

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
Competitive Cheer Committee Meeting
East Lansing, January 28, 2015
9:30 a.m.

Members Present:

Greg Brynaert, Romeo
Stacy Geerts, Kentwood
Amber Genevich, Dearborn
Penny Grinage-Guy, Shelby
Maureen Klocke, Yale

Sonya Latz, Ovid-Elsie
Ken Mohny, MIAAA
Jason Reck, Hartland
Carrie Seymour, Flint
Tricia Williams, Rochester

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 14, 2015. 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 the 2015 Competitive Cheer Sub-Committee were perused. District and Regional sites were reviewed and members of the Committee also received 2014-15 Competitive Cheer clarifications and interpretations.

COACHING REQUIREMENTS

Committee members reviewed information regarding coaching requirements for 2014-15 and future years. New with fall sports 2014, the athletic director or principal of each school must attest that all high school coaches (sub varsity or assistant coaches, paid or volunteer) have completed an MHSAA rules/risk management meeting in their sport or, in the alternative, one of several health and safety courses designated on mhsaa.com. Effective with the 2015-16 school year, high schools must attest that all varsity head coaches have a valid current cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certificate. Effective with the 2016-17 school year, each head coach of a varsity high school team, hired for the first time at any MHSAA member high school after July 31, 2016 shall have completed either Level 1 or Level 2 of the MHSAA Coaches Advancement Program (CAP).

JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL REVIEW

The Committee talked about recommendations that were identified by the Junior High/Middle School Task Force that had met four times in 2014. Changes have been made to allow member junior high/middle schools to increase the length of quarters in basketball from six minutes to a maximum of eight and to increase the length of quarters in football from eight minutes to a maximum of ten. Recommendations have been made for schools to have the option to include 6th graders with and against 7th and 8th graders in track, cross country, swimming, bowling, golf, tennis and wrestling. Additionally, this recommendation includes that (except for football and ice hockey), with league or conference approval, schools may include 6th graders in team competition at their junior high/middle school. There were various opinions regarding the allowance of 6th graders with several committee members indicating that this would provide a great opportunity especially in wrestling, cross country and track. In general, the committee felt that this allowance was sport specific in terms of the needs of schools and that it could cause some concern with leagues and conferences who had 6th graders as a part of the middle schools and those who had specific 7th and 8th grade (junior high) buildings.

OUT-OF-SEASON REVIEW

The Competitive Cheer Committee was apprised of the concepts for out of season that were being discussed in committees, with athletic administrators, coaches associations and leagues and conferences. Many within the Committee stated that this would not be supported in Competitive Cheer as the coach and

cheerleaders are most often already involved in two seasons of cheer (fall and winter). Several also indicated that their competitive cheer team members are already multi-sport athletes and felt that providing a limited number of days of practice would not be beneficial, as it would conflict with other involvement in sports as well as the current two seasons that athletes in sideline cheerleading and Competitive Cheer are already involved.

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 2013-14 and online health and safety meeting information which were embedded into online rules meetings.

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. Review of the recommendations that come from the Competitive Cheer Coaches Association of Michigan also occurs. The recommendations from the Sub-Committee are as follows and points "a – d" include the vote by the CCCAM Board and Sub-Committee.

- a. Choreography would only be allowed for OLEs that originate and fully extend unbraced. (14-0) (11-1)
- b. Provide an exception for the inverted exit to allow a forward roll from a face-down prone position. (13-1) (12-0)
- c. Allow forward suspended rolls to begin in any position at shoulder height and below – except an inverted position. (14-0) (12-0)
- d. Add a four person differential for middle school with the rationale that it will require more involvement in both rounds of Middle School Competitive Cheer. (13-1) (12-0)
- e. Provide a four person differential at the Freshman and Junior Varsity Level. (12-0)

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMPETITIVE CHEER COMMITTEE

The MHSAA Competitive Cheer Committee continues to discuss whether the sport should evolve into a sport with the requirement of the same number of athletes required in each Division and rounds of competition. Several members expressed that it would be good for the sport to require that there be 12 in each round which would still allow 36 individuals to compete in total (12 in each round of competition). Additional conversation included the need for the same requirements for all levels (middle school through varsity) of Competitive Cheer. Additionally, a proposal regarding middle school competitive cheer was reviewed which included a request for middle school athletes to participate in all three rounds of MHSAA Competitive Cheer. (Middle schools currently compete in two rounds of competition.) The Competitive Cheer Committee felt that it would be too difficult (at this time) to require all three rounds in middle school until there is clear determination as to whether middle school competitive cheer should compete in the 2nd or 3rd middle school season.

Further discussion included that it was time to have the same requirements for sub-varsity levels in competitive cheer which includes the need to move the freshman and junior varsity to the same rules of mandated numbers in Round 2 and identical numbers in Round 3.

There were some additional concerns that were discussed that included the need for all school districts to treat Competitive Cheer identically to all other sports with equal allowance for practice time and practice facility.

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 was recommended. This practice would include a review of non-safety and safety related violations, and lend further clarity and parameters to existing rules. The inclusion of additional information on recommendations approved by the MHSAA Representative Council would also be a responsibility of this editing group.

2014-15 COMPETITIVE CHEER TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

The 2014-15 Competitive Cheer Tournament will hold Districts on Friday and Saturday, February 20 and 21, 2015. There will be six Districts in four Divisions which will each have four teams progress to eight Regionals the following week on Saturday, February 28, 2015. Four teams from each of the eight Regionals will move to the Finals at the DeltaPlex in Grand Rapids on Friday, March 6 and Saturday, March 7, 2015. This will include four separate sessions of competitive cheer. The Competitive Cheer Committee reviewed the 2015 plan for assigned seating at the DeltaPlex which includes tickets specified for school seating and spectator seating. The Competitive Cheer Committee continues to enthusiastically embrace the concept for assigned school and spectator seating to assist with the large crowds at the DeltaPlex.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Technical Recommendations:

- a. Only allow choreography for one-legged extensions (OLEs) that originate and fully extend unbraced. (10-0)
Rationale: There is a difference in difficulty in bracing an OLE and a free standing OLE. The intent of the choreography requirement was that it included more difficult skills to receive the points.
- b. Provide an exception for the inverted exit to allow a forward roll from a face-down prone position. (10-0)
Rationale: This is a safe skill that does not meet the step-down landing requirement.
- c. Allow forward suspended rolls to begin in any position at shoulder height and below – except an inverted position. (10-0)
Rationale: Allows for more variety in positioning (rather than only in an upright position) for suspended rolls.

2. Add a four person differential for middle school with a ten point penalty if the four person differential is not met. (10-0)
Rationale: Requires more involvement in both rounds of Middle School Competitive Cheer. Requires the coach to place more athletes in Cheer 1/Round 2 if they want the advantage of placing the maximum in Cheer 2/Round 3.

3. Require that sub-varsity (not middle school) teams follow the rules of the varsity teams in the requirements for mandated numbers in Round 2 and identical number of participants in Round 1 and 3. If competing with less than the mandated number in Round 2; teams in Rounds 1 and 3 are not allowed to exceed the number of competitors placed in Round 2. (10-0)
Rationale: Requires more involvement in all rounds of competitive cheer at the sub-varsity levels.