

Saskatchewan Cheerleading Association

Performance Cheer Coaches Certification Policy



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Saskatchewan Cheerleading Association

Performance Cheer Coaches Certification Policy

Performance 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. Coaches must be at least sixteen years of age to become certified, with some exceptions.

The following courses and documentation are mandatory for all SCA performance 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 Exams
5. Respect in Sport
6. 50 hours proof of performance cheer/dance training and/or instruction experience (letter of reference)
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

There are many SCA online exams required for performance cheer coaches. The SCA dance coaches' certification exams are in five sections and are available online (www.sca.ca).

The first section, "Introduction to Coaching", is mandatory for all first-year coaches and recommended for all previously certified coaches. The "Intro to Coaching" includes a power-point presentation, which can be helpful through-out the remaining exams.

Next is the "Rules and Safety" section for All Star and Scholastic – Coaches must complete the exam(s) for the appropriate team(s) they are coaching.

The final section is "Skills and Scoring". This applies to the three categories currently offered by Cheer Canada and the SCA: Pom, Jazz and Hip Hop. Coaches must complete the exam(s) for the appropriate team(s) they are coaching. Coaches must only be successful in the category they will be coaching; however, the exam fee will include all categories. It is recommended that all dance coaches certify in all categories, allowing them to coach all disciplines. Coaches are not required to take additional categories if they are not coaching that category.

Type of Coach	Required Exams
Scholastic Pom	1) Scholastic Rules and Safety 2) Pom Skills and Scoring
Scholastic Jazz	1) Scholastic Rules and Safety 2) Jazz Skills and Scoring
Scholastic Hip Hop	1) Scholastic Rules and Safety 2) Hip Hop Skills and Scoring
All Star Pom	1) All Star Rules and Safety 2) Pom Skills and Scoring
All Star Jazz	1) All Star Rules and Safety 2) Jazz Skills and Scoring
All Star Hip Hop	1) All Star Rules and Safety 2) Hip Hop Skills and Scoring

The SCA Dance Coaches Online Certification Exams expire after three years. Re-certification will only require coaches to complete the "Rules and Safety" exam(s) for all star and/or scholastic, depending on the teams they are coaching. This is because coaches who are re-certifying have previously demonstrated their knowledge of skills and scoring in their given categories.

The SCA requires dance coaches to complete the exams 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 – 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.

6 - 50 Hours Proof of Experience

Performance cheer coaches must submit 50 hours proof of dance (performance cheer) training and/or instruction experience (letter of reference, instructor credentials, certificate/degree, etc.). This can be emailed to membership@sca.ca

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

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 may not coach unsupervised above the U8 and Primary 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 (i.e. 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 executivedirector@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.**