

# MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

## Competitive Cheer Committee Meeting

East Lansing, February 8, 2011

### Members Present:

Jim Conway, Mt. Pleasant  
Tim Erickson, Rockford  
Amy Fuller, CCCAM  
Amber Genevich, Dearborn  
Kevin Guzzo, MIAAA  
Pam Ingles, Cedar Springs  
Sonya Latz, Ovid-Elsie

Zac Stevenson, Woodhaven  
Megan Tourda-Nelson, Bay City

### 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 19, 2011. 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 Competitive Cheer Sub-Committee were re-examined. District and Regional sites were reviewed as well as the Regional draw that had been done in a prior meeting.

## SUMMARY OF REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL ACTION/COMPETITIVE CHEER SURVEY

A summary of Representative Council action which included Handbook changes, sports changes and concussion protocol was reviewed. Additionally, the Competitive Cheer Committee examined several drafts of a competitive cheer survey with a timeline of sending the information to coaches and athletic directors of competitive cheer during the third week of February. A consensus on the various drafts was developed and the fourth draft of the survey is as follows:

1. Do you favor a common time period (e.g. Sunday after Finals through May 31) in which all cheer activities (competitive and sideline) be prohibited for any athletes and coaches (sideline or competitive cheer) except as allowed by the 3 or 4 player rule? In essence there would be a common start day of June 1, 2011 for all sideline cheer activities. (The start date for competitive cheer is November 7, 2011.)
2. Do you favor limiting the number of days in the summer (e.g., 15) when cheer athletes may participate in tumbling/stunting instruction and camps with their coach present?
3. Do you favor prohibiting use of school facilities (for more than 4 athletes) for tumbling/stunting instruction by non-school personnel outside the girls competitive cheer and or gymnastics season during the school year?

The Competitive Cheer Committee also requested that additional questions on the survey include:

4. What is your Competitive Cheer Division? (Division 1, 2, 3 or 4)
5. How many athletes are on your varsity roster? How many are on your JV roster? How many are on your Freshman roster?

## PHYSICAL FORM

A review of a new full page physical form which includes clearance and consent forms was made by the Committee. Questions were asked regarding the medical history of the student and who actually completes the information as well as who reviews the information. It was indicated that the completion of the information is by the parent and the physical card remains in the school athletic office. Additional discussion occurred regarding a physical for all four years of a student's high school eligibility as well as a two year rotation for the physical. The size of the physical card was discussed and the indication was that it would not pose a problem.

## **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. Require competitive cheer team members to wear athletic shoes in Rounds 1 and 3 (not any other type of footwear). (9-0)
- b. Allow all above waist level flairs performed at extension level to receive 8 points. (10-0)
- c. Allow all preps and entrances with flairs (except for the 1 & 2 footed hop and go and standard step-up) to receive 4 difficulty points and no variety points. (10-0)
- d. Allow an extended double braced liberty for middle school with the use of a front spot. (10-0)
- e. Add additional clarifying information to two penalty categories in Round 1. (10-0)

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS FROM COMPETITIVE CHEER SUB-COMMITTEE**

In addition, there was an item that was not labeled as a "safety" concern and therefore was sent to the agenda of the Competitive Cheer Committee. The Committee reviewed the rule in which the competitor multiplier is used in Round 2 which balances the risk of entering more participants in the round. This multiplier has been used over the last four years due to the concern of the variances made by coaches in terms of the number of competitors in the Compulsory Round. At the time the rule was put in place, committee members spoke to the fact that there was an increase of penalty and an increase in risk in this round and therefore it was necessary to balance the equation. However, because of the competitor multiplier, some teams are at a disadvantage because of the size of their teams. This discussion has also occurred with the Competitive Cheer Coaches Association of Michigan. The proposal:

*Create a Division mandated number of athletes for Round 2 only and eliminate the Competitor Multiplier. The mandated number would be: Division 1 = 12, Division 2 = 10, Division 3 = 8, Division 4 = 6. Round 1 and Round 3 competitor numbers would need to match and would not be tied to the Division mandated Round 2 number which means that Round 2 skills would no longer drive or determine the number of athletes performing in the other rounds and would allow coaches to involve more athletes in Round 1 and Round 3 if they chose to do so. (In essence, a large Division 3 program could have 16 athletes in their Round 1 and 16 athletes in their Round 3 but would only be allowed to have 8 athletes in Round 2.) Teams would not be allowed to start Round 2 with more than the number of athletes mandated on the floor and teams may begin Round 2 with less than the specified number of athletes but would incur a 10 point penalty. These mandated numbers would not apply to sub-varsity teams.*

Additionally, there was discussion regarding penalties including changing/lowering the penalties for non-safety related violations and providing parameters for communicable disease and skin infection procedures in the Competitive Cheer Manual.

## **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 with an insert for the second year of the Manual was 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 concussion, casts and skin infections.

## **2010-11 COMPETITIVE CHEER TOURNAMENT INFORMATION**

The 2010-11 Competitive Cheer Tournament will hold Districts on Friday and Saturday, February 18 and 19, 2011. There will be six Districts in four Divisions which will each have four teams progress to eight Regionals the following week on Saturday, February 26, 2011. Four teams from each of the eight Regionals will move to the Finals at the DeltaPlex in Grand Rapids on Friday, March 4 and Saturday, March 5, 2011 which will include four separate sessions of competitive cheer.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS TO REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL**

- a. Adopt the following technical recommendations provided by the Competitive Cheer Sub-committee:
  - Allow all above waist level flairs performed at extension level to receive 8 points. (9-0)
  - Allow all preps and entrances with flairs (except for the 1 & 2 footed hop and go and standard step-up) to receive 4 difficulty points and no variety points. (9-0)
  - Allow an extended double braced liberty for middle school with the use of a front spot. (9-0)
  - Add additional clarifying information to two penalty categories in Round 1. (9-0)
- b. Require competitive cheer team members to wear athletic shoes in all Rounds of competition (not any other type of footwear). (9-0)
- c. Starting in 2012-13 (with the new Competitive Cheer Manual), create a Division mandated number of athletes for Round 2 only and eliminate the Competitor Multiplier while requiring that in Round 1 and Round 3 the number of athletes match. The proposed Round 2 Divisional numbers are Division 1=12; Division 2=10; Division 3=8; Division 4=6. (9-0)