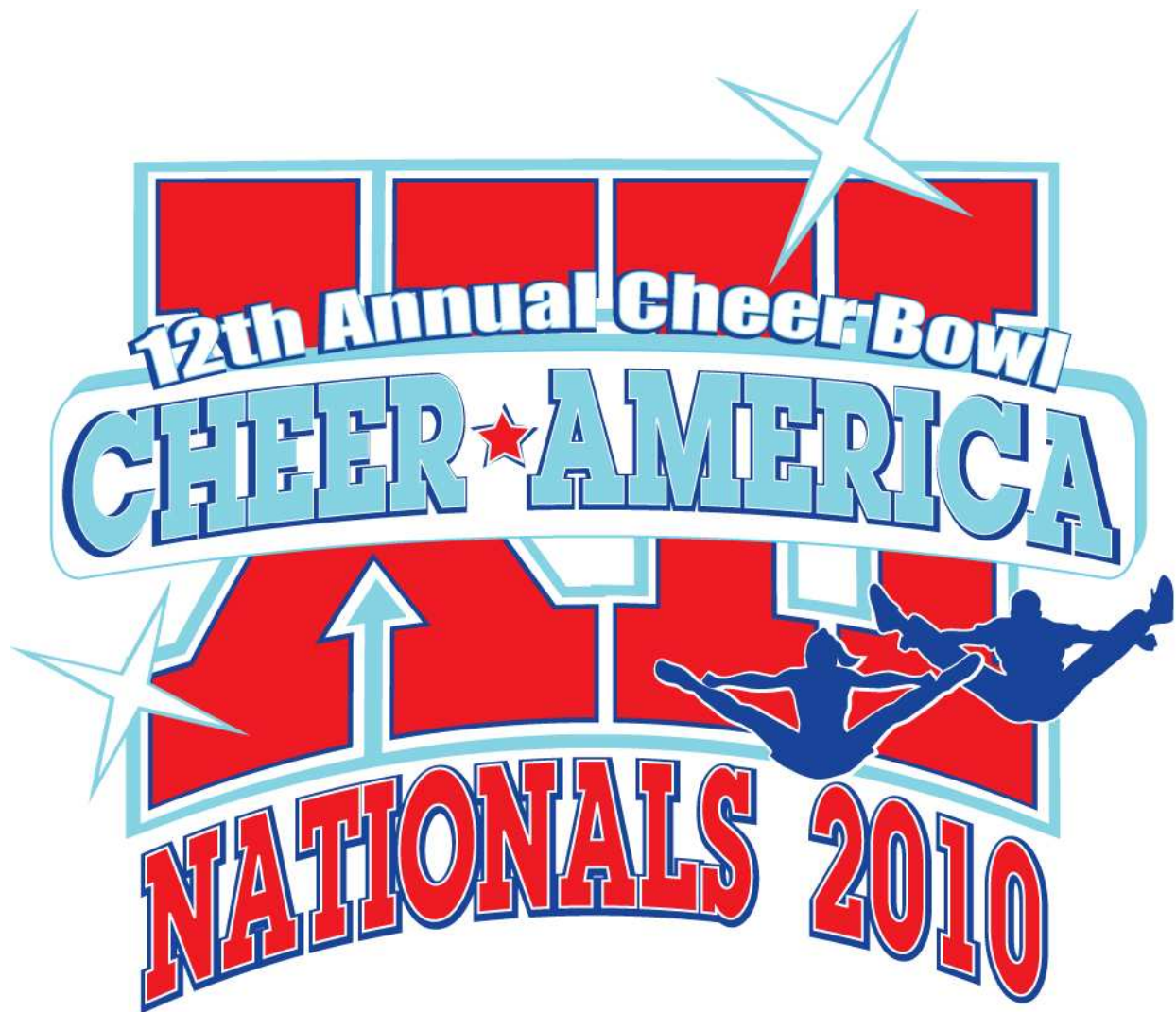


Cheer
America

Nationals

Information Packet 2010



Cheer America National Championship—Cheer Bowl 2010

George R. Brown Convention Center

1001 Avenida de las Americas
Houston, Texas 77010

Convention Center Phone: 713-853-8000

Website: <http://www.houstonconventionctr.com>

Hall A3-Located on Level 3—Performance/Competition--National Hall

Hall B3- Located on Level 3— Performance/Competition—Grand Hall Hall

Hall B-Located on Level 1--Warm-up Hall

Directions to George R. Brown Convention Center...

I-45 SOUTH

(Coming from Dallas, The Woodlands, Conroe, Bush Intercontinental Airport)

Take I-45 South > to I-10 East > to US-59 South (Exit #770A) > exit Downtown Destinations/Hamilton Street > right on Capitol > left on Avenida de las Americas.

I-45 NORTH

(Coming from Galveston, NASA, Clear Lake, Houston Hobby Airport)

Take I-45 North > exit Downtown Destinations (Exit #45) > exit Pease Street > right on Chartres > left on Polk > right on Avenida de las Americas.

US-59 SOUTH

(Coming from Kingwood, Humble, Bush Intercontinental Airport)

Take US-59 South > exit Downtown Destinations/Jackson Street > left on Franklin Street > right on Hamilton > right on Capitol > left on Avenida de las Americas.

US-59 NORTH

(Coming from the Galleria, Missouri City, First Colony, Sugar Land)

Take US-59 North > exit Downtown Destinations/Polk Street > left on Polk > right on Avenida de las Americas.

I-10 WEST

(Coming from Baytown, Channelview, New Orleans)

Take I-10 West > To US 59 South (Exit #770A) > exit Downtown Destinations/Hamilton Street > right on Capitol > left on Avenida de las Americas.

I-10 EAST

(Coming from Katy, San Antonio)

Take I-10 East > to 59 South (Exit #770A) > exit Downtown Destinations/Hamilton Street > right on Capitol > left on Avenida de las Americas.

SH-288 NORTH

(Coming from Pearland, South Loop, Reliant Park)

Take SH-288 North > to US-59 North > exit Downtown Destinations/Polk Street > left on Polk > right on Avenida de las Americas.

SH-290 EAST

(Coming from Austin, Copperfield)

Take SH-290 East > to Loop 610 South > to I-10 East > to US-59 South (Exit #770A) > exit Downtown Destinations/Hamilton Street > turn right on Capitol > left on Avenida de las Americas.

**Cheer America Cheer Bowl
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2010**

February 26-28, 2010--George R. Brown Convention Center--Houston, Texas

All events are being held at the George R. Brown Convention Center.

**Cheer America Cheer Bowl National Championships 2010
George R. Brown Convention Center
February 26-February 28, 2010**

CHEER AMERICA NATIONAL COMPETITION INFORMATION

Important Cheer America National Information! Please read this information carefully. This packet contains new information that you need to know for the competition! IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COACHING STAFF TO UNDERSTAND ALL CHEER AMERICA RULES AND GUIDELINES PROVIDED IN THIS PACKET OF INFORMATION AND THE INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE AT www.cachampionships.com. In addition, all coaches and athletes must adhere to the USASF Guidelines for more information on level guidelines, please visit www.usasf.net (School Teams must follow AACCA Rules...acca.org).

All Coaches/Sponsor Representatives will be required to sign an Article of Understanding/Code of Conduct regarding the Cheer America Level Guidelines (USASF Guidelines) at the Official National Registration Booth on Friday, February 26, 2010 (Hall B-Warm-up Room on the first floor of the Convention Center).

All questions regarding the legality of maneuvers (ie...stunts and pyramids) MUST be presented by **VIDEO** to the Cheer America Office by Wednesday, February 18, 2010. *A verbal approval will not be sufficient.*

All Cheer Teams will perform twice at Nationals (Preliminaries and Finals). Junior Dance and below will compete **ONLY** Once, Senior Dance Teams will perform **TWICE!** Placement for preliminaries will be random. Finals performance order will be reverse order of Preliminary. Preliminary scores will carry over and account for one third of the total score (the final score will be added twice).

The Grand National Champion Team winners will be the top scoring teams in the categories listed below. Awards will be based on enrollment.

<u>Small Gym Grand Awards</u>	<u>Large Gym Grand Awards</u>
Small Gym Level 1 Grand	Large Gym Level 1 Grand
Small Gym Level 2 Grand	Large Gym Level 2 Grand
Small Gym Level 3 Grand	Large Gym Level 3 Grand
Small Gym Level 4 Grand	Large Gym Level 4 Grand
Small Gym Level 5 Grand	Large Gym Level 5 Grand

Dance Grand Awards
Dance Grand (Junior and Below)
Dance Grand (Senior)

School Grand

There will be No Individual/Small Group Competition at this Event. Our Spring competition will be our Individual/Small Group National Competition (April 11, 2010)

Nationals Division Change Policy

Deadline for division changes is Thursday, February 18, 2010. A fee of \$200.00 per change will be charged from February 3rd until February 18th 2009 by 5:00 PM. Teams may NOT change coed status after February 18th, 2010. A team may only move into a division with enrollment, no new divisions will be added after February 18, 2010 by 5:00 PM. Payment must be made with division change request (credit card). The exception is in the case of an injury, which would result in a team losing members and qualifying for a small team, a move into an empty division will not be an option. NO TEAM WILL COMPETE OUT OF DIVISION AT NATIONALS.

Cheer America will not take any requests for placement times for the National Competition.

Exhibition/Show teams will perform only one time at the National Competition and will receive individual national trophies.

Substitutions and Alternate Guidelines for Cheer America National Championships

NO substitutes or alternates may cause a division change (age or otherwise) or change the coed status of a team. The only exception would be if an injury of an athlete changed the team size (ie: from a large team to a small team*) and the change is made on or before Friday, February 18, 2010. *NOTE: if there is not a small counterpart division then the team must stay in the large division.

Changes to rosters will be accepted until February 18, 2010; all changes must be within the division and crossover guidelines.

In the event that an injury occurs after February 18, 2010 and before the event begins then a roster change must be submitted in writing via email or fax with an explanation and must be approved. No substitute or alternate may change the division or coed status of the team.

Injury/Illness substitutions made after Prelims and before Finals will be accepted on a case by case basis (not to exceed 2 per team) and must be within the division and crossover guidelines. NOTE: If an athlete has been dropped from a team for an injury or illness then that athlete may not compete on any team for that day.

Emergency Substitutions: made at any time and not to exceed **TWO per program** (not team) will be allowed. Intended for extenuating circumstances, these substitutions must meet age requirements for the team and may not change the coed status or division of the team. However, these substitutions are not obligated to adhere to crossover level restrictions.

Crossover Guidelines: Crossover participants (those competing on more than one team within the same program) will be allowed at Cheer America National Championships. Crossovers are not limited to a single level, he/she may compete at different ability levels with the following exception... Level 5 athletes may not compete at Levels 1 and 2 at Cheer America National Championships. The exception to this rule is noted above in Emergency Substitutions.

Important National Rules

- Information regarding participants on more than one team must be submitted with the original registration for the purpose of scheduling. Cheer America will do our best to accommodate but cannot guarantee that there will not be a conflict with assigned warm-up times. Again, we do our very best to accommodate everyone at the Championship. Cheer America will schedule teams with crossover conflicts at least 20 minutes apart.
- All National Champion teams will receive a gym trophy, gym banner and jackets for each participant. All teams will be awarded a trophy and athletes will receive a National's Medal.
- Grand Champion teams will receive a gym banner and each participant will receive a Grand Champion sweatshirt.
- National Champion Division Winner Jackets and Grand Champion Sweatshirts will be handed out at the award ceremony. Double National Champion winners will have the option of receiving a National Champion T-shirt while supplies last (these exchanges will take place in the warm-up area).
- Time begins with the first movement or word, or at the beginning of the music. No formal entrances will be allowed. All routines including Exhibition/Show Teams must enter and begin routine in a timely manner, using an excessive amount of time may result in a penalty. Exhibition/Show Teams must enter and set formations quickly.
- Signs, flags, pom-poms and megaphones are the only props allowed in the cheer divisions.
- Rubber soled shoes must be worn for all Cheer America events except dance routines.
- PLEASE REVIEW ALL USASF RULES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION (www.usasf.net). School teams please see AACCA Rules for further information (www.aacca.org)
- Coaches will NOT be allowed to be in front of the floor for any competitive team. Coaches will only be allowed in the designated Coach Box while teams are competing. Coaches who assist a competitive team by doing motions will result in a team penalty.

Cheer America will adhere to USASF Guidelines to split or combine divisions for the 2009-2010 Competitive Season.

A small gym is defined as an All-Star gym that has 75 or less athletes registered in its competitive cheer program. Exhibition teams, crossover athletes and dance teams do NOT count toward the 75 athletes. A "small" gym will have the option to compete with "large" gyms if they so choose.

More Important Information...

Cheer America Scoring System

The Cheer America scoring system includes a panel of judges with an expert judge in each of the following areas: Motions/Dance and Jumps; Tumbling; Partner Stunts; Pyramids and Basket Tosses. The expert will not only judge in their specific area, but will also score the "overall" routine. The panel will also include one USASF Certified Technical Judge. The technical judge will deduct points for falls, missed tumbling passes, illegal maneuvers etc. Please note that there is one score sheet for each one of the specific areas listed above, in addition to the technical score sheet. It is important that you are familiar with our policies before you arrive to the National Competition. The official Cheer America Score Sheets, Level Guidelines and Divisions are available for your review at www.cachampionships.com. Coaches must have adobe acrobat to view score sheets. This program is available free at www.adobe.com.

PLEASE NOTE: BOBBLES WILL BE DEDUCTED BY THE CATEGORY JUDGE IN THE EXECUTION SECTION.

Judging Criteria

Cheerleading Essentials: motion technique and sharpness; precision and difficulty of stunts and pyramids; execution and difficulty of jumps, tumbling and dance.

Performance of Routine: choreography, creativity, formations, use of space, movement through transitions, overall appeal, projection of voice, presentation, spirit, mastery of routine and overall impression of performance.

Professional judges will score each squad. The panel will consist of a diverse group to represent different styles. All judges' decisions are final.

VERY IMPORTANT!!! CHEER AMERICA SCORING GRID

Please go to our website at www.cachampionships.com under UPDATED NATIONALS INFORMATION to review the Official Cheer America Judges Scoring Grid. This is an important tool for you to understand the Cheer America Scoring Ranges. All Coaches should read through this Grid for a better understanding of how the judges will be scoring at our Championships!

Injuries

In the event of an injury during a performance, the squad has the option to complete their routine. A 'start-over' or second performance will be allowed at the discretion of CAC judges/officials. Important: It is the ultimate responsibility of the coach to stop the routine/music as deemed necessary in the event of an injury. However, the head judge has the option to stop the music if he/she feels an injury is serious. If a routine is stopped and then re-performed then the routine will be judged from the point of the injury. Any deductions incurred prior to the injury will stand.

Judges Decisions

All judges decisions are final. Judges are not available for any communication with coaches or parents.

Protest Procedure

All protests or complaints will only be accepted in writing; the only protests that will deem a video review by the head judge are those involving illegal maneuvers. An Official Protest Form will be available at the Registration Booth. These forms will be given to coaches, gym owners and school sponsors ONLY. These forms must be submitted to the Registration Booth (Warm-up Hall, Hall B on Floor 1) within one hour after the last preliminary scores are posted.

Other Important Information

No Stunts and Tumbling allowed in Hallways

Stunting and tumbling are prohibited in any area other than the warm-up area MATS during your allotted warm-up time.

Medical Release Forms

All athletes must have a Medical Release Form. Please visit our website at www.cachampionships.com and use the link to the One Form. If you choose not to use the One Form, please visit our website and print our Medical Release form from the Forms Section.

Cancellation Policy

Refunds for the National Competition will be 50% for cancellations two weeks or more prior to the competition. After February 12, 2010, no fees will be refunded. No credits will be given for the National Competition. ALL REGISTRATION CANCELLATIONS MUST BE MADE IN WRITING.

Concessions

Concessions will be sold at the George R. Brown Convention Center throughout the event. CHEER AMERICA RECIEVES NO COMPENSATION FOR CONCESSIONS, AND ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PRICING OF THE CONCESSIONS.

Ticket Sales

Tickets for the Cheer America Cheer Bowl 2010 are \$15 per day. Spectators may purchase a "3-Day" Pass for \$40. Spectators 5 & under are FREE. Senior citizens 60 and up may purchase tickets for \$10 per day. Senior citizen discounted bands must be purchased by the senior in person with a valid form of identification. Tickets are available at the George R. Brown Convention Center Box Office February 26-28, 2010. Box Office will open at 3:00 PM on Friday, February 26, 2010. The Box Office is located outside of Hall B.

Music Requirements

ALL Music MUST BE ON A COMPACT DISC. Make sure that each team has a back up copy of their music and it has been properly formatted to play in an audio cd player! If the music malfunctions, all routine "start-overs" must be approved by judges/competition directors. The music that is played on the performance floor should be 'tested' in the warm-up area.

Spectator Seating

There will be plenty of seats for all spectators. Please DO NOT SAVE SEATS WHILE AT THE COMPETITION! Security will remove belongings left in seats, so please do not place items in unused seats.

Mr. Video

Mr. Video will be professionally video taping the entire competition. Order forms to purchase DVD'S will be available at the Mr. Video Booth and at our website at www.cachampionships.com. DVD's may also be purchased online after the event by visiting www.mrvideoonline.com. Absolutely NO video cameras will be allowed in any of the venues.

Universal Event Photography

Universal Event Photography will be our photographers for this event. Photos will be available to purchase in Hall B3. Please visit their website at www.universaleventphoto.com

Parking

Parking fees vary from lot to lot.

The George R. Brown features a 1600-space parking garage located at the corner of Polk Street and Avenida de las Americas. Conveniently connected to the GRBCC and the Hilton by Level 2 skywalks, parking couldn't be easier.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS A NEW 650 CAR PARKING GARAGE LOCATED ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE CONVENTION CENTER UNDERNEATH THE NEW PARK.

In addition, there are several privately owned surface lots surrounding the convention center. All are just a short walk away or across the street.

NORTH Parking is available in lots one block from the GRBCC on Rusk Street.

SOUTH Convenient parking is available in the 1600-space Hilton Americas-Houston parking garage, as well as lots near the Holiday Inn Express on Chenevert Street.

EAST Chinatown is located just east of the GRBCC and Highway 59. There are several parking lots open to the public, in addition to street parking.

WEST Several lots are located between the GRBCC and the Four Seasons Hotel/Houston Center. Houston Center has multiple parking garages available for convention center parking.

CHEER AMERICA RECEIVES NO COMPENSATION FOR PARKING.

Please NOTE: There will be a Rodeo Parade on Saturday, 27th 2010. Please check out our website for directions to avoid the parade route.

Coaches Hospitality

For your convenience, Cheer America Championships will provide a Coaches Hospitality Room located in room 213 on the second floor. We will be offering light refreshments throughout the day on both Saturday and Sunday.

Coaches Credentials

All coaches will receive a tyvek wristband for identification purposes. Each team receives two complimentary wristbands for the coaches. Coaches must have this identification at all times in order to access all areas of the competition. These wristbands will be distributed at a special window at Tickets on Friday starting at 2:30 PM outside of Hall B. These wristbands may be picked up by one representative, or if we have your coach rosters completed, individual coaches may pick up their wristbands at the window. Wristbands must be worn snugly around wrist at all times. Extra Coach Wristbands will cost \$75 per band and must be ordered on registration form or in writing (fax number 512-257-3005) by February 19th, 2010. Additional badges will not be sold at the event.

Athlete Credentials

All athletes will be required to wear wrist bands. The Athlete's Credential will be handed out to the coach at Coaches Registration on Friday. This band must be worn snugly and around the wrist at all times. An athlete in uniform will not be able to enter the competition, warm-up area or on the competition floor without a wristband.

Special Team Parent Pass

All teams in Youth division or younger will receive one team parent pass. This pass will allow the team parent to help in the on-deck area ONLY. No parents will be allowed in the Warm-up Area. All parents with this pass are required to purchase a spectator pass. These passes will be distributed to coaches and should be used at the coach's discretion.

Warm-up Areas

The warm-up area is located on Level 1 in Hall B. This area is exclusive to coaches and athletes ONLY! Teams will receive four eight-minute rotations (1-non-matted stretching area, 2-matted stunt area, 3-60'-spring-tumbling strip and 4-full spring floor). Please arrive to the warm-up area one hour and 10 minutes prior to your performance time. Teams arriving late to warm-up will forfeit their warm-up time. Music may only be played on the fourth rotation (music systems will be provided during the fourth rotation). Cheer America strictly adheres to the Warm-up Schedule.

Registration Booth

Cheer America will have a Registration Booth located in the warm-up room (Hall B on the first level). Coaches will register here on Friday. The booth will be open for the remainder of the competition for coaches that may have questions pertaining to the competition. Score sheets will be available for pick up on Friday (Dance-Junior and Below Awards) and Saturday approximately one hour after the division has competed. Coaches must have credentials and sign out for the score sheets. Finals score sheets will be mailed the following week after the competition.

Team Registration

All individuals and teams MUST register at the Information Booth on Friday, February 26, 2010 in Warm-up Hall B. This is the only time to register your teams. **Please send a representative to register on Friday!** The Registration table will be open from 2:30 PM – 8:00 PM.

Ranking/Information Boards

Ranking Boards will be located next to the Spirit Store. Preliminary ranks will be listed here. Scores and ranks will be given to the coaches with the score sheets (which will be available to pick up with your score sheets).

Cheer Mall Hall

Check out the Cheer America Cheer Mall Hall. Vendors will be in this area (Hall B3) selling unique gifts and goodies. During your slow times, make sure you stop by!

Glitter and Air Horn Policies

Please do not spray glitter in the George R. Brown Convention Center, all spray glitter should be done outside. No loose glitter will be permitted. For the comfort and safety of all patrons, No air horns or excessively loud noise makers will be permitted. **Please warn parents that air horns will be confiscated!** No rhinestones or jewels may be adhered to the skin (see USASF Rules at www.usasf.net).

Spirit Store

The Official Cheer America Spirit Store Booth will be available for team members to shop for official Cheer America Merchandise

Participant Gift

NEW!--This year all participants will receive a Free GIFT. Tickets will be distributed to the Coaches at Registration (in Hall B at check-in). Please distribute these tickets to the athletes. Gifts may be picked up at the Spirit Store!

USASF World Bid Information

USASF World Championship CHEER Bids will be awarded at the Level 5 Awards Ceremony on Sunday, February 28, 2010. USASF World Champion DANCE Bids will be awarded at the Dance Awards Ceremony on Saturday, February 27, 2010. Cheer America will award bids according to the top scoring level 5 cheer teams and the top scoring dance teams in World's divisions. International teams will be eligible for up to one fully paid bid.

Cheer-Two Fully Paid, Three At-Large and Three International At Large.
Dance-One Partially Paid, One At-Large and One International At Large

*** All teams competing for a Worlds Bid must declare their intentions and notify CA of bids currently held from other events.

Cash Prizes

\$15,000 Top Program Mega Prize (Awarded to the Program with the top six scores!)(Dance Team Scores will NOT be included in the gym's top six scores, Cheer Teams ONLY!) Winner will be announced at the last awards ceremony on February 28, 2010.

A \$1000 Cash reward will go to the highest scoring team in Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, Level 4 and Level 5. Please check the award schedule for these award times.

Small Gym Reward Winners (Small Gym High Point)

These prizes are cumulative scores throughout the season. Small Gym Reward Winners will be announced at the last Awards Ceremony on Sunday, February 28, 2010.

- First Place - \$3,000. and Small Gym Champion Fleece for each athlete and coach and Gym Banner.
- Second Place - \$2,000. and Gym Banner
- Third Place - \$1,000. and Gym Banner

Cheer America Cheer Bowl National Championships Important Deadlines and Summary of Packet

- All Questions regarding the legality of maneuvers (ie...stunts and pyramids) **MUST** be presented by video to the Cheer America Office by February 18, 2010
- Team division changes will be accepted until February 18, 2010.
- All coaches will receive a tyvek wristband for identification purposes. Each team receives two complimentary wristbands for the coaches. Coaches must have this identification at all times in order to access all areas of the competition. These wristbands will be distributed at a special window at Tickets on Friday starting at 2:30 PM outside of Hall B. These wristbands may be picked up by one representative, or if we have your coach rosters completed, individual coaches may pick up their wristbands at the window. Wristbands must be worn snugly around wrist at all times. Extra Coach Wristbands will cost \$75 per band and must be ordered on registration form or in writing (fax number 512-257-3005) by February 19th, 2010. Additional badges will not be sold at the event.
- All teams **MUST** check-in at the Registration Booth on Friday, February 26, 2010 in Hall B (Warm-up). This is the only time to register your teams. Please send a representative to register on Friday! The Registration table will be open from 2:30 PM – 8:00 PM.
- All Coaches/Sponsor Representatives will be required to sign an Article of Understanding/Code of Conduct regarding the Cheer America Level Guidelines at the Official National Registration on Friday, February 26, 2010.
- **PLEASE CHECK ONLINE AT www.cachampionships.com FOR REVISED SCHEDULES AND NEW INFORMATION!**