

OASSA STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Sunday April 13, 2025

Present-

Trisha Hart

Amie Clark

Melissa Kelly

Katie Weisenberger

Peggy Galata

Samantha Riordan

Katie Spinell

Maria Maluchnik

Carla Crawford

Bethany Tawab

Not present: Zach Shafer Jaimee Miller

– Called to order at 7:03 pm –

- Coaches Survey put out after the April 6th townhall. We will go through and discuss results, comments, & concerns. (Survey– 49 coaches participated)
- An idea was brought up during 4/6 townhall, in order to achieve more widespread coach input across the state. A survey to go out with the steering committee proposed changes for the 25-26 season to vote and be approved by coaches.
 - The goal is to overcome some objections of coach availability for townhall meetings.(where voting has previously taken place) – But still give those the ability to have a voice and input on changes.
 - **No one on call objected to this idea.**
- Survey– DEDUCTIONS
 - Deductions were completely re-configured last spring (May 2024)
 - Redone to be more in line with NFHS & UCA rules/regs.
 - **Survey Comment-** Coach agreed with deduction coming off total score, but claimed point total was too high w/o coach insight on new scoring system
 - New changes to scoring/deductions were voted by All Coach Townhall in May 2024 & posted to website when rules/reg were released for 24-25 season. (better widespread communication to coaches? Will discuss in another section)
 - **Survey Comment-** 10pt deduction was excessive; no other OH comp that high.
 - Gameday division for example- 280 pt total (10pts) would be 3.57%;
 - UCA standard is 3% of total score
 - Other OASSA divisions NONBUILD 370 (2.7%); BUILD 365 (2.74%)
 - 2 of 49 did not agree with revised 2025 deductions. 95.9% said leave deductions the same.
- Discuss timing deductions
 - 3 second grace period (as currently stands)

- Timing violation language/ (in rules/reg) if there is a music mishap beginning of routine.
 - Does it allow for a start over? Only if the team leaves the floor to reset for example.
 - Let's clean up language to clarify what is a start/stop of routine without assessing a timing deduction.
 - Consulted what UCA rules are for reference.
 - Do we add an appeals process?
 - Have office rework language and will revisit to bring discussion back to table.

- Survey- QUALIFY/ NON QUALIFY vs SCORED REGIONAL EVENT
 - keep Q/NQ **28.6%**
 - scored 70%+ **30.6%**
 - scored 75%+ **32.7%**
 - scored 80%+ **10.2%**
 - Discussion- do we give values instead of ranges on scoresheets?
 - Used to be 75% to qualify for State; but also had zero rubrics to follow.
 - For teams that do not qualify give more detailing/information as to what aspects were too low to go through to state.
 - KEEP the highlighting ranges for skills.
 - How can we uncomplicate things for coaches (quantity vs execution)
 - Hold to correct standard; not scoring can lessen accountability
 - Making sure rubric parts are matching scoring.
 - If moving to scored regionals, how would that effect teams with injured/sick etc Whereas they have marked stunts for example previously.
 - Possible to do hybrid scoring
 - Idea proposed to highlight ranges for skills/parts on rubrics & score other parts of scoresheet (choreo/dance, showmanship, overall impression etc)
 - Gameday would be outlier cat. due to no difficulty scoring.
 - Will table for next committee meeting (4/22) to discuss further.

- Survey- SPLIT DIVISION CATEGORY AT 12 TEAMS TO SMALL/LARGE
 - Keep split **73.4%** OR change to no split **26.5%**
 - With building teams picture looks very different on the floor small vs large
 - Non building category rubric cumulative % of skills helps with scoring small/large teams; to keep comparative.
 - Es 2 opposed split during committee discussion.

- Survey- Question TOPICS TO DISCUSS AT NEXT TOWN HALL?
 - 23/49 replied n/a or no opinion
 - 22 replies regarding rules/reg, Q/NQ vs scored regionals, divisions, judges/scoring etc.
 - 1 reply regarding sportsmanship (neg experience)

- 3 replies regarding deeper/beyond the scope of just OASSA.(state of cheer in OHIO)
- Coed divisions? (was discussed 2 years ago)
 - However, changes to fed/state legislation, we will need to dig in more, being OHSAA sister organization, and see how to appropriately address this topic.
- Big gap in scoring between teams?
 - Lots of different interpretations
 - Compared to other score sheets used in state
 - Change to total raw score given and not divided = bigger pt total)
 - Judging consistency
- Do we record town hall meetings for transparency?
 - education/ questions on rules/reg/legalities.
 - Maybe create a COACHES TOOLKIT with videos
- How do we get the state of OHIO coaches on the same page?
 - OHSAA input- currently communicating with John K
 - Indy/ILL have similar assoc in their states for cheer
 - OHSAA game day spirit comp is a 2 year renewable contract with Varsity, and will stay as long as it gets renewed by OHSAA.
 - Can we have a discussion between organizations to see where commonalities may fall? ALL COMMITTEE AGREED. (respectively OHSCCA & OASSA)
 - Is it OASSA's sole responsibility to forge this conversation? All have to be willing to come to the table on all sides to start talks. We are only 50% of the solution.
 - Does it start with a conversation of how judges' expectations are similar or differ?
 - Some feedback we are hearing is concerns with judging among all different organizations.
 - Can we facilitate a collaboration; do any judges crossover comps?
 - No one is aware of any crossover as of now.
 - Concerns on how different scoresheets can disrupt the flow of a team's season; if they are competing both and changing for different rules/formats.
 - Can we make our scoresheets more comparative?
 - Sam (sits on both boards) We will reach out to see if we can all come to the table.
 - How do we help grow cheerleading OH?
 - How can we OASSA be more transparent and informative?
 - We all have good intentions for our athletes & schools.

- As coaches, we are concerned more with how behind the entire state of Ohio is in cheerleading compared to the rest of the nation.
- Now that intermediate div is offered at UCA nationals, how will that affect the building team divisions
- Concern was brought up of the schools no longer competing at OASSA
 - Coach to coach reach out to any schools you know of in your regions and bring feedback.
 - Can we get data on regional/State numbers each year? Ex 20-25? (excluding covid 2021 comp year)
 - We as a committee having those conversations with coaches
 - Advertisement
 - Communication
 - What's improving, what we are about etc.
- Can we find some common ground w/ rubrics and score sheets between organizations
- Communication to public/coaches
 - Prev/Currently- email, coaching clinics, town halls, text, meeting minutes on website.
 - Looking to add videos to YouTube channel regarding rubrics/ score sheets/ legalities/ and much more.
 - May be more user friendly/easier for coaches understanding
 - Streamline communication to Trisha via email for professional coach communication. Spoke about what we as a committee feel is appropriate reply times.
 - Coach committee available for coach concerns/ to hear coaches out etc.
 - What will help make coaches feel more heard in the State?
- Score sheets at regionals to have paper print out for coaches hands at the event; will still be also sent via electronic scoring. (suggestion from 4/6 town hall)
- Table the rest for the next committee meeting being held on 4/22/25.

– meeting called to adjourn; committee agreed to adjourn at 9:59pm

