



# Manitoba Association of CHEERLEADING



## Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2008  
St. James Collegiate

### In attendance:

Memery Miller	ACC	Mallory Mitchell	GREEN JACKETS
Suzy Kotelniski	WINNIPEG WOLVES	Carey Hawkins	TEC VOC HIGH SCHOOL
Jenny Sych	WINNIPEG WOLVES/GREEN JACKETS	Diane Harewood	MELROSE CHEER
Margaret Hawes	JOHN TAYLOR COLLEGIATE	Terri Gobeil	MELROSE CHEER
Chelsie Hendrickson	JOHN TAYLOR COLLEGAITE	Amy Tuckett	WINNIPEG ELITE
Bailey Martinuk	CHEER-X-TREME	Carley English	WINNIPEG ELITE
Chris Schwartz	CHEER-X-TREME	Carrie Robson	WINNIPEG ELITE/U OF M
Patricia Tomczyk	JOHN W. GUNN	Kathryn White	U OF M / NESS
Kirsta Polowick	BRUCE/CHEER-X-TREME/ AERIALS ELITE	Elana Spence	EDWARD SCHREYER
Kerrie Garraway	BRUCE/CHEER-X-TREME	Kelly Chin	WESTDALE/OAK PARK
Jenelle Tallas	STURGEON HEIGHTS	Charwin Dahl	OAK PARK
Kristin Tallas	STURGEON HEIGHTS	David Makonechny	OUTLAWS
Tammy Burke	TRANSCONA NATIONALS	Nessa Shipley	DAKOTA COLLEGIATE
Alison Shaw	GOLDEN GATE	Angela Shiels	GOLDEN GATE
Adrienne Careen	GOLDEN GATE	Nicole Lécuyer	GOLDEN GATE
Sarah Dunn	DYNAMITE/LINDEN MEADOWS	Jenn Doran	TEC VOC HIGH SCHOOL

### Call to order

Patti McNeill called to order the post season meeting of MAC at 7:04 pm on May 14, 2008 at St. James Collegiate.

Patti McNeill read minutes from March 21, 2007 meeting and discussed amendments made regarding basket-tosses at the Youth level.

Approval of March 21, 2007 minutes.

### OLD BUSINESS

- Awards will continue to be handed out in the morning and afternoon of the first two competitions for the 2007-08 season.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Cheer for the Cheer – held May 10, 2008**

- \$4360.82 – raised this year and there was no cost to hold the event.
- Approx. 60 people participated.
- Next year:
  - we would like to have more displays/venues
  - the event will be held in the beginning of January to hopefully increase participation
  - again there will be no stunting. This event is intended to be a “feel good” day, about cheering and working together for a common goal. Also our goal is to keep the event cost-free and it will cost money to bring in mats for stunting.

### **Junior High Basket Tosses**

- Concerns have been raised over the disqualification of a youth team because of a stunt that was interpreted to be a basket-toss by MAC judges.
- We do not go back and check tapes, because we empower our judges to make decisions. All three panel judges and two safety judges thought it was a basket-toss
- The safety issue is based on height and tosses in general. Rules regarding tosses at the youth level have been clarified in the March 21, 2007 minutes and these clarifications will be reflected in the Official Rules for the 2008-2009 season.

### **Form and Registrations**

- For next year, incomplete registration forms will not be accepted. Coaches are to ensure their forms are completed correctly and in full. Teams who have submitted incomplete forms or NSF cheques will not be allowed to participate on the floor at competitions – no exceptions will be made.

### **Standard First-Aid**

- The date for all coaches to have received their Standard First-Aid certification has been extended to Oct. 31 2008.
- If there is enough interest from coaches, MAC will plan a certification session in the fall.

### **\*RULE UPDATE\* Double-Twists**

- Will be allowed at the Varsity level for the 2008-2009 season.
- Coaches are reminded that teams will be deducted for not performing this stunt correctly/safely.
- Double twists can be executed from single and double-based stunts.

### **\*RULE UPDATE\* Visual Shoulder Checks**

- Teams at all levels will no longer be deducted for not visually checking.

### **\*RULE UPDATE\* Gymnastics**

- Gymnastics into prep stunts will be allowed at all levels.

### **Training**

- MAC is willing to make arrangements to provide coaches with more training; however, coaches would be at the cost of the coaches.
- Coaches would be credentialed after completing this training.
- MAC demo team also be available next year.

- Coaches must be aware that they may be required to complete the “Respect in Sport” training course through Sport Manitoba for next year.

**\*RULE UPDATE\* Uniforms**

- Teams will not be deducted for uniforms which contain slippery fabrics; however, a proper cheerleading uniform or athletic apparel must be worn.
- Uniforms which expose midriffs will be allowed for Varsity Open teams. A reminder that 18+ are also allowed to wear this style of uniform.
- **Note:** Uniforms may be deemed as “inappropriate” if skirts are too short, or anything is not considered tasteful/appropriate for the type of event. In this case, marks may be deducted.
- “Spankies” – coaches are asked to make sure participants are wearing proper “spankies” under their uniforms.

**Venue**

- Concerns have been raised over the amount of warm-up time provided and the distance between warm-up and performance time for teams competing. MAC has been unable to find a separate warm-up space close enough to the venue. Cost and staffing a separate warm-up venue was also in issue. The format that has been used also allows teams to watch other teams perform.
- MAC recognizes that the current warm-up format is not suitable, and the following has been proposed for the 2008-2009 season:
  - Investor’s Group Athletic Centre will continue to be used; however, the seating on the participant side will be pushed back to create a warm-up area. The curtain will be dropped to separate this area and matts will be brought in provided.
  - As we move through the day, teams will be called and up according to the schedule for the day and will enter the performance area through a tunnel.
  - In an effort to shorten the day for some teams, the format for performances will be as follows:
    - Morning – Pom, Ground Bound, Stunt, Open Pee Wee, followed by awards for morning performances and a break.
    - Afternoon – Youth/Varsity Cheer, Open Categories, followed by awards.

**Qualified Safety Judges**

- MAC is looking for more safety judges, specifically to judge the 18+ categories.
- MAC is also considering the idea of having multiple safety judges throughout the day.
- Please contact the office if you are not a coach and would be interested in judging.

**Out-Of-Province School Teams**

- Out-of-province school teams will be removed from Open category. They will now compete against other school-based teams; however, they are not eligible to win Provincial Champion awards.

**\*RULE UPDATE\* Beginning Your Routines**

- When beginning a performance, each member of a team must now start with at least one foot on the floor.

**O Canada**

- Coaches and advisors are reminded to encourage their teams to be respectful during our national anthem and to set an example by respectful themselves.

**PCA Message Board**

- There have been messages posted on the PCA message board in regards to the way cheerleading is being run in Manitoba and specific comments made about member of MAC staff. MAC would like to remind people who are posting that if Manitoba wants to be seen as mature and respected by other provinces in this sport, we all need to act that way.
- There have been many issues over the past year and MAC has been working to resolve them, but implanting changes properly takes time. Rather than bringing issues up on a message board,

MAC encourages everyone to bring them to the Executive's attention to staff can work with you to resolve them.

- Please ensure sure that you are informed before making postings. Many of the things being posted are inaccurate or completely incorrect.

## **ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION** (submitted by members prior to the meeting)

***Issue/Idea:*** We need more qualified judges, possibly bring in judges from out-of-town?

***Response:*** Our judges are well trained, and it is an ongoing process. We do have judges from out-of-town.

***Issue/Idea:*** Could we introduce a level system?

***Response:*** Currently under review.

***Issue/Idea:*** Teams falsifying rosters.

***Response:*** This did not happen.

***Issue/Idea:*** Can we separate all girl from coed teams at 18+ level.

***Response:*** This will be done next season.

***Issue/Idea:*** Can pom category be eliminated from requirements for winning Provincial Champs? By removing pom, a dance category could be introduced as a replacement.

***Response:*** MAC would like to introduce an overall pom champ, overall ground bound champ, an overall open, overall cheer, etc. This means a Provincial Champion award would be handed out for each category and then an additional Grand Champion award would be handed out for teams who are best in both pom and cheer categories. This also allows a Provincial Champion award to be handed out for open teams. Adding a dance category would open up to a whole other community, lengthening a day which many already feel is too long.

***Issue/Idea:*** Would MAC consider sanctioning competitions/evens they do not host?

***Response:*** We do not currently do this; however, teams are welcome to host their own competitions.

***Issue/Idea:*** MAC Executive election process

***Response:*** This was changed in the constitution – no one opposed. In addition, no one applied for positions during the previous election process.