

2026 IESA CHEER COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes and Recommendations

March 11, 2026

In person 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; Liz Meneses, Coach, Westmont JHS; and Susie Knoblauch (IHSA Assistant Executive Director/Cheer), via zoom Joni Fultz, Coach, O'Fallon Carriel, not present, Brian Allen, Peoria Holy Family and Kaitlyn Wilson, Edwardsville Liberty

The IESA Cheer Advisory Committee, in its meeting on March 11, 2026, makes the following recommendations to the Board of Directors in the April meeting:

Recommendation 1 – IESA Detailed Scoring

Current Within 1 hour of the conclusion of the awards ceremony, the head coach will be emailed a pdf. of their results.

- Included in the email will be the scores from the scoring judges, the tech judges, and the overall division results sheet with all teams' scores.
- The head coach will have 48 hours to email the IESA Cheer Administrator to ask for clarification on a score.

Proposed Within 1 hour of the conclusion of the awards ceremony, the head coach/school administrator will be emailed a pdf of the **entire division results**.

- Included in the email will be the scores from the scoring judges, the tech judges, and the overall division results sheet with all teams' **scores from that division**.
- The head coach **must wait 24 and no more than 48 hours to email the IESA Cheer Administrator to ask for clarification on your own score. You may not ask about the other teams' scores.**

Rationale Transparency is key in an activity such as cheer. Coaches can use the comments made regarding other teams to help coach their team and make improvements. This is also done at the IHSA level.

Cheer T&C Section IV. – After Competition 2. a/b
IESA By-law
Admin Vote
Board Action **Approved**

Recommendation 2 - Awards

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

Proposed **Top 10 teams in the division are called to the mat in random order, top 3 then medal and trophy.**

Rationale The Advisory feels it is a safety concern, bringing every team to the mat for awards.

Cheer T&C Section IV. – After Competition 1. Awards c
IESA By-law
Admin Vote
Board Action **No motion**

Recommendation 3 – Routine Scoring

Current	Fundamental Skills are given 7 points for difficulty and 3 points for execution Sportsmanship is 10 points
Proposed	Take the 3 positive areas of Sportsmanship, move them up to Overall Effect. (Genuine Enthusiasm, Natural Facial Expressions, Positive Material) Give those 10 points to the execution area in Fundamental Skills making each of those now 5 points.
Rationale	This will align with how officials score execution and give more clout to things that are measurable. The minimum score is now a 2 in execution and each team would still receive 10 points for sportsmanship just in a different category. (See Routine Scoring Sheet)
Cheer T&C IESA By-law Admin Vote Board Action	Section V. Judging Criteria Approved

Recommendation 4 – Adoption of the ICCA Game Day Cheer Rubric & Scoresheet

Current	Currently there is not a Game Day Cheer Rubric – there is basic criteria listed.
Proposed	Adopt the current ICCA Game Day Rubric as the IESA Game Day Rubric and Scoresheet – this rubric is out of 60 points.
Rationale	This will be in line with the updated pace and requirements of today's cheer performances.
Cheer T&C IESA By-law Admin Vote Board Action	Section V. Judging Criteria Approved

Recommendation 5 – Adoption of a version of the IHSA Cheer Deduction Sheet

Current	IESA Cheer Technical Score
Proposed	Adopt a modified version of the IHSA Tech Sheet in place of the current IESA Tech Sheet
Rationale	IESA uses IHSA officials/judges, this is what they are trained on, and the tool is less punitive.
Cheer T&C IESA By-law Admin Vote Board Action	NA – additional documents provided. Approved

Additional discussion:

1. **Creating a qualifier for the teams coming to state** – discussed in 2025 as well.
2. **Live Streaming** – No IESA Partnership currently.

3. **Change Game Day Cheer into 2 Divisions** – advisory will review when the participating school number grows to 40.
4. **Lighting** – lights were lowered for the 2026 competition, discussed costs associated with spotlights and hiring engineers.
5. **Venue** – 2 years on current contract, will look at other options as presented.

**Thank you to Joni Fultz, O'Fallon Carriel, for her service and time on the Advisory.
Stepping down is Kaitlyn Wilson, Edwardsville Liberty.**

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 10, 2027 – virtual.