



NYSPHSAA CHEER
STATE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, December 12, 2024 via Zoom



ATTENDEES:

NYSPHSAA Staff: Dr. Robert Zayas, Joe Altieri, Kristen Jadin, Todd Nelson, Chris Joyce, Lexi Swatt

COMMITTEE: Jen Simmons (State Coordinator), Alice Granger (1), Rihannah Johnson (2), Stephanie St. Pierre (2), Tiffany Rutledge (3), Andrea Guccia (4), Stacey Pike (5), Justina Grudzinski (6), Vicki Nephew (7), Jen Keane (8), Patti Archiere (9), Brianne Hyer (11)

1. Attendance & Welcome

Meeting called to order at 10:02 am by Coordinator Jen Simmons

2. Bid for Competitive Cheer State Championship 2026-28

Joe explained the bid process and ensured everyone received the lone bid submitted by Visions Veterans Memorial Arena in Binghamton (IV). He noted the bid had all the required elements to be considered and the venue has done a great job in the past hosting this event. He asked if there were any questions or concerns with the bid. None were identified.

MOTION by Alice to recommend Visions for 2026-28. SECOND by Jen Keane. Carried 10-0.

Joe stated the staff recommendation was for Visions for 2026-28 as well. He stated next steps will be the bidder will be notified, a bid comparison document will be compiled and both recommendations will be forwarded to the Championship Advisory Committee in January and to the Executive Committee on February 5th for a vote.

3. NYSPHSAA Reports

Dr. Robert Zayas, Executive Director

- a. Sports Seasons Start Date Ad Hoc Committee – Reported this committee met last month and has a draft proposal out for discussion for fall and spring sports. For spring, moving start dates to the second Monday in March is being discussed. A draft of this proposal has been shared with all State Coordinators and we are seeking feedback from each committee. Moving spring to the second Monday in March does not necessarily mean its earlier than usual every year but for most years it will fall a week earlier; it depends on how the calendar falls.
MOTION by Jen to support this proposal, SECOND by Andrea. Carried 10-0.
- b. Updated the committee on SED mixed competition proposals regarding males on female teams that came about over the summer. He stated these proposals are not going forward at this time.

Joe Altieri, Assistant Director

- a. Thanked Rhiannah, Jen and Section 2 for a great Game Day State Championship in November and thanked Andrea and Section 4 for a great Competitive Championship in March
- b. NFHS Implicit Bias Course – Required for all new state/ad hoc committee members; Link here: https://nfhslearn.com/courses/implicit-bias?gclid=CjwKCAjwxOymBhAFFiwAnodBLCQUQq7zUoAqmAbV5UBZahE0dFuZN9dH0m2H1LVu8FpLUw80zdHkKR0CFjEQAvD_BwE
- c. NYSPHSAA Hall of Fame - Deadline is Jan. 29th for the Class of 2025. Explained a new approved recommendation to ask sport committees to submit one nomination every three years. Nomination form can be submitted online.

Todd Nelson, Assistant Director

- a. Stated we are in need of a Modified Coordinator. Please reach out to Todd if interested. Modified State Committee meets twice per year.

Kristen Jadin, Assistant Director

- a. Operations Packets – Always posted on the NYSPHSAA website. Digital participation certificates for athletes are in the Operations Packets on our website under SPORTS (not CHAMPIONSHIPS).
- b. Student Leadership Conference – Will be April 3, 2025 in Albany. A student survey will be distributed for application. Please encourage students to apply.
<https://nysphsaa.org/sports/2022/3/25/Leadership.aspx>

Chris Joyce, Director of Marketing & Foundation

- a. Reported we had a great year of fundraising in 2023-24 for the foundation. We raised over \$12,000 from our inaugural golf tournament this past summer. Grants are now available for schools. They can apply on the NYSPHSAA website.
GRANT APPLICATIONS: <https://form.jotform.com/NYSPHSAA/SchoolGrantApplication>

Lexi Swatt, Director of Sports Information

No report

4. Committee Business

- a. Awards Proposal by NYSPHSAA Championship Philosophy Committee for 2025-26 – Jen introduced this proposal and explained how it would impact Game Day and Competitive Cheer State Tournaments. **The discussion ensued for what we would be doing in the Winter season that has five should this pass. This discussion began at the State level to discuss consistency for all state championships, not financial. Take this back and discuss in your Sections, this will be voted on in May. This committee will discuss further after the vote occurs.**
- b. Game Day Updated Guidelines – **Sheet distributed, updates based on approvals that have occurred at recent state meetings.**
- c. Proposals from Sub-Committee for Consideration – **Two year review. (1) Discussion concerning schools not doing Game Day in the fall but working on their Winter seasons. Problem is teams who do not do Game Day are starting their winter season choreography in August and practicing their Winter season skills and routines, while never competing at all in the fall. They skip Game Day, then start competing in early winter because they have practiced and developed their routines for the past three months. This gives a distinct advantage to those schools while most schools are competing in Game Day in the fall. Todd Nelson shared that at the executive directors meeting it was asked if anyone was competing in competitive cheer competitions in the fall, and he said nobody raised their hand.. Discussion on a proposal to solve this problem began. Representatives discussed what was occurring in their Sections. After much discussion, it was decided to make the proposal that teams in the fall are limited to practicing and performing only the skills that are allowed in Game Day. Meaning, if a school or team does not compete in Game Day during the Fall season, they can only practice those skills allowable in Game Day Cheerleading. This allows for all schools to work on skills even if they do not compete in Fall Game Day, while also not putting teams at a disadvantage for doing Game Day. It is recommended that teams who violate this rule, will not be allowed to compete in the postseason. This Proposal will be sent to the State for approval. All agreed. (2) Proposal concerning judging and a format to select judges for States. While this is not within our authority, it has been discussed at the judges level and the committee would support this proposal and format should it move forward. (3) The sub-committee recommended that the scoresheets be broken down further instead of just 10 points, that they are described and divided into two five point sections. This allows the teams and the judges to get credit for what they did do, instead of a sliding scale because the gap is so big. The overall pointing system for each section does not change. All agreed.**

d. Winter Season Q & A – December 17th at 8 pm will cover questions on stunts and pyramids. Madiha will be present to discuss the difference between the two styles. Links will be sent out to be shared.

5. Good of the Order

- a. Hotels for 2025 Competitive Cheer Championships - Joe asked if there were any final changes to section lodging quantities or needs.
- b. Discussion on the use of a set comment bank to be used by judges for the different categories during competition to provide feedback. Justina will take lead and develop for further discussion

Meeting adjourned at 11:28

Minutes respectfully submitted by Andrea Guccia & Joe Altieri