

**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE
HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS**



NEWS RELEASE

Survey Indicates Nearly 400,000 High School Cheerleaders

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INDIANAPOLIS, IN (MAY 21, 2009) – ALMOST 400,000 INDIVIDUALS ARE PARTICIPATING IN HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADING, ACCORDING TO A NEW SURVEY CONDUCTED THIS SPRING BY THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS (NFHS).

THIS FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND, COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY OF THE NFHS MEMBER STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS MEASURED PARTICIPATION IN CHEERLEADING AT THE FRESHMAN, JUNIOR VARSITY AND VARSITY LEVELS. WITH 18,922 HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE 51 MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS, THE NEW FIGURE OF 394,694 TRANSLATES TO AN AVERAGE OF 21 CHEERLEADERS PER SCHOOL.

THE ONLY NATIONAL PARTICIPATION FIGURE FOR HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADING IN THE PAST HAS BEEN ONE FOR THOSE BOYS AND GIRLS INVOLVED IN COMPETITIVE SPIRIT SQUADS. THE 2007-08 HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS PARTICIPATION SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE NFHS INDICATED A TOTAL OF 113,980 BOYS AND GIRLS INVOLVED IN COMPETITIVE CHEER.

THE NEW SURVEY NOT ONLY INCLUDES THOSE INDIVIDUALS IN COMPETITIVE CHEER, BUT ALSO EVERYONE INVOLVED IN SIDELINE CHEERLEADING AT THE HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES.

“THIS FIGURE OF ALMOST 400,000 PROVIDES A MORE ACCURATE PORTRAYAL OF STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN CHEERLEADING,” SAID ROBERT F.

KANABY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NFHS. "THIS ADJUSTMENT IS PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY IN RELATION TO REPORTS ON CHEERLEADING INJURIES. THE NFHS WILL BEGIN TRACKING THE INCIDENCE OF SUCH INJURIES THROUGH OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH DR. DAWN COMSTOCK AT OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY."

ABOUT THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS (NFHS)

THE NFHS, BASED IN INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, IS THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP ORGANIZATION FOR HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS AND FINE ARTS ACTIVITIES. SINCE 1920, THE NFHS HAS LED THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION-BASED INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS AND FINE ARTS ACTIVITIES THAT HELP STUDENTS SUCCEED IN THEIR LIVES. THE NFHS SETS DIRECTION 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. THE NFHS WRITES PLAYING RULES FOR 17 SPORTS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS AT THE HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL. THROUGH ITS 50 MEMBER STATE ASSOCIATIONS AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, THE NFHS REACHES NEARLY 19,000 HIGH SCHOOLS AND 11 MILLION PARTICIPANTS IN HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITY PROGRAMS, INCLUDING ALMOST 7.5 MILLION IN HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS. AS THE RECOGNIZED NATIONAL AUTHORITY ON INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITY PROGRAMS, THE NFHS CONDUCTS NATIONAL MEETINGS; SANCTIONS INTERSTATE EVENTS; PRODUCES PUBLICATIONS FOR HIGH SCHOOL COACHES, OFFICIALS AND ATHLETIC DIRECTORS; SPONSORS PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR HIGH SCHOOL COACHES, OFFICIALS, SPIRIT COACHES, SPEECH AND DEBATE COACHES AND MUSIC ADJUDICATORS; SERVES AS THE NATIONAL SOURCE FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC COACH TRAINING; AND SERVES AS A NATIONAL INFORMATION RESOURCE OF INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITIES. FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT THE NFHS WEB SITE AT WWW.NFHS.ORG.

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