

**Minutes of the 2016-17 IHSA Competitive Cheerleading
Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 8, 2017**

The IHSA Competitive Cheerleading Advisory Committee met at the IHSA office in Bloomington. Committee members present were Gina Alatzakis, Chicago (St. Ignatius); Mike Sommerfeld, Athletic Director, St. Charles (East); Amy DiForti, Joliet (West); Leslie Showers, Stillman Valley; BJ Luke, Danville (H.S.); Stacey Killion, New Berlin; Heather Kirkley, Troy (Triad); and Angie Wilmington, IHSA Officials Representative. Sara Flanigan, Spirit Officials Association Representative; Neva Corn, Coaches Association Representative and Miranda Cerny, Chicago Sports Administrator, also attended the meeting. IHSA Assistant Executive Director, Susie Knoblauch, conducted the meeting.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Item I. C. School Classification

Recommendation: All Coed teams must be announced to the IHSA by ~~November 1~~ November 15. Teams who miss this deadline will compete in the designated division per the school's enrollment.

Rationale: Schools adding/changing to coed creates a disparity in the geographical balance of assignments at sectionals. By extending the designated cutoff to November 15th, schools will have ample time to hold co-ed tryouts. This will also alleviate concerns with coed participants who participate in football playoffs and are not allowed to tryout until the football season ends.

Approved

2. Item VIII. B. 2. Tournament Rules Scoring

Recommendation: State: The official IHSA score sheet will be used for the scoring of all competitive cheerleading routines. The total accumulative point value of the officials score sheets will be averaged. There shall be five (5) IHSA hired panel officials and (1) head panel official for each division for State. ~~There shall be one (1) head official for State.~~ There shall be three (3) technical officials and (1) head technical official for State.

Rationale: Currently, the Head Official is responsible for quality control; confirming panel officials are consistent and in rubric range. At the State Final, adding a Head Technical Official is necessary to verify NFHS legalities and deductions and work with the technical officials' crew when questions arise. The Head Tech Official would oversee all divisions at the state series, which allows for consistency across the divisions, which compete simultaneously.

Approved

3. Item XI. A. Officials Number of Officials Assigned

Recommendation: At each Sectional level of competition, one (1) head official and three (3) panel officials; and three (3) technical officials in which one will be assigned as the head tech official shall be provided. State Final: At the State level competition, one (1) head official and five (5) panel officials for each division; and three (3) technical officials for each division shall be provided. One (1) head technical official will be assigned to the state final to oversee all divisions.

Rationale: Currently, the Head Official has the responsibility to script the routines, oversee the panel officials rubric ranges and confirm consistency in scores. At the State Final, adding a Head Technical official is necessary to verify NFHS legalities and deductions and work with the technical officials when questions arise. The one (1) Head Technical Official will confirm consistency across the divisions throughout the state final. (Same request as VIII. B. 2 – language appears in two areas: Tournament Scoring and Number of Assigned Officials)

Approved

4. Item XI. C. Officials

Recommendation: ~~The head coach may meet with the head official and Sectional manager briefly at the conclusion of the contest during packet pick-up.~~ All other tournament communication must be directed to the host manager. Normal conversation that must take place between the host school/manager, the officials, coaches, squad members or school representatives is allowed.

Rationale: Due to time and scheduling, it is more feasible for coaches to speak with tournament management regarding questions about the competition. Any questions that cannot be answered by the tournament manager can be forwarded to the IHSA administrator who can, if necessary, consult with the assigned head official.

Approved

5. Item XI. D. Officials

Recommendation: Officials will ~~turn~~ submit score sheets electronically to the head official at the competition for each division. It is the head official's responsibility to verify all scores and order of finish. The site manager will include score sheets and order of finish after the completion of each division in the team exit packets. ~~The manager will forward copies of the official score sheets to the IHSA office.~~

Rationale: This change reflects current practice. Because of the use of an online scoring tool – tourney wire, this practice is no longer necessary for the managers. Submitted copies of the score sheets do not need to be sent to the IHSA office because the IHSA will have the master log in to access all scores through tourney wire.

Approved

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. Proposals that were tabled for further review

- Flight teams' performance order at the state final based on sectional placement
- Flight team performance order from prelims to finals at the state level based on prelim round placement
- Increase the amount of warm-up time
- Add a minimum number of athletes allowed on the competition floor
- Increase the number of alternates in the medium division to 5 & large/coed division to 6
- Change the execution score from 1.5 to 3.0 and difficulty ranges to 6-7; 5-6; 4-5; and 3-4
- Track difficulty, creativity and skill utilization scores from prelims to finals
- Separate baskets/pyramids on the scoresheet

2. Sectionals

- Host sites reviewed
- Future sectional hosts discussed

3. State Final Concerns

- Warm up rotation if there is a delay
- Lack of space for athletes to be waiting before report time
- Additional warm up space for stretching
- Parking for coaches if taking mini vans
- Location for teams to take pictures
- Pass gate list
- Secure judges from all around the state

4. Appropriateness

- Concern over appropriateness of choreography

5. Timing

- Paying timers at Sectional/State
- Grace period to account for human error in timing

6. Officials Training

- More training on skills and using score sheet
- Problems with difficulty scores being inconsistent
- Recommend continuing with Routine Analysis, Power Points - add Webinars
- Additional education, mentoring, live trainings and other practice sessions for officials to gain experience
- Ensure that the officials who are judging during the state series are applying and utilizing the tools appropriately Practical assessment for state series officials
- Educational tools posted in the Officials/Schools Center
- State Final: Officials goal - to get the top 10 performances from prelims to finals
- Scores may vary slightly due to the orders of performs and the skills that are thrown on given day
- Officials ratings

7. Performance Errors

- Performance error scoring creates more subjectivity
- Unintentional/Intentional legalities

8. Scoresheet and Rubric

- Changing the scoresheet after implementing it for just one year
- Inconsistency of scores and application of utilizing the tools for scoring
- Focus education on the non-rubric categories
- More valuable comments from judges – comments don't match scores
- Turning in skills sheet to judges before competing
- Execution value - more points given for execution
- Difficulty scores & creativity/skill utilization tracked during prelims and finals
- Separate baskets/pyramids
- Transparent scoring sectionals/state will be implemented through tourney wire

9. Coaches Education

- Fall coaches conference - Oak Forest High School - August 13th
- Fall coaches conference - Normal West - Sept. 16th
- Training videos in IHSA School Center - Coaches can view training videos that officials view

10. Dates and Reminders

- Maximum of 25 days of contact for competitive cheer in the summer
- Last day for competitive cheer summer contact July 30th, 2017
- Competitive Cheer Season Begins - October 23rd, 2017 (Tryouts can begin)
- 1st Contest – October 30, 2017
- Sectionals – January 27, 2018
- State – February 3 & 3, 2018
- Advisory Committee Meeting Date – Wednesday, March 7, 2018

- 11.** The committee recognized out-going committee member IHSA Division 2, Mike Sommerfeld Athletic Director, St. Charles (East), for his service to the committee.