

**Minutes of the 2014-15 IHSA Competitive Cheerleading
Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4, 2015**

The IHSA Competitive Cheerleading Advisory Committee met at the IHSA office in Bloomington. Committee members present were Gina Laio, Chicago (St. Ignatius), Mike Sommerfeld, Athletic Director, St. Charles (East); Ryan Pitcock, Principal, Flossmoor (Homewood-F.); Joey Stanforth, Taylor Ridge (Rockridge); Shari Muehlich, Tremont; Robbie Walters, Columbia; and Becky Weslow, IHSA Officials Representative. Angie Wilmington, Spirit Officials Association Representative; Camille Munson, Coaches Association Representative and Carley Redman, UCA State Director also attended the meeting. Angie Goley, Dwight, was unable to attend. IHSA Assistant Executive Director, Shaunda Brown, conducted the meeting.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Recommendation: VI-G-1 will become VI-G-1a and add this item as VI-G-1b, “In the event that an injury occurs during warm-up and the athlete is no longer able to participate, the head official and tournament management shall determine the time for the team to feed back into the warm up and competition order. This time should not exceed 30 (thirty) minutes from the time of injury in the warm-up area.”

Rationale: This recommendation would set a clear procedure to address an injury during warm-up.

Approved

2. Item VII-F Advancement of Winners

Recommendation: Teams will compete in reverse order from how they placed in prelims (e.g. The team with the highest score after prelims in a particular division will compete last in that division during finals).

Rationale: To provide a culminating experience and reward the team who is advancing first out of prelims.

Died for Lack of Motion

3. Item VIII-I-1 Tournament Rules- Competitor's Apparel- Team Uniform

Recommendation: All briefs should be a solid color and devoid of any markings including but not limited to sequins, prints, wording, and symbols larger than NFHS specifications.

Rationale: Distraction occurs when athletes have sequins, animal print, prints, wording, or large symbols on briefs. All components of uniforms must be school approved and should reflect the educational mission of our member schools.

Approved

4. Item VIII-I-1 Tournament Rules- Competitor's Apparel- Team Uniform

Recommendation: Delete "In addition, no visible apparel may be worn under the uniform except bodysuits/spandex/briefs."

Rationale: Apparel under the spandex or briefs does not impact the nature of the uniform.

Approved

5. Item XI-A Officials- Number of Officials Assigned

Recommendation: In each Sectional level of competition, four (4) panel officials in which one will serve as the head official and three (3) technical officials shall be provided. At the State Final, Six (6) 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. This will allow for an increased number of high quality officials to provide feedback and score during the state series.

Died for Lack of Motion

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Recommendation:** An emphasis will be placed on sportsmanship and the consequences of unsportsmanlike conduct. Terms and Conditions language, including “Managers and officials have the strictest instructions to disqualify any competitor, coach and/or person guilty of profane or indecent language or of gross unsportsmanlike conduct. The IHSA By-laws give the Board of Directors complete authority to penalize a school for any unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of the principal, the coach, the athletes, the faculty, the board of education or any other official representative of any participating school”, will be emphasized throughout the cheer season. Sportsmanship will be a focus in the Online Rules video. Officials will be instructed on the procedure to handle gross unsportsmanlike conduct.

Rationale: It is important to promote a safe competition environment for athletes and fans. Supervision and promotion of good sportsmanship in interscholastic competition and other activities in which member schools choose to engage is critical to the IHSA mission.

Approved

2. **Recommendation:** Discontinue offering a Coaches Roundtable on Saturday from 2-3pm at the Cheer State Final. Instead, offer a coaches round table during the summer; possible webinar or video conference.

Rationale: The number of coaches attending the roundtable has decreased over the years. This is not a good venue or time for coaches to offer reasonable or practical suggestions.

Approved

3. **Recommendation:** Discontinue offering an Officials Training on Saturday of the State Final.

Rationale: There are several training opportunities for officials throughout the cheer season. It is difficult for officials to get a true sense of judging at this culminating event.

Approved

4. **Recommendation:** Create a Facilities Survey for Cheer, to included recommended hosting requirements.

Rationale: Currently a Facilities Survey for Competitive Cheer does not exist. We need to ensure that those schools hosting Competitive Cheerleading Sectionals have the appropriate facilities.

Approved

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. Shaunda Brown reviewed the 2015 Competitive Cheer State Series. 283 schools participated in Sectionals; 52 in the Coed Division, 86 in the Large Division, 78 in the Medium Division, and 67 in the Small Division.

2. The committee reviewed the State Final venue site at the U.S. Cellular Coliseum including: the warm-up area, venue layout, lighting and sound.
3. The committee discussed the following By-laws and Policies: By-law 2.090- Scrimmage versus Contest; By-law 3.011 Attendance; By-law 3.100 Independent Team Participation; By-law 5.340 Competitive Cheer Season Limitation; Policy 17 Classification System; and Policy 18 Grouping and Seeding State Tournament Series.
4. The committee recommended having 3 timers for the music portion of the routine and 1 timer and 1 official (technical or head official) for the routine time during the state series, to aid in more accurate timing of routine elements.
5. The committee discussed offering a five minute seating area for fans of teams competing to view the competition.
6. The committee discussed for any contest that offers video review, the official involved in the video review should list the participating schools as a conflict of interest on their IHSA Officials page. These conflicts could result in the official no longer being eligible to officiate the state series. Video review creates a conflict of interest for the official, because they are giving additional feedback, clarification, and tips to teams that are competing at a particular contest.
7. The committee discussed dropping the high and low scores at the State Final. The committee recommended continuing with this procedure for scoring.
8. The committee discussed the importance of coaches rating officials, both technical and panel officials.
9. The committee discussed the scoresheet and rubric regarding switch-ups and voice/projection. No recommendations were made for changes.
10. The committee recognized out-going committee members Gina Laio and Shari Muehlich for their service to the committee.