

CheerExpo Junior Judges Program

Intro to Judging for Elite Athletes for Sport Longevity

PURPOSE: The purpose of this program is to build the judging pool in the Atlantic provinces by providing high-level, age-appropriate athletes with experience on a judging panel. These technically experienced athletes are at their peak and are close to, or ready to, retire from cheerleading as an athlete and may be looking for an opportunity to still be involved in the sport.

The current expected trajectory of a high-level athletes who want to stay involved in the sport is the coaching stream. However, not everyone has the time to devote to a coaching position and the availability of coaching positions are limited. Not everyone is destined to be a coach. Sadly, that seems to be our only avenue for athletes aging out currently.

The net result is that we are losing these valuable resources every year. These athletes leave the sport feeling that there is no place for them to stay involved. The reality is that we are struggling to find enough people to assist with events, to participate on our boards and committees and adjudicate our teams. We need to expose them to these avenues and show them the process to succeed before they retire from competing.

NOTE: This is NOT a judges' certification. It is an intro to judging with hands-on experience during an actual live event. Candidates will get the full experience of being on the judges stand to see if judging could be their next big cheer passion.

BENEFITS & RENUMERATION:

- a) The Junior Judges program is free of charge for accepted applicants
- b) No meals, milage, payment or remuneration will be given to Junior Judges for their time judging at the event...however....
- c) The CheerExpo Junior Judges Program will cover the cost of the next PSO - Cheer Canada Judges Certification course offered in their home province, for all Junior Judges who finish the program.

Judging cheerleading is very rewarding and can afford the opportunity to travel and meet amazing new friends throughout Canada, the US and the World. Many judges make a second career of judging and make very good money while visiting cool new locations and judging some of the biggest events on the planet.

ALL WORLDS TEAMS FROM ATLANTIC CANADA ARE ENCOURAGED TO RECOMMEND 1-2 CANDIDATES. ONLY 16 SPOTS ARE AVAILABLE!

CANDIDATE REQUIREMENTS:

- a) Must be 17+ during CheerExpo and on a worlds' team (IASF or ICU)
- b) Must be competing at CheerExpo, have their own team accommodations and be able to arrange travel to and from the venue.
- c) Must have at least 3 years of experience in cheerleading
- d) Must reside in Atlantic Canada
- e) Must be available during CheerExpo from 8am Saturday morning until approximately 1-1:30pm. (the judging task will finish prior to warm-up times for Worlds divisions).

- f) May **NOT** be a coach or CIT. We are looking for judges who are not intending to coach and who will not have any conflicts in the morning session
- g) Must be dedicated, mature, responsible and eager to learn how to judge

PROCESS:

In the weeks prior to CheerExpo, Junior Judges will:

- a) Sign a Confidentiality Agreement and Code of Conduct
- b) Be issued approximately 3 light reading assignments
- c) Participate in 1-2 online zoom meetings (approximately 1 hr each)
- d) Complete two short assignments
 - a. Judge 3 teams
 - b. Build a bank

HANDS-ON JUDGING AT CHEEREXPO:

The junior judge candidates will have a judges' meeting on Saturday morning at 8:15am to go through the process and any last-minute details prior to the event starting at 9am.

- a) Junior Judges will rate all un-ranked categories (check mark sheets with comments) at CheerExpo (Novice, U8 Prep and all U6 divisions) first thing on Saturday morning followed by a follow up discussion with review judges.
- b) During the lunch break of the certified judges, the Junior Judges will score and rank the Stunt Battle: Stunt Groups and Partner Stunt divisions.

All required materials and supplies will be provided for a) and b) above.

This is not shadow judging...the Junior Judges will actually be scoring these divisions! Their sheets, comments, rating and ranking will be given to coaches and averaged to determine ratings / rankings.

This method is similar to other sports where young adults start off by officiating younger teams or lower level games (like hockey, etc.), rather than expecting a new judge to know how to judge the highest levels of the sport prior to ever taking the stand.

The experience will provide a strong foundation for the next step...getting certified through the PSO-Cheer Canada Judges Certification.

Between judging the un-ranked categories in the morning and judging the Stunt Battle, Junior Judges are encouraged to practice judge the regular divisions using novice sheets or whichever panel sheet(s) they would prefer from the spectator seats (unfortunately the judges stand will not accommodate all three judging panels and the junior judges at the same time). Junior judges will need to print off their own sheets and provide their own judging materials (pens, clip board, etc.) for this practice session. These sheets will not be passed in or evaluated in any way. This is for personal practice only.

Being great judge involves continually learning and practicing whenever you get the opportunity.

APPLICATION FORM BELOW

CheerExpo Junior Judges Program Application

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:
December 12th, 2022**

Full Name: _____ Age: _____

Email: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Address: _____

Member PSO: (check one)

____ Cheer Nova Scotia ____ Cheer New Brunswick/PEI ____ Newfoundland & Labrador Cheer Association

Current Cheer Gym and Worlds teams: _____

Cheer Experience: _____

Are you currently a Coach / CIT? ____ YES ____ NO

Which score sheet(s) do you think you would be most comfortable with scoring once certified?

____ Building ____ Jumps/Tumbling ____ Overall ____ Legalities / Deductions

Any other details you would like to share: _____

Signature

Date