

**OMYFA**  
**Cheer-Off Competitive Cheer**  
**Hosting City Regulations 2025**

It is the purpose of the OMYFA to provide assistance by increasing involvement and promotional activities to hosting cities for competitions and day-of events. These guidelines are to be used to promote uniformity, predictability, and competitive equity in the regulations of the Competitive Cheer-Off.

This information has been prepared and approved by the OMYFA governing body in order to provide host cities and participants a comprehensive guide regarding limitations and procedures for the Cheer-Off event.

**Guidelines and fees for Participant and Host cities prior to the day of event.**

- 1) Hosting venues must meet fire code regulations for appropriate numbers estimated regarding participants and spectators.
- 2) The hosting city must set up a walk-thru prior to booking the event. The walk-thru must include the Cheer Director along with the hosting city president and the cheer coordinator. The walk-thru will confirm all needs are met at the new venue.
- 3) The host city can make the decision to do double panel judges for the event. Host city will be responsible for all extra costs incurred if they choose to do a double panel judging system. Host city Cheer-Off coordinator must advise the OMYFA cheer director of their decision in writing by June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 4) The competition format will be an AM & PM session based on Leaders and Legends divisions. We will rotate which division goes in the AM or PM yearly. Award options will be as follows: the PM division and the hosting city will be present for live awards. The AM session can return for awards or host their own event at their expense. The entire day of competition, including the awards, will be live streamed.
- 5) There will be a registration fee of \$1,000.00 per city which will be made payable to the host city and presented with all other paperwork.
- 6) Host cities will provide parking, entrance accessibility and seating for physically challenged and elderly individuals as needed.
- 7) Each person coaching or assisting cheerleaders during competition will have a name tag provided and **must show proper I.D.** in order to secure their name tag.
- 8) On the rostered participant list, each city will list GM separate and not counted as a coach.
- 9) Admission costs for the general public will be set by the MHSAA current pricing guidelines.

- 10) All cities will submit all their teams required items necessary for completion to Cheer Director no sooner than and no later than date specified by Cheer Director (within a 2-week limit) prior to competition. When requested additional (6) copies of materials will be provided by participant cities in folders provided by host city.
- 11) Any changes made to any paperwork/items for competition must be initialed by the GM and presented to the cheer director by **10:00pm the Wednesday prior to competition**. There will be a fine a \$100.00 fine per level per routine for paperwork turned in after 10:00pm.
- 12) The GMs will be provided an opportunity to tour the facility prior to the event. The runners may also tour the facility/school. It is the responsibility of the GM to train the runners for the event.
- 13) Prior to the day of competition, the Cheer Director will conduct a blind draw for each round to determine the order in which the teams will perform. The blind draw for order of competition will be done at an OMYFA Cheer meeting, date will be determined by the Cheer Director. Teams will be aware of their order of performance after the blind draw meeting, and it should appear in the competition program.
- 14) Each city will submit in writing at the league event prior to Cheer -Off their 2-vote nomination for the team Sportsmanship award. This award is given to the city whose overall cheerleading program receives the most votes by the other OMYFA cities.
- 15) All judges, including the safety judge (s), shall receive compensation of up to \$400 for the competition day (pay is per judge)
- 16) Judges will be secured by the director of cheerleading and approved by the Cheerleading GM's. Number of judges may not exceed 8 judges in total.
- 17) 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place awards will be awarded to each participant on a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishing team for both the cheer and the dance rounds.
- 18) There will not be any ties in the top 3 places for cheer or dance. If a tie occurs the team with the highest cumulative score in the General Impression category will determine the place. If there is a tie in the general impression category, we will use the team coordination category in the cheer round and timing/coordination in the dance round.
- 19) There will be an additional 4 coaches awards given to each 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishing teams in both rounds.
- 20) All participants, with an additional 4 coaches per squad, will receive participation pins provided by the host city. These are viewed as "collectibles"; therefore, they will reflect the year and "theme" of the current year's Cheer-Off event.
- 21) OMYFA will reimburse host city \$300.00 for purchase of participation pins and sportsmanship awards.
- 22) The host city must appoint a Cheer Coordinator. The Cheer Coordinator cannot be the GM, Assistant GM, a member of the executive board or a cheer coach at the time of hosting. The Cheer Coordinator will be required to attend all meetings as directed by the Cheer Director.
- 23) The host city is responsible for supplying breakfast, lunch and snacks for the judges. The host city is also responsible for supplying lunch to the DJ, Photographer & assistants, videographer and their all-day volunteers.

- 24) The President and/or Vice President will remain in the gym during the competition as the go to person for the Cheer Off Director.
- 25) The President of the hosting city will present the charity with the donation and announce Cheer-Off winners, The Cheer Director will hand out medals. The Cheer Director will announce and pass out the awards for sportsmanship, coaches, The Brooklyn Jennings & Summer Earl award and The AV24 award.
- 26) Host City must provide five (5) parking spots for OMYFA executive board.
- 27) Hosting City must provide a copy of the program to each Cheer GM, each judge and the Cheer Director.
- 28) Welcome Baskets/Goodie Bags for each team have always been provided by the Hosting City, it is not mandatory to provide them but is suggested. (Items suggested or given in the past: nail polish remover, cotton, band-aids, small sewing kit, ponytail holders, socks, stain remover, pads, tide sticks, travel size items, deodorant)
- 29) Host City must provide livestream services at Cheer Off.

#### **Facilities and Personnel:**

- 1) All routines will be performed on a matted surface. The performance area shall be padded with a mat of uniform thickness which shall cover a recommended area of 38X38. The matted area can be exercise mats, a wrestling mat, a floor exercise mat, or a gymnastics base mat. The surface should be of one piece. If this is not possible, each padded section shall be fastened together securely to create a smooth uniform surface. The front and back of the mat must be taped down.
- 2) Prior to and during the competition, teams shall be provided an area free of obstacles and with enough ceiling clearance in order to warm-up stunting. Each city shall be provided with an area appropriate in size to accommodate their teams and free from general public viewing for changing, resting, and meeting prior to and during the event.
- 3) Coaches will be provided with a raised area behind the judges and in front of the spectators indicating center of the mat for their teams as they perform.
- 4) Center of the mat will be indicated for participants.
- 5) Each team participating will receive 6 minutes of cheer mat time and 6 minutes of dance mat time. No main mat times. The times will be randomly drawn prior to competition and given to the teams prior to the day of the competition or may follow the order of performance.
- 6) The Cheer Director will conduct a pre-meet GM meeting at a designated time and place prior to the start of the competition to provide GMs with information about the day's competition. It is appropriate for a judge to be present at this meeting to answer any technical questions.
- 7) There will be trained medical personnel available before, during, and after both rounds of competition. (Must be available from the time the cheerleaders enter the building until they leave)

- 8) Hosting city will provide video and DJ services. Participating cities may video tape their city ONLY.
- 9) Host city will provide the services of a photographer at each participants own expense. It is preferred, if possible, for the photographer to allow next day orders with day of discounts for coaches.
- 10) Host cities have the discretion to offer flower sales the day of competition. However, if the host city does offer sales, all participating cities will then be expected to purchase their flowers through the host city vendor.
- 11) Host city will provide food concessions for spectators. Participants may use their own supplies for lunch. Spectators are not allowed to bring in outside concessions into the competition building.
- 12) T-Shirts and sweatshirts will be available for pre-order. Host cities will be responsible for the design and the delivery of apparel prior to the start of the competition. Additional sales the day-of is at the host cities discretion.

#### **Judges Table and Working Areas:**

- 1) Cheer/dance judges shall officiate from tables placed in front of the competition mat along with a chair for each judge. Spectator seating and walking area will be behind the judges' area.
- 2) Score sheets shall be provided by the Cheer Director. An appropriate score/penalty sheet and routine description shall be provided for each judge for each team in every round.
- 3) Score table: A score table shall be provided with enough chairs available for the scoring personnel contracted to review and tally score sheets submitted by each cheer judge and safety judge.
- 4) The score table shall be placed so that it is always conveniently available for coaches yet is out of the way of spectators and competitor traffic and in the same room/gym where the competition is being held. An OMYFA representative will be present at the tally table and working with the GMs to sign off on final scores.
- 5) Scorer Responsibilities: Score table personnel usually consist of 3 people. One person receives the score sheets from the runner and pursues the score sheets for score boxes that have been missed, score sheets with no identification, and then calculates the math scores. The second person re-tallies the scores. The third person enters a total score for all judges onto a master scoresheet and oversees the GMs/coaches review of the score sheets. The score sheets are then placed in a folder or envelope for each GM. At no time shall score sheets leave the competition area during the competition. Adding machines shall be provided by the host city.
- 6) Timer responsibilities, an official timer will be required to time each routine performed, the timer can be seated at the end of the judges table. It is recommended there are 3 timers (one of those may be the safety judge) and the mean time will be the determinant for the official time. Stopwatches shall be provided by the host city.

- 7) The timer will begin timing each routine with the first word, motion, or chord of music of the routine is performed by any competition and the judging begins. The timer will end timing the routine when the last member steps off the competition mat, at which time the judging is also completed. (a visible timing device is encouraged)
- 8) A large poster board will be placed for public viewing in a convenient location, so the general public may view the scores and places, at the end of the competition and AFTER the awards ceremony. Penalty points will be indicated by each team where appropriate.
- 9) Copies of score sheets, penalty sheets, and other turned-in paperwork will be returned to each city's GM for each competing team at the end of competition.