

## TSSAA STATE CHEERLEADING COMPETITION

### Articles of Understanding

#### I. GENERAL RULES

- A.** You must list the cheerleaders competing on your squad on your entry form. Each squad member must be enrolled at the school for whom they are competing and an eligible member of a 2009-10 freshman, jr. varsity, or varsity cheerleading squad. (An exception will be allowed for all boy or all girl schools provided the members are enrolled at a TSSAA member school and it has been approved by the TSSAA state office.)
- B.** Completed medical forms are mandatory. Please be sure all information includes insurance company name and policy number. **These forms must be turned in at registration the day of the competition.**
- C.** The championships will consist of the following divisions:
- 1. Freshman Division** – (If a school is 7-9 or 7-12, then a team in this division may have 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders); Squads with 16 members and under; 2 minute and 30 second performance with the musical portion not to exceed 1 minute, 30 seconds.
  - 2. Jr. Varsity Division** – Composed of no one on varsity squad at this event. Squads with 25 members and under; 2 minute and 30 second performance with the musical portion not to exceed 1 minute, 30 seconds.
  - 3. Varsity Cheer Only Division (Non-Building)** – Combination of cheers and/or sideline chants with jumps permitted. Maximum time limit of 1 minute, 30 seconds. There is no music allowed in this division. No partner stunts, pyramids or tumbling permitted. (No squad size limitations.)
  - 4. Varsity Cheer Only Division (Building)** – Combination of cheers and/or sideline chants with partner stunts, pyramids, jumps and tumbling permitted. Maximum time limit of 1 minute, 30 seconds. There is no music allowed in this division. (No squad size limitations.)
  - 5. Varsity Routine Division (Non-Tumbling)** – Squads with 5-30 varsity members; 2 minute and 30 second performance with the musical portion not to exceed 1 minute, 30 seconds. Tumbling is prohibited, except for inversions into load in positions, stunts, and pyramids. Tumbling is defined as any skills with feet over head rotation.
  - 6. Varsity Routine Division (Non-Building)** – 2 minute 30 second performance (1 minute 30 second maximum music) in which no partner stunts, pyramids, or tosses are allowed.
  - 7. Small Varsity** – Squads with 12 female members and under; 2 minute and 30 second performance with the musical portion not to exceed 1 minute, 30 seconds.
  - 8. Medium Varsity** – Squads with 13-16 female members; 2 minute and 30 second performance with the musical portion not to exceed 1 minute, 30 seconds.
  - 9. Large Varsity** – Squads with 17-20 female members; 2 minute and 30 second performance with the musical portion not to exceed 1 minute, 30 seconds.
  - 10. Super Varsity** – Squads with 21-30 female members; 2 minute and 30 second performance with musical portion not to exceed 1 minute, 30 seconds.
  - 11. Small Coed Varsity** – No more than 20 participants with 4 or fewer males; 2 minute and 30 second performance with the musical portion not to exceed 1 minute, 30 seconds.
  - 12. Large Coed Varsity** – No more than 20 participants with 5 or more males; 2 minute and 30 second performance with the musical portion not to exceed 1 minute, 30 seconds.

***A school may enter a squad in either small, medium, large, or super varsity and enter an additional squad in either small coed or large coed. A school may enter a squad in a routine division and enter a separate squad in a cheer only division.***

- D. Each squad will be given time to enter the performance area and place poms, signs, etc. You may not begin your routine in a pyramid or stunt. Timing will begin with first movement, voice or music note.
- E. There should not be any organized exits after the official ending of the routine. All introductions (tumbling, entrances, chants, spell-outs, stunts, etc.) are considered part of the routine and will be timed as part of the performance.
- F. If a squad exceeds either time limit, a one point per judge penalty will be assessed for each violation. If the judges determine that a time violation has been deliberate or excessive, then additional deductions up to a maximum of five points per judge may be assessed. Because penalties are severe, we recommend that you time your performance several times prior to attending the competition and give yourself at least five seconds of "cushion" to allow for variations in sound equipment.
- G. The competition area for all divisions will be approximately 54 feet wide by 42 feet deep (9 Strips). All tumbling, pyramids and stunts must be performed on the performance mat. A one point per judge penalty will be assessed for each violation.
- H. If a sign or prop is **thrown** outside the performing area, that squad will receive a one point per judge deduction for each violation. Signs or props may be **placed** or dropped outside the performing area by a squad member.

## II. INTERRUPTION OF PERFORMANCE

- A. If, in the opinion of the tournament officials, a squad's routine is interrupted due to failure of the tournament equipment, facilities or other factors attributable to the tournament rather than the squad or any circumstances determined by the judges to be beyond the ability of the squad to control, the squad affected will be allowed to present its routine from the place in the routine where the interruption occurred. The degree and effect of the interruption will be determined by the tournament officials.
- B. In the event a squad's routine is interrupted because of failure of the squad's equipment, the squad must either continue the routine or withdraw from the competition.
- C. In the event that an injury causes the squad's routine to be interrupted, the squad must either continue the routine or withdraw from the competition. The tournament officials reserve the right to stop the routine due to injury.

## III. SPECIFIC SAFETY REGULATIONS

- A. All squads must follow the **American Association of Cheerleading Coaches and Advisor (AACCA) guidelines** adopted by the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association. (These rules may not be consistent with other companies guidelines.) You can find these rules by going to [www.aacca.org](http://www.aacca.org). **Each penalty will result in a 5 point per judge deduction.**
- B. Any questions regarding these rules should be directed to Jim Lord, Executive Director, AACCA at (800) 533-6583 or (901) 387-4309. Video tapes of questionable stunts will be accepted by November 13. Send video of the skill in question (not the entire routine) to: Jim Lord, c/o UCA, 6745 Lenox Center Ct., Suite 300, Memphis, TN 38115.
- C. All decisions of the judges concerning legality are final and binding.

## IV. MUSIC

- A. NO CASSETTE TAPES WILL BE PERMITTED, NO EXCEPTIONS!! Music burned on to a CD should be burned as an Audio CD or as MP3 files. Any other file format is not guaranteed to play in the provided CD Player. Only one CD Player will be provided.
- B. iPods can be used, but must follow the following guidelines:
  1. The volume should be all the way up on the player.
  2. Any user EQ's should be turned off on the player.
  3. Turn off "Soundcheck" feature if it is enabled (iPod only).
  4. If it is a 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> generation iPhone, an adapter must be provided by the owner.
  5. A standard "mini plug" or 3.5 mm connector/cable will be provided.
- C. The audio system will NOT be in stereo, but in mono. All Murphy Center systems are set up for Mono operation.
- D. Murphy Center is not responsible for MP3 players that do not play, malfunction, or lose battery power. AC power will not be provided for MP3 players.

E. Murphy Center is not responsible for CD's that are not formatted correctly as described above.

## **V. JUDGING CRITERIA**

Listed below are the UCA Judging sheets that will be used for this competition. Please be sure to read the appropriate judging sheet as each sheet contains the judging criteria that will be used in this competition.

1. UCA Judging Sheet
2. UCA Routine Non-Tumbling Judging Sheet
3. UCA Routine Non-Building Judging Sheet
4. TSSAA Cheer Only
5. TSSAA Cheer Only (Non-Building)

## **VI. HOW TO HANDLE PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS**

Any questions concerning the rules or procedures of the tournament will be handled exclusively by the captain or the advisor of the squad and will be directed to the Tournament Director. Such questions should be made prior to the squad's competition performance. Any questions concerning the squad's performance should be made to the Tournament Director immediately after the squad's performance.

## **VII. SPORTSMANSHIP**

All participants agree to conduct themselves in a manner displaying good sportsmanship throughout the tournament. The advisor and/or captain of each squad is responsible for seeing that squad members, coaches, parents and any other persons affiliated with the squad conduct themselves accordingly. Severe cases of unsportsmanlike conduct are grounds for disqualification.

## **VIII. SCORES AND RANKINGS**

Squad rankings will be available to advisors only; immediately following the awards presentation.

## **IX. INTERPRETATIONS AND RULINGS**

Any interpretation of any aspect of these Articles of Understanding or any decision involving any other aspect of the tournament will be rendered by the Rules Committee. The Rules Committee will render a judgment in an effort to insure that the tournament proceeds in a manner consistent with the general spirit and goals of the tournament. The Rules Committee will consist of the Tournament Director, Head Judge, Rule Interpreter, and a designated representative of TSSAA.

## **X. FINALITY OF DECISIONS**

By participating in the championship, each squad agrees that decisions by the judges will be final and binding. Each squad acknowledges the necessity for the judges to make prompt and fair decisions in this competition and each squad therefore expressly waives any legal, equitable, administrative or procedural review of such decisions.

## **XI. DISQUALIFICATION**

Any squad that does not adhere to the terms and procedures in the "Articles of Understanding" may be disqualified from the tournament and automatically forfeit the right to any prizes or awards presented by the tournament. In addition, the squad may also forfeit the opportunity to participate in the tournament the following year.

## **XII. AWARDS**

Awards will be given in each division. The number of awards given will be based on the number of squads participating in each division. If there are three squads in a division, then there will only be a first place given. If there are four or five squads in a division, then there will be a first and second place given. In a division with six to 20 squads, there will be a first, second, and third place given. If a division has more than 20 squads, there will be a first, second, third, and fourth place given.

## **XIII. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**The TSSAA State Championships will be a qualifier for the National High School Cheerleading Championship in Orlando, Florida on February 13-14, 2010. Bids will be handed out to state award winners, except for Cheer (Building) and Cheer (Non-Building). These two divisions are not offered at the National Championships.**

We have reviewed the Articles of Understanding with our entire squad and we accept the Articles of Understanding as a fair and integral part of the rules of the tournament and agree to adhere to the rules, policies and procedures contained herein.

\_\_\_\_\_ School Name                      \_\_\_\_\_ City                      \_\_\_\_\_ Date

DIVISION:

- |   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| _____ Varsity Cheer Only (Non-Building) | _____ Varsity Cheer Only (Building)  |
| _____ Varsity Routine (Non-Tumbling)    | _____ Varsity Routine (Non-Building) |
| _____ Small Varsity                     | _____ Medium Varsity                 |
| _____ Large Varsity                     | _____ Super Varsity                  |
| _____ Small Coed Varsity                | _____ Large Coed Varsity             |
| _____ Freshman                          | _____ Jr. Varsity                    |

\_\_\_\_\_ Coach/Advisor's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Captain's Signature