

## Overall Performance

- Are transitions seamless, does one thing blend right into the next or are there too many 8 counts between skills.
- A general rule of thumb to remember is that athletes should not cross from one side of the floor to another unless they are tumbling. When athletes have to run clear across the floor and scramble to their spot, the judges are noticing.
- Sportsmanship of the squad as they perform is important. Judges are looking for athletes who appear to be having fun while not drawing attention to themselves with slashing or excessive rallying.
- Team uniformity- does everyone look the same from hair bow to socks?
- Does music enhance and fit the skills performed in the routine? Sound effects can take away from the pleasure of the performance if used incorrectly or if used too much. Using too many clips of music is a common mistake made by coaches. Clips of music should run for 3 - 4 eight counts to help establish continuity in the routine.

# GameTime Choreography

## Sidelines

Is it time to update your team's sidelines and cheers? Here are a few tips to make sure your team is looking good and current on the sidelines!

Sidelines should consist of easy motions that help to encourage your crowd to yell back with you. Sidelines do not require a motion on every single word. This can make a sideline very busy which makes your crowd watch you and not yell with you.

Let your cheerleaders make up some of the motions. Put them into groups of 3 or 4 and give them a few sidelines each to revamp and have the groups share with each other. This can be fun for the kids and gets them involved in teamwork.

Ripples can be great for yelling chants with your school letters and will help encourage the crowd to follow along.

Using signs in sidelines is a very effective way to get your crowd to yell with you!

## Cheers

Remember that the ultimate purpose of the cheer is for your crowd to yell back with you. Cheers are great for timeouts when there is a break in the action, and the crowd is now focused on you!

Use stunts with signs, so the crowd knows what to yell back! Make sure they are stunts that will hit every time.

Keep the words SIMPLE! Crowds are not likely to yell complex words or phrases.

Remember to keep the energy level high with your cheerleaders, or the crowd will overlook them.

Be sure to get your Pep Band involved, so they can help lead the cheers with different drum beats!

## Timeout Performances

Timeout performances are a great time to showcase your team's hard work. The most important thing about a timeout performance is making sure everything hits. This is not the time to throw in your most difficult stunts or tumbling. This should be a fun performance that is set up for success in front of the student body and parents.

Make it clean, sharp, and visual! Your kids should walk off the field or floor after their performance feeling good and not embarrassed. Timeout performances are not judged by cheerleading experts, so difficult skills are not needed! The crowd does not know the difference in the number of bases used but will notice if someone falls to the ground.

Use music that will get your audience engaged. This is much different than a competition performance that is designed to enhance your routine. This is for your audience! Popular music at the time is perfect for school performances but may not be the best for a crowd full of parents.

Make up a routine that can be performed to any music at any time!

Do not make these performances over 1 min and 30 sec. These should be short, fun, and geared toward your audience!