

Mascots
KNOW THE RULES
By Sandi Hoffman

Other topic that has generated many questions recently is mascots. Mascots can add a wonderful dimension to sideline cheerleading, however, there are certain rules that must be followed. I have been asked: “Can mascots stunt and tumble?” The answer depends on what the mascot is wearing. Rule 2-2-6 states: “A participant in full head and/or body costume must not spot or stunt except for a forward roll or cartwheel.” The rationale is that a student who has limited vision and limited mobility should not be involved in stunting. The question was raised whether the mascot can stunt if the head is not covered but instead is wearing face paint. In this situation, you as the coach should look at the costume and determine if it allows the individual to move freely and if is safe for stunting. For example, a costume that has large buttons, buckles or other similar ornamentation would not be appropriate because those items have the potential for injury. Also, look at the mascot’s footwear keeping in mind that a rule effective this year says that participants in cheerleading must wear athletic shoes (Rule2-2-5). So if your mascot is stunting, the footwear must be appropriate for that activity.

Wow! It seems there is a lot to think about when it comes to mascots! However, the time spent is definitely worth the effort. Mascots can be extremely entertaining and can do wonders for crowd involvement. Have fun and be safe!