



# ILLINOIS LUTHERAN CHAMPIONSHIP

## CHEERLEADING COMPETITION

### GRADE SCHOOL RULES

(Latest Revision: January 2012)

#### FORMAT

- 1.01 There shall be one division of competition, as further defined herein.
- 1.02 The state competition field shall consist of no less than eight squads.
- 1.03 The state competition shall be conducted as a "routine" competition, in which squads will be judged on a number of grading criteria.
- 1.04 Each squad will be guaranteed to participate in one round of competition.
- 1.05 There will be one round of competition to select a champion. The competition will be held on the date and time as published on the LSA website. The LSA Board of Directors may, at their sole discretion, select to hold an additional round or rounds of competition, because of the number of squads in the competition field or for any other reason deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors.

#### SQUAD SELECTION CRITERIA

- 2.01 The Board of Directors of the Lutheran Sports Association of Illinois, Inc. ("LSA") shall select, or cause to be selected by whatever means in their opinion is appropriate in the circumstances, the most representative squads in the state (also see Rule 2.03) for participation in the state competition.
- 2.02 The LSA Board of Directors reserves the right to require preliminary competition playoffs in circumstances where, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, more entries are received than can be accepted for participation.

#### SQUAD ELIGIBILITY

- 3.01 Squads must be established squads which have represented a Lutheran grade school in an established league, tournament or competition during the current scholastic year.
- 3.02 Each squad is allowed a maximum of three persons to function as coach or manager. Each squad must have at least one person who must be at least twenty-one years of age to function in one of the above capacities.
- 3.03 A squad must have represented the school at a minimum of seven official league, tournament and/or non-conference sports activities in order to be eligible for participation in the state competition. The school's principal must certify that this condition of eligibility has been met.

## MEMBER ELIGIBILITY

- 4.01 Players must be students of the sponsoring grade school and have complied with the eligibility rules of their league(s) and/or tournament(s). A student is defined as a full-time student of the participating school. To participate players must have been full-time students before November 1 of the given tournament year.**

*Illustrations*

*Q: A home schooled student is taking PE and choir at our school. They want to compete in athletics. Our School Board has granted her permission to play. Is she eligible for STATE events?*

*A: No, she is not eligible for STATE events as she is not full time student.*

*Q: Our school offers an open gym program for the local public school students. They often practice with us. Are they eligible for STATE events?*

*A: No. They are not full time students at your school.*

- 4.02 No student is eligible to participate in the same sport for two different schools during the same academic year. A student becomes a member of the school team when he/she participated in a practice or athletic contest.**
- 4.03 A student who transfers his/her attendance from one school to another shall become eligible upon completing the eligibility requirements.**

*Illustrations:*

*Q: My daughter was a cheerleader March at one school. She transferred schools and is a cheerleader in the winter at another school. Is she eligible?*

*A: Yes. It is a new school year.*

*Q: My daughter was a cheerleader at one school. Due to circumstances we transferred her to another school. She would like to be a cheerleader there. Is he eligible?*

*A: No, but if you believe special circumstances may apply an exemption letter for the Board of Directors consideration and acceptance will need to be written as per the directions in rule 10.07.*

- 4.04 All students shall be in grades three (3) through eight (8) and shall not have passed eighth grade standing. Students who have met or completed the requirements for the eighth grade are not eligible.**
- 4.05 For the purpose of meeting the requirements of Rules 4.01 and/or 4.02, a school will be considered to have had one combined cheerleading roster during the current scholastic year.**

*Illustrations:*

*Q: Our school would like to combine our 5&6 squads and our 7&8 squad for the state competition. What do I need to do?*

*A: All of these athletes are eligible. You will need to list all of the cheerleaders on the tournament application.*

- 4.06 No student shall be a member of a high school team.**

*Illustrations*

*Q: I have a girl who is a cheerleader for a "high school feeder team." Is she eligible?*

*A: Yes*

- 4.07 A cheerleader must not have reached the age of fifteen (15) prior to the first day of September.**
- 4.08 If a cheerleader turns fifteen (15) years old prior to the first day of STATE competition, the principal must send a letter using the school letterhead that verifies that the player has been a student for the entire school year. The letter should be sent to the event chairperson.**

*Illustrations*

*Q: I have a cheerleader who is turning fifteen in October. What steps do I need to follow to insure her eligibility?*

*A: The principal must send a letter using the school letterhead that verifies that the cheerleader has been a full time student for the entire school year. The letter should be sent to the event chairperson.*

*Q: I have a cheerleader who will be turning fifteen on the second day of the STATE competition. Is she eligible?*

*A: Yes.*

*Q: I have a cheerleader who will turn fifteen a few days after the STATE tournament. Is she eligible?*

*A: Yes.*

- 4.09 All members must have participated in at least fifty percent (50%) of the entering squad's total scheduled appearances. The school's principal must certify that this condition of eligibility has been met. In order to qualify under this rule, a member will be considered to have participated in an appearance if he or she was in uniform for the appearance. Exceptions may be permitted in case of injury, illness, late entry into the sponsoring school or similar circumstances, providing that advance approval is obtained from the Board of Directors prior to the entry deadline date.
- 4.10 Any individual unable to comply with Rules 4.01 through 4.09, as applicable, will not be permitted to participate in the state competition.

#### **SQUAD ENTRY APPLICATION**

- 5.01 Each squad is required to submit by February 15 an entry application and the entry fee in the form of a check or money order made payable to the *Lutheran Sports Association of Illinois, Inc.*
- 5.02 All entry applications and rosters must be approved by the principal of the sponsoring school.
- 5.03 In the case of applications of award-winning squads, the Board of Directors may require the approval of the tournament, league or competition chairperson and/or additional information in the form of certified copies of the complete activity schedule, score results of all rounds of competition, the activity roster, rules and any other information that the Board of Directors deems appropriate.
- 5.04 The official roster must contain the following information for each squad member: Full name, certification by the squad's principal and other information specified on the official application.
- 5.05 Any application received or not completed until after the entry deadline date will be accepted only if a state competition berth is available.
- 5.06 Acceptance of entry applications shall be final and entry fees accompanying approved applications shall not be refundable.

#### **EQUIPMENT**

- 6.01 Each squad is required to supply its own practice, competition and dressing room equipment.
- 6.02 Each squad is required to have one set of uniforms, all which must be of the same basic design. Squads may use the uniforms of one of their local area squads which are not participating in the state competition in order to fulfill this requirement.
- 6.03 Under no circumstances will a squad member be allowed to participate in a round of competition without a suitable cheerleading uniform. Suitability shall be determined solely by the opinion of the Board of Directors.

#### **COMPETITION RULES AND JUDGING CRITERIA**

- 7.01 National Federation of High School Associations for Cheerleading rules and guidelines shall govern competition, except where specifically superseded by LSA rules.
- 7.02 The LSA reserves the right to issue rule supplements from time to time, which may cover judging criteria, procedures, scheduling changes and/or other matters.

- 7.03 The Head Judge(s) for the competition shall be certified cheerleading judges selected by the Board of Directors.
- 7.04 Any protest must be submitted to the competition officials in accordance with National Federation for Cheerleading rules and guidelines immediately following the incident being protested. The officials shall immediately deliver the protest to the Board of Directors and competition shall be suspended while the directors adjudicate the protest. The judgment rendered by the directors may not be appealed and competition shall resume upon such judgment.

### AWARDS

- 8.01 One squad award shall be presented to each squad participating in the final round of competition.
- 8.02 One individual award shall be presented to the principal, athletic director, each squad member, coach and manager on the Championship and second place squads (up to a maximum of 21 medallions (additional medallions may be purchased at the school's expense).

### GENERAL

- 9.01 The Principal, and the Principal's designees, shall be responsible to the LSA and STATE hosts for matters pertaining to all athletic and non-athletic activities of their school at the STATE competition. In addition, they shall be responsible to insure that their school is properly represented at all STATE events and shall be responsible for the conduct of their participants and other persons from their school, including spectators. Coaches, managers and squad captains shall also be responsible for squad conduct both on and off the competition site.
- 9.02 It is the clear obligation of students, school staff, boards of education and all other official representatives of participating schools to practice and promote the highest principles of Christian behavior, sportsmanship and ethics of competition. It is also their obligation to maintain proper crowd control at all STATE activities. The LSA, its directors, volunteers, host schools, tournament sites and tournament officials shall have no responsibility for crowd control nor of the actions of school representatives, including spectators. The Board of Directors shall have full authority over all schools, their representatives and spectators and shall have full authority, at its sole discretion, to penalize any school, any of whose representatives or spectators may be adjudged upon competent evidence to have violated these obligations.
- 9.03 Housing accommodations, transportation, meals and incidental expenses shall be the responsibility of participating squads, except that all squads not commuting from their home towns for each day's competition schedule must stay in LSA-approved lodging facilities.
- 9.04 Schedules for the state competition will be posted on luthsports.org approximately seven days prior to the competition.
- 9.05 Members and squads must comply with the eligibility rules of their own league(s), tournament(s), competition(s) and the state competition.
- 9.06 These state competition rules will not operate to make a member or squad eligible for other league(s), tournament(s) or competition(s) when such member or squad would be ineligible under the rules of such other league(s), tournament(s) or competition(s). The rules of other league(s), tournament(s) or competitions will not operate to make a member or squad eligible for the state competition when such member or squad would be ineligible under state competition rules.
- 9.07 Requests for granting of exceptions to published rules must be submitted in writing to all members of the LSA Board of Directors no less than fifteen (15) days prior to the date by which a ruling on such request is required. Rulings by the Board of Directors are final.