



2012 Difficulty Scoring Process – Collegiate Cheerleading

FAQ's

“Why is a separate “difficulty” score on the cheerleading scoresheet?”

Based on feedback from coaches that they wanted more clear evidence that judges were rewarding points based upon the difficulty in a routine, USA includes a “difficulty” judge as part of the USA judging panel. The role of this person is to evaluate the “difficulty” level of specialty skills found within each routine.

“How is this score determined?”

There is a guide that the difficulty judge follows in deciding on a score within each of the skills categories. (i.e. Stunts/Tosses, Tumbling, Jumps and Motions/Dance)

“I know my choreography and what skills I have included, so I should be guaranteed to receive a specific (or ‘maxed out’) score, right?”

No. This guide is a generic outline and does not dictate specific skills required to obtain a certain score. Instead, it is general in nature and leaves room for some “subjectivity” on the part of the difficulty judge. The score can vary from competition to competition and from judge to judge.

“Why wouldn’t this score be standard and not change if I do the exact same thing from one week to the next?”

Sometimes the variety in scores is based on the performance and clarity of the skills and/or it may be a result of the comparison between teams within a specific division. Although this score will most likely be close from one event to the next, it is not likely that a team will always receive the same score as a previous performance. Difficulty judging includes some subjectivity and is based on the opinion of the difficulty judge.

“Why is ‘subjectivity’ important in a ‘difficulty’ score?”

The USA feels philosophically that creating a complete list of exact skills needed within a routine in order to gain a set score can be detrimental to the overall creativity of the routine. The result likely would be “cookie cutter” performances where the structure of each routine would look much the same as they next one.

“How many ‘difficulty’ judges are there?”

At Collegiate Championships, there will be 2 assigned difficulty judges watching each team and they will remain throughout an entire division so that they are consistent within the category. As with any judge on a panel, their score will be up to them to justify and will be final. In addition, the remaining panel judges also look at overall difficulty and may give input to the difficulty judge on the final difficulty score.

We have full confidence in all of our judges and are excited to have this process in place! We appreciate the opportunity to clarify this scoring system for our customers and wish all of our competitors the best in their performance.