



May 30, 2017

The National Collegiate Athletic Association
Attn: Committee on Women's Athletics
P.O. Box 6222
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6222

Dear Committee on Women's Athletics,

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) supports the efforts of USA Cheer to add STUNT as an NCAA emerging sport. The initiative to place STUNT on the emerging sport list is important as it provides additional opportunities for women to participate in athletics and derive the important educational benefits that come with participating in intercollegiate athletics.

Since 1920, The National Federation of State High School Associations has led the development of education-based interscholastic sports and activities that help students succeed in their lives. We set directions for the future by building awareness and support, improving the participation experience, establishing consistent standards and rules for competition, and helping those who oversee high school sports and activities in our member state associations.

The NFHS, from our offices in Indianapolis, Indiana, serves its 50-member state high school athletic/activity associations, plus the District of Columbia. The NFHS publishes playing rules in 17 sports for boys and girls competition and administers performing arts programs in speech, theater, debate and music. It provides a variety of program initiatives that reach the 19,300 high schools and over 11 million students involved in athletic and activity programs. In our work with so many young people we currently have 10 states offering STUNT at the high school level. We know this is a popular sport with our female athletes.

At the college level, currently women have few opportunities to participate in cheer. The 800,000+ girls participating at the high school level are funneled into less than 40,000 opportunities to participate in traditional cheer--some of which are held by men. By offering STUNT teams, colleges and universities will open a whole new range of participation opportunities that were otherwise closed for young women and girls to continue participating in their sport. With a 30-person roster, STUNT provides colleges and universities with an effective way to expand female sports offerings and improve compliance with Title IX. This will also improve compliance at the high school level.

We 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Gardner". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bob Gardner
Executive Director

Mailing Address: PO Box 690 | Indianapolis, Indiana 46206 | **Phone:** 317-972-6900 | **Fax:** 317.822.5700 | www.nfhs.org
Shipping Address: NFHS Distribution Center | 1802 Alonzo Watford Sr. Drive | Indianapolis, Indiana 46202

Take Part. Get Set For Life.™