



MCJA Winter Newsletter Newsletter 2013

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- LMCCOA
- CCCAM
- Social Media Guidelines
- Mentoring Testimonials
- Many more interesting and informative article!

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy Competitive Cheer Season!

I can honestly say that this has been a very rewarding cheer season so far! It is such a joy to share passion and conversation surrounding this GREAT sport. MCJA has picked up steam by continuing communication improvements between regional official's associations and the Competitive Cheer Coaches Association of Michigan.

This effort is an attempt to

guide us all in the same direction and lead us to a dynamic season outcome.

MCJA began early this summer by sending a survey to the membership to gain insight into burning questions and thoughtful dialogue. MCJA also surveyed the CCCAM membership before the MCJA Fall Conference. This feedback lead to a few 'ah-ha' moments and some additional affirmations.

MCJA has continued open

dialogue with coaches and local official's associations by inviting them to share their thoughts with you in this newsletter.

Many of our colleagues have submitted stories and tips, including submissions from MCJA Board members and general membership, CCCAM members and LMCCOA.

Enjoy and Cheers to you!

Stacy Smith

"When everyone looks the same, look deeper"



2012 Official of the Year
Barb Laird

WHAT'S YOUR CALL?

In an **inverted entrance**, the spotter is in a squat position with her back to the flyer, the flyer performs a handstand over the spotter, the bases hold the flyers feet and waist area as the flyer transitions to a sponge position in front of the spotter. This is illegal since no competitor is responsible for the flyers head, neck and shoulder area during the inversion as described on page 67 of the rule book.

In an **inverted exit**, the flyer is in a flat back position prior to the inverted exit. This is

illegal since the inverted exit shall begin from a double based cradle position only, as described on page 68 of the rule book.

In the **second cheer/Round 3 a middle school team** has half the team perform a toe touch back handspring, followed by an entire team Herkie. This is illegal since the first jump in the round shall be the required jump preformed in unison, as described on page 81 of the rule book.

Submitted by Cindy Tyzo

MENTORING

I was lucky enough to have had the opportunity to mentor with Juli Brown, who is a wonderful mentor. We had one mentoring opportunity but it was probably the best education for judging that I could have ever had. I met her at the competition venue and she was extremely pleasant and easy going.

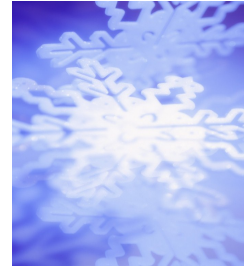
Juli offered a lot of information and, most importantly, the patience necessary for me to absorb it all! She was extremely willing to share her time (and her personal judging supplies!) with me that day. More than anything, from that time until now, Juli has instilled a sense of confidence in me, through conversations and emails. It started with her really valuing my opinion of the compe-

tion and teams that we watched that day, and continued when I was unexpectedly called upon to judge a REAL competition when I wasn't sure that I was ready. But Juli let me know that I was ready to handle it, and offered lots of reassuring advice and confidence via text and phone the day of the competition.

My judging opportunities have really taken off since that time, and I will not have another opportunity to mentor with her, even though I would have loved to. But Juli has promised to be there for me, if I should have any questions in the future, as well as letting me know that she will be checking up on me occasionally to make sure I am confident and happy in my role as a judge, something that I am grateful for.

I commend the MCJA for encouraging judges, especially Juli, to mentor new judges, as well as just being a great group of people who all seem very willing and obliging to help and be supportive of us "newbies".

Graciously submitted by Kris Lovill



"Don't always follow the crowd, but do believe in the camaraderie of kindred souls."

MORE MENTORING TESTIMONIALS...

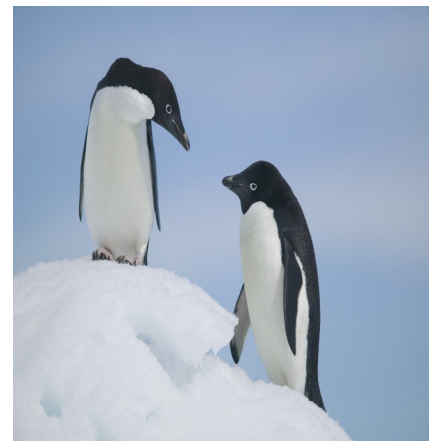
I wasn't sure what to expect from my first mentored meet but I was excited to finally get started judging. My experience being mentored helped to fill in the gap from what I had learned at conference, and what I would be expected to know at my first meet. It was helpful to walk through the entire competition judging process, getting a hands on experience without all the pressure. The amount of knowledge I gained from this experience couldn't of been learned any way else, and it definitely prepared me extremely well for my first competition on my own!

Submitted by Becca Schmeiding

I would highly recommend to be a part of the mentor program. It gave me a pressure free experience of what your duties are at a competition. It was great because I was able to do everything the exact same as the other judges except, my scores didn't count :) For me, it was the confidence that I needed to start judging on my own. It also helped to have someone to email all of my silly questions to. I enjoyed spending time with Juli! She is a great mentor and I learned a ton from her confidence and knowledge! I appreciated her answering all of my silly questions and never making me feel like I was stupid for not knowing something.

Thank you,

Emily Hilgendorf



THE PROBLEM OF DOUBLE BOOKING

Let's face it -- we have all done it at one time or another if we have been judging for more than a few years. That is not to say it's a good thing, but we all make mistakes and sometimes we find ourselves scheduled to be in two places at once. So what is a responsible official to do? Fix it, of course. But how?

The first thing an official might do is to check with officials she knows to see if someone might be available to take her place. Maybe an inquiry is made to people she's judging with, or maybe she has a list of friends she can email. Perhaps she has a local association that can send out a query for available officials. MCJA will also send out a notice of an available meet. It would be great if you can find a substitute this way.

If you do, you can call the school that you will NOT be at, and explain the situation and inform them that you have a substitute IF they would like you to find one. Most schools will be delighted that you have done the leg-work and eagerly accept your alternate and take all of the information needed to contact your sub.

But what happens when no one answers your call? Then it's time to be creative. Maybe you can offer a choice of your two contracts allowing for more people to find one of your contracts convenient for them. Maybe you can check with the contracting schools to see if there is a judge scheduled that can do panel OR safety, again increasing the pool of people who can fill in.



It should be obvious that double booking should never be done intentionally; accurate calendars and schedules are an absolute necessity, but we are all human. And remember when asked to help out, the next person who needs someone to help them out of an awkward situation just might be you!

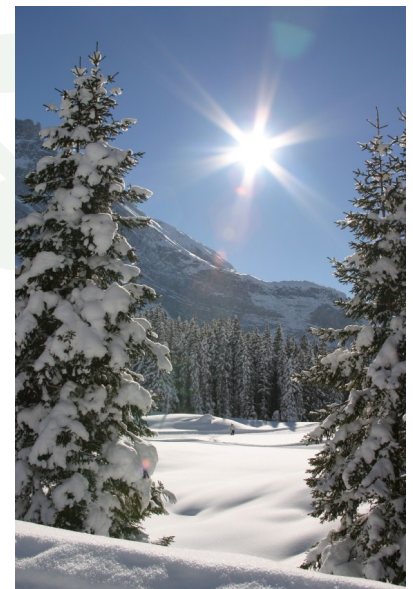
Submitted by Jane Plaisted

WHAT WOULD YOU DO...

While officiating at a meet in early December we were faced with this question. Round One had started and the sixth team in rotation was competing when a competitor fell to the mat with a leg injury. We immediately stopped the competition and called 911 and called for the trainer. The cheerleader had suffered a compound fracture of the tibia and fibula. Two officials at the meet are in the medical field and quickly assessed the situation and comforted the cheerleader, coach and the cheerleader family. Within 30 minutes of the injury the competition continued after meeting with the coaches and giving options for the team that had the injury. The team that suffered

the injury decided they were going to compete in Round 2 and 3 and would do the revisions for Round 3. I would like to recognize this team and coach for stepping up to the plate and continuing to do Round two and three. At the end of the meet we were informed the cheerleader was in surgery and the AD and trainer thanked all of the officials for assisting. The next day we were relieved to hear the cheerleader was recovering and again received THANKS for everything we did to make the meet run smoothly. So in conclusion WE "OFFICIALS" do make a difference.

Submitted by Candy Cox



OBSERVATIONS FROM AN AD

Being on the other side of the officiating coin sometimes brings a unique perspective to things. Below are a few random observations I have from seeing both sides of the event.

The AD isn't at the meet. I completely understand the frustration of going to the meet and not having an administrator or game manager introduce themselves. However, please understand that an AD may have other events to attend at the same time and most likely will attend the event where the largest attendance is expected, a rival game that will require extra student section supervision, etc. Winter is an extremely busy time of year with many events, both home and away, that occur nightly and he/she must evaluate which event has the greatest need for him/her to be a visible presence at. Just because we aren't at that particular event doesn't in any way mean we don't care about those athletes and coaches! I personally wish I could be at every event – it's much easier to be present and take care of anything that may arise at the time than deal with the aftermath of something that you didn't witness the next day. In any case, if the game manager isn't present when you arrive, ask an admissions person, custodian, etc. to find them for you so you can introduce yourself.

Warnings vs. Penalties. I cannot tell you how many times that I have worked with officials that have the attitude that officials in other sports don't give warnings. I can tell you first hand that I don't know of a sport where officials **don't** warn coaches to stop doing something or they'll "call it". I have heard it on the sidelines at football games where an official will tell a coach "Coach it's getting pretty chippy out there. If you don't tell your kids to stop I'll start calling it." At basketball games I've heard officials tell coaches "Your kids better let go of those jerseys or I'll make the call." or "Coach get back in the coach's box or I'm going to have to call it." I've even seen all of the runners warmed up and at the start line of a cross country race and had the entire race held when the official noticed an athlete wearing jewelry. Rather than let the athlete run and disqualify her which would ultimately punish her team, he had her take it off and report back to the line. Before you issue the penalty, especially early in the season, ask yourself if it's obvious and there's no choice but to give it or is it worthy of the warning first. I'm not advocating that there should not ever be a penalty given only that we evaluate the situation before issuing it to be sure it's the correct thing to do.

Ratings. I feel that there is a misunderstanding among some officials as to the rating process. First, varsity coaches are required to rate their officials at the end of the season. That is done by logging into MHSAA and giving each official one rating for the season. Those ratings are then sent on to their AD to edit, approve or delete (in the event that a wrong ID number was submitted). The coach's ratings do **NOT** go directly to MHSAA. Personally, I check every rating that comes from each of my coaches. I do not automatically click on "approve" for each rating. I am the one that MHSAA holds responsible for the ratings, not my coach. If you receive a low rating from a school it had to be approved by the AD. A step that I'm not sure that all officials know about. A calm call to an AD asking for justification of the rating (if you are sure it came from that school) would be appropriate rather than a confrontation with a coach.

Contracts. If you receive your contract and it isn't what you agreed to call the AD. Sometimes it's nothing more than a typo, sometimes there is a misunderstanding between the official and the school. Normally both can be worked out with a simple call. Please take time to work out the misunderstanding before you publically criticize the AD for sending a contract and it isn't what you agreed to. If the error isn't brought to our attention we can't straighten it out. With the amount of paperwork that is generated from an AD's office on a daily basis errors sometimes occur!!

Athletic directors want officials to have a positive experience at our events from start to finish. As officials we want to be treated with respect from start to finish. By remembering each of our respective roles and in turn the situations that we create for each other we can continue to provide positive, educational athletics for our athletes, coaches and spectators.

Submitted by Phyllis Olszewski



JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL SAFETY TIP

I've found that many times I'm asked to judge middle school in conjunction with high school teams and it can sometimes be confusing trying to switch your mind between the different stunting rules. What I've done is typed a list of the junior high illegal stunts, as well as those junior high stunts that require spotters. For example, the chair and torch because as we all know these stunts do NOT require a spotter at the high school level but DO require one at the junior high level. Lastly, I've included a list of those stunts that require front and back spotters.



I've laminated my list and taped it to the bottom of my clipboard for easy access. Here is a copy of my list for you to use if you so desire.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

ILLEGAL STUNTS

Suspended Rolls
Basket tosses
All tosses
Single Base ext
Single arm ext
TT cradle from ext
Twist cradle from ext
Inverted in/out
OLE
Flairs at ext – except cupie and
Double braced lib

ANYTHING ELEV LEVEL OR HIGHER NEEDS A SPOT **PLUS**

Chair
Torch
Double base split catch
Double base vertical T-lift
Triple base v-sit
Suspended splits
Extended Suspended splits
Russian lift – spot on waist

FRONT AND BACK SPOT REQUIRED

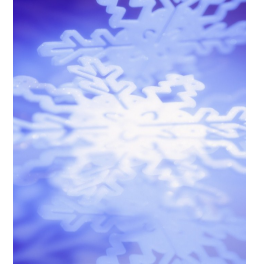
Extension level
½ and full pendulum
2 foot show-n-go
1 foot show-n-go with lib flair



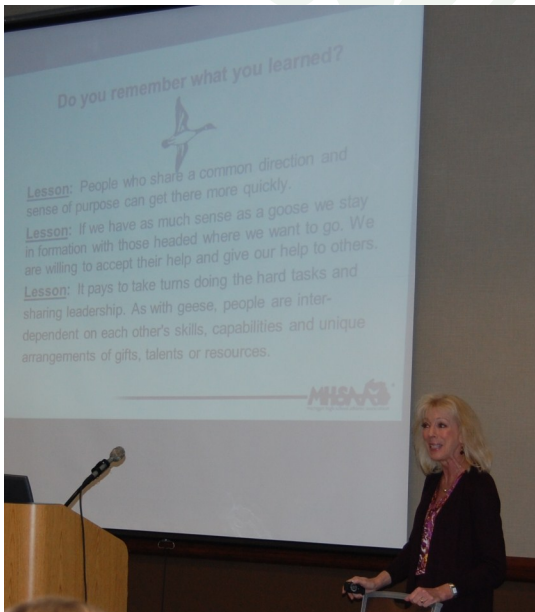
Submitted by April Hooker

"If you focus on results, you will never change. If you focus on change, you will get results."

MCJA FALL CONFERENCE



"A genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus but a molder of consensus."





10 POINTS TO HELP YOU BE AN EFFECTIVE SAFETY JUDGE

Being a safety judge can be very rewarding depending on how you approach the situation. Here a few tips to help you get the most out of your judging experience.

Come to your competition as organized as possible. Contacting the school ahead of time and getting the round order is most helpful. Prepare your "cheat sheets" before you arrive or immediately upon arrival.

In round two, make sure you fill in the teams division and the required number of competitors for that round. It is easier to have that already on your cheat sheet then just check off that number after you count the competitors on the floor.

As a reminder, a collapsed skill or stunt refers to "head, neck and shoulder" danger. If a stunt or skill collapses with the assistances of the spotter or base there will usually not be a penalty given. The panel judges will take off in their execution score for the fall.

In round three make sure you are up and mobile. It is important that you have a good view of the action on the floor.

When giving a penalty you will need to write down a page and rule number from your manual showing where the team is not following the rules. If you can not fit the action in question into a rule you can not give a penalty. This would be a good time to write a warning to the coach asking her to rethink what she is putting on the floor.

You and your safety judging partner should agree on the penalty given. Remember to always err on the side of the kids. Your job is not to give out as many penalties as you can.

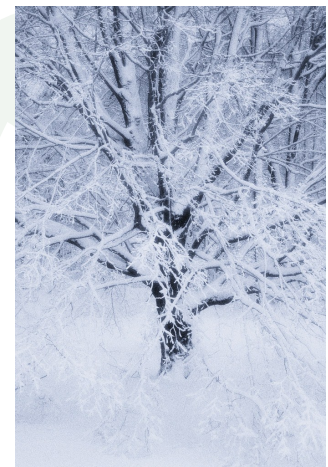
Once you have decided to give a team a penalty it is most helpful to the coach if you can pinpoint where in the routine the penalty took place and from which side of the mat. This will help her make corrections when she returns to practice.

After the competition try and talk to the coach about why you gave a particular penalty. Remember we are trying to keep the athletes safe by having you as a safety judge.

Remember the number one concern is the safety of the athletes. If a penalty is needed, by all means make the call and stand

by your decision. Keep in mind that every coach (and parent) will know if another team should be getting a penalty. It is not fair for you to let a penalty slide when the other competitors are trying their dandiest to follow the rules.

Submitted by Sheila Brownlee



Social Media Guidelines

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.

"Kids learn infinitely more from HOW we act than from what we tell them."



LAKE MICHIGAN COMPETITIVE CHEER OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

As a competitive cheer official for the Michigan High School Athletic Association, I am similar to judges throughout the state: I wait with great anticipation for the arrival of the new manual, devour each word with great delight, and linger on its final page with satisfaction that my beloved sport will continue on strong in the coming years; I look forward to the MCJA trainings and newsletters to “oil” any area of my judging skills which may have become rusty; I dream about the cheers and skills from years’ past that gave me goose bumps and received the ultimate perfect score of 10; and I dream of the season to come with a smile on my face knowing that I will see awesome new cheers!! Oh, what a fun and rewarding avocation judging is for those of us who thrive on the thrill of high school sports and, specifically, the power, finesse, creativity, enthusiasm, and joy of competitive cheer!



In spite of all that we as judges have in common, however, I have the privilege of an added benefit—I am a member of the Lake Michigan Competitive Cheer Officials Association. In 1998 a group of judges, at the urging of Peggy Lintemuth, gathered around a small table in a high school cafeteria to discuss the possibility and purpose of a local officials’ organization. Our goal then (as it remains today) was to develop, train, educate and mentor both new and experienced officials—while encouraging and promoting the sport and its participants. Because the sport was new and the number of officials few, Suzanne Martin graciously granted limited concessions to obtain the status of an *approved association*. From there we made some sport-specific alterations to a sample constitution supplied by the MHSAA and stepped forward into the unknown. Many years have passed, and LMCCOA is thriving under our small, comfortable place beneath the large umbrella of MCJA; whereas they represent all of Michigan, our membership is limited to officials from a limited geographical area. What began as a stiff, regulated and strictly professional group of strangers has become a fun, collegial, relaxed learning environment for both rookie and veteran judges alike. We arrange classroom desks in a circle and have received pep talks from special speakers such as Kathy Westdorp and Mark Uyl; we traveled to a gym to practice judging mechanics at the middle school, JV, and varsity level; we gathered at a local restaurant to dine and review a worksheet on evaluating the general impression category, we discussed questions that have arose during the season (many judges leafing through the manual together to locate the answers is so much more efficient); we acquainted ourselves with MHSAA clarifications to provide teams with consistent judging practices; we prepared ourselves for the “unexpected” situations in meets; we shared rides to meets and meetings; we judged with officials who are our friends; and we organized our scholarship meet to honor and recognize aspiring young student-athletes who displayed leadership on the competition mat, in their classrooms and their communities. Much learning, relationship building, and giving back to our sport have taken place!

This year our president Peggy Lintemuth has been away due to illness and a stem cell transplant; her absence is felt and missed greatly. Because our collegiality and friendship run deep, however, we are carrying on—not simply limping on. LMCCOA’s members are taking on new responsibilities and our monthly meetings and plans for our scholarship meet later this month are in full gear. Each judge is a valued member with valued concerns and ideas. Do I think



we have excellent judges represented on our membership roll? Absolutely! Am I proud to be a member of LMCCOA? Absolutely! Do I think what we have is special? Absolutely! Would I love to see additional local competitive cheer officials associations be formed? Absolutely? Will it take some work to get them started? Absolutely! Would LMCCOA offer assistance in the endeavor? Absolutely! Will it be worth the effort? ABSOLUTELY! Is this something that sounds good to you? YOU MAKE THE CALL and consider what you can do it make it happen in your part of Michigan under MCJA’s umbrella!

Submitted by Lynette Dooley

2012-2013 MCJA Board of Directors

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UPCOMING EVENTS

January 20

MCJA Breakout Sessions

February 15-16

Competitive Cheer Districts

February 23

Competitive Cheer Regionals

March 1-2

Competitive Cheer Finals

March 17

MCJA Board Meeting

July 28-30

NASO Sports Officiating Summit

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