

## ARTICLE 39

### **SPIRITLINE**

- 39.1 SPIRITLINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE** – The Spiritline Advisory Committee shall be an ad hoc advisory committee of the AIA Executive Board.
- 39.2 FUNCTION OF THE SPIRITLINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE** – The function of the Spiritline Advisory Committee will include, but not be limited to, the following:
- 39.2.1 Advise on the administration of an AIA Spiritline Post-Season Competition.
- 39.3 PHILOSOPHY OF SPIRITLINE**  
 Spiritline shall serve as a support group for the interscholastic athletic program within the school and, as such, play a very important role in the administration of athletics/activities contests. Each squad should strive to boost school spirit, promote good sportsmanship, develop positive crowd involvement, and help student participants and spectators achieve the most worthwhile educational objectives of the interscholastic program.
- Spiritline (cheerleading/pom-pom) activities should center on "leading" or "directing" the cheering of student and adult fans. In this role, cheerleaders/pom-pom can become the school's most effective student leaders. Spiritline activities should be focused on: creating a cooperative spirit among the cheerleader/pom-pom squads, athletes, student bodies, school administrators and the communities; recognizing outstanding plays and examples of good sportsmanship on the part of both teams; and aiding the school and contest officials in the promotion of good sportsmanship and in the administration of the contest.
- Performing is a secondary role of cheerleading/pom-pom and can effectively promote school spirit when included at appropriate times at interscholastic contests such as pre-game, non-injury time-outs and intermissions, as well as pep rallies and assemblies.
- Being the most recognizable representatives of a school, spirit groups are in a position of great influence; therefore, high standards of conduct are essential. Positive personal behavior and squad cohesiveness demonstrate these standards. Appropriate behavior will help earn the respect of the student body, which is the core of developing effective school spirit and student involvement.
- 39.4 RULES / REGULATIONS** – Official rules for spiritline shall be those of the current edition of the National Federation Spirit Rules Book and the AIA Bylaws.
- 39.5 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS** – Spiritline will be required to meet eligibility requirements stipulated in Article 15 of the AIA Bylaws.
- 39.6 SEASON OF ACTIVITY** – The season of activity shall begin the first week of football practice allowed by AIA bylaw and shall end the last day of the school year.
- 39.6.1 **Pre-Competition Practice** – Practice shall be conducted in a manner consistent with the guidelines set forth in Bylaw 14.17.2 – Heat Acclimatization Protocol, where applicable.
- 39.7 PARTICIPATION IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES** – Members of spiritline squads shall be permitted to participate on athletic activity teams at the discretion of the local campus or district administrations.
- 39.8 ATTENDANCE AT CLINICS** – Spiritline shall be permitted to attend noncompetitive clinics sponsored by AIA member schools or outside organizations during the season of activity. Any outside organization must certify and guarantee compliance with National Federation and AIA rules and regulations.
- 39.9 COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES** – The following criteria shall be used for spiritline competition activities:
- 39.9.1 Activity Participation in AIA Sanctioned Invitationals or Post-Season Competition – Spiritline is an AIA activity in which member schools may choose to participate in AIA sanctioned invitationals and/or an annual AIA post-season competition.
- 39.9.2 Competition sponsored by organizations external to the school will be permitted providing the sponsoring organization certifies and guarantees compliance with National Federation and AIA rules and regulations.
- 39.9.3 Competition is open to both male and female members of a spiritline.

**39.10 COACHES / COACHING**

- 39.10.1 The AIA shall not have regulations concerning spiritline coaches coaching their own school squad **outside of the AIA defined season of sport.**
- 39.10.2 Coaches / Players - Activities outside the season of sport between coaches and members of spiritline squads for fund raising or entertainment purposes will not jeopardize the eligibility of squad members.
- 39.10.3 **Attendance shall be voluntary and no student athlete shall be prohibited from participating on the team for failing to attend the out-of-season activity.**
- 39.10.4 The head coaches of spiritline shall be exempt from Article 3 of the AIA Constitution (which states that a head coach must have an Arizona Teaching Certificate).
- 39.10.5 Spiritline coaches shall be AACCA (American Association of Cheerleading Coaches and Advisors) Safety Certified and shall provide proof of certification to the Athletic Director of the local campus and the AIA office.
- 39.10.5.1 Members of spiritline squads shall not stunt during the season of activity until the coaches have provided proof of their AACCA Safety Certification to the Athletic Director of the local campus and the AIA office.
- 39.10.6 Spiritline coaches shall attend a National Federation Spirit Rules Interpretation Class each school year. The National Federation Spirit Rules Interpretation Class shall consist of the clarification, interpretation and current changes of the National Federation Spirit Rule Book.
- 39.10.6.1 Members of spiritline squads shall not stunt during the season of activity until the coaches have attended a National Federation Spirit Rules Interpretation Class.
- 39.10.6.2 Upon a confirmed report of a National Federation Spirit Rules violation, except during an AIA Sanctioned Invitational and/or an annual AIA Post-Season Competition, the following procedure shall apply per individual occurrence:
- First Violation = Warning to squad in violation
  - Second Violation = Inability for the squad in violation to stunt
  - Third Violation = Inability for the squad in violation to compete

**39.11 SCHOOL EQUIPMENT** – Use of school equipment during the summer vacation period shall be at the discretion of the local campus or district administration.

- 39.11.1 School Transportation - School provided transportation for activities is a local option.

**39.12 NONSCHOOL/CLUB PARTICIPATION**

- 39.12.1 A student who is a member of a school Spiritline team shall not practice or compete with any other cheer/pom group, team, club, organization, association, etc., in that athletic-activity during the interscholastic season of competition. For purposes of this rule, the interscholastic season of competition shall begin with the first week of football practice and concludes with the individual school's last basketball game, including Post-Season competitions. Any student violating the above rule shall forfeit his/her eligibility for a minimum of the balance of the season for that athletic-activity or up to a maximum of one calendar year.

*DETERMINATION: An individual student may take private lessons anytime except during the school day or during school practice sessions. Schools shall not pay for, arrange or in any way provide these individual private lessons. Individual private lessons shall not be used to circumvent or evade the non-school/all-star participation rule and any such use of private lessons will be considered a violation of the non-school/all-star participation rule. (Ex. Bd. 2/18/03) (This excludes competitive dance and gymnastics).*

**39.13** **UNIFIED SPIRITLINE** a joint effort between the AIA and SOAZ to incorporate Unified programs in AIA member schools recognizing and offering opportunities for SOAZ athletes and partners to compete in an AIA sanctioned activity. Unified spiritline programs shall be administered by each participating member school and follow the requirements per AIA Bylaws for eligibility, rules and program administration.

39.13.1 Official rules for Unified spiritline shall be those published SOAZ and the AIA prior to each season, as approved by the AIA Executive Board.

39.13.2 All participants must have the appropriate pre-participation packet completed including the pre-participation physical per the AIA Executive Board as recommended by the AIA Sports Medicine advisory Committee for the respective participants (Article 15, Section 15.7).

39.13.3 In order to further participation in the Unified Sports initiative, participation by SOAZ athletes will have the following exceptions to AIA eligibility requirements.

39.13.3.1 Exception regarding enrollment and domicile (Article 15, Sections 15.3.1 and 15.5): SOAZ Athletes may participate in a cooperative program among member schools for the purpose of creating combined school teams.

39.13.3.2 Exception to the Academic Rule (Article 15, Section 15.4.1): SOAZ students participating will following the guidelines as set forth in their individual educational plans.

39.13.3.3 Exception to the age limit (Article 15, Section 15.3): SOAZ athletes will be eligible per age limitations of SOAZ and AIA rules for Unified Spiritline.

