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**7.19 SPIRIT - COMPETITIVE**

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**7.19.1 General Rules/Policies****A. Coaches Education**

All Coaches and Sponsors must have a coaching license which is issued by the State Education Agency and be an employee or have a contractual relationship with that particular school system (this applies to both voluntary and paid individuals). Spirit coaches must also complete the USA Cheer and Dance Safety Certification Course through NFHS Learn. It is the responsibility of the school district to ensure that each Spirit coach is licensed and has Cheer and Dance Safety certification, which is current for four years from the date of completion.

**B. Safety**

NFHS safety rules apply to New Mexico spirit teams at all times. Violation of safety guidelines at any time during the school year may result in sanctioning by the Executive Director.

**C. Classes - Teams must compete at the classification level that the school participates in for basketball.**

There are six classes in cheer during the competition season: A/2A, 3A, 4A, 5A All-Girl and A/4A Co-Ed and 5A Co-Ed. Co-Ed division is defined as any team having two (2) male participants. Teams with one (1) male participant may choose to compete as Co-Ed or in the All-Girl classification.

There are two classes in dance during the competition season: A-4A, and 5A.

**D. Practice Date – Practice may occur year round.****E. Competition Season – Competition may begin on Monday of Week #19. The season is over at the conclusion of the State Competition.****F. Competition Limitation – Each varsity team is limited to ten (10) total competitions.****G. Practice Requirement – Each individual must complete a minimum of ten (10) practices on mats or an approved performing surface per NFHS Safety Rules prior to participating in stunts or tumbling in any environment. Practices are counted from the first day of the Fall season or the student's first day of participation.****H. NMAA Rules Clinic – All coaches from each competitive spirit team must attend the NMAA rules clinic in order to participate in the State Championships.****7.19.2 Judges****A. Officials working any NMAA sanctioned event must be registered through the Association. Schools are required to use a minimum of two (2) certified performance judges and one (1) certified technical judge for regular season sanctioned competitions, unless approved by the Executive Director in advance.****B. Schools are subject to a fine for using non-registered officials for competitions.**

### **7.19.3 School Facilitated Competitions**

- A.** Schools may host competitions and apply for sanctioning through the NMAA. Competitions must be sanctioned in order to be considered as one of the three (3) required for a team to be eligible for State Competition.
- B.** To be considered for approval, all competitions must satisfy the following conditions:
  - 1.** A minimum of four (4) varsity cheer and/or dance teams must attend the competition
  - 2.** A minimum of one (1) certified technical judge must adjudicate the competition
  - 3.** A minimum of two (2) certified performance judges must adjudicate the competition
  - 4.** A sanctioning request form must be submitted to and approved by the NMAA. This form may be found on the NMAA website at [www.nmact.org](http://www.nmact.org). Once approved, the competition host will be notified by the NMAA.

### **7.19.4 State Championships Entry Procedures**

Entries for the State Championships must be correctly submitted prior to Week #34.

### **7.19.5 State Championships**

- A. Date** - State championships are held on the Friday and Saturday of Week #38 pending UNM Pit availability.
- B. State Championship Eligibility** - Teams must compete in at least three (3) sanctioned competitions prior to State in order to be eligible for State Competition.
- C. Format**
  - 1.** Each team will perform two routines with no more than 4 team members different from one routine to the other.
  - 2.** Two (2) panels of six (6) performance judges; and two (2) panels of two (2) technical judges.
- D. Roster Limitation:**
  - 1.** Each all-girl cheer team is limited to twenty-four (24) performers in addition to a mascot(s), four (4) alternates, two (2) student managers, one (1) music person, and four (4) coaches.
  - 2.** Each co-ed cheer team is limited to twenty-four (24) performers in addition to a mascot(s), four (4) alternates, two (2) student managers, one (1) music person, and four (4) coaches.
  - 3.** There is no limit on the number of performers on a dance team. However, each dance team is limited to four (4) alternates, two (2) student managers, one (1) music person, and four (4) coaches.
  - 4.** Each individual listed on a team's roster must meet the requirements as listed below:
    - a.** Performers – eligible per NMAA Bylaws, have competed in a minimum of ¼ of the varsity contests scheduled, and included on the team roster on the NMAA website and State Championship registration form. (See Bylaw 7.6.5)

- b. Alternates – eligible per NMAA Bylaws, have competed in a minimum of  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the varsity contests scheduled (unless moved up from the JV for state), and included on the team roster on the NMAA website and State Championship registration form.
- c. Coaches (head and assistant) – State licensed, USA Cheer and Dance Safety certified, school recognized, and listed on the NMAA website and State Championship registration form as the coach of the appropriate team.