



2026 AASCF CHEER DEDUCTION SYSTEM

Revised January 2026 (V1)
Changes from 2025 in **red**. Clarification (no change in interpretation) from 2025 in **blue**.

ROUTINE INFRACTIONS

ATHLETE FALL - 0.25

Drops to the floor during tumbling and/or jump skills.

This includes the following:

- Hand, Hands, or head down in tumbling or jump skills.
- Knee or knees down in tumbling or jump skills.
- Tumbling transitions in and/or out of a building skill.

This does not include the following:

- An athlete that trips while walking during a transition.

BUILDING BOBBLE - 0.40

Stunt and/or pyramid skills that almost drop but are saved.

This includes the following:

- Base or spotter drops to the performance surface during a building skill.
- Top person sits back onto the base/spotter and is pushed back up into the stunt/skill.
- Lowering of a stunt (not timing issues) i.e., extended position to prep level etc.
- Single based coed style stunts that drop to a load in position.
- Pyramid skills that would fall without the bracer or bracers support.
- Both feet of the top person come in contact with the performance surface during a cradle (excluding one foot).
- Step down to performance surface from a nugget, thigh stand and/or waist level style stunts (not timing issues).

This does not include the following:

- An omitted skill
- Drop in body position by top person
- Excessive movement by bases
- Balance check by top person
- Hand or hands of the top person come in contact with the performance surface during a cradle



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BUILDING FALL - 0.75

Drops from a building skill or transition during a stunt and/or pyramid.

This includes the following:

- Drops to a cradle position
- Drops to a load in position
- Drops to a prone position

This does not include the following:

- Single based stunts that drop to a coed load in position.
- Dropping from extended position to a prep level stunt/skill.

RULE VIOLATIONS

LEGALITY INFRACTIONS – 0.25 / 0.50 / 1.0

- Tumbling out of level 0.25
- Building out of level 0.50
- Building safety violation 1.0

Clarification for building safety violation:

- If a skill is performed illegally and appears to be inherently dangerous and/or unsafe – regardless of the number of building groups.
- If a skill is missing the number of athletes required to perform that skill legally (ex: not having the number of required catchers for a cradle).
- AASCF Handbook (and general safety) – 1.0

MAJOR BUILDING FALL - 1.25

Drops to the performance surface from a stunt, pyramid or toss by the top person and/or the bases/spotter.

This includes the following:

- Multiple bases and/or spotters drop to the performance surface.
- Top person lands on base and/or spotter who drops to the performance surface.
- Single based coed style stunt where the top person lands on performance surface without assistance from bases and/or spotter.

This does not include the following:

- Top person comes in contact with the performance surface during a transitional stunt and/or pyramid that is continuous without interrupting/stopping.

TIME LIMIT VIOLATIONS – 0.25

Teams that exceed the allotted time by 1 or more seconds are subject to a 0.25 deduction. Judges will use a stopwatch/clock to measure the official time.

Judges will not issue a deduction until their stopwatch/clock shows a time that exceeds 2 seconds over the allotted time, acknowledging the potential variance caused by human reaction speed and sound system time variations.

Teams that exceed the allotted time per category below will be subject to the deduction:

All Star – 2:30

Novice – 2:30

All Star Non-Tumbling – 2:00

Group Stunt, Partner Stunt, Assisted Partner Stunt – 1:00



BOUNDARY VIOLATIONS - 0.25

The performance surface is defined as the 42' x 54' competition floor. The competition boundary is defined as the performance surface and any immediate adjacent safety border. [A 0.25 deduction will be assessed per occurrence for an athlete having BOTH feet off the performance surface AND any immediate adjacent safety border.](#)

[Clarification: An athlete must have at least one foot touching the performance surface and/or adjacent safety border to be considered inbounds.](#)

IMAGE POLICY – 0.25

Inappropriate choreography, uniform and/or music, as well as violations that break the image policy will be issued a 0.25 deduction.

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT DEDUCTION – 1.0

When a coach is in discussion with an official, other coaches, athletes, and parents/spectators they must maintain proper professional conduct. Failing to do so will result in 1.0 deduction and removal of coach or disqualification.

Includes the following:

- Blatant addition of rule violations. Rules violations include but not limited to illegal skills, ineligible athletes, inappropriate / over time music.
- Inappropriate and deliberate physical contact between athletes during the event.
- Abuse of equipment or any items associated with the event.
- Using language or a gesture that is obscene, offensive, or insulting.
- Using language or gestures that offend race, religion, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin.
- Failing to perform a routine.
- Excessive appealing at Point Review.
- Showing dissent towards scoring official decision by word or action.
- Threat of assault to an event representative.
- Public criticism of an event related incident or event official.

MINIMUM ATHLETE REQUIREMENT – 5.0

If a team competes with fewer than the minimum number of athletes for their specific division, a deduction will not be assessed if that team is registered and rostered with the minimum number of athletes required for that division. Teams that register, roster, and compete with fewer than the number of athletes required for a specific division will either be moved to the correct division or issued a 5-point deduction.

From a judging perspective, all teams competing with fewer than the number of athletes required will be scored as if they meet the minimum athlete's requirement (in terms of majority and most) and will not be eligible for bids to any end-of-season events.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT

Any team who violates AASCF age eligibility requirements, submits inaccurate rosters, or violates a crossover rule will be subject to the relevant penalty determined by AASCF. Pending investigations and due process may occur after the competition is over.

MAXIMUM ATHLETE REQUIREMENT

If a team competes with more than the maximum number of athletes for their specific division, the team will be disqualified.

NOVICE DIVISION

To maintain the spirit of the division, Novice teams will receive warnings for athlete falls or where a rule violation was the result of a performance error. In other instances, the team may receive a deduction.

CHEERABILITY

Any violation of the CheerAbility rules may include a 2-point deduction.