



PROVINCIAL TEAM SELECTION POLICY

EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 27, 2023

Definitions

1. The following defined terms have these meanings in this Policy:
 - a. **Small group** - A group of two (2) to four (4) athletes.
 - b. **International Cheer Union (ICU)** - The governing body of...
 - c. **Cheer Canada** - The national governing body of cheerleading in Canada.
 - d. **Monitor** - An individual assigned by the OCF to monitor a Provincial Team's training progress.

Purpose

2. The purpose of this policy is to set out the process and standards that will be used by the OCF to select athletes, coaches and teams to represent the OCF at the Cheer Canada National Championship.

Objective

3. The objective of this selection policy is to select athletes, coaches and teams who will participate in the Cheer Canada National Championship, in the following categories (not limited to):
 - a. ICU Cheer Divisions (all teams will have 16-24 athletes)
 - i. **AG Youth Advanced**
 - ii. **AG Youth Intermediate**
 - iii. **Coed Youth Advanced**
 - iv. **Coed Youth Intermediate**
 - v. **AG Junior Elite**
 - vi. **AG Junior Advanced**
 - vii. **Coed Junior Elite**
 - viii. **Coed Junior Advanced**
 - ix. **AG Senior Premier**
 - x. **AG Senior Elite**
 - xi. **Coed Senior Premier**
 - xii. **Coed Senior Elite**

Eligibility

4. Coaches:
 - a. To be eligible for selection, the coaches must:
 - i. Be Canadian Citizens, or eligible for Canadian Citizenship and actively pursuing Citizenship Certificates;
 - ii. Have a non-expired Canadian Passport, with no restrictions on travel;
 - iii. Reside in the province of Ontario;
 - iv. Be Registrants in good standing with the OCF;
 - v. Agree to adhere to the OCF's by-laws, policies, procedures, rules and regulations.
 - b. Once selected, the coaches will:
 - i. Be expected to be training towards the Cheer Canada National Championship;
 - ii. As required by the OCF:
 1. Attend any scheduled training sessions;
 2. Submit training plans and status updates (i.e. videos, etc);
 3. Adhere to communication requirements (i.e. group communication apps, etc) in the manner permitted;

4. Maintain consistent communication with the Provincial Team's assigned monitor.
5. Individual athletes and small groups:
 - a. To be eligible for selection, the athletes and small groups must:
 - i. Be Canadian Citizens, or eligible for Canadian Citizenship and actively pursuing Citizenship Certificates;
 - ii. Be within the age limits of each respective category:
 1. Youth - aged 12-14;
 2. Junior - aged 15-18;
 3. Senior - aged 17+.
 - iii. Identify with the gender limits of each respective category:
 1. AG - all girls;
 2. Coed - mixed genders.
 - iv. Have a non-expired Canadian Passport, with no restrictions on travel;
 - v. Reside in the province of Ontario;
 - vi. Be Registrants in good standing with the OCF;
 - vii. Agree to adhere to the OCF's by-laws, policies, procedures, rules and regulations.
 - b. Once selected, the athletes and small groups will:
 - i. Be expected to be training towards the Cheer Canada National Championship;
 - ii. As required by the OCF:
 1. Attend any scheduled training sessions;
 2. Submit training plans and status updates (i.e. videos, etc);
 3. Adhere to communication requirements (i.e. group communication apps, etc) in the manner permitted;
 4. Maintain consistent communication with the Provincial Team coach.
6. Teams:
 - a. To be eligible for selection, the teams must:
 - i. Be composed of athletes and coaches that meet the eligibility requirements listed in the Eligibility section of this policy;
 - ii. Be a registered team with an OCF Member in good standing.
 - b. Once selected, the team's athletes and coaches will:
 - i. Be expected to be training towards the Cheer Canada National Championship;
 - ii. As required by the OCF:
 1. Attend any scheduled training sessions;
 2. Submit training plans and status updates (i.e. videos, etc);
 3. Adhere to communication requirements (i.e. group communication apps, etc) in the manner permitted;;
 4. Maintain consistent communication with the Provincial Team's assigned monitor.

Selection Process

7. Coaches:
 - a. Participate in an application process as prescribed by the OCF.
 - b. Must provide three (3) letters of recommendation, with the following criteria:
 - i. An individual that has coached along side the applicant for at least two (2) years;
 - ii. An individual who has familiarity with the applicant's coaching ethic and ability to collaborate for at least two (2) years;

- iii. An athlete who has been coached by the applicant for at least two (2) years.
 - c. This application process shall be held within a time period, determined by the OCF before the Cheer Canada National Championship.
 - d. Each coach will be interviewed by the Selection Committee.
 - e. The Selection Committee reserves the right to select coaches from outside the pool of applicants.
- 8. Individual athletes and small groups:
 - a. Participate in tryouts as prescribed by the OCF. This may include, but is not limited to:
 - i. In-person events:
 - 1. Athletes and small groups may be exempted from participation in the in-person tryouts due to sickness, injury, or other circumstances. These athletes shall still be eligible for selection provided they have a signed letter from a medical professional, and approval from the OCF. This may also include a video submission.
 - ii. Video submissions.
 - b. Will be evaluated by all coaches of the Provincial Team on the skills necessary to be competitive in the respective team categories.
 - c. Tryouts shall be held within a time period, determined by the OCF before the Cheer Canada National Championship.
 - d. Alternate athletes may be selected at the discretion of the Provincial Team's coaches, with approval from the Selection Committee.
- 9. Teams:
 - a. Participate in tryouts as prescribed by the OCF. This may include, but is not limited to:
 - i. In-person events;
 - ii. Video submissions.
 - b. Will be evaluated on the skills necessary to be competitive in the respective team categories by all coaches of the team.
 - c. The tryouts shall be held within a time period, determined by the OCF before the Cheer Canada National Championship.
- 10. If unforeseen circumstances arise which do not allow for this selection process to be implemented as outlined in this document, the OCF reserves the right to identify an alternate process and timelines. Should this occur, all candidates for selection will be notified of these changes in a timely manner.

Authority for Selection

- 11. The OCF shall appoint member(s) to be responsible for managing the selection of athletes and coaches for all Provincial Teams. The member(s) shall be known as a Selection Committee and are responsible for:
 - a. Reviewing applications and selecting suitable coaches;
 - b. Monitoring tryouts and liaising with the selected athletes, coaches and teams.
- 12. The Selection Committee must be free from actual and perceived conflict of interest and, where conflict of interest may exist, Committee members must identify the conflict and excuse themselves from selection decisions where there is a conflict. Parents of athletes, or other individuals deemed by the OCF to have special interest in the selection process, are not permitted to be members of the Selection Committee.

Dismissal

13. Coaches

- a. A coach may be dismissed if the coach:
 - i. Fails to remain a Registrant in good standing with the OCF;
 - ii. Fails to meet performance and training expectations;
 - iii. Exhibits conduct that is damaging to the image of the OCF;
 - iv. Is unable to perform the duties of a coach due to injury, illness or other medical reasons as determined by the OCF.
- b. When necessary and appropriate, a coach may be replaced by an eligible alternate coach.
- c. The Selection Committee reserves the right to dismiss a coach if, in their estimation, the coach is not sufficiently preparing the athletes for the Cheer Canada National Championship or if there are other legitimate reasons, as determined by the Selection Committee or the OCF, for dismissal.

14. Individual athletes and small groups:

- a. An athlete or small group may be dismissed if they:
 - i. Fail to remain a Registrant in good standing with the OCF;
 - ii. Fail to meet performance and training expectations;
 - iii. Exhibit conduct that is damaging to the image of the OCF;
 - iv. Are unable to perform due to injury, illness or other medical reasons as determined by the OCF;
 - v. Fail to follow the direction of the coach(es).
- b. When necessary and appropriate, an athlete or small group may be replaced by an eligible alternate athlete or small group.

15. Teams:

- a. A team may be dismissed if the team:
 - i. Fails to remain a team registered with a Member in good standing with the OCF;
 - ii. Athletes and coaches fail to remain Registrants in good standing with the OCF;
 - iii. Fails to meet performance and training expectations;
 - iv. Exhibit conduct that is damaging to the image of the OCF;
 - v. Is unable to perform due to injury, illness or other medical reasons as determined by the OCF.
- b. When necessary and appropriate, a team may be replaced by an eligible alternate team.

Replacement of Coaches, Athletes, Small Groups and Teams

16. Any roster changes must be submitted by the coach(es) to the Selection Committee for approval.
17. The coaches and/or the Selection Committee may apply to the OCF's Board to remove any coach, athlete, small group or team from any stage of the selection process. Reasons for removal can include:
 - a. Becoming no longer eligible for participation;
 - b. Injury, illness, or misconduct.
18. Reasons for removal will be communicated by written electronic mail to the coach, athlete, small group or team from the OCF.
19. The Selection Committee shall designate alternate coaches, athletes and teams in each category when possible. Alternate coaches, athletes, small groups or teams may be selected if one or more of the originally selected coaches, athletes, small groups or teams are dismissed prior to the Cheer Canada National Championship.

20. If the alternates have not kept up their athletic ability and skills, or are unavailable or uninterested, the Selection Committee may approach other coaches, athletes, small groups and teams, who participated in the application process or tryouts to be named as alternates. Alternate coaches, athletes, small groups or teams may be included in any training or competitions taking place prior to the Cheer Canada National Championship so that they are prepared if needed.