



COMPETITIVE SPIRIT CHAMPIONSHIPS

Thursday, January 9th & Friday, January 10th, 2026
War Memorial, Johnstown

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY:

The 2026 PIAA Competitive Spirit Championships shall be conducted pursuant to all applicable By-Laws, Policies and Procedures, and Rules and Regulations of PIAA. It is important that the Principal, Athletic Director, and head Competitive Cheer Coach of all Teams that have qualified for the PIAA Competitive Spirit Championships and all persons who will have responsibilities involving these activities be fully informed of the policies and procedures described herein. It is also necessary that everyone associated with these championships comply with all policies and procedures, without exception. Failure to comply may result in removal from the PIAA Competitive Championships.

PIAA member schools are not required to enter PIAA championship events. Entry and participation in the PIAA Competitive Spirit Championships are voluntary. Entry into the PIAA Competitive Spirit Championships signifies that the member school accepts the fact that the PIAA Executive Director, or the Executive Director's designee, reserves the right to make changes in the date and location of Contest sites, and management, operation, schedule, and site of the PIAA Competitive Spirit Championships, if it becomes necessary to do so.

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF ENTRIES FROM DISTRICTS TO THE PIAA COMPETITIVE SPIRIT CHAMPIONSHIP:

DISTRICT	TOTAL CHEER SCHOOLS	# STATE ENTRIES
I	58	21
II	11	4
III	48	19
IV	16	7
V	2	0
VI	23	9
VII	39	17
VIII	0	0
IX	14	6
X	11	4
XI	31	12
XII	54	21
TOTALS		120

DIVISIONS:

SMALL VARSITY - 1 to 15 squad members

LARGE VARSITY - 16 and up squad members

COED VARSITY - At least one male on squad

Should any District not fill its allotment, the Assistant Executive Director may assign the additional entries to other Districts in a manner deemed appropriate. ***A team shall not be permitted to switch divisions between PIAA District and State Competition.***

ENTRY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

A representative of each school that qualifies a Team for the PIAA Competitive Spirit Championships must complete the electronic Team Information Form, which can be found on the Competitive Spirit Championship page.

UNIFORMS:

It is required that participating member schools dress and equip their Teams pursuant to National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Spirit Rules Book.

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE:

The 2026 PIAA Competitive Spirit Championships are scheduled for Thursday, January 9 and Friday, January 10, 2026. The Championships will take place at the War Memorial, Johnstown. Competition will begin at 9:00 am on Thursday and Friday. Spectators will be admitted beginning at 8:00 am on both days.

REGISTRATION:

Coaches are required to register their team one hour prior to their competition time. Registration will begin at 8:00 am, on Thursday.

PRE-CONTEST WARM-UPS:

Teams will be permitted warm-up times prior to all rounds of competition. The maximum amount of warm-up time will be 10 minutes. Spotters and certified trainers will be present during warm-up times. Teams will be provided with a warm-up schedule upon registration.

MUSIC:

Schools will need to bring music for their routine. It is preferred that music be on a phone or IPAD. No CDs please.

COMPETITION FORMAT:

Routine: Overall time of routine is 2 minutes and 30 seconds and must include a cheer. The cheer can be stand alone or can be done over music. Teams cheering over music will still be accountable for satisfying the components of the "CHEER" portion of the score sheet. (ex: A cheer consisting of only motions performed to music will score a ZERO in "use of skills."). Be sure to read over the score sheet specifics on the cheer portion.

Floor Size: 54 feet wide by 42 feet deep and all participants must start with at least one foot (hand) on the performance surface. Signs and props can be placed off the performance floor, but participants cannot step off during the routine to get them.

There will be trained spotters provided by Varsity for additional safety on the performance floor throughout each routine.

Interruption of routine:

1. If routine is interrupted by failure of the competition equipment, facility or other factors attributable to the competition and not the team, the team shall stop the routine at that time. The team will have time to prepare again and perform the entire routine, but the judging will be only from the point of interruption to the end.
2. If the routine is interrupted by failure of the team's own equipment, personnel, etc. they must continue the routine or withdraw.

Injuries on the floor:

1. Routine can be stopped by competition officials, advisor/coach of the team or the individual.
2. Competition officials (in conjunction with the coach and individual) will decide if the team will be allowed to perform at a later time. The spot where the re-performance will take place is up to the discretion of the competition officials and coaches (taking all issues into consideration).

Penalties for infractions:

Penalties for infractions during the routine will be applied according to the PIAA Deduction Sheet. The deduction sheet can be located on the championship page of the PIAA website.

Rules interpreters will be in the warm-up area to help with identifying and changing rule infractions prior to them being performed on the floor.

TIE-BREAK PROCEDURE:

In the case of a tie, ordinals will be reviewed. Tie goes to the team with the lowest ordinal score. Example: Two judges have Team A 2nd, and one has Team A 3rd. Team A's ordinal score is 7.

SPECTATOR TICKETS:

General Admission Tickets will be on sale via the PIAA Website for all Inter-District Championships.

Adults & Students in grades K-12 must purchase tickets.

MEDALS/TROPHIES:

PIAA will award a champion and runner-up trophies in each class/division. Champion and runner-up squads in the small squad division will receive 20 complimentary medals. Large and Coed division will receive 25 complimentary medals.

NO PROTEST RULE:

Under PIAA there can be no protest of Contests as follows:

"The Board of Directors and District Committees will not consider any protest of Contests which are based on play situations or officials' decisions involving interpretation or judgment of plays."

"In no case will the results of a Contest be reversed nor will a Contest be ordered or permitted to be replayed."

"Questions regarding interpretation of rules or judgment of officials should be submitted in writing to the Executive Director."

EMERGENCY HEALTH CARE:

A physician and an ambulance will be "on call" for emergency medical care. A PIAA-appointed certified athletic trainer will be available for emergency health care. The PIAA-appointed certified athletic trainer reserves the right to charge a school for any training supplies that are supplied by the trainer and/or that are requested or used by the school. Competing schools are encouraged to bring their own trainer and training supplies.

MEDALS AND TROPHIES:

Championship and runner-up Teams in each enrollment classification will be awarded trophies. Twenty-five (25) individual medals will be awarded as well as a team trophy.

To order additional medals please contact:

Jostens/Union Emblem Co., 6130 Jonestown Rd. Suite C, Harrisburg, PA 17112 | 717-838-1311 Email: centralpa@jostens.com

CHAMPIONSHIP MERCHANDISE:

CR & A Designs is the official exclusive merchandise representative of PIAA. CR & A Designs will offer official PIAA merchandise, novelties and souvenir programs at the PIAA Volleyball Championships. All items will be available on site as well as the CR & A Designs online store. Anyone that would like to receive PIAA Championships merchandise after the event can visit the CR & A Designs online store by clicking "Store" at www.piaa.org. PIAA®, PIAA Traditional Logo®, P.I.A.A. OFFICIAL and Design®, and SPORTSMANSHIP THE ONLY MISSING PIECE IS YOU and Design® are marks registered with the United States Patent and Trademark Office and are for the exclusive use of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, Inc. Any use of PIAA's marks by third parties, without the express written consent of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, Inc., is strictly prohibited.