

Competitive Cheerleading

1. Item I-C- School Classification

Recommendation: 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 1502 (Up to 26 rostered participants with 20 allowed on the competition floor), Medium Team with a school enrollment between 625-1501 (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 (two males on the competition floor) shall be an open division (Up to 26 rostered participants with 20 on the competition floor).

Rationale: This proposal would increase the number of bench participants for Medium teams to (5) and Large/Coed teams to (6). 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. 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. Increasing the number of bench participants will provide opportunities for more students to participate. Schools aren't required to yield more participants but will have the choice.

2. Item VIII-A-2a- Tournament Rules – Competition Guidelines

Recommendation: It is recommended that the competitive cheering surface for the state series shall be a matted area of 54 feet wide x 42 feet deep (9 strips).

Rationale: The extra 2 strips will provide added safety for teams. For squads with 20 participants (large and coed divisions) out of bounds 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 during the intense post season competition for schools that place 20 participants on the mat. 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. Because the IHSA scoring rubric is guided by the number of participants performing a majority of the skills, the two extra strips are necessary to ensure the safety of 20 participants having enough room on the mats. . Local invitational competitions may still utilize the 42 x 42 floor.

3. Item VII-A-1 - Advancement of Winners

Recommendation: The next three highest scores from each division across the state would advance as an at-large team and compete in the division in which they qualify.

Rationale: Based on scheduling, we are cutting over 2 hours off so if we added these additional 12 teams it would add back 40 minutes with dual panels. This just gives more teams an opportunity to make it down to day one and teams that are in really tough sectionals still have a chance to make it (their 6th place score may be higher than the 1st place score of a team at another sectional).

Boys/Girls Soccer

Administrative Recommendations/State Association Adoptions:

- 1. Recommendation:** The committee recommends that State Association Adoption #5 be in effect specifically for regular season games and regular season tournaments.

Rationale: In the event a game is suspended due to conditions that make it impossible to play, the head referee shall declare it an official game if one complete half or more of the game has been played.

If less than one half of the game has been played, the game may be continued from the point of interruption to the next available playing time; i.e., a delay may be called or a game suspended until rescheduled.

- 2. Recommendation:** The committee recommends that State Association Adoption #6 be in effect for all levels of the State Series competition and not just for the Super Sectionals. In the event a game is suspended due to conditions that make it impossible to play, the game will be rescheduled for the next day from the point of suspension. Or if mutually agreed upon by both head coaches, the game may be considered final.

If the game cannot be played or completed by the end of Thursday night prior to the State Semifinals, the team with the lead will be declared the winner. If the teams are tied and the game cannot be completed on Thursday, a coin toss shall determine which team will qualify for the State Finals.

Rationale: This allows every student-athlete the opportunity to complete a game in the state series without variables out of their control (i.e. inclement weather, power outage etc.) being the deciding factor to end the game and potentially their season or high school career.

- 3. Recommendation:** To allow coaches to rate officials according to the official's responsibilities on the field as Center or AR.

Rationale: The committee believes officials need to be rated according to their role on the field. When there is a three-person crew, each official has different responsibilities and they need to be rated according to position.

Boys/Girls Swimming

6. Item VIII-N-1 & 2

Recommendation: To score the state final swimming/diving meets to include 13th – 18th place. We currently score the meet through 12th place. It would be appropriate to provide medals to the athletes finishing in 13th – 18th place.

Rationale: It is the opinion of those supporting this recommendation that the sport of swimming and diving does not do enough to recognize all of the deserving, talented athletes competing in the IHSA State Finals. Since the sport has only one class, to supporters, this seems to be an appropriate action to take.

Boys Wrestling

1. Item V. B. 4) Seeding and Schedules in the Individual State Tournament series will be done according to the following plan:

Recommendation: At the individual sectional team points will be kept for the purpose of seeding at the dual team state tournament. Of the 4 qualifying teams wrestling in the dual team sectional, the team with the most points in the sectional will be the number 1 seed followed by the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th seeds. At the dual team sectional, the number 1 seeded team will wrestle the number 4 seeded team and the number 2 seeded team will wrestle the number 3 seeded team. The 2 winning teams from the team sectional will advance to the team state championships.

Team scores will also be kept at the individual state tournament for the sole purpose of seeding the state qualifying teams in the dual team sectional. The state qualifying teams will be placed in seed order according to their team finish at the individual state tournament. At the state tournament the number 1 seeded team will wrestle the number 8 seeded team and the number 2 seeded team will wrestle the number 7 seeded team in the first quarterfinal round. The number 3 seeded team will wrestle the number 6 seeded team and the number 4 seeded team will wrestle the number 5 seeded team in the second quarterfinal round. The winners will advance to the semi-final matches with the consolation and championships to follow.

Rationale: This seeding procedure will take very little effort and will help make the finals and place matches at team state much more competitive. The idea of seeding at the state final is consistent with the seeding that is done at the individual state wrestling tournament.