

2025 IESA CHEER COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes and Recommendations

March 12, 2025

Virtual Meeting

The following members were virtually present for the meeting: Jackie Litwiller (IESA Assistant Executive Director), Claudia DeSantis, Coach, Lemont Old Quarry; Emily Butler-Polen, Coach, Clinton JHS; Jon Haws, Administrator, Normal Metcalf; Kaitlyn Wilson, Coach, Edwardsville Liberty; Liz Meneses, Coach, Westmont JHS; Joni Fultz, Coach, O'Fallon Carriel, and Susie Knoblauch (IHSA Assistant Executive Director/Cheer)

The IESA Cheer Advisory Committee, in its meeting on March 12, 2025, makes the following recommendations to the Board of Directors in the April meeting:

Recommendation 1 – IESA Cheer Date & Location

Current	IESA Cheer is currently at the Civic Center during the 2 nd week of February.
Proposed	IESA Cheer needs to be moved to accommodate the IESA Staff being available.
Rationale	Due to various factors moving to Grossinger Arena is not feasible as initially thought.
Cheer T&C	I. Cheerleading Season Calendar
IESA By-law	
Admin Vote	4-0
Board Action	Approved

Recommendation 2 – IESA Recommended Cheer Season

Current	IESA does not currently have a cheer season. Schools determine what works for their schedules.
Proposed	IESA Recommended Cheer Season would need to be adopted by each member school's board. Mandatory No Contact Period – Monday following the IESA Cheer Championships through March 31 st . Tryouts allowable in April/May June and July – Camps/Open Gyms allowable can't be made mandatory. Season Begins – Monday Week 4 (last Monday in July)
Rationale	Having a clearly defined beginning and end to the season aligns with the other activities that the IESA offers.
Cheer T&C	I. Cheerleading Season Calendar
IESA By-law	4.150 Cheerleading
Admin Vote	4-0
Board Action	Approved

Recommendation 3 - Game Day Cheer (Revision of Criteria)

Current Objects cannot be thrown/placed outside the competition area.

NO tosses (sponge or basket).

Proposed Objects CAN be thrown/placed outside the competition area. – **Reworded**

NO tosses (sponge or basket). – **Kept the same**

Airborne twisting tumbling skills are permitted only on grass (real or artificial), a mat or a rubberized track, with the exception of round-offs and aerial cartwheels. – **Not permitted on a gym floor and would not be legal.**

Rationale This will create a safer environment for the student athletes.

Cheer T&C Section II – B. Divisions

IESA By-law

Admin Vote 4-0

Board Action **Approved**

Recommendation 4 - Awards

Current All teams in the division are called to the mat, only the top 3 are announced in reverse order.

Proposed All teams in the division are called to the mat, top 10 read in reverse order, top 3 then medal and trophy.

Rationale The Advisory feels this is a nice addition for all the hard work the student athletes put in.

Cheer T&C Section IV. – After Competition 1. Awards

IESA By-law

Admin Vote 0-4

Board Action **No Motion**

Recommendation 5 - Awards

Current The announcer reads the names of the medaling participants.

Proposed A School representative will be asked to read the names of the participating athletes for the medal presentation.

Rationale This will allow for the names to be correctly pronounced during the trophy celebration.

Cheer T&C Section IV. – After Competition 1. Awards

IESA By-law

Admin Vote 4-0

Board Action **Approved**

Recommendation 6 – Revision of the Routine Rubric

Current [IESA-CHR_RoutineRubric.pdf](#)

Proposed Updated Routine Rubric – see attached.

Rationale This will be in line with the updated pace and requirements of today’s cheer performances.

Cheer T&C Section V. Judging Criteria B.

IESA By-law

Admin Vote 4-0

Board Action **Tabled**

Additional discussion:

1. **Creating a qualifier for the teams coming to state** - tabled, advisory will discuss when the participation increases.
2. **Defining majority** – reference the IESA Majority Chart.
3. **Digital Ticketing** – offered during the 2025 competition.
4. **Live Streaming** – copyright / music compliance issues were discussed / No IESA Partnership currently.
5. **All Star Cheerleaders performing with their schools** - IESA allows student athletes to participate in non-school affiliated teams in all activities while participating in IESA activity.
6. **Change Game Day Cheer back to two divisions** – tabled, advisory will review when the participating school number grows to 40.
7. **Routine Divisions split by enrollment and capping number in each division** – no motion.
8. **Only allow a school to be entered in one category** – no motion.
9. **Warm-up time clarified** – When it is a 5-minute performance time slot, 10 minutes are given, when it is a 4-minute performance time slot, 8 minutes are given.
10. **Location of the “X” on the warm-up and performance mats** – dead center on the mat.
11. **NFHS Stunt Progression** – Reference Material added to the Cheer Documents on the website.

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2026 – in person.