

# COMPETITIVE CHEER

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## COMPETITIVE CHEER

### IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

	Day/Week	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
<b>First Date Early Team Selection</b> (5 days total- does not need to be consecutive)	Monday, Wk. 38	March 22, 2021	March 21, 2022	March 20, 2023
<b>Last Date Early Team Selection</b>		July 31	July 31	July 31
<b>First Practice</b>	Monday, Wk. 5	August 2	August 1	July 31
<b>First Competition</b>	Monday, Wk. 8	August 23	August 22	August 21
<b>Sub-state competition completed</b> (when implemented)	Saturday, Wk. 15	October 16	October 15	October 14
<b>State Championship Class A</b>	Friday, Wk. 16	October 22 Brandon	October 21 Brookings	October 20 Rapid City
<b>State Championship Class AA</b>	Saturday, Wk. 16	October 23 Brandon	October 22 Brookings	October 21 Rapid City
<b>**Season Ends</b>	Saturday, Wk. 16	October 23	October 22	October 21
<b>Summer Moratorium</b>		July 1-7	July 1-7	July 1-7
<b>Winter Moratorium</b>		December 23-26	December 23-26	December 23-26

#### Practice

- All out-of-season rules apply.
- \*\*Out-of season is defined as that period of time after a team or individual has been eliminated from further competition during the championship series of region-state tournaments/meets and continues until the first allowable date that the next regular season may begin
- \*In season rules apply – Monday of Week 5 through Saturday of Week 16.
- Practice period runs from Monday of Week 5 through Saturday of Week 7.
- Minimum number of team practices prior to first competition is 5 days of practice (excluding Sunday). This regulation does not apply to individuals.
- The actual start date of practice may be determined by each school within the above time limitations.

#### Competition Limitation

- Maximum number of contests permitted during regular season – Ten
- Minimum number of contests to be eligible for the State Tournament – Two
- All meets, regardless of number of teams in attendance, are considered one contest.

#### Definition of Competitive Cheer and Sideline Cheer

- Competitive Cheer is an SDHSAA recognized sport and must follow the SDHSAA regulations as it pertains to competitor eligibility, season length, number of contests, coaches and judges qualifications, competition guidelines and out of season rules. Season begins Monday of week 5 and ends Saturday of week 16.
- Sideline Cheer is not an SDHSAA recognized sport. It is a support activity for a competitive sport sponsored by the SDHSAA. The competitive cheer coach may coach/advise a sideline cheer squad/team; however, the squad/team may NOT compete at any level against any SDHSAA competitive cheer team.

Participation in school activities teaches that it is a privilege and an honor to represent one's school. Interscholastic activities constitute a part of the right kind of "growing up" experiences for students. Participants learn to accept success and failures, gain poise and confidence, achieve tolerance and understanding of others and gain the self-satisfaction of accomplishing goals. Under a well-administered school program, students and spectators become better citizens through participation and observation of activities conducted under established rules. Please refer to the **Sportsmanship Section of the SDHSAA Athletic Handbook** for policies and statements concerning the following items:

General Sports Objectives and Coaching Responsibility

Athletic Code of Ethics

Fundamentals of Sportsmanship

Code of Sport Ethics for Coaches

Racial Harassment, Violence and Taunting (See General Section)

## 2021-2022 Spirit Rules Changes

<b>2-1-21</b>	Head coverings worn for religious reasons so as not to expose ones uncovered head may be worn and must be attached in such a way that it is unlikely to come off during performance. It must be made of non-abrasive, soft materials; must fit securely and not pose a danger to any other participant.
<b>3-2-1</b>	Apparel / Accessories: <b>ART. 1 ...</b> b. Hold objects in a hand that is supporting a top person.
<b>4-2-1</b>	<u>Exception: A base and top person may share a pom during a dismount from a thigh stand, shoulder sit/straddle, shoulder stand, or prep.</u>
<b>3-3-3</b>	Inversions: <b>ART. 3...</b> Braced inversions in a pyramid that do not flip or roll are permitted provided the following conditions are met: ... <del>c. The top person and at least one bracer maintains hand to hand/arm contact.</del>
<b>3-3-6d</b>	Suspended Stunts <b>ART. 6...</b> <del>d. When the stunt begins in an inversion and transitions to a non inverted position, the upper body contact may be released before the top person is no longer inverted.</del>
<b>3-5-5c</b>	Release Stunts/Tosses <b>ART. 5...</b> Release transitions are permitted provided all of the following conditions are met throughout the transition: ... c. The top person and at least one bracer maintain <del>hand to hand/arm</del> contact except for the following skills: <del>1. If the release is to a cradle position, the contact may be hand to foot and the bracer must be in a double based prep with a spotter.</del> 2. A non-braced top person in a vertical position at prep level or above may be released to the original bases to a stunt at any level provided the top person remains in a position where the upper body remains vertical and the legs are not in a seated/pike position. Vertical releases from an extended position to an extended position may not perform more than a ¼ turn. 3. A non-braced top person in a cradle position or horizontal position at prep level or below may be released to the original bases in a loading position or stunt at any level with no more than a 1/4 turn.
<b>4-2-8</b>	Stunting Personnel <b>ART. 8...</b> A spotter is required for <del>tosses to</del> single-base prep-level stunts in which the foot/feet of the top person is in the hands of the base and <u>for</u> tosses to single-base shoulder stands.

## 2021-2022 South Dakota Changes/Clarifications/Reminders

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.
3. Follow the NFHS rule on hair rule and eliminate the SD deviation for hair: Hair must be worn in the manner that is appropriate for the activity involved.
4. Number of judges: 3 performance and 2 safety judges will be used for State Meet (local decision for regular season).
5. Inquiry Process: Upon completion of each routine, the safety judge will meet with a designated coach in front of the judges table to inform coach of any safety violations. A brief explanation will be shared with the coach. If conference becomes confrontational, an unsporting deduction may be assessed.
6. Require that all coaches, head or assistant, paid or volunteer, for SDHSAA fall sports complete the NFHSLearn.com "Heat Illness Prevention Course" PRIOR to assuming their coaching duties each school year.

## South Dakota Modifications

1. No glitter hairspray is allowed.
2. Head judge will be designated for both cheer and dance. Judges scores from low to high shall be no more than 10 points.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### A. State Championship Sites and Dates

2021	Brandon	Class A	October 22
2021	Brandon	Class AA	October 23
2022	Brookings	Class A	October 21
2022	Brookings	Class AA	October 22
2023	Rapid City	Class A	October 20
2023	Rapid City	Class AA	October 21

**NOTE: CLASS A AND AA CHAMPIONSIPS LIVE ON SDPB**

### B. On-line Schedules and Rosters Due

Competition schedules and team rosters must be completed on the SDHSAA website form no later than September 1. These forms may be updated as the season progresses.

### C. Classification and Alignments

Schools will be classified according to Average Daily Membership figures from the most recent classification cycle. Squads with an ADM of 450 and above shall participate in Class 'AA' Competitive Cheer, while squads whose ADM's are below 450 will participate in Class 'A' Competitive Cheer.

The Board of Directors will grant permission to any school to participate in a higher classification than their ADM (9-11) places them. If a school requests and is granted permission, they will remain in the higher classification for a two-year alignment period. At the end of the two years, they could exercise their option again if they so desire. If a school requests to move up in one activity they must move up one classification in all other activities that use the same classification formula. The SDHSAA must be notified by July 1.

### D. Contracts

According to Article VIII, Section 2 of the SDHSAA Constitution, all contests must be sanctioned by the Athletic Director, Principal, or Superintendent of the schools involved. It is recommended that contest contracts, as furnished by the SDHSAA on its website (under Forms – Athletic Forms – Officials & Game Contracts) be used for all levels of competition including regular season contests, as well as tournaments, invitational, and double-headers, etc.

### E. Eligibility

All participants shall be eligible under the constitution and By-laws of the SDHSAA. Eligibility lists must be submitted to the Association Office.

### F. Coaching Requirements

The requirements for competitive cheer coaches are as follows:

- View on-line rules meeting (Annually)
- Take and pass on-line open book test (Annually)

The Board of Directors has adopted the following penalty code for non-compliance of this policy:

- A fine of \$50.00 will be assessed against the member school if the head coach fails to submit and pass the on-line open book test, or view the on-line rules meeting. If both the test and rules meeting are missed, the fine is \$75.00.

The above is being done in an attempt to improve knowledge of the rules among the high school coaches.

Notification of testing dates and procedures will be sent to Athletic Directors of each school.

### G. Coaches Must Meet SDHSAA Educational Requirements

All athletic coaches in member schools must meet the education requirements set forth by the SDHSAA. **NOTE:** See Coaches Education Program on website under the Athletics tab for SDHSAA Coaches Education Program.

### H. Judges

There is only one level for judges – registered.

#### **Types of Judges for Cheer Competitions**

- Safety judges will be responsible to detect, record, and report rules violations committed during a team's performance.
- Performance judges will be responsible for evaluating and scoring the elements listed on the judging ballot.

Note: Both types of judges will be required at each competition.

#### **Regular Season:**

Judge Requirements:	Performance Judge	Safety Judge
Cheer Performance minimum -2	2-3	2
Dance Performance minimum- 2	2-3 (Recommend 3 for larger meets)	1-2

Host management will secure the necessary number of judges based on the size of the competition.

Note: See Judges' Qualifications for registration and licensing guidelines



An athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion, or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the contest and shall not return to play (competition) until cleared by an appropriate health-care professional.

When it is detected that a participant is bleeding, has an open wound or an excessive amount of blood on the uniform, the participant must stop performing to receive proper treatment.

**P. Performance Ready**

Coaches understand that teams must be “performance ready” once they step on the competitive floor to avoid deductions. Once the competitive team steps on the floor to compete the coach is verifying legality of team uniform, equipment, and compliance of NFHS and SDHSAA rules which govern this sport. All participants need to be “performance ready” to avoid deductions.

**Q. Performance Procedures**

Teams will be called to the competitive area by the announcer prior to their performance. Three teams will be announced each time—“Performing”, “On-Deck”, and “In the Hole”.

A 10 point “unnecessary delay” deduction will be taken if a team is not in the on-deck area when called. Once a team is called to the on-deck area, points will be deducted for various violations, such as, jewelry, hair, nails, glitter, etc.

**ONLY PERFORMING MEMBERS OF THE CHEER TEAM AND THEIR COACH MAY BE IN THE “ON-DECK AREA” FOR COMPETITION OR 10 POINTS WILL BE DEDUCTED.**

A practice/warm-up area should be made available. Schools should furnish their own equipment and music for use in the practice/warm-up area.

During regular season, the warm-up area must be equipped with adequate gymnastic/wrestling mats or cheer mats for warm-up of the competitive teams. Participating schools, by mutual consent, may agree on proper warm-up facilities.

**R. Performance Requirements**

**Time**

The length of the routine shall be a maximum of two minutes-thirty seconds (2:30). Teams may begin from any position on the mat and the time of the routine will begin with the first word, musical sound, or movement of any team member and will stop with the last word or movement of any team member. If the routine concludes with a pyramid, the final dismount is not timed. There will be a maximum of one minute-thirty seconds (1:30) of music allowed in the routine.

**Music**

I-pods and Auxiliary cords are the general means of music used at competitions. No CD’s. Coaches need to record music at a high level. Schools must have backup music available. Working with the sound technician, the coach or representative for the team is responsible for starting and stopping the music during the routine. If there is a music issue, the meet director/sound technician should report to the judges the music issue, no deduction would be taken for a technical issue.

**Time Infractions:** Time infractions occur for overtime of competition and violation of length of music.

- 1-3 seconds over time                      warning
- 4-8 seconds over time                      10 pts
- 9 or more seconds over time              20 pts

**Routine Requirements**

- The routine must include cheer and dance. There will be a maximum of one minute-thirty seconds (1:30) of music allowed in the routine.
- The length of the routine shall be a maximum of two minutes-thirty seconds (2:30).
- Tumbling skills are only permitted within the body of the routine. Tumbling cannot be performed beyond the competitive area.
- Props are not allowed, with the exception of poms, signs, flags, and megaphones. Mascots will not be part of the routine.

**S. Disqualification Procedure**

For a team to be disqualified, all judges must agree that the offense is serious enough for disqualification. Any judge, safety or performance, may make a ruling for disqualification. Upon judge’s ruling for disqualification, judges will inform the hosting Athletic Director and coaches prior to the awards ceremony to explain the disqualification. Judges must fill out the disqualification form and send it to the SDHSAA office explaining the circumstances surrounding the disqualification. SDHSAA will then contact the school to ensure knowledge and reason for the disqualification. The school that has been disqualified will not be allowed to compete the remainder of the day.

**T. Scoring**

All competitions must use the SDHSAA scoresheets.

1. Cheer Performance Scoresheet
2. Technical/Safety Scoresheet

**U. School Approval Form**

1. Schools are required to have on file the School Approval form prior to the team’s first competition. This form does not need to be sent to the SHDSAA, the form just needs to be on file at your school. Form can be found on the Competitive Cheer page of the SDHSAA website
2. All facets of a performance or routine, including choreography, music selection, and outfitting, should be suitable for family viewing and listening. Uniforms for all team types should be appropriate for the age of the participants performing the routine. Outfitting for cheerleading and dance performances should follow traditional dress standards. In general, school performances, including but not limited to the actual routine, signs, cheers, chants, and hand signals/gestures, should adhere to outfitting, performance, and music guidelines and criteria in place and approved by the administration of the school which the team represents.
3. Deductions or possible disqualification will be given for vulgar or suggestive choreography, which includes but is not limited to, movements such as hip thrusting and inappropriate touching, gestures, hand/arm movements and signals, slapping, positioning of body parts, and positioning one another.
4. Deductions or possible disqualification will be given for music or word unsuitable for family listening, which includes but is not limited to, swear words and connotations of any type of sexual act or behavior, drugs, mention of specific parts of the body torso, or violent acts or behavior. Removing improper language or words from a song and replacing with sound effects or other words constitutes inappropriate, and deductions or disqualification will be made accordingly.

**U. Inquiry Process**

Upon completion of each routine, the safety judges will meet with the designated coach, in an area off to side of performance judges, to inform the coach of any major safety violations. A brief explanation will be shared with the coach. If the conference becomes confrontational, an unsporting deduction may be assessed.

**ORDER OF COMPETITION FOR COMPETITIVE CHEER AND DANCE COMPETITIONS**

All levels of competition during the regular season and State Competition will utilize the following order of competition.

**Class A:**

<u>Cheer</u>	<u>Dance</u>
Small Stunting/Tumbling	Jazz
Large Stunting/Tumbling	Pom
Co-ed Stunting/Tumbling (one size)	Hip Hop

**Class AA:**

<u>Cheer</u>	<u>Dance</u>
Stunting/Tumbling	Jazz
Coed Stunting/Tumbling (one size)	Pom
	Hip Hop

Note: Cheer and Dance routines may be alternated, but shall be run in the above order of categories.

**STATE CHAMPIONSHIP**

**A. Qualifying Regulations**

- Teams must compete in a minimum of 2 competitions during the regular season in order to be eligible for state competition.
- Sub-state competition will be determined by the number of participating schools.

**B. Entry Form**

**Entries for the state competition will be completed with an online WEBFORM. Go to the SDHSAA website and complete WEBFORM to submit entries. Entries must be completed no later than noon October 7.**

**C. Order of Competition**

The SDHSAA will utilize the above rotation for the order in which the categories will be performed. The order in which teams compete in the competition will be randomly drawn by the SDHSAA for each category.

**D. Teams**

Each school may enter one team per category. The performing cheerleaders may be anyone on the SDHSAA eligibility report. Substitutions may be made at any time.

**E. Judges**

**State Finals:** Three performance and two safety judges will evaluate performances at the state finals. All judges will be registered.

SDHSAA will be responsible for securing judges for the state finals.

All decisions of the judges are final.

**F. Determining a Champions**

**St/Tumbling Overall Champion:** team with the highest overall score for that routine will be crowned the champion.

**Co-ed Stunt Tumbling Champion:** if 4 or more Co-ed teams are entered, an Overall Grand Co-ed Champion will be crowned. Awards will be based on number of teams in that division.

### **G. Tie-Breaking Procedure**

Should a tie occur for the overall championship placement of teams, the following criteria will be used sequentially to break the tie:

1. Least amount of total safety deductions from the technical score sheet.
2. Least amount of deductions from the Major Falls-Stunting category on the safety score sheet.
3. Highest score in the "Cheer" section of the performance score sheet.
4. Highest combined score in the "Cheer" section and Jumps in "Cheer Fundamentals". If a tie still remains, continue to combine scores one at a time (execution and difficulty) through standing tumbling, running tumbling, partner stunts, tosses and pyramids until the tie is broken.

### **H. Team Awards**

1. Medals- Individual medals will be awarded to 1<sup>st</sup> place team members and their coach in each category and each class. (Stunting/Tumbling and Coed Stunting/Tumbling)
2. The number of overall team plaques/trophies presented will be based on the number of teams competing in each class/category of the competition: "AA" and "A".
  - a. Minimum of 4 schools competing- award first place trophy and first place medals.
  - b. 5-8 schools competing- award 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> place trophy and medals for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - c. 9-12 schools competing-award 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> place trophy, 3<sup>rd</sup> place plaque and medals to 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> place.
  - d. 13 or more schools competing-award 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> place trophy, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4 place plaques and medals to 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> placeFor the purpose of determining an overall state champion and place finishers in each class, the schools with the highest scores in any category in that class will receive the designated trophies, plaques, and medals.

### **I. State Championship Ticket Prices**

Adult tickets: \$12.00\* per day

Student tickets: \$ 7.00\* per day

\*(plus facility fees, if applicable)

Proper student identification must be shown.

Tickets are for high school, junior high, middle school, and elementary students. (Grades 1-12)

Kindergarten and younger are admitted free. There will be no refunds.

### **J. State Championship Passes**

1. Passes will be issued for participants, student managers (limit of 2), and coaches as listed on the Team Roster and School Information Form on the SDHSAA website and will be found in the coaches packet upon arriving at the state site.
2. One trainer pass, if applicable (must be listed on Team Roster form)
3. Complimentary: 4 per school will be mailed directly to the school administration for distribution to school personnel to include bus driver.

### **K. Expenses**

Each school shall pay the entire expense of the contestants at the State Meet per their local school policy. Schools will receive partial reimbursement by the SDHSAA. Please refer to the general section of the athletic handbook for an explanation for the amount to be reimbursed.

### **L. Recommended Cheer Coach Uniform Rule**

The SDHSAA reminds all coaches of their professional responsibility to conduct themselves in accordance with the rules and regulations of the sport and maintain proper appearance befitting the importance of the game. It is a matter of cooperation of people as a unit showing common courtesy, patience, pride, and respect. **Coaches are asked to dress appropriately (comfortable, but not sloppy; NO hats, t-shirts, denim jeans, or sweat pants). Coaches are in the spotlight, not a fan in the stands. BOD action: April 2008.**

### **M. Practice time for State Tourney**

Practice times will be posted on the SDHSAA website based on competition order. Practice times for Class A will be on Friday from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Practice times for Class AA will be on Saturday from 7:30-9:30 a.m.

### **N. Order of Competition**

October 22-23 at Brandon Valley High School.

October 22 Class A 5:00 p.m. (CT)

October 23 Class AA 11:00 a.m. (CT)

Schedule for practice and competition will be posted online.

No warm-up on competitive mat on Friday or Saturday at the conclusion of the practice times. Teams will rotate from practice gym to competitive area on announcer cues of "In the Hole," "On-Deck," and "Now-Performing."



## **SUGGESTED GUIDELINES FOR HOSTING A COMPETITION**

### **Cheer and Dance Competition Reference**

In an attempt to provide consistency amongst Cheer and Dance competitions, we ask that schools hosting any Cheer/Dance competitions that they try and utilize the information listed below.

1. **Score Program:** Bruce Kleinsasser (Aberdeen Central) is willing to set up the score program and enter the information and send the program to you prior to your competition. It is very user friendly and it would provide consistency of how the coaches receive their final results. Please contact Bruce at [Bruce.Kleinsasser@k12.sd.us](mailto:Bruce.Kleinsasser@k12.sd.us)
2. **Packets** at the end of competition should include:
  - a. The judges score sheets (performance and safety)
  - b. The final score sheet that lists all scores and deduction and the ranking for each school participating (which the score program will do for you).
3. **Awards** should be done at the END of the EVENT and not at any break or intermission.
4. **Order of Competition for Cheer**

This is the preferred order of competition. We do realize that some meets may have Class A and AA schools in the same competition. The host management has the prerogative to host the event with the category being one size squad, however we would like the order of events to stay consistent.

Class A	Stunting/Tumbling	Small Squad
	Stunting/Tumbling	Large squad
	Co-ed Stunting/Tumbling	One size squad
Class AA	Stunting/Tumbling	One size squad
	Co-ed Stunting/Tumbling	One size squad

### 5. **Order of Competition for Dance**

Class A	Jazz	One size squad
Class AA	Jazz	One size squad
Class A	Pom	One size squad
Class AA	Pom	One size squad
Class A	Hip Hop	One size squad
Class AA	Hip Hop	One size squad

### 6. **Order of Competition if Combine Cheer and Dance Competition**

Basically, alternate cheer and dance, but would like to see the order of competition stay the same. In other words, stunting/tumbling, then Jazz followed by stunting/tumbling, followed by Pom. This will provide consistency in the format of all competitions. As we all know there are usually far more dance routines than cheer routines, so it is alright to place the dance routines in between cheer, just remember the order should be: jazz, pom and hip hop.

## **OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **FACILITY**

1. Cheer: must have mat (42' x 42' minimum) mat strips are vertical; Large squad mat size: 42' x 54'.
2. Dance: must have wood or dance floor (45' x 45' minimum). Two inch contrasting tape must be laid to define boundaries along all four sides, minimum of 45' X 45'.
3. Separate seating areas for fans vs. teams
4. Separate seating area for judges away from the crowd.
5. Provide monitors for in-the-hole and on-deck areas.
6. Don't host a competition if you can't provide adequate seating.
7. Microphone for MC.
8. Sound system that can play Ipod's, auxiliary cords and mp3 player.
9. If possible, provide a separate warm-up area.
10. A "VIP coaching section" will be provided during a team's performance. There must be coaching seats available for the team's designated coaches. Only coaches listed on each specific team roster are allowed in the VIP section. Coaches will need to be seated in the VIP section or standing by the music sound system during competition (if they choose to put in music). Designated coaches must be wearing name badges to be in the VIP seating. Competitive teams not performing will need to be seated in the bleachers. There will be a 10 point team deduction for not being in the designated areas during the team's performance.

### **PERSONNEL** (All working personnel should be high school graduates)

- A. **Tournament Director**
  1. Secure your facility.
  2. Send out registration/info forms.

3. Send confirmation to teams upon receiving their registration.
  4. Receipt any monies received.
  5. Cover all pertinent information specific to your competition.
  6. If a copier is available, hand out final standings listing scores of all participating teams. A separate column should reflect the total number of points deducted for safety violations.
  7. Hand out score sheets at the end of the meet after final tabulations have been made sheets.
  8. Keep all judge scratch sheets.
  9. If possible, provide a 'light' hospitality area for coaches and for judges.
  10. Arrange for national anthem to be played prior to competition. The Lakota Flag Song may be played as well.
  11. Provide all scoresheets.
  12. Announce awards in the following manner: Small to large groups in each category beginning with Stunting/Tumbling, then the dance groups of Hip Hop, Jazz, Kick and Pom, in that order.
- B. MC
1. Role – Welcome to the event and announce teams and results. Can make announcements between routines.
  2. All comments made should be neutral.
- C. Music Operator (provided at the discretion of hosting team)
1. Role is to show coaches how to operate the equipment.
  2. Cheer: Music operator **is not** to play a team's music.  
Dance: Music operator may play a team's music.
  3. Music operator is allowed to play music between routines.
- D. Timers
1. Cheer: Separate routine timer.  
Separate music timer  
Dance: May utilize safety judge as routine timer.
  2. Host should supply timer sheets and stopwatches for timers.
  3. Record all times, collect sheets and save.
- E. Tabulators
1. Need one person (or more, pending size of competition)
  2. Sit with judges.
  3. Collect score sheets as soon as a team is judged.
  4. Start tabulating as soon as you received score sheets.
  5. All safety violations must be recorded and deducted on master score sheet.
  6. Record individual judge's score on the master score sheet.
  7. Record any time or mat deductions on the master score sheet.
  8. List all teams and scores on a Final Results Sheet, along with a separate column tabulating total points deducted for safety violations.
    - Do not give score sheets back to judges once you put the total score on the master score sheet.
    - Recalculate all math before releasing final standings.

## JUDGES

- A. Securing judges
1. Must provide performance judges as per SDHSAA policy.
  2. Must provide safety judge(s) as per SDHSAA policy. Two safety judges are needed for all cheer events.
- B. Seating
1. Must seat judges away from fans (rope off the area, provide security to do what is necessary to keep fans away from judges)
  2. To discourage conversation and provide privacy, please provide adequate spacing between judges.
- C. Tabulations
1. Performance and safety judges are to submit their individual score sheets to the tabulator as soon as they complete scoring for each team.
  2. Safety judges should hand their deduction sheets to the tabulator once each division has completed their competition.
  3. Once the score sheet has been submitted to the tabulator, the judge will not see the score sheet again. (If the score sheet is incomplete, the tabulator may return the sheet for completion.) Judges must initial the scoresheets.
  4. Judges are not to have any contact with the tabulator once the competition ends.
- D. Responsibilities
1. Judges should not interact with team, coaches, or fans at any time, with the exception of the coaches' meeting.
  2. Judges should not leave the facility until final tabulations are complete.

## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS FOR CHEER AND DANCE

- Question:** If 4 Co-ed teams compete between Class A and Class AA in the Co-ed St/Tumbling category, will an Overall Champion be crowned?

**Answer:** Yes, if 4 or more teams in Class A and AA compete in the Co-ed category, an Overall Grand Champion will be awarded with trophies given out based on the number of teams entered in that category, as per SDHSAA Cheer Handbook.
- Question:** If a team is participating in the high school competitive cheer and/or dance program, can they compete against teams that are not part of the program (those that are still high school teams but did not choose to participate in the SDHSAA competitive season)?

**Answer:** No.
- Question:** Can a competitive cheer or dance team participate in a high school pep assembly after the season is over?

**Answer:** Yes.
- Question:** What is the difference between competitive cheer and sideline cheer?

**Answer:** *Competitive Cheer* is an SDHSAA recognized sport and must follow the SDHSAA regulations as it pertains to competitor eligibility, season length, number of contests, coaches and judges qualifications, competition guidelines, and out of season rules. Season begins Monday of week 5 and ends Saturday of week 16. *Sideline Cheer* is not an SDHSAA recognized sport. It is a support activity for a competitive sport sponsored by the SDHSAA. The competitive cheer coach may coach/advise a sideline cheer squad/team; however, the squad/team may NOT compete at any level.
- Question:** What is the difference between competitive dance and performance dance?

**Answer:** *Competitive Dance* is an SDHSAA recognized sport and must follow the SDHSAA regulations as it pertains to competitor eligibility, season length, number of contests, coaches and judges qualifications, competition guidelines, and out of season rules. Season begins Monday of week 5 and ends Saturday of week 16. *Performance Dance* is not an SDHSAA recognized sport. It is a support activity that typically provides entertainment during breaks at competitive sports contests. Its main function is performance. The competitive dance coach/advisor may supervise the performance dance squad/team; however, the squad/team may NOT compete at any level. There is no restriction as to the number of performances.
- Question:** When the competitive cheer season is over, may the competitive cheer coach also be the sideline coach, and the competitive dance coach also be the performance dance coach?

**Answer:** Yes.
- Question:** What restrictions are placed on the coaches during the sideline cheer season and the performance dance season?

**Answer:** The competitive cheer and competitive dance coach may work with the girls in sideline cheer and performance dance only. There are no restrictions as to the number of contacts; however, there can be no competition for the sideline cheerleaders or the performance dancers.
- Question:** What restrictions are placed on the cheerleaders and dancers during the sideline cheer season and the performance dance season?

**Answer:** The cheerleaders may only cheer at athletic contests and the performance dancers may only perform at a school athletic contest or perform at some event with SDHSAA approval. Absolutely no competition representing the school following the competitive school season.
- Question:** Can a club/high school coach bring club team members into a high school team during the in-season time period?

**Answer:** No. This would be a violation of the in-season game, scrimmages, and practice rule which states, "Games/practices between high school teams/individuals and independent/club/alumni/college teams/individuals are prohibited. This prohibition is applicable to both individual and teams sports."
- Question:** Can a coach of a competitive cheer or dance team take his/her team to a competition during the months of December through May?

**Answer:** No. There can be no team competition after the season is completed during the school year. A coach is limited to 4 competitive contacts during the months of June and July with their cheer or dance squads.
- Question:** Can a coach who manages an outside entity or club, coach his/her athletes at the club during the school year "out of season" time period?

**Answer:** Yes, however, the manager of the club would have to follow the club guidelines as to only being able to work with 4 members of his/her competitive squad for cheer and limited to 5 members of his/her competitive squad for dance at a time.

**IN-SEASON Participation Clarifications:**

- a. Any subdivision of a sport such as freestyle wrestling or 3-on-3 basketball is still considered to be an SDHSAA sponsored sport.
  - i. For competitive cheer, participation in lessons, which teach fundamental techniques, such as tumbling, lifts or jumps shall not be considered sanctioned-sport activity.
  - ii. For competitive dance, participation in dance studio classes or dance lessons (which teach fundamental techniques/skills), community/local performances or recitals that are non-competitive in nature, shall not be considered a sanctioned-sport activity.
- b. Cheer and Dance athletes may attend [up to] two collegiate tryouts during the in-season timeframe without violation of the In-Season Team Membership Rule. A waiver must be submitted through the Athletic Director of the school to the SDHSAA Executive Staff in advance of the event to receive permission to attend the event. Failure to complete the waiver process prior to the date of the event will render the student subject to penalty as listed for a violation of the In-Season Team Membership Rule. This form may be found under the Forms tab, Athletics, then Cheer or Dance.