



Cheer Canada is moving to a comparative scoring system for all scholastic teams this season. This decision was recommended by Cheer Canada's Scholastic Committee in consultation with the scholastic cheerleading community.

While it marks a significant change to the scoring system for scholastic cheer, the change to comparative will align with the scoring style of the international community, as well as the rest of the Canadian cheer community. Cheer Canada supports the importance of scholastic cheer's unique culture and needs and believes there are many benefits to this change in structure. Cheer Canada believes this style of scoring will best address important considerations of competition: the ability to truly highlight a team's strengths, teams being compared directly to their competition, more freedom to create a routine tailored to a team's skills, and score sheets designed to separate a team from their competition are hallmarks of comparative scoring.

Making this significant change to our scoring system will require training and education. As the rest of Canada's divisions also move to comparative scoring this season, there will be more time and energy spent on educating the Canadian cheer community as a whole on this structure. Although the scoresheets will be different between scholastic and all-star, having one method of scoring style will benefit everyone as we will have consistency across the sport.

For scholastic teams, comparative scoring is still done much the same way as it was with the previous rubric system, with judges scoring specific elements of the routine. The same factors are still used to define good execution and difficult skills at each level. Score sheets and judging panels are divided slightly differently with judges for Building, Tumbling and Overall, Cheer, and Safety categories. One major difference for the comparative scoring system is that scores are not immediately released to coaches, as judges may need to adjust scores up or down as more teams compete in each division, to ensure the correct ranking is achieved.

With comparative scoring, the rankings become more important than the numerical score, which can change significantly from day to day and event to event, as teams are compared against others in their division, and level, at any given event. Unlike the rubric system where a score out of 10 could only be a given score between 9.0-10, the comparative system allows judges to use the full range from 0-10. Teams should expect scores to be lower and scores to be more spread out under this system. There are no required elements or skills, no defined ratios or numbers of skills. This scoring system allows a coach more flexibility to create a routine that highlights their team's strengths.

Deductions for execution errors such as falls and safety/rule infractions carry a greater weight under this comparative system, in part due to the larger range of points available. For example, a major building fall, where a top person lands on the floor, carried a 1.25 deduction in the rubric system. With comparative scoring, it will result in a 3.0 point deduction. As with last year, the Cheer Canada Scholastic Rules rules will apply to all Canadian Scholastic teams.

Please note: The following information applies to elementary through secondary schools only. Post Secondary scoring information will be provided in a separate document.

## **Scholastic Score Sheets Overview:**

### **Building:**

For Scholastic teams, this scoring system places a heavy emphasis on stunt and pyramid elements, with 45 of the possible 100 points applied to the building score sheet.

Stunt difficulty is out of 10, while pyramid difficulty is out of 5. Execution is worth 10 points for both pyramids and stunts. The goal of this weighting is to emphasize developing proper technique for our scholastic athletes.

If basket tosses are executed, they will be considered under stunts for both difficulty and execution.

An additional 5 points are included for building overall impression, which considers the creativity, transitions and flow of all of the building skills.

### **Tumbling and Overall:**

The tumbling and overall score sheet carries 25 points: 5 points each for jumps (difficulty and execution are combined); 5 for tumbling difficulty and 5 for tumbling execution (running and standing tumbling are both considered in this score). The overall portion of this score sheet includes 5 points for dance and motions execution, and 5 points for overall impression.

For non-tumbling teams, this score sheet still carries 25 points but they are redistributed, with jump difficulty and execution worth 10 points, dance and motions execution also worth 10 points and overall impression worth 5 points.

### **Cheer:**

The cheer score sheet carries a total of 30 points, a significant increase from last season. It has 5 points for each of the following categories: effective material; use of props; crowd leading/energy; skill incorporation; skill execution, and new this year: cheer overall impression. Note that any skills executed during the cheer portion will only be scored on this sheet and will not count towards the building or tumbling and overall scoresheets. If a category is not included (ie Use of Props) scores of zero can be given.