

SOUTH DAKOTA

HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION



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Daniel Swartos
Executive Director

Cheer and Dance Advisory Minutes

October 25, 2017

Meeting called to order by Jo Auch at 10:30am. Auch welcomed the committee as well as the guests in the room. Others in attendance were: Alissa Sendelbach, Kayla Slate, Diedra Nissen and Tina Barnett.

Jennifer Johnke selected as recording secretary.

Craig Cassens will not return for 2nd term. Belinda Miller from Sioux Valley is willing to fulfill the position.

Terms of Cami Bacon, Jared Vasquez, and Tanya Goings expire and we will look for replacements in those positions.

Cyndy Demers made the motion that the cheer and dance associations will make recommendations for people to serve on the advisory committee, with a vote from the members of the association. 2nd by Bruce Kleinsasser, and all approved, 11-0.

Report on state tourney: RC did a great job. Thank you to Jared and his staff for a great event. Some concerns from the state event was that the athletic trainer was not always accessible. The request was that maybe one of them should stay in the room. Request to have people monitoring the upstairs balcony area are so audience is not moving around during performances. The question was asked, why SDHSAA does not make hotel reservations? Basketball, Volleyball, and Wrestling are the only ones that are booked by SDHSAA. Auch stated that we have no idea as to the number of rooms that each team needs due to team sizes varying throughout the state.

Coaches Clinic Report: Held in Mitchell, Roosevelt coaches demonstrated, gymnast from Iowa was the guest clinician and gave demonstrations – wonderful, 16 cheer coaches in attendance. National Convention in SF next year in June, Bill Patterson from UCA will be at the event. Suggestions should go to Bruce as to what you would like to see. Eight Dance Coaches attended in the first year, Dakota Valley brought girls for demo, and Jasper Diegel spoke on behalf of judges and explained what judges looked for when judging from the rubric.

Cheer Report

Class A and AA Report

1. Class A is wondering if there will be a Class B again, or will we stay with two classes. Is it too intimidating for small schools? Right now, there are 20 schools in Class A Cheer. We would need to do some research on what it might look like if it is separated out. Auch explained how the ADM worked and at the present time the ADM numbers are 450 and up for AA; 449 to 90 for Class A and 89 and below is

Class B. We would need to look at how that cut-off might look. We have some time as the realignment year is another year away.

2. Concerns on tumbling difficulty – same difficulty when they have 1 tumbler vs. several.
3. Should there be inquiry with judges? Is the judging too subjective? Too much of a beauty pageant? Score sheet should be changed to put more focus on skill. Concerns with scoring, not sure how to correct it. Concerns with deductions. Should there be video review? There is no video review in any sport in South Dakota.
4. Is there a reason why small squads and large squads are separated in competition? Auch explained that it is done this way because there are category specific awards for small stunt/tumbling and large stunt/tumbling. Thus, it needs to stay the way it is. The question was raised should we get rid of small squad in Class A. Most agreed that we are not there yet.
5. Are we at a point where we show the scores right away? Does it help with consistency? Why are scores not shown in advance? Should we show deductions right away? Auch stated that it has always been the “element of surprise”. Coaches would like to see where the deductions are coming from and be able to ask questions. Are we to a point where that does not matter?
6. Should the judges or head judge check with the tabulators to double-check the final results? Yes, before judges leave the facility they should check the score tabulator’s scores to be sure they are correct.
7. Speed of routine in scoring? Should not be getting safety deductions for step-out.
8. Limit number of teams at competitions, or change start time of meets?
9. Suggestion to separate AA and A at competitions. Separate cheer and dance? Limit dance to two routines? Qualify for state? How would that be done? These were all discussed as a way to come up with a means to limit the number of dance routines compared to the number of cheer routines at a competition. The dance routines are three to one and it is too much for judges to manage in an event.
10. Can the state make an exception to requiring 2 safety judges for cheer? Sometimes difficulty to find judges. Auch stated that we approved of 2 safety judges last year because there were too many meets where one safety judge cannot see everything with larger squads and then were being ridiculed by coaches that they have never been deducted for that until state. One judge cannot see everything, sometimes two judges cannot get it all. Auch stated that if there were a judge shortage, AD’s could call the office and she could possibly make an exception to the rule, but when two are available, we need to use two.
11. Can we have two alternates in an event at state in the case of illness or injury? Yes, for injury or illness that is always an option. However, the number of passes would remain the same for a small team the maximum is 12 passes and for a large team it is 26 and that is based on the roster, so you would need to have those alternates listed on the roster when entries are made.
12. Many are opposed to region format to qualify for state.
13. Concerns of judging consistency and we have a shortage of judges – what is the solution? Dr. Swartos commented, why would judges want to continue to judge when they are bashed on social media? There needs to be filters in place from our schools to ensure that these things are not happening.
14. We also need to recruit volunteers to assist the certified judge.
15. Coaches and judges boundaries: Coaches should never email a judge about questions on deductions or a routine. All concerns should be sent to Jo at the SDHSAA and she will get answers to your questions.
16. Timing at State Tourney – Do we need a backup timer for timing the routines. Can we run the timer for audience to see? It was discussed and decided that may be too distracting for participants.

Craig Cassens was excused at 1:30 p.m.

Dance Report Class A and AA:

1. Concerns with Safety scores – the biggest concern is with the safety deductions. Wondering if there is a way for judges to stay and explain why deductions in both cheer and dance. Auch spoke of the inquiry process that is done in gymnastics. Could we incorporate something like that?
2. Region or qualifying meet to make it a qualifying event to make it special and something that the girls have to work towards to get to state. Should there be a minimum score for teams to make the state meet? Treat like track with a qualifying score. Committee felt that this might be a good idea but needed more research.
3. Is it time to limit number of dance routines? At state, there are three to one dance routines and it is hard for the judges to stay focused and give their best effort in the time crunch that they are in at the state meet. Is it time to go to two routines at state? Teams only have two outfits to buy and two choreography routines to manage. Suggestion to combine pom and kick and look to revise the kick rubric.
4. Social Media comments about judges are not appropriate.
5. Suggestion to rotate order of dances? Auch stated that she would do that each year. Next year's first dance routine will be Jazz with hip-hop going to the last dance and we will rotate alphabetically each year.
6. Coaches are asking that their cheerleaders and dancers be allowed to attend college clinics without being a violation of in/out-of-season rules. Auch stated that would need to go to the in/out of season advisory meeting which will be held January 24, 2018. This committee did not have the authority to make specific rules pertaining to in/out of season. There is no scouting in cheer and dance, so they need to attend college clinics to be looked at for college.
7. Rule on skirt length – should be mid-calf at longest, dangerous situation with long skirts.
8. Athletes should not have any fabric covering hands.
9. Can there be a timer put at judges' table so the judges can reference the time in the routine – perhaps a cell phone timer would work when the routine starts and judges could use it as they see fit.

There was a discussion on the Cheer Rubric and scoresheets and how can we make them better. A sample rubric was presented to the advisory committee to be considered as a start. Bruce Kleinsasser and will look for coaches to volunteer to serve on a committee to review rubric. We will look for a balance of coaches from all classes and we need officials to serve on this committee.

Sideline Cheer – No concerns

Proposals:

1. Cyndy Demers made the motion: A red card would be raised by the safety judges after the performance is complete if there were any safety deductions, and then the safety judge will inform the coach of major safety deductions. 2nd by Angela Nieman, Vote: 5 yes, 5 no, motion failed
2. Motion by Jennifer Johnke to **make 3 categories of dance instead of 4 – combine pom and kick into one category. The other categories would be Hip Hop and Jazz**, 2nd by Naomi, Vote: 8 yes, 1 no, motion passes.
3. Motion by Amanda Stoesser that **skirts shall be no longer than mid-calf for safety**, 2nd by Bruce Kleinsasser, Vote: 10-0, motion passes

4. Motion by Angela Nieman to add the line **“one of which is not nude colored.” to the rule about sheer material**, 2nd by Jennifer Johnke. Vote: 10-0, motion passes.
5. Motion by Bruce Kleinsasser to **eliminate the step-out deduction**, 2nd by Carrie Wieman, Vote: 10-0, motion passes.
6. Jo will also discuss with judges that safety deductions should only be taken when it is a safety concern, such as stepping on signs, etc.

Bruce Kleinsasser and Cyndy Demers will form committee to examine options for qualifying teams for state. This committee will be a volunteer committee with no expenses assumed by the SDHSAA. Bruce and Cyndy will send out info to coaches regarding qualifying committee and will share names with Jo.

Motion to adjourn at 3:10 p.m. by Jennifer Johnke, 2nd by Jared Vasquez, Vote: 10-0