



May 04, 2020

VIA EMAIL

Lauri Harris  
Executive Director  
USA Cheer

Dear Lauri Harris and Colleagues:

On behalf of the NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics, thank you for joining the videoconference on April 15, 2020, to discuss the application to add STUNT to the NCAA Emerging Sports for Women program. The committee appreciated the opportunity to discuss the application, the Emerging Sports for Women program and ways the committee can provide support as you continue to engage in the process.

I am pleased to inform you that the committee, after careful consideration of the information presented, recommended that all three divisions of the NCAA governance structure add STUNT as an NCAA emerging sport. Pursuant to governance and legislative processes, each division will determine independently if STUNT will be added to the division's Emerging Sports for Women list and legislation, as well as an effective date, based on the philosophical, strategic, operational and financial priorities of each division.

**Feedback on Application**

In its thorough review of your application, the committee provided the following feedback to assist as you continue to engage in the process. The feedback is for your information and use. You are not required to respond at this time; however, the committee is likely to continue to review the feedback with you if STUNT is adopted as an emerging sport by any of the NCAA divisions.

***Notes of Commendation:***

1. The Committee on Women's Athletics noted the continued growth in high school STUNT sponsorship and participation, steady increase in the number of NCAA member institutions sponsoring STUNT, and support from the sport's national governing body as compelling rationale to include STUNT as an emerging sport for women. The committee further noted the relatively low cost of sponsoring the sport and the opportunity for the sport to enrich sponsoring institutions' enrollment management strategies. STUNT provides participation opportunities for female student-athletes of all body types and diverse sport backgrounds (e.g., power lifting, gymnastics), as well as opportunities for female sport administrators, coaches and officials.

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STUNT leadership demonstrated that current STUNT programs are fully integrated into athletics departments as stand-alone programs, the experience of a STUNT student-athlete is comparable to the experience of student-athletes who compete in NCAA sports, and the sport's organizational structure and sport rules are consistent with NCAA values and legislation.

2. The committee noted that STUNT met the requirement that a minimum of 20 varsity teams and/or competitive club teams existed at NCAA member institutions during the 2019-20 academic year and competed in a minimum of five contests (or were scheduled to compete in a minimum of five contests but for the COVID-19 pandemic).
3. The committee noted that the leaders of STUNT thoroughly responded with updates to the committee's feedback provided in the February 28, 2020, letter and appropriately resolved any outstanding questions regarding the viability of STUNT as a potential NCAA emerging sport.

### ***Opportunities for Enhancement/Consideration***

1. The committee encouraged the leaders of STUNT to continue sport sponsorship efforts with NCAA institutions and conferences located in the northeast.

### **Timeline for 2021 Legislative Cycle**

Below are divisional calendars of the 2021 legislative cycle. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 legislative cycle and actions may be adjusted based on the philosophical, strategic, operational and financial priorities of each division. Over the course of the 2021 legislative cycle, Jean Merrill will provide you status updates on STUNT as a possible emerging sport for women in each division and will connect you with NCAA staff and committee representatives, as needed.

- a. [Division I](#) (Note: The calendar for the 2021 Division I legislative cycle is not yet available. The link provided is to the 2020 Division I legislative cycle and is meant only to serve as a reference.)
- b. [Division II](#)
- c. [Division III](#)

In closing, please contact [Jean Merrill](#) at 317-966-6440 if you have any questions. The committee offers sincere congratulations on developing STUNT as a potential emerging sport for women and looks forward to working with you in this next phase of the process.

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Sincerely,

*Denise Udelhofen*

Denise Udelhofen  
Chair, NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics  
Director of Athletics, Loras College

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cc: John Kietzmann  
Selected NCAA Staff Members