

Allen County Fair Cheerleading Competition

OFFICIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

ELIGIBILITY & CLASSIFICATION

All contestants must be currently enrolled in an accredited high school (9th-12th grade) or jr. high school (6th - 8th grade) to be eligible to compete. ONLY students who will be enrolled for the '08-'09 school year will be permitted to participate. **Contestants may be male or female. Contestants have to be CHEERLEADERS and members of their schools cheerleading squad in order to compete in the Cheerleading Competition.**

Each school may enter one (1) squad in the High School Division and one (1) squad in the Junior High Division only. Each squad must have a minimum of four (4) members. All squad members must be of high school or junior high age. *No individual cheerleader may compete in more than one division.* Mascots are welcome to perform with their squads.

All contestants shall be certified by the schools superintendent/principal. Entry blanks shall be signed by the Superintendent/Principal as well as the Cheerleading Advisor. **All cheerleaders must sign a Release of Liability form in order to be eligible to participate.** These rules can be modified at any time by the Allen County Agricultural Society and/or Fair Manager at their discretion.

ENTRIES

An entry fee of \$10/squad is required to enter the contest. Please make checks payable to: Allen County Fair.

Entries are limited to the first fifteen (15) entries in the High School Division and the first six (6) entries in the Junior High Division received before the deadline of Friday, June 27th, 2008. After the deadline, entries will be accepted regardless of division until the squad limit is met.

The Allen County Agricultural Society has sole discretion to modify the number of accepted entries and the deadline of accepted entries at any time. Mail entries to: Allen County Fair Cheerleading Competition, 2750 Harding Highway, Lima, Ohio 45804.

SAFETY

The overall safety of the performance of each squad shall be evaluated by the judges at all times. The use of mini-tramps, knee drops, slam splits, drop splits or toe pitches are NOT permitted. ABSOLUTELY NO PYRAMIDS OR MOUNTS ARE PERMITTED. Individuals may not stand or sit on another's shoulders or support another individual in any type of mount. Any school doing a mount as part of their routine will be automatically disqualified. If, in the opinion of the judges, any portion of the performance is considered hazardous, a maximum of up to twenty (20) points may be assessed by each judge. **Emphasis should be on cheer ability. Tumbling and gymnastics are permitted.** Due to safety regulations, banners, balloons, streamers, and confetti are not permitted in the grandstand and may be means for your school's disqualification.

PERFORMANCE

Each squad will be assigned an *estimated* appearance time. All squads will be advised as to this time prior to the competition. Order of performance is determined by drawing. Since there is a possibility of squad cancellations, time schedules may be moved ahead. All squads should be ready to perform if called early. Squads not appearing when called upon are eligible for a ten (10) point penalty. The contest will begin promptly at 7:00 PM. In case of inclement weather, it may be necessary to start early, relocate, postpone or cancel this competition

All squads must register when they arrive with the coordinator of the show, but no later than 15 min. prior to the contest starting time.

An adult must remain with the squads at all times.

All contestants must appear in the appropriate uniform of their respective schools.

The contest will be on the staged area located on the track directly in front of the grandstand, weather permitting. A 60' X 60' staging area will be marked, however squads are not required to remain in this area during their performance. The actual size of the regulation floor cheer mat is 42' X 42'.

Total performance time shall be a maximum of four (4) minutes.

Timing will begin at the start of the music for the fight song. Nothing done prior to the beginning of the fight song will be judged. **Time will stop when the team captain gives an ending signal, or the final formation is held.** A spirited exit is allowed and will not be timed or judged.

Props may be put in place as soon as the squad performing before you has left the staging area.

There will be a *one point* penalty for *each second* over the four (4) minute time limit which is deducted from the final total score.

At least one cheer must include the school name, abbreviated name or team name.

MUSIC

All squads are required to begin with a routine performed to their school fight song. Failure to do so will result in your teams disqualification. An additional pom-pom/dance routine is permitted. Each group must provide their own CD. A sound system will be provided and music will be played through the grandstand speaker system. CD's should be of good quality and loudness. CD's must be ready to play when brought to the table. Each group must furnish one (1) person to start and stop the CD. The representative must remain at the table during the performance, then remove the CD upon completion of the routine. The Allen County Agricultural Society or its representatives will not be responsible for any malfunctioning CD's or CD's of poor quality.

CASSETTE TAPES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED and 25 points will be deducted from the final score if a cassette tape is used .

JUDGING

The contest will be judged by a panel of (3) qualified judges. Each judge will score all areas of the competition. The total score of all (3) judges will be added together to determine the final placings. In the case of a tie within the top four (4) squads, those whose scores are tied will be asked to repeat their performance for review by the judges. All ties shall then be broken by the judges. The judges may confer from time to time during the judging of the competition. The decision of the judges will be final. The basis for judging is shown on the enclosed score sheet. All tabulations of scores will be done by three official tabulators to insure accuracy of the scores.

WINNERS & AWARDS

Placings of the top five (5) squads for the Junior high division and the top eight (8) squads for the high school division will be announced as soon after the completion of the contest as scores can be tabulated. Trophies, ribbons, and medals will be presented at this time. A Spirit Award will be given to the most spirited school as determined by the judges. A copy of each squad's score sheets will be available at the conclusion of the awards presentation.

ADMISSION

Cheerleaders and advisors will be admitted to the fairgrounds free of charge the day of the contest. A letter of admission will be mailed to each advisor prior to the fair. This letter must be presented at Gate#3 upon arrival. Those entering any other gate besides the designated gate will have to pay admission to the fair.

Due to safety concerns and for the safety of all fair patrons, no air horns, cow bells, posters, signs, banners, foam fingers, etc. will be permitted in the Grandstand during the entire competition. If these items are seen or heard they will be confiscated and you will be removed. In addition, your school will be deducted 25 points from their final score.