ARTICLE 40

SPIRITLINE

40.1 **SPIRITLINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE** – The Spiritline Advisory Committee shall be an ad hoc advisory committee of the AIA Executive Board.

40.2 **FUNCTION OF THE SPIRITLINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE** – The function of the Spiritline Advisory Committee will include, but not be limited to, the following:

40.2.1 Advise on the administration of an AIA Spiritline Post-Season Competition.

40.3 **PHILOSOPHY OF SPIRITLINE**

Spiritline shall serve as a support group for the interscholastic athletic program within the school and, as such, play a very important role in the administration of athletics/activities contests. Each squad should strive to boost school spirit, promote good sportsmanship, develop positive crowd involvement, and help student participants and spectators achieve the most worthwhile educational objectives of the interscholastic program.

Spiritline (cheerleading/pom-pom) activities should center on "leading" or "directing" the cheering of student and adult fans. In this role, cheerleaders/pom-pom can become the school's most effective student leaders. Spiritline activities should be focused on: creating a cooperative spirit among the cheerleader/pom-pom squads, athletes, student bodies, school administrators and the communities; recognizing outstanding plays and examples of good sportsmanship on the part of both teams; and aiding the school and contest officials in the promotion of good sportsmanship and in the administration of the contest.

Being the most recognizable representatives of a school, spirit groups are in a position of great influence; therefore, high standards of conduct are essential. Positive personal behavior and squad cohesiveness demonstrate these standards. Appropriate behavior will help earn the respect of the student body, which is the core of developing effective school spirit and student involvement.

40.4 **RULES / REGULATIONS** – Official rules for spiritline shall be those of the current edition of the National Federation Sprit Rules Book and the AIA Bylaws.

40.4.1 Spiritline will be separated into cheer and dance.

40.5 **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS** – Spiritline will be required to meet eligibility requirements stipulated in Article 15 of the AIA Bylaws, with the exception of the Transfer Rule.

40.6 **SEASON OF ACTIVITY** – The season of activity shall begin the first week of football practice allowed by AIA bylaw and shall end the last day of the school year.

40.6.1 **Pre-Competition Practice** – Individual athletes must have participated in at least eight practice sessions prior to competing.

40.7 **PARTICIPATION IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES** – Members of spiritline squads shall be permitted to participate on athletic activity teams at the discretion of the local campus or district administrations.

40.8 **ATTENDANCE AT CLINICS** – Spiritline shall be permitted to attend noncompetitive clinics sponsored by AIA member schools or outside organizations during the season of activity. Any outside organization must certify and guarantee compliance with National Federation and AIA rules and regulations.

40.9 **COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES** – The following criteria shall be used for spiritline competition activities:

40.9.1 Activity Participation in AIA Sanctioned Invitationals or Post-Season Competition – Spiritline is an AIA activity in which member schools may choose to participate in AIA sanctioned invitationals and/or an annual AIA post-season competition.

40.9.2 Competition sponsored by organizations external to the school will be permitted providing the sponsoring organization certifies and guarantees compliance with National Federation and AIA rules and regulations.

40.9.3 Competition is open to both male and female members of a spiritline.

40.10 **COACHES / COACHING**

40.10.1 The AIA shall not have regulations concerning spiritline coaches coaching their own school squad outside of the AIA defined season of sport.

40.10.2 Attendance shall be voluntary and no student athlete shall be prohibited from participating on the team for failing to attend the out-of-season activity.

40.10.3 The head coaches of spiritline shall be exempt from Article 17 of the AIA Constitution (which states that a head coach must have an Arizona Teaching Certificate). (See Article 17, Section 2)

40.10.4 Requirements:

40.10.4.1 **Cheer:**

- Head Coach and Lower Level/Assistant Coaches
  - Complete the NFHS Concussion in Sports Course
  - Complete the AIA preseason online Information Courses
  - Pass the NFHS Cheer Safety Exam with a minimum score of 75%

40.10.7.2 **Dance:**

- Head Coach and Lower Level/Assistant Coaches
  - Complete the NFHS Concussion in Sports Course
  - Complete the AIA preseason online Information Course
  - Pass the NFHS Dance Safety Exam with a minimum score of 75%

40.11 **SCHOOL EQUIPMENT** – Use of school equipment during the summer vacation period shall be at the discretion of the local campus or district administration.

40.11.1 School Transportation - School provided transportation for activities is a local option.

40.12 **UNIFIED SPIRITLINE** a joint effort between the AIA and SOAZ to incorporate Unified programs in AIA member schools re cognizing and offering opportunities for SOAZ athletes and partners to compete in an AIA sanctioned activity. Unified spiritline programs shall be administered by each participating member school and follow the requirements per AIA Bylaws for eligibility, rules and program administration.

40.12.1 Official rules for Unified spiritline shall be those published SOAZ and the AIA prior to each season, as approved by the AIA Executive Board. (See Article 35).

40.13 **SUNDAYS AT NATIONAL COMPETITIONS**: Competition/Performances on Sundays during National Competitions is permitted.