

Today, we ask the Board to adopt the IESA cheer season beginning Monday of Week 4. The IESA Board approved a recommended official season for cheerleading last year, which we would like to bring to our Board this year to approve and adopt. Doing so would equally align cheer with other IESA sports the district recognizes and ensure our student-athletes receive the preparation time intended by the IESA. The full season allows athletes to safely and correctly develop skills, build needed strength to avoid injuries, and prepare advanced stunts, tumbling, along with multiple competition and basketball game routines. Most, if not all, junior high athletes enter our program with little or no competitive cheer experience. They begin training in June at open gyms, working toward performing both an elite level 1A routine and a Game Day routine by November. Cheer is unique because we prepare for both our own season and another sport's season, requiring additional preparation time. Overlapping girls sport seasons and cheering basketball games, also limits our practice opportunities during our competitive season. With the IESA-recommended season we can prepare in advance for these conflicts and be further along in our skills/routines by the time these conflicts start. With considering all the above, we respectfully ask the Board to recognize and approve the IESA-recommended season for cheer as it does for all other district IESA sports.