



NYSPHSAA Cheerleading

Cheerleading

Committee Meeting Report

May 21, 2019 – 10:00 am – 12:30 pm.

Attendees

Dr. Robert Zayas - Executive Director	Section 5 – Joanne Small
Joe Altieri- Assistant Director	Section 6 – Justina Grudzinski
Todd Nelson – Assistant Director	Section 7 – Vicki Nephew
Chris Watson - Director of Communications	Section 8 – Jennifer Keane
Chris Joyce -Director of Sales and Marketing	Section 9 – Patty Archier
Jen Simmons – State Coordinator	Section 11 – Scott Reh
Bill Ahern – Varsity/USA Cheer/ UCA	NYSCJA –Casey Goll
Josh McCurdy – V!ROC Brand Manager	
Section 1 – Alice Ganger	
Section 2 – Patty Palmer	
Section 3 – Tanya VanOrnum	
Section 4 – Andrea Guccia	

I. NYSPHSAA Report

- Joe Altieri reviewed the updated NYSPHSAA Championship calendar seven-year calendar. He discussed the Executive Committee’s decision to push all sports start date back one week, starting in the 2020-2021 school year.
- In 2020 fall season will start week #8 8/24, winter will begin week #20 11/16. The state cheerleading championship will still be week 35.
- Required individual and team practices changed from 8 to 6.
- Joe brought up the Hall of Fame and encouraged recommendations
- Cheersounds renewed a two-year sponsorship agreement for the state championship.
- Championship photos were uploading to the state website today (5/21).
- Website has gotten good feedback
- Concerns about hotel room availability we addressed. Joe contacted hotels in Rochester to accommodate the 2020 Championships. Joe suggested calling to reserve rooms now if you can.
 Radisson – 110 rooms
 Doubletree – 100 rooms
 Hampton – 25 rooms (athletes), 20 rooms (committee/officials)

II. Feedback about State Championship –

- Jen Simmons reviewed the comments she received about the state championship.

Positives	Concerns	Things to think about
“warm-up area being so close to the competition was great” “Having water available for the athletes was helpful” “Check in was super easy” “Set/location for warm-ups was great, little unorganized, looking for a better system next year” “loved being able to practice at the facility the night before”	“warm-up area had confusion with times-we were pushed back because of a team not coming on time” Hard to warm up when teams were performing, would be nice to have an auxiliary gym” “storage area, not secure enough, need more security back there checking badges” Storage rooms for belongings too small- cramped, need more” “saving seats was a problem	Renting /getting 3+ full floors Possible rental of more space for warm-ups and team area

- Overall feedback from section representatives was positive; many sections had the same concerns about storage and warm up area and parent viewing section.
 - Alice (Section 1) – Warm up area the night before was a little hectic, if possible have another set of mats, and a few teams were reluctant to get off the mats when their time was up. Possibly having staff at each warm-up mat monitoring the time. The parent viewing area was very chaotic by the end of the tournament; parents wanted to take video and pictures.
 - Patty (Section 2) – Everything was great.
 - Tanya (Section 3) – Not enough room in the storage area or the bleachers for spectators.
 - Andrea (Section 4) – Storage area for the athletes was crowded, the cheerleaders “hung out” in the storage area due to not having enough sitting in the arena. Unable to play music in the warm-up area, possibly have more time in the schedule between warm up and performance. Spectators were saving seats, which made it difficult for others to watch the championship.
 - Joanne (Section 5) - Easy fixes for next year, already working on having more storage area, adjusting the parent viewing area, more mats will be available. Food left in the storage area.
 - Justina (Section 6) – Schedule time from warm up to performance time needs to be adjusted, and the athletes required more time in between. Spectators were saving seats; storage area could not accommodate the number of cheerleaders.
 - Vicky (Section 7) – In regards to the food in the storage area, booster clubs supplied food for teams, since it was such a long day for them. Limited space.
 - Jen (Section 8) – Warm up area is too close to performance mats and needs a sound system. Music selection in between routines was inappropriate. Spectators were saving seats.
 - Patty (Section 9) – Would like more than two coaches allowed in the warm-up area.
 - Scott (Section 11)- Parents commented on the long food lines, need more seating available, the warm-up area needs to be adjusted, having more mats available if they need to be changed out.
 - Casey (NYSJCA) – You could hear the music from the warm up on the performance floor.
 - Bill (Varsity) – Suggested pulling the judges stands back which would allow pulling the mats further away from the warm-up area and can open up more seating. Many other associations do this which works well. Need at least 3 or 4 rolled up back up mats. Try not to use black mats as your performance mats, may be more difficult to find back up mats the same color.
 - Josh (Varsity/V!ROC) – Change set up for parent viewing area and coaches sitting area. Have the parents enter from the right side, view (sitting needed) from in front of the judge’s area and then exit to the left.
- *RIT will be on spring break for the 2020 championship. The main gym might be available; however; it will not be available in 2021.

III. Trainings for Coaches/Judges

- Adjust summer training to allow time for coaches and judges to learn proper progressions. Coaches will attend the morning session, coaches and judges then will attend the progression session, which will review stunts and safety, then the judges will stay for the afternoon session. Bill will provide live demos as well as videos during the progression training.
 - Section 3/4 /10 on Saturday, September 14th
 - Sections 5/6 on Sunday, September 15th
 - Sections 1/9 on Saturday, September 21st
 - Sections 8/11 on Sunday, September 22nd
 - Sections 2/7 on Saturday, September 28th
 (will confirm sites)
- Section 5 will host a Progression Camps on July 27th which is open to all coaches and judges. A flyer will be sent out closer to the date. Will require a small fee to attend this camp.
- Progression sheets being updated with new changes from the NFHS and will be posted on the website.

IV. Division Discussion/Process for Variation Sports

- Concerns were raised about the divisions. Jen Simmons clarified the process involved, if the committee approves to change the numbers that discussion would have to go to the NYSHSAA Executive Committee, they will vote, and then would decide if it will be implemented the following year.
- Jen's recommendation for the committee is to get feedback from their section before the Executive Committee meeting in October. Please have feedback to Jen by the end of June.

Three options:

- a. Keep as with Division 1 (750 +) with large and small squad size, Division 2 (749 and below) with large and small squad size, and COED. 125 teams in Division 1 and 224 in Division 2 across the state.
- b. Lower Division 1 (700 +) with large and small squad size, Division 2 (699 and below) with large and small squad size, and COED. 160 teams in Division 1 and 209 teams in Division 2 across the state.
- c. Four classification system with capping the squad size at 20.

Class A – 950+ (94 teams across the state)

Class B – 565-949 (93 teams across the state)

Class C – 300-564 (91 teams across the state)

Class D – 299 and below (91 teams across the state)

COED

V. Game Day

- Two-year pilot, sectional decision. Section 1 implemented Game Day in the 2018-2019 school year. Bill set up a judges training in Section 1. They utilized the UCA scoring system. Game Day was a success; teams loved it. Alice recommended adding a Game Day coaches training this year.
- In 2020 a state invitational for Game Day will be held in the west and east during the fall season. Looking to have it week 17 in the Fall.
- Game day judges training by Sectional decision, let Jen know she can help get trainer.

VI. Letter from NYSCJA Executive Board

- Committee concerned of the lack of the communication from association to their judges.
- Robert brought forth a letter he received from Executive Committee. Jen clarified roles of committee and what we can and cannot affect.
 - I. Robert and Jen did follow the By-Laws and Constitution of the Judges Association and when there were any questions, they asked the Association for information in writing, no rules or by-laws were violated.
 - II. Jen has reached out to this year's Education Committee Chair and has already began planning items with her and sought feedback on training.
 - III. Judges selection process was in the original proposal from this Committee and seemed to work out great from committee perspectives and will not be changing. The Committee needs to be the driving force as representatives of each of the eleven sections. The judges and coaches are still going through growing pains, and all have to learn roles and responsibilities.
 - IV. Robert clarified that the judge's role was to supply judges and follow the guidelines.
- Casey is current representative to this committee from the State Judges Association and Stephanie will be the new Educational Committee Chairperson and can also be used as a Liaison as well if needed to help with communication.

- Robert asked about the comment of “Disenfranchised” -members went around the room and supplied input. Every one responded their judges who represented them at states thought it was a great experience and felt lines of communication were open.
- Members of the committee were requesting that the training needs to include roles emphasis, that judges do not have the latitude to disagree with how something is explained or scored and deviate from that.
- The NYSPHSAA Cheer site is the official site, and people need to be directed to that, as that is the final clarification and information spot, not any other sites that may exist in the section or other areas. Robert discussed the topic of “Jumps “and all agree there is or should not be any confusion on this topic any longer. Robert and Jen both expressed how Josh re-emphasized that topic at the meeting prior to the State Tournament and all felt it was very clear and not complicated. He reiterated what was on the NYSPHSAA Cheer site.
- Jen will create a distribution list to send any updates to the Judges Association members.

-Meeting Closed

