

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Competitive Cheer Committee Meeting

East Lansing, January 30, 2013

9:30 a.m.

Members Present:

Deb Caves, Eaton Rapids
Melika Dixon, Romulus
Maureen Klocke, Yale
Greg Lattig, Mason
Sonya Latz, Ovid-Elsie
Ken Mohney, MIAAA
Chris Riker, Portage
Stacy Smith, Caledonia
Tricia Williams, CCCAM

Members Absent:

Penny Grinage-Guy, Shelby
Kia Jordan, Grosse Pointe

Staff:

Kathy Vruggink Westdorp (Recorder)

COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

The MHSAA Competitive Cheer Committee reviewed its responsibilities as a standing sports committee and the process of making recommendations to MHSAA staff and the MHSAA Representative Council. In addition, the Competitive Cheer Committee reviewed the charge of the Competitive Cheer Sub-Committee which met on January 16, 2013. This Sub-Committee studied the technical aspects of Competitive Cheer and made recommendations which were submitted to the Competitive Cheer Committee.

A draw for the order of competition at the MHSAA Competitive Cheer Finals was done by Committee members, and the Girls Competitive Cheer Tournament Manager's Materials and Participating School Information were also reviewed. In addition, the minutes from last year's Competitive Cheer Committee and 2013 Competitive Cheer Sub-Committee were perused. District and Regional sites were reviewed as well as the Regional draw that had been done in a prior meeting. Members of the Committee also received 2012-13 Competitive Cheer clarifications and interpretations.

SUMMARY OF REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL ACTION

A summary of Representative Council action which included Handbook changes and sports changes was provided. Included within the information were the Representative Council changes for 2012-13 and online health and safety meeting information which will be embedded into online rules meetings. Additional review of the 2012-14 Competitive Cheer Manual included an examination of health and safety information regarding concussion protocol and the procedure for stopping a meet when a participant is found to be bleeding, unconscious or exhibiting signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion.

RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE COMPETITIVE CHEER SUB-COMMITTEE

The MHSAA Competitive Cheer Sub-Committee met with the purpose of annually reviewing current competition and safety rules and to propose changes and additions to the Competitive Cheer Manual. The Committee focuses on the technical aspects of competitive cheer and advises the full Committee and ultimately the Representative Council of the rules that may need review, revision or update. The recommendations from the Sub-Committee are as follows:

- a. Allow hand to hand/hand to arm contact for backward suspended rolls in braced pyramids only to be provided by bracers, bases or back spots as long as long as the bracers are held to all of the same rules as in any "release" pyramid. (10-0)
- b. Allow inverted exits from below shoulder level positions other than cradles as a head and shoulder spotter and two bases are used. (10-0)
- c. Eliminate the host timers at meets and require the safety officials to be the official timers for Competitive Cheer competitions. (10-0)
- d. Allow a 360 entrance to a stunt elevator level or higher to receive 8 difficulty points rather than 4 difficulty points (9-0)
- e. Review the current penalty structure that is in place for Round 2 and apply a different structure in the application of the penalty. (7-1-1)

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMPETITIVE CHEER COMMITTEE

The Competitive Cheer Committee discussed the concern that coaches who had the number of competitors to compete in each round of competition were undermining the Round 2 policy numbers by placing fewer than the mandated competitors in Round 2 and therefore not promoting participation in Competitive Cheer. Further discussion included that judges needed to consider the number of athletes who are placed on the floor with a solid understanding of what the General impression category includes in Round 2. This includes judging creativity, continuity, team confidence, floor presence, general impression and vocals. A recommendation to adjust the penalty in Round 2 was developed for Representative Council. Additional conversation centered on how to accurately reflect creativity and a greater degree of difficulty in Round 3 as Competitive Cheer continues to grow. Discussion also included the number of teams currently advancing in the MHSAA tournament.

Additionally, there was dialog regarding judge's training and a recommendation that judges who attend a minimum of one training session per year would receive greater MHSAA tournament consideration. This request is supported by the MHSAA and MCJA.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

A continuance of the practice of having a spring/summer editing group of coaches and judges review the Competitive Cheer Manual and further update the Manual continues to be recommended. This practice would include a review of the penalty points for non-safety and safety related violations and lend further clarity and parameters to existing rules and the inclusion of additional information on recommendations approved by the MHSAA Representative Council.

2012-13 COMPETITIVE CHEER TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

The 2012-13 Competitive Cheer Tournament will hold Districts on Friday and Saturday, February 15 and 16, 2013. There will be six Districts in four Divisions which will each have four teams progress to eight Regionals the following week on Saturday, February 23, 2013. Four teams from each of the eight Regionals will move to the Finals at the DeltaPlex in Grand Rapids on Friday, March 1 and Saturday, March 2, 2013 which will include four separate sessions of competitive cheer. The Competitive Cheer Committee reviewed a 2013 plan for assigned seating at the DeltaPlex which includes tickets specified for school seating and spectator seating. The Competitive Cheer Committee enthusiastically embraced the concept for assigned school and spectator seating to assist with the large crowds at the DeltaPlex.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

- a. Technical Recommendations:
 - Allow hand to hand/hand to arm contact for backward suspended rolls in braced pyramids only to be provided by bracers, bases or back spots as long as the bracers are held to all of the same rules as in any "release" pyramid. (9-0)
 - Allow inverted exits from below shoulder level positions other than cradles as long as a head and shoulder spotter and two bases are used. (9-0)
 - Allow a 360 entrance to a stunt elevator level or higher to receive 8 difficulty points rather than four. (9-0)
- b. Eliminate the host timers at meets and require the safety officials to be the official timers for Competitive Cheer competitions. (9-0)
- c. Starting in 2013-14, if the mandated number in Competitive Cheer round 2 is not met, a 10 point penalty would be incurred and Rounds 1 and 3 would not be allowed to exceed the number of competitors placed in Round 2. 2012-13 tournament data will also be reviewed prior to this change. (9-0)