

Purpose of Competitive Spirit: Competitive Spirit was adopted by the PIAA Board of Directors, effective July 1, 2012, as an opportunity to expand competitive opportunities for girls. All eligibility provisions of the PIAA By-Laws are applicable to student-athletes of competitive spirit squads, with the exception of a PIAA-defined competitive spirit season: The defined regular season will begin with the start of fall sports and conclude at the end of the winter sports championships. The PIAA Defined Season is the period in which schools may participate in competitions. Tryouts, practices after tryouts, attending/receiving summer instruction from an outside source (key to the safety of competitive spirit programs) and practices prior to the start of fall sports are not restricted by this Defined Regular Season.

Governance: PIAA Board of Directors has adopted the NFHS Spirit rules book. PIAA, in conjunction with Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA) and American Association of Cheerleading Coaches and Administrators (AACCA), will develop the format for the PIAA Competitive Spirit Championships. UCA is the founding member of the American Association of Cheerleading Coaches And Administrators, a non-profit educational association for the over 70,000 cheerleading coaches across the United States. Founded in 1988, AACCA is the recognized standard of care for all cheerleading activities. UCA is dedicated to the safe and responsible practice of cheerleading, and all UCA Instructors are AACCA Safety Certified and use the AACCA Safety Manual as a teaching guide and resource. UCA also implements the AACCA safety guidelines at camps and competitions and encourages all coaches to become AACCA Safety-Certified. AACCA certification is available in all 50 states by taking the accredited four-hour course and, upon completion, remains in effect for 4 years. Over 20,000 coaches have been AACCA certified since 2000. At the high school level, AACCA certification is already a requirement to complete the Bronze Level NFHS Spirit Coaches Education Program.

POLICY STATEMENT FOR MEMBER SCHOOLS WITH CONDITIONS OF ENTRY INTO PIAA DISTRICT SIX CHAMPIONSHIP: PIAA District member schools are not required to enter a team into PIAA District VI Championship events. Entry and participation by member schools in the tournament sponsored by PIAA District VI are totally voluntary. Entry of a team or individual competitor by a member school into a PIAA District VI tournament signifies that the member school accepts the conditions and provisions that are inherent with the tournament rules, regulations and guidelines. Further, a member school accepts the fact that the PIAA District VI Chairman, Executive Committee, Tournament Director and District VI Committee reserve the right to make changes in the management schedule, sites, dates, times and operations of championships when in their judgment it becomes necessary to do so.