# CHOREOGRAPHY AND MUSIC APPROPRIATENESS POLICY

## 1. Introduction

Choreography and music are essential components of cheer and performance cheer routines. Cheer Sport Ireland (CSI) is committed to ensuring that all choreography and music used by member clubs are age-appropriate, safe, respectful, inclusive, and aligned with the values of youth sport. This policy outlines the standards required across all CSI activities.

## 2. Purpose

This policy ensures that choreography and music promote positive development, uphold safeguarding responsibilities, and prevent inappropriate content.

## 3. Scope

This policy applies to all CSI clubs, coaches, athletes, choreographers, music editors, volunteers, and event personnel.

## 4. Guiding Principles

- Choreography and music must always be age-appropriate.
- Children must never be encouraged to mimic adult-themed behaviour.
- Skills must be safe, developmentally appropriate, and within athlete ability.
- Respect, dignity, and wellbeing of all athletes must be prioritised.
- Cultural sensitivity and inclusivity are required in all creative decisions.

## 5. Choreography Requirements

- Movements must be suitable for the age and maturity of athletes.
- Sexualised or provocative movements are strictly prohibited.
- Choreography must not include gestures or actions referencing adult themes.
- Transitions and formations must be safe and appropriate for the group's level.
- Floorwork or inverted movements must follow safety progressions.
- Partners and stunt groups must maintain appropriate physical contact.

## 6. Safety in Choreography

- Skills must comply with level-appropriate rules (e.g., IASF, ICU, CSI standards).
- Coaches must not include skills athletes cannot execute safely.
- Risk assessments should be conducted for complex choreography.
- Spotting is required during learning and progression of difficult elements.

## 7. Physical Contact in Choreography

- Contact must always be respectful, professional, and necessary for the routine.
- Partners must be paired appropriately in terms of strength, size, and comfort.
- Coaches must discuss consent and comfort before introducing partner elements.
- Athletes must feel empowered to speak up if uncomfortable.

## 8. Music Appropriateness Standards

- Music must be free from explicit language.
- References to violence, drugs, alcohol, sex, or discrimination are prohibited.
- Music edits must not distort words in a way that implies inappropriate content.
- Volume levels must be safe and comply with venue guidelines.
- Clubs must use legally licensed or royalty-free tracks.

## 9. Cultural Sensitivity in Music and Choreography

- Routines must not appropriate or stereotype cultural practices.
- Costumes and themes must respect cultural identities.
- Music must not include offensive language or cultural slurs.
- Use of cultural elements requires understanding and respect.

## 10. Costuming & Appearance

- Costumes must be age-appropriate and allow for safe movement.
- Overly revealing or adult-themed costumes are prohibited.
- Hair, makeup, and accessories must be suitable for children in sport.
- Uniform guidelines must ensure dignity, comfort, and safety.

## 11. Athlete Voice & Wellbeing

- Athletes must be encouraged to express concerns about choreography or music.
- Coaches must modify routines if athletes express discomfort.
- No athlete should be pressured into performing skills beyond their ability.
- Wellbeing is central to all creative decisions.

## 12. Event Compliance

- CSI may review routines at events to ensure appropriateness.
- Event officials may require changes to unsafe or inappropriate choreography.
- Music may be stopped if deemed unsuitable.
- Repeated non-compliance may result in sanctions.

## 13. Responsibilities

- Coaches: Ensure choreography and music follow all standards.

- Choreographers: Deliver content that is appropriate, safe, and policy-compliant.
- Clubs: Monitor and approve routines before public performance.
- Athletes: Communicate concerns confidently and respectfully.

## 14. Non-Compliance

- Clubs may face disciplinary action for repeated breaches.
- Routines may be disallowed at events.
- Individuals responsible for inappropriate content may be restricted from coaching or choreographing.

## 15. Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years or sooner if required.

## 16. Approval

This Choreography & Music Appropriateness Policy was approved by the Board of Cheer Sport Ireland on: 11/07/2026

**Signed:**

FIONA COLLUMB, President/Chairperson

JOAN HEAPES, National Children's Officer