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Jo Auch  
Assistant Executive Director

**COMPETITIVE/SIDELINE CHEER MINUTES**

Meeting: November 8, 2021

9:00 a.m. via ZOOM

**Competitive/Sideline Cheer Advisory Committee Members:**

Athletic Director	Jordan Bauer, RC Central	2023(*)	
Principal	Belinda Miller, Beresford	2024(2)	
Class "A" Coach	Val Ewing, Winner	2024(2)	)
Class "AA" Coach	Diedra Nissen, SFR	2023(1)	
Official	Carrie Wieman, Madison	2022(2)	
Native American Rep.	Misty Mousseaux, Lakota Tech	2024(1)	

1. Call Meeting to Order- Auch called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. via zoom with all committee members present. Excused from meeting was Belinda Miller. Several coaches joined the meeting via zoom also.
2. Select Recording Secretary- Auch and Nissen will record the minutes for the meeting.
3. Approval of Agenda- Motion by Bauer, second by Mousseaux to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Review Duties/Responsibilities - Auch reviewed the duties and responsibilities of the committee members. Carrie Wieman’s term expires this year. We would like to thank Carrie for her years of service to the committee.
5. Auch reviewed the Rule changes that were approved by the Board of Directors in the 2021-22 school year.
  - a. SDHSAA Rule Changes – Cheer
    - 1)Co-ed Revision: If a team has one or less male competitors on the squad, they will compete in the St/Tumbling category. If a team has more than one male competitor, they must compete in the Co-ed Division of St/Tumbling. Cheer would then have two categories: St/Tumbling and Co-ed St/Tumbling. For the category of Co-ed St/Tumbling to compete for the Overall Co-ed Grand Champion, there must be a minimum of four Co-ed teams entered. Awards will be based on the number of teams competing in that category. The Co-ed category will be one class only.  
Note: St/Tumbling teams during the regular season (both St/Tumbling and Co-ed St/Tumbling) will compete in one category with the team placements in one category.
    - 2)Approve Cheer Rubric clarifications.
6. Auch also reviewed the NFHS Rules Deviations in Competitive/Sideline Cheer
  - a. No glitter hairspray
  - b. Head judge will be designated for both cheer and dance. Judges scores from low to high shall be no more than 10 points.

7. Report on State Event – Auch reported on the State Event and stated that we had record attendance numbers for the event. She thanked Bill Freking and Brandon Valley High School for the great job they did in hosting the event. Auch believes that we have outgrown the facility in Brandon for this event as the record number of people in attendance proved. The event ran smoothly and what a great atmosphere for these athletes to compete.

The group discussed future venues for State Cheer and Dance with next year being at Brookings Swiftel. The question was raised about the warmup floor for Competitive Cheer and the potential to have a Marley floor for dance. Auch stated that she would have to look into that for the upcoming event.

8. Report from Committee Members;

a. A Coaches Representatives- Valerie Ewing

- i. Can difficulty scores for each team be shown at the event? The committee felt this would be a challenge to get information to the coaches and coaches can already ask other coaches for that information. We do not share scoresheets with other coaches and didn't feel that was a good idea. So the question was asked if we could display total scores after each team has competed their routine, much like we do in gymnastics. In a survey that was sent to the coaches, 24 cheer and dance coaches responded with 66 % saying yes, they would like to see this happen and 33% saying no to the idea. Committee felt this might become too controversial in the stands or at the competition that might make things more difficult. Some thought teams would not stay until the end of the competition if this were the case as well. Committee decided to take no action on this.
- ii. Suggestion to go to "difficulty levels" instead of Classes for Cheer. Committee felt that we had made a vast change to the rubric last year and we need to give this a chance and for judges to have a chance to familiarize themselves with the changes without making another vast immediate change to the rubric.
- iii. Should we have a qualifying score as a qualifier to compete at the state event? Most felt that we are not ready for that yet. Many felt the competition at the state meet is going well, it is not too long of a day and there really was not a need to make the change at this time and that we wanted to continue to grow the sport.

b. AA Coaches Representatives- Diedra Nissen

- i. There is a need to have separate locker rooms for male athletes (not with other male athletes from other sports and near female locker rooms). Possibly providing a place on the entries to let AD's know if there will be male competitors at their competition so they can plan ahead as to where those young men might change. Bauer felt he could make this a point of discussion at the AD's conference to bring it to everyone's attention rather than a proposal.
- ii. Limit to 5 minute warmup times on the main competition floor. Teams seem to be taking more than that to warm up and the committee felt we need to specify the time frame in which they can be on the competitive floor. Have someone in the gym to time each team as they enter the floor with a max of 5 minutes. Motion by Bauer, second by Nissen. Motion passed unanimously.

**PROPOSAL: To have a five (5) minute maximum time limit for warm-up on the competitive floor for each team, with the option for host schools to schedule the time or not.**

- iii. Inquiry Process- if they can show rule in rule book to defend legality of stunts (no video), should we allow that to be inquired upon? The committee was not sure what that might

- look like as to “what” is inquireable; “when” will it be done (as to not hold up the meet) and should there be a deduction if the coach is wrong in inquiring? Committee was concerned about the amount of time that might take and eventually hold up the meet. When asked the question as to how many times this actually happened, there were very limited times this happened, as a result the committee opted not to do anything with this proposal.
- iv. Discussion on adding a small and large division to AA cheer. Nissen explained that there were two proposed numbers to help balance the small team, one was 15 members and less, the other was 19 members and less. As she explained the proposal, she noted that had we had a large and small squad this year, there would have been no changes in the order in which teams placed overall. We would have simply added a small team and large team medal for each category. Auch explained that we went away from that concept of large and small in 2013-14 due to the fact that we had teams that didn’t want to compete against other teams, so went in the smaller division to avoid others in categories. She also stated that our goal was to grow numbers and this seemed to encourage teams potentially to compete with smaller teams and thus potentially cutting athletes from the squad. Committee decided to take no action on this proposal.
  - v. Rubric tweak: There needs to be a tweak in the Pyramid category in the 5 point difficulty to say three advanced entries or release transitions instead of two. Two is listed in the 4 point category and was confusing to judges and coaches. Motion by Wieman, second by Ewing. Motion passed unanimously.

**PROPOSAL: Tweak in the Pyramid category in the 5 point difficulty to say *three* ~~two~~ advanced entries or release transitions.** Rationale, two is listed in the 4 point difficulty range and was confusing to all.

- vi. SIDELINE CHEER PROPOSAL Motion by Bauer, second by Mousseaux to allow the number of sideline cheerleaders to be 8 plus the mascot for all sideline cheer squads. Presently, the mascot was included in the number of 8. Motion passed unanimously.

**PROPOSAL: Have the number of sideline cheerleaders be 8 PLUS the mascot. The mascot will not be counted in the 8 cheerleaders for the squad limits.**

- c. Principal Representatives- Belinda Miller- no report
- d. Athletic Directors Representatives- Jordan Bauer- the topics that were brought to his attention had already been discussed.
- e. Official Representatives- Carrie Wieman
  - i. There were some teams that had more than 2 coaches in the VIP section throughout the year. The rule is two (2) coaches are allowed there and NO MORE. Auch felt we could take care of this in the Rules meeting rather than have another proposal for it, because it is already a rule in place, it is just not being followed. If it continues, an unsporting act deduction could take place, so we ask that all teams abide by no more than 2 coaches in the VIP.
  - ii. Sometimes the coaches conferences with safety judges became a bit confrontational as many wanted to show video to prove a point. As we all know, video review is not allowed and Auch reminded judges that we already have a penalty in place if it becomes confrontational and that is a 40 point deduction.
- f. Native American Rep.- Misty Mousseaux- reported that there may be a couple more schools jumping on board next year. They had a great experience this year, everyone was helpful and kind in helping them get started.

- g. SDHSAA Rep. - Jo Auch- reminded all coaches that they need to complete their Coaches Education requirements PRIOR to the season starting. The SDHSAA is frustrated that we have to get on these coaches to get their requirements met. That is the coaches responsibility, so please be sure to get courses complete PRIOR to the start of your season.

9. Review recommendations; additional opportunity for proposals following group discussion.

Three proposals from the group:

**PROPOSAL: To have a five (5) minute maximum time limit for warm-up on the competitive floor for each team, with the option for host schools to schedule the time or not.**

**PROPOSAL: Tweak in the Pyramid category in the 5 point difficulty to say *three* ~~two~~ advanced entries or release transitions.**

**Sideline Cheer PROPOSAL: Have the number of sideline cheerleaders be 8 PLUS the mascot. The mascot will not be counted in the 8 cheerleaders for the squad limits.**

10. Adjourn- With no further business of the group motion by Bauer, second by Wieman to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 a.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Auch  
Assistant Executive Director  
South Dakota High School Activities Association