

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Competitive Cheer Committee Meeting

East Lansing, February 1, 2012

9:30 a.m.

Members Present:

Melika Dixon, Romulus
Tim Erickson, Rockford
Amber Genevich, Dearborn
Kevin Guzzo, MIAAA
Pam Ingles, Cedar Springs
Greg Lattig, Mason
Sonya Latz, Ovid-Elsie

Ken Mohney - MIAAA
Megan Tourda-Nelson, Bay City
Tricia Williams - CCCAM
Betty Wroubel, Pontiac

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 18, 2012. 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 2012 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 2011-12 Competitive Cheer insert clarifications.

SUMMARY OF REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL ACTION

A summary of Representative Council action which included Handbook changes and sports changes was reviewed. Included within the information were the Representative Council changes for 2011-12. These are:

- a. In schools that sponsor girls competitive cheer, all cheer-related activities of both competitive cheer and sideline cheerleading (including but not limited to tumbling/gymnastics instruction and routine development) are prohibited for students with competitive cheer coaches and/or sideline cheerleading advisors, except as permitted by the three- (or four-) player rule, from the last Monday of March (03/26/12) through the third Friday of May (05/18/12). Competitive cheer coaches remain subject to the three- (or four-) player rule with respect to competitive cheer activities until the Monday after Memorial Day when summer rules begin for all sports.
- b. Athletic shoes (not gymnastics slippers or any other type of footwear) are required for all three rounds of competition.
- c. Starting in the 2012-13 season, the competitor multiplier in Round 2 is eliminated in favor of a division-mandated number of athletes for Round 2 only (Division 1 = 12; Division 2 = 10; Division 3 = 8; Division 4 = 6). The number of athletes entered by a team in Rounds 1 and 3 must be identical (but may differ from the Round 2 mandate).

Information was shared as to what this mandated number in Round 2 meant for sub-varsity teams and middle schools teams. Varsity teams competing with less than their division mandated number would be allowed to compete but would receive a 10 point penalty if there were less than the number required on the floor. If more than the required number competed in Round 2, the round would be void. For the sub-varsity, the mandated divisional number is the same as the varsity level but there is no penalty in place. Sub-varsity teams are not allowed to supersede the maximum but, can have less than the required amount without penalty. During tournament play, all varsity teams would compete in Round 2 according to their Division mandated number of participants. Middle schools teams only compete in two rounds of competition and

therefore would be allowed to have up to sixteen (current number) in each round of competition and are not required to have a four person differential.

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 that all three scoresheets, all three penalty sheets and the Round 3 Description Form be received by 2 p.m. the day prior to the meet. (This means that there would be seven scoresheets received by the manager rather than the three that are currently required). 11-0
- b. Allow a backward suspended roll in a braced pyramid when it includes hand to hand contact with 2 bases or 2 bracers and provided it ends in a sponge or a cradle. 11-0
- c. Remove the limitation of preventing teams in Round 2 to perform at the most three 1.2 level skills. A skill must still be chosen for all three categories and the 5.8 cap would remain. 11-0
- d. Adjust the Round 3 scoresheet to reflect categories for creativity and a greater degree of difficulty which allows teams that choose more difficult skills to receive additional points. 10-0
- e. Require that judges attend a minimum of at least one training session from their local association to be eligible for MHSAA Tournaments. 10-0
- f. Allow that when a flyer which is being transitioned from an extended/extension level stunt to a sponge or retake, the bases and spotter may have a momentary loss of contact with the flyer. During this transition, the flyer may not change bases. (To be added to page 72 rules for transitioning. 11-0

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMPETITIVE CHEER COMMITTEE

There were additional items that were discussed by the Competitive Cheer Committee which included review of utilizing a mechanism of placing teams in the MHSAA Competitive Cheer tournament rounds of competition instead of a blind draw. It was determined that there was no perfect way for this to occur as there has not been agreement as to what position in each round of competition is considered the optimum. Discussion also included that penalty sheets need to be "writeable" and should be in one file on the MHSAA website. It was further recommended that there be a greater emphasis that Round 3 Descriptions need to be typed and sent to sites by email. Other discussion included the precision drill returning to a one year cycle (rather than two) as well as how to reflect creativity and a greater degree of difficulty in Round 3 as Competitive Cheer continues to grow.

Additionally, there was discussion 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 will be supported by the MHSAA and information will be sent to the various Competitive Cheer judge's associations. MCJA also supports this request.

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.

2011-12 COMPETITIVE CHEER TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

The 2011-12 Competitive Cheer Tournament will hold Districts on Friday and Saturday, February 17 and 18, 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 25, 2012. Four teams from each of the eight Regionals will move to the Finals at the DeltaPlex in Grand Rapids on Friday, March 2 and Saturday, March 3, 2012 which will include four separate sessions of competitive cheer.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

- a. Require that all three score-sheets, all three penalty sheets and the Round 3 Description Form be received by 2 p.m. the day prior to the meet. (This means that there would be seven required documents received by the manager rather than the three documents currently required). (11-0)
- b. Adopt a season maximum of thirteen (13) consecutive weeks for Middle School Competitive Cheer in which teams and students are limited to a maximum of eight competitions. (11-0)
- c. Remove the limitation of preventing teams in Round 2 to perform only two 1.2 level skills (when also selecting a 1.4 skill) and allow three 1.2 skills to be selected (when also selecting a 1.4 skill.) A skill must still be chosen from all three categories and the 5.8 cap would remain. (9-2)
- d. Allow that when a flyer which is being transitioned from an extended/extension level stunt to a sponge or retake, the bases and spotter can have a momentary loss of contact with the flyer. During this transition, the flyer may not change bases. (11-0)