

November 11, 2020

We would like to request permission for the HCHS Cheer and Dance teams to have the option to travel to Orlando, Florida to compete in the Varsity National Competition in the spring. We can only speculate as to how the COVID-19 pandemic will be affecting the communities both at home and in Orlando during the competition dates. The cheer dates are February 4-9, 2021 and the dance dates are March 3-8, 2021. We will continue to monitor the COVID-19 infection rates as well as other data may help us determine the safety of such a trip.

The competition will be organized by Varsity Spirit. They have released a plan to provide a safe environment for their competitions. The plan has been copied and pasted below for you to assess.

There are many factors that may influence whether the teams will actually make the trips in the spring. At this point we would like to keep the option available and reserve flights to secure a good price on airfare. The reservations would include a \$50 nonrefundable deposit, and we have created an acknowledgement to ensure parent/guardian understanding.

Thank you,

Mark Andrews

VARSITY SPIRIT COVID-19 COMPETITION RULES (Updated 10.23.2020)

Safety is our priority for your competition experience. We are deeply committed to the safety and well-being of our athletes, coaches and spectators. We are prepared to administer a competition that will meet the state and local guidelines related to COVID-19 at the time of the event. While the final details and schedule of any competition could require up to the day adjustments, and all guidelines are subject to change based on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC"), federal, state and local guidance, please be assured that Varsity Spirit is committed to delivering the same quality of competition experience for which we are known. We appreciate your understanding of the flexibility this will require.

Below, you will find the guidance that we believe is necessary for each identified group to follow in order to conduct a safe and enjoyable competition.

COMPETITION VENUE/FACILITY

- Follow reopening orders as well as health, safety and distancing requirements for open businesses in the applicable county/city/state.
- Enhanced cleaning and sanitization practices including but not limited to:
 - Restroom facilities will have proper sanitation areas for frequent handwashing and be properly stocked with soap, paper towels, trash can by exit, etc.
 - Sanitization stations throughout facility
 - Remove or prop open doors or other high touch points for entry/exit (if feasible).
 - No drinking from water fountains. If permitted by the venue, water fountains may be used only to refill water bottles.
- Cleaning / sanitization of performance floors with cleaner on the Environmental Protection Agency's list of disinfectants for use against SARS- CoV-2 accepted methods, to be completed by Varsity personnel as may be reasonably necessary or otherwise directed by the CDC.

- Establish a designated holding area for any person(s) to go to if feeling ill or to isolate while coordinating exit from facility or transport offsite.

ORGANIZATION (GYM, STUDIO, SCHOOL, ETC.)

- These COVID-19 Competition Rules are, where applicable to coaches, gym owners and athletes, incorporated into the Varsity Spirit Competition Rules and Regulations.
- Coach, or other authorized adult, must be present at all times with their team(s) and responsible for the enforcement of the established rules, including recognizing when a performer should be removed from the competition for signs/symptoms or violation of rules.
- Provide a copy of these rules to all athletes/coaches/parents/spectators.
- Additional rules/guidelines may be communicated prior to each competition, examples of which include spectator capacity limitations and admission fees, how the crowd and traffic flow will be managed, as well as other measures intended to provide a safe environment that adheres to social distancing. The Organization must ensure any additional rules/guidelines are provided to all athletes/coaches/parents/spectators.
- Educate athletes/coaches/parents/spectators about COVID-19, how it spreads (including through persons who are asymptomatic), all symptoms of COVID-19, proper hygiene (e.g., avoiding touching face, vigorous washing of hands etc.), and the importance of social distancing. For additional information on COVID education and safety tips, click [here](#).

ALL PERSONS IN ATTENDANCE (VARSITY PERSONNEL, ATHLETES, COACHES, SPECTATORS, ETC.)

- Anyone that feels sick or living with a house member who is currently sick, feels sick, or shows any symptoms of COVID-19 listed by the CDC, including cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, and new loss of taste or smell, has been diagnosed or presumed positive for COVID-19, or has been around someone who has been diagnosed or presumed positive for COVID-19, currently or within the last 14 days, must stay home.
- Anyone that develops symptoms while at competition must immediately inform Varsity personnel and comply with the procedure of removal from the competition area. They must cooperate with Varsity and make a list of all persons whom they have been in close contact with (the CDC defines close contact as being within 6 feet of someone for 15 minutes or more in a 24 hour period), including in the 48-hour period before developing symptoms.
- Anyone with pre-existing conditions/compromised immune system should speak with their doctor and get clearance from their doctor before attending the competition.
- Athletes, coaches and Varsity personnel will monitor themselves for symptoms of COVID-19 listed by the CDC, including cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, and new loss of taste or smell, and check their own temperature each morning, both 7 days prior to attending competition and every morning before attending competition. If the person displays any COVID-19 symptoms or a temperature of over 100° Fahrenheit, during the 7 days before competition or any morning of competition, they must remain home and report their symptoms and temperature to the appropriate competition contact.
- Engage in physical distancing of at least 6 feet, or other distance imposed by state and local guidelines.
- Provide their own face covering which shall be worn at all times, except for athletes when on the practice and performance floors.

- No drinking from water fountains. If permitted by the venue, water fountains may be used only to refill water bottles.
- Bring their own wipes/tissue/hand sanitizer.
- Follow all best practices for personal hygiene. Avoid touching face covering, eyes, nose or mouth. Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before and after touching face covering or face.
- Respiratory etiquette - cover their coughs and sneezes with a tissue or use the inside of their elbow. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol can be used.

VARSITY SPIRIT PERSONNEL

- Will be educated on the COVID-19 Competition Rules, and complete additional Varsity training related to new competition guidelines.
- Will be trained on COVID-19 protocols in place and have name and contact info for designated COVID-19 point of contact for the competition.
- May give verbal instructions to competition attendees throughout the day on social distancing requirements and/or other safety protocols.
- Spotting/safety procedures should not be minimized due to social distancing.