

# CHEERLEADING FORMAT

## Effective 2017 - 2018

### CHEERING DIRECTOR:

Mrs. Libby Shepherd  
122 Westgate Drive  
Wheeling, WV 26003

Cell: 304-280-5862  
e-mail: libbyshep@aol.com

### 2018 CHAMPIONSHIP DATE:

Saturday, February 3, 2018  
WesBanco Arena  
Wheeling, WV

### FUTURE DATES:

February 2, 2019  
February 1, 2020  
February 6, 2021  
February 5, 2022  
February 4, 2023

### MANDATORY MEETING:

There will be a mandatory meeting for all head cheering coaches on **SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2017, at 2:00PM** at WesBanco Arena, Wheeling, WV. **This competition is sanctioned by the WVSSAC. Schools not in attendance will have to pay a \$100.00 penalty. Furthermore, any school absent will be accorded the number one slot in order of performance. Should more than one school in any given class not be in attendance, those schools will be randomly drawn for the first spots. [3.06.06]**

1. A **forty dollar (\$40) entry fee** is required to participate. Coaches should check with their athletic director to confirm payment.

2. Five (5) judges and two (2) safety judges will be used to determine the winners in all classes.

3. All squads are to have a coach in attendance at all times.

4. Squad size **CANNOT** exceed fifteen (15) members, including mascot, and two (2) coaches. Any alternates must pay the gate price.

5. One performance will be done for judging. During this time, which is **NOT TO EXCEED THREE (3) MINUTES**, squads must incorporate cheers (**a 30-second minimum continuous cheer must be utilized which involves the crowd**), dances, and sidelines in any manner. (03.12.13)

**Squads must have a minimum of eight 8-counts of dance incorporated in the routine with no tumbling or jumps.** (06.14.17)

The following rules must be followed:

a. Walk onto the floor and assume starting position. No spiriting onto the floor.

b. Timing will begin with either an arm drop or a musical note.

c. Squads may use signs, banners, megaphones, poms, and/or flags in their cheer routine.

d. Signs, props, **BALLOONS**, and/or banners are not permitted in the crowd. **ANY SCHOOL HAVING THESE WILL HAVE 25 POINTS DEDUCTED FROM THEIR TOTAL.**

e. Two (2) full squad synchronized jumps must be done during the performance.

f. Partner stunts, pyramids, mounts, knee drops, and seat drops (also called suicides and flippies), are not permitted.

g. **ANYTHING questionable in your routine should be checked by the safety judge prior to the competition. Inappropriate or suggestive gestures will result in penalty points. Coaches will be required to sign a sheet confirming that everything in the routine conforms to the guidelines established.** (03.12.13)

h. Gymnastics may be used.

i. No jewelry or glitter is permitted, even if it is not visible.

j. Hair must be up and off the shoulders. No nails can extend beyond the tip of the finger.

k. Each squad must have a designated person to start and stop the music. No one else will handle your CD.

l. Time violations, and rules' infractions will result in a scoring deduction of twenty-five (25) points per infraction. This will be subtracted from the final score.

m. Cheers cannot contain any negative words, unacceptable connotations, or ANY REFERENCE TO PAST CHAMPIONSHIP WINS. Schools that violate this will have fifty (50) points deducted from their score.

n. No restarts will be permitted unless there are technical difficulties with the sound system or a serious injury occurs.

6. This is a varsity competition, but you may add JV members ONLY in the event of an injury whereby a varsity member cannot compete. Teams are permitted to have a designated competition squad, however, this squad must be selected by **DECEMBER 1, 2017**, and mailed to Libby Shepherd to count. **[NOTE: This list is to be signed by both the athletic director and the principal.]** If the list is not submitted to Libby Shepherd by this date, the school will be ineligible to compete. As this is a cheerleading competition, all squad members must have cheered on a football and/or basketball squad during the current year.

7. The entire squad must participate throughout the entire performance except in cases of illness, injury, or emergency. Any squad that does not follow this rule will be disqualified.

8. Unsportsmanlike conduct **WILL NOT BE TOLERATED**. Disciplinary action will be taken by the OVAC Executive Board on any school that fails to exercise good sportsmanship.

9. There will be a short coaches' meeting prior to the competition to be announced by the directors.

Competition order: 1A mat/1A no mat  
2A no mat/2A mat  
3A mat/3A no mat  
Awards for 1A, 2A, 3A  
4A no mat/4A mat  
5A mat/5A no mat  
Awards for 4A, 5A

**NOTE: Divisions may be combined due to number of schools competing.**

10. There will be a practice area for warm-ups. The main floor will be used only for music checks.

11. Championship and runner-up awards will be presented the day of the competition.

12. The 27th Annual OVAC Cheering Scholarships will be given to two (2) cheerleaders (\$1500 and \$500). Guidance counselors must send recommendations for this honor to Libby Shepherd on the date specified on the application. These forms will be posted on the web site ([www.ovac.org](http://www.ovac.org)) and sent to the guidance counselors the first of March. In order to be eligible for the scholarships, **a school must have competed in the competition and sold TWO full page ads for the program.**

13. The OVAC Cheering Competition will follow National Federation Rules. Schools who do not have a copy of these rules need to obtain one:

National Federation of State High School Associations  
P. O. Box 690  
Indianapolis, IN 46206  
Phone: 317-972-6900  
FAX: 317-822-5700  
[www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org)

14. In the event of a tie at the end of the judging, the following tie-breakers will be used:

- 1). highest score on cheering fundamentals (25)
- 2). overall effect (10)

15. **NOTE:** In order to be a member of the All-Star Cheering Team or be awarded a scholarship, a school must compete in the OVAC cheering competition that calendar year.

16. **ADMISSION FEE:** There will be an admission fee charged as follows:

Adults: \$6.00  
Students: \$4.00

**UPDATED: 06.14.17**

**CHEERING COMMITTEE:**

Libby Shepherd, Director  
Tom Rataiczak, Executive Secretary/  
Treasurer

Nadeana Cook, Safety Judge  
Shawn Tomlan, St. Clairsville (OH)  
Shawna Shepherd, Wheeling Park (WV)  
Vicki Lohr, Monroe Central (OH)  
Danielle Varner, Clay-Battelle (WV)  
April Giesey, Shenandoah (OH)  
Marcie Robbins, John Marshall (WV)  
Amie Cope, Crestview (OH)

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