



# MCJA

## Winter Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2011

### NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

This has been another fantastic year of serving with all of you! I have appreciated every minute being a part of this great organization.

Together we have learned a great deal and believe in the good work done to guide training. This association will continue to steer new officials in the direction of mentoring and trainings.

Communication has been a point of emphasis that continues to challenge all of us geographically. We will continue to make this a point of emphasis as well as a point of pride!

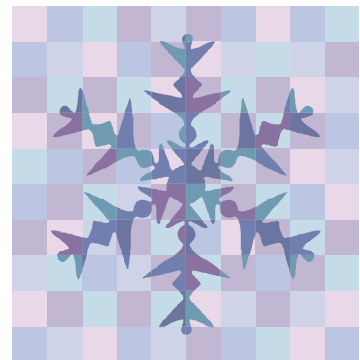
Many of you gathered on January 17th at the MCJA breakout sessions held around

the state to dialogue about concerns and scenarios that have occurred this season. The fact that ALL sessions were well attended says a lot about the passion and dedication of the competitive cheer officials from around the state!

Later in the newsletter you will be able to read more about the questions and concerns that you agreed needed further review.

Congratulations to those of you who will be officiating at the District, Regional and State level tournaments post season! It is truly an honor to be considered and invited!!

Cheers to You,  
Stacy



### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Check out the MHSAA website for the latest 2010-2011 Competitive Cheer Updated Interpretations**

### WHAT'S YOUR CALL?

**A braced flyer performs a forward suspended roll where both hands of the flyer remain in contact with the bracer(s) or back spot. Is this legal?**

Yes, a braced suspended forward roll is legal when both hands of the flyer remain in hand-to-hand or arm-to-arm contact with the bases, back spotter or

bracer(s) as described on page 74.

**A cheerleader performs a back extension roll. While extending into the handstand position, her teammate grabs her ankles and assists her. Is this legal?**

This is not legal since floor skills must be performed without the assistance of another person as described on page 49.

Cont'd on page 2...

## WHAT'S YOUR CALL...CONT'D

**A Junior High team has three elevators with back spotters who are touching the stunt, behind the stunt and looking forward, watching the tumbling pass in front of the stunts. Is this a penalty?**

Yes, since spotters are required on an elevator at the Junior High level, spotters are to be touch, watch and away to the meet the correct spotting technique as on page 84 and 85. In

this instance, the spotters were not watching the flyers, so a penalty should be assessed.

**A Junior High team performs a straight cradle catch from an extension with two bases with a front and a back spotter. Is this legal?**

Yes. Simply going from an extension to a straight cradle catch is legal. It would be illegal if a junior high team did a toe touch or a twist cradle or a double

twist cradle.

Please visit the MHSAA website for rules interpretation updates at [MHSAA.com](http://MHSAA.com) Girls Competitive Cheer. On the right side of the page is a light blue coaches box with 2010-2011 updated interpretations.

February 2011

Submitted by Cindy Tyzo

*Above all, be true to yourself, and if you cannot put your heart in it, take yourself out of it.--Hardy D. Jackson*

## DISCUSSIONS FROM MCJA BREAKOUT SESSIONS

When many of us met around the state on January 17th, MCJA provided an agenda to help facilitate discussion. Beyond the agenda, many concerns and questions arose. Here is some of what was discussed:

### Consideration from Three Meetings:

- \*Reassess 22 point penalties (excessive)
- \*Combine rounds 1 and 2
- \*Discussion concerning the amount of revisions at a Saturday tournament

### Consideration from two meetings:

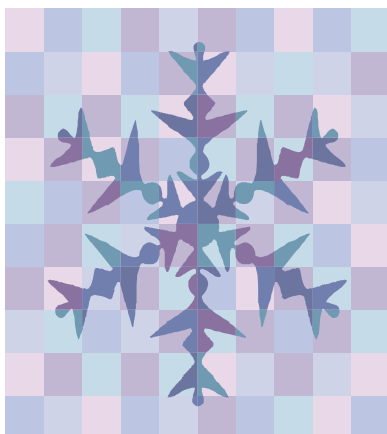
- \*Plastic Face Mask-need a clarification, is it legal? If it is hard and unyielding it must be padded and metal edges taped. Could a safety official approve it at a meet? Yes...foam and tape hard and unyielding surface, no rough edges would be allowed.
- \*Handstand Forward Roll-does it count in team tumbling Choreography Bonus in Round 3? Yes
- \*Injury-if differential is not affected, do you have to lower general impression score? No, if you "see" a hole in a formation and it does not change the 2 person differential, the official will only formation reductions, not reducing the general impressions score by 2 points.

Please make accurate counting of numbers in round 2, verify the competitor multiplier...help the score table.

Choreography Bonus: Award per each individual case, remain consistent, score individually...**does not have to be a consensus among panel officials**, consider the term "bonus".

There were other discussions about various topics. Can a cradle be done from an Extension for Junior High? Please define "attempt". Do all three panel officials need to have the same execution score?

Some questions and discussions lead to the need for clarification from MHSAA. There are new updates posted on the MHSAA website February 1, 2011.

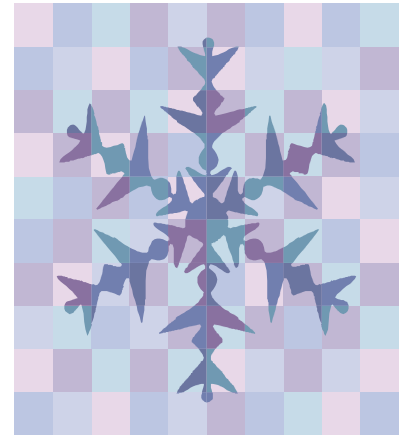


## ARE YOU IN THE GROUP?

Search MCJA on Facebook and join our closed group (meaning only members can see all the content) for registered MHSAA officials only. Group registration will be verified by a group administrator.

This is just one more way MCJA is trying to reach members. Once we gather more members in our group, there is no limit to where our social networking skills can take us!

Group chats, email, photos, messages, discussion boards are free to use. If you have suggestions for how MCJA can use Facebook or other social media, please email me at [JillL@kpl.gov](mailto:JillL@kpl.gov), or click on my picture on the MCJA Facebook group and send me a message!



## YOU MAKE THE CALL...

Round Three Description

A Team Writes:

Thigh stand, sponge, elevator, extension, elevator w/ box out, extension, double twist cradle

$(4+4+7+10+7+4+10+12) = 58$

Incorrect – the proper points received should be:

Thigh stand – 4

Nothing for the sponge – pg. 72

definition of a sponge from shoulder level or above

Elevator-Nothing because they are not changing body position/weight or doing a below shoulder level transition before continuing up to extension (pg.84 and MHSAA updates on website)

Extension – 10

Elevator-Nothing as they did not change body position/weight or do a

below shoulder level transition between (pg. 84 and MHSAA Updates on website)

Box out – 4

Extension – 10

Double Twist Cradle – 16 Double from extension received a bonus of 4

$(4+10+4+10+16)=44$

Submitted by Laurie Bilkie-Snyder

## FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR...MARTY SHEAN

This is my first season as Communications Director for MCJA. To begin my duties I decided to mail and email the form that Bobbe Johnson, former communication director, has used for many years. I e-mailed communication forms to over 75 addresses for competitions and mailed about the same amount. I have received back about 20 forms. I will be compiling the comments on those as the competition season comes to a close. Many of the coaches have expressed thanks to the judges for the comments and suggestions that the judges have made on the score sheet. Many coaches have great ideas of how to revamp the

score sheet to help making comments quicker and easier for judges. This includes a suggestion of a check list format. I would like to make the communication forms available on the MCJA web site so that competition directors could access the forms. As it is now, the competitions receiving them are ones I know of or ones that were sent out previously by Bobbe Johnson. These communication forms help us guide our training. They help us decide what areas need more assessment and further understanding. Thank you to all who have participated in this endeavor up to this point!



## **MCJA Cheer Official Bag**

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***Front compartment with pockets for PDA, cell phone, water bottle and multiple accessories.***

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## **WHAT TO WEAR...**

You have a contract; that's awesome! It's time to head out to the meet; what fun! You look in your closet for what to wear; no problem! An official is required to wear a solid white blouse/shirt or top and solid black skirt or dress slacks. Any additional garments such as a blazer shall be black.

That is simple and easy enough to take the stress out of getting ready to judge competitive cheer! Remember white and remember black. White is white, not winter white, off white, or white

with fancy prints....White is White! Black is black, not off black, gray, pin striped or plaid....Black is Black!

Last add on your emblem. Where it with pride on the left chest pocket area of a blouse or jacket/blazer or suspended by a black (we're talking solid black again here) lanyard around the neck.

You're ready! You look great! You will be easy to recognize as an official if you follow the **Uniform and Emblem**

guidelines on page 13 of your manual. Grab your pencils, papers and have fun!

Submitted by Jill Lansky

