

**Minutes of the 2011-12 IHSA Competitive Cheerleading
Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 7, 2012**

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); Tami Hudson, O'Fallon; and Tina Woolard, Athletic Director, Grayslake (North). Tim Babin, Officials Representative, Sara Flanigan, Spirit Officials Association Representative and Mickey Klement, Coaches Association Representative also attended the meeting. IHSA Assistant Executive Director, Susan Knoblauch, conducted 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. 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.

No Action Taken

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Discussed the rules of competition, manual for schools and manual for managers.
2. Reviewed sectional assignment process. Approximately 300 schools competed in the IHSA Competitive Cheer State Series.
3. Reviewed sectional sites. The committee discussed how to handle late withdraws.
4. Evaluated the advantages and disadvantage of standardized sectional sites and/or standardized venue requirements for sectional hosts. Guidelines for hosting will be created by officials associations for invitational level competition.

5. Expressed concern about the sectional time schedule and the need for added time for head officials/managers to distribute score sheets. Sectional time schedules will be reviewed and adjusted for the 2012-13 season.
6. Discussed coordinating the IHSA Competitive Cheer (CheerWire) online scoring program to the sectional and invitational level for the 2012-13 school year.
7. Reviewed and discussed the state final venue for Competitive Cheer. The following items were reviewed: Qualifying information; state final venue layout- maps-reserved seating/preferred seating; parking and security; credentials and volunteers; lighting and sound, locations of water, trainer, signage; check in, warm up and cool down locker room areas- additional locker rooms; video replay/video board; exhibitions; mascot training; passes for coaches, athletic trainers and student media.
8. Discussed the need for 9 strips of competition mats. Concerns have been both cost and storage. The committee reviewed placing 9 strips at the state final only but still requiring schools to stay within the 42x42 performance space. No action was taken.
9. Discussed scope of state meet-double panels' finals; minutes between routines; categories and classification; waiver to move up.
10. Reviewed a recommendation to add an additional tech judge. No action was taken.
11. Discussed concerns regarding schools limiting participation in order to manipulate the majority of skills performed. Reviewed a recommendation to have a minimum number of participants on the floor for each division. No action was taken.
12. The committee heard a report regarding competitive cheers State Final Officials' accuracy. The point differential between prelims and finals was an average of 0.8.
13. It was recommended to post the competitive cheer state prelim. & final scores online 30 minutes after the announcement of the winners. This would allow time for coaches to review the results prior to meeting with their teams.
14. The committee heard a report from the Coaches Roundtable. All items were discussed and reviewed. It was suggested to have 2 sessions of the Coaches Roundtable on Friday of the Cheer State Finals. Items discussed included: Divisions, Enrollments/Waivers, and Awards.
15. Received the NFHS Injury Surveillance Overview and the Convenience Sample Summary Report.

16. Reviewed the Competitive Cheerleading terms and conditions. *Note: Term and Conditions will continue to be posted online*
17. Reviewed shorts and brief rule. Clarification will be made in the rule interpretation presentation.
18. Reviewed the organized entrances rule.
19. Reviewed the coaches videotaping rule.
20. Reviewed the hair interpretation. Recommended that terms and condition items and interpretations are clarified on the online rules presentation.
21. The media pass rules were reviewed and it was recommended to implement the IHSA media requirement policy per the terms and conditions IX-H-3.
22. Discussed implementing a coaching box that would limit where coaches could go on the competition floor to better monitor safety and sportsmanship.
23. Reviewed responsibilities of head officials and dictating rubric ranges.
24. Discussed leveling up qualifications for IHSA Competitive Cheer Officials.
25. Reviewed the need for quality control regarding math errors and counting the number of skills performed on the score sheets.
26. Emphasized the continue need to emphasize officials training and mentoring. Currently there are approximately 150 IHSA competitive cheer officials.
27. An Ad-Hoc committee will convene in mid-April to review the rubric in light of the NFHS rule changes.
28. The IHSA Officials Conference will be held in **Peoria - July 20-21, 2012.**
29. Discussed the advantages of a fall competitive season with a state final culminating in November/December. Advantages would include teams transitioning from summer contact dates to season, gyms are more readily available in the fall, and fall sideline responsibilities are less than winter sideline responsibilities.
30. Discussed opportunities to provide live meetings for coaches to review rule interpretations. This can be coordinated by the coaches and spirit officials associations.

31. Committee expressed concern about invitational competitions not adhering to IHSA rules. It is the responsibility of all IHSA schools to conduct their competitions under the rules and regulations of the IHSA By-Laws.
32. Reviewed a By Law recommendation that will permit a total of 7 competitions to the competitive cheer season. This By-law will be submitted in the fall of 2012 to be effective for the 2013-14 school year is passed through the IHSA legislative process.
33. Gina Laio from Chicago (St. Ignatius) and Tina Woodard from Grayslake (North) were recognized for their service as the Division 1 and Division 2 representatives to the IHSA Competitive Cheerleading Advisory Committee.
34. The Next Competitive Cheer Advisory Committee Meeting will be held on **March 6, 2013.**