



NEWSLETTER

MCJA Updates from MHSAA-Kathy Westdorp

Welcome to another year of Competitive Cheer! Practice and tryouts may commence no earlier than November 9, 2009 and competition may begin on November 23, 2009. Again this year there will be six districts in each Division from which four teams advance to each of two Regionals in each Division. Districts may be held either Friday, February 19 or Saturday, February 20, 2010. Regionals are held on Saturday, February 27, 2010 with the Finals set for Saturday, March 6, 2010.

Rules meetings this year will be online except for an October 3 rules meeting as a part of the CCCAM Conference and a November 20 rules meeting as a part of the MCJA/MCCA Conference. To be considered for the MHSAA Tournament, all officials must complete an online rules meeting OR attend one of the two rules meetings indicated. As judges prepare their schedules for the upcoming season, remember to send a copy of the schedule to the MHSAA (a form will be available at mhsaa.com). This will be utilized by the Selection Committee to determine where the judge has officiated; the quantity of times a judge has officiated as well as whether the judge has officiated a predominance of the season as a safety or panel judge. Please make certain your schedule is sent and is accurate.

Also, remember that the Competitive Cheer Manual is now a two year manual and still is in effect for 2009-10. There are two technical changes:

- Allowance for extended stunts to brace an extension level stunt when the bracing flyer's torso is an upright position. This must be a double-based stunt with a back spot. The exception is the "Box-Out" pictured on p. 53 of the Manual (no spotter required). The photo on p. 54 with "chairs" bracing an extension is now illegal without spotters.
- Allowance for a team to perform a near and far arm cartwheel and a switch split, side split and/or triple splits in Round 2.

In addition, there is some new language regarding coaches inquiries. Coaches have always been allowed to question the addition of scores and check areas left blank on the scoresheet. New language for 2009-10 indicates that if a penalty is imposed that may need to be addressed; there are steps that must be followed.

- Approach safety judges respectfully after they have judged the last team in the round, at the safety judge's table.
- Inquiries may only be made regarding a coach's own team.
- The final outcome of the inquiry will be made by the judge.

A coach may approach the coach's score table area to review scoresheets anytime after the routine scores are verified, but no later than 10 minutes after all scores are recorded for Round 3. Coaches are allowed to see team scores of all other teams. Each round score will be visible to all coaches. Scores that are the result of a clerical error made by the scoring table may be reviewed for correction.

Included in the review is an addition on page 13 under judging mechanics which states: Safety judges should make themselves available for inquiries between rounds and after competition for at least 10 minutes. Panel judges should make themselves available after competition for at least 10 minutes.

Additionally, the Competitive Cheer Task Force reviewed the 2008-10 Manual for clarity and emphasized several other points which will be a part of a 2009-10 insert available online at mhsaa.com. It is a great day to be involved in Competitive Cheer – enjoy the season!