



2021 Cheerleading Terms and Conditions

Changes and items of clarification from last school year to this school year are highlighted. Some sections have been reorganized/renumbered in an effort to better organize the information in the IESA Cheerleading Terms and Conditions.

I. CHEERLEADING SEASON CALENDAR

Cooperative Agreement Due	November 11, 2020
Entry Deadline	November 18, 2020
Final Entry Deadline	December 1, 2020
Friday Practice Session Sign-up Begins	December 1, 2020
Online Roster Deadline	December 11, 2020
Division Change Deadline	January 6, 2021
Competition Date	January 23, 2021

II. ENTRY FEES AND DIVISIONS

- A. Entry Fees
1. Schools must pay an entry fee of \$75 per division by the entry deadline. Schools can enter a maximum of one squad per division.
 2. Late entry fees are doubled after the entry deadline but will be waived for schools designated as new members or for current member schools entering this activity for the first time.
 3. Entries received after the final entry deadline will not be accepted.
 4. Entry fees will be refunded only upon request prior to the entry deadline.
- B. Divisions
1. Cheer Division
 - a. No music is allowed and 1:30-2:00 minute time limit for entire performance.
 - b. Performance may include stunts, tumbling and jumps.
 - c. Small Team Cheer (squads with 12 or less members) and Large Team Cheer (13-25 members)
 2. Routine Division
 - a. Music is required and 1:30-3:00 minute time limit for entire performance.
 - b. Music portion may not exceed two (2) minutes.
 - c. The "normal" full routine setup is music, followed by the cheer/sideline, and concludes with music.
 - d. Small Team Routine (5-12 members), Medium Team Routine (13-16 members) and Large Team Routine (17-25 members)
 3. No changes in division are allowed after the date specified in the season calendar - as of this date, schools have to participate in the division for which they registered with only the maximum number allowed for that division category.
 4. It is not permissible to participate in a division with more squad members than the division allows.
 5. A mascot is considered part of the squad and will count towards the maximum number of members allowed if he/she participates with and is part of the squad's performance.
 6. If a school participates in both the Cheer and Routine divisions, it is recommended that different elements be used in each performance.

III. STUDENT AND COACH ELIGIBILITY

- A. A student must be eligible under all of the eligibility rules and conditions of competition of the IESA. These rules and conditions are outlined in Sections 2 and 3 of the IESA Handbook and include but are not limited to:
1. Scholastic Standing - IESA By-Law 2.040
 2. Residence and Transfer - IESA By-Laws 2.050 and 2.060
 3. Participation Limitations - IESA By-Law 3.040
 4. Age Qualifications - IESA By-Law 3.050

5. Physical Examination - IESA By-Law 3.060
 6. Amateurism - IESA By-Law 3.070
 7. Participating Under an Assumed Name - IESA By-Law 3.080
 8. All-Star Participation - IESA By-Law 3.100
 9. **Penalty for Violating Rules – IESA By-Law 5.100**
- B. To serve as a head coach, assistant coach, unpaid volunteer coach, or in any coaching capacity, the individual must meet the IESA requirements outlined in IESA By-Law 2.110.
1. A maximum of 3 coaches may be listed on the entry form by the online roster deadline all of whom must meet the IESA coaching certification to receive a wristband for the state competition. The coach wristband permits a coach entry into Exhibit Hall B for warm-ups and into the coaching box in Exhibit Hall C for the competition.

IV. COMPETITION RULES AND IESA EXCEPTIONS TO NFHS RULES

- A. The National Federation of High School Associations (NFHS) Spirit Rules Book will be followed for the state competition.
1. The IESA has adopted the following exceptions to the NFHS Spirit Rules Book:
 - a. All tosses (sponge and basket) are prohibited. For the purpose of clarification, a quick toss is permitted because the top person's feet begin with contact on the performing surface. See NFHS Spirit rule 1 for specific definitions.
 2. Any squad in violation of safety regulations or any NFHS Spirit Rules Book major infraction will be assessed a deduction for each infraction as outlined in the technical scoresheet.
- B. The IESA Cheer administrator has the authority to make adjustments to both the competition schedule and the warm-up schedule as needed.
- C. Prior to Competition
1. Required Online Forms
 - a. Entry Form
 - i. All members of the cheerleading squad must be current members of the official school spirit squad and must attend the school they are representing.
 - ii. The cheerleading entry form must be completed for each division entered by the online roster deadline; only the squad members and coaches listed on the entry form are permitted to enter into the state competition areas as team personnel.
 - b. Squad Photos and Cut Lines
 - i. Picture instructions - <http://www.iesa.org/documents/general/IESA-ProgramPhotoInstructions.pdf>
 - ii. Schools competing in both divisions with the same team members for both divisions only need to submit one photo and set of cut lines.
 - iii. The program will state "Photo Not Available" if a photo is not submitted.
 2. A tentative schedule will be sent out after the final entry deadline and will be dependent based on the number of registered squads in each division. The final schedule will be sent out after the division change deadline in January.
 3. In lieu of a mandatory coaches' meeting on the day of the competition, schools will be sent a "Welcome to State" video in January and schools are responsible for viewing this video prior to their arrival at the state competition. On the day of the state competition, at least one IHSA official will be available Saturday morning and during the break between sessions to answer any question(s) a coach may have.
 4. On the day of competition, each squad will have five (5) minutes of warm-up time on a mat that is the same size as the competition mat (42' x 54'); this warm-up time will be approximately 15 minutes before the actual performance time and will take place in Exhibit Hall B.
 5. The Association assumes no responsibility for the payment of copyright, royalty, or any other fees connected to the performances of any material in the cheer competition. Schools must adhere to and be in full compliance with U.S. copyright laws.
 - a. Music must be made available on a CD; mobile devices such as iPods, etc. are acceptable as long as another music format is available for back up and it is the coach's responsibility to start and stop the music.
 - b. Coaches are permitted to test music from 7:45-8:45 a.m. and after the conclusion of Session 1 awards.
- D. During Competition
1. Personnel selected by the IESA will be responsible for judging all performances. Their decisions are final and cannot be protested.

2. 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 the 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. The ending of the routine should be held for a few seconds and safely dismounted with no excessive celebration.
 3. Squads may line up anywhere inside the competition area. The competition area will be 42' x 54' (9 strips).
 - a. Participants must start on the mat in the competition area with at least one foot on the ground. There will be a deduction per judge if a school fails to start their performance with at least one foot on the ground.
 - b. Participants can step on the edge of the mat, but if he or she steps off the edge (i.e. foot/shoe makes contact with the floor) or outside the mat boundary lines, it is considered out of bounds. There will be a deduction per incident per judge if a participant steps outside the boundary lines.
 - c. Participants can step on the boundary lines.
 4. Each squad's presentation must include at least one cheer or sideline chant.
 5. The musical portion of a routine division performance must not exceed two (2) minutes.
 - a. Band cheers will be considered part of the musical portion.
 - b. Squads exceeding the music time limit will be assessed a deduction from the total score.
 6. Signs used during the competition may be placed on the competition mat prior to the performance and such signs may be placed on or off the mat without penalty; signs are allowed for both divisions.
 7. Interruptions
 - a. If, in the opinion of the tournament officials, a squad's routine is interrupted because of failure of the tournament equipment, facilities, or other factors attributable to the tournament rather than the squad, the head official should stop the routine. The squad will be allowed to present its routine from the place in the routine where the interruption occurred. The degree and effect of the interruption will be determined by the tournament officials.
 - b. In the event a squad's routine is interrupted because of failure of the squad's own equipment, the squad must either continue the routine or withdraw from the competition.
 - c. 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.
 - i. This time should not exceed 30 (thirty) minutes from the time of injury in the warm-up area or on the competition mat.
 - ii. Tournament officials reserve the right to stop the routine if an injury occurs.
- E. After Competition
1. Awards
 - a. The number of awards presented will be based on the actual number of teams participating in each division on the day of the competition. The following formula will be used when presenting awards:
 - i. 1-9 teams entered in a given division - championship trophy and medals
 - ii. 10-19 teams entered in a given division - 1st and 2nd place trophies and medals
 - iii. 20 or more teams entered in a division - 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place trophies and medals
 - b. All teams in a division are called to the competition mat - the bottom 50% are announced as Honorable Mention and the top 50% are announced by place.
 2. 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. Included in the results packet will be the scores from the scoring judges, the tech judges and the overall division results sheet with all teams' scores.
 - b. A tech judge will be available in Room 134 to answer questions from a coach regarding technical safety deductions. No discussion regarding changing the judges' scores will be heard. A coach will have approximately 15 minutes where a tech judge will be available to discuss why a team was assigned a deduction.
 - i. No scores are changed as a result of this discussion.
 - ii. At no time will a video review take place as the judges' scores are final and cannot be protested.
 3. 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.

V. JUDGING CRITERIA

- A. The judges will score the squads according to the judging criteria on a 100 point system. The total accumulated point value will be averaged against the number of judges and technical deductions will be taken from the

average score. In keeping with the proper role of cheerleading, emphasis will be placed on practicality of material.

1. Communication (15 points in cheer, 10 points in routine)
 - a. Cheer - 5 points for practicality of material in routine (use of signs, effectiveness of cheer and sideline chant words) and 10 points for voice inflection, eye contact, facial expression
 - b. Routine - voice inflection, eye contact, facial expression
 2. Fundamental Skills (45 points in cheer, 50 points in routine)
 - a. Cheer - 15 points for motions (strong, sharp, arm levels, synchronization), 10 points for tumbling, 10 points for jumps, and 10 points for partner stunts/pyramids
 - b. Routine - 10 point for motions (strong, sharp, arm levels, synchronization), 10 points for tumbling, 10 points for jumps, 10 points for partner stunts, and 10 points for pyramids
 3. Group Techniques (20 points) - 10 points for synchronization (group timing in motions, stunts, tumbling, jumps, and dance) and 10 points for formations and spacing (use of the floor, formation changes, and symmetrical spacing)
 4. Overall Effect (10 points) - crowd appeal (choreography, continuity, transitions, and visual effect)
 5. Sportsmanship (10 points) - the style the cheerleaders demonstrate, the squad should be enthusiastic about the material but should refrain from taunting or bragging gestures that are inconsistent with the squad's ability to lead the crowd in support of the athletic team
- B. For the routine division, a rubric will be implemented and a copy of the rubric is available online.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

- A. School squads may schedule a 20-minute practice session on Friday night from 5:00-7:30 p.m. (10 minutes on the tumbling strips and 10 minutes on the "official sized" warm-up mats in Exhibit Hall B). These are scheduled on a first come, first served basis. Interested schools must have their payment processed and can email emma@iesa.org beginning December 1 to schedule a time.
- B. The IESA is not responsible for lost or stolen items. There is no security in the exhibit halls and schools are responsible for all of their belongings; at no time may squads bring their own tumbling or warm-up mats into the Peoria Civic Center.
- C. Spectators and coaches will be allowed to videotape in the stands provided they remain seated and do not obstruct the view of the judging panels and the entrances/exits to the exhibit hall. For the safety of the competitors, flash photography is not allowed.
- D. Doors for spectators will open approximately one hour before the start of the competition. Admission will be \$10.00 for high school students and adults and \$5.00 for students (K-8) and senior citizens. All spectators must sit in the bleachers or the chairs provided - seating on the floor outside of the competition mat is not permitted and spectators are not allowed on or near the competition area.
- E. All teams will be photographed prior to their performance by Event Pro Photography. Photo plaques will be available for individuals to purchase the day of the contest.

