

STATE SPIRIT COMPETITION GUIDELINES

April 16-17, 2010
SANTA ANA STAR CENTER



CHEER INFORMATION

I. ELIGIBILITY

The Competition is open to all high school varsity cheerleader squads. Only one varsity squad may represent a school. The Public Education Department/NMAA Scholastic eligibility requirements must be followed by members of all squads. Each school must submit a team roster and picture on the NMAA website by the fourth Friday in October.

II. PERFORMANCE CATEGORY

Teams are required to perform a “**Cheer with Music**” and a “**Crowd Involvement Cheer**” to be eligible for a State Trophy. The combination score of the two the performances will determine the State winners. These performances must incorporate the criteria listed on the judging sheet. The routines are to demonstrate the level of excellence and quality of execution of the basic skills taught in the sport of Cheerleading. A team choosing to perform only once would qualify for placement in the Best of Performance certificates only.

III. PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- A. Cheer Routine With Music** –Two minutes and thirty seconds (2:30) maximum performance time and two minutes (2:00) minimum performance time. The cheer portion must be a least one (1:00) minute. Failure to meet this criteria will result in a deduction.
1. Music is mandatory and is to be no longer than a total of 1 minute and 30 seconds. Once the music starts, it can be interrupted with chants, cheers, stunts, etc. The school fight song can be used in this category. Music should be appropriate and not offensive in any manner to the audience.
 2. See judges sheet for criteria that will be used to judge this category.
- B. Crowd Involvement Cheer** – One minute and thirty seconds (1:30) maximum performance time and one minute and fifteen seconds (1:15) minimum performance time. Failure to meet this criteria will result in a deduction.
1. No music.
 2. See judges sheet for criteria that will be used to judge this category.
 3. See “Required Elements” document for those skills that must be included in the routine.
 4. There will be a 2 point deduction for any incomplete element.
 5. There will be a 5 point deduction for any omitted element.
- C.** There will be a total deduction of 5 points for any performance that exceeds or does not meet the time limit. Deductions will be reflected on the scoring sheet.

A floor monitor will signal for the squad to enter the floor. A squad will have 45 seconds to (1) *enter* the floor, (2) set up any props, and (3) get into position. Squads will begin their routine immediately after it is announced. “Now performing...” No additional set-up or positioning time is allowed. The time will begin with the first signal (stomp, clap, ready, music, etc.) and end when the routine is over. Teams exceeding the entrance time will receive a 5 point deduction from their total score for that performance. Deductions will be reflected on the scoring sheet.

Routine music must be recorded on a quality compact disc. The tape must be labeled with the school and coach's name. Each coach must provide a second CD for back-up purposes. Keep in mind that recording equipment differs. In the event of music malfunction during the State Competition, the coach must inform the person controlling the music to stop the music. (Note: A coach may not request that the routine be repeated once the team has left the floor.) The announcer will tell the performing team to regroup and start over in the event of a malfunction of the music. There will not be a point deduction for a music malfunction.

V. CLASSIFICATIONS/DIVISIONS

- A. Divisions shall be made into the following classifications: A, AA, AAA, AAAA, AAAAA & Co-ed.
- B. Teams must compete at the classification level that the school declares for boys' basketball participation.
- C. No all girls cheer squad is to have more than 20 team participants.
- D. Co-ed division is defined as having two (2) male participants on a varsity squad and cannot exceed twenty four members. If there are two male members on a squad, the squad must compete in the Co-ed division. Co-ed squads will compete against all other Co-ed squads regardless of classification levels (A, AA, AAA, AAAA or AAAAA). If only one male member is on a squad not to exceed twenty members, the squad will compete in the class they participate in boys' basketball and not in the Co-ed division. (A squad with only one male is permitted to compete in Co-ed if they choose to do so).
- E. Each school must declare the division in which they will perform by the stated deadline on the registration form. Teams will not be allowed to change divisions after the deadline.
- F. All performers must be listed on the official registration/eligibility form.
Note: The NMAA must be notified in advance and approve of any changes in performing members due to unforeseen circumstances.

VI. TROPHIES AND AWARDS

- A. State Championship trophies and Best of Performance certificates shall all use same guidelines for distribution.
 - 1. If a category/class has up to three teams, only one trophy will be awarded
 - If a category/class has four or 5 teams, two trophies will be awarded
 - If a category/class has 6 teams, three trophies will be awarded
 - If a category/class has 7 or more teams, four trophies will be awarded
- B. In the event of a tie for state, the team's highest scoring performance will be used to determine the ranking for the state trophies.

Example: Team 1 scores	98 (1 st routine)	95 (2 nd routine) = 193
Team 2 scores	96 (1 st routine)	97 (2 nd routine) = 193
Team 3 scores	94 (1 st routine)	99 (2 nd routine) = 193

All three teams would be in a three way tie with the combination of both scores. Therefore the highest routine score would be used in ranking for the state trophy which would result in Team 3 winning first place (99), Team 1 second place (98) and Team 3 third place (95).

If the three teams have the same identical routine scores regardless of routine order the state trophy would be awarded to all three teams. The team that traveled the furthest would take the trophy home, and duplicate trophies would be mailed to the remaining teams.

VII. ADJUDICATION

Judges for the State Spirit Competition will be *impartial*, qualified, and experienced *professionals* from out of state with a thorough knowledge and background in cheerleading. Judges will provide written evaluations on the score sheets. All judges' scores will be combined to determine the final score for each performance. Technical judges will rule on safety violations. One technical judge will check squads for uniform violations prior to entering the performance floor.

Judges' sheets may be picked up at the designated area at the conclusion of each session. An NMAA representative will be present at said area. Coaches will have 30 minutes after the end of the session to appeal any deductions. No appeals will be accepted once those 30 minutes has elapsed.

VIII. ENTRY FEES

The Competition entry fee is \$150.00. Entry fee is *non-refundable*

Make check payable to: **NMAA – Spirit Competition**
6600 Palomas NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109

***All fees must be postmarked by Friday, January 30, 2009. NO EXCEPTIONS! A \$100 late fee will be assessed if received after payment deadline.**

IX. FINES

There will be a **\$100.00** fine imposed for any team who registers and fails to notify the NMAA in **writing by noon on Monday, March 29, 2010** if the team wishes to withdraw from the Competition.

The coach must also immediately notify the NMAA if a team will not perform both routines due to unforeseen circumstances. Failure to do so will result in a \$100.00 fine to the school.

X. AWARDS PRESENTATION & CHAMPIONSHIP PHOTOGRAPHS

Due to fire code regulations each squad may only send 2 members to accept any award.

The Awards Presentation will be contingent on the number of performances. It will be held at the conclusion of Session 3 (AAA, AAAA, Coed) and 4(A, AA, AAAAA). When awards are announced, the two team representatives will accept the trophy. Following the presentation of the award, the entire team will be directed to an area for photos.

XI. REGULATIONS FOR SAFETY

All safety rules apply to all New Mexico cheer squads at all times. Violation of the safety guideline(s) during the State Competition will result in penalty point deductions. Violation(s) of any rules in the current **National Federation Spirit Rules Book** will result in a deduction from the total score for that performance.

Technical judges will determine violations of the safety guidelines. One technical judge will check squads for violations prior to entering the performance floor.

Refer to the current **National Federation Official High School Spirit Rules Book** for the safety guidelines which must be adhered to. (Rulebooks may be purchased through the NMAA office.)

Please note: If you are an AACCA Certified Coach, you signed a statement promising to abide by AACCA rules which in some cases may be more stringent than those of the NFHS.

XIII. Spotters

All spotters must be members of the varsity squad performing and must participate in the routine.

Qualified spotters will also be on the performance floor for the purpose of spotting all stunting.

XIV. PERFORMANCE, WARM-UP AND STRETCHING AREAS

- A. All performances will be conducted on the *Santa Ana Star Center* basketball court (94' x 50'). An official Cheerleading Mat (54 ft. wide x 42 ft. deep) will be in place on center court for all Cheer performances (see Diagram). All performances must stay within the perimeters of the mat. *Failure to do so will result in a deduction.*
- B. The first eight teams performing in each session need to arrive forty-five minutes prior to the session and check in for warm up. Teams will be given **5 minutes for stretching, and 5 minutes for warm-up**. No team will be permitted to warm-up in the concourse area of the Arena.
- C. **Only coaches who are STATE certified, recognized by the school, and listed on the official state entry form are permitted in the competition and warm up areas. These coaches are the only persons authorized to perform coaching duties.**
- D. State performing teams are not allowed to hold practice on the performance surface at any time during the year. Doing so may result in team disqualification.

XV. TEAM ENTRANCE/SEATING

- A. *Teams will be provided with wristbands for participants who are listed on the State Registration Form and whose eligibility has been verified via the NMAA website. No additional wristbands will be distributed.*
- B. It is required that all performing teams enter through the will-call door at the lower SE corner of the Arena. *Only eligible participants listed on the State entry registration and wearing the appropriate wristband will be permitted as members of the team.*
- C. No outside food and/or beverages will be permitted.
- D. Administrators and Sponsors must enter through the will-call door. Individuals will be admitted according to the NMAA Complimentary Entrance policy.
- E. Teams must sit in the participants seating on the Arena floor.
 - 1. Only the performing teams and coaches wearing the official wristbands will be permitted to enter this area. Coaches are strongly encouraged to explain this to their school administration, parents, fans, etc.
 - 2. Participants are **not** to take the wristbands off at any time during the event.
 - 3. Participants will not be able to re-enter the area without a wristband.
 - 4. If you are in the participant seating area, you must remain seated during performances. Entrance and exit from this area will only be permitted between performances. A team may be asked to leave the participant seating if they are not respectful of the performing team.
- F. Due to fire code regulations, all personal belongings must be stored under the participant's chair. No bags, shoes, poms, etc. should be left in the aisles. Items in the aisles may be confiscated.
- G. Teams are not allowed to change in the seating area. All costume and uniform changes must be done in the provided facilities.

BEST OF LUCK TO ALL PARTICIPANTS!