



2019 FHSA Competitive Cheerleading Championships

Kellie Doucette, Administrator



2018-19 Sport Season

The 2018-19 Competitive sport season dates:

October 15, 2018-February 1, 2019

Note: If your team wishes to compete at the National High School Cheerleading Championships February 8-10, 2019 your AD must submit a request for a season extension to me in writing if they have not done so already.



State Finals

The 2019 FHSAA Competitive Cheerleading State Championships will be held at:

University of Florida

Exactech Arena

at the Stephen C. O'Connell Center

205 Gale Lemerand Dr.

Gainesville, FL 32611



State Finals

- Tickets are \$12.
- Tickets will also be available on Ticketmaster, the link is on the cheer page for the website.
- Children 3 and under will be admitted free
- There is no charge for parking.
 - There will be designated parking areas for all cars and buses.



State Finals/Parking

- You will need to build in approximately 10-15 minutes of walk time to get from parking to the arena.
- You can drop off athletes and spectators at the door then proceed to the designated parking areas.
- There will be staff in the designated lots to assist you with parking on both Thursday and Friday.
- A link to the map for parking can be found on the cheer page of the FHSAA website.



Accommodations

- If you have not already done so, please see the list of participating hotels that was provided by the host organization.
- This list can be found on the Competitive Cheer page of the FHSAA website.



Check In

- Team check will be for head coaches only and will be at the Administration Gate located right next to the parking garage.
- You will need to check in at least an hour before your scheduled team photo time.
- Check in is for coaches only, your team will not be permitted at check in, they must enter at Gate 1.
- You will review your Pass Gate List and sign for your wristbands, you can distribute the wristbands accordingly outside of the check in area.



Check In

- Your team will need to wait outside while you check in, then you will meet your team outside and distribute wristbands and everyone will enter through Gate 1.
- There are security features at check in which include a bag check and Walk Thru Metal Detectors.
- Every person who comes in to the O'Connell Center will be subject to these security measures every time they enter the building.
- This will add time to your arrival, please plan accordingly.
- No outside food will be allowed. Athletes will be allowed a water bottle.



Check In

- Teams and assistant coaches will need to wait outside check in for you to get their wristbands, then everyone will enter through Gate 1.
- The coach's check in process is very quick, they won't be out there long.
- Everyone will go through the metal detector and their bags will be searched (this includes spectators so please let your parents know as this will add time to their entry).



Concourse Area

- When teams are up on the concourse level before going to warm-ups they cannot crowd the hallways stretching, stunting and warming up.
- The only approved surfaces in the building for stunting are the performance surface and the warm-up area. Please do not stunt in the building outside of these two designated areas.
- Teams cannot congregate (either with their bodies or their belongings) in front of doors or hallway entrances as it is a safety hazard. We will have additional Lobby space open at Gate 4 where teams can go before they go to warm-ups.
- Please do not let your team enter a room just because the door is unlocked. We must be respectful of other things (like classes and meetings) that are happening at the O'Connell Center. The Venue will do their best to post as many signs as possible to assist.



Spectator Tickets

- Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$12.
- Tickets can be purchased on Ticketmaster for \$12, the link will be on the cheer page of the website.
- Children 3 and under will be admitted free.
- No outside food or drink will be permitted in the venue.
- Coaches and participants will only be admitted for free on the day they are scheduled to compete.
- Spectator re-entry will be permitted throughout each day, as long as spectators keep their wristband on and in tact.
- All spectators will have to pass through the security procedures (metal detector and bag screening) each time they enter the building.

Finalized Schedule

- The finalized schedule will be posted on the cheer page of the FHSAA website.
- The schedule for finals will be posted on the cheer page of the FHSAA website and on monitors in the lobby, there will not be a printed hard copy of the schedule for the final round.



Pass Gate List (PGL)

- Each team will be required to complete a PGL prior to their arrival at UF.
- Each head coach advancing from regionals to any level of the state competition will be required to complete the PGL and fax or email it to the FHSAA office no later than the Wednesday after their respective regional competition. Directions for return are on the bottom of the form.
- Emailed rosters not on the PGL form, pictures and Google docs will not be accepted.

Pass Gate List (PGL) cont'd.

- Each team will be allotted the max number of participants for their division plus 6 (six) additional team personnel.
- Additional team personnel consists of all coaches (head and assistant), team alternates, and school personnel including but not limited to Athletic Trainers, administrators, etc.
- The UF staff will use the Pass Gate List to issue wrist bands upon check-in.
- All team members and additional team personnel (coaches, alternates and school personnel), that the head coach wishes to have in the warm up area, must have a wrist band.



Pass Gate List (PGL) cont'd.

- You are permitted to fill all lines on your pass gate list. If you do not have the max number of participants in your division, you may use the unused spots for additional personnel you wish to have in warm ups.
- It is not required that you fill all the lines, they are there if you need them. If you do not fill all the lines, just leave them blank.
- The head coach is responsible for all team and school personnel while in the warm up area.
- You will only need one Pass Gate List; if you check in for semis and your team advances to the finals, you will not need another Pass Gate List for finals.



Pass Gate List Cont'd.

- Please list team members and additional 6 (six) team personnel (i.e. alternates, coaches, school personnel) alphabetically by last name.
- It is not necessary for you to put your ADs or administration on your PGL unless you would like them in warm-ups with you.
- ADs and school administration can use their State Series Pass for free entry into the event.
- Please scan and email (kdoucette@fhsaa.org) or fax (352-244-5046) your Pass Gate List on or before the Wednesday after your regional.



Warm-Ups

- Only those team members, coaches and school personnel with wrist bands will be permitted in the warm-up area.
- Please report to the Team Escort table located near Vomitory 15 (near Gate 3) to meet your Team Escort approximately 5-10 minutes before your scheduled picture time.
- Team pictures will be located in the Gate 3 Lobby area and will be taken first before your team starts to warm up.
- Please do not leave personal belongings in the warm-up area as you will not be returning to this area.
- In order for warm-ups to run smoothly, all teams must be on time.
- A sound system will be provided, however it is not guaranteed. In the event the sound system in warm-ups malfunctions you may want to bring a back-up sound system.



Warm-Ups

- There will be a running clock, that means if you want your full 8 minutes, you should move right from your picture to the warm up area and be ready to take the mat AS SOON as your time starts.
- In order to stay on time, warm up times will begin at the time designated on the schedule. The warm-up director will not wait for you to be set up and then begin your 8 minutes.



Warm-Ups

- **YOU WILL HAVE ONE EIGHT (8) MINUTE WARM UP BLOCK!** You **WILL NOT** have two separate warm up times like you did at regionals.
- You will have a **single 8 minute warm-up block** for the coach to warm up their team as they see fit.
- If you have checked in and you miss your warm up you will not compete and you will be subject to a \$250 Failure to Appear fine, we will not move your team because you missed warm ups.
- If an emergency arises after you check in, please ask anyone with a walkie-talkie to find me.
- If you had a team picture prior to semis you do not need another one, everyone is scheduled for one prior to finals to accommodate the teams advancing from regionals directly to finals.



Priority Viewing

- Priority viewing will be available on the floor off to each side of the center of the mat for family and friends.
- This is also where alternates and ALL coaches not running the music will sit.
- Coaches are not permitted in the blocked off center isle as it obstructs the judge's view.
- Even if you are just crouched down under the rope you will be asked (even if it's during your team's performance) to move in to the designated area.
- This is so that the judges have a completely unobstructed view of the entire floor. Being the coach does not make you invisible, you are still obstructing the judges view even if you are the coach.
- Please assist us with your compliance. I understand you want a great view of your team, but so do the judges 😊



Priority Viewing

- All spectators wishing to utilize the Priority Viewing Area will be required to come down to the floor through Sections 9 or 11 and exit through the Zone 1 hallway so that it creates a smooth flow and transition between teams.
- It does not matter if someone is sitting in the first row, **EVERYONE** will be asked to follow this path! Please prepare your parents and spectators for this.
- The first few rows in sections 9 and 11 will be reserved for people waiting to enter the priority viewing area. Again, we ask you to prepare your parents for this so that there is no confusion on the day of the event.



Rules and Regulations

- It is the responsibility of the head coach to be familiar with, and be sure your routine complies with, all NFHS Spirit rules.
- Teams that perform illegal skills during the competition will be penalized, even if the infraction has been performed but not caught at a previous competition.
- Please be sure that all jewelry is removed, **it cannot be taped over.** If the judges see jewelry from the judges platform, there will be no warning, it will be a point deduction.
- Please remember that an athlete wearing a boot cannot stunt, jump or tumble. If they are wearing any other type of brace or apparatus, you may have it checked with the legality judge to avoid any penalty.



Rules and Regulations

- Per policy 4.4.1.1.1f; a violation of general rules will result in a two (2) point deduction per violation. A violation of safety regulations will result in a five (5) point deduction per violation.
- The FHSAA does not review video of any performance.
- Per Article 8.1.2 of the FHSAA Operational Bylaws, any decision made by a contest official shall not be contested. The decisions of the contest officials are final.



Music

- You are responsible for your own music.
- The head coach, or their designee, will be responsible for playing your own routine music.
- There will be a sound system that accommodates iPhones/iPods or other MP3 players.
- **IPHONE ADAPTERS WILL NOT BE PROVIDED, YOU MUST BRING YOUR OWN!**
- If your phone causes an interruption during the performance your team will not re-perform their routine.
- Please see FHSAA Administrative Procedure 4.4.2.4.2(b) Interruption of Performance. The Administrative Procedures are located in the coaches manual, under the 'manual' tab on the cheer page of the FHSAA website.
- You will have an unobstructed view of your team from the sound area.



Athletic Trainers

- Athletic Trainers will be available for emergency purposes only.
- If an athlete needs to be taped, they may be available but tape will not be provided.
- Please be advised that it is not guaranteed that the Athletic Trainers will be available to tape athletes as the number of athletes may prohibit that.

Advancement of teams

- We will advance 1 team for every 3 competing in the semi-final round to the final round.
- For example, if there are 11 teams in the semi-final round, we will advance 3 teams to the final round ($11/3=3.66$; as we do not round up 3 teams will advance).
- The teams who automatically advanced to finals from regionals will not impact the number of teams advancing from semis to finals.



Finals

- Finals are clean slate, scores do not carry over from semis.
- All participating coaches will have to draw for their order of competition.
- Please meet at the judge's platform on the exit side of the stage.
- Times to draw for order are on the next slide. Please write down this time, it will not be sent out again.



Times for drawing order

- Thursday 1A:

- Small: 1:30 pm
- Small Non-Tumbling: 1:35 pm
- Medium: 1:40 pm
- Medium Non-Tumbling: 1:45 pm
- Large: 1:50 pm
- Large Non-Tumbling: 1:55 pm
- Extra Large: 2:00 pm
- XL Non-Tumbling: 2:05 pm
- Medium Co-Ed: 2:10 pm

- Due to the tight schedule, if you are not present at the time of the drawing for your division, you will be assigned whichever number place is left after everyone else draws.

- Friday 2A:

- Small: 1:30 pm
- Small Non-Tumbling: 1:35 pm
- Medium: 1:40 pm
- Medium Non-Tumbling: 1:45 pm
- Large: 1:50 pm
- Large Non-Tumbling: 1:55 pm
- Extra Large: 2:00 pm
- XL Non-Tumbling: 2:05 pm
- Small Co-Ed: 2:10 pm
- Large Co-Ed: 2:15 pm

- Due to the tight schedule, if you are not present at the time of the drawing for your division, you will be assigned whichever number place is left after everyone else draws.



Awards Procedure

- Before awards your teams will be called to meet upstairs in the warm up area and will come down following the same path they took to perform.
- IMMEDIATELY after awards are over they will follow the same path they did after they performed up to the Gate 3 where they can then make their way to the lobby to meet their family and friends.



Awards Procedure

- Immediately after awards, athletes and coaches will exit up to Gate 3, they will not be permitted to cross over into the crowd to meet friends and family.
- Spectators will be separated from the athletes on the performance floor and no one will be permitted to cross from one side to the other.
- We will definitely need your assistance with this.
- Please prepare your athletes and families that after awards everyone must meet in the Gate 1 Lobby, or outside the venue and not meet on the performance floor.

Awards

- As in years past, the top two teams in the state will receive a trophy and individual medals.
- We will only present the trophy and give the coach their team medals.
- We will present the team trophy to the coach and team together.

Awards

- I will go over the awards procedures with the coaches of the advancing teams when you come to draw for order of competition.
- Someone will also conduct a brief meeting with the team captains while the staff is getting everyone ready for awards and briefly review the procedure with them.
- This meeting may take place up in the warm up area when they are getting ready to come down for awards or it may be on the performance area.



Event Information

- Event merchandise will be available from Team IP, the official vendor for the FHSAA.
- Main Light Events is our official photographer, they will be taking team photos and action shots throughout semis and finals.
- Main Light will be selling a USB drive with all of your pictures for \$200.
- If you have concerns about the media present on competition day, please locate our media representative, Danielle Hogle. Danielle will be present both Thursday and Friday.



Concession Stands

- Concession stands will be open at the main entrance to the arena.
- No outside food will be permitted inside the arena. This will be strictly enforced.
- Water and Gatorade will be provided in the warm-up and performance area.



Coaches Presentation

- All head coaches are required to view this presentation. You will receive credit for viewing this presentation once you send me your Pass Gate List. If you have already sent it in, no need to resend it but you are responsible for knowing the content of this power point.
- Sending your Pass Gate List is a certification that you have read this presentation.
- Your Pass Gate List can be faxed to me a 352-244-5046 or emailed to me at kdoucette@fhsaa.org
- Pictures and/or Google docs of your PGL will not be accepted.



Thank you and good luck!

CONGRATULATIONS ON BEING A PART OF THE 2019
FHSAA COMPETITIVE CHEERLEADING CHAMPIONSHIPS!

If you need anything, please do not hesitate to contact:

Kellie Doucette, Director of Athletics for Competitive
Cheerleading

kdoucette@fhsaa.org

352-372-9551 ext. 450