

Saskatchewan Cheerleading Association

Cheer Coaches Certification Policy



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Saskatchewan Cheerleading Association

Cheer Coaches Certification Policy

Cheer General Information

Our certification process focuses on safety to ensure our athletes receive the best instruction possible and to align with the insurance we provide our members. It is mandatory that ALL coaches are certified through the SCA up until Cheer Canada gives clear or definite instruction. Coaches must be at least sixteen years of age to become certified, with some exceptions.

The following courses and documents are mandatory for all SCA cheer coaches to be considered certified:

1. Valid Coach SCA/Cheer Canada Membership
2. Valid First Aid and CPR: Only certificates from Canadian Red Cross or St. John's Ambulance are accepted.
3. Enhanced Criminal Record with Vulnerable Sector Check within 2 years (for coaches 18+ years old).
4. SCA Online Exam
5. In-Person SCA Exams
6. Respect in Sport
7. NCCP Courses
 - Making Headway
 - Emergency Action Planning
 - Safe Sport
 - Rule of Two
 - Planning a Practice
 - Making Ethical Decisions

Coaches will not be considered "SCA certified" until documentation is provided proving all requirements have been met.

All required coaching credentials must be met and uploaded into the respective coaches' SportLomo accounts by October 31 of the current fiscal year.

Coaches who fail to complete certification/re-certification will be subject to fines.

1 -Valid Membership - SportLomo

Coaches and CITs must purchase a "coach" memberships ONCE for the fiscal year of July 1 to June 30.

2 - First Aid Training

All coaches must complete valid first aid training. Only certificates from Canadian Red Cross or St. John's Ambulance are accepted.

Please be informed that the **SIPAC course is no longer considered valid first aid certification**. However, coaches who have completed the SIPAC course within the last three years will have until October 2026 to complete valid first aid training.

Please note that any previous exemptions with the SCA for coaching requirements (e.g., registered nurses not needing First Aid/CPR) will likely no longer be valid, as Cheer Canada is standardizing all coach certifications.

3 - Enhanced Criminal Record with Vulnerable Sector Check

All coaches 18 years of age and older must provide an enhanced criminal record with vulnerable sector check. The check must have been completed within the past two-years. There are many ways to do this, and the easiest method is to Google and search for how to obtain a criminal record check in your area.

4 - SCA Online Exams

Introduction to Coaching Online Exam

Introduction to Coaching is required for all coaches (cheer and performance cheer) as well as CITs. There are eight parts to this exam. Each part of the exam has a power point to read prior to answering questions relevant to that part. The exam is open book, and as such, you can reference the power points and any other any materials you wish while completing it.

All Star Coaches

All star cheer coaches must complete the all star cheer general general safety exam along with each level exam up to the level you are coaching. For example, a level 3 coach must pass the cheer general safety exam, cheer rules exam level 1, level 2 and level 3. In addition, all first year coaches are required to pass the "Introduction to Cheerleading" exam.

School Coaches

School cheer coaches must complete the scholastic cheer general general safety exam along with each division exam up to the division you are coaching. For example, if you are coaching an intermediate team, you must pass the cheer general safety exam, beginner division exam, novice division exam and intermediate division exam. In addition, all first year coaches are required to pass the "Introduction to Cheerleading" exam.

The SCA reviews the safety exams annually. The online safety exams do not expire, however should the exams be updated due to significant changes in the rules, coaches will be informed that they must re-take the online safety exams.

The SCA requires coaches to complete the exam independently. This is because coaches are getting the certification as individuals, and even though coaches may have a partner in coaching, we as an organization need to know our coaches are knowledgeable to coach safely on their own.

5 – In-Person SCA Exams

Coaches must complete the SCA in-person certification exam(s). This is a one-on-one exam between the coach and an SCA certified examiner. The examiner will ask the coach a series of stunt and tumbling based instruction questions within the leveled/divisional parameters. For example, the all star level 1 SCA exam will consist of questions surrounding the instruction of level 1 stunts and tumbling skills. The examiner is looking for answers that demonstrate the coach's knowledge of how to safely and successfully teach athletes the at-level-skills for the level/division being tested. Coaches will be informed of their success rate at the end of the exam. The SCA certifies up to all star level 6 and Scholastic University Premier. **SCA one-on-one exams expire after 3 years.**

Coaches who are **new** must certify by progression, meaning they must be successful at level 1 prior to proceeding to level 2 certification, and so on. Coaches who are **re-certifying** may either re-certify at their current level or challenge the exam above the level at which they are certified. Certified coaches **DO NOT** need to complete all of the exams in progression.

The tumbling and stunt sections of each exam are separate; therefore, a coach can be successful in one area and still be considered certified for that area. For example, a coach who passes the tumbling section of an exam, but fails the stunt section, is considered certified in tumbling for that level, but not stunting. In this example, the coach may continue to coach tumbling skills, but must be supervised by a certified coach to instruct stunting skills for that level.

Coaches suspected of cheating during their one-on-one exams will be asked to do a follow up session and answer additional level appropriate questions. A second examiner will sit in on follow up sessions to ensure consistency.

6 – Respect in Sport

The Respect in Sport Activity Leader Program educates youth leaders, coaches, and officials to recognize, understand and respond to issues of bullying, abuse, harassment and discrimination (BAHD). Sask Sport Inc., along with the support of the Saskatchewan Government, has launched this required program for Coaches in the province to help to provide a safer and more respectful sporting environment for all to participate. The SCA, along with Sask Sport, requires **all coaches** within our membership to complete this course. The online training program is being provided free of charge for all users.

7 – NCCP Requirements For All Star, Scholastic, and Performance Coaches

- Making Headway
- Emergency Action Planning
- Safe Sport
- Rule of Two
- Planning a Practice
- Making Ethical Decisions

Tumbling Coaches – Valid in Saskatchewan Only

Tumbling coaches who have *NCCP certification in gymnastics*, minimum of a competition 2 (Artistic) or level 2 (T&T), are not required to complete the SCA portion of certification. NCCP credentials must be provided to the SCA. Tumbling coaches are still required to complete their respect in sport, concussion training and first aid. Upon proof of NCCP certification, RIS, concussion training and first aid, tumbling coaches will be considered SCA certified. Tumbling coaches who have not completed the SCA portion of the certification are restricted to only coaching tumbling skills.

Junior Coaches

To qualify to be a junior coach you must be at least 14 years old. Junior coaches must become certified under the SCA coaching certification program. Junior coaches are limited to Level 1/Novice certification and may not coach unsupervised above the U8 and Elementary age divisions.

Coaches-In-Training

To qualify to be a coach in training you must be at least 12 years old. All coaches in training must be accompanied at ALL times by a SCA certified coach. All coaches in training over the age of 16 are limited to 2 years under this program at which time they must become certified under the SCA coaching certification program.

All coaches in training must complete the following before assisting in any practices:

1. Valid Coach SCA/Cheer Canada Membership
2. NCCP Making Headway
3. NCCP Rule of Two
4. Respect in Sport
5. Introduction to Coaching Online Exam

CITs will not be considered “SCA qualified” until documentation is provided proving all requirements have been met.

Failure to Certify

New coaches/junior coaches (not CITs) who fail to complete certification by December 1st of the current season will individually be subject to a \$100 fine for failing to complete their certification in a timely manner. In addition, coaches actively coaching in Saskatchewan without certification will result in coach ineligibility at SCA sanctioned events until certification is completed. In some cases, coaches will be subject to loss of coaching membership.

Failure to Re-Certify

Certified coaches that consecutively coach for 4 years (ie throughout their certification expiration date) and fail to renew their certification by December 1st of the current season will individually be subject to a \$250 fine for failing to complete their re certification in a timely manner. This includes any portion of their certification that can be subject to renewal under the current SCA coaching certification program (updated 2020). In addition, coaches actively coaching in Saskatchewan without certification will result in coach ineligibility at SCA sanctioned events until certification is completed. Coaches will receive 1 email reminder no later than September 1st of the current season to renew their certification, but ultimately it will be up to the coach to track and be responsible for their own certification. Coaches with questions about the status of their certification may email membership@sca.ca for an update at any time

Member Organizations: Fine for Allowing Uncertified Coach at Practice

SCA member organizations (clubs and schools) that allow uncertified coaches at practice after December 1st of the current season will be subject to a fine of \$250 per incident/coach.

Records

The SCA will maintain an up-to-date list of all SCA certified coaches. Coaches will be informed when their certification expiration is approaching. It is the responsibility of individual coaches to maintain their own accurate records. **All required coaching credentials must be met and uploaded into the respective coaches' SportLomo accounts by October 31 of the current fiscal year.**

Coaches' Certification Examiners

The SCA shall maintain a list of qualified certification examiners for the cheer in-person exams. Examiners shall submit an application form (appendix A) and that application shall be submitted to a committee of peers selected by the SCA board for review. If deemed necessary, the committee may request a formal interview with the applicant. After the review, the committee will vote on whether they see the applicant fit to examine and certify cheer coaches from levels 1 to 6 (Not all examiners will examine all levels). Examiners are expected to be fair, unbiased and truthful during their evaluations. Examiners are given an honorarium of \$50/hour for their time.

Appendix A - Coaches' Certification Examiner Application Form

Overview

Thank-you for your interest in becoming an SCA coaches' certification examiner. Your application shall be submitted to a committee of peers selected by the SCA board for review. If deemed necessary, the committee may request a formal interview with you. After the review, the committee will vote on whether or not they see you fit to examine and certify cheer coaches from levels 1 to 6. As an examiner it is expected that you will remain fair, unbiased and truthful during your evaluations. Examiners are given an honorarium of \$50/hour for their time.

Applicant Information	
Name:	
Program/School/Club:	Signature
Address:	
City/Town:	Phone:
Postal Code:	Email:
Applicant Experience	
Please list any relevant cheerleading, dance, tumbling, coaching and/or judging experience that can be considered an asset as an examiner. Please include any of your current or past coaching credentials.	
Are there any conflicts of interest that might be an issue if you are successful?	
As an examiner you will be called on a minimum of three times a year where we will require your services. Are you willing to prioritize these occasions?	
Submit to: Saskatchewan Cheerleading Association C/O Alissa Stewart, Executive Director 7103 Maple Valley Cres., Regina, SK S4X 0B2 Email: Executivedirector@sca.ca (preferred)	