

# AIA Spirit Committee Meeting

## March 7, 2020

*Start of Meeting: 9:35 am*

### Members Present:

Ashley Gronewold  
Lindsey Larsen  
Kelsey Tomlinson  
Megan Nolen  
Ashley Parcell  
Dani Behrens  
Annie Valencia  
Chanelle Mariner  
Cassie Markham  
Norma Tiongson  
Emily DesJardins  
Megan Besch (phone conferenced)

### COMMITTEE UPDATES

- Changing the verbiage of “cheer and pom” to “cheer and dance” moving forward due to category additions.
- Social media announcement of committee members to introduce everyone.
- Meeting Minutes will be posted to the website. A Facebook notice and email will be sent with link to find the minutes on the site.
- Committee grew because we need more hands on deck, especially with all events.
- Committee commitment will be bi-monthly meetings, 6 AIA events throughout the year, supply equipment/volunteers and help to be the voice of the state.
- Committee only received 3 Title 1 applicants and 2 coed applicants.
- Committee was selected to be Ashley & Lindsey’s crew to help – AIA does not require or have limits to who can or cannot be on the committee.
- Future meetings
  - May 9<sup>th</sup> – good date for most, Emily will be gone for All Star commitment. Dani is at graduation for Xavier - she will be late
  - July 11<sup>th</sup> – Kelsey and Megan B will not be available
  - July 18<sup>th</sup> – Kelsey available later in the day
    - May 9<sup>th</sup> and July 18<sup>th</sup> confirmed – time will be announced later
  - September meeting date confirmed later in the year

### DIVISIONS AND CATEGORIES

- New division splits - Division 4 will be created
  - D4 will be small this year, while people feel it out.
  - D4 not split small/large right now.

**VOTE: Create a Division 4 to create more of a balance**

**All in favor – 11**

**All opposed – 0**

**(Megan B did not vote)**

- Co-ed will be split by D1/D2 and D3/D4
  - Last year's Coed split received backlash
  - Currently not a huge coed base in Arizona
  - Suggestion: D1/D2 division & D3/D4 division
    - 2+ boys is coed – number of boys will not matter meaning we are getting rid of Small Coed/Large Coed
  - Cassie - Does number of boys on the floor impact scoresheet? Let's look at that.
    - Scoresheets should be written so having 25 boys or 2 boys doesn't matter.
    - Coed rubric needs to be more explicit to really target coed skills to help coed teams execute a true
      - Can both of these points be addressed with a score sheet?
  - Seems like schools don't care about number of boys – they are more concerned with small schools competing against large schools (aka D3 against D1)

**VOTE: Division 1 and Division 2 will be combined for one Coed division, Division 3 and Division 4 will be combined for the other Coed division, in turn eliminating a Small/Large Coed Split**

**All in favor – 11**

**All opposed – 0**

**(Megan B did not vote)**

*\*\*note from AIA – Spirit Divisions are based on enrollment BUT Conference Divisions (1A- 6A) is based on number of participating athletes – that's why some schools look different for Division 1 versus 5/6A*

- Dance
  - Adding Jazz and Hip Hop Categories
  - OPEN – will not be split by division but looking to do Small/Medium/Large.
  - Pom category will still be split by Division AND Small/Large (per meeting minimum requirements after the split)
    - If a school competes Small Pom, they can only compete Small or Medium in Open Categories
    - If a school competes Large Pom, they can only compete Large in Open Categories
  - School is allowed to compete in 1 or up to 2
  - If competing in two categories, should we do pom plus 1 OR any 2?

**VOTE: – Category Participation: Schools can choose 1 category or Pom + 1 OR they can choose any 2 of the 3 offered categories**

**1 or Pom + 1: All in favor – 9**

**Any 2 categories: All in favor – 2**

**(Megan B didn't vote)**

- New Pom Size Recommendations
  - Small: 10 and under
  - Large: 11 and up

**VOTE: New Pom Size Recommendations**

**All in favor – 11**

**All opposed – 0**

**(Megan B didn't vote)**

- Open Size Recommendations
  - Small: 7 and under
  - Medium: 8-10
  - Large: 11 and up
- Categories cannot change after you register

**VOTE: Open Size Recommendations**

All in favor – 11

All opposed – 0

(Megan B didn't vote)

- Cassie – Do rosters need to match?
  - Do we have a percentage or number of athletes carry over?

**VOTE: 75% of Pom team must stay the same for second division**

All in favor – 11

All opposed – 0

(Megan B didn't vote)

- **Division Splits**

- Suggested to keep the minimum of 8 teams after the split to keep the Small/Large splits

**VOTE: Must have 8 in each size after the split in order to keep the Small/Large split**

All in favor – 9

All opposed – 1

(Megan B didn't vote)

**GAME DAY**

- Cheer teams only
  - Plans to roll out a dance model in the future
  - Only athletes from your CHEER roster can be used for Game Day
- The model used within the Texas, Kansas, Arkansas, Oklahoma state associations are what we will be following
- Qualifying day and Championship will be the same day
  - Qualifying round will be 3 rounds of performance
  - Championship round is a 3 minute combination of the 3 qualifying pieces plus a situational sideline
- Big positive - every team hits the mat a minimum of 3 times!
- Skills are allowed, but not required. No difficulty score for skills.
  - Only use if they ENHANCE your crowdleading
- Plan to share videos from other State Associations to show the simplicity of these performances, does not require outside choreography or large music purchases
  - We saw the camp band dances and cheers used multiple times in Texas
  - Dani – make sure to provide these videos as it will be a valuable resource for teams.
- Will have champions in Band Chant, Crowdleading, and Fight Song after the Qualifying Round
- Championship Round – Order of performance is the same for everyone:
  - Band chant, situational sideline straight into crowdleading, finishing with the fight song.
- Competition fee is \$100
- Divisions will be split by D1-4, don't think we will be able to split by Small/Large right now.
  - Ashley – Do we put a max number of participants? 30 would be my suggestion to match the other cheer divisions.
  - Annie – Maybe no max because teams may want to use the whole program

- Chanelle/Cassie – 32, so we are working in fours (like stunt groups)
- Dani – Suggest 36

**VOTE: Game Day divisions will have a max of 36 participants**

All in favor – 11

All opposed – 0

(Megan B didn't vote)

- With this format, we can fit 96 teams in 1 day
  - Cap the enrollment of each division so only a certain number of teams can participate
  - If a division fills, next teams up will be waitlisted
  - If a division doesn't fill, those open spots will roll over to full divisions
  - Registration will be open for a limited amount of days in September, first come first served

**VOTE: Cap enrollment within each division for Game Day**

All in favor – 11

All opposed – 0

(Megan B didn't vote)

**SCORESHEETS**

- Scoresheets and Rubrics are all changing. We want to make them unique to our state association, not made to match other national companies
  - Josh McCurdy will be coming in to work with Ashley and Lindsey for Cheer
  - Brooke Hoepfner (and possibly Paige Hall) will be coming in to work with Ashley and Lindsey for Dance
- Input from committee on what we believe are important score sheet components for our state
  - **Cheer:**
    - Ashley – Execution & Cheer section
      - Agreement from all
    - Annie – Put numbers on the rubric, not percentage (agreement from all other cheer coaches)
    - Cassie – Difficulty really needs to be more clear
      - Example of a traditional full up scoring higher than a ruby slipper full up
    - Emily – Break down difficulty scores even more
    - Dani – Agreed, eliminate the larger ranges
    - Execution should be higher than difficulty still
    - No sections out of 15, too large of a range
    - Put specific numbers on the skills
    - Tie breakers still come down to the cheer portion
    - Scoresheets stay split (cheer, building, overall) or do we combine all categories into one scoresheet that multiple judges use?

**VOTE: Keep score sheet category splits?**

All in favor – 11

All opposed – 0

(Megan B didn't vote)

- **Pom:**
  - Lindsey – 25 points per judge for difficulty weighted things too much, need to base more off execution,
  - Kelsey – Split into execution and choreography, should stop emphasis on difficulty and put it on the back burner

- Ashley – I like having the difficulty on there but agree it's weighted too heavily
- Panel of 3 judges limits what we're going to be able to.
- Norma – 75% of team executing a skill; what do you say to coaches who don't have 75% of their team capable of doing a skill?
- Lindsey – It's the same thing you're doing at nationals, if you don't have the 75% than accept that you won't be receiving those points or adjust skills
- Kelsey – Get rid of overall impression if that's where so many complaints come from
  - All agree
  - Cheer agrees, do the same or heavily minimize those points

## QUALIFIERS

- Alternating the divisions that go the first weekend.
  - This year it will be D1/D2, next year D3/D4 will go first
- All of dance goes on the same day
  - Plan to keep this as the middle weekend
- Looking in to purchasing or consistently renting marley floor
- Kelsey suggested 8 panels of marley
  - USA uses 9, so other pom coaches want to keep 9
  - AIA will stick with 9 panels
- November 7 – location TBD
  - D1 and D2 Show Cheer
  - D1 and D2 All Girl Stunt
  - D1-2 Coed Cheer
  - D1-2 Partner Stunt
- November 14 – location TBD
  - D1, D2, D3, D4 Pom
  - Open Jazz
  - Open Hip Hop

\*\*USA at Estrella Foothills is the same date, committee please be mindful of this when registering

- November 21 – location TBD
  - D3 and D4 Show Cheer
  - D3 and D4 All Girl Stunt
  - D3-4 Coed Cheer
  - D3-4 Partner Stunt
- Chaparral, Desert Ridge, Verrado, and Barry Goldwater are all current options to host

## JUDGES

- Create a video to be sent to judges as well as used in judges meeting
- Can also send to coaches as a guide to understand how we are training judges to score
- Emily will work with Ashley and Lindsey on this video upon completion of score sheets

## VIOLATIONS

- Withdrawal Violation Change
  - If you register and withdraw within 2 weeks of competition, violation will be given.
  - If you withdraw for State at any point after qualifying, violation will be given.
- ALL violations must be self-reported

*SIDENOTE – The number of teams going to state will be determined by number of teams **on the schedule 2 weeks before**. The number of teams qualifying for each division can then be announced prior to the event and will be held to regardless of day of competition no-shows.*

- NFHS Rules Violations
  - Process - Ashley gets the information, she sends to executive directors citing the rule that is broken, Ashley then gets copied on the email to school's AD stating the violation, the school then has to self-report.
  - Too many violations are going un-reported and also not getting self-reported
    - Help be the eyes and ears!

## CONFERENCE AND COMPLIANCE

- Conference will be held August 1 at Xavier College Prep
  - Broken into 2 sessions – one for cheer and one for dance
- NFHS test can be split as well

**VOTE: Split test into two (cheer and dance), only take what you coach or need to gain compliance for**

**All in favor – 11**

**All opposed – 0**

**(Megan B didn't vote)**

- Compliance list will be split into Cheer Compliant and Dance Compliant
  - Only Cheer Compliant coaches will receive wrist bands at cheer events
  - Only Dance Compliant coaches will receive wrist bands at dance events
  - Coaches who oversee both, share game coverage, etc. must gain compliance in both cheer and dance (same formats as years past)
- NFHS, AIA Information, and Scoresheets will be discussed as a whole group
- Suggested Breakouts
  - Stunt technique broken by 2-3 levels
  - Tumbling technique broken by 2-3 levels
  - Turn technique broken by 2-3 levels
  - Dance Skills/Tricks Technique broken by 2-3 levels
  - Choreographing to various scoresheets
  - Sidelines and building crowd involvement
  - Communication with athletes and parents
  - Social Media and Team Contracts
  - Team Building and Fundraising
- Hoping for out of state speakers only again
- Ashley – Is there a space on campus we could use for coaches to take AACCA as a group during the opposite sessions (cheer coaches during dance, dance coaches during cheer)?
  - Dani will ask about space for because gyms are being done at Xavier; could potentially do 40-50 people in a conference space.
    - Would need to require pre-registration

## OTHER THINGS...

- Freshmen Rule
  - Not changing...
  - Would like to create a document stating clearly what is and isn't allowed
- Alternates
  - Registration will be adjusted to be able to add more than 3 alternates.
  - Alternate numbers cannot exceed participant numbers
- Football and Basketball Guides
  - currently being updated with football and basketball coordinators

- will return to Ashley for final details and updates, will then be released again
- Tournament Guide
  - being refreshed and updated with changes, will then be released again
- Regional/Division Committee Contacts
  - Would like to have a designated committee rep for each area, district or division.
  - How do we divide and make it statewide?
    - Ashley/Lindsey will assign members to either districts or divisions
    - Will announce through email/website and introduce at conference

*Close of Meeting: 12:40 pm*