



CHEERSPORT

I R E L A N D

ATHLETE TRANSFER POLICY

2026/2027

CHEER SPORT IRELAND

ATHLETE TRANSFER POLICY

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish a fair and consistent process for athletes joining or transferring between Cheer Sport Ireland member clubs.

This policy aims to protect athlete welfare, support freedom of participation and maintain fairness between member clubs throughout the competitive season.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All athletes registered with Cheer Sport Ireland.
- All Cheer Sport Ireland member clubs.
- Athletes joining a Cheer Sport Ireland member club for the first time.
- Athletes transferring from one Cheer Sport Ireland member club to another.

3. New Athletes

An athlete who is not currently registered with another Cheer Sport Ireland member club may join a member club at any point during the season.

Once the athlete has completed all required registration, membership and insurance requirements, they may train and compete with the new club immediately.

No competitive waiting period will apply to athletes who are joining a Cheer Sport Ireland member club for the first time or who are not transferring directly from another member club.

4. Transfer Between Member Clubs

New Amendment –

Free Transfer Window

Between 1 June and 31 August (inclusive) of each calendar year, a Free Transfer Window shall apply. During this period, any athlete registered with a Cheer Sport Ireland member club may transfer to another Cheer Sport Ireland member club and, once the transfer has been processed, shall be immediately eligible to compete for their new club with no competitive restriction.

Where a transfer takes place between 1 September and 31 May the following year (in the same season), the athlete shall be subject to a three month competition restriction commencing on the official transfer date recorded by Cheer Sport Ireland. During this restriction the athlete may train with the new club, participate in unofficial or non-sanctioned events, and take part in all club activities, but shall not compete in any official competitive event until the three-month restriction has expired.

The athlete's existing Cheer Sport Ireland membership and insurance will transfer with them to the new member club, subject to the completion of the required transfer process.

During this three-month period, the athlete may:

- Register with the new club.
- Attend training with the new club.
- Participate in non-competitive club activities.
- Prepare for future competitions.

The athlete may not represent or compete for the new member club at a competition until the three-month waiting period has expired.

The waiting period will begin from the athlete's official transfer date as recorded by Cheer Sport Ireland.

All transfers whether in the free transfer window/or in the restricted window must be completed online. Members clubs are obliged to inform the athlete/parents/guardians of this obligation.

Transfer Form can be found at <http://www.irishcheerleading.com/transfers>

5. Exceptions to the Competitive Waiting Period

The three-month competitive waiting period will not apply in the following circumstances.

5.1 Athlete Welfare or Abuse

Where an athlete has left their previous member club because of alleged or confirmed abuse, mistreatment, bullying, harassment, safeguarding concerns or circumstances that may place the athlete's welfare at risk, the athlete may transfer to another member club without a competitive waiting period.

Cheer Sport Ireland may request sufficient information to confirm that the transfer is being made for genuine athlete welfare or safeguarding reasons.

The athlete will not be required to provide unnecessary or distressing details beyond what is reasonably required to assess the exemption. Any information provided will be handled sensitively and in accordance with Cheer Sport Ireland's safeguarding and confidentiality procedures.

Where appropriate, the matter may also be referred to the relevant safeguarding officer or statutory authority.

6. Transfer Application Process

The athlete, or the athlete's parent or guardian where the athlete is under 18, must notify Cheer Sport Ireland of the proposed transfer.

NEW: All transfers must be submitted using the official Athlete Transfer Form available on the Cheer Sport Ireland website. The athlete (or parent/guardian) must identify the club they are leaving and the club they are joining. Upon receipt, Cheer Sport Ireland will notify both clubs. The date the completed form is received by Cheer Sport Ireland will be deemed the official transfer date and, where applicable, the three-month competition restriction will commence from that date.

The transfer request should include:

- The athlete's full name.
- The athlete's Cheer Sport Ireland membership details.
- The name of the previous member club.
- The name of the new member club.
- The proposed transfer date.
- Whether an exemption from the waiting period is being requested.
- Any supporting information reasonably required to assess an exemption.

Both member clubs will be notified when the transfer has been processed.

The previous member club may provide relevant factual information concerning the athlete's registration, choreography status or competition participation. However, a member club may not unreasonably prevent an athlete from transferring.

7. Effective Transfer Date

The effective transfer date will be the date on which Cheer Sport Ireland confirms that the transfer has been completed.

An athlete must not compete for the new member club before:

- The transfer has been formally recorded.
- The athlete's membership and insurance are confirmed.
- Any applicable competitive waiting period has expired.
- Any requested exemption has been approved.

8. Membership and Insurance

An athlete's existing Cheer Sport Ireland membership and insurance will remain with the athlete when transferring between member clubs.

The athlete will not be required to purchase a duplicate Cheer Sport Ireland membership solely because they have changed clubs.

The new member club is responsible for ensuring that the athlete's registration details are accurate and that the athlete is correctly listed as a member of the new club before participating in training or competition.

9. Club Fees and Private Financial Arrangements

Cheer Sport Ireland membership and insurance are separate from any private financial agreement between an athlete and a member club.

Outstanding club fees, uniform costs, travel costs or other private financial matters do not automatically prevent an athlete from transferring.

Any dispute regarding money owed must be managed directly between the athlete/parents/guardians and the relevant club and must not be used to withhold the athlete's Cheer Sport Ireland membership or insurance.

10. Competition Eligibility

It is the responsibility of the new member club to confirm that an athlete is eligible to compete before entering or placing the athlete on a competition roster.

Where an ineligible athlete competes before the waiting period has expired, Cheer Sport Ireland may take action in accordance with its competition rules, disciplinary procedures or code of conduct.

11. False or Misleading Information

Providing false, incomplete or misleading information in order to avoid the competitive waiting period may result in:

- The athlete being declared ineligible for competition.
- Competition results being reviewed.
- Disciplinary action against the athlete, parent, guardian, coach or member club involved.

12. Review and Appeals

An athlete, parent, guardian or member club may request a review of a transfer decision.

A request for review must be submitted in writing to Cheer Sport Ireland and should explain the grounds on which the decision is being challenged.

The review will be carried out by an appropriate person or panel who was not directly responsible for the original decision.

The welfare and best interests of the athlete will remain a primary consideration in all transfer decisions.

13. Guiding Principle

Athletes must be free to leave one member club and join another without intimidation, retaliation or unreasonable obstruction.

The three-month competitive waiting period is intended to protect the integrity of competition and prevent inappropriate mid-season athlete recruitment. It must not be applied in a way that places an athlete at risk, prevents an athlete from leaving an unsafe environment or unfairly restricts an athlete where competitive choreography has not commenced.