



Florida High School Athletic Association

## Board of Directors Meeting – Agenda Item

Site: FHSAA Robert W. Hughes Building Date: Sept. 27-28, 2009

Check One: Action:

Discussion:  
Information:  
Presentation:

### Topic (brief descriptive statement):

Divisions

### Detailed Information (background, observations, etc.):

We are the only sport that does not divide their state champions by the size of their school. Although there are a handful of small schools that may perform well, the larger schools are clearly at an unfair advantage because of the size of their student body. Our classification system simply doesn't provide a level playing field. Many small schools are being discouraged from competing because of the divisions. This would not be done in any other sport, so why should we do it in cheerleading?

### Recommendation(s):

Now that we have run this event for two years, we have some data about the schools that enter and the divisions that we can make. We can divide schools by enrollment, regardless of squad size (like is done at several other statewide competitions and is already done in our non-tumbling and coed divisions).

- All Girl Small Schools: less than 800 students
- All Girl Medium Schools: 801-1800
- All Girl Large Schools: 1801-2200
- All Girl XL Schools: 2201 and up
- Non-Tumbling
- Small Coed (up to 4 males)
- Large Coed (more than 4 males)

We should also reserve the right to possible combine or split divisions. For example, for the 2009 State Championship in which 50 teams entered the Non-Tumbling Division, we could have easily made a "small non-tumble" and a "large non-tumble". However, for the 2008 Championships in which we only had about 10 competing, we would have just had one division. Please see the attached spreadsheet to see a sample of how this current year would have worked.

### Rationale:

Several things would be accomplished:

1. True State Champions would be crowned
2. Division sizes would be much more evenly distributed
3. Teams, coaches and the FHSAA would not need to worry about squads that change in numbers because that would not change their divisions
4. We would be competing against schools of our own enrollment size
5. Judges are already judging squads of different sizes in the non-tumbling, small co-ed and large co-ed divisions

6. Encourage more teams to participate  
Qualified judges can score according to squad size; for example, 50% squad tumbling on a team of 20 means 10 tumblers whereas on a team of 12 it means 6 tumblers. They know what pyramids can be built with 20 verses 12 and approximately how many flyers can be in the air.

**Alternative(s) to Recommendation(s):**

**The recommendation was amended as follows:** FHSAA to create divisions based on school enrollment. However, the school will have the option to compete as tumbling squad, a non-tumbling squad or a co-ed squad. Therefore, there would be a maximum of 5 divisions, which are as follows: 1A Non-Tumbling (All Girl – Max 26 female squad members), 2A Non-Tumbling (All Girl – Max 26 female squad members), 1A Tumbling (All Girl – Max 26 female squad members), 2A Tumbling (All Girl – Max 26 female squad members) and Co-Ed (1 or more boys on a squad, max 26 squad members). The FHSAA Staff is to determine the 1A and 2A Classifications following the same guidelines it uses for all other FHSAA sports, based on school enrollment and number of teams competing. The target date for this recommendation would be effective for the 2010-11 school year so the recommendation could be read and acted upon by the Athletic Directors Advisory Committee as well as the FHSAA Board of Directors at least once. **This amended recommendation is to be fast-tracked.**

The Panel voted to approve the recommendation 5-0-4 (Motion: Sanzari, Second: Robinson). 4 panel members abstained from voting.

**Data Source:**

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CCAP 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Approved 5-0-4 (Motion: Sanzari, Second: Robinson – 4 members abstained)  
ADAC 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Endorsed 12-0 (Motion: Robinson, Second: Ninestine) FT Endorsed 12-0 (Motion: Ninestine, Second: Robinson)  
FHSAA Board of Directors Action:

- TiAnne Starke, Newberry HS
- Christina Bohler, Indian Rock Christian
- Kim Morales, Florida Chrisitan
- Jen Martin, Coral Springs Christian
- Eula Walker, Florida High
- Rose Gleichowski, P.K. Yonge

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Individual(s) Submitting Item

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*Rose Gleichowski, P.K. Yonge*  
Signature

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FHSAA Staff Member Presenting Item

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*Jamie Rohrer*  
Signature