



Score Appeal Policy & Form

1. General Information

- 1.1. The Alberta Cheerleading Association's ("ACA") appeal process is intended to prevent errors from reaching the awards ceremony. All coaches can review their deduction sheets before awards are given out for each session.
- 1.2. Confrontation of judges, ACA staff, directors, or event producers is inappropriate. Coaches are not permitted to approach the judges' stand, nor are they allowed to enter the judges' room. Coaches, athletes, parents, etc., may not approach any judges regarding scoring, rules, or competition results. This includes phone calls, text messages, in-person conversations, and social media. Such actions could result in unsportsmanlike conduct deductions, disqualification, or suspension from future ACA-sanctioned competitions.
- 1.3. Coaches can only appeal to the results of their team. Requests for review of other teams' routines will not be tolerated and could result in an unsportsmanlike conduct deduction for the team making the request.

2. Score Appeal Process

- 2.1. Deduction sheets will be ready approximately 15 minutes after a team competes.
- 2.2. Coaches will have 15 minutes from the time their deduction sheet is ready to submit an appeal to challenge legalities and infractions. Failure to submit during this time will void an appeal. Appeal timing may be extended if coaches are with injured athletes at the first aid station or the discretion of the supervisory judge.
- 2.3. Once fully completed, this form must be delivered to the score check judge or, if no score check judge, to the supervisory judge.
- 2.4. The score check judge will review the appeal and complete the results section of the appeal form. If other deductions are discovered while under review, the score check judge reserves the right to add the deductions to the scoresheet. The score check judge will be available to discuss the appeal results upon request.
- 2.5. No protest shall be heard on judgment calls/comparative scoring of a judge.
- 2.6. The supervisory judge is the final score interpreter for categories.
- 2.7. The safety judge is the final decider regarding legality rulings.
- 2.8. The following will automatically void this appeal, and an unsportsmanlike conduct deduction could occur:
 - a) Failure to observe the time limit.
 - b) Approaching or trying to influence a judge's decision.
 - c) Seeking an explanation for someone else's score.
 - d) Deliberate disruptive behaviour by a coach, team, or individual.



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- e) Submitting a false appeal to gain a competitive advantage deliberately (e.g., appealing every infraction in a routine).
- 2.9. For the appeal to be upheld, it must be established that the error made by a judge was the determining factor in penalty points being assessed. Only appeals based on an error in applying the IASF/Cheer Canada/ACA rules or deductions will be considered.
- 2.10. Should a coach request a routine review using video feedback, additional deductions viewed during the review will be deducted from the original run's score. The score check judge (or supervisory judge) is permitted to give legality deductions on Day 2 to teams for skills missed on Day 1. The penalty will be applied to the Day 1 performance, and a warning will be issued for the Day 2 performance if Day 1 and Day 2 are not weighted equally.
- 2.11. Video from each ACA-judged competition will be retained for 14 days. The score check judge may use the event producer's video playback system to make a ruling. The score check judge (or supervisory judge) may elect to share the video playback with the coach, who appeals to provide feedback.
- 2.12. If a coach elects not to appeal but wishes to have a clarification on a deduction, the score check judge will determine if this request can be met at that time. Coaches may be directed to seek clarification after the event by contacting the ACA.
- 2.13. The coach forfeits the opportunity to appeal if the score check judge elects to clarify when no formal appeal has been submitted. If any deductions are viewed during the clarification, no deduction will occur.
- 2.14. The coach who completed the appeal will be notified of the outcome by the score check judge if the coach is present at the score check station after the appeal process.

3. Concerns After the Event

- 3.1. All judging decisions are final. If a coach has a concern regarding the judging results after an event, the following steps should be taken:
 - a) Within **five (5)** days of the competition, submit via email a letter expressing the concerns to the ACA at judging@albertacheerleading.ca and the staff advisor, principal, or gym owner of the program expressing the concern.
 - b) In consultation with the supervisory judge, the ACA will address the concerns in an email within **seven (7)** days after receiving the complaint, after they consult with the judges and persons concerned. This response will also be sent to those individuals copied in the original complaint letter.
 - c) Concerns or complaints must always be addressed in writing. Direct verbal confrontation with the judges, any ACA staff or board members is considered inappropriate, and such actions could result in suspension from future ACA-sanctioned events.



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STEP 1: PROGRAM + COACH INFORMATION *(To be completed by the appealing coach)*

Program: _____ Team Name: _____

Division: _____ Level: _____

Name of Coach: _____ Coach's Cell: _____

STEP 2: APPEAL INFORMATION *(To be completed by the appealing coach)*

Section(s):

- Athlete Bobble
- Athlete Fall
- Building Bobble

Description:

- Building Fall
- Major Building Fall

- Maximum Building Deduction
- Time Limit Violation

- Safety/Rule Violation
- Boundary Violation
- Props

- Game Day Format Violation

NOTE: It is the coach's responsibility to be familiar with the deduction system and to include pertinent information about their routine for their appeal to be considered. Appeals that lack adequate detail may be returned and/or denied.

Signature of Coach: _____ Time of Submission: ____: ____ AM PM

STEP 3: APPEAL RESULTS *(To be completed by the assigned score check or supervisory judge)*

Competition: _____ Day 1 Day 3
 _____ Day 2

Event #: _____

Appeal Accepted Appeal Denied Warning Given Event #: _____ Event #: _____

Notes *(For warnings, provide a detailed explanation, including any specific rules quoted):*

Name of Judge _____ Signature of Judge _____

STEP 4: COACH ACKNOWLEDGEMENT *(To be completed by the appealing coach)*

I acknowledge the appeal results within this form. I understand that if I am receiving a warning based on the information in the notes above, I will no longer receive a warning in the future, and a deduction will stand and/or be issued. I will not be permitted to appeal this deduction.

Signature of Coach _____

Updated: December 19, 2022