



OUR STUDENTS, OUR TEAMS . . . OUR FUTURE.

# 2016-17 AIA State Spiritline

## TOURNAMENT GUIDE

**Schedule, Rules, Regulations, Instructions**

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Arizona Interscholastic Association: Established 1913

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## **2016-17 AIA Spiritline Tournament Schedule**

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**REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS *October 9, 2016.***  
**LATE REGISTRATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

The Divisions for All-Girl can be found on the Spiritline page of the AIA website at  
<http://aia365.com/teams/spiritline>.

**Please Note:**

**Coed Divisions:** Schools will be divided equally into Coed Division I and Division II  
(if applicable) after the registrations are received.

**Sites:** **State Qualifier** – Chaparral High School; 6935 E. Gold Dust Ave., Scottsdale, AZ 85253  
**State Qualifier** – Gilbert High School; 1101 E Elliot Rd. Gilbert, AZ 85234  
**State Qualifier-** Buckeye Union High School-1000 E Narramore Ave, Buckeye, AZ 85326  
**State Championship** – TBD

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**State Qualifier: Saturday, Nov. 12, 2016**

**All Girl Division I**

**Game Day**

**Entry Fee - \$250 per school**

Timeline to Come

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**State Qualifier: Saturday, Dec. 3, 2016**

**All Girl Division III**

**Coed Division I**

**Entry Fee - \$250 per school**

Timeline to Come

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**State Qualifier: Saturday, Dec. 10, 2016**

**All Girl Division II**

**Coed Division II**

**Entry Fee - \$250 per school**

Timeline to Come

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**2017 AIA State Spiritline Championships: TBA**

**Location TBA**

**Entry Fee - \$350 per school**

Timeline to Come

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## **2016-17 ADMISSION PRICE**

State Qualifiers: <http://www.aia365.com/championships/spiritline> (Re-entry privileges)  
State Championship: <http://www.aia365.com/championships/spiritline> (Re-entry privileges)

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*After all registration materials have been received by the AIA Office and plans are finalized, participating schools will be provided with a timeline which will show the order and times of performances, as well as the times of the awards ceremonies. The timeline will be available on the Spiritline section of the AIA website: ([http://www.aiaonline.org/activities/spirit\\_lines.php](http://www.aiaonline.org/activities/spirit_lines.php))*



## **Section II: Tournament Preparation**

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#### **RULES**

The rules and regulations contained in this tournament guide have been established to promote safety, equity, and consistency on a statewide basis. As is true in all AIA tournaments, the AIA

Beginning in August 2016 the AIA distributed copies of the National Federation Spirit Rules Book to each member school Spiritline head varsity coach and Athletic Director. As it is the responsibility of Spiritline coaches to understand and consistently enforce National Federation rules at any Cheerleading, Pom, or Spiritline practice, game, performance or competition during the school year, each Spiritline, Cheerleading, or Pom coach should have a personal copy of this rules book.

#### **A. HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2016-17**

- ***The AIA Spiritline State Qualifiers will have an entry fee of \$250 per school and the AIA Spiritline State Championship will have an entry fee of \$350 per school this year.***
- **Tumbling is allowed in All-Girl Stunt and Partner Stunt as long as it is part of the entrance or exit of a stunt and NOT done around the stunt.**
- **All-Girl Pom and Coed Pom: A boy is allowed in the All-Girl Pom but it will not change the team to the Coed Division. All-Girl and Coed Divisions are determined by the cheer category.**
- **Only those schools whose Spiritline coaches are in compliance with the AIA Bylaws will be allowed to compete.**
- Only those Spiritline coaches who are in compliance with the AIA Bylaws will be allowed to enter with their team at no charge. All others will need to purchase a ticket.
- Video Request Procedures (See “Previewing of Routines” section on page 11).
- Team photos and roster process (See “Team Photos” section on page 37).
- DO NOT bring valuables as the AIA and host school cannot be responsible for lost or stolen items).
- **Team Holding Areas** will be available for teams to relax and eat during the day to allow seating for spectators. Team members may go into the gym to watch their school in a category but must return to the Team Holding Areas immediately following their team’s performance.
- Participants must place their bags in the designated area at the State Championship as there will be a limited number of seats in the team sections.
- If a team qualifies at an AIA State Spiritline Qualifier for the AIA State Spiritline Championship, they **DO NOT** have to re-register for the AIA State Spiritline Championship.
- If a team has a change in music, they may edit and submit the changes **up to three days prior** to the competition date. A new receipt must be submitted
- Coed teams can compete in the Partner Stunt category but **CANNOT** compete in the All-Girl Stunt category.



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- The Coed Division will have their own Coed Pom category but are not required to have a boy in the routine. (See page 29).
- Coed Division teams must compete and qualify at the AIA State Spiritline Qualifier in Coed Cheer, Coed Pom and Partner Stunt to be eligible to compete for the Overall Award at the AIA State Spiritline Championship.
- All-Girl Division teams must compete and qualify at the AIA State Spiritline Qualifier in Show Cheer, All-Girl Pom and All-Girl Stunt to be eligible to compete for the Overall Award at the AIA State Spiritline Championship.
- Game Day will consist of teams performing game time situations. Teams will come with four (4) game time situations prepared and will be asked to perform three (3) by random drawing. This is a **non-tumbling, non-stunting** division.
- Coed Division will consist of Coed Cheer, Coed Pom (does NOT have to include a boy) and Partner Stunt (Coed Pom will not compete against All-Girl Pom).
- The top ten (10) teams per division in the Show Cheer, Coed Cheer, All-Girl Pom, Coed Pom, All-Girl Stunt and Partner Stunt categories will qualify to compete at the AIA State Spiritline Championship.
- The entire team, including the head coach, will be allowed on the floor during the awards ceremonies.
- The Winner and Runner-Up teams and coaches will be expected to shake hands and congratulate each other after the awards presentation of their division category.
- Programs at the State Qualifiers will **NOT** have team photos.
- Team Photos will be taken at the **FIRST STAGE** of the warm-up process per division category at the State Qualifiers and State Championship.

### **B. GAMES COMMITTEE**

David Hines, AIA Assistant Executive Director, will serve on the Games Committee with the following individuals:

Kris Guy	AIA Spiritline Liaison
Rudy Cardenas	AIA Spiritline
Annie Valencia	Florence
Shannon Contreras	Estrella Foothills
Ashlee Griffin	Thatcher

The responsibility of the Games Committee is to serve as advisors related to this tournament and to provide expertise to the Tournament Director. This involves planning, preparation, implementation and/or follow-up procedures for the tournament.

The Games Committee, upon the request of the Tournament Director, will consider and take appropriate action on any protest of the tournament operation. Decisions of the Tournament Director and/or Games Committee are final.



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#### **C. ELIGIBILITY**

- Participation in this event is open to all **eligible** Arizona Interscholastic Association member high schools.
- The AIA Spiritline State Qualifiers and State Championship are limited to **Varsity squads only**.
- There is **an Entry Fee** that will be assessed to eligible AIA member high schools at either the State Qualifiers (\$250 per school) or the State Championship (\$350 per school). Member schools will be invoiced after registering for the State Qualifiers and qualifying for the State Championship (if applicable).
- All student participants, including alternates, must satisfy all AIA and local campus eligibility requirements.
- Members of a Varsity squad must be enrolled in grades nine through twelve at the same high school. (Please refer to AIA Bylaws related to home-schooled students.)
- **Penalty for use of an ineligible participant**: Any school for which an ineligible participant performs shall be disqualified from consideration for awards.
- **The school divisions are as follows: All-Girl Team Division** consists of Division I, Division II and Division III. **Coed Team Division** consists of Division I and Division II (if applicable).

#### **D. ALTERNATES**

Each squad may bring up to three alternates to the tournament (**Five alternates are allowed for All-Girl Stunt only**). Only those alternates listed on the original roster are eligible to substitute. Alternates must satisfy the same eligibility requirements as other participants.

#### **A. UNIFORMS**

- **Without exception**, all participants must be dressed in age-appropriate, **traditional** school cheer or pom uniforms (not a dance costume) approved by their school.
- When participants are standing at attention, no part of the buttocks, chest, or midriff shall be visible. **Bare backs are not allowed**. Hair, makeup (glitter), nails, jewelry, etc. must be in accordance with the National Federation Spirit rules. **\* NOTE: The AIA does not allow glitter to be worn at anytime on a participant.**

Uniforms must be **coordinating** and consist of:

- **Tops**: Waist-length sweater, shell, vest, or t-shirt
- **Bottoms**: Skirts with briefs or shorts
- **Footwear**: Cheerleaders must wear appropriate athletic-style shoes of the same color (no hard soles). Socks/footies are required and must be coordinating in color. Each team member must wear the same style of sock: knee-high, calf-length, ankle, or footie. Jazz shoes, Pedini shoes and Dance Paws may be worn for Pom performances. Pom squad members may also wear panty hose, however, **cheerleaders may not**.
  - It is suggested that bows and laces be tucked inside the shoe to prevent accidental untying of the shoe during the performance.





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- **Proper athletic footwear must be worn at all times** (i.e., no bare feet, slippers, thongs, etc. are permitted). (Refer to NF Spirit Rules Book for shoe clarification).
- **Allowable/Optional Accessories:** Turtlenecks, bodysuits, leotards (under the uniform top), nylons/pantyhose and Jazz pants (for pom only; not permitted for cheerleading).
- **Please Note:** Unitards, single-shoulder uniform tops, sports bras in lieu of a uniform top, or other non-school attire **are not permitted**. Sports bras may be worn **under** the uniform top.

### **B. ROUTINE MATERIAL/CHOREOGRAPHY**

Although there is no penalty for using camp material or professionally choreographed routines, the AIA encourages squads to use original material. During judging, **deductions will be given for vulgar or suggestive movements** (i.e., hip thrusting, inappropriate touching, slapping, gesturing, inappropriate positioning towards one another, etc.). Routines must utilize **age-appropriate movements** and **music must be appropriate** for a family environment.

### **C. MUSIC**

Note that new music guidelines are in place for the 2016-17 competition season. Be sure you are familiar with these guidelines prior to taking any competition floor. Failure to comply may lead to disqualification and forfeiture of all fees (registration, admission or otherwise) associated with a team's performance.

#### **NEW MUSIC GUIDELINES:**

New music guidelines are being followed at all AIA events. Competition music must be properly licensed and a team must be able to provide proof of licensing (upon request) at any event where the music is used. If a team cannot provide proof of licensing immediately upon request, the team may be disqualified from the event. For further details visit [www.varsity.com/music](http://www.varsity.com/music).

In order for a team's routine music to be featured in a television broadcast, should this be an option, teams must do the following: -

- Use an original composition created or commissioned by you (i.e. an original song and recording to which you own or license the rights by written agreement) –
- Additionally secure the synchronization rights. Not all original music providers can/will provide these rights. –
- Submit proof of licensing, as well as synchronization rights, when requested after the event.

Music is defined as any recorded sound amplified through the competition sound system.

A sound system will be provided. Speed control is not available. Music checks on the main sound system are not permitted. A representative must be present at the sound system at the time of performance. Directors/coaches are asked to hold onto their own music until the time of performance and to take music back following the performance.

All teams must provide their own CD or MP3 device for use on the event provided sound system. Music must be recorded at the correct tempo on a high quality CD or loaded onto an MP3 device. It is not recommended that a smart phone be used for playing music, due to interference that may be caused during a routine. No cover may be on any MP3 player so that a jack may be easily inserted into the device. Music on CD must be labeled with the team

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name, division, team size, and be ready to play. One or several selections of music may be used.

- **As part of the registration this year, coaches must upload a receipt of their music with song titles and proof of right to edit by the company. ASCAP and BMI numbers will no longer be accepted.**
  - It is the responsibility of the coaches to ensure that their squads' music is delivered in a timely manner to the sound technician. Coaches will be notified in the materials provided at registration where they should deliver their music.
  - Squads must perform to recorded music only. No live music will be allowed during the entrance, routine, or exit.
- Lyrics must be appropriate for a public high school performance.**

#### **Procedure to be Used Related to Music**

- CDs will be taken to the sound technician just prior to a squad's performance. All squads are required to have a coach or designated representative from their school sit with the technician during their school's performance and retrieve the school's CD at the end of the performance. ***NOTE: Schools are allowed to have a MAXIMUM of two coaches at the sound table and both coaches MUST REMAIN AT THE SOUND TABLE.***
- All CDs should be labeled with the name of the school, squad and head coach.
- Each squad's designated representative must know exactly when to start their squad's music, and the music must be cued to the appropriate starting position when it is taken to the sound technician at the music table. The representative should report to the music table when their squad is called on deck and must stay at the music table throughout the squad's performance. Then, at the end of the performance, the CD will be returned to the squad representative.

#### **Guidelines to Prevent Music-Related Problems**

- It is to each squad's advantage to use a top quality CD to record their music.
- Music should be recorded at medium volume.
- Avoid making a "copy of a copy" as the sound will be distorted over the amplified sound system.
- Each squad should bring two copies of their music CD.
- CD players are NOT provided for use during practice at the State Qualifiers OR State Championship. Therefore, if a squad wishes to use their music during practice, they will need to bring their own CD player at the State Championship. ***(Don't forget batteries and the electrical cord).*** Remember that squads may only practice in the designated warm-up areas and music is only allowed while at the Final Routine station.
- Coaches are strongly advised to create routines where the music finishes a few seconds under the time limit to ensure that the squad does not receive a music-related penalty. Timing Judges' decisions on the timing of total routines and music portion of routines are final.

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#### **D. PREVIEWING TAPES OF ROUTINES**

- The AIA has made arrangements with our local NFHS Tech Judges to preview videos for schools who want to make sure that their routines do not include a violation of National Federation safety rules. If a school is uncertain whether a particular stunt or any part of their routine violates National Federation safety rules, they may email a video for review by our local NFHS Tech Judges to [spirit@aiaonline.org](mailto:spirit@aiaonline.org). **(THERE WILL BE NO FEE TO PREVIEW A VIDEO BUT IT MUST BE RECEIVED WITHIN 2 WEEKS BEFORE THE COMPETITION DATE)**
- Schools need to be sure that their videos are identified with the name of the squad, school, head coach, telephone number, email address of the head coach and the rule(s) in question. Schools also need to indicate the best time of day that their head coach may be reached. The NFHS Tech Judges will preview the videos and contact the coaches to provide comments and/or recommendations within one week of the day the video is received.
- To ensure adequate time to preview a school's video and give a team time to modify their routine (if necessary) prior to the AIA Spiritline State Qualifiers or State Championship, videos must be received **no later than 2 weeks prior to the State Qualifiers or State Championship dates**. The sooner a school submits their video, the better!

#### **Important Note:**

- The AIA **does not require** that AIA member schools have previews of their performances. This is simply a service that is being made available to member schools should they wish to take advantage of it.
- Also remember that whether or not your school's routine was previewed, **the actual performance given at the State Qualifier or State Championship will be judged for National Federation violations that could occur DURING THE PERFORMANCE** and, if necessary, deductions for safety violations will be assessed.



## Section III: Day of the Competition

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#### A. OPENING OF STATE QUALIFIERS SITES AND GRAND CANYON UNIV. DOORS

- Until the registration deadline has passed so that the State Qualifiers and the State Championship timelines can be completed, the starting time of the first event and the subsequent official opening time of the State Qualifier sites and State Championship cannot be determined. Timelines will be posted on the Spiritline page of the AIA website at ([http://www.aiaonline.org/activities/spirit\\_lines.php](http://www.aiaonline.org/activities/spirit_lines.php)) on the following timeframes:
  - **Block Format will be out 4 weeks before the competition**
  - **Exact Timeline draft 1 will be out 3 weeks before the competition**
  - **Exact Timeline draft 2 will be out 2 weeks before the competition**
  - **Final Timeline will be out 1 week before the competition**
- So that safety and security staffs can be placed at their stations prior to squads and spectators entering the building, the State Qualifiers sites and the Grand Canyon Univ. doors will not be unlocked until the officially designated opening time. Squads who arrive prior to that time will not be permitted to enter the building until the doors are unlocked.

#### B. ARRIVAL AT THE EVENT

- Squads should plan to arrive at the State Qualifiers sites and State Championship in sufficient time to permit compliance with the timeline (including warm-up/practice times), as adjustments cannot be made.
- Squads should arrive together, in uniform, and enter the sites at the marked door for squads.
- Coaches or squad members entering the building at the sites at any location other than the marked door for squads must purchase a ticket.

#### C. REGISTRATION / CHECK-IN

- Upon arrival at the sites, coaches **must** sign in at the Registration Table (located just inside the team entrance) in order for their squads to be eligible to compete.

#### C. REGISTRATION / CHECK-IN (CONT'D)

- Squads **must remain in a group** and may not enter the interior of the building (corridors, restrooms, seating, etc.) until their coaches have completed registration.
- At sign-in, coaches will be provided with all necessary materials, including an up-to-date timeline, coaches' wristbands, and a map of the State Qualifiers site or Grand Canyon Univ. showing locations of the first aid facility, coaches' meetings, where the squad's music should be taken prior to their performance, etc. Subsequent timeline updates and other pertinent information will be discussed at the coaches' meetings.



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### D. WITHDRAWAL / CANCELLATION PROCEDURE

We have implemented Article 11.2.9 of the AIA Bylaws for withdrawals. Once the AIA office receives a registration form from a school and that school does not follow through with their obligation to compete at the AIA Spiritline State Qualifier and/or State Championship that school will be in violation of Article 11.2.9 of the AIA Bylaws and the school's Athletic Director will need to submit a Violation Form to the AIA office. **NO REFUNDS.**

### E. DRESSING FACILITIES / RESTROOMS

- Participants will be directed to the appropriate area upon arrival at the competition.
- The AIA, the State Qualifiers sites and the State Championship site cannot be responsible for lost or stolen items. **To keep lost items to a minimum, participants and coaches should limit the number of non-essential items they bring with them.**
- It is highly recommended that squads dress in their uniforms before and that hair be fixed and makeup applied before arriving.
- In the interest of safety, warm-up and practice times (which are critical in order to reduce the risk of injuries) should not be used for dressing.
- **Squad members are not permitted to change clothes in any area other than the designated restrooms and/or locker rooms.**
- Squad members are expected to dress appropriately **at all times** (i.e., no pajamas, sports bras, various stages of undress, etc.). Appropriate behavior will help to set the stage for cheerleaders to receive respect and be treated with dignity, as they deserve.

### F. FOOD AND BEVERAGES FOR CONSUMPTION BY COACHES AND SQUADS

**With the exception of water in sealed, plastic containers (and/or medically-required glucose or juice drinks) food or beverages may not be brought into the State Qualifiers site gym and Grand Canyon Univ. by coaches or squads.** The approved items must be brought to the squad entrance; however, concession stands will be open throughout the event.

### G. AIA SPOTTERS

The AIA will provide official tournament spotters who **will not** be part of a squad's routine and **will not** take the place of the squad's spotters.

### H. PERFORMANCE AREA, SURFACE, ETC.

- Cheerleading performances will take place on the performing floor on a 9 strip competition mat. **(NOTE: Spiritlines are not allowed to practice, perform or compete on spring floors, except tumbling skills only, as a stricter ruling to the NFHS Spirit Rule 2.1.7).** Appropriate matting will also be provided in the practice/warm-up area.
- Pom performances will take place on the wooden performing floor. **The boundaries for Pom are within the thick floor border and the Cheer competition mats. There are no out**



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of bounds deductions for Pom but it is recommended to remain within the boundaries for the safety of the participants.

#### **I. PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE**

- The order of performance will be determined by random drawing. A time line for performance order and approximate performance time will be provided on the AIA website prior to the tournament. Up-to-date time lines will be provided in the coaches' packets distributed at registration.
- Coaches and squads should pay close attention to the announcer to keep track of where their squad falls related to the performance schedule. The announcer will tell who is performing, who is on-deck, etc.

#### **J. CATEGORIES/TIMELINE/SQUAD LINE-UP CHANGES ON DAY OF TOURNAMENT**

- Category changes on the day of the tournament due to participant injury will not be permitted.
- Requests for time line changes due to late arrival, injury (**with doctor approval**), etc. will require approval of the Games Committee and the Tournament Director.
- In case of illness or injury on the day of competition, a coach may choose to **enter an alternate or may compete with less than the number of participants declared** on the squad's registration form.
- Should an alternate be used, the ill or injured competitor may not return to any subsequent performance during the tournament.
- Only those alternates listed on the roster submitted with the registration packet are eligible to substitute for an injured participant. **Certified Athletic Trainer or doctor's verification is required** for a substitution due to injury.

#### **K. TIMING REGULATIONS**

- Entrances and exits are not timed and will not be judged. However, promptness is encouraged.
- Timing of the routine by the officially designated timer will begin with the first note of the music, voice command, or movement by a squad. Timing will end with the last beat of the music, or when the final position is hit if music has already stopped. Routine timing does not include entrances or exits unless exit is part of the routine and no end pose is hit.
- Grace periods for timing violations are not allowed. Timing penalties will not be assessed if teams are in violation due to circumstances beyond their control (**exception: variations in speed of music systems**).
- Music utilized during a performance will be timed and penalties will be assessed for violations.

#### **L. TIME-OUTS**



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- Under the following circumstances, a coach may call a time-out by walking onto the performance floor and signaling to one of the timers:
  - An unsafe situation detected by the coach or team member(s)
  - An injured athlete
  - Technical difficulties with music

Procedures followed when dealing with a time-out will be determined by the situation at hand.

Minor adjustments in music, etc., will be corrected immediately and the squad will start the performance over.

#### **Time-Out Due to Injury**

**Non-Blood Related** - In the event a squad's routine is interrupted because of an injury occurring during the routine which does not involve the appearance of blood, the squad will be given the option of continuing or stopping the routine. Depending upon the severity of the injury, the coach will remove the squad from the performance area so the next squad can begin their performance. The Certified Athletic Trainer and coach will assess the injury to determine if the injured member can perform at a later time. Should the routine be stopped, the squad will be given the option of performing the routine later in the rotation.

**Injury Involving Blood** - Should an injury involving blood occur during the performance, the performance must stop immediately. National Federation procedures pertaining to blood-related clean up will be followed. The squad will be given the option of performing the routine later in the rotation.

The Games Committee reserves the right to stop the routine if an injury occurs.

#### **M. RESCHEDULING OF INTERRUPTED PERFORMANCES**

- The Games Committee will determine the new time the squad will be placed in the competition line-up. The squad will be allowed to perform its entire routine **without penalty or deduction for interruption of the first performance**.
- It is the responsibility of the coach to ensure that all squad members understand time-out procedures.

#### **N. PERFORMANCE INTERRUPTION(S) BY GAMES COMMITTEE**

- The Games Committee reserves the right to stop the routine if an injury occurs.
- If, in the opinion of the Games Committee, a squad's routine is interrupted because of failure of the tournament equipment, facilities, or other factors attributable to the tournament rather than the squad, the affected squad will be instructed to stop their routine. The squad will be allowed to repeat its routine at a time determined by the Games Committee.
- Should a situation occur which requires interruption of a performance (for example, a ball is thrown onto the performing floor), or a decision involving any aspect of the



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competition not clearly specified in these rules and regulations must be made, the Games Committee will render an appropriate judgment. This judgment will be made in an effort to ensure that the competition continues in as equitable a manner as possible for all squads and is consistent with the general spirit of the rules and goals of the competition.

- Damaged cds are not a result of an equipment error. All coaches should have clean copies of their music and or any cords to play through a phone or mp3 player
- Coaches are advised to put cell phones in airplane mode if using one to play music. Pauses due to a text or call coming in, will not be excused.

All squads agree to accept any and all decisions made by the Games Committee as final.

#### **O. PRACTICE AREA & PROCEDURE FOR ENTERING THE PERFORMING FLOOR**

Upon registration and check-in, coaches will be given information in their coaches' packets on how to reach the practice/warm-up area. **Squads should plan to arrive at the TEAM HOLDING AREA 30 minutes prior to their scheduled WARM-UP CHECK-IN time. (See timeline).** This will allow teams to be ready to check-in when called upon without causing a delay of looking for the team. They will then proceed to the Warm-up Check-in station to begin the warm-up process. Teams will then move from the practice area to the on-deck area prior to being called onto the performing floor.

- Warm-up times **may not be adjusted** should a squad arrive late.
  - Eating, drinking, chewing gum, spraying hair products, perfume, etc. **are not permitted** in the warm-up area (**specifically near or on the mats**).
  - Appropriate matting will be provided in the practice area.
  - AIA spotters will be present during warm-up sessions.
  - Squads **may not stretch or practice their routines anywhere other than the designated warm-up area** (i.e., not in the corridors, the stands, the bathrooms, outside of the arena/facility, Team Holding Area, etc.)
- 
- To promote participant safety, squads are required to report to the practice/warm-up area at their designated times.
  - Each squad should plan to utilize their entire allocated time. Coaches whose squads do not adequately warm-up **assume all responsibility for any injuries occurring to squad members due to inadequate warm-up.**

Squads will proceed through the practice/warm-up area to the on-deck area and on to the performing floor as follows:

- Squads **may not** practice in the corridor outside the warm-up area. Squads must adhere to the time line and wait until their scheduled time to report to the warm-up area.
  - After teams check-in at their designated time per category, squads will have a **TEAM PHOTO** taken **PRIOR** to the start of the warm-up stations.
  - Squads will move through warm-up stations before being cleared for the on-deck area.





### **Section III: Day of the Competition** **2016-17 AIA State Spiritline Tournament Guide**

- **Cheer** will be given 18 minutes on a set of mats to stretch and warm up any and all necessary elements of the routine.
- **AGS** will be given 15 minutes on a set of mats to stretch and warm up any and all necessary elements of the routine.
- **POM:** will be given 18 minutes on a non-matted surface to stretch and warm up the routine
- **Game Day:** will be given 15 minutes on a non-matted surface to stretch and warm up the routine  
Squads will then proceed to the on-deck area.

-Squads could and might be checked for nails and/or jewelry at EVERY station. Competitors and/or coaches are expected to comply with these checks.

The announcer will request the team, by school name, to enter the competition area and take its starting position. The team must move without delay to its starting position. Although the entrance is not timed or judged, promptness is appreciated.



## Section V: Sportsmanship

### 2016-17 AIA State Spiritline Tournament Guide

Please be assured that the AIA will take all reasonable action to promote the safety and well-being of participants, coaches, spectators and staff. Law enforcement officers, in addition to regular security guards, will be on site during the entire competition.

#### A. NATIONAL FEDERATION RULES

Official rules followed at the State Qualifiers and the State Championship will be those delineated in the current National Federation Spirit Rules Book, the AIA Constitution and Bylaws, and tournament instructions specified in this tournament guide.

- The National Federation Spirit Rules Book regulates Spiritline activities. All routines must be planned in accordance with NF safety rules. Each Spiritline coach receives a NFHS rules book when they attend the required NFHS Spirit Rules Course. If additional copies are needed, contact the AIA Office.
- ALL NF rules, including those related to jewelry, nails, hair devices, glitter, etc., will be enforced. A National Federation certified technical penalty judge will check each member of each squad related to these rules before each performance. **A 2-point penalty will be assessed to squads should a squad member be found in violation of these rules.** There will be no exceptions. **Both coaches and squad members are responsible for ensuring that these avoidable penalties are not incurred.**
- Coaches are responsible to carefully review all National Federation safety rules and should pay particular attention to new or revised rules.

#### B. TOURNAMENT SAFETY RULES

- To guard against dehydration, **please bring an adequate supply of water in sealed, plastic containers.** The AIA will provide Gatorade products at the State Qualifiers and the State Championship.
- Should a coach or a participant of a squad have a medical condition that could result in the need for glucose drinks, juice, candy, etc., coaches must make certain that these items are brought to the tournament and kept close at hand; however, **National Federation rules prohibit eating candy or chewing gum during practices or performances.**
- **Earphones or wireless microphones** are **not permitted** by squad members during their performances, as they constitute a safety hazard to the participants.
- **Signs** may be used by a performing squad during a performance provided they are in accordance with National Federation rules (i.e., no glitter, etc.). **Squads should keep in mind that stepping on a sign during the performance will result in a National Federation 2-point technical violation.** Squads should also be aware of the NFHS ruling for discarding signs during a performance.
- **Squad Spotters:** Spotters are required for extended stunts. Remember that an inattentive person is not considered a spotter (**a National Federation technical violation will be assessed if a spotter removes his or her eyes from the extended stunt**).
- **Inappropriate Substance Use:** Any coach or competitor using tobacco, alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs while participating in AIA Spiritline State Qualifiers or the State Championship will be disqualified from the competition.
- Possible security checks of personal belongings upon entering the State Qualifiers sites and Tim's Toyota Center: expect that camera cases, large purses, etc., may be opened and inspected prior to entering the building.
- Participants **may not** climb, stand, or sit on balcony railings or seats.



**Section V: Sportsmanship**  
**2016-17 AIA State Spiritline Tournament Guide**

All participants are expected to conduct themselves in a manner displaying good sportsmanship throughout the tournament. The coach and captain of each squad are responsible for seeing that squad members, coaches, parents, and any other persons affiliated with the squad conduct themselves accordingly.

**C. ADA COMPLIANCE**

**SECTION 26**  
**ADA COMPLIANCE NOTICE**

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**26.1 ADA NOTICE**

It is the policy of the Arizona Interscholastic Association not to discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services and activities, or in its hiring and employment practices.

Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as sign language interpreter, by making a request to the office staff. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

**26.2 AIA ADA COMPLIANCE OFFICER**

Questions, concerns, complaints, or requests for additional information may be forwarded to the AIA ADA Compliance officer:

David Hines – Assistant Executive Director  
Arizona Interscholastic Association, Inc.  
7007 North 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Phoenix, Arizona, 85020  
602-385-3810  
[dhines@aiaonline.org](mailto:dhines@aiaonline.org)



**Section V: Sportsmanship**  
2016-17 AIA State Spiritline Tournament Guide

**A. CODE OF CONDUCT**

The AIA expects that all squads, coaches, and spectators will represent themselves, their schools, and their communities in a positive way. We would appreciate coaches and squads discussing these issues with their parents, friends, and classmates.

Unsportsmanlike behavior by coaches, participants, or spectators may result in removal from the event. **Severe** demonstrations of unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of a participating squad **will result** in the squad's disqualification.

Appropriate attire is expected by coaches, participants and spectators who attend the State Qualifiers and the State Championship (for example: school shirts, business casual attire, no vulgar shirts, etc.). **Coaches, participants or spectators who are found wearing inappropriate attire may be removed from the event.**

**B. TAUNTING**

Taunting **will not** be tolerated.

Taunting includes any actions or comments by coaches, participants, or spectators which are intended to bait, anger, embarrass, ridicule or demean others, whether or not the deeds or words are vulgar, sexist, or racist. Included is conduct that berates, needles, intimidates or threatens based on race, gender, ethnic origin or background, and conduct that attacks religious beliefs, size, economic status, speech, family, special needs, or personal matters.

Examples of taunting that could lead to disqualification include but are not limited to “trash talk,” physical intimidation outside the spirit of the game, reference to sexual orientation, and/or “in-the-face” confrontation by a participant.

**Security staff may eject spectators who taunt others.**

**Section VI: Medical**  
2016-17 AIA State Spiritline Tournament Guide

**A. CERTIFIED ATHLETIC TRAINERS/MEDICAL CARE**

The AIA will provide a Certified Athletic Trainer throughout the competition to respond in case of injuries or emergencies. At registration, coaches will be told where the official Certified Athletic Trainer is located. Please keep in mind that, while the Certified Athletic Trainer is available to respond to emergencies, **squads should provide their own Certified Athletic Trainers if they anticipate the need for precautionary taping, etc.**

**B. FIRST AID STATION**

The location of the Grand Canyon Univ. First Aid Station will be clearly identified by large signs on the Arena concourse. At registration, coaches will be told where the first aid station is located. The location will also be reviewed at the coaches' meetings.

**C. MEDICAL RECORDS, ETC.**

The AIA recommends that each school have in their possession their squad's medical emergency plan, physical and other medical-related information specific to each squad member, names and telephone numbers of parents, doctors, etc.

**Section VII: Coaches**  
2016-17 AIA State Spiritline Tournament Guide

**A. SEATING FOR PARTICIPANTS/COACHES**

A special seating area will be designated for the exclusive use of squads and coaches. Coaches will be provided with information related to the location of this seating in their coaches' packets distributed at the registration table. ***NOTE: Teams will remain in the Team Holding Areas until time to report to the Warm-Up Area to allow seating for spectators. Varsity team members may watch their team's routines in the designated area and then return to the Team Holding Areas. All performances will be streamed live in the Team Holding Areas for all the teams to watch.*** Your cooperation is appreciated!

**B. COACHES AREA/SEATING DURING THEIR SQUADS PERFORMANCE**

- During a school's performance, only that school's performing squad members will be allowed on the floor. ***A total of two coaches (only those with lanyards or wristbands) from the performing school's squad*** will be allowed in the ***designated coaches' area*** at the music table and ***MUST REMAIN AT THE MUSIC TABLE (Coaches CANNOT sit in front of their teams).*** ***There will be no exceptions to this rule and failure to comply may result in an Unsportsmanlike Conduct Disqualification.***
- Coaches **are not permitted** on the performing floor, including in front of the judges' platform or music table.
- At the conclusion of the performance, coaches may enter the performance floor to assist in picking up any debris (such as pom pieces) that may have fallen to the floor. This should be done as quickly as possible so as not to delay the next performance.
- At the conclusion of each squad's performance, the coach(es) are to exit the performance floor with members of their squad as quickly as possible.

**C. COACHES RESPONSIBILITIES**

- For safety reasons and to ensure adequate supervision, the squad's coach or a member of the school administration willing to assume responsibility for the squad should arrive at the sites with the squad. The coach/administrator must **accompany squad members to the practice area and performing floor**. It is recommended that the coach accompany squad members at other times as well.
- No one other than the school coach(es) or school administrator (i.e., a friend, a parent, a teacher, etc.) may be put in charge of members of the squad, as these individuals may not be designated as legally responsible for the safety of students and would not be in compliance of the AIA Bylaw 37.10.4 and 37.10.5.
- ***Only those schools that are in compliance of the AIA Bylaw 37.10.4 and 37.10.5 will be allowed to participate.***
- **A squad will not be permitted to practice or perform unless a qualified coach is present.**
- Remember, for safety reasons and in accordance with National Federation rules, **NO CHILDREN are permitted in the designated participant areas or on the performing floor.** This includes those who are accompanying coaches or squads and children dressed as cheerleaders.

**Section VII: Coaches**  
2016-17 AIA State Spiritline Tournament Guide

- For safety reasons and in accordance with National Federation rules, please review National Federation (NFHS) rules with your squad. These rules will be enforced upon arrival at the practice/warm-up area and on the performing floor.
- Coaches **MAY NOT** approach Pom, Cheer or Tech judges at any time before, during, or after the competition. If you have questions, please see a member of the Games Committee.
- Should a safety-related technical violation be missed by the National Federation Technical judge prior to the performance (i.e., jewelry, nails, etc.) and discovered during the performance, penalties will be assessed.
- To avoid a squad or squad member not being permitted to perform due to safety concerns, please do not permit your students to use glitter or wear jewelry to the State Qualifiers sites and Grand Canyon Univ. as it must be removed and placed in your care upon arrival. Please plan hairstyles in advance.
- **Students who do not wish to remove jewelry or glitter, or squads who do not choose to comply with behavior or safety considerations, will not be permitted to perform.**
- It is the responsibility of each coach to ensure that the squad's music is delivered to the sound technician at the music table in a timely manner. Coaches will be notified where to deliver their music in the materials provided at registration.
- **The coach is responsible to ensure that all rules and regulations contained in this tournament guide are followed at all times.**

**D. COACHES LANYARDS/WRISTBANDS**

Bona fide coaches who are in compliance of the AIA Bylaws, a school Certified Athletic Trainer and one bus driver (paid or unpaid) who have been formally approved by the school principal and/or governing board (i.e., have been issued a stipend or zero contract, or other written documentation) will be admitted free of charge to the event and receive lanyards or wristbands. (Bus drivers will receive a wristband at the Squad Entrance for the State Qualifiers sites and at the Pass Gate Entrance located at the NORTHEAST Entrance of the Tim's Toyota Center.)

- Lanyards and wristbands **ARE NOT TRANSFERABLE** to another individual.

## Section VIII: Judges & Scoring

### 2016-17 AIA State Spiritline Tournament Guide

#### A. JUDGE SELECTION/QUALIFICATIONS

- Judges for this event will be appointed at the sole discretion of the Games Committee and the AIA. They will be qualified, experienced individuals with a thorough knowledge and background in cheer, dance, and/or National Federation rules/regulations.
- Judges must be **at least 19 years of age** and must be **unaffiliated** with any squad participating in the division they are judging. In order to prevent conflicts of interest, the AIA typically uses out-of-state judges. However, in-state judges who are not affiliated with Arizona squads may also be utilized.

#### B. JUDGES' SEATING AREA

To ensure that the concentration of judges is not interrupted during performances, the seating area directly behind and/or in front of the judges' table will be cordoned off. Seating in this area will not be permitted.

- Coaches or participants **may not** approach judges.

#### C. JUDGES' / TOURNAMENT STAFF HOSPITALITY ROOM

A hospitality room for use by the **judges and AIA tournament staff only** will be provided. Participants, coaches and other individuals are asked to respect the privacy of this room.

#### D. JUDGING PROCEDURES

- Up to thirteen (13) judges will be assigned for the State Qualifiers competitions and State Championship to be: six for Cheer (two groups of three each), three for Pom, and three or four Technical (National Federation rules).
  - To ensure consistency in judging, the same set of judges will judge all entries within a Division category (for example, one set will judge Division I Show Cheer; the other set will judge Division III Show Cheer, etc.)
- National Federation Technical Judges (safety judges) are responsible to detect, record, and report violations committed during a performance. They will identify illegal skills, use of improper spotting techniques, etc., and record such violations.

*For samples of judges' score sheets (which provide more details on how judging will take place), visit the Spiritlines section of the AIA website:*

*([http://www.aiaonline.org/activities/spirit\\_lines.php](http://www.aiaonline.org/activities/spirit_lines.php))*

#### E. SCORING PROCEDURE

Judges will score teams according to the judging criteria on a 100-point system. Final scores will be based on the accumulation of the scores of the three judges in each category, penalties related to missing or disallowed components, and those assessed by the National Federation Technical judges and timer(s).





**Section VIII: Judges & Scoring**  
2016-17 AIA State Spiritline Tournament Guide

**F. TIES**

In case of a tie, the tie-breaker procedure listed under the “Determination of Overall Event Winners” on page 33 will be taken into consideration.

**G. PENALTIES**

- **Penalties issued are final**; decisions will not be reversed.
- It is suggested that you **bring your copy of the NFHS Spirit Rules Book** with you to the competition for referral as necessary. Refer to penalty sheet for penalty-related information.

The most commonly assessed penalties and National Federation Technical violations in Spiritline competitions include, but not limited to:

<u>NFHS</u>	<u>Others</u>
Unsafe or Illegal Stunt/Inattentive Spotter 10 Points	Music Related Timing Varied
Jewelry 2 Points	Inappropriate Movements Varied
Fingernail Length 2 Points	Disallowed/Missing Components 5 Points
Unsafe Hair 2 Points	<b>Unsportsmanlike or Unethical Conduct</b> <i>(This includes practicing in an unauthorized area during the day of the competition and/or inappropriate conduct towards event staff)</i>
Uncorrected Performance Hazard 2 Points	
Glitter/Glitter-Based Makeup 2 Points	
	<b>Ineligible Participant</b>
	• Disqualification

**NOTE:** Should a violation occur several times **during a performance**, penalties will be assessed **each time** the violation occurs.

**Penalties for Violations of National Federation Rules**

- Any violation of a National Federation rule occurring **during the performance** will result in a **penalty**.
- Each separate violation assessed by a Technical judge **prior to the performance** (i.e., jewelry, glitter, nails, etc.) will result in a **deduction per squad**.
- You may ask for clarification of any rule by a National Federation Technical judge **prior to competing**.
- Should a violation be missed by a National Federation technical judge prior to the performance and discovered during the performance, **penalties will be assessed**.



## Section VIII: Judges & Scoring

### 2016-17 AIA State Spiritline Tournament Guide

#### Timing Penalties

- Timers will maintain records related to timing of routines and music. Please note that timing-related penalties will be assessed if necessary for **both the music portion of the routine and for the entire performance**. For example, if the music portion of your routine exceeds the maximum time allowed and it, therefore, causes your overall performance to also exceed the maximum allowable time, your squad will be assessed two timing penalties—one for music and one for the overall routine.

#### H. DISQUALIFICATION

It is understood that any squad that does not adhere to the AIA Spiritline State Qualifiers and State Championship rules and regulations may be disqualified from the competition. *(This includes practicing in an unauthorized area during the day of the competition and/or inappropriate conduct towards event staff).*

#### I. FINALITY OF JUDGES' DECISIONS

By participating in this tournament, each coach and participant agrees that decisions by the judges **will be final and will not be subject for review**. Each coach and participant acknowledges the necessity for the judges to make prompt and fair decisions in this competition to the best of their abilities. Each coach and participant, therefore, waives any legal, equitable, administrative, or procedural review of judges' decisions.

In addition, time infraction and safety violation penalties **may not be refuted**.

#### J. SCORES AND OVERALL RESULTS

Judges' scores will be computer-tabulated. **Copies of individual squad score sheets** from each judge will be available at the conclusion of the competition.

**Section IX: State Championship Qualifying**  
2016-17 AIA State Spiritline Tournament Guide

**A. QUALIFYING FOR THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP –**

B. *(There will be two awards ceremonies at the AIA Spiritline State Championship)*

Below are the criteria for all AIA member schools to **qualify in a Category** for the AIA State Spiritline Championship:

- Top ten (10) teams per division/multi-division category

Below are the criteria for all AIA member schools to **qualify to compete for the Overall Award** at the AIA State Spiritline Championship:

- **ALL-GIRL DIVISION:**
  - Teams must qualify in all three (3) eligible categories:
    - Show Cheer
    - All-Girl Pom
    - All-Girl Stunt
- **COED DIVISION:**
  - Teams must qualify in all three (3) eligible categories:
    - Coed Cheer
    - Coed Pom
    - Partner Stunt

A team may compete only in the categories they qualified for at the State Qualifying level for the AIA State Spiritline Championship.

All teams who qualify at the State Qualifying level are expected to compete at the AIA State Spiritline Championship. (**Withdrawal Violation will be in effect. NO REFUNDS.**)

**Placement Into Performance Divisions/Categories:**

To prevent division changes and problems which may arise when a division change occurs, the Games Committee will determine appropriate division classifications approximately two weeks before the tournament date. The Committee will then place schools into appropriate division designations (i.e., Division I, Division II, etc.) and notify the schools at that time.

**There must be a minimum of TEN entries in a division category in order to allow that division category to compete for a Winner and Runner-up.** If there are not at least the minimum required in a division category then only the Winner will be given an award.



## **Section IX: State Championship Qualifying**

### **2016-17 AIA State Spiritline Tournament Guide**

#### **Categories of Competition:**

- **Show Cheer:** The All-Girl division category that incorporates stunts and tumbling with limited music portion and consists of same sex.
- **Coed Cheer:** The Coed division category that incorporates stunts and tumbling with limited music portion and consists of any combination of boys and girls (**One boy constitutes Coed. Males MUST have active participation during the whole routine.**)
- **All-Girl Pom:** The category that does not incorporate stunts or tumbling; strictly dance. (Chair lift, T-lift and Forward suspended roll to floor are allowed). **A boy is allowed in the All-Girl Pom but it will not change the team to the Coed Division.**
- **Coed Pom:** The category that does not incorporate stunts or tumbling; strictly dance. **It is not required to have a boy in the routine. If a boy is in the routine, the boy is not required to use poms.** (Chair lift, T-lift and Forward suspended roll to floor are allowed).
- **All-Girl Stunt:** The All-Girl division category that incorporates stunting technique and consists of four or five girls. **(Tumbling is allowed as long as it is part of the stunt and not performed around the stunt. There are no additional points for tumbling, just visual effect).**
- **Partner Stunt:** The Coed division category that incorporates stunting technique and consists of one boy & one girl (One spotter is allowed for safety but must not be a part of the stunt; Penalties will be assessed). **(Tumbling is allowed as long as it is part of the stunt and not performed around the stunt. There are no additional points for tumbling, just visual effect).**
- **Game Day:** The Game Day category that incorporates the material utilized in game time situations. Teams are expected to come prepared with all scenarios and will be given situations at random to perform. Situational experience include all aspects of game day material, including but not limited to: Fight Song, Offense Chant, Defense Chant, Time Out Chant.

**NOTE:** Schools are limited to one entry in each of the following categories:

#### **All-Girl Pom (No Stunts and/or Tumbling; Only the designated lifts are allowed)**

- **Routine Time Limit:** Two minutes, thirty seconds (2:30)
- **Required Minimum Components of Routine:** 2 roll-offs, 1 kick line, 3 formation changes, use of poms during 50% of the routine. These are the minimum components required for each routine. Additional components may be included (i.e., extra roll-offs, etc.) as long as the routine does not exceed the time limit.
  - **There will be a 5-point deduction per judge for each missing component.**
- **A boy is allowed in the All-Girl Pom but it will not change the team to the Coed Division.**
- Emphasis on pom routine creativity, visual effectiveness, and synchronization. No stunts or tumbling allowed. Chair lift, T-lift and Forward suspended roll to floor are allowed. Traditional poms of any size are the only props allowed. **No novelty poms.**



## Section IX: State Championship Qualifying

### 2016-17 AIA State Spiritline Tournament Guide

#### Coed Pom (No Stunts and/or Tumbling; Only the designated lifts are allowed)

- Routine Time Limit: Two minutes, thirty seconds (2:30)
- Required Minimum Components of Routine: 2 roll-offs, 1 kick line, 3 formation changes, use of poms during 50% of the routine. These are the minimum components required for each routine. Additional components may be included (i.e., extra roll-offs, etc.) as long as the routine does not exceed the time limit.
  - **There will be a 5-point deduction per judge for each missing component.**
- **It is not required to have a boy in the routine. If a boy is in the routine, the boy is not required to use poms.**
- Emphasis on pom routine creativity, visual effectiveness, and synchronization. No stunts or tumbling allowed. Chair lift, T-lift and Forward suspended roll to floor are allowed. Traditional poms of any size are the only props allowed. **No novelty poms.**

#### Show Cheer (Same Sex Only, with Stunts and Tumbling)

- Routine Time Limit: Two minutes, thirty seconds (2:30)
- Emphasis on creative development of a performance routine, which may include stunting, dancing, chants, cheer motions, and tumbling. **Music must be incorporated for a minimum of forty-five (45) seconds and a maximum of one minute, thirty seconds (1:30) of the routine.** Music may be broken up into segments (i.e., 15 seconds, then an additional 20 seconds later in the routine, etc.) as long as it does not exceed the maximum music time limit of one minute, thirty seconds (1:30). The only props allowed are megaphones, poms, flag and signs. All props must be used in a safe manner.

#### Coed Cheer (with Stunts and Tumbling)

- Routine Time Limit: Two minutes, thirty seconds (2:30)
- Emphasis on creative development of a performance routine, which may include stunting, dancing, chants, cheer motions, and tumbling. **Music must be incorporated for a minimum of forty-five (45) seconds and a maximum of one minute, thirty seconds (1:30) of the routine.** Music may be broken up into segments (i.e., 15 seconds, then an additional 20 seconds later in the routine, etc.) as long as it does not exceed the maximum music time limit of one minute, thirty seconds (1:30). The only props allowed are megaphones, poms, flag and signs. All props must be used in a safe manner.

**NOTE: One or more boys constitutes Coed. Males MUST have active participation in the whole routine.**

#### All-Girl Stunt

- Limit of participants: Four or five girls



## **Section IX: State Championship Qualifying**

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- Routine Time Limit: One minute (1:00)
- Emphasis on stunting technique, transitions, and creativity. No jumps or chants allowed. Music required for entire Performance. **There will be a 5-point deduction per judge for each disallowed component** (i.e jumps and/or chants), which is included in the performance (Backward roll, forward roll, back extension, etc. is considered tumbling).

### **Partner Stunt**

Limit of participants: One Girl and One Boy (One spotter is allowed for safety but cannot be a part of the stunt)

Routine Time Limit: One minute (1:00)

Emphasis on stunting technique, transitions, and creativity. No jumps or chants allowed. Music required for entire Performance. **There will be a 5-point deduction per judge for each disallowed component** (i.e., jumps and/or chants), which is included in the performance (Backward roll, forward roll, back extension, etc. is considered tumbling).

### **Game Day**

Limit of participants: consist of Spiritline members, but limited to a specific number

Routine Time Limit: Three minutes max per group, 1 minute per situation.

Emphasis on real game time situations, i.e.; offense chants, defense chants, timeout chants, and the school fight song.

### **Penalties**

Time penalties will be assessed in all categories.



## Section X: Trophies/Awards

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The goal of the AIA related to Spiritline is to encourage schools to enhance or expand their Spiritline program to permit as many students as possible to participate in some way in a Spiritline activity. The wide spectrum of activities, which fall under the Spiritline designation, provides many opportunities for students of varied skills or capabilities to find their niche.

At the same time, the AIA recognizes that many schools may not have the monetary or staffing resources required to offer numerous Spiritline activities, so they may limit their program to one or two categories.

#### A. AWARD STRUCTURE

- The AIA Spiritline State Qualifiers and State Championship will be conducted in the same manner as other AIA state tournaments.
- The AIA Spiritline State Qualifiers and State Championship award structure has been designed to encourage maximum participation in as many events as possible. The AIA Spiritline State Qualifiers and the AIA Spiritline State Championship will name individual event winners and runners-up. As is true in other AIA events such as swimming, track, etc., determination of individual event winners (i.e., Pom, Show Cheer, etc.) will take place.
- However, in addition to these winners at the AIA Spiritline State Championship, the culmination of the championship will be the naming of an **Overall Spiritline State Champion** for each division or multi-division. This title is awarded to the school in each division that has the best overall Spiritline program.

**NOTE:** Since the basic components of a Spiritline program are Cheer and Pom, **schools must qualify in All-Girl Pom (All-Girl Division Only) or Coed Pom (Coed Division Only), either Show Cheer (All-Girl Division Only) or Coed Cheer (Coed Division Only) and All-Girl Stunt (All-Girl Division Only) or Partner Stunt (Coed Division Only), in order to be eligible for the Overall Spiritline Award.**

#### **B. DETERMINATION OF EVENT WINNERS AND RUNNERS-UP FOR THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES AT THE AIA SPIRITLINE STATE QUALIFIERS & STATE CHAMPIONSHIP**

**All-Girl Pom - Coed Pom - All-Girl Stunt – Partner Stunt - Show Cheer - Coed Cheer – Game Day**

1. Score sheets for each school will be placed into the appropriate division/multi-division designation (i.e., Division I, Division II, Division I/II, etc.).
2. At the conclusion of each school's performance, judges' scores (which will include penalties assessed for missing or disallowed components in the squad's routine) will be added together to determine the school's initial score.
3. National Federation and/or timing penalties will then be subtracted from the total score.



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4. Based upon the total score for each school in the division/multi-division designation, schools will be placed into numerical order from highest score to lowest score.
5. The school with the highest score in each division/multi-division will be named the event winner, and the school with the second highest score will be named the event runner-up.
6. In the event of a tie, judges' scores in the primary sections of the score sheets listed below will be added to the total scores of the schools who have tied. In the event that a tie still exists, judges' scores in the secondary sections of the score sheets listed below will be added to the total scores of the schools who have tied. Finally, if there is still a tie, judges' scores in the tertiary sections of the score sheets listed below will be added to the total scores of the schools who have tied.

Show Cheer & Coed Cheer – Primary Section = Execution / Difficulty  
Secondary Section = Dance  
Tertiary Section = Appeal & Projection

All-Girl Pom & Coed Pom – Primary Section = Execution / Technique  
Secondary Section = Showmanship  
Tertiary Section = Choreography

All-Girl Stunt & Partner Stunt – Primary Section = Execution  
Secondary Section = Technique  
Tertiary Section = Showmanship / Variety of Routine

Game Day – Primary Section = Execution  
Secondary Section = Showmanship  
Tertiary Section = Appeal and Projection

7. The resulting scores will be placed into numerical order from highest score to lowest score to determine the event winner and runner-up.

**C. DETERMINATION OF DIVISION/MULTI-DIVISION OVERALL SPIRITLINE CHAMPIONS AND RUNNERS-UP AT THE AIA SPIRITLINE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP:**

- To be eligible for consideration for the Division or Multi-Division Overall Spiritline Championship, a school must qualify in: 1) All-Girl Pom (All-Girl Division ONLY) or Coed Pom (Coed Division ONLY); 2) Show Cheer (All-Girl Division ONLY) or Coed Cheer (Coed Division ONLY); and 3) All-Girl Stunt (All-Girl Division ONLY) or Partner Stunt (Coed Division ONLY).
- However, schools that do not qualify in all the appropriate categories or enter only one of these categories will have the opportunity to compete in, and hopefully win, individual category titles.
- We have applied a point system used to calculate the Overall Award (See section table below).





**Section X: Trophies/Awards**  
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Show Cheer/Coed Cheer		All-Girl Pom/Coed Pom		All-Girl Stunt/Partner Stunt	
Place	Points	Place	Points	Place	Points
1 <sup>st</sup>	20	1 <sup>st</sup>	20	1 <sup>st</sup>	10
2 <sup>nd</sup>	15	2 <sup>nd</sup>	15	2 <sup>nd</sup>	7
3 <sup>rd</sup>	11	3 <sup>rd</sup>	11	3 <sup>rd</sup>	5
4 <sup>th</sup>	8	4 <sup>th</sup>	8	4 <sup>th</sup>	4
5 <sup>th</sup>	6	5 <sup>th</sup>	6	5 <sup>th</sup>	3
6 <sup>th</sup>	5	6 <sup>th</sup>	5	6 <sup>th</sup>	2
7 <sup>th</sup>	4	7 <sup>th</sup>	4	7 <sup>th</sup>	1
8 <sup>th</sup>	3	8 <sup>th</sup>	3		
9 <sup>th</sup>	2	9 <sup>th</sup>	2		
10 <sup>th</sup>	1	10 <sup>th</sup>	1		

**D. TIE-BREAK PROCEDURE**

- In the event of a tie for the Overall Award, the tie-breaker procedure listed below will be utilized:
  - The **SUM OF ALL THREE REQUIRED CATEGORY SCORES ONLY** will be used to determine the Overall Award winner for that division.
  - Should a tie still occur when determining the Overall Spiritline Champion, **the sum of the Execution/Difficulty and Perfection of Routine sections from the Show Cheer or Coed Cheer score sheet** will determine the Overall Spiritline Champion.

**E. AWARDS CEREMONIES**

**Types of Awards to be Presented at the State Qualifiers Competitions**

- Plaques and medals will be awarded to Category Winners and Runners-Up who have at least ten teams in a category. If there are less than ten teams in a category then plaques and medals will be awarded to the Champions only.

**Types of Awards to be Presented at the State Championship**

- Plaques will be awarded to Category Winners and Runners-Up who have at least ten teams in a category. If there are less than ten teams in a category then plaques and medals will be awarded to the Champions only.
- Trophies and medals will be awarded to Division/Multi-Division Overall Champions and Runners-Up who have at least five teams eligible. If there are less than five teams eligible then trophies and medals will be awarded to the Division/Multi-Division Overall Champions only.



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**F. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS**

- Specific details as to approximate times when awards will be presented will not be available until the AIA office has received all registrations and the time line has been completed. Upon finalization of the actual tournament structure, all registered schools will be provided with detailed information.

**G. PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED DURING AWARDS PRESENTATION**

- The top ten (five at the State Championship) teams in each category will be called to the floor **WITH THEIR HEAD COACH** for the awards ceremony. (Head Coaches **MUST accompany their team when called to the gym floor for the awards ceremony.**)  
**Appropriate sportsmanship is expected during the announcement of the award placements.**
- **Each squad and their coach** will be allowed to accept the trophy or plaque on behalf of their school.
- All squads that have placed 10<sup>th</sup> and up (5<sup>th</sup> and up at the State Championship) will have their team announced as an opportunity to be recognized as a team.
- It is expected that squad members **will be dressed in their complete uniforms with appropriate footwear** when gathering on the performance floor to accept their awards.
- Each squad and their coach are asked to return to the other teams on the floor as quickly as possible after receiving their award to permit the remainder of the awards ceremony to proceed smoothly and expeditiously.
- The Winner and Runner-Up teams and coaches will be expected to shake hands and congratulate each other after the awards presentation of their conference/multi-conference category.

All score sheets and scores from the State Qualifier competition and the State Championship will be **mailed the following week to all participants at their school address. (SCORE SHEETS WILL NOT BE HANDED OUT AT THE END OF THE COMPETITION, NO EXCEPTIONS)**

## **Section XI: Admission/Entrance/Parking**

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#### **A. PARKING**

- After dropping off their squads at the **Squad Entrance**, school bus drivers will park in the area designated for those vehicles.
- People arriving in private vehicles will be responsible for finding their own parking spaces.
- There will be **NO CHARGE** for parking at the State Qualifiers sites and Grand Canyon University.

#### **B. NON-COMPETING GROUPS**

- All non-competing groups will be charged admission as spectators.

#### **C. SPECTATOR ENTRANCES**

- Spectators may enter at the designated entrance at the competition sites.
- **SPECTATOR BEHAVIOR**  
The National Federation of High School Associations disapproves of any form of taunting which is intended to embarrass, ridicule or demean others under any circumstances. **AIA Bylaw; Article 16.3.4 stipulates that student spectators, parents, or other non-school personnel that initiate or use profanity in cheers or cheers having the intent of sounding profane, single out opposing players personally and/or heckle them by directing derogatory or profane statements or chants at them, use racist remarks or direct offensive cheers /chants at opposing individuals, teams or fans are in violation of the AIA sportsmanship rules. At all contests, including region and state tournament contests, participating school's administrators have the responsibility to control their fan behaviors, either student or adult.** Any spectator conduct that becomes unruly or interferes with the orderly progress of the game will result in the suspension of the game until offending spectator(s) are removed from the game site. **Artificial noisemakers are prohibited at state playoff venues. If any artificial noisemaker is brought into a game site, the item will be confiscated.**

#### **D. PASS GATE**

- Individuals to whom AIA passes have been issued and VIPS must enter through this gate; otherwise, a ticket must be purchased. **Please be prepared to show picture I.D.**



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#### **E. SEATING (NON-SQUAD)**

##### **Seating for Bus Drivers, Certified Athletic Trainers**

- Certified Athletic Trainers and bus drivers may sit with their schools in the squad seating.

##### **State Championship - Spectator/Parent Seating**

Parents and spectators may sit in any section that is not closed or designated for another group (i.e., squad seating). Parents may not sit in the squad seating area with participating squad members. However, squad members may sit with their parents in the spectator seating areas before and after performances **if allowed to do so by their coaches.**

##### **State Qualifiers - Spectator/Parent Seating**

Parents and spectators may sit on either side of the gym, however, one side will be designated for Pom performances and one side will be designated for Cheer performances. **Squad members will not be allowed to sit in the gym other than during the awards ceremonies or in a designated area to watch their team perform**



## Section XII: Media, Programs, Misc. 2015-16 AIA State Spiritline Tournament Guide

### A. MEDIA CREDENTIAL POLICY

AIA has a Media Credential Policy that needs to be followed to protect the proprietary rights of the Association and to protect the student-athletes and coaches at region and state tournament events. The following link ([http://aiaonline.org/news/press\\_center.php](http://aiaonline.org/news/press_center.php)) is to the AIA Media Center which houses the AIA Media Credential Form and the AIA Approved Media List (those that have requested and been granted AIA media credentials). Please download the AIA Media Credential Form and should a media member need access that is not on the media list, they will need to sign off on the form. Please print out several of the Media Credential Forms so each media outlet fills out its own form. Should the media member refuse to sign off on the form, they will not be granted access to the region or state tournament event you're hosting.

At the conclusion of the event, please fax or mail those forms to the AIA so that we may follow up and credential those people on the approved media list will be updated as forms are received and processed. Please download the AIA Approved Media List (which is constantly being updated) so that those members of the media that are already approved may be granted access. Please note that some members of the media might show up with Freelance Credentials. These have no pictures on them, but do allow for access to the event per the designated media outlet on the AIA Media Credential.

### STUDENT MEDIA CREDENTIAL POLICY

In order to obtain a student media credential for the state tournament, the Athletic Director or the member school must fill out and email the student media credential form. The student media credential form is available on the AIA website and is titled *AIA – Student Media Tournament Credential Form*. [The following link \(http://aiaonline.org/news/press\\_center.php\) is to the AIA Media Center which houses the AIA Media Credential Form and the AIA Approved Media List \(those that have requested and been granted AIA media credentials\).](http://aiaonline.org/news/press_center.php)

### B. PROGRAMS, OFFICIAL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP T-SHIRTS AND SOUVENIRS

- Kukulski Brothers is the official supplier for AIA Programs and Souvenirs. *Sale or distribution of AIA State Tournament related game programs, t-shirts or any other souvenirs by any individual or company other than the Kukulski Brothers at any AIA State Tournament playoff site or game is prohibited.*
- Spiritline programs are available to download at **NO CHARGE** at [www.aia365.com/programs](http://www.aia365.com/programs).
- T-shirts, caps, etc. will be available (***Flowers purchased outside the venue will not be allowed.***)
- **NOTE:** Programs at the State Qualifiers will **NOT** have team photos.
- Parents, spectators and participants want to see their school team picture and names included in the souvenir program at the State Championship. Please make every effort to meet the following deadlines.
- **Team Photos and Rosters must be completed by 2 weeks prior to the competition date.**



## **Section XII: Media, Programs, Misc.** **2015-16 AIA State Spiritline Tournament Guide**

- A professional photographer will be taking team photos and offering a variety of photo packages to coaches, participants and parents. There will be an area where print photography packages may be ordered. The photos will be mailed to customers several weeks after the event.
  - Photography by firms other than the official AIA vendor, Kukulski Brothers, is prohibited (i.e., photography for purposes of selling photos).
  - The State Qualifiers and State Championship will be broadcast on demand at [www.aia365.com](http://www.aia365.com). Videos may be ordered shortly after the events at [www.aia35.com](http://www.aia35.com).
  - Videotaping by firms other than the official AIA vendor, Kukulski Brothers, is prohibited (i.e., videotaping for means of selling videotaped footage).
  - For More Information Related to Souvenirs, Programs, Photos, On-Site Photos, Videos, etc. Please call David Kukulski or Dan Kukulski at (480) 921-1975 if you have any questions regarding AIA Programs, Souvenirs or Digital Photography.

### **C. EXHIBITION BOOTHS**

It is anticipated that various booths will display merchandise on the concourse at the State Championship. These will include uniforms, accessories, footwear, etc. The AIA has also invited representatives from cheerleading and dance companies to be present to provide you with information related to camps and clinics. Universities and colleges in the state of Arizona may also be on hand to provide important information for high school seniors continuing their education.

### **D. NATIONAL ANTHEM**

It is expected that all participants, coaches, and school personnel will stand in a respectful manner when the national colors are presented and during the playing of the national anthem.

### **E. VIDEO CAMERAS**

***\*\* NOTE: COACHES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO VIDEOTAPE IN THE WARM-UP AREA. \*\****

Video cameras will be allowed at the State Qualifiers sites and Grand Canyon Arena. However, **videotaping must be done from the seats - you may not go onto the floor, in the warm-up areas or stand in areas that will block traffic or obstruct view.** **Tripods will not be allowed.**

Please note that electrical outlets will not be available for charging video camera batteries. Therefore, it is important that this be done before arrival to the competition.



## **Section XII: Media, Programs, Misc.**

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***ANY VIDEO, PHOTOGRAPHS, OR VISUAL DEPICTION STORED IN ANY FORM, TAKEN DURING THIS EVENT, ARE SUBJECT TO REVIEW AND/OR CONFISCATION BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS WHEN THERE IS REASONABLE SUSPICION THAT THEY MAY CONSTITUTE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF A CHILD (ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES §13-3553).***

#### **F. CONCESSIONS**

Concession stands will be open during the events. Except for water in sealed, plastic containers and/or medical-related juice, glucose drinks, etc., the State Qualifiers sites and the Grand Canyon Arena do not permit squads and/or coaches to bring food or beverages into the building.

#### **G. SIGNS/BANNERS**

**Signs are NOT PERMITTED** at the State Qualifier and the State Championship per the AIA Bylaws, Article 12.1.5, page 29 (This does not apply to signs used by a performing squad during a performance).

#### **H. NOISEMAKERS/BALLOONS/CONFETTI/MEGAPHONES/LASER LIGHT DEVICES**

- Noisemakers, including sirens, horns, bells, buzzers, or any other type of artificial or mechanical noisemakers are **not permitted**.
- Megaphones are **not permitted**.
  - This does not apply to megaphones used by a performing squad during a performance.
- Balloons are **not permitted**.
- Confetti is **not permitted**, as it poses a safety hazard on the performance floor due to the possibility of squad members slipping and falling.
- Due to the severe safety hazard caused by laser light devices if aimed at an eye, **LASER LIGHT DEVICES** are **STRICTLY PROHIBITED!** Individuals who use one of these devices will be removed from the building and subject to possible prosecution.

#### **I. LOST AND FOUND**

- Neither the AIA, nor the State Qualifiers sites, nor Grand Canyon Arena is responsible for lost or stolen articles. Squad members and coaches are urged to leave valuables at home and to take special care of their possessions while at the tournaments.
- Should an item be lost, please check at the registration table to see if it has been turned in. Subsequent to the event, please contact the AIA office related to lost items.

#### **J. PUBLICITY**

Each school is asked to publicize the AIA Spiritline State Qualifier competitions and State Championship in its local media, school newspaper, and on its school's public address system.

