

**Minutes of the 2012-13 IHSA Competitive Cheerleading  
Advisory Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, March 13, 2013**

The IHSA Competitive Cheerleading Advisory Committee met at the IHSA office in Bloomington. Committee members present were Bryon Houy, Athletic Director, DeKalb; Gina Dailey, Peoria (H.S.); Andrew Miller, Normal (University); Shari Muehlich, Tremont; Tim Babin, Officials Representative; Becky Weslow, Spirit Officials Association Representative; and Mickey Klement, Coaches Association Representative also attended the meeting. Jill Bullo, Principal, Wheaton (North); Gina Laio, Chicago (St. Ignatius); and Amber Warchol, O'Fallon High School were unable to attend. IHSA Assistant Executive Director, Susan Knoblauch, conducted the meeting.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS**

**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.

**Died for lack of motion**

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

**Recommendation:** All Coed teams need to be announced online to the IHSA by November 1<sup>st</sup>. Teams who miss this deadline may be penalized \$100.

**Rationale:** After the November 1<sup>st</sup> deadline, the IHSA assigns schools to sectional level competition. Schools adding/changing to coed create a disparity in the geographical balance of coed teams competing at a given sectional. There is no fee to enter the IHSA competition, however this \$100. penalty fee to be added or changed to coed will hopefully encourage schools to meet this deadline in a timelier manner.

Approved

**3. Item VI-C-State Final Time Schedule**

**Recommendation:** Last Performance 12:31pm & 7:31pm on Friday & 12:16pm & 4:16pm on Saturday.

**Rationale:** There will be four minutes between performance rather than 5 minutes because the event is double paneled and scoring can move along faster than single paneled events.

Approved

**4. Item VI F- Warm-up Time**

**Recommendation:** An eight (8) minute warm-up time at the State Finals will be posted online at [ihsa.org](http://ihsa.org).

**Rationale:** Currently sectionals have a 7 minute warm up time rotation and the state final has a 10 minute warm up rotation. The state final venue has two warm up stations and it is feasible to have 8 minutes between each station to allow the teams ample warm up time in addition to not having a lot of teams backed up in the staging areas.

Approved

**5. 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.

Died for lack of motion

**6. Item VIII-A-2-3 - Tournament Rules – Competition Guidelines**

**Recommendation:** Music can be on a CD or digital format with a back-up.

**Rationale:** Most competitions allow coaches to plug in MP3 players/IPods or digitally download music. This rule change would reflect current practices.

Approved

**7. 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 6<sup>th</sup> place score may be higher than the 1<sup>st</sup> place score of a team at another sectional).

Died for lack of motion

## **ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. Reviewed state final tournament. Suggested that an extra person (supervisor) be assigned to man the warm-up area to regulate the warm-up times. Suggested to designate a seating area in 101 and 115 for teams to watch the tournament with signage and a person to man that area. Discussed having an area to rotate fans but decided against it.
2. Discussed have the top ten scores posted after the 1<sup>st</sup> place team receives trophy and has their picture taken.
3. Discussed exiting through the Pepsi Ice Center after the awards have concluded for teams/sessions.
4. Discussed a parade of teams at the state final.
5. Discussed organizing a committee to revise the pyramid rubric.
6. Recommended changing Voice/Projection to Showmanship which includes: voice/projection/expression/spirit/crowd appeal.
7. Clarified that additional officials training will focus on clarifications on transitions & synchronization.
8. Discussed that “Degree of Difficulty” must be an accumulation of rubric skills
9. Discussed flight plan and seeding and sending a survey to the schools.
10. Reviewed a recommendation to add an additional tech judge. No action was taken.
11. The committee heard a report from the Coaches Roundtable. All items were discussed and reviewed.
12. Reviewed the NFHS Spirit Rules Changes and the Rio Safety Report for Cheerleading.
13. Discussed averaging the high and the low scores for the final round of competition at the State Finals.
14. Discussed the IHSA officials rating system and top 15 list. Reviewed the role of mentors, officials association and sessions at the IHSA officials’ conference (July 19 & 20, 2013).

15. Reviewed the format of at-large bids.
16. Discussed mandatory AACCA certification for all cheer coaches.
17. Explored the implementation of video review and score verification.
18. Discussed how coaches can communicate with officials/head official to get clarification regarding rubric ranges/legalities & deductions.
19. Heard reports that officials are not reporting conflicts of interest
20. Need to have all officials use ID/name and separate tech officials for ratings
21. Recommended transparent scoring. Placing the sectional and state scoring matrix online so coaches can view that information.
22. Suggested having officials identify tech or panel preference in IHSA Officials Center
23. Continued to review officials training and application of rubric ranges and consistency.
24. Reviewed the requirements of IHSA member schools to host invitational cheer competitions.
25. Gina Dailey, Peoria (H.S.); Andrew Miller, Normal (University); Timothy Babin, Officials Representative; and Jill Bullo, Wheaton (North) were recognized for their service to the IHSA Competitive Cheerleading Advisory Committee.