2017 NZCU Judges Training & Certification

The NZCU wants to grow our judging pool and train and qualify more judges in 2017. We are committed not only to having the most qualified and experienced judges being booked by Event Producers, but to finding new judges and providing training that gives them a thorough education and necessary experience.

To qualify as a NZCU judge you must be 18 years of age to earn your certification and have experience in the sport of cheerleading as a coach and/or athlete. Judges must not judge at Events within the current season where they have had involvement with any team or individual.

New Judges will be required to attend training where they will learn and be trained in all categories of the approved scoring systems for NZCU Member Events, and complete Practical Evaluations for the scoresheet(s) of the categories for which they would like to receive certification. These will be used by the NZCU in addition to a written exam, instructor feedback and performance during the course, to certify course participants at one of three levels of certification.

Certification levels are based on the following criteria and are used by Event Organizers, along with reliability rankings, when booking judges to place you in the most successful judging situations:

**Intern Certification**
suggests you should experience more judging alongside nationally trained judges as well as more training in order to be a successful judge. You will be invited to shadow judge at Events throughout the year. Intern Judges will need to successfully shadow judge a minimum of 2 events within a season on one category, and submit a final Practical Evaluation before qualifying as a Standard Certification Judge.

**Standard Certification**
suggests you judge at regional events & specialize in only one category. Standard Judges must successfully judge a minimum of 2 events within a season and pass another category via Practical Evaluation to qualify as a Fully Certified Judge.

**Full Certification**
means you have the experience and skills to judge at all levels including national and international competitions & specializes in more than one category. Only Judges with Full Certification can be a Deduction, Safety and/or Head Judge.

Judges with existing experience in judging outside the NZCU can apply for certification with exemption from attending training sessions by sending a CV with detail of experience, qualifications and providing referees.

Once a Judge is certified by the NZCU they will retain that level of certification and will not be required to renew their certification yearly or attend yearly training, unless new scoring systems are being used at NZCU Events or they wish to qualify at the next level of certification. Existing judges need to update and send their CV yearly.

All judges - existing, experienced and new - must ensure they commit themselves to maintaining
and improving their skills in judging and are encouraged to make the most of any opportunities, and investing in their personal development as a judge.

**2017 NZCU Judges Courses - Presented by Leigh Lemmen (Varsity) and Pip Faulknor (UCA)**

The NZCU Judges Training will be completed via skype with separate sessions for New and Existing Judges. For 2017 the approved scoring systems for use at all NZCU Member Events are the Varsity Scoring System and the UCA Scoring System (approved for University Divisions only).

**NEW JUDGES: SUNDAY 7 MAY 11.30am-1.30pm**

New Judges will be sent study material which will not be covered in the course but will be on the written test; and upon completion of the course you need to email in your Practical Evaluation sheets and written test which will be used to assess your level of certification.

New judges will be trained in the Varsity Scoring System only.

**EXISTING JUDGES: SUNDAY 7 MAY 2.30-4.30pm (Varsity 2.30-3.30pm; UCA 3.30-4.30pm)**

As new scoring systems are being introduced for NZCU events in 2017 all existing judges are required to receive training in both the Varsity and UCA Scoring Systems. The sessions have been designed to take into account your experience and knowledge. We won’t require Practical Evaluations from you. Any existing judges who have already received training and/or experience judging one or both of these systems, and can provide proof of this, will not required to attend the related session.

In an effort to build up the judging community the Training and Certification will be offered for **FREE** to NZCU Members who meet the following conditions.

- You must be available to judge (or intern judge if you obtain an Intern Certification) at least 2 NZCU Member Events as listed on the registration form, however this does not guarantee you a position as a judge at these events
- You are a current NZCU Member and have no outstanding fees

The cost for Non-Members is $150 for judges. Note: Annual NZCU Judges Memberships are $10 and can be applied for via [www.nzcu.org](http://www.nzcu.org)

To register please email [pip@nzcu.org](mailto:pip@nzcu.org) before Sunday 30 April indicating your judging status (ie – New or Existing – Intern, Standard or Full) and which NZCU events you are available to judge at for this season. Please attach a updated CV and provide evidence required for any exemptions you qualify for.

**2017 NZCU EVENT CALENDAR**

- 1 July – Cheerfest, Auckland
- 9 July – United Cheer, Wellington
- 5 August – Battle in the Bay, Tauranga
- 26 August, Ministry of Cheer, Wellington
- 23/24 September – Cheerfactor, Auckland
- 28/29 October – NZCU Nationals, Wellington