



**2019 CHEERLEADING ADVISORY MEETING  
Minutes and Recommendations - February 7, 2019**

**The following members were present for this meeting:**

Leslie Alappattu - IESA Assistant Executive Director  
Shaunda Brown - IHSA Official (participated via conference call)  
Casey Hansen - Coach, Alton  
Lindsay Harvey - Coach, Yorkville  
Tanner Laughlin – Coach, Paris Crestwood  
Erin Locke - Coach, Shorewood Troy  
Susie Knoblauch - IHSA Assistant Executive Director  
Sarah Rafalowitz - Coach, Mundelein Carl Sandburg (participated via conference call)  
Tash Schraeder – Athletic Director, Dunlap MS

**Not present:**

Brian Allen – Coach, Peoria Holy Family and Kaylin Dietrich – UCA

**The IESA Cheerleading Advisory Committee, in its meeting on February 7, 2019, makes the following recommendations to the IESA Board of Directors for their February 15, 2019, meeting:**

**RECOMMENDATION #1**

<b>Current</b>	Music portion may not exceed 90 seconds.
<b>Proposed</b>	The music portion may last up to two (2) minutes.
<b>Rationale</b>	The 30-second addition of music still maintains the overall time limit for the routine division but allows teams two full minutes with music to more fluidly perform skills outlined in the rubric; this minimizes risk in the choreography as the movements are more fluid when done in conjunction with music. Additionally, most cheers (without music) can accomplish crowd leading skills in 1 minute which also aligns with the typical 60 seconds used for sideline timeouts.
<b>T&amp;C</b>	II.B.2.b
<b>Handbook</b>	4.152
<b>Board Action</b>	Approved

**RECOMMENDATION #2**

<b>Current</b>	A mandatory meeting will take place and a coach or designated school representative must attend prior to a team's performance - schools can choose to attend the Session 1 meeting at 7:45 am or the Session 2 meeting that will take place 35 minutes prior to the first Session 2 report time listed on the schedule. Both meetings will take place in Room 135 across from Exhibit Hall B.
<b>Proposed</b>	There will no longer be a mandatory coaches' meeting on Saturday. The IESA Cheer administrator will send out a "Welcome to State" video when the competition schedule is finalized in January – and schools will be responsible for viewing this video prior to arrival at the state competition. On the day of the state competition, at least one IHSA official will be available Saturday morning and during the break between sessions to answer question(s) a coach may have.
<b>Rationale</b>	There isn't often "new" information communicated at the coaches' meetings that hasn't already been communicated and because of the time difference from the coaches' meeting to when a team performs, this can be difficult to accommodate when there is only one coach/individual available to supervise students. Requiring the meeting also forces some schools to be at the competition hours before competing.

<b>T&amp;C</b>	IV.C.3
<b>Handbook</b>	None
<b>Board Action</b>	Approved

### **ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION WITH NO RECOMMENDATION MADE TO THE IESA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

1. Rubric clarification - The rubric requires the majority of the team to be involved in the skill – if the majority of the skills are in the 4-5 range and a school does one stunt in the 6-7 range, the school is more likely to be scored in the 4-5 range on the scoresheet because the majority of the stunts were in that 4-5 range. The committee also discussed comparing the IESA rubric to the IHSA rubric and noted that the high school rubric may be more difficult for the IESA schools because we there are varying skill levels at the middle school level from one school to the next; some athletes are also getting an introduction to competition. The IESA wants to encourage teams and give them opportunities to feel like they can achieve. Additionally, using the same rubric and difficulty/execution levels as the IHSA put more of an emphasis on the difficulty of skills and the committee felt that it is not appropriate to push athletes to do skills they are not prepared to do. At this time, the rubric language and example skills in each category were determined to be clear and no changes to the rubric were recommended.
2. The committee discussed ways in which parents can be educated about cheer – some coaches are doing this via their pre-season meeting and have coaches go through scoring and rubric components with parents.
3. The committee discussed finding ways to increase relationship building amongst coaches at the middle school level. The advisory committee is willing to serve as mentors and be available via email to newer coaches to help them work through questions about competing in general and at the IESA Cheer state finals.
4. Susie Knoblauch, IHSA Assistant Executive Director and cheer administrator, gave an update on possible upcoming rules changes through the NFHS.

The IESA Cheerleading Advisory Committee would like to thank Erin Locke, Casey Hansen and Lindsay Harvey for their service to the IESA Cheer advisory committee.

The IESA Cheerleading Advisory Committee's next meeting date is Thursday, February 13, 2020.

### **IESA CHEER ADMINISTRATOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Make the perimeter 7' around the competition mat so tech judges' tables are farther back
2. Make more perimeter space around DJ - use rope and stantions?
3. Provide training piece to IHSA officials regarding IESA rubric – routine analysis training tool, comparing how it would be scored at IHSA rubric vs. IESA rubric
4. If recommendation #2 is approved, record coaches' meeting video – add portion about how awards are done and if you get an award, how announcing names will be handled
5. Provide new coaches with “mentors” from advisory committee
6. Live stream options – Exhibit Hall A
7. DJ vs. sound tech– communicate with UCA about this and the need to keep up the energy of the crowd
8. 5-minute increments between each performance, 6 minutes if back-to-back