

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
Competitive Cheer Committee Meeting
East Lansing, January 29, 2014
9:30 a.m.

Members Present:

Sonya Latz, Ovid-Elsie
Ken Mohny, MIAAA
Jason Reck, Hartland

Members Absent:

Deb Caves, Eaton Rapids
Amber Genevich, Dearborn
Penny Grinage-Guy, Shelby
Maureen Klocke, Yale

Chris Riker, Portage
Stacy Sheler, East Kentwood
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 15, 2014. 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 2014 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 2013-14 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 2013-14 and online health and safety meeting information which will be 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. There were two recommendations from CCCAM that included additional interpretation as well as two that did not receive votes from the Sub-Committee to move forward to the Committee. The recommendations from the Sub-Committee are as follows:

- a. OLE Extensions originating from elevator or below: Remove the language that braced leg extensions will receive credit (p. 40) and only give credit to a free-standing OLE. (5-2-3)
- b. Middle School Jump: Require that the 2nd cheer begin with the jump that is scored. (8-2)

Both of these recommendations were thoroughly discussed with the members of the Competitive Cheer Committee and there was not a motion to move forward with either proposal.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMPETITIVE CHEER COMMITTEE

The Competitive Cheer Committee discussed that this year there were very few penalties for teams that did not meet the mandated number in Round 2 and therefore these teams were also able to match the higher number of athletes in Rounds 1 and 3. 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 as well as transitions from Regional to Finals.

Junior High/Middle School contest and season limitations were discussed as well as declining junior high/middle school membership and the possible inclusion of 6th grade students. There was no momentum from the Committee to allow 6th grade participation or to provide additional game maximums to 7th and 8th grade students in Competitive Cheer. The Committee felt that the eight days of competition that are currently allowed for 7th and 8th grade students is adequate. Additional discussion included that middle school coaches should be utilizing all of their students and include the full numbers allowed on the mat if they are on the team. Varsity coaches were reminded to have oversight of the middle school programs and emphasize the philosophy of allowing greater participation in these programs.

Health and safety considerations were also discussed with 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. Additional discussion included the need to have safe areas with appropriate matting for practice at all venues.

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 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.

2012-13 COMPETITIVE CHEER TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

The 2013-14 Competitive Cheer Tournament will hold Districts on Friday and Saturday, February 14 and 15, 2014. There will be six Districts in four Divisions which will each have four teams progress to eight Regionals the following week on Saturday, February 22, 2014. Four teams from each of the eight Regionals will move to the Finals at the DeltaPlex in Grand Rapids on Friday, February 28 and Saturday, March 1, 2014 which will include four separate sessions of competitive cheer. The Competitive Cheer Committee reviewed the 2014 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

There were no recommendation to the Representative Council from the Competitive Cheer Committee.