

Ad Hoc Committee on Cheerleading Meeting
May 20, 2010
Holiday Inn, Fishkill

ATTENDANCE: Marsha Tessler (1), Jen Simmons (1), Liz Hemstead (2), Josh Gannon (4), Joanne Small (5), Michele Ziegler (6), Vickie Nephew (7), Laura Orticelle (8), Cherie Ramsey (9), Len Kies (11), Bruce Quimby (3)-Chairperson, Todd Nelson, Nina Van Erk. Absent with notification: Lori Brewer

INTRODUCTIONS: The group welcomed Vickie Nephew as the Section VII representative.

REVIEW OF FEBRUARY MINUTES:

Nina reviewed the minutes from the February 2, 2010 meeting. One change was noticed. The use of the NFHS Sport Guide was also recommended. Nina reviewed the presentation and response from the NYSPHSAA Executive Committee meeting. The Executive Committee want to gauge the statewide support for two issues: designating cheerleading as a sport and the certification requirements. Each Section representative was asked to share the feedback from their respective Section.

SUMMARY OF SECTION FEEDBACK

Section 1

- Cheerleading has been a sport for the past 3 years.
- First Aid, CPR, Fingerprinting are required for all coaches.
- AACCA and the NFHS Stunt #1 courses are also required.
- The Section designated season start and end dates, as well as designating when try-outs could be held to provide for equity across all the sports.
- One current issue the Section is dealing with is whether or not to require the completion of certain stunts in routines.
- Any eligibility violations are sent to Jen Simmons, who addresses the concern and notifies the Superintendent. Sanctions are imposed when appropriate.

Section 2

- Generally, the Section membership did not show support for cheerleading becoming a sport.
- One league does provide for the activity.
- The additional expense of training/certification is a concern of the athletic administrators in the Section.

Section 3

- Most schools and leagues want to consider cheer a sport. One school voiced a no vote and two schools were against certification.
- Cheerleading has helped league budgets – competitions are held in the fall and winter seasons. The fall season can be used for spirit squads for those schools who do not want to be involved in cheer competitions.

- Some schools don't want the competition aspect.
- The Section 3 Cheer Committee is very excited about the possibility of a State Championship.

Section 4

- The school representatives are lukewarm to the idea of cheerleading becoming a sport.
- Many asked the question - What would cheerleading look like if it was designated as a sport? Could an athlete participate in two sports in the same season?
- Most schools require coaching certification and treat cheerleading like other sports. Schools also require First Aid, CPR, etc.

Section 5

- In the Section there are many standards and regulations in place – but cheerleading has not been designated “a sport”. The Section determines start and end dates for the seasons and holds Sectional championships at conclusion of both seasons
- The Class D schools are very involved
- Many Athletic Administrators want the cheerleading coaches to be certified.

Section 6

- Michele attended an Athletic Directors meeting to report on the progress of the committee. Many were in support of the AACCA Course and consideration of cheerleading as a sport.

Section 7

- The Section has many small schools and has only two leagues. The skill level varies greatly from school to school. Some are at a high level and others have support cheer.
- In order for cheerleading to be successful, schools would need to combine spirit and competitive cheer.
- Coaches need AACCA certification, First Aid and CPR.

Section 8

- The support for cheerleading to become a sport was described as, very cold at best – school representatives were not interested maybe because a detailed outline was not presented. The committee would need to show the schools what cheerleading would look like. Specifics are needed.
- Most advisors/coaches have First Aid, CPR, etc.
- Concern was voiced about the discrepancy in the stipend between an advisor of a club and coach of a sport.

Section 9

- Cheri stated only a handful of athletic administrators were in support but felt that it was because more information was needed. Many had concerns over budget.
- Generally speaking, about 1/3 were in favor and 2/3 were opposed to cheerleading as a sport. Some were not interested in requiring coaching certification.

- Most school districts require Fingerprinting, CPR, First Aid, some AACCA
- A Sectional Championship is held and the season dates are the same as football and basketball

Section 10

- Nina reported on behalf of Section 10. The Section is in favor of moving the question forward for both coaching certification and consideration of cheerleading to become a sport.

Section 11

- The athletic administrators voted in the Section. There was a very close vote, 27 to 26 in favor on considering cheerleading a sport and requiring coaching certification.
- Len is now curious about budget revenue that is gained by cheerleading competitions.

OTHER COMMENTS:

Nina sought the advice of Trish Kocialski to determine the steps that the NYSPHSAA would need to take to have the NYSED regulate cheerleading. If the NYSPHSAA made the recommendation, she did not see many hurdles standing in the way. Gaining the support of the NYSAAA and other groups would also be helpful.

Bruce indicated that the Section 3 Cheerleading Committee as similar in structure to all other sport committees in the Section. Section 5 is structured the same with a website, SectionV.org, clinics, rules, policies and Requirements for Sectionals, etc.

Michele is concerned about safety in the sport before competition. Competition will drive the athletes to be pushed to limits beyond their skill level. The committee needs to address risk minimization.

REGULATION and RULE REVIEW:

Nina went through the rules and regulations that pertain to all sports. She provided the committee with a brief summary of the rule to determine if there is a potential issue with cheerleading.

RULES, REGULATIONS, ISSUES	CONFLICT – FUTURE WORK	NYSED
Age and Grade	NO	YES
Amateur	NO	
Assumed Name	NO	
Bona Fide Student	NO	YES
College	NO	
Duration of Competition	NO	YES
Foreign Exchange/International Student	NO	
Health Exam	NO	YES
Scrimmage	Clinics	

RULES, REGULATIONS, ISSUES	CONFLICT – FUTURE WORK	NYSED
Interstate Contests	Needs More Conversation	
Mixed Competition	Needs More Conversation	YES
Penalties	NO	
National Olympic Team	Needs More Conversation	
Outside Agency	NO	
Practice	NO	
Professional Tryouts	NO	
Recruitment and Undue Influence	NO	
Representation	Needs More Conversation	
Senior All Star Contests	Needs More Conversation	
Sportsmanship	NO	
Transfer	NO	
Selection Classification	Needs More Conversation	YES
Jewelry Rule	Needs More Conversation	
Title IX Compliance	Needs More Conversation	
Length of Season	Needs More Conversation	YES
Number of Contests	Needs More Conversation	
Nights Rest	Needs More Conversation	
Spirit Standards	Needs More Conversation	
Competition Standards	Needs More Conversation	
Judges and Officials	Needs More Conversation	
Classes, Divisions or Levels	Needs More Conversation	

The committee will meet again through “Go to Meetings” to continue to outline the regulations that cheerleading would follow if designated a sport.

Bruce thanked the members of the committee for their efforts and contributions. Most of the committee members observed the AACCA Safety Course held as part of the coaching clinic.

Next Meeting
“Go To Meetings”
Monday June 14, 2010
8:30AM

