

# **2023 MPA CHEERLEADING BULLETIN (FALL)**

(updated 7/27/23)

## **FALL CHEERLEADING SEASON**

July 31 - August 13	Hands-off Period (Sport Season Policy)
August 14	First Practice - Fall Cheering Squads
	Fall season ends with the completion of your school's Football/Soccer/Field Hockey Team's season
November 4	Fall Sports Season Ends
<u>October 21</u>	<u>Game Day Cheering comp – Hampden Academy</u>

Each coach must complete the NFHS “*Concussion in Sport – What You Need to Know*” video that is available at the NFHS website ([www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com)).

\*Each coach must complete the NFHS “*A Guide to Heat Acclimatization and Heat Illness Prevention*” video that is available at the NFHS website ([www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com)).

\*Each coach must complete the NFHS “*Sudden Cardiac Arrest*” video that is available at the NFHS website ([www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com)).

\*Each coach must complete the “*Protecting Students from Abuse*” video that is available at the NFHS website ([www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com)).

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Cheering is recognized as a competitive sport only during the winter sport season. Fall cheering squads exist solely to support a school's football, soccer and/or field hockey team. The fall season should not be used to prepare for the winter season. It is inappropriate for fall squads to construct or practice a winter routine, stunts, or to work on winter skills or routines.** Individual or team tumbling, and gymnastics lessons mandated by the coaching staff are a violation of the sport season policy.

Exhibition competitions may not be held in the fall and teams may not travel out of state unless they are accompanying a football, soccer or field hockey team.

## **MANDATORY RULE CLINIC**

Sunday, October 29      Make-up Date -N/A- will be recorded and watched online  
9:00am  
Lewiston High School

## **USA CHEER SAFETY TRAINING**

All coaches of cheerleaders' grades 9 through 12 **must have** successfully completed-USA Cheer Safety and Risk Management Course training prior to the start of the season.

USA Cheer Training is available on-line through the following website (AACCA is now USA Cheer - USA Cheer).

## **NATIONAL FEDERATION SPIRIT RULES**

The MPA strictly enforces all appropriate 2023 - 2024 National Federation Spirit Rules for the fall cheerleading season. These rules are in effect always when the team is participating in any event that may include all practices, volunteer events, or games. Failure to follow the rules will result in ground bounding your team for the season. It is the responsibility of the principals and/or the athletic administrators to ensure that fall teams are not practicing skills to be utilized for the winter season.

## **PRACTICE SESSIONS**

All appropriate NFHS Spirit Rules apply always when the team is present and practicing. All practice sessions should include front and back spotters. Suitable mats or a grassy area should be used while all stunts are being learned. Step-by-step procedures should be used to master all stunts and learning sessions should be supervised by a qualified coach, in accordance with NFHS Spirit Rules. Principals and athletic administrators are responsible to ensure their fall teams are not practicing skills to be utilized in the winter season.

## **BONA FIDE TEAM RULE**

A member of a school team is a student athlete who is regularly present for and actively participates in team practices and competitions. Bona fide members of a school team are prevented from missing high school practice or competition to compete or practice elsewhere.

- \* Two waivers per student athlete per sport season may be granted by the principal on a case-by-case basis for extraordinary circumstances. (e.g. If a student/athlete were invited to participate in a prestigious weekend event then a waiver may be granted. If a student/athlete were invited to participate in a nationally recognized tournament over a school vacation, then **that** waiver may be granted for that activity. If a student requests to miss practice every Friday because he/she is receiving specialized coaching from an outside team/coach, then a waiver should not be granted **because it violates the spirit and intent of the rule.**)

\*\* This policy is not intended to restrict dual sport participation in schools that allow dual participation.

\*\*\* Penalty for violation of this policy:

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Violation | Suspension from play for one game/contest |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Violation | Removal from team for remainder of season |

(Effective Date: 2011 Fall Sport Season)

## **THE ROLE OF A CHEERLEADER**

(See Cheerleading Philosophy in the National Federation Spirit Rules' Book)

- \* Promote school spirit not only during games but throughout the season for all sports.
- \* Only performing stunts during time outs or between quarters and not performing stunts that do not promote school spirit.
- \* Try to get the crowd involved. Utilize signs, band, and crowd cheers. Go back to the basics. Easy cheers- response cheers.
- \* To get the student body involved you need to earn their respect. Catch their attention. Get the crowd of all ages involved.
- \* Be aware of your team's behavior- this includes pre-game, during the game, and after the game. Are the cheerleaders organized and enthusiastic? Does the team complete their time-out, quarter cheer, or half time routine and then walk off having discussions? Or do they try to get the crowd excited?

### **Game situations for the fall season - Safety Issues**

- \* Hair pulled back into a ponytail and off the face and shoulders.
- \* Appropriate attire suitable for what the cheerleaders are doing.
- \* No jewelry permitted- this includes belly button rings or spacers.
- \* No chewing gum.
- \* No swearing.
- \* No stunting on wet grass. Only stunt on appropriate surfaces.
- \* Stretching and warm-ups should not be done directly in front of a crowd.
- \* Talking should be kept to a minimum.
- \* No basket tosses performed on courts, hard surfaces, or unsafe areas.

- \* Basket tosses, elevator tosses, and similar multi-base tosses are permitted only on a mat.
- \* Perform only legal perfected material.
- \* No stunting while the ball is in play. No exceptions. The crowd is focused on the game during this time.

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