

meeting MINUTES



april 15, 2009

TOPICS

- ▶ RULES & REGS.
- ▶ SAFETY & TRAINING
- ▶ SCORE SHEETS
- ▶ COMPETITION
- ▶ ADMINISTRATION
- ▶ STUNT GROUPS
- ▶ COMPETITION DATES

In attendance...

Kevin Cady
CENTRAL CHEER OUTLAWS

Sarah Dunn
DYNAMITE CHEER/LINDEAN MEADOWS J.H.

Ashley Prive
MELROSE CHEER

Diane Bernacki
MELROSE CHEER

Carrie Robson
STORM CHEER/U OF M

Nadio El-Gabaway
STORM CHEER/U OF M

Tammy Burke
TRANSCONA NATIONALS/JOHN GUNN J.H.

Andrea James
TRANSCONA NATIONALS

Mandy Figueiredo
GEORGE WATERS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Allison Shaw
GEORGE WATERS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Adrienne Careen
GOLDEN GATE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Stephanie Champagne
GOLDEN GATE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Michelle Morneau
GOLDEN GATE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Shayla Kostiuk
SELKIRK J.H.

Kelly Chin
WESTDALE J.H./OAK PARK H.S.

Nessa Shipley
DAKOTA H.S.

Lori Miller
DAKOTA H.S.

Elana Spence
EDWARD SCHREYER

Chelsie Hendrickson
JOHN TAYLOR COLLEGIATE

Kristy Adamyk
JOHN TAYLOR COLLEGIATE

Charwin Dhal
OAK PARK H.S.

Jenelle Tallas
STURGEON HEIGHTS COLLEGIATE

Kristen Tallas
STURGEON HEIGHTS COLLEGIATE

Carey Hawkins
TEC VOC H.S.

Jen Doran
TEC VOC H.S.

Daniella Ponticelli
VINCENT MASSEY COLLEGIATE

Bailey Martinuk
CHEER X-TREME

Mallory Mitchell
GREEN JACKETS CHEER

Suzy Kotelinsky
WINNIPEG WOLVES

Jenny Sych
WINNIPEG WOLVES

Krista Polowick
AERIALS ELITE/BRUCE MIDDLE
SCHOOL/CHEER X-TREME

RULES & REGULATIONS

Adding Pom category to competition for Open Division

MAC has proposed the idea of adding a pom routine category to the Open Division. This would also allow for Provincial Champion award to be handed out in this division. Winnipeg Wolves, and well as Central Cheer Outlaws/Green Jackets Cheer indicated they have no preference either way. The membership, specifically open teams, expressed they would not be interested in adding pom to the Open Division; therefore, there will be no Pom Category introduced for the Open Division. MAC will award an Overall Champion for each level (Pee Wee, Youth, Varsity, 18+). The winner will be decided by top scores from Icebreaker/Sweetheart carried over, added to the Provincials score. It will be calculated using the same formula used on the school side.

USASF Rules/Level System

USASF have indicated that the limitations imposed by MAC are realistic because the level of training for coaches in Manitoba is not at the same calibre as other provinces. Our coaches are not ready to train, and teams are not ready to perform top level stunts.

Currently there are few USASF certified coaches in Manitoba. For this reason, MAC will not implement a USASF Level System/Rules until more coaches are credentialed and have knowledge of the level system itself. MAC is looking into options for USASF credentialing for coaches in Manitoba, and working with Amanda Epp to possibly offer USASF credentialing within the province. If offered, this program would be at the cost of the individual coaches.

Until there are more Open teams and more certification and training within Manitoba, MAC cannot introduce a level system and will continue as status quo.

Crossover Athletes

At this time, MAC will not be allowing crossover athletes. Athletes are allowed to be on one school based team and one open team. Athletes must also compete at a consistent

level, which means they cannot compete on varsity and youth team in the same season.

The membership has requested that MAC consider the option to allowing crossovers. It is proposed that MAC allow a limited number of athletes to crossover, specifically between co-ed and all-girl teams within the same program (under the same banner). Crossovers would not be allowed between separate programs.

THIS ITEM HAS BEEN TABLED

Falsifying Rosters

This has particularly been a problem amongst 18+ teams. If it is discovered that teams are attempting to compete with ineligible athletes (age/crossover), the music will be turned off during their performance. Please note that teams who attempt to illegal stunts will also be stopped during their performance.

Time Limits on Routines

It was proposed that time limits for Cheer routines be changed to a maximum of 3 minutes and minimum of 2 minutes; however time limits will remain the same for next season. These time limits were originally modified to align with time limits in other provinces.

Age Limits for Categories

It has been proposed that MAC consider revising age restrictions for categories to be more aligned with USASF rules, specifically concerning Open teams, to align with other provinces. MAC has discussed this idea and decided that age limits should remain the same for the following season. The age limits have been set for safety reasons.

MAC was also asked to consider allowing 17 year-olds participate on 18+ teams if special permission is obtained from their legal guardian.

THIS ITEM HAS BEEN TABLED

SAFETY & TRAINING

School Divisions – Safety

This season, MAC was made aware of school teams stunting outside of MAC safety guidelines. While it is up to the school to monitor what their teams are doing, coaches are reminded that the guidelines are in place to comply with School Division and Provincial restrictions. If coaches choose to breach these guidelines, the program may be shut down in that school or school division.

In addition, coaches must take precautions when posting videos and pictures on the internet. If coaches post videos/pictures of teams performing illegal stunts, and it is seen by “the wrong person”, stunting may be shut down in the schools. Please be reminded that there are also legalities around posting pictures of the kids without permission.

These videos are popping up all over the place and ALL COACHES are reminded that in showing illegal stunts or stunts that are not being performed properly does nothing for the credibility of this sport.

Coaches are asked to please work within safety guidelines outlined by MAC, and you will not encounter any problems.

Safety Judging

MAC judges are not officially affiliated with any teams. This means they are not a team member, registered coach,

or advisor; however, our cheerleading community within Manitoba is fairly small and MAC cannot help if the judges are friends with people on any of the teams. Once again, MAC does review score sheets throughout the year and found that judging was as consistent judging ever can be. It was proposed that MAC consider some other resources, specific people, for judging.

THIS ITEM HAS BEEN TABLED

Level II Training for Coaches

The member asked when Level II training for coaches will be implemented because there are some coaches currently stunting outside of their team’s abilities. Level II was implemented over two years ago. This training occurs annually during MAC’s stunt camp. Coaches attend an in-class training session on progression and stunting and must complete a test at the end of the session. MAC cannot police what coaches are doing during their practices.

USASF Credentialing in Manitoba

MAC is researching options for USASF credentialing for in Manitoba, and working with Amanda Epp to possibly offer USASF credentialing within the province. If offered, this program would be at the cost of the individual coaches.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ MAC is looking into USASF credentialing options for coaches in Manitoba.
- ▶ At Provincials, MAC will award an Overall Champion for each level in the Open Division.
- ▶ MAC is reviewing their stance on crossover athletes. Please watch for updates.
- ▶ Warning about falsifying rosters next season.
- ▶ Age limits for Divisions will remain unchanged.
- ▶ Reminder: MAC strongly advises school teams against stunting outside of MAC guidelines.
- ▶ Internet Safety

SCORE SHEETS

Marking System

The membership expressed concerns over how degree of difficulty is reflected on score sheets. MAC reviews score sheets throughout the season and concluded that judges have show consistency on score sheets throughout competitions. Please note that resources for what judges are looking for are available on the MAC website.

THIS ITEM HAS BEEN TABLED

Cheer Component

It has been proposed that MAC eliminate the Cheer requirement in the Cheer Category. While this has been brought up in the past, MAC chose to leave this as a required element. Teams are encouraged to cheer over top of the music if they do not wish to break up the routine, but the cheer is still a judged component in that category.

THIS ITEM HAS BEEN TABLED FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION RE FOR 18+ TEAMS

Props

It was proposed that MAC consider removing the need for props in routines from the score sheets. MAC will be leaving this required element on the score sheets for the time being; however, the element will be adjusted and moved to a different area on the new score sheets.

Appropriateness

It was proposed that MAC remove the Appropriateness category from the score sheets. MAC ensures that a 5/5 should always be given unless there is a reason. Judges are supposed to write reason on score sheets. Coaches have expressed concern because this is not always happening. MAC will address this issue with the judges for next season.

New Score Sheets

MAC is developing new score sheets, similar to USASF score sheets, to address most of these concerns.

COMPETITION

Live Video Feed at Competitions

Open discussion with membership as to whether the live video feed at competition was worthwhile and whether or not we should offer the feed at future competitions. Coaches indicated that they liked the live feed; however, it should be kept minimal and out of the way of teams trying to warm up and prepare to go on the floor.

Further discussion about gym set up lead to a suggestion to flip the gym set-up in the future to decrease the distance to the bathroom. No changes will be made at this time.

Order of Performances

It was proposed the MAC consider having all categories performed together to make the warm-up schedule easier. Currently categories are inter-mixed. MAC will not be changing this format. It is designed this way to allow for a faster flow of performances. Judging is staggered so that there is rarely a break between performances. The warm-up schedule is not priority because the focus is on the flow of actual performances.

Exhibition Performances at Competition

Teams performing exhibition routines during MAC competitions pay a fee of \$10 per person, which is donated to MAC's charity of choice. These teams are chosen on an "as needed" basis and at the discretion of the MAC Executive. Teams are considered for performances when there is not a category in the competition for which they are eligible to compete in. I.e. Dance teams

Format

Friday Night Event - It was proposed that MAC consider holding the Pom category portion of competition on the Friday night before. MAC has considered this idea but does not have the resources or the funds to spread the competition over two days.

Arrival of Open Teams – MAC will make adjustments to the arrival time for Open teams. We will do our best to have

them arrive as close to the end of the morning event as possible, but there will still be some overlap. This concept is still a work in progress for next year.

THIS ITEM HAS BEEN TABLED

Cheer For A Cure

Having this event during a competition takes away from MAC's charity of choice. It will also lengthen what is already a long day. It has also been proposed that this event be hosted as an additional competition but MAC will not be adding another competition to their season at this time.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ MAC is developing new score sheets.
- ▶ Please review changes made to the following deductions:
 - » incomplete twists
 - » 2 1/4 twists
 - » basket tosses
- ▶ MAC is review whether or not the Cheer component should be removed from 18+ Division routines.
- ▶ Exhibition performances will be chosen on an "as needed" basis for a fee that will be donated to MAC's charity of choice.
- ▶ Results of live feed feature during the season.
- ▶ While it is a work in progress, competition format will, for the most part, be the same for next season.

ADMINISTRATION

Forms

Once again, forms have been a problem this season. Forms need to be filled out clearly and completely. If a team has more than one coach, additional coaches' names should be also listed on the membership registration. MAC requires only the primary coach(s) contact information, but all coaches should be listed. The same goes for teaches advisors if there is more than one assigned to a team.

MAC Email Mailing List

Please do not use the MAC email list without permission. The mailing list is a private document.

Letters to MAC

Concern has been expressed over various letters that were sent to the MAC Office and were not responded to. MAC did receive several letters this season. Those that were anonymous were not responded to; however MAC did respond to the coach(s) of the team involved. Issues or concerns should be brought forward to MAC via the team coach(s) who is a registered member.

Accessibility of Information

The membership has requested that information be more accessible to coaches, and suggested that some decisions from last year were not put into place. MAC communicates all decisions to the membership via email and/or message board postings. Some changes that are discussed at meetings are not feasible to implement immediately. There have been many issues over the past year and MAC has been working to resolve them, but implementing changes properly takes time.

Medical Insurance Forms

MAC received a request to have medical insurance forms available on the website; however, MAC cannot have these available for public use. MAC must be able to supervise

medical claims made under our insurance. We need to know how the injury occurred, when it occurred, and where.

MAC has been paying \$500 per year for extra insurance for our Open 18+ teams. Thus far, over \$2000 has been paid out to provide this insurance and only two claims have been made. MAC has suggested that it is therefore not cost effective and has proposed not purchasing this additional insurance for next season. Open 18+ teams would have to ensure that their athletes are insured elsewhere.

Following discussion of this issue, MAC will offer personal accident insurance for 18+ teams for one more year. Teams will not be required to have documentation for additional insurance. If an athlete is injured during a cheerleading practice, event, other cheerleading related event, they are covered for physiotherapy, chiropractic, and massage treatments. In the case of an injury, teams must contact the MAC Office and forms will be sent to service provider from MAC Office.

Voting on Special Exceptions

It was requested that the membership be allowed to vote on special exceptions made throughout the season. This is not something that will be implemented. The purpose of the MAC Executive is to make decisions for special exceptions based on the best interest of all members. It is not necessary to involve all members on such issues.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Incomplete forms will not be accepted.
- ▶ Do not use the MAC mailing list without permission.
- ▶ Medical insurance will be offered to 18+ teams for at least one more year.

STUNT GROUPS

Stunt Groups: Co-Ed

It was proposed that MAC eliminate the Co-Ed Stunt Group category from competition and only offer a Partner Stunt category at the 18+ level. MAC feels the Co-Ed Stunt Group category offers male cheerleaders a safe progression into partner stunting. Many males at the Varsity level are not physically strong enough to learn correct partner stunting techniques during those years, and by continuing to offer the Co-Ed Stunt category MAC provides an option for safe progression into partner stunting.

Open 18+ and University/College Division

It was proposed that MAC combine the Open 18+ and

University/College divisions for the Stunt Group category. No changes will be made to these categories. School-based teams will compete in the morning and the Open Division will compete in the afternoon. The Partner Stunt category will remain a single open category for Open 18+ and University/College Divisions to compete in together.

Provincial Champ Requirements

It was proposed that MAC consider adding the Stunt Group category to the Provincial Champion award requirements. MAC is not willing to add this category because Stunt Group is not a team event. The Provincial Champion award is based on team categories which incorporate participation from the majority of the team members.

2009-2010 COMPETITION DATES

Icebreaker Competition

Sunday December 13, 2009

Sweetheart Competition

Saturday March 13, 2010

Provincials

Saturday April 10, 2010