

**Minutes of the 2009-10 IHSA Competitive Cheerleading
Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 3, 2010**

The IHSA Competitive Cheerleading Advisory Committee met at the IHSA office in Bloomington. Committee members present were Mike Bruce, Orland Park (Sandburg); Nicole Broadhurst, Chicago (Marist); Jeffrey Siegal, Elk Grove Village (E.G.); Rita Grunloh, Lexington; Lisa Turner, Mt. Vernon (H.S.); Christopher Borzym, Riverside (R.-Brookfield); and Tina Woolard, Athletic Director, Grayslake (North). Advisory Committee members Wendy Suey, Pana and Todd France, Principal, Rockford were unable to attend. Shaunda Brown, Officials Representative and Camille Munson, Coaches Association Representative also attended the meeting.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Item I-C-School Classification

Recommendation: *It is recommended and approved* for the 2010-11 school year to define the ~~Coed Division as two (2) males~~ on the competition floor.

After further review and discussion this year *it is recommended* to reverse this submission from 2009 to the original classification of coed for the 2010-11 school year to define the **Coed Division as one (1) male** on the competition floor.

Rationale: Upon reviewing the Coed division from 2009, 52 teams entered the state series. Of those 52 teams, 14 were entered in the coed division with one male on the competition floor. The Cheer Advisory Committee was concerned if a change like this were to be in place the majority of those 14 teams would move into the large division and leave a coed division eligible for state final awards with approximately 38 teams which would not be an equitable balance of the number of teams entered into the various divisions. The IHSA cheer state series began with 26 coed teams and has grown to 58 coed teams in five years in which teams have shown success at the state final with one male on the coed team due in part to the current score sheet and rubric.

No Action Taken

2. Item I-C- School Classification

Recommendation: A multiplier of 1.65 will be added to all non-boundaried schools. Member schools shall be categorized for participation in competitive cheerleading on the basis of the three divisions of allowable team size: **Large Team** with a school enrollment greater than 1765 (**Up to 26 rostered participants with 20 allowed on the competition floor**), **Medium** Team with a school

enrollment between 660-1765 (Up to 21 rostered participants with 16 allowed on the competition floor) and Small Team with a school enrollment less than 660 (up to 16 rostered participants with 12 allowed on the competition floor). Coed (one male on the competition floor) shall be an open division (Up to 26 rostered participants with 20 on the competition floor). All Coed teams need to be announced to the IHSA by Nov. 1. Request to play up a division may be made through the IHSA by Sept. 1.

Rationale: The additions to the roster are proportional to the school's enrollment rather than a standardized number of four (4) participants allowable for all schools and divisions.

No Action Taken

3. Item VI-D- Tournament Structure and Time Schedules - State Final School Packets

Recommendation: At the State Final, school packets which includes state final passes and programs may be picked up Thursday evening, February 4, 2010 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the VIP entrance of the US Cellular Coliseum, and Friday, February 5, 2010 at 7 am at the Pepsi Ice Rink Main Entrance located on the south entrance of the U.S. Cellular Coliseum. (Note: performance schedules will be posted on-line). A coach/school official is the only person permitted to pick up the schools' packet. The U.S. Cellular Coliseum in downtown Bloomington is tournament central.

Rationale: It was noted this year that an influx of teams arrived for packet pick up at 8pm. By extending packet pick up to 8:30 this would allow teams more time to leave after school to arrive to pick up their packets in ample time.

Approved

4. Item VI-G-1- Tournament Structure and Time Schedules -Competition Disruption

Recommendation: At the Sectional and State prelims and final rounds of competition the IHSA Official reserves the right to stop a routine due to an obvious injury. In the event that an injury causes the team's routine to be interrupted during a performance, the head official and tournament management shall determine the time for the team to feed back into the warm up and competition order to complete their performance. This time should not exceed 30 (thirty) minutes for the team to perform their routine again. Judging will resume from the point at which the injury/interruption occurred as determined by the Head Official. The routine must be performed full-out from the beginning. All point deductions accumulated to the point of injury will carry over. If a team prefers not to re-work the routine, then at the coaches' discretion they may take the score they have received up to that point. If a skill has not been performed a

“0” will be given in that category. If multiple injuries occur, the same process will be in effect.

Rationale: This recommendation would make the process the same regarding injuries at the sectional, state prelims and state final rounds of competition.

Approved

5. Item VIII-I- Tournament Rules - Competitor's Apparel

Recommendation: Team Uniform: All competitors shall wear only school issued uniforms for competition during the Sectionals and the State Final. All uniforms shall be devoid of commercial advertising except for the manufacturer's logo/trademark which shall not exceed two and one quarter (2 1/4) square inches with no dimension exceeding 2 1/4 inches. It may appear only once on each piece of wearing apparel. **All briefs should be devoid of any markings (Paw prints, writing, etc.)** In addition, no visible apparel may be worn under the uniform except bodysuits/spandex/briefs. Teams shall wear official school issued uniforms that are of similar color and/or marking. All uniforms, including footwear must be in compliance with the NFHS Spirit Rules Book. Participants will not be permitted to compete in illegal attire. Sectional and/or State Final site managers shall have authority to assess penalties for failure to comply with this requirement. *NOTE: All uniforms must have some school designation (i.e. school name, logo, mascot or monograms) visibly printed on the uniform.*

Rationale: It was not the intent of this rule to limit team/student/mascot names on the collars of mock turtlenecks etc...

Approved

6. Item VIII-A-2-a – Tournament Rules - Competition Area

Recommendation: The competitive cheering surface for sectionals and state shall be a matted area of **54 feet wide x 42 feet deep (9 strips).**

Rationale: The extra 2 strips recommended will provide added safety for teams. For squads with 20 participants (large and coed divisions) space and safety is an issue. It would not be a requirement for schools to purchase the added strips, however the 2 added strips being present at sectional and state level would allow for an added safety area. Local invitational competitions may still utilize the 42 x 42 floor. Currently once the boundary lines are set up on the 42 x 42 mat the area of actual performing space becomes 40 x 40 which is a tight space for the large and coed divisions with 20 participants especially during tumbling passes. The IESA utilized 9 mats for their cheer state finals. Again, this would not be a requirement for all teams to purchase and store more mats but to be used for the state series (sectionals and state finals) to allow the performance area to have more space for skills thus being safer.

No Action Taken

7. **Item VIII-A-3 – Tournament Rules -Music**

Recommendation: Music must be on a CD with a back-up. In addition, it is the coach's responsibility to start and stop the music. Coaches will be allowed to check their music directly before performance. Music should not contain any suggestive lyrics.

Rationale: Cassettes are becoming obsolete to use at competitions. Coaches need to have a back up copy of the teams music in a CD format.

Approved

8. **Item VIII-D-6 – Tournament Rules -Use of Electronic Devices by Coaches**

Recommendation: Coaches may not use electronic communication/coaching devices (i.e., cellular phones, laptops, palm pilot, video cameras, etc.) once checked into the competition warm up areas and while in the credentialed areas of the competition.

Rationale: The intent is to prohibit the use of these items in the competition area – Coaches can use their cell phones once away from the credentialed competition areas.

Approved

9. **Item XI-A- Officials**

Recommendation: Number of Officials Assigned: In each Sectional level of competition, three (3) panel officials in which one will serve as the head official and three (3) technical officials shall be provided. State Final: At the State level

competition, Five (5) panel officials in which one will serve as the head official and three (3) technical officials shall be provided.

Rationale: By eliminating the need for a non scoring head official at sectionals and state, this recommendation utilizes quality head officials in a dual role as a scoring official and head official. By adding a third technical official at sectional this recommendation keeps the number of technical officials equal at both sectional and state. This change does not add an additional official at sectionals. This change would eliminate one official per panel in the state final line up.

Approved

10. Item IX-H-3 – Tournament Policies - Media

Recommendation: Provisions for Media Photographers and/or Television: Photographers or television personnel with cameras may enter the performance area to take pictures provided that: a) The individual is wearing the IHSA media/photographers pass; b) The individual reports to the site manager and shows the pass; c) The individual stays off the matted areas and remains at least five feet away from the competition floor d) The individual remains seated when taking pictures; e) The individual only walks when the competitors are exiting; f) The individual refrains from speaking to the competitor(s) during competition. g) Media is not allowed in the warm up area or locker rooms

Rationale: This recommendation provides a consistent distance for media to be from the competition mat at competition venues.

Approved

11. Item IX-E – Tournament Policies - Artificial Noisemakers

Recommendation: All artificial noise-making devices shall be excluded from the performance area. Tournament managers should not permit spectators to use air horns at the competition venue. Cheerleaders may use megaphones during competition.

Rationale: The recommendation further clarifies and defines the artificial noisemaker policy for competitive cheer.

Approved

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The committee reviewed the school enrollment cutoffs for competition. For the 2010 State Series 295 school were entered to compete; Small Division-76; Medium Division-79; Large Division-83; Coed Division-57.

2. The committee reviewed the state final venue and offered suggestions to continue to make the state final a great experience for all competing teams and spectators. The IHSA has entered a five year agreement with U. S. Cellular Coliseum in Bloomington to host the state finals. Discussion covered security, temperature, credentials, participants on the arena floor, off site warm up space, reserved seating, ushers, trainers, warm up mats and water locations.
3. The substitution process was reviewed. If a student's name needs to be changed on the original list of participants after the entry deadline, changes can be made in writing to the IHSA office.
4. The committee reviewed Sportsmanship issues that were addressed with individual school districts.
5. The committee reviewed the score sheet and rubric and recommended convening a meeting of officials and coaches representing the 7 IHSA Divisions this spring to offer some proposed changes in the areas of: motions/dance, degree of difficulty and execution, tosses/stunts and pyramids. The revised rubric will be posted on the IHSA website over the summer.
6. The consistency of officiating was reviewed and the following plan will be in place to address officials' education:
 - a. Officials meeting in the spring to develop curriculum
 - b. Continuing education through the officials associations and coaches association
 - c. The IHSA Officials Conference July 16 & 17th in Peoria
 - d. Fall clinics for officials
 - e. Mentoring program at invitational competitions
 - f. Meetings with invitational meet managers regarding the hiring of IHSA officials
 - g. Utilization of more video education
 - h. Online posting of rubric items from the state finals
 - I. Using case situations to define scoring scenarios
 - I. An officials retaining and recruiting protocol
7. The committee discussed the release of officials' scores for each category for all competing teams. This can take place at invitational cheer competitions if managers are so inclined.
8. Items submitted from the state finals coaches' round table were reviewed. The coaches' roundtable format will continue at future state finals.
9. Sectional competitions were reviewed: Items for consideration next year that will be addressed in the manual for managers are: session breaks, head judge in coaches meeting, fan flow set up of competition area, and consistency.
10. Members of the advisory committee whose term expired were recognized for their services.