



Missouri Cheerleading Coaches Association

Macon, MO 63552

MCCA COMPETITION GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE - PENALTIES

RULE 1

1-1 Any school or coach wishing to protest penalty points awarded at a Regional or State Competition shall follow these guidelines

1-1-1 The school or coach has 20 minutes from the penalty judge's registered time to protest awarded penalty points. Time begins when the coach receives notice.

1-1-2 The protest must be delivered in writing on the protest form to the MCCA President or Regional/State Director within the allotted time.

1-1-3 The President of Regional Director shall present in writing the protest to the MCCA Executive Board of the Regional Protest Committee before the Awards Ceremony. The Regional Protest Committee shall consist of the Regional Director, the penalty judge, and any Executive Board members in attendance at the competition.

1-1-4 Any protest shall be based only on an error in applying a rule of the MSHSAA or the National Federation Spirit Rules Book. The only items that can be grieved are 1. MSHSAA Rules, 2. National Federation Rules, 3. Level of Difficulty, and 4. time.

1-1-5 No protest shall be heard on judgment calls of an official.

1-1-6 A MCCA representative or designee shall be named as the Penalty Judge prior to the competition. That person or a committee formed by that person shall be the only and final interpreter of rules at the competition.

1-1-7 Any further inquiries concerning the results of the protest shall be directed to the Regional or State director or to the MCCA President.

1-2 Any school or coach that does not follow the procedure shall have the following points deducted from their performance score:

1-2-1 Failure to observe the time limit will result in voiding the protest.

1-2-2 Approaching or trying to influence a judge's decision will result in a 25 point penalty.

1-2-3 Deliberate disruptive behavior by a coach, squad, or cheerleader will result in a 25 point penalty.

1-2-4 Verbally abusing or disrespectfully addressing a judge or competition official, making an unauthorized approach of a judge concerning a score or rule infraction or using profanity will result in a 25 point penalty.

1-3 Continued abusive behavior may lead to removal from the premises by the State or Regional Competition Director.

1-4 In order for the MCCA Board to uphold a protest, it must be established that the error made by a penalty judge was the determining factor in penalty points being assessed.

RULE 2

Individual School or Coach Grievance Procedure

2-1 A school or coach wishing to have another school or coach penalized for violation of the Association's rules (which for purposes of this Rule shall include evaluation of any provision of the Constitution) shall file a written notice of protest signed by its principal or designee, and specifying the grounds of protest with the MCCA President. The notice shall be filed without delay after the alleged violation has occurred, and the MCCA Executive Board may consider unreasonable delay a factor in ruling on any protest. Protests may also be initiated by the Executive Board.

2-2 The MCCA President shall notify the accused school or coach of the protest, and after such further investigation as the President deems necessary, shall either make a ruling on the protest or refer it to the MCCA Executive Board.

2-3 Either the accusing school or coach or the accused school or coach may appeal to the MCCA Executive Board from a ruling on the protest or refer it to the MCCA Executive Board.

2-4 If any member of the MCCA Executive Board is an interested party in a protest, the MCCA Executive Board shall appoint a disinterested person as a replacement in the decision of the case.

2-5 When a ruling has been appealed or when a protest has been initiated by or referred to the MCCA Executive Board, the MCCA Executive Board shall give the interested schools or coaches not less than three (3) days notice of the time and place of the hearing. The hearing shall be conducted by the MCCA Executive Board, pursuant to such procedures as it may direct, provided that interested schools or coaches have an opportunity to present evidence of their behalf. Pending decision of any appeal from a ruling of the MCCA President, that ruling shall stand and be given full force and affect for all purposes, except as specifically provided to the contrary in Section 2-3. If the ruling is modified or overruled on appeal, the MCCA Executive Board; at its discretion, may take such corrective action as of deems feasible and fair to all concerned.

2-6 All rulings of the MCCA Executive Board shall be final.

RULE 3

Violations of Rule - Penalties

3-1 Upon a ruling by the MCCA President or by the MCCA Executive Board that a student or coach ineligible, the school shall forfeit all events in which that student or coach participated during that student's or coach's ineligibility, either before and /or after such ruling, and the student or coach is disqualified for the remainder of that activity season.

3-2 For violation of any rule of the Association and in addition to contest forfeitures provided in Section 1 of this rule, the MCCA Executive Board may impose any one (1) or more of the following penalties:

3-2-1 Probation: When a school or coach is on probation, they shall suffer no impairment of rights or membership, but probation shall be a factor on determining the penalty for any violation during probation.

3-2-2 Forfeiture of championship, titles, awards, prizes or the right to participate in such Regional or State Competition as the MCCA Executive Board may direct.

3-2-2 Fines, in such amounts as the MCCA Executive Board may determine, to a maximum of \$25.00 for one (1) violation.

3-2-4 Suspension of rights of membership in the Association for such period as the MCCA Executive Board may direct, to a maximum of 365 days.

3-2-5 During suspension, a school or coach may not participate in any Regional or State Competition or both events. If a suspended coach accompanied a squad to the competition floor or present in the facility, the squad will forfeit participation.

3-2-6 Events in which an ineligible player cheers shall be forfeited. In competition, all events in which the ineligible cheerleader has participated shall be forfeited, but only the squad defeated that is most advanced in competition shall be advanced on the bracket to continue competition.

3-2-7 The MCCA Executive Board may direct that any or all penalties provided in this section are to be imposed only if certain conditions are not met, or that any such penalties are to be relieved if certain conditions are met.

3-3 Suspended or expelled schools or coaches may be reinstated by the MCCA Executive Board. Reinstatement may be subject to such conditions as the MCCA Executive Board may direct.

3-4 Responsibility: If a student or coach who has been declared ineligible is, permitted to participate in interscholastic competition because of a temporary restraining order, preliminary injunction and/or permanent injunction issued by a court against the school, and if such restraining order and /or injunction is subsequently vacated, dismissed, stayed, reversed or finally determined by the courts to not justify injunction relief, one or more of the penalties outlined in 3-2 above may be assessed in the interest of restitution and fairness to other member schools.

RULE 4

Sportsmanship

4-1 The MCCA Board of Directors has the power to suspend coaches from membership and schools and/or coaches from participation for the unsportsmanlike conduct of squads, coaches, students, and fans at any and all MCCA sponsored events. (A fan is considered a non-school student or follower of the cheerleading squad.)

4-2 The MCCA Board may delegate to the Regional Competition Director the power to take immediate action when a situation demands such. The parties concerned shall have the privilege of requesting a hearing before the MCCA Board of Directors (see Rule 2-3)

4-3 The MCCA Board of Directors may, at its discretion, substitute a fine not to exceed the sum of \$25.00 for each offense in lieu of suspension from the Association or to take any action that it deems advisable that does not exceed the maximum penalty of two (2) years suspension from the Association.

Notes: