



2025 NJAYF JERSEY SHORE CHAMPIONSHIPS COMPETITION DAY GUIDELINES

LOCATION: CURE Insurance Arena, 81 Hamilton Ave, Trenton NJ 08611

PARKING:

- There are several independently owned parking lots around the arena, and it will cost anywhere from \$8 to \$15 to park. Parking is cash only.
- For the safety of our cheerleaders, the parking lot attached to GATE A will be CLOSED to all cars (including coach's cars). Only buses will be allowed into the lot to drop off teams at GATE A.

COACHES CREDENTIALS: All rostered coaches and demonstrators will be provided wristbands from NJAYF. Wristbands and sideline passes must be worn in order to enter the arena. If a coach or demonstrator is missing a sideline pass or wristband, she/he will be required to purchase a ticket at the box office and then enter through GATE B.

PROPER ATTIRE: Game day, business, or business casual attire is recommended for all rostered coaches.

ARRIVAL: Teams must arrive, fully dressed in uniform and performance sneakers, in accordance to their scheduled arrival time and report to the Team Entrance at GATE A. Please line your team up in roster order so that we can cross check your coaches, demonstrators and cheerleaders with the roster. Only rostered coaches and cheerleaders with proper credentials will be admitted to the Team Entrance. If you have any absentee forms, please present them with your roster during Team Check-In.

WARM-UPS:

- Warm-up times are listed on the Order of Performance.
- Team photos will be taken immediately prior to your scheduled warm-up time. Photo times are listed on the Order of Performance.
- It is the coach's responsibility to make sure their team arrives for the team photo and warm-ups on time. We are not responsible for your team missing their team photo or warm-up.
- When you come down to warm-ups, you will enter through the door clearly marked on the concourse level near Section 103. This door will lead to a staircase that brings you the team photo area.

- You will be given a total of sixteen (16) minutes for warm-ups, which is broken down into four (4) 4-minute stations.
- The warm-up stations are as follows: *one (1) strip for stretching, two (2) strips for tumbling, two (2) strips for stunting, and a full 9-panel mat to run through the routine. Volunteers will let you know when it is time to switch mats.*
- If you are late to warm-ups, do not expect to be given the full sixteen (16) minutes.

PERFORMANCE FLOOR:

- Immediately after warm-ups, an NJAYF volunteer will escort the team to the tunnel area of the performance floor. At this time, one (1) coach will make their way to the music area. The remaining coaches will be permitted to stay with the team until they are directed to the Coaches' Seating Area. The Coaches' Seating Area is an area in front of the performance floor designed to watch the team's performance specifically for rostered coaches and demonstrators only.
- Teams are to "spirit" out onto the mat in accordance with the AYC rules.
- The tunnel will be located by the music area, so cheerleaders will enter the mat from the right side.
- Coaches are encouraged to cheer their team on throughout the performance. Coaches may not "coach" from the Coaches' Seating Area, meaning they can't prompt girls to correct formation, do the motions, count during the music, etc. The spotlight should be on the girls, not the coaches.
- Spotters will not be on the mat during performances.
- Please make sure you have any inhalers your cheerleaders may need on the floor with you in case they need them immediately after performing.

MUSIC: You must have multiple copies of your music on CD and cell phone with any adaptors you may need. We are not responsible for providing adaptors for your cell phones. We are also not responsible if your phone turns off while playing your music or you get a phone call or message.

PERFORMANCE FLOOR EXIT: After the team performs, all cheerleaders and coaches will exit the performance floor stage left.

SCORE CHECK: The Score Check area will be located behind the judges' risers. We will be using **RegChamp online scoring** for this event. Each coach will receive an **email with their team's deduction sheet** once scores are available. Coaches have **ten (10) minutes** to reply to the email if they wish to submit a challenge. If a coach **does not receive the email**, they must **report to the Score Check area** within the ten-minute window to obtain a **paper copy** of the deduction sheet. Please refer to the current version of the **AYC Score Check Guidelines** for full procedures. **Exhibition teams do not go to Score Check; only competing teams are eligible.**

RETURNING TO TEAM SEATING AREA:

- Teams will return to the main level of the arena using the stairs between Sections 104 and 105. Feel free to tell your parents to meet the team there after their performance to say congratulations, or you can take them back to their seats and have them meet their parents later.
- **Cheerleaders are not allowed to sit with their parents during their competition session. Spectators are not allowed in the cheerleader sections at all during the competition. These rules are in place for the safety of all of our children. Please adhere to them.**

- Coaches are responsible for their teams' safety and wellbeing during the competition. Cheerleaders should not be wandering the hallways unescorted. If cheerleaders want to meet their parents, a coach must escort them to the meeting place.

AWARDS CEREMONY PARADE:

- Prior to the start of the Awards Ceremony, the emcee will announce for all rostered coaches and athletes to make their way to the Warm-Up Area. Please do not allow your teams to wear feather boas or glitter during the awards ceremony. Try to keep all teams in your association together.
- Teams will be paraded out and seated by an NJAYF volunteer. Please listen to the NJAYF volunteers and follow directions.

AWARDS CEREMONY:

- Awards will be given out to all exhibition teams and all competitive teams advancing to the Big East Regional Championships.
- In addition to division awards, we will also give out a few specialty awards as well as Grand Champion awards and an Overall Grand Champion award.
- First place teams will send two (2) cheerleaders and one (1) coach to receive their award. All other places' awards will be brought to the team by an NJAYF volunteer.
- **Teams in the morning session must bring all of their bags and belongings with them to the Awards Ceremony.**
- When the Awards Ceremony is over, teams will exit through the tunnel under Sections 108-109. They will meet their parents outside of the arena by GATE B.

SCORE SHEET PICK-UP: Team score sheets will be available for pick-up at the conclusion of the Awards Ceremony. Only one (1) rostered coach per team will be admitted to pick them up at the Score Check Area located behind the judges' risers.

SISTER TEAM VIEWING AREA: A small section of seats in Section 105 (which is in front of the black curtain) will be reserved for teams from an association to sit and watch other teams from that same association perform. Teams should only be in those seats while their own sister teams are performing. Once your team's performance is over, you must clear the section to make room for another association.

PRIORITY VIEWING AREA: A section on the arena floor directly in front of the judges' risers will be reserved for spectators to watch their team perform. Once your team's performance is over, you must clear the section to make room for another association. Spectators will enter the Priority Viewing Area from Sections 107 and 108 and exit between Sections 113 and 114. An NJAYF volunteer will escort spectators in and out of this area. Any spectator refusing to listen to the NJAYF volunteers and/or Staff members will be removed from the area immediately. Failure to leave the area will result in a prompt removal from the arena with no refund given. Absolutely no signs, noise makers or sister teams are permitted in this area.

COACHES HOSPITALITY ROOM: We value the time and effort coaches put in and we want to thank you for your support. Therefore, we have created a Coaches Hospitality Room located near the Warm-Up Area on the loading dock of the arena. Only rostered coaches wearing a pink wristband will be permitted to enter the Coaches Hospitality Room - cheerleaders and demonstrators are not permitted. One (1) coach is required to remain with the team at all times, so please do not bring your entire coaching staff into the Coaches Hospitality Room at one time. Private restrooms, light refreshments and snacks will be provided throughout the day and are meant for coaches only - please do not exit the room with beverages and snacks for your team. Coaches who fail to adhere to this rule and found to be abusing the Coaches Hospitality Room will be removed from the arena immediately.

HIT ZERO: Hit Zero pins will be given out to all rostered athletes whose team received zero (0) deductions.

JUDGES: The judges' risers will be directly in front of the performance floor. Absolutely no questions or comments shall be directed towards any judges at any time during the event.

ATHLETIC TRAINER: A certified Athletic Trainer will be available in between the Warm-Up Area and the performance floor.

AFTER COMPETITION:

- After the morning session, cheerleaders and coaches are welcome to stay and enjoy the afternoon competition. Once their competition session has ended, any cheerleaders staying at the arena may sit with their parents.
- Cheer Coordinators of associations with teams advancing to the Big East Regional Championships will be instructed on where to go to pay the regional championship fee and purchase spectator tickets.
- The Big East Regional Championships fee is \$500.00 per team. Make association checks out to "Big East AYF".

SPORTSMANSHIP:

- Please remind all of your associations' coaches, cheerleaders and parents that NJAYF not only encourages, but requires that everyone displays good sportsmanship.
- All participants shall conduct themselves in a manner displaying good sportsmanship throughout the competition. Association Cheer Coordinators are responsible for proper conduct of cheerleaders, coaches, parents and any other person affiliated with the team.
- While all teams will receive a copy of their own teams' score sheets, no team is entitled to view the score sheets of another team.

QUESTIONS:

- Cheerleading is a judged sport and judging is inherently subjective.
- Any questions concerning rules or procedures of the competition will be handled exclusively by the association Cheer Coordinator and will be directed to the NJAYF Cheer Commissioner.