubles divisions:

Judging Criteria		Description	Points
Technical Execution	Execution of Category Specific Style	Pom – Pom motion technique; control, levels, placement, complete, precise and strong Hip Hop – Groove and quality of authentic hip hop/street style performance	10
	Execution of Overall Movement used within Category	Kicks, leaps, turns, floor work, freezes, partner work lifts, etc.	10
	Execution of Overall Movement	Body alignment, placement, balance, control, completion of movement, extension and flexibility	10
	Execution of Quality of Movement	Strength, intensity, presence and commitment to the movement	10
Execution as a Pair	Synchronization	Timing of movement with the music Synchronization and uniformity of the athletes	10
Choreography	Complexity of Movement	Level of difficulty of movement such as tempo, weight changes, directional changes, connectivity, continuity, intricacy of movement, etc.	10
	Difficulty of Skills	Level of difficulty of technical skills, partner work, lifts etc.	10
	Musicality	Movement that complements the music accents, rhythm, tempo, phrasing, lyrics, style, etc. in a creative and original manner	10
	Routine Staging	Utilization of floor space, transitions, partner work, group work, levels, opposition etc. interaction of the pair while allowing for a seamless flow of the routine	10
Overall Effect	Communication / Projection / Audience Appeal & Appropriateness	Ability to exhibit a dynamic routine with genuine showmanship and audience appeal Age appropriate music, costume and choreography that enhances the performance	10
TOTAL			100

## IV. Glossary of Terms

For the 2021-2022 competition season, the Glossary of Terms of the ECU (2020 version) for both Cheerleading and Performance Cheer will be applied. It can be found at:

[https://www.cheerunion.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/2020\\_ECU\\_competition\\_rulebook-1.pdf](https://www.cheerunion.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/2020_ECU_competition_rulebook-1.pdf)

## V. Age Groups – Detailed Overview

The following age groups exist for 2021-2022 competitions for Cheerleading (valid until 31.08.2022):

Age group	Age	Years of birth
<b>Senior Level 6</b>	15+	2007, 2006, 2005, 2004, ...
<b>Senior Level 5+ and below</b>	14+	2008, 2007, 2006, 2005, ...
<b>Junior Level 5</b>	12 – 16	2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006
<b>Junior Level 4 and below</b>	11 – 16	2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006
<b>Peewee (Youth) Level 3</b>	9 – 13	2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009
<b>Peewee (Mini) Level 2</b>	7 – 13	2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009
<b>Tiny Level 1</b>	5 – 8	2017, 2016, 2015, 2015, 2014

The following age groups exist for 2021-2022 competitions for Performance Cheer (valid until 31.08.2022):

Age group	Age	Years of birth
<b>Senior</b>	14+	2008, 2007, 2006, 2005, ...
<b>Junior</b>	12 – 16	2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006
<b>Peewee</b>	7 – 13	2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009
<b>Tiny</b>	5 – 8	2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013