

KHSAA Competitive Cheer Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2017

The Competitive Cheer Advisory Committee meeting was called to order by Associate Commissioner Butch Cope at 12:00 p.m. Present were, Lindsey Benhrendt, Cindy Thompson and Jennifer Williams-Luttrell (via Telspan conference call), Virginia Murphy, Bill Ahern, Kim Ritchie, Jeff Huffman, Carole Mullins, Donna Tackett, Phyllis Jenkins, Gay Trame, Gwen Saylor, Lucy Moore, Commissioner Tackett, Sarah Bridenbaugh, and Larrecia Williams. Absent were Carrie DeBold, Maurie Bedwell, Gayle Mills, Ruth Sorace and David Moore. Kelly Littleton was in attendance as a guest.

Mr. Cope updated the committee on recent KHSAA Board of Control action. The Board has approved and authorized the Commissioner to sign a contract with Varsity Brands with regard to competitive cheer beginning with the 2017-18 school year.

Commissioner Tackett discussed with the committee that the KHSAA has agreed to service the transition for judges and coaches through UCA. This process will include training at no cost to competitive cheer judges. Carole Mullins believes that with the training going through UCA, that it will probably draw more individuals to become judges.

Bill Ahern, Varsity Brands, shared with the group how training should begin sometime in late August. Previously licensed KHSAA judges are eligible to be trained and continue to judge. Commissioner Tackett shared how training, both in person and online could work to complement one another.

Mr. Cope shared the previous video review policy. This will change to where videos will be submitted to Varsity for review. Bill Ahern will be the lead interpreter.

Mr. Ahern advised the UCA scoresheets can be tailored to whatever the Association needs. He volunteered to review and give feedback. The consensus of the group was to adopt the UCA System (scoresheets) without any adjustments.

UCA will assign judges, working with Mr. Cope. Mr. Cope advised the committee that operations questions would still be under KHSAA oversight and those questions still come through the KHSAA office.

A review of in-game competition was discussed. The KHSAA will review the competition and continue to make changes. Budget for this event is a concern.

There will be no realignment for competitive cheer. However, there was discussion of adding game-day to the offering during the State competition. This will be shared with the Board.

A discussion was held concerning the State Cheer site and rising costs. At this time no change is being considered for 2017-18. Commissioner Tackett advised staff will monitor it and possible alternatives for the future. Tentatively the State dance was going to be on the Friday before cheer but that continues to be under review and likely will change.

Mr. Cope reviewed Bylaw 23-limitations of seasons and questions being received within the office regarding tryouts. He reminded them nothing mandatory can be done until July 15. Tryouts/cuts, anything mandatory is not permitted prior to that date. The previous practice of a school choosing two weeks in April to have cheer tryouts is no longer permitted because of bylaw changes by the memberships. All of the above applies to competitive cheer as clearly differentiated from sideline cheer. He shared a blog communication will be sent out to schools.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.