

**Minutes of the 2010-11 IHSA Competitive Cheerleading  
Advisory Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, March 2, 2011**

The IHSA Competitive Cheerleading Advisory Committee met at the IHSA office in Bloomington. Committee members present were Gina Laio, Chicago (St. Ignatius); Jill Bullo, Principal, Wheaton (North); Gina Dailey, Peoria (H.S.); Andrew Miller, Normal (University); Debbie Orrison, Kincaid (South Fork); Tami Hudson, O'Fallon; and Tina Woolard, Athletic Director, Grayslake (North). Tim Babin, Officials Representative and Mickey Klement, Coaches Association Representative also attended the meeting.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS**

**1. Item I-C- School Classification**

**Recommendation:** Increase the number of bench participants for Medium teams to (5) and Large/Coed teams to (6).

**Rationale:** Because the team size is based on school size this change would allow more flexibility for substitution, especially in light of the safety of stunt groups. This increase is proportional to the increase that was given to the small and medium teams several years ago.

Rejected

**2. Item VIII-I-1- Team Uniform**

**Recommendation:** All briefs should be a solid color and devoid of any markings including but not limited to sequins, prints, wording, symbols, etc.

**Rationale:** Appropriateness and distraction when you have sequins, animal print, prints, wording, symbols, etc. Uniforms must be school approved and should reflect the educational mission of our member schools. Uniforms should reflect the sport of cheer.

Approved by consent

**3. Item XI A Officials**

**Recommendation:** Number of Officials Assigned: In each Sectional level of competition, three (3) panel officials and one (1) head official; and three (3) technical officials shall be provided. State Final: At the State level competition,

five (5) panel officials and one (1) head official; and three (3) technical officials shall be provided

**Rationale:** A head non scoring official is necessary to verify quality control. A head judge needs to input scores, check to make sure everyone is in range, check for errors and verify panel and tech scores in the computer system. To effectively do a quality job this official needs to be non-scoring.

Approved by consent

## ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The IHSA will clarify the new By Law through the IHSA schools center, e-mail, and cheerleading menu page, online rules presentation and season guide.

**IHSA By-law Proposal 27** (passed 368-41) restricts practice by (but not the organization/tryouts of) Competitive Cheerleading squads to the period from Monday of Week 18 *Oct. 31, 2011* to Saturday of Week 39 *March 31, 2012*.

2. The committee recommended a **sub-group to better define the rubric, especially focusing on skilled rubric categories** including a rubric 9-10 category essentially eliminating the bump for exceptional execution.
3. The committee recommended the following changes to the IHSA competitive cheer score sheet:  
VOICE/PROJECTION 10  
MOTIONS/DANCE 10  
JUMPS 10  
TUMBLING 10  
PARTNER STUNTS 10  
PYRAMIDS/BASKET TOSSES 10  
FORMATION/TRANSITIONS 10  
SYNCHRONIZATION 10  
DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY 10  
OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS 10

The 2009-10 piloted score sheet was discussed and reviewed. The committee agreed that the piloted score sheet had too many significant changes which could cause more confusion and inconsistency with coaches and officials. The above recommended changes to the score sheet are a compromise between the current score sheet and the piloted score sheet. These recommended changes are made in lieu of the feedback from coaches and officials during the 2010-11 season. The two most problematic areas expressed with the piloted score sheet was the split of running and standing tumbling, and the use of "choreography" as a standalone category. Tumbling was left as one category per feedback of coaches and officials. Partner stunts and Pyramids/Basket Tosses were

agreed upon as a split category to establish these skills as what defines cheerleading differently from Dance, Poms, and Gymnastics. Choreography was removed from the score sheet completely as it was a "double scored category" since it was defined as Formations, Transitions, Sync, and the Overall Effectiveness categories already present on the score sheet.

The committee agreed that the motion/dance combination change on the score sheet reflects how that category is currently being scored.

A recommendation to change voice/projection category to performance was tabled. The committee recommended that the focus of this category can be best addressed in a standard of excellence explanation in the rubric.

A recommendation to add a crowd leadership category to the score sheet was tabled.

The group recommended annual review of the score sheet and rubric

4. It is recommended to add a 1pt. deduction area to the Legalities form to address terms and condition violations (*ie: VIII A 4 Signs and Banners, IX I Videotaping by Schools, VIII E Tournament Management, VIII J Unsportsmanlike Conduct, VIII I Competitor Apparel, VIII D. Coaching, etc...*)
5. Points of emphasis in the 2011-12 IHSA online rules presentation will address IHSA **terms and condition items VIII A 4. Only appropriate poms, signs and school flags/banners used in a safe manner by competing teams to lead the crowd during their performance are allowed.** This point of emphasis will clarify and remind schools that props are not allowed in competitive cheer routines.
6. The committee recommended developing a “**how to host guide**” that could be used at invitational tournaments that model the state series.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. The committee tabled discussion on changing coed division, number of males, or proportion of qualifiers. There was a significant decrease in the number of schools entered in the coed division this year. The committee felt the rule needed to play its self out for a few more years before any action should be recommended.
2. The committee tabled the recommendation for one year to add two strips of mats. Knoblauch recommended that the 54x42 only be used for the state final and the committee felt that type of inconsistency would not be advantages to coaches/schools.
3. The 2009-10 piloted score sheet was discussed and reviewed. No action was taken. The committee agreed that significant changes to the current score sheet could cause more confusion and inconsistency with coaches and officials. The group recommended annual review of the score sheet and rubric.

4. It was recommended that associations create and pilot a coed score sheet and rubric for future review.
5. The committee reviewed terms and condition item VI G 3 - *In the event a team's routine is interrupted because of failure of the teams own equipment the team must either continue the routine or take the score earned to that point.* The committee recommended covering in the host management document that **coaches should be allowed an opportunity to test their music on the equipment that will *actually* be used for the competition.**
6. The IHSA will outline penalties for terms and conditions violations with sectional managers **The management of the warm up area was discussed. If a coach/school violates the time they are allowed in the warm up room or any direction given by tournament management the Terms and condition Item VIII E and/or VIII J could apply:** **E. Unsportsmanlike Conduct:** Managers and officials have the strictest instructions to **disqualify** any competitor, coach and/or person guilty of profane or indecent language or of gross unsportsmanlike conduct. The IHSA Bylaws give the Board of Directors complete authority to penalize a school for any unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of the principal, the coach, the athletes, the faculty, the board of education or any other official representative of any participating school. The IHSA Board of Directors will definitely exercise this authority. **J. Disqualification:** Any team that does not adhere to these terms and conditions may be subject to disqualification from the tournament and will automatically forfeit any right to awards received at the tournament.
7. **Terms and Condition item IX I. Videotaping by Schools or Spectators:** **Videotaping by competing schools will not be allowed.** The local manager may provide videotaping for purchase. Spectators will be allowed to videotape in the stands, provided they remain in their seat and do not obstruct the view of participants and spectators. **Penalty - Disqualification:** Any team that does not adhere to these terms and conditions may be subject to disqualification from the tournament and will automatically forfeit any right to awards received at the tournament. This penalty can be access by officials or tournament management – this should be covered in the coaches meeting. **Videotaping by competing schools will not be allowed.** *IHSA Interpretation* – coaches/participant should not impede competition by videotaping in front of officials.
8. A **facilities survey** will be available on the IHSA website in the schools center. The survey will be used by IHSA when determining appropriate sectional host sites. As a minimum, competitive cheer venues need to meet the NFHS standards. Items in the facility survey to host will include:
  - Main gym seating capacity - recommended minimum 1,200-seats on either sides or baselines
  - Auxiliary gym/space for warm up connected to main gym
  - Ceiling height in main gym and warm up area. Retractable/collapsible basketball hoops

- Handicapped accessible
  - Parking
  - PA system, music system, sound system
  - Access and availability of mats - warm up mats available - 1 ½ inch-2 inch thick – tumbling/gymnastics mats - 18 strips of mats minimum
  - Team holding and staging area capability
  - Secure venue
  - Wireless capabilities in main gym for scoring
  - Availability to have the panel officials elevated
9. The committee discussed and reviewed the communication process between Tech and Panel officials at sectional and state.
  10. The committee liked the video replay in the cool down room at the state finals and recommended that the loop was a bit slower because the first part of some routines were missed once the team cleared the floor and went into the locker rooms.
  11. There was concern that some of the intelligent lighting is a distraction for contest officials.
  12. It was recommended to lower the staging curtain more so the video board is clearly viewed by participants on the floor prior to awards.
  13. The IHSA will continue to work with the Bloomington/Normal CVB to address hotel concerns.
  14. The advisory committee saw an overview of the IHSA website, school center, and assignment map. The committee was also instructed to communicate with their division that the SAWA reports and special reports can be used to have the IHSA recognize schools who demonstrate exemplary sportsmanship and/or investigate concerns.
  15. The committee discussed the use of males on a coed team and how that is impacted if an injury occurs. Once a team begins the state series in coed, they remain in the coed division even if they do not fulfill the minimum number of male participants required due to injury or ineligibility.
  16. Beginning in 2010-11 if a competing school wished to secure an athletic trainer pass, the athletic trainer must present credential to verify that they are a school certified athletic trainer.
  17. Beginning in the 2010-11 season a clarification to the exhibition interpretation will be made that states that schools are not permitted to perform exhibitions. If a competitive cheer team performs at a competition and doesn't receive awards or a score, that performance is still viewed as one of the 5 contest limits as per IHSA Bylaw.

18. The officials' education process was reviewed. Level 1 and 2 clinic curriculum was reviewed. Clinic meeting dates will be posted on the IHSA website in August.
19. Discussion of an official's assigner was presented. This process is being considered to assist with concerns regarding consistency and quality of officials. A competitive cheer official's assigner could develop crews that continue to improve the sport and provide guidance and mentoring to novice officials.
20. A protocol for missed calls was discussed. No action or recommendations were made.
21. Quality vs. Quantity of skills was discussed. The committee felt that these concerns could be best addressed by a better defined rubric.
22. There was interest in providing the online scoring program to Sectionals and Invitational Tournaments.
23. There was no support for the recommendation of posting of scores electronically immediately after a team's performance at the state final. Susie was concerned about the coordination with US Cellular Coliseum's video board and the accuracy of those scores. She felt more comfortable if that could be controlled right from the scorer's table. It may be investigated for future years.
24. There was discussion regarding a recommendation to place a minimum number of participants on the competition floor. The current score sheet address majority of skills. Concern was expressed that some schools are limiting participants in order to execute majority skills exceptionally well. The rubric rewards teams who display more that majority skills executed exceptionally well. The committee considered addressing this issue with the score sheet and rubric in future year.
25. There will be a 30 minutes delay in the posting of state finals scores online on the IHSA website to allow time for coaches to address their team/participants, etc. regarding scores & placements.
26. The IHSA Officials Conference will be held in Peoria July 22-23, 2011
27. The Next Competitive Cheer Advisory Committee Meeting will be held on March 7, 2012.