

## Q&A: Varsity Spirit/NFHS Squad Credentialing Program

**1. Why did we create the Varsity Spirit/NFHS Squad Credentialing program?**

We developed the program to ensure that cheerleaders and coaches understand the role of the cheerleader and the importance of safety. The program was created in collaboration with the National Federation and is comparable to some of their existing courses. Because this is so important to us, this program will be implemented at Varsity Spirit camps this summer, and will be a requirement for participation at UCA's National High School Cheerleading Championship beginning in 2017.

**2. What does this mean for teams who attend our camps, competitions and nationals?**

This program will be implemented at Varsity Spirit camps this summer (UCA, NCA, USA, V!ROC and Premier camps), and will be a requirement for participation at UCA's National High School Cheerleading Championship (NHSCC) beginning in 2017. The Squad Credentialing program applies to all school, youth, club and rec teams that compete at the NHSCC.

**3. Can a team that didn't go to a Varsity Spirit camp compete at a local UCA Competition?**

Yes, but they will not be eligible to receive a bid to UCA's National High School Cheerleading Championship.

**4. What camps will provide Squad Credentialing?**

All Varsity Spirit overnight camps, resort camps, home camps, and day camps that are **at least two days long**. Instruction time must be long enough for all elements of credentialing to be taught. Squad credentialing will not be provided at clinics or one day camps. Squad Credentialing at any Varsity Spirit brand camp (UCA, NCA, USA, V!ROC and Premier Camps) will meet the requirement for participation at the 2017 National High School Cheerleading Championship. For instance, a team could go to NCA summer camp and this would grant them eligibility for the 2017 UCA NHSCC.

**5. What will the Squad Credentialing program be like at camp?**

Camp attendees will be required to complete a five-part checklist that will cover their role as crowd leaders, spirit raisers, ambassadors, athletes and entertainers, with an emphasis on leadership and safety.

**6. At what point during camp does it happen?**

It will happen throughout camp, in Game Day Training, Stunt Class, etc., and be indicated on the schedule. See a sample schedule [here](#).

**7. How many squad members need to attend camp?** We require that 75% of the members competing must have completed Squad Credentialing.

**8. If my mascot competes in National High School Cheerleading Championship GAME DAY, do they need credentialing?** Yes, mascots fall under the 75% requirement, and are required to have attended Squad Credentialing.

**9. What is the benefit of being credentialed?**

We believe this program will help us all to elevate the profile of cheerleaders, whether on campus, at a game or representing your school for any occasion. It will also certify that all cheerleaders understand their role, and are knowledgeable about cheerleading safety.

**10. Why is it only a requirement for UCA Nationals, but not for NCA or USA Nationals?**

It's required for UCA's National High School Cheerleading Championship because this national championship is the only one that is endorsed by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS). While credentialing is not a mandated requirement for the 2017 NCA or USA Nationals, it is strongly encouraged to go to camp to get the insights for success at competition.