



**2017 CHEERLEADING ADVISORY MEETING  
Minutes and Recommendations - February 9, 2017**

**The following members were present for this meeting:**

Leslie Alappattu - IESA Assistant Executive Director  
Tami Bruno - Coach, Bradley Central  
Courtney Earley - Coach (2016), Reed-Custer MS  
Lynn Krumlinde - Coach, Lockport Kelvin Grove  
Erin Locke - Coach, Shorewood Troy  
Susie Knoblauch - IHSA Assistant Executive Director  
Carley Redman - UCA Consultant  
Jackie Weinstein - Coach, Vernon Hills Hawthorn North

**The IESA Cheerleading Advisory Committee, in its meeting on February 9, 2017, makes the following recommendations to the IESA Board of Directors for their April 7, 2017, meeting:**

**RECOMMENDATION #1**

**Current** - None

**Proposed** - Clerical or team scoring errors may be corrected up to 48 hours after the conclusion of the competition. After this time, all team standings will be final.

**Rationale** - This allows flexibility in the event there is an issue discovered with scoring after awards are given out and places are announced.

**Terms and Conditions** - Section IV.A

**APPROVED**

**RECOMMENDATION #2**

**Current** - Time will start with the first organized word, motion, or sound of music and will end with the same. There will be a deduction from your total score if the time limit is not met.

**Proposed** - Time will start with the first organized word, motion, or sound of music and will end with the same. There will be a deduction from your total score if the time limit is not met. *Entrances and exits are not considered part of the routine and should not be organized. There should not be any organized exits or other activities after the official ending of the routine.*

**Rationale** - The current wording for IV.A.5 and IV.A.12 can be interpreted as contradictory. The addition provides cohesion regarding entrances and exits and when time begins and ends.

**Terms and Conditions** - Section IV.A.5, remove IV.A.12

**APPROVED**

**RECOMMENDATION #3**

**Current** - In the event that an injury causes the squad's routine to be interrupted, the squad must either continue the routine or withdraw from the competition. Tournament officials reserve the right to stop the routine if an injury occurs.

**Proposed** - In the event that an injury occurs during warm-up or during the team's scheduled competition time 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 or on the competition mat.

**Rationale** - This addition defines how much time a school will be given to re-choreograph the routine if an injury occurs.

**Terms and Conditions** - Section IV.B

**APPROVED**

#### **RECOMMENDATION #4**

**Current** - Schools will have access to the actual competition area Saturday morning from 7:00 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. This is a chance for schools to see the setup of the competition area, not an opportunity to run through the routine or practice stunting, tumbling passes, etc. The area will be monitored during this time and squads must remain off of the competition mats.

**Proposed** - Remove this option.

**Rationale** - This time is not being used by schools as less than 6 schools (out of 148) utilized this option in 2016 and 2017, eliminates the need for staff to be there as early.

**Terms and Conditions** - Section VIII.E.1-2

**APPROVED**

#### **RECOMMENDATION #5**

**Current** - Video recording devices are not allowed in the competition area.

**Proposed** - Spectators will be allowed to videotape in the stands provided they remain seated and do not obstruct the view of the judging panels, or entrances/exits.

**Rationale** - This change allows schools to have video of performance without DVD sales but specifies that spectators are not to obstruct the judges' view.

**Terms and Conditions** - Section VIII.F.1

**APPROVED**

#### **RECOMMENDATION #6**

**Current** - None

**Proposed** - Coaches are permitted to test music from 7:45-8:45 am and after the conclusion of Session 1 awards.

**Rationale** - This addition clearly specifies when music can be tested.

**Terms and Conditions** - Section VIII.K

**APPROVED**

#### **RECOMMENDATION #7**

**Current** - None

**Proposed** - Adopt the implementation of TourneyWire for electronic scoring to be used throughout the competition.

**Rationale** - For how the competition has grown in the last few years, using the current pen and triplicate paper method is not adequate in scoring in a timely and efficient manner.

**Terms and Conditions** - None

**APPROVED**

#### **RECOMMENDATION #8**

**Current** - None

**Proposed** - The IESA Cheer administrator has the authority to make adjustments to both the competition schedule and the warm-up schedule as needed.

**Rationale** - Allows for scheduling changes to be made as needed.

**Terms and Conditions** - Section IV.A

**APPROVED**

#### **ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION WITH NO RECOMMENDATION MADE TO THE IESA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

1. IESA recognized Minooka Junior High School, Dunlap Middle School, Eureka Middle School, Alsip Prairie Junior High School and Frankfort Hickory Creek Middle School as champions of the 2017 state cheerleading competition.
2. The committee reviewed the suggestion to change how divisions are created and to base the divisions off of school size instead of squad size. The committee chose to leave the divisions as is because schools have to determine entry based on the number of kids that are interested in cheer, it's challenging to compete with schools based on school size when a school doesn't have a large number of students interested and there are concerns with seasons overlapping and students feeling they have to choose one activity over another (i.e. basketball or volleyball over cheer).
3. Small team routine is currently outlined as 5-12 members for the minimum and maximum numbers. It would be difficult for schools to compete with less than five students in this division because 4 students are needed for a pyramid and 5 students are needed for spotting/stunting.

4. Some schools expressed concern that not all coaches were provided with wristbands. Coaches not listed on the online entry form as communicated to do so by IESA were not given wristbands the day before or on the day of the competition. A spot on the online entry form for assistant coaches will be included, but it is up to the school to communicate who those individuals are by the online roster deadline and schools will be provided wristbands for coaches based on who is listed on the online entry form by the online roster deadline. The individual completing the school's online entry form must include the names of all coaching-certified and concussion-certified coaches. It is the school's and coaches' responsibility to ensure they have all necessary personnel as additional wristbands will not be given the day of or the evening before the competition.
5. The committee discussed implementing a system of coaches double-checking results prior to the awards ceremony via a coaches' meeting where coaches get results packets prior to awards being distributed. To address this suggestion, the IESA will implement the system where each panel will continue to have 5 judges on a panel. 4 of those panel judges will score a performance and the head judge for the panel will review the panel judges' scores. Next, the quality judge will confirm all scores in the division and once all results are in, the IESA Cheer administrator will review scores prior to the awards ceremony.
6. Two suggestions were submitted regarding the difficulty and execution scores given for the routine division (it is currently a 7/3 split for difficulty/execution). One suggestion felt the split should be 8.5/1.5 and/or aligned with IHSA and another suggestion felt it should be a 5/5 split. The committee discussed the 7/3 split being appropriate for the middle school/junior high level, awarding a maximum of 1.5 would be a significant learning curve for this level of students who may have not ever competed before and that our points do not have to match directly to IHSA's criteria since we are different age groups. In addition, the committee felt coaches should be coaching with integrity and matching the team's skills to their ability level and that as is, the rubric and point breakdown is very fair for all levels.
7. The committee did not move forward with the suggestion to increase the cheerleading entry fee for schools in an effort to bring DVD sales back. The committee discussed that increasing the school's entry fee does not guarantee that DVD sales would be cost-effective and may prohibit schools from signing up for IESA Cheer.
8. The committee elected to continue having the two Saturday coaches' meetings. It is the responsibility of the school to send a coach or a school representative to attend one of the meetings prior to the school's first performance.
9. The committee discussed adding a specific time for each squad to have their photo taken on Saturday, but no recommendation was made.
10. The committee did not feel it was necessary to change the current awards format but heard suggestions about not introducing students by name for those receiving a trophy, only calling down the top 50% of teams in a division to the competition mat, and/or only announcing the top 10 teams in each division.
11. The committee had a discussion regarding awards and felt the current format in which awards are distributed based on the number of schools competing in a given division is appropriate as is.
12. The committee discussed the process for speaking with the tech judges after the awards ceremony.
  - a. The following is currently communicated - *Within 15 minutes of the conclusion of the awards ceremony, coaches can pick up their school's results packet from the IESA staff member seated at the tech judges' table. A tech judge will be available in Room 135 to answer questions from a coach regarding technical safety deductions. No discussion regarding judges' scores will be heard.*
  - b. The following will also be communicated - *Included in the results packet will be the scores from the scoring judges, one tech score sheet and the overall division results sheet with all teams' scores. A coach will have approximately a 15-20 minute window in which tech judges are available. Tech judges can discuss why a team was assigned a deduction but no scores are changed as a result of this discussion. In addition, at no time will a video review take place as the judges' scores are final and cannot be protested.*
13. The committee did not feel it was necessary for coaches to be able to test music for Session 2 during Session 1 awards.
14. The committee did not feel it was warranted to include the team mascot/school colors in the program.
15. The committee discussed removing the judges at the Friday night practice session. The Friday practice sessions are not available to all schools as there are only 32 time slots available; those attending may receive an advantage in getting feedback regarding safety concerns from the judges' perspective.
16. The committee chose not to pursue avenues to stream the performances live and online.
17. The term "alternate" will continue to be used in the state program booklet.
18. The committee discussed ways to address seating concerns - if the competition continues to grow, exploring the notion of 3 performance sessions may be considered.

### **IESA CHEER ADMINISTRATOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Include the expectation that all IESA Cheer state competition coaches meet the requirements for IESA coaching certification and state-mandated concussion certification to the Terms and Conditions (Section III).
2. Add "Assistant Coaches" to the online entry form.
3. Remove Friday practice session judges.
4. Post results online after the awards ceremony.
5. Outline how awards are announced in Section VIII.M - all teams in division are called to competition mat, bottom 50% are announced as Honorable Mention, top 50% are announced by place
6. Speak with Peoria Civic Center regarding additional seating options/availability as competition grows.
7. Implement at least a 10-minute break within sessions that go beyond 2 scheduled hours.
8. Speak with PCC ushers about those filming that are obstructing view of other spectators.

The IESA Cheerleading Advisory Committee would like to thank Lynn Krumlinde and Courtney Earley for their continued commitment to IESA Cheerleading and their feedback over their years of service to the committee.

The IESA Cheerleading Advisory Committee's next meeting date is Thursday, February 8, 2018.