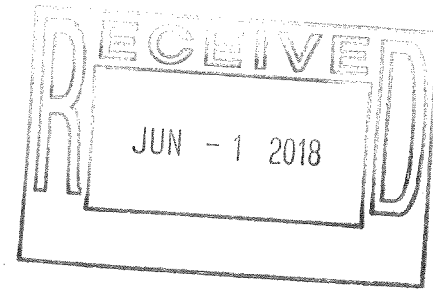


NORTH DAKOTA CHEER COACH ASSOCIATION



May 20th, 2018

NDHSAA Board of Directors:

The main goal of the North Dakota Cheer Coach Association is to promote and support safe cheerleading which is done by following the National Federation Spirit Rules and Rule Book. All head cheer coaches, whether a stunt certified coach or not; as well as any assistant coach that wishes to be certified, must attend a Rules meeting, and pass the annual Spirit Rules test. We believe that this helps reinforce the goal of safe cheer and compliance with the Spirit Rules book. Billie Ann Caya, the Spirit Rules Interpreter for the state, also sends out emails with updates, information and other information that cheer coaches may need. If instances of infractions are reported to her, she does contact that coach, and has in certain situations also contacted that school's AD/Principal.

In spite of all of the above, there is still non-compliance of the rules throughout the year. We don't know if this is lack of knowledge, or if the coach believes that she/he can still be safe even if not following the rules. Many coaches that do follow the rules question why these rules are not enforced, especially at state, regional and district tournaments. Some of the reported rule infractions at these events are artificial noisemakers (legal outdoors, but NOT indoors); mascots that are not bona fide members of their high school—adults are not legal; jewelry being worn, and others. For example, for several years, at the state hockey tournament, students have 2 signs—1 in each hand—that they bang together throughout the hockey game—and nothing is done.

Because of this, NDCCA Board of Directors is asking that there is one person that is designated at each regional and state tournament that will be in charge of enforcing these rules, and letting those people know that they must cease the action. It does not have to be a NDHSAA Director, but can be a cheer coach or person that is approved by Billie Ann Caya, our state's Spirit Rule Interpreter. Bismarck already does have a designated person for any tournament held there, so it would just be adding the other cities that host regional and state tournaments.

We would very much appreciate this addition, as again, our main purpose is safety of North Dakota's cheerleaders. Thank you.

Audrey Lenz, President,
North Dakota Cheer Coach Association