

**Minutes of the 2015-16 IHSA Competitive Cheerleading  
Advisory Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, March 9, 2016**

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); Angie Goley, Dwight; Joey Stanforth, Taylor Ridge (Rockridge); Stacey Killion, New Berlin; Robbie Walters, Columbia; and Becky Weslow, IHSA Officials Representative. Sara Flanigan, Spirit Officials Association Representative; Camille Munson, Coaches Association Representative and Carley Redman, UCA State Director also attended the meeting. Ryan Pitcock, Principal, Flossmoor (Homewood-F.) was unable to attend, but joined the meeting via phone. IHSA Assistant Executive Director, Shaunda Brown, conducted the meeting.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS**

**1. I-C School Classification**

**Recommendation:** The Coed Division will be defined as one (1) male on the competition floor.

**Rationale:** Upon reviewing the divisions that competed with one male, it would be equitable to have teams entered into the state series as coed w/one male on the competition floor. This change would align with other event competition rules. The current score sheet and rubric is equitable in scoring teams with one male on the Coed roster. Local schools will still have the option to compete in their single gender division or declare as a Coed team by Nov. 1. The IHSA cheer state series began with 26 Coed teams and has grown to 58 Coed teams.

**Died for Lack of Motion**

**2. I-C School Classification**

**Recommendation:** Increase the number of bench participants for Medium teams to five (5) and Large/Coed teams to six (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 are not required to yield more participants but will have the choice.

**Died for Lack of Motion**

### **3. VI F- Warm-up Time**

**Recommendation:** A nine (9) minute warm-up time at the State Finals will be posted online at [ihsa.org](http://ihsa.org).

**Rationale:** Currently, Sectionals have a seven (7) minute warm up time rotation and the state final has an eight (8) minute warm up rotation. The State Final venue has two warm up stations and it is feasible to have nine (9) 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 area.

**Died for Lack of Motion**

### **4. IX-D- State Final Passes**

**Recommendation:** State Final passes will be provided for each competitor, alternates, one (1) manager and eligible coaches as listed on the *List of Participants* as well as school officials/administrators.

**Rationale:** This would bring cheerleading in line with other sports allowing a manager to accompany the team during the state series. It would give an additional opportunity for a student to be a part of the program.

**Died for Lack of Motion**

### **5. 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. Develop an Ad-Hoc Committee to review the scoresheet; the rubric categories and ranges; and deductions sheet. This information will be solidified and ready to present at the July officials conference.

**Approved**

2. Continue to work with Tourneywire to post raw scores, deductions and final scores for both Sectionals and State online results.

**Died for Lack of Motion**

## **ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION**

1. Reviewed the State Final venue including: the warm-up area, volunteers, venue layout, video playback and awards.
2. Reviewed By-laws for 2016-17.
3. Discussed the behavior of coaches. Inappropriate behavior, use of social media, and dress has been noted during the competition season.
4. Discussed teams competing in reverse order from how they placed in prelims.
5. Discussed decreasing the deduction amount for legalities.
6. Discussed performance errors versus legalities.
7. Discussed officials and the use of power ratings for official assignments to the state series.
8. Discussed official's calls and the IHSA policy regarding the calls of officials.
9. Discussed the possible use of an additional safety/deduction official to explain legalities to coaches during competitions.
10. Discussed off-site practice facilities for the state final.
11. Discussed the seating arrangements at the State Final.
12. Discussed the routine disruption policy.
13. Discussed the possibility of moving the competitive cheer season to the fall.
14. Discussed the development of a stunt library. It was recommended for coaches and officials to utilize [www.spiritrules.com](http://www.spiritrules.com) for educational purposes.
15. The committee recognized out-going committee members Joey Stanforth, Angie Goley, Robbie Walters, Becky Weslow, and Ryan Pitcock for their service to the committee.