



## Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association

P. O. BOX 319 • 3333 LEBANON ROAD • HERMITAGE, TENNESSEE 37076  
615/889-6740 • Fax 615/889-0544 • [www.tssaa.org](http://www.tssaa.org)

May 30, 2017

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

Dear Committee on Women's Athletics:

The Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) is aware of the efforts underway by USA Cheer to add STUNT as an NCAA emerging sport. Their 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.

The mission of the TSSAA is to serve its members by providing leadership and coordination for the administration of interscholastic athletics, which will enhance the educational experiences of students. The TSSAA will promote participation and sportsmanship to develop good citizens through interscholastic athletics, which will provide equitable opportunities, positive recognition, and learning experiences to students while maximizing the achievement of educational goals.

We believe the new sport of STUNT will help state athletic associations like ours provide a viable sport offering that will significantly expand the number of young women participating in sports in Tennessee.

At the college level, currently women have few opportunities to participate in competitive cheerleading. The 800,000+ girls participating at the high school level in traditional and competitive cheerleading 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 offering, and improve compliance with Title IX. This will also improve compliance at the high school level.

We have had the opportunity to see STUNT in action and we are looking to present STUNT as a sport offering to our membership in the very near future. In addition, we

have heard that the University of Tennessee and the University of Memphis are looking to participate in STUNT as soon as this year as well.

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 "Bernard Childress". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

Bernard Childress  
Executive Director

BC:lj