

STATE SPIRIT COMPETITION GUIDELINES

April 4-5, 2008

UNM ARENA



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 to the NMAA by the fall deadline for online reporting of the current school year.

II. PERFORMANCE CATEGORY

Teams are required to perform "Cheer with Music" on both Friday and Saturday 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.*

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 selective and not offensive in any manner to the audience.
2. The following are examples of criteria that may be used to judge this category:
 - a. crowd interaction techniques
 - b. use of props:
 - (1) banners/signs
 - (2) poms
 - (3) megaphones
 - c. time-out cheers, sideline chants
3. For the second day performance, cheer with music can be the same, different or adjustments made.

B. There will be a total deduction of 5 points for any performance that exceeds the time limit. The points will be deducted on the judging form by the timer.

A floor monitor will signal for the squad to enter the floor. A squad will have 45 seconds to (1) walk on the floor, (no spirit entrance), (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.

Teams must perform to taped music or CD. No live music will be allowed during the entrance, routine, or the exit. A music system will be provided. You will be responsible for having your assistant or manager (if not self) to signal the music system operator to start the music. **Note:** It is recommended to have a **back-up tape or CD** in the event of technical problems. All music should be recorded on quality tapes or compact discs to insure proper sound.

C. State performing teams are not allowed to practice on the performance surface at any time during the year. Doing so may result in team disqualification.

V. CLASSIFICATIONS/DIVISIONS

A. There shall be one (1) division of performance in the A, AA, AAA, AAAA, AAAAA and Co-Ed conference.

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 can not 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 participants on the official registered team must perform in both performances.
Note: A NMAA State Spirit Management Team member 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

2. There will be a total of three (3) judges evaluating the performance

B. In the event of a tie for state, the teams 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 make 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 determine which team would take the trophy home, duplicate trophies will be mailed to the tying teams.

VII. ADJUDICATION

Judges for the State Spirit Competition will be qualified, experienced people from out of state with a thorough knowledge and background in cheerleading with no ties to New Mexico schools. 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 on the performance floor. ***All technical violations are final and no appeals or reviews will be allowed.***

VIII. ENTRY FEES

The Competition entry fee is \$150.00 for two performances or \$75 for one performance. Make check payable to: NMSA Spirit Association
6600 Palomas NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109

***All fees must be paid in full on or before Friday, February 1, 2008. NO EXCEPTIONS! Late fee will be assessed if received after payment deadline.**

IX. FINES

There will be a \$100.00 fine per performance imposed for any team who registers and fails to notify the NMAA in **writing** to by **noon** on **Friday, March 14, 2008** if the team wishes to withdraw from the Competition.

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

X. AWARDS PRESENTATION

Due to fire code regulations each squad can only send 2 members to the floor for awards.

The Awards Presentation will be contingent on the number of performances. It will be held at the conclusion of Session 3 (A, AA, AAA) and 4(AAAA, AAAAA, Coed). The judges' sheets may be picked up on the concourse at section 11 at the conclusion of the awards presentation. Teams will be directed by the announcer to floor area for awards. As awards are presented, the winning team will be presented the trophy facing the west side of the Arena, two squad members will accept trophy. At conclusion of all awards winning teams 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 of the current **National Federation Spirit Rules Book** will result in a deduction of penalty points from the total score for that performance.

Technical judges will determine if there are any violations of the safety guidelines. One technical judge will check squads for violations prior to entering on 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.)

XIII. Spotters

All spotters must be members of the varsity squad performing and must participate in the routine. College spotters will also be on the performance area for purpose of spotting all stunting.

XIV. PERFORMANCE, WARM-UP AND STRETCHING AREAS

A. All performances will be conducted on the UNM 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 III). All performances must stay within the perimeters of the mat as penalty violations will be taken off the total team score. See attached diagram.

B. Both cheer and dance/drill teams performing early (first eight on schedule) need to arrive forty-five minutes before the session and check in for warm up. Teams will be given adequate warm up time. No team will be permitted to warm-up in the concourse area of the Arena.

C. Only school coaches who are STATE certified and listed on the official state entry form, not associate members, are permitted in the competition or warm up areas and are the only persons authorized to perform coaching duties.

XV. TEAM SEATING

A. It is required that all performing teams enter on the south side, section 13 and sit at the south end of the UNM Arena. Only the performing teams and team coach/coaches wearing the official wristbands and administrators in the comp book will be permitted to sit in this area. You are strongly encouraged to explain this to your administration, parents, fans, etc. Teams are **not** to take the wristbands off and give to anyone at any time during the event. Violation of this rule could result in team disqualification.

B. *Teams are not allowed to use the seating area for changing rooms. All costume and uniform changes must be done in the rest rooms.*

XVI. WINNING TEAM PHOTOGRAPHS

The Awards Presentation will be contingent upon the number of performances and it will be held at the conclusion of Saturday's sessions 3 (A, AA, AAA) and 4 (AAAA, AAAAA, Coed). The judge's sheets may be picked up on the concourse at section 11 at the conclusion of the awards presentation. Winning teams will be directed to a designated area for photos, move quickly and be ready for the photographer.

BEST OF LUCK TO ALL PARTICIPANTS!



