

# **Minutes of the 2008-09 IHSA Competitive Cheerleading Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, March 4, 2009**

The IHSA Competitive Cheerleading Advisory Committee met at the IHSA office in Bloomington. Committee members present were Mike Bruce, Orland Park (Sandburg); John Martin, Athletic Director, Lincolnshire (Stevenson); Nicole Broadhurst, Chicago (Marist); Jeffrey Siegal, Elk Grove Village (E.G.); Rita Grunloh, Lexington; and Wendy Suey, Pana. Lisa Turner, Mt. Vernon (H.S.); Todd France, Principal, Rockford and Christopher Borzym, Riverside (R.-Brookfield) were unable to attend.

## **TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **1. 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) 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. Local invitational competitions may still utilize the 42 x 42 floor. 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.

**No action taken**

### **2. Item X - Awards**

**Recommendation:** It is recommended to add four (4) coaches' medallions.

**Rationale:** Currently teams can list four coaches, however only two can go through the awards ceremony and receive medals. Teams are allowed a maximum of up to four (4) competitive cheerleading coaches on the competition floor for the state series.

**approved**

### **3. Item I-C-School Classification**

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Medium Team allowable size be up to 21 rostered participants with 16 allowed on the competition floor and Large Team and Coed Team allowable size be up to 26 rostered participants with 20 allowed on the competition floor.

**Rationale:** The additions to the roster are proportional to the schools enrollment rather than a blanket number of participants allowable for all schools and divisions.

**No action taken**

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

**Recommendation:** It is recommended to define the Coed Division as two (2) males on the competition floor.

**Rationale:** Upon reviewing the Coed division, 52 teams entered the state series for 2008-09. Of those 52 teams, 14 were entered in the coed division with one male on the competition floor. The Cheer Advisory Committee was concerned if a change like this were to be in place in should take two years for school programs to make adjustments. Additionally, the committee recommended that the head officials review and create a coed rubric that can be piloted to compare from multiple view if the current rubric is appropriate for the coed division. The state series started with 26 coed teams and has grown to 52 coed teams in four years.

**Approved, to be implemented in 2010-2011**

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

**Recommendation:** A seven (7) minute warm –up time at the Sectional and State Final Tournament shall be posted on-line at [www.ihsa.org](http://www.ihsa.org) prior to competition. Competitors must report in person at the designated time to the warm-up site director at Sectionals and the State Final for warm-up check-in.

**Rationale:** This will allow for a more fluid schedule.

**approved**

## 6. **Item VI-C- State Final Time Schedule**

**Recommendation:** The committee approved changing the State Final Time Schedule on Saturday to double panel two divisions.

11:00 a.m. – Small and Medium Team Finals  
(Small and Medium team performances alternate)  
12:45 p.m. – Small Team Awards  
1:15 p.m. - Medium Team Awards  
3:00 p.m. – Large and Coed Team Finals  
(Large and Coed team performances alternate)  
4:45 p.m. – Large Team Awards  
5:15 p.m. – Coed Team Awards

**Rationale:** To improve the pace of the event.

**approved**

## **ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The committee reviewed the school enrollment cutoffs for competition. Currently 50 teams entered the coed division, 81 teams in the large division, 74 teams in the medium division, and 70 teams in the small division. Committee members agreed to recommend to keep the cut offs the same because schools are comfortable with the splits and the small division may continue to grow.
2. The committee discussed the number of officials assigned to the state series and recommended to keep the current format with two technical officials at sectionals and three at the state finals.
3. The committee discussed a proposal to move to a fall season. The group agreed that this would not be favorable for small schools whose students play volleyball in the fall and cheer in the winter season. The group also felt that it may seem that gym space is more available in the fall but the reality is that open gyms and weather issues easily occupy high school gyms in the fall as well.
4. The committee reviewed the state final venue and offered suggestions to continue to make the state final a great experience for all competing teams and spectators. 2009-10 will be the third year of a three-year contract with the US Cellular Coliseum in Bloomington. Discussion covered layout and logistics, temperature, credentials, parking, lighting, sound, flooring, and seating. The IHSA will have back up plans in place for house sound issues and speakers on the floor. IHSA will continue to improve the warm up holding space, temperature, restrooms, and overall tournament logistics.
5. The committee discussed Sectional hosts and assignments. The committee recommending consist sectional host schools so teams are comfortable with the logistics of sectional level competition year to year. Travel concerns were also reviewed.

6. The Online Entry process was reviewed. If changes need to be made to the list of participants from sectionals' to state coaches can make that request through the IHSA office.
7. The committee discussed at length the issues of Sportsmanship and Professionalism in coaching. There have been some nice strides in these areas since the first year of IHSA state level competition but the committee would like to see conferences take a more aggressive approach towards Sportsmanship issues.
8. The committee reviewed the rubric and offered some suggested changes in areas of motions/dance, jumps, tumbling and stunt/pyramids. These changes will better define the skills and ranges. The committee agreed that there should not be any significant changes because many coaches and officials are just becoming comfortable with the scoring instrument. The revised rubric will be posted on the cheerleading menu page this summer.
9. The IHSA Officials Conference will be held July 17 & 18th in Peoria. This conference will cover sessions on using and understanding the scoring rubric. Officials' education has been improving and there are some strides in consistency, however the committee would like to see more education efforts, especially with the use of video. A discussion of consistency of scores from sectionals to state and in certain category areas such as degree of difficulty lead to the direction to focus on these areas at officials training.
10. A coach's round table will be added to the Saturday of the State Final where coaches can contribute items for discussion at the cheer advisory committee meeting. The round table format is in place at other IHSA state finals and offers an excellent opportunity for competing and non-competing coaches to engage in positive interaction and discussion.
11. An officials training will continue to be offered at the state final venue. This Saturday session has drawn over a dozen officials that can be trained on the IHSA rubric/score sheet, legalities/deductions, and philosophy.
12. Captains workshops and Mascot training will be implemented into the state final in future years.
13. Advisory committee member John Martin was recognized for his service to the IHSA. John has been a long time supporter of cheer programs in the state of Illinois.