

March 28, 2013

APR 29 2013

Mr. Butch Cope
c/o KHSAA
2280 Executive Drive
Lexington, Kentucky 40505

Re: Competitive Cheerleading Class System Rule Change

Dear Mr. Cope:

We are composing this letter in regard to the recent rule change purposed and passed at the KHSAA January meeting regarding the elimination of the two (2) class system format for competitive cheer beginning with the 2013-2014 school year. With all due respect, we, as involved participants, coaches, parents and supporters, are very displeased and perplexed as to why this decision was so hastily made after the new two class system was only in effect one year, and more importantly, BEFORE the actual state competition was held.

The following statement was published on the KHSAA website explaining the Board's basis for its decision regarding the recent class system change: *"The decision was based upon participation by the membership during the 2012-2013 school year. There were over 104 divisions within the two class, five division system, that either had no entry in a division (50) or just had one squad (54), creating an automatic qualifier (providing successful regional participation) to the state competition"*. We feel that there was a very serious error in judgment by members of the KHSAA to base the decision to revert back to the old way of doing things solely on the number of automatic qualifiers on the region level. As an active part of the future of cheerleading in the State of Kentucky, we feel that by KHSAA making the initial decision of having a two class system for the "sport" of competitive cheerleading, KHSAA was making a positive change to bring the "sport" into the present day, and making it accessible to those who had become hardened and bitter toward the "same old, same old" year in and year out.

Therefore, based on the foregoing, please allow us to bring to your attention why we feel that the decision made in your January meeting should be reconsidered:

- A. Although you may have had "automatic qualifiers" at the regional level this past year, what you failed to realize is that there has, is, and always will be 1 or 2 "automatic qualifiers" at almost every regional competition.

- B. With having the two class system in place this past year, the KHSAA gave 29 additional teams the chance to participate at the state level that would have otherwise never stood a chance of competing for a state title. Being able to participate in that environment is an outstanding experience and opportunity for those teams who had, in the past, become discouraged, disheartened, and resentful of KAPOS due to the fact that no matter how much effort they put forth in their routines, it was the same judges, same teams, same routines that continued to win each and every year. On a side note and as a suggestion, the KHSAA may want to consider having a separate set of judges that ONLY judge the state competition, instead of judging region and state. Once you have watched/judged a squad perform at the region level, you may have a bias as to which squad's routine you preferred before you judge them at the state competition.
- C. If the KHSAA chooses not to reconsider the decision to revert back to a one class system, then we wanted to make you aware, that you are basically limiting the maximum number of teams able to compete at the state level to 80 teams and this number definitely could be less with qualifying teams choosing not to show up for state competition. With the two class system, you would be looking at the possibility of having the maximum number of teams able to compete at the state level being 160 teams. Just this past year, you had 109 teams qualify to compete at the State Competition. By our calculations, that was 29 more teams than could have ever been allowed with the one class system. We can only imagine the extra revenue that was generated by the 29 extra teams, cheerleaders, family members, friends, supporters and spectators, which benefits everyone involved.

In conclusion, we would like to state that it is our collective opinion that the KHSAA did an excellent job in your freshman year of controlling competitive cheerleading and that you were definitely heading in the right direction with the positive changes that were initially made. With that being said, it is our greatest wish, hope, and request that you reconsider the erroneous decision made in your January meeting of reverting back to a one class system for competitive cheer and continue with the positive change that was correctly made of a two class competitive cheerleading system.

Thank you for your time and consideration in regard to this matter which means so much to all of us.

Respectfully the following:

Sherric Casey
Johna' Wilcox
Cathryn Hunt
Arl Farley
Myra Stafford
Abby Hannon
Megan Bishop
Cydney Woley
Summer Owens
Nataly Doherty
Nicole Preston
Maleigh Yates
Tabbie Elkins
Marelie Smith
Haley Anderson
Brooke Justice
~~Ma [unclear]~~
Ken Deak
Michael Keys
1st [unclear]
Allie Coleman
Nicole Farley
Bridgett Willis

Krista Curry
Teresa Grayson
Linda Bailey
Taylor Curry
Camelia Casey
Hope DeMaster
Brianna Duller
Todd Casell
Nancy Childers
Melissa Smith
Hope Masters
Kara Savage
Brittney R. Bramham
Jaimie Ward
Morgan Varney
Ange Rash
Patty Foster
Ladie [unclear]
Amy Rash
Hollie Blankenship
Allen Blankenship
Hope Hoge
Jammy Hensley
Liz Farley

Mark Hagen.
Amanda Farley.
Whitney Brinagan
Kendria Cannon
Judy Smith
Donna Gannon
Courtney Young
Marcus Johnson
Sonya Wasserman
Jonna Baker
Mark Lamm
Ruth Marie Pauley
Rebel Ferguson
Sandy Brown
Barbara Loren
Maria Farley
Haylee Vaughn
Lickyn Stack

