



July 1, 2017

Dear Committee on Women's Athletics:

The American Association of Cheerleading Coaches and Administrators (AACCA) fully supports the efforts by USA Cheer to add STUNT as an NCAA emerging sport.

As the nation's premier cheerleading safety organization, we have worked closely with USA Cheer to advise them on safety standards and strategies. As the skills used in STUNT come from cheerleading, we support their requirements that coaches are AACCA safety certified, and that they follow the standard of care we have set forth. Further, we have been impressed with the safety outcomes for STUNT athletes, and attribute the outstanding safety record to using the cheerleading skillset combined with the routine level and skill modification strategies that are unique to the STUNT game strategy.

Representing over 20,000 high school and college coaches, we also believe that adding STUNT as an emerging sport will provide additional opportunities for women to participate in athletics and gain the important educational benefits that come with participating not only in intercollegiate athletics, but at the grass roots and high school level as well.

With cheerleading rosters, we are often limited and turn away countless talented and interested young women. Cheerleading also requires a commitment to crowd involvement and support of other athletes at their games. STUNT provides an opportunity for those athletes who may not be interested in leading a crowd, or those who may not make a cheerleading roster to participate in athletics at the high school and college levels.

At the college level, most college cheerleading programs are coed, which uses different techniques than "all girl" cheerleading found in most high school and all star programs. STUNT creates a great opportunity for these outstanding athletes to continue participating in their sport of choice.

We at AACCA fully support the efforts of USA Cheer to secure NCAA emerging sport status for STUNT and urge the Committee on Women's Athletics to approve their proposal for formal designation.

Sincerely,

Jim Lord, Executive Director