



News from the President

Please join us for an exciting new endeavor—Cheer Chat!

You can view previous Cheer Chat sessions on the MCJA website.

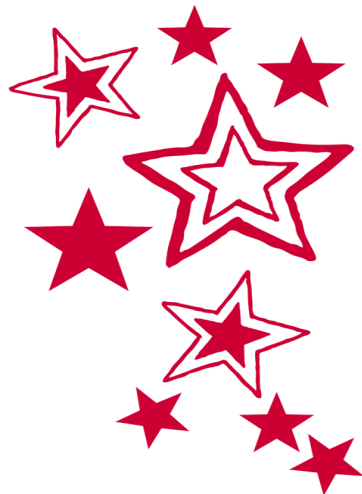
The next Cheer Chat session is on January 15th @ 6 pm.

Cheers to a great competitive Cheer Season!

- Juli Brown

Special points of interest:

- *Social Media Protocol*
- *MCJA Breakout Session/Cheer Chat*
- *To Comment or Not*
- *MHSAA Update*
- *Mentoring*
- *What's Your Call*



Good Luck this Officiating Season!

MCJA Mentoring

Have you mentored or have you been mentored this season?
Please take a moment to visit the MCJA mentoring page at:

<http://www.mcjacheer.com/mentoring>

MCJA wants to hear from you about how your experience has been and if you have suggestions, concerns or ideas to help improve the process! Please take a moment to fill the survey, consider sending in a mentoring testimonial and don't forget to email Jane Plaisted to complete the process.
jplaisted@sbcglobal.net



Tiffany Goliday We are expecting our third baby! Not sure if it's a boy or a girl yet, but we are excited to share the news!

Melissa Harrison I just wanted to share that I have been truly blessed by working with the following judges in my first three years of judging. They all have had a HUGE part in my tenure with judging. They have helped me grow and have encouraged me in every way possible. These ladies have helped me when I have had to set outside my comfort zone and always have faith that I will do my best. They mean the world to me and I think everyone should have people like these ladies in their lives. Thank you, Jill Lansky, Holly Annen, Annie Post, Candy Cox, Jayne Sabaitis, April Hooker, Sarah Johnson, Janelle Holland, and April Davenport!!!

Oxford Middle School Cheerleading and Basketball Programs joined hands to help bring joy to children's lives that are hospitalized this holiday season.

Donations were made for children of all ages to: Children Hospital of Michigan Foundation

Our athletes and their families and coaching staff were very supportive of this event and did an amazing job coming together to help make this event successful! Special thank you to our 6th and 7th grade Cheerleaders who helped decorate presents and also make personalized cards to our friends there at the hospital.

We wish all our friends and their families a joyful holiday season! Happy New Year!

Conflict of Interest from MHSAA

Under Conflict of Interest:

An example would be a competitive cheer official who is hired by a school or coach to provide a training session or clinic by which the official prepares the rounds of competition or provides judging/coaching/skill assessment to a school coach or athletes. If this occurs, it is considered a conflict of interest for that official to officiate any contests at any level for the school(s) involved for the next 12 calendar months during both regular season and MHSAA tournament competition.

This policy is not intended to discourage officials from participating in preseason sportsmanship programs which may involve coaches, students or parents or from officiating preseason scrimmages (intersquad and intrasquad).

Officials should not be going in to schools except for scrimmages. It is fine to write comments or suggestions on judging sheets.





“Officials need to walk a straight line when engaging in social media, refraining from espousing opinions on the coaches, players and contests they have officiated. We are hired to present impartiality and to do so in as “quiet” a manner as possible. Twitter away, Facebook away, blog away within the confines of that mandate.”

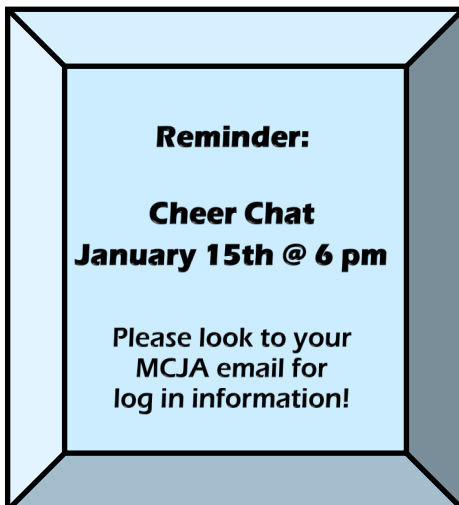
Barry Mano, Publisher, *Referee* magazine

Thank You!

As Mentoring Director I would like to take the time to tell all of our wonderful MCJA mentors how much they are appreciated. As you all may have noticed, there seems to be a shortage of trained officials this year; it is only with the help, enthusiasm, and competence of our corps of mentors that we can make an attempt to change this. A mentor takes the time to make an initial contact with the new official, synchs schedules to allow the mentee to observe in a variety of situations, and answers questions, fills in the inevitable blanks, and eventually helps to “launch” that new official when she is ready.

It takes a listening ear and a helping hand to be that mentor that allows a new official to leave the relationship with an air of confidence and a background of experiences. Thank you for your part in this.

If you are NOT yet a mentor but would like to be considered when someone in your area is in search of someone to help, please send an email with your name, address, safety or panel, and email address to: jplaisted@sbcglobal.net



What's Your Call? -from Cheer Chat

A DOUBLE BRACED FLYER PREFORMS A DOUBLE BRACED FORWARD SUSPENDED ROLL HOLDING ON TO THE HANDS OF THE BRACERS. IN ADDITION TO THE HAND TO HAND CONTACT, THE FLYER PLACES HER FOOT ON TO THE BRACER(S) ARMS/HANDS/LEGS AND STEPS UP WHILE SHE IS FLIPPING.

Illegal: All stunts and/or pyramids are limited to two persons high, meaning the flyer receives primary support from a base(s) who is in direct, weight bearing contact with the cheering surface.

SPLITS: THE SKILL BEGINS IN A SQUAT POSITION WITH BOTH HANDS PLACED ON THE CHEERING SURFACE.

LEGS ARE EXTENDED PARALLELL TO THE PANEL JUDGES. BOTH HANDS DURING SPLITS MUST BE REMOVED FROM THE CHEERING SURFACE

selfless leader
humility action
servant
leadership
good-listener open-minded
ethical role-model

QuotesBlog.net



And the 2016 MCJA Official of the Year is....

Kelli Polinsky



"You can do
what I cannot
do. I can do
what you
cannot do.
Together we can
do great
things."

- *Mother Teresa*

**2017 MCJA Cheer Chat/Breakout
Session**

Sunday January 15 @ 6 pm

Please join meeting from your computer,
tablet or smartphone.

[https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/2186273
09](https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/218627309)

You can also dial in using your phone.
United States: +1 (669) 224-3412

Access Code: 218-627-309

First GoToMeeting? Try a test ses-
sion: <http://help.citrix.com/getready>

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Have something to share with MCJA? MCJA welcomes submissions (opinions, training tools, helpful hints, cheer inspiration, family news and more) from all members for the quarterly newsletters. Send yours to mcja.info@gmail.com for the chance to be featured in an upcoming newsletter.

Panel Judges - To Comment or Not To Comment (That Is the Question)

Submitted by Lynette Dooley

To your considerable delight you are seated behind a table next to two knowledgeable panel judges, in front of a crowd of enthusiastic spectators, and in the midst of a wave of dynamic athletes and coaches. With the last note of the National Anthem and the first click of the stopwatch, the competition begins. For one minute and 30 seconds, team after team displays skill, strength, leadership, teamwork, confidence and creativity as you take judicious notes. In between those performances you have the task of quickly interpreting your scribbles and expeditiously assigning scores. In all honesty, it is sometimes tempting to fill in the eight scores, leave the comment spaces blank, and flip the scoresheet over for the runner to transport to the scoring table (ditto with the seven scores in Round 2 and the 10 in Round 3).

Fast forward to Monday's practice when the coach shares those comment-less scoresheets with a bewildered team seeking to decipher them. As they prepare for consequent competitions, will they identify and perfect the issues which will take their scores to the next level? Or, will they continue to get the same scores week after week? Who wants that? Not them! Not us!

Rewind back to that same Saturday meet with the same team, same coach, same cheers, and same judges, BUT NOW with each scoresheet containing at least one comment from each judge. At this Monday's practice an inquisitive team will have some tangible input--at least nine items on which to focus. It will much easier for them to decipher those scores and improve upon them. Who wants that? They do! We do!

This past fall I conducted an extremely informal survey of coaches regarding comments on scoresheets. Without exception, every coach I spoke with reiterated the value of judges' specific comments to the improvement of their team's scores—especially when they are not *opinions* but are in direct reference to the *criteria* listed under each category on the scoresheet. These are two of some favorite comments mentioned: 1) "The athlete on the left's low V's are too low"; and 2) "Way to finish strong!" Both of these comments were JUST what each team needed. The first comment corrected an athlete's consistent error (after equally consistent and unheeded reminders by her coach), and the second comment encouraged a deflated team following a performance that was less than their best.

So..., how can we do this better and faster? Abbreviations! At the recent MCJA Fall Conference this topic was discussed and met with considerable interest. Listed are a few thoughts from that day:

With regard to the categories on the scoresheet: Draw a *circle* around the criterion that really impressed you; underline that for which you took deductions.

On the comment line use the letter L (left), R (right), C (center), F (front), B (back), A (all) and *circle it* as an indication as to where you took the deductions.

Other abbreviations: / (diagonal arms), an *inverted "V"* for low V's, AW (arm whips), EX (execution), TC (team coordination). E.g., AW's L (*circled*) TC. This would mean that the timing was off on the arm whips on the left side.

The answer to the question regarding comments, then, is yes! Attempt to add a specific comment to your scoresheets whenever you can. Many of us already utilize similar abbreviations when taking notes, so the transition to their use should be relatively straightforward. The goal is to make them brief (for judges) and easy to interpret (for coaches). So, once the final scoresheet has been signed by the safety judges, the scores have been announced, and we have remained our 10 minutes, we can leave the meet satisfied that we have done our best to help teams do their best.

NASO's Board of Directors adopted the following social media guidelines for use by officials and organizations:

- ✦ Consider social media communications as public at all times — even if created with private intentions. If you are going to use social media in any form, consider your communication may be read by anyone at anytime.
- ✦ You represent the officiating industry, your associations, your assigners and your partners. Act accordingly.
- ✦ Promote officiating in a positive light and with a general feeling of pride and professionalism. You are an ambassador for officiating.
- ✦ You have a unique access to information. The same ethical restrictions that apply to any form of public speech also apply to social media. It is inappropriate to communicate specifics about your assignments, other officials, conferences/schools, coaches, players or any related personnel.
- ✦ Do not engage in specific play and or ruling evaluation/commentary, whether it be of a game you worked, one that you witnessed or in general about the impact of officials in any sporting event.
- ✦ Communications among officials for learning purposes should be done privately and not through the use of social media. Be mindful that email and other forms of direct communication can be made public.
- ✦ Be very sparing in the sharing of your personal information, including photos. Adjust security settings accordingly. Report fake profiles or posts to the appropriate authorities/governing bodies in a timely fashion. Follow specific conference, school and/or governing body social media policies.