



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 11, 2017**

## **SPORTCHEER WALES TEAM WALES DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

### **Welsh Cheer Coaches Information Release.**

Following the successes of team Wales at the International Cheer Union (ICU) world championships, the management committee has met to discuss the future of the teams and the development plan for team Wales.

The SportCheer Wales management team would like to inform all athletes and coaches of the following;

1. The Team Wales unified cheer team will continue to attend ICU world championships every other year and will be open to athletes aged 14+ in 2019 and will compete with USASF level 5 equivalency.
2. The inaugural Team Wales junior unified cheer team will be open to athletes aged 12-16 in 2019 and will compete with USASF level 4 equivalency.
3. Team Wales unified Paracheer team will be open to athletes aged 14+ and will compete at USASF level 4 equivalency (with Paracheer rule modifications)
4. Athletes interested in representing the country will be encouraged to attend development lessons over the next year to assist them with developing their skills and work with external coaches. These lessons will be voluntary and chargeable to the athlete, but will be a starting point for expressing interest in the team/s. However, attendance does not confirm a place on either team. timetable to follow.
5. Crossovers within cheer divisions will be allowed and encouraged for all athletes with the appropriate skill set for that division.
6. In competitive years where a unified cheer team is not sent to represent the country, cheer teams that have secured a USASF worlds bid may have the opportunity to represent the country. In cases where this could be more

than one team, a decision will be made by impartial external judges to choose between teams that have expressed an interest.

7. Athlete Crossovers between team Wales cheer and dance divisions will not be allowed at ICU worlds.

8. Paracheer unified Pom dance will compete at ICU world championships in 2018 and 2019 in defence of the world title that is currently held by Wales.

9. The representatives for team Wales dance categories (excluding Paracheer unified freestyle Pom, Paracheer unified team hip hop cheer and team cheer hip hop) will be a team that has received a USASF worlds bid. In cases where this could be more than one team, a decision will be made by impartial external judges to choose between teams that have expressed interest.

10. If a dance team has secured a USASF worlds bid, and does not have the required number of athletes for ICU worlds - ICU currently allows the teams to compete in the categories but places a 35-point deduction on the scoresheet for the decreased number of athletes. If this continues to be allowed by ICU worlds organisers, teams will be able to represent the country, but all athletes should be aware of this restriction prior to registration of the team.

11. Crossovers will be allowed and encouraged between all dance divisions depending on USASF bid status. Crossovers to Paracheer unified Pom dance are encouraged for dancers attending as part of the team Wales representation.

12. Existing senior hip hop teams can request consideration to represent Wales as the Wales cheer hip hop team. External impartial judges will be utilised to decide on every application.

13. Existing junior hip hop teams can request consideration to represent Wales as the Wales cheer hip hop team. External impartial judges will be utilised to decide on every application. There will be no opportunity for a junior team to represent Wales until the 2019 competitive year.

14. Existing junior freestyle Pom teams can request consideration to represent Wales as the Junior team Wales freestyle Pom team. External impartial

judges will be utilised to decide on every application. There will be no opportunity for a junior team to represent Wales until the 2019 competitive year.

15. Athletes age 14+ attending as any of the team Wales dance teams are invited to express interest in representing Wales as a doubles team cheer hip hop or doubles team freestyle Pom. External impartial judges will be utilised to decide on every application. Where no applications are made, the management team reserve the right to offer the opportunity to athletes they have selected.

*Please note the following additions to the above.*

- A. Teams will only be fielded where there are sufficient numbers of athletes with the appropriate skill level.*
- B. Team Wales athletes are expected to travel together under one plan to ensure good inter team relationships and bonding. This will be reviewed as Welsh Allstar teams accept bids to USASF worlds and athletes have different requirements under their own programme.*
- C. All cheer routines are performed on a tri foam floor, skills executed will need to be performed on a similar flooring (not a sprung)*
- D. Where applicable, athletes competing only in Paracheer teams will be given the opportunity to cross over from the team Wales unified Paracheer team to Paracheer unified Pom dance. This exception is given as Paracheer divisions currently operate within one round, so the demand upon the athletes is decreased.*