

# IOWA HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADING CHAMPIONSHIPS

November 4, 2023

Iowa State Fairgrounds, Des Moines

Jacobson Exhibition Center

**ADMISSION:** \$10.00 ALL DAY

Tickets can be purchased by all non-participants at the west end of the Jacobson Center. Tickets must be purchased by all non-participants. Tickets may be purchased in advance at the following link. Tickets are non-refundable.



**APPAREL:** The Online Store for State Championship apparel has closed but will reopen on November 6. There will be a limited amount of apparel available at the competition. If the item(s) of interest aren't available on site, they may be ordered through the online store until November 12 at 5:00 p.m. Apparel that was pre-ordered will be available for pickup at the sales table.

**AWARDS PRESENTATIONS:**

Awards will be completed in as timely a manner as possible. Cheerleaders in a division will be called to the mat for awards. They will sit behind the taped off area as directed by ICCA officials. Please show good sportsmanship during this time.

ICCA will award trophies to the top five teams in each division in Cheer/Dance and Stunt Group, and trophies to the first three teams in each division of Game Time Spirit, plus plaques to the fourth and fifth place teams. The exception will be in any division with fewer than ten teams. In that case, trophies/plaques will be awarded to no more than half of the teams in the division. If an odd number compete, trophies/plaques will be one less than half. Medals will be presented to the top three teams in coordination with what is presented in trophies.

All first place teams will have their pictures taken with their trophy during the awards ceremony. These pictures will be taken by the professional photographer, and teams will be allowed to purchase them. No fans may take pictures at this time, and no other photos will be taken in the awards area. We will continue to have a special photo area for teams to take selfies and other photos. We ask that teams be respectful of other teams still performing in regards to noise.

**BAGS:** The Iowa State Fairgrounds/Jacobson Exhibition Center does not have a clear bag policy.

**CHAMPIONSHIP CANCELLATION POLICY:** If the State Championships need to be canceled (i.e., severe weather), the ICCA Executive Directors will be the ones to cancel the ICCA State Cheerleading Championships after consulting with the ICCA Executive Board. No refunds will be given if the Championships are canceled. Also, no refunds will be given if the Championships are held and a school/spectator chooses not to attend and/or is unable to attend.

**COLLEGE TABLES:** A variety of colleges will be present the day of the competition and will be available to talk to athletes all day. Their recruiting tables will be located behind the seating area on the floor of the Jacobson Building.

**COMPETITION RULES:** To be in compliance with the rules, cheerleaders are required to follow all the NFHS and ICCA/IHSAA Rules.

- Routines, including choreography, music selection, and outfitting of cheerleaders must be suitable for family viewing and listening. Music or words must be suitable for family listening which includes, but is not limited to, swear words and connotations or any type of sexual act or behavior, drugs, mention of specific parts of the body torso, and/or violent acts or behavior. Deductions will be given for inappropriateness in choreography, music selection, and cheerleader outfitting.

**All decisions made by the technical judges concerning the legality of stunts and/or any other component of a team's routine are final and not subject to review.**

**JUDGING:** All performance and safety judges are highly qualified and selected individually by the ICCA. All decisions of the judges are final and not subject to review. By participating in this competition, each team agrees that **all scoring decisions, including any deductions, are final and not subject to review.** Coaches and/or spectators may not communicate with the judges at any time.

**MEET YOUR TEAM:** Spectators are invited to meet with their team following their performance and celebrate their success in the West Lobby of the Jacobson Building.

**PARKING:** There is free parking at the fairgrounds. See the State Fairgrounds map on the ICCA website.

**PERFORMANCE MATS:** The cheerleading competition mat is composed of seven strips measuring 42' wide x 42' long.

**PHOTOS:** For the use of the ICCA, all teams are REQUIRED to have their team photo taken by the event photographer in the warm up area prior to their performance. To help ease this process, every cheerleader must fill out a picture form **BEFORE** arriving at the Championships and have them **IN HAND** at the team pass gate. Forms will be used at the photography check in area at Team Check-In upon arrival at the Jacobson Center along with Medical Release Forms. The photo form can be found on the ICCA website.

Tim McConnell, event photographer, will also be taking action shots of the teams. You can have instant access to action photos!! Cheerleaders will be entering information into iPads immediately after checking in. That information will provide them direct access to the photos.

No parents or personal cameras are allowed in the photography areas.

Again this year, we will have a photo op area inside Jacobson proper for team selfies. Feel free to post your team's photo on the ICCA's Facebook page to promote cheerleading in Iowa. Also check out the fun murals on the State Fairgrounds!!

**PROGRAMS:** Remember your trip to the State Championships! Souvenir programs containing the performance order and pictures of last year's champions will be sold at the championships. Remind your fans and cheerleaders to purchase this memento for the day's time schedule and for their scrapbooks. Programs are \$3 each.

**ROUTINE LENGTH AND TIMING:**

- The maximum routine length for the Cheer/Dance divisions is two and one-half minutes (2 ½). In the Stunt Group division, the maximum routine length is one minute. The Game Time Spirit division maximum time for routine length is two minutes.
- Music is 90 seconds maximum for the Cheer/Dance divisions. Music is 60 seconds maximum for the Stunt Group division. Music in the Game Time Spirit division is limited to 60 seconds of the respective school's Fight Song.

Timing will begin with the first organized word, movement, or note of music by the team or individual after they are officially announced. Timing will end when the squad comes to a standstill or stationary position.

If a team's performance is interrupted due to a technical or unforeseen error, the coach will have the opportunity to stop the performance and immediately perform the routine again in its entirety. If a music error is caused by the coach, the performance may be stopped and begun again immediately, but timing of the routine will NOT be stopped. In most cases, a time deduction will occur, but a team will not be disqualified. Judging and timing will resume from the point at which the interruption occurred as determined by the judges; all scores and deductions up to this point will carry over.

**SPECTATOR SEATING:** For safety reasons, AT NO TIME are cheerleaders OR fans to CLIMB OVER, UP or DOWN the chairs/bleacher seating. Use the aisles to go in and out of seats.

**SPECTATOR SEATING DURING TEAM PERFORMANCE:** FIVE minute seating is reserved for fans of the CURRENT PERFORMING TEAM ONLY during the Cheer-Dance and Game Time Spirit divisions! Fans MUST keep the aisle clear for the videographer and may not move chairs into the aisles. We ask fans to be considerate and follow requests of ICCA officials supervising this area. The area will be cleared after every team performs during Cheer-Dance and Game Time Spirit. **There is NO 5 minute seating for Stunt Group.** Be considerate of each other and let fans watch their team, then leave the area for the next team. Please respect fans from other schools as they cheer for their team. Ask fans to move out of the area after your team performs.

**Prior to awards, the first two rows of on the floor seating will be cleared for participating coaches.**

**SPORTSMANSHIP POLICY:** Spectators are expected to be good sports at all times, which means supporting not only their school but **all participating schools**. This includes supporting cheerleaders/squads in a manner that is appropriate, rather than reactive where a negative implication may occur. Cheerleaders, coaches, and fans are expected to be respectful to ICCA officials, workers, and each other. An unsporting act may result in a rules violation as sportsmanship is one of the National Federation Spirit Rules (2-2-1). If a violation is considered severe by judges or ICCA officials, a deduction of up to 5 points or disqualification may occur. The ICCA has adopted and will follow the IHSAA expectations of conduct of spectators, participants, and coaches. Any person violating these expectations will be asked to leave the premises. This includes the IHSAA rules of *no signs, noise makers, or bare chests* in the *spectator crowd*.

**During the State Championships the Upper Level of Jacobson is for State Championship judges and workers ONLY.** Cheerleaders, coaches, or fans should **NOT** be in this area at **ANY TIME**. Cheerleaders and/or coaches found in this area without permission will put their team in jeopardy of disqualification or a sportsmanship penalty.

**SPOTTERS:** ICCA provides spotters to help ensure the safety of the performing cheerleaders; these spotters are professionally trained. The ICCA-provided spotters will do their best to stay out of the cheerleaders' way; the spotter's job is to be in position to assist, if needed.

**TIES:** In case of ties in any division, the following scores will be used as tie breakers:

Criteria A: Motion Technique Execution

Criteria B: Motion Technique Difficulty

Criteria C: Jump Execution

Criteria D: Jump Difficulty

- Should two or more teams tie after all tie-breakers, the tie will not be broken and the teams who are tied will receive the same awards. Lower trophies will be adjusted accordingly (if two teams tie for first place after all the tiebreakers, they will both receive first place honors. No second place will be awarded).

**TIMES:** The doors will open to the public at 8:00 AM. The morning session will include 1A and 2A Game Time Spirit, Group Stunt, and Cheer Dance divisions. Coed, 3A and 4A Game Time Spirit, Group Stunt, and Cheer Dance divisions will perform in the afternoon. Awards will follow the morning session and the afternoon session.

**TRAINER/EMT:** A trainer and/or ambulance staff will be available for assistance. The trainer/EMTs will notify ICCA staff if, in their opinion, a cheerleader should not perform for his/her health or safety. Any cheerleader injured at the competition must be seen by a trainer or EMT. We realize this could be a very stressful situation for a team and coach, but safety is our concern. A team will still be able to perform if a cheerleader is injured and needs to sit out. A team may choose to use an alternate.

**WATER and RESTROOMS:** Jacobson Exhibition Center has fountains available to refill water bottles. Public restrooms are located in the Northwest and Southwest corners of the Jacobson Building. A family restroom is also available in the Southwest corner.