

2023 IESA CHEER COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes and Recommendations

March 8, 2023

Virtual Meeting

The following members were present for the meeting: Kristen D'Alfonso (IESA Assistant Executive Director), Brian Allen, IHSA Official; Brianna Paczkowski, Coach, Lemont Old Quarry; Kati Miller, Coach, Normal Parkside; Abygayle Hampton, Coach, Girard North Mac; Jade Sewell, Coach, Glasford Illini Bluffs; and Joni Fultz, Coach, O'Fallon Carriel.

The IESA Cheer Advisory Committee, in its meeting on March 8, 2023, makes the following recommendations to the Board of Directors in its April meeting:

Recommendation 1- Cheer Calendar

Current	State competition to be held the Saturday of Week 33.
Proposed	Move the date of the competition to Week 32.
Rationale	Moving the date of the competition from mid-February to earlier in February would shorten an already longer competitive season for those teams who compete in additional competitions. Holding the competition the week of the IHSA competition could allow for potential use of their venue, shared equipment, and other benefits.
Cheer T&C	Section I – Season Calendar
IESA By-law	
Admin Vote	4-0 in favor
Board Action	Approved

Recommendation 2- Cheer divisions

Current	Two divisions exist for those teams competing in the cheer division: Small team cheer: 12 or fewer members Large team cheer: 13-25 members
Proposed	Combine the small and large cheer divisions into one division. All teams who enter the cheer division would compete against each other, regardless of the number of athletes on the squad.
Rationale	The number of teams that compete in the cheer divisions is considerably smaller than those in the routine division. It isn't necessary to have two divisions. Combining into one division will help move the competition along at a more efficient pace and eliminate the need for two different awards ceremonies.
Cheer T&C	Section II – Cheer Divisions
IESA By-law	
Admin Vote	4-0 in favor
Board Action	Tabled – additional research needed

Additional discussion:

1. **Assigning schools to divisions based on enrollment size:** Schools would be split into three divisions based on enrollment, similar to how schools are split into classes for other sports based on enrollment size. This creates more equity and levels the playing field for those teams who, despite having very high enrollment, decide to enter the small team division and compete against the schools with smaller enrollment and smaller teams.

The committee would like to break down the 2023 divisions by enrollment size and look at additional date. Committee members would like to discuss this further at another meeting.

2. **Consider changes to the routine rubric.** No recommendation. Committee members would like to discuss this further at another meeting.
3. **Create a qualifier in order to limit the teams who qualify for the state competition.**
4. **Transparent scoring** (allowing teams to see the scores for all teams - not just overall score but individual team breakdown).
5. **Consider venue change** (discussion about Civic Center - lighting, equipment, concessions,
6. **Judging**
7. **Live Streaming**

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 6th, 2024