

Coaches,

I'm sending an update on a new policy to be placed into effect at *THIS* season's NCA All-Star National Championship. This is a NCA policy (not a USASF policy) and will be in effect for every single team that registers for NCA All-Star Nationals. Specifically, if the Crossover Rule at NCA Nationals has affected which divisions you will compete in when at this event, you will definitely need to pay close attention and make sure you are compliant with this new Level Eligibility Policy.

Effective this season, teams attending NCA All-Star Nationals must register and compete in their legitimate USASF Level. Teams that intend to drop into a lower level at NCA Nationals must have competed in that lower level at least once at another USASF competition prior to February 25, 2012. Should a team's Level Eligibility be questioned by another program, NCA will request documentation of that team's participation at a previous event.

Over the past several years, we have seen an increase in the number of teams that, normally for legitimate reasons, drop down a level for this competition only. Many refer to this strategy as 'sandbagging' with the ultimate objective of making it easier to win. There is an entire spectrum of feasible reasons why teams switch levels and divisions (crossover limitations, injuries, athletes move, etc.), and therefore it is impossible to declare when a level change is a necessity and when it is a strategy to win.

The USASF has looked at ways to police this issue, but it is near impossible to tackle especially when numerous companies are involved and for the duration of an entire season. However, a policy applied to a single event *IS* manageable and we feel it is the right thing to do. By requiring you to compete at another USASF event at your new level, we are attempting to take a step towards ensuring that you have made a change that is not a temporary fix for a competitive weekend, but rather a more permanent move for the betterment of your team (or a move to a level more suitable for your team's skill level).

I understand this may put some of you in a more difficult situation. Nevertheless, I also believe the essence of legitimate competition, coupled with our philosophies related to fairness and true sportsmanship, are what drive most of you to compete at NCA Nationals. It is time that we take a stance on a growing concern and continue to produce one of the purest, most competitive events in the all-star cheerleading world.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to send me an email.

Thank you,

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