

2021 IESA Cheer Contest Format - Online Submission

The current health and safety guidelines create a unique challenge for any cheer competition. The IESA Board of Directors has approved a plan for the IESA cheer competition to be conducted virtually for the 2020-21 school year. The goal is to continue to encourage students to participate in the activity and give them an opportunity to perform a judged event.

Schools will video their performance and then send that video to the IESA Office. Schools may rehearse, practice, "do-over" their performance as many times as they would like until they are satisfied and then will submit the performance to the IESA Office. There will not be a champion of each division as has been the case when we have held our state cheer competition in Peoria. Each school will receive a Division I or a Division II or a Division III rating for the performance submitted.

Dates:

Entry Deadline: April 1

Participant Deadline: None this year

Video Submission Deadline: Schools must submit their recordings online to the IESA no later than April 30

Contest Fees: A contest fee of \$75.00 will be required for each entry. Schools must enter through the IESA Member Center no later than April 1. If a video is submitted and the contest fee has not been paid, the video will not be judged. Schools that submit contest fees will receive additional instructions upon receipt of fees.

Eligibility: All students must be academically eligible to participate.

Events: Schools should enter the class they feel comfortable in performing within current social distancing guidelines.

Rules: All contest rules and limitations apply. Please see section 4.150 of IESA Handbook.

Time Limit on cheer performances is 1:30-2:00 minutes. No music.

Time limit on routine performances 1:30-3:00 minutes and there must be a music portion which does not exceed two (2) minutes.

COVID-19 Exceptions noted below:

Cheerleaders do not need to wear masks when performing.

Contact between participants must be minimized by maintaining at least 6 feet of distancing on the floor during routines, including when changing formations, and by prohibiting lifts, stunts, pyramids, and tosses as well as shared equipment (e.g., signs, flags, poms)

Judges: The IESA will assign judges to review the recordings. The IESA will provide the necessary scoresheets for each judge.

Scoresheets: Completed scoresheets with the rating assigned will be returned to participating schools within 30 days.

Awards: Schools will be able to order a plaque through our awards vendor, A&M Products, Princeton, IL for the rating received. Schools are responsible for the cost of the plaque which will be shipped directly to the school upon payment. Payment will be sent to directly to A&M Products. Approximate cost to the school for the plaque (including shipping) will be \$75. Schools are not obligated to purchase a plaque. No individual medals will be awarded.

General Virtual Guidelines: Please refer to the following link for guidelines on submitting your video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KXEdRMPi6Ng&feature=youtu.be> However, at this point in time, how you will upload your video and actually submit it the IESA Office still needs to be determined.

Virtual Performance Guidelines – Suggested Standards and Norms

- Video must be taken full front.
- No special lighting can be used. Full house lighting must be used.
- Video should be taken elevated so layout can be visible to the judges.
- Groups should perform all of their routine with no break. Video should not be edited, cut, or altered in any way. Multiple videos and camera angles cannot be edited together. No sound editing can occur. Entries must be one unedited recording from start to finish.
- Filming may be on a phone, tablet, or basic camera. No special effects can be added.

Virtual Officiating/Judging

- Judges will evaluate and judge the performances.
- Judges will access the videos from the platform selected by the IESA.
- Judges will only watch a video once. They will not stop, start, rewind, etc. The goal is to make the judging experience as close to a live performance as possible. Replay will not be used.
- The same scoresheet criteria will be used.

We still have some details to finalize but our goal is to allow IESA schools to participate in a virtual cheer competition so your squad can get together and perform. Instructions on how to submit your performance video, additional rules, etc. will follow after a school submits an entry.