

## SAFETY VIOLATION INFORMATION

### Points to remember:

- 1) At all NFHS Spirit Rules interpreters meetings each year, the NFHS trains all cheer and dance/drill clinicians in the same meetings. Since there is one book, they use one set of interpretations. It is logical that Washington judges could train the same way with one rules book and one set of interpretations for both cheer and dance/drill, if the book stays combined. This would greatly benefit crossover cheer and dance judges and allow for consistency and less confusion in rules interpretations at the WIAA level.
- 2) The 40-point deduction for any/all violations of the Spirit Rules book was created prior to the creation of the judges association. It came about from coaches feeling frustrated that teams were not all following the rules and were still winning or placing at competitions. The coaches formed a committee to discuss a method of enforcing the rules to make it fair and consistent for all teams and participants. Several teams had been able to win competitions with safety violations clearly in their routines and other coaches and participants were very frustrated.
- 3) The Safety Committee of the WSDCA was formed and met in the winter of 1994. The committee drafted a proposal to have a 40-point deduction for any/all violations of the Spirit Rules during any competition effective as of the 1994-95 school year. The 40-point deduction was chosen to drop any team down on scoring bracket and effectively remove them from trophy contention at any competition. This was a stiff penalty drafted by this committee of coaches. The goals at that time were to:
  - a. Enforce compliance of the rules to protect the students from injury
  - b. Encourage coaches to educate themselves about the Spirit rules
  - c. Establish a clear message that you will not place/win any competition if you are violating the rules

### State Championship Statistics:

Year	# Violations	Notes
1995	Estimated 30 violations	First year 40 point Safety Violation No hard statistics saved/74 teams participated
1996	Estimated 20 violations	No hard statistics saved/83 teams participated
1997	9 violations	5 violations came from Drill teams using airborne knee drops 82 teams participated
1998	5 violations/4 warnings	85 teams participated
1999	6 violations/11 warnings	88 teams participated/ <b>First Year Spirit Clinic required</b>
2000	12 violations/15 warnings	98 teams participated <b>First year of new glitter rule and fingernail rule</b>
2001	40 violations/8 warnings	94 teams participated <b>Point deductions reduced for minor violations</b> <b>High number of violations occurred due to timing penalties</b> <b>Several minor violations due to nails and stepping on items</b>
2002	16 violations/6 warnings	80 teams participated <b>Chorus line defined as inverted stunt-cause several violations</b>
2003	11 violations/0 warnings	86 performances total First year of District Qualifying First year of allowing more than one routine per school
2004	1 major violation/7 minor	111 performances total

After tracking the safety violations over the years, you can see that the number of violations started high in 1995, then dropped over the several years. New rules were implemented in 2000 that caused an increase in the number of violations at the State Championship.

In 2001, time limits changed for routines and we saw an increase in timing and exit penalties. Also, the number of points for minor violations was reduced, but all violations major and minor are included in the total seen. The minor and major violations were not broken out separately for statistical evaluation, but could be.

It seems that specific changes in the Spirit Rules directly correlate to an increase in the number of violations that occur the next season. The pattern then shows that the next year, violations for that rule decrease, but if a new rule is changed, the number of violations of that specific rule go up.

At the 2004 State Championship, you can see that there were very minor changes in the Spirit rules this year, so the number of violations, both major and minor decreased.