

Austrian Rulebook

Austrian Specific Rules



Competition Season 2024-2025
valid from September 2024 to August 2025

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I. Scope of Application

The following rules, regulations and appendixes apply to competitions and championships held, supported or authorized by the “*Österreichische Cheerleading und Cheer Performance Verband*” (ÖCCV).

As stipulated by the statutes of the ÖCCV, all members of the ÖCCV are obliged to register their competitions or championships with the ÖCCV and the ÖCCV needs to approve the organization of such an event.

II. Austrian Specific Rules

1. Miscellaneous

1. A club member of the ÖCCV and all its teams, athletes and coaches may be banned from Championships hosted by the ÖCCV if that club has outstanding financial obligations towards the ÖCCV or has taken actions that are considered damaging for the sport of Cheerleading or Performance Cheer. The decision to ban a club and the details of such a ban will be made by the managing board of the ÖCCV on a case-by-case basis.
2. A coach may be banned from Championships hosted by the ÖCCV if it has come to the attention of the ÖCCV that the team of that coach has performed skills in public that are not in conformity with the safety rules and level restrictions for the respective age group. The decision to ban a coach and the details of such a ban will be made by the managing board of the ÖCCV on a case-by-case basis.

2. Club Changes

1. If both clubs affected agree in writing, an athlete may change clubs during any time of the season.
2. A change requires that all outstanding financial issues have been settled with the club of origin.
3. Without the written consent of the club of origin, the change of an athlete from one club member of the ÖCCV to another club is not allowed during the following time period :
 - from 01 January until the end of the season, but no later than 15 July.
4. If the requirements stated above are not met, the respective athlete(s) may not
 - participate in any of the championships organized or sponsored by the ÖCCV,
 - participate in any international competitions where the qualification takes place at such championships,
 - participate in any open championships in Austria together with a team of another club member of the ÖCCV.
5. Clubs are obliged to inform their members of the applicable regulations about club changes in writing. If a club cannot prove that they have informed the respective athlete(s) about these regulations, they have to agree to a change once all outstanding financial issues have been settled with the club of origin.
6. For the change of an athlete from one club member of the ÖCCV to another club, the club of origin may have the right to be reimbursed by the receiving club (for more information see the “*ÖCCV Gebührenordnung*”). If applicable, without such payment from the receiving club, which may not be passed forward to the athlete, the club change is not possible.

3. Participation Requirements

A. General

1. Every participant (including substitutes) of a club member of the ÖCCV has to be in the possession of a valid official cheerleading pass of the ÖCCV for all divisions. Participants from clubs not member of the ÖCCV have to present a valid official photo identification (e.g. passport, personal ID, or drivers license) proving age and nationality. This identification has to be shown at the check in. Details about the cheerleading pass can be found on the website of the ÖCCV.
2. Every participant (including substitutes) must have citizenship or permanent residency for at least six (6) months in Austria at the time of the respective ÖCCV competition.
3. All teams have to designate one official contact person throughout the competition.
4. All teams have to have at least one certified coach for all Championships hosted by the ÖCCV (undergoing training or being registered for the waiting list for the next training will exceptionally be considered to meet that requirement). New clubs will be granted a two-year period to fulfill this requirement, starting from the first time competing at one of the Championships hosted by the ÖCCV.

B. Registration

1. Teams of all competitive sports divisions register at the beginning of the season and are required to participate in their respective State Championships, the International Cheer Masters and the Austrian Cheerleading Championships.
2. Teams for recreational sports divisions register for each competition separately. In this case, the registration for the championship takes place either online or in writing by sending in the filled out and signed registration forms to the ÖCCV representative. The registration for a competition is binding.
3. The deadlines for submitting the registration and number of participating athletes as well as the list of participants and substitutes (full names) and the list for accompanying persons (external spotters, trainers, mascots and supervisors) will be communicated through the respective competition announcement.

4. Regulations for Division Levels – Competitive Sports Divisions

1. Teams and clubs are generally free to choose which division level they want to compete in within an age group.
2. However, if any team wins its respective lower level Division (i.e. Youth Median, Junior Advanced or Senior Elite) twice within the time span of three years, that specific team has to advance to the higher level Division (i.e. Youth Advanced, Junior Elite or Senior Premier) the next year.
3. The rule stated above does not apply, if a club member of the ÖCCV already has a team in that respective higher division.
4. In acknowledgement that the lower level divisions of each age group are meant as a stepping stone, and in order to highlight the difference in skill level as well as to promote the top divisions, the following points will be implemented at the Austrian National Championships only:
 - a) The results of each age group (Primary, Youth, Junior and Senior) will be combined into a unified ranking list for the results ceremony. In this list, all teams of the higher level division are listed first in the order of their placements and all teams of the lower level divisions will be listed afterwards in the order of their respective placements.
 - b) However, all teams of an age group will continue to receive certificates according to the placement and rankings of their respective level division.

5. Regulations for Specific Competitions

A. Austrian Cheerleading Championships & Austrian Cheerleading Cup

1. Only teams from clubs members of the ÖCCV may compete at the Austrian Cheerleading Championship.
2. If only one team registers in a Division, this team will start in the “Austrian Cheerleading Cup” and will not be eligible for the title “Austrian Champion”.
3. The qualification mode is the following:
 - a) Cheerleading and Performance Cheer teams for all categories and age groups have to compete at one of the Austrian State Championships (see above), cheerleading teams also have to compete at the International Cheer Masters.
 - b) Cheerleading: Those teams that have reached at least 62,50 % of the points possible (deductions considered) for the respective category in any qualification competition qualify for the Austrian Cheerleading Championships or the Austrian Cheerleading Cup.
 - c) Performance Cheer: Those teams or doubles that have reached at least 60,00 % of the points possible (deductions considered) for the respective category in any qualification competition qualify for the Austrian Cheerleading Championships or the Austrian Cheerleading Cup.
 - d) Cheerleading: The competitors in the Mini category are free to choose, due to child safety regulations if they prefer to compete at the Austrian Cheerleading Cup or the Newbie Cup.
 - e) Teams who have competed in the Open Age Recreational Team Divisions are eligible to compete at the Austrian Cheerleading Cup if they competed at the ICM and their respective State Championships and also reached at least 60,00 %.
4. Every club member of the ÖCCV is obliged to register one person on the day of the Austrian Cheerleading Championship for the support of the competition, e.g. as volunteer or judge. If a club cannot meet this obligation, it has to pay a penalty fee to the ÖCCV of 300,00 Euros for that competition.

B. Austrian State Championships (Landesmeisterschaften)

1. Participation is open to cheerleaders from clubs both members and not members of the ÖCCV.
2. The representative of the ÖCCV responsible for competition regulations, in consultation with the Managing Board of the ÖCCV and the State Federations, will decide upon the number and location of State Championships for each competition season based upon applications from the State Federations.

C. Official ÖCCV Competitions

1. Participation in other official ÖCCV competitions is open to cheerleaders from all clubs, e.g. the International Cheer Masters.

III. Participation in Official International Competitions

1. The ÖCCV reserves the right to decide to send national teams to the European Cheerleading Championships (ECU) and the World Cheerleading Championships (ICU).
2. The team names "Team Austria" or "National Team" or any variations thereof are reserved for the national teams sent by the ÖCCV.
3. Clubs not member of the ÖCCV may not participate in official international competitions of the ECU or ICU.
4. Every participant (including substitutes) sent or cleared by the ÖCCV for the European Cheerleading Championships (ECU) and the World Cheerleading Championships (ICU) has to be in the possession of a valid official cheerleading pass of the ÖCCV.
5. For official international competitions designed for club teams, the following principles apply:
 - a) The clearance for official international competitions is made by the ÖCCV Managing Board in consultation with those representatives of the ÖCCV responsible for competition regulations, judges & rules
6. For the European Cheerleading Championships (ECU), please note the following:
 - Cheerleading team divisions may only enter Senior Premier, Junior Elite and Youth Advanced.
 - Only divisions with active competitive sports teams in Austria within an ongoing competition season may be sent to the respective European Cheerleading Championships.