2019-20 Sport Season

The 2019-20 Competitive sport season dates:

October 14, 2019-February 1, 2020

Note: If your team wishes to compete at the National High School Cheerleading Championships February 7-9, 2020 your AD must submit a request for a season extension to me in writing if they have not done so already.
State Finals

The 2020 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 on Friday.
State Finals/Parking

• Friday, you will need to build in approximately 10-15 minutes of walk time to get from parking to the arena.

• Athletes and spectators can be dropped off at the door then drivers can proceed to the designated parking areas.

• There will be staff in the designated lots to assist you with parking Friday.

• A link to the map for parking can be found on the cheer page of the FHSAA website.

• Saturday there will be no parking restrictions.
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 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 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 intact.
- 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 performance order for finals has already been determined. The schedule for finals with all team names will be posted on the FHSAA website and will be displayed on monitors throughout the lobby.
Pass Gate List (PGL)

• Each team will be required to complete a PGL prior to their arrival at UF.

• Each head coach has already submitted a PGL prior to the regional competition.

• The FHSAA will use the same PGL for states that was used for regionals.

• If you need to make changes you may make those changes and send in an updated PGL as soon as possible after your regional competition.
Pass Gate List (PGL) cont’d.

- Upon arrival at check-in, no edits and no additions to the PGL will be accepted.
- Additional wristbands will not be distributed.
- If someone breaks a wristband, they may exchange the broken one for a new one at team check in. They must have the broken one to exchange, do not throw it away!
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 have to compete with no warm-up or not compete, we will not move your team because you missed warm-ups.

• If you check in but do not compete your school will be subject to a $250 Failure to Appear fine.

• 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.
- 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.
- Spectators who are rude or use abusive language towards the O’Connell Center staff because they feel they do not need to comply with this traffic flow will be removed from the facility.
- 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.
Priority Viewing/Coaches

• Please do not block any portion of the center isle, this applies to coaches as well as alternates.
• This is to provide a completely unobstructed view of the whole floor, corner to corner, for the judges.
• Just because you are a coach does not mean you can sit inside the blocked off area, being a coach does not make you see through 😊
• The first two rows on each side of the priority viewing area will be reserved for coaches.
• If you opt to sit on the floor, you must do so inside the ropes.
Priority Viewing/Coaches

• If you are asked to move inside the ropes, you as the coach, are required to do so.
• Being a coach does not give you permission to disregard the request of the facility staff.
• If you are asked to move and you do not, or you only scoot over a fraction of an inch but are still outside the ropes, you will be issued an Unsportsmanlike Conduct fine.
• If you receive a fine, it is because I saw someone ask you to move and I saw you disregard them and not move inside the viewing area.
Priority Viewing/Coaches

• Please do not run on to the mat from the viewing area after your team is finished performing.
• Please meet them off the mat after they have exited the performance surface.
• Even if you are super excited, as the adult in charge, you are expected to remember this ☺

Florida High School Athletic Association
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 judge's platform, there will be no warning, it will be a point deduction.

• Please remember that an athlete wearing a walking boot or plaster cast cannot stunt, toss, 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.

• We will no longer draw for order of performance.

• The random function in excel will be used to randomize the teams participating.

• The schedule will be posted on the website shortly after it is announced who is advancing to finals. We will announce when the schedule is available.

• It is your responsibility to check the website for the schedule and be at warm-ups on time.
Sportsmanship

• Regardless of where your team places, it is expected that they will display good sportsmanship, even if you and your team do not agree with the judges.
• Please assign a senior or a captain to accept the trophy if you are fortunate enough to receive one.
• Failure to accept awards at an FHSAA event will result in an Unsportsmanlike Conduct fine.
• If your team is awarded second place someone MUST stand up and accept the trophy. Please do not be that team that sits there on the mat because they are angry or disappointed while I search for someone to give the trophy to.
• Remind your team, if they place second, there is a third-place team that would have loved to have that trophy!
Awards

• Before awards teams will be called to meet upstairs in the warm-up area and will come down following the same path they took to perform.
• Someone will conduct a brief meeting with the team captains while the staff is getting everyone ready for awards and briefly review the awards 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.
Awards

• Only the top two teams in the state will receive a trophy and individual medals.
• We will only present the trophy and will give the coach their team medals.
• Please designate someone to accept the trophy if you are fortunate enough to receive one.
Awards

• IMMEDIATELY after awards are over teams will follow the same path they did after they performed and go up to Gate 3 where they can then make their way to the lobby to meet their family and friends.

• 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 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.
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.
- If you have concerns about the media present on competition day, please locate our media representative, Danielle Hogle. Danielle will be present both Friday and Saturday.
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.
• There will be no onsite coaches meeting.
• If you have any questions on the day of the event, please come find me at the judges table.
Thank you and good luck!

CONGRATULATIONS ON BEING A PART OF THE 2020 FHSAA COMPETITIVE CHEERLEADING CHAMPIONSHIPS!

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