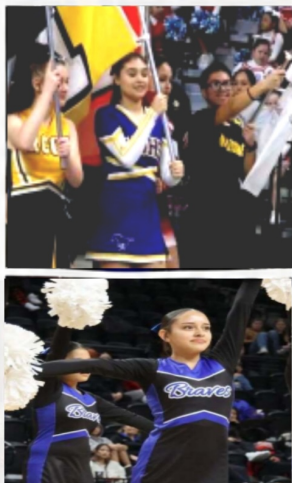




— 49TH ANNUAL —
LAKOTA NATION
INVITATIONAL
GAME DAY CHEERLEADING
COACHES GUIDE





49TH ANNUAL LAKOTA NATION INVITATIONAL

GAME DAY CHEERLEADING COMPETITION



Dear Coaches,

Welcome to the 49th Annual Lakota Nation Invitational Game Day Cheerleading Competition!

My name is Kellee J. Brewer, and I am honored to serve as the Lakota Nation Invitational Cheerleading Coordinator, now entering my 11th year in this role. Over the past decade, I have had the privilege of watching our cheerleading programs grow in talent, confidence, leadership, and sportsmanship. It has been incredibly rewarding to work alongside dedicated coaches who invest countless hours into developing not only outstanding athletes, but remarkable young people.

This year marks a milestone unlike any other.

Together, we are making history by hosting the first-ever Game Day Cheerleading Competition in the State of South Dakota. The Lakota Nation Invitational has always been a place where new traditions are born, excellence is celebrated, and student-athletes are given opportunities to showcase their talents, leadership, and school pride. With the addition of Game Day Cheerleading, we proudly continue that tradition while helping elevate the sport of cheerleading throughout our state.

As coaches, you are the foundation of this historic moment. Your willingness to embrace this new division, challenge your athletes, and believe in this vision is what has made this inaugural competition possible. Years from now, when Game Day Cheerleading has become an established tradition across South Dakota, your teams will always be remembered as the coaches and athletes who helped build it from the very beginning.

Game Day Cheerleading represents the heart of our sport. It celebrates leadership, teamwork, school spirit, crowd engagement, and the ability to unite an entire community behind its student-athletes. Whether your team is competing in Band Chant, Crowd Leading, Situational Sideline, or Fight Song, every performance reflects the dedication, preparation, and passion that you have poured into your program.

On behalf of the Lakota Nation Invitational, thank you for believing in this vision and for being part of this historic event. I look forward to welcoming each of you to Rapid City and witnessing the energy, sportsmanship, and school spirit your teams bring to the floor.

Together, we are beginning a tradition that will inspire generations of South Dakota cheerleaders to come.

I wish you and your athletes the very best, and I look forward to seeing you at the 49th Annual Lakota Nation Invitational.

With appreciation,

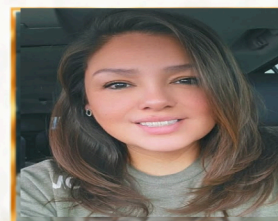
Kellee J. Brewer

LNI Cheerleading Coordinator



KELLEE J. BREWER

LNI CHEERLEADING COORDINATOR



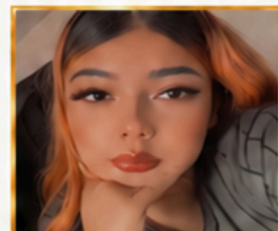
STEVIE MORAN

LNI CHEERLEADING ANNOUNCER



ANJELIQ MCCLUNG

LNI COORDINATORS ASSISTANT



AMERICUS JANIS

LNI COORDINATOR'S ASSISTANT



Inicheerleading@gmail.com



605-440-7861



COACHES

STEP BY STEP GUIDE

1



REGISTER YOUR TEAM

Complete the official registration form:

<https://forms.gle/Ax7FWr4D4UJTQb4f6>

2



JOIN THE FACEBOOK COACHES CHAT

Please join the 49th Annual LNI Coaches Facebook Chat. This will be our primary source of communication.

https://m.me/j/AbaitkMycsgj0vkx/?send_source=gc%3Acopy_invite_link_

3



SUBMIT YOUR COMPETITION MUSIC

Email your Game Day competition music to:

lnicheerleading@gmail.com

MUSIC SUBMISSION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 29, 2026

4



SUBMIT YOUR TEAM PICTURE

Please email one high-quality team photo for inclusion in the official 49th Annual Lakota Nation Invitational Program.

thall@simpsonsprinting.com

PHOTO SUBMISSION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 29, 2026

\$

ENTRY FEE

Each participating school is responsible for a \$500.00 entry fee. Each school is allowed two teams. If only one team is registering, your registration fee remains \$500.00.



Please coordinate with your school's Athletic Director or Business Office to ensure payment is submitted prior to the competition.

Thank you for your dedication to your student-athletes and to the sport of cheerleading.



WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN DECEMBER!



49TH ANNUAL LAKOTA NATION INVITATIONAL **GAME DAY** CHEERLEADING COMPETITION



LNI CHEERLEADING SCHEDULE



TUESDAY – DECEMBER 15TH

PRELIMINARY GAME DAY COMPETITION

11:00 A.M.: Pre-Finals All Team Dance Rehearsal (All Teams) – Ice Arena

2:30 P.M.: Team Caravan Line-Up / Red Carpet Arrival Experience

5:30 P.M.: Preliminary Game Day Competition (Ice Arena) – Open Admission

Categories: Band Chant • Situational Sideline • Crowd Leading • Fight Song (Scores Recorded)



WEDNESDAY – DECEMBER 16TH

THEME DAY: 80'S NEON

GOLDEN POM POM SIDELINE EVALUATION

Judged during games:

- Crowd engagement
- Awareness
- Energy
- Execution
- Consistency
- Sportsmanship
- Overall Tournament Participation



THURSDAY – DECEMBER 17TH

THEME DAY: BREAST CANCER AWARENESS DAY

GOLDEN POM POM SIDELINE EVALUATION

Judged during games:

- Crowd engagement
- Awareness
- Energy
- Execution
- Consistency
- Sportsmanship
- Overall Tournament Participation



FRIDAY – DECEMBER 18TH

THEME DAY: MMIP AWARENESS AND

HONORING VETERANS AND ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBERS

GOLDEN POM POM SIDELINE EVALUATION

Judged during games:

- Crowd engagement
- Awareness
- Energy
- Execution
- Consistency
- Sportsmanship
- Overall Tournament Participation

ALL TOURNEY SELECTIONS DUE BEFORE GRAND ENTRY



SATURDAY – DECEMBER 19TH

SUMMIT ARENA – GAME DAY FINALS

11:00 A.M.: Pre-Finals All Team Exhibition Dance (All LNI Teams)

Top 10 Teams Will Be Named and Compete

Awards

Competition Concludes



— 49TH ANNUAL —
LAKOTA NATION INVITATIONAL
GAME DAY
★ CHEERLEADING COMPETITION ★

Pre-Finals
★ **ALL TEAM** ★

EXHIBITION REHEARSAL

📢 *and* **Dance** 📢



ALL TEAMS WILL MEET AT THE
ICE ARENA AT 11:00 A.M.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2026

TO CREATE A GROUP DANCE WITH ALL
PARTICIPATING CHEERLEADING TEAMS IN LNI.

WHY WE DO THIS



This tradition is at the heart of the Lakota Nation Invitational. It is a celebration of unity, respect, sportsmanship, and the spirit of togetherness.

By coming together as one, we honor our communities, our cultures, and the values that make LNI so special.

WHY IT IS A FAN FAVORITE



Fans love seeing every team on the floor together, moving as one, showing school pride, and celebrating our youth and the power of teamwork.

It's an inspiring start to a week full of competition, culture, and unforgettable memories!

➡ **BRINGING KIDS TOGETHER** ⬅



DEVELOPS NEW
FRIENDSHIPS



BUILDS RESPECT
ACROSS SCHOOLS



LEARN FROM
ONE ANOTHER



CREATES LASTING
MEMORIES

One Team. One Standard. One Champion.
Compete. Lead. Inspire.

LNI GAME DAY

CHEERLEADING OVERVIEW

★ CHEERLEADING COMPETITION ★

THE GAME DAY ROUTINE

All teams have **3:00 minutes total** to complete all four Game Day categories as one continuous routine.

1 BAND CHANT



MUSIC: YES

• 55 seconds (music)

Max 10 athletes | Skills: Jumps & kicks only (no stunts or tumbling) | Spirit Raising Props: Poms, signs, flags, megaphones, spirit towels | Music: Required

Think of this category as Getting the crowd excited right away.

This is the opening, teams use loud voices, sharp motions, and energetic chants the crowd can follow. Spirit Raising Props are used to make the routine bigger and more exciting. This section should start the routine with high energy, and get attention immediately.

Max Points 60

2 SITUATIONAL SIDELINE



MUSIC: NO

• 30 seconds (no music)

Max 8 athletes | Skills: Skills allowed – Level 1 & 2 tumbling allowed | Spirit Raising Props: Signs, megaphones, spirit towels | Music: None

Think of this category as Responding quickly to a live game situation with the correct cheer.

This section is the leading and interactive part. The announcer gives a situation (offense or defense) and the team must respond with an appropriate cheer and chant. Level 2 tumbles are allowed, but everything must stay clean and controlled. This section shows how fast and accurate a team can respond under pressure.

Max Points 80

3 CROWD LEADING



MUSIC: NO

• 35 seconds (no music)

Max 12 athletes | Skills: Level 1 & 2 tumbling (no tosses or inversions) | Spirit Raising Props: Signs, megaphones, spirit towels | Music: None

Think of this category as Leading a real timeout or halftime cheer that keeps the crowd engaged when the basketball team is not on the floor.

This is a cheer that the team can do through extended timeouts or halftime. Teams should feel the crowd and get involved, keep energy up throughout the game.

Max Points 70

4 FIGHT SONG



MUSIC: YES

• 60 seconds (music)

Max 16 athletes | Skills: Level 1 & 2 tumbling | Spirit Raising Props: Poms, Props, signs, spirit towels | Music: Required

Think of this category as the final performance—standing strong with full school spirit and energy.

This is the final section of the routine. It is the biggest and most polished part. Teams perform synchronized motions, stunts, and tumbling. This section should be loud and powerful to finish. This is the finale of the routine, so it should feel big and polished.

Max Points 75

COMPETE. LEAD. INSPIRE.

OFFICIAL SCORE CARD AND CRITERIA

HOW GAME DAY COMPETITION WORKS

1 TUESDAY – GAME DAY PRELIMINARY (285 POINTS)

- Teams perform one continuous 3:00-minute Game Day routine.
- Routine includes all four Game Day categories:
 - Band Chant
 - Situational Sideline
 - Crowd Leading
 - Fight Song
- Scores from Tuesday carry forward to the overall championship.

2 WEDNESDAY–FRIDAY – SIDELINE COMPETITION (450 POINTS)

- Teams are evaluated during live basketball games.
- Daily sideline performances are scored and added to the overall total.

3 TUESDAY–SATURDAY – BONUS POINTS (170 POINTS)

- Teams earn bonus points through designated LNI activities, including:
 - Red Carpet
 - All-Team Dance Rehearsal
 - Theme Days
 - Other designated bonus activities

4 SATURDAY – GAME DAY FINALS (285 POINTS)

- Top 10 teams advance to Finals.
- One team per school may qualify for Finals.
- Finalists perform the same four-category Game Day routine.
- Qualifying team may add additional FOUR cheerleaders from schools NON-qualifying team to compete in Finals for a total of 12 cheerleaders.

GAME DAY PRELIMINARY – TUESDAY TOTAL: 285 POINTS

CATEGORY & CRITERIA	MAX POINTS	SCORE
BAND CHANT (60 POINTS) - Spirit Raising Props - Vocal Projection & Energy - Jumps & Kicks - Group Work & Formations	60	___/60
SITUATIONAL SIDELINE (80 POINTS) - Correct Cheer Execution - Reaction Speed - Safety & Execution of Skills (Stunts & Tumbling) - Formations & Transitions	80	___/80
CROWD LEADING (70 POINTS) - Leadership & Voice - Synchronicity - Safety & Execution of Skills (Stunts & Tumbling) - Crowd Engagement	70	___/70
FIGHT SONG (FINALE) (75 POINTS) - Crowd Interaction & Engagement - Motion Technique & Execution - Visual Appeal & Formations - Safety & Execution of Skills (Stunts & Tumbling)	75	___/75
GAME DAY PRELIMINARY TOTAL	285	___/285

SIDELINE COMPETITION – WEDNESDAY THROUGH FRIDAY TOTAL: 450 POINTS

Teams are evaluated during live basketball games on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Each day is scored the same way and the scores are combined for the sideline total.

CATEGORY & CRITERIA	MAX POINTS	SCORE
ESPRIT DE CORPS (50 POINTS) - Crowd Engagement / School Spirit / Performance Presence - Props & Team Unity	50	___/50
SHOWMANSHIP (50 POINTS) - Audience Engagement / Performance Quality / Creativity - Visual Appeal & Energy	50	___/50
SPORTSMANSHIP (50 POINTS) - Positive Team Support / Leadership & Conduct / Game Day Presence / Overall Impression - Respect for Teams, Officials & Spectators	50	___/50
DAILY MAXIMUM (SAME CATEGORIES EACH DAY)	150	___/150
SIDELINE TOTAL (WED–FRI)	450	___/450

BONUS POINTS – TUESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY TOTAL: 170 POINTS

CATEGORY & CRITERIA	MAX POINTS	SCORE
RED CARPET / CARAVAN Arrive in spirit and unity. Show school pride!	15	___/15
ALL TEAM DANCE REHEARSAL Participation in the Pre-Finals All Team Dance.	20	___/20
80'S NEON Dress in 80's neon colors and bring the energy!	15	___/15
BREAST CANCER AWARENESS Show support and wear pink.	15	___/15
MMIW AWARENESS Wear red and show support and awareness.	15	___/15
GRAND ENTRY Participate in Grand Entry in full spirit.	15	___/15
ALL TEAM DANCE (EXHIBITION) Participation in the All Team Dance on Saturday.	10	___/10
GAME DAY COMPETITION Participate and compete to the best of your ability.	5	___/5
BONUS POINTS TOTAL (TUES–SAT)	170	___/170

FINALS – SATURDAY ONLY TOTAL: 285 POINTS

CATEGORY & CRITERIA	MAX POINTS	SCORE
BAND CHANT (60 POINTS) - Spirit Raising Props - Vocal Projection & Energy - Jumps & Kicks - Group Work & Formations	60	___/60
SITUATIONAL SIDELINE (80 POINTS) - Correct Cheer Execution - Reaction Speed - Safety & Execution of Skills (Stunts & Tumbling)	80	___/80
CROWD LEADING (70 POINTS) - Leadership & Voice - Synchronicity - Safety & Execution of Skills - Grooves & Tumbling	70	___/70
FIGHT SONG (FINALE) (75 POINTS) - Crowd Interaction & Engagement - Motion Technique & Execution - Visual Appeal & Formations - Stunts & Tumbling	75	___/75
FINALS TOTAL (SATURDAY)	285	___/285

★ SIDELINE COMPETITION NOTE ★

Teams are judged on **CONSISTENCY** for all three days: Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.



HOW SCORES ARE COMBINED

Game Day Preliminary (Tuesday) +
Sideline Competition (Wed–Fri) +
Bonus Points (Tue–Sat) +
Finals (Saturday) = Total Score

Determines rankings, awards, and
Top 10 finalists.

MAXIMUM TOTAL SCORE TUESDAY – SATURDAY

1,190 POINTS



BONUS POINTS (TUESDAY–SATURDAY) 170 POINTS TOTAL

Includes Red Carpet, All Team Dance Rehearsal,
Daily Theme Days, and other bonus activities.

SATURDAY FINALS NOTE

A qualifying team may add additional FOUR cheerleaders from schools NON-qualifying team to compete in Finals for a total of 12 cheerleaders.



ONE TEAM. ONE STANDARD. ONE CHAMPION.
COMPETE. LEAD. INSPIRE.



— 49TH ANNUAL —
LAKOTA NATION INVITATIONAL
GAME DAY
CHEERLEADING COMPETITION

★ *Awards* ★

THE HIGHEST IN POINTS IN EACH CATEGORY WILL BE AWARDED.



BAND CHANT AWARD

Awarded to the team with the highest points in Band Chant.



SITUATIONAL SIDE AWARD

Awarded to the team with the highest points in Situational Side.



CROWD LEADING AWARD

Awarded to the team with the highest points in Crowd Leading.



FIGHT SONG AWARD

Awarded to the team with the highest points in Fight Song.



SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

Chosen by the coaches and teams and presented to the team that best represents the spirit of cheerleading, respect, encouragement, and positive sportsmanship.



ALL TOURNEY AWARD

- Every registered team who has paid the team fee will receive an All Tourney Award.
- All teams that participate in the Bonus Points Awareness Days will receive an All Tourney Award.
- If there are two teams from the same school, each team of eight (8) athletes will receive an All Tourney Award.



COACHES MUST PRESENT THEIR ALL TOURNEY SELECTION IN WRITING TO LNI CHEERLEADING COORDINATOR KELLEE BREWER BEFORE GRAND ENTRY ON FRIDAY THE 19TH, 2026.



GOLDEN POM POM CHAMPION

The Golden Pom Pom will be awarded to the team with the highest overall points, determined by combining:



GAME DAY
PRELIMINARY
(285 POINTS MAX)



SIDELINE
COMPETITION
(450 POINTS MAX)



BONUS POINTS
(TUES-SAT)
(170 POINTS MAX)



FINALS
(285 POINTS MAX)



ONE TEAM. ONE STANDARD. ONE CHAMPION.
COMPETE. LEAD. INSPIRE.





49TH ANNUAL LAKOTA NATION INVITATIONAL GAME DAY ★ CHEERLEADING COMPETITION ★

ALL TOURNEY & SPORTSMANSHIP *Award Nomination Form*

LNI SPORTSMANSHIP & RECONCILIATION

The Lakota Nation Invitational has always been about more than competition. It is a celebration of our schools, our communities, and our shared commitment to building relationships through respect, unity, and sportsmanship.

The LNI believes that true champions demonstrate integrity, encourage others, show respect for officials and opponents, and represent their schools with humility and pride. Through our continued focus on reconciliation, we strive to create an environment where every participant feels welcomed, valued, and supported.

These awards recognize the student-athletes and teams who best exemplify the spirit of the Lakota Nation Invitational both on and off the competition floor.



ALL TOURNEY CHEERLEADER NOMINATION

Each registered school may nominate one (1) All Tourney Cheerleader who consistently demonstrates outstanding leadership, spirit, teamwork, sportsmanship, and excellence throughout the Lakota Nation Invitational.

SCHOOL: _____

ALL TOURNEY NOMINEE: _____

BRIEF STATEMENT (OPTIONAL)

Why does this student deserve All Tourney recognition?

COACH'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____



SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD NOMINATION

Each school may nominate one (1) team that best represents the values of the Lakota Nation Invitational through respect, encouragement, positive leadership, integrity, and outstanding sportsmanship.

SCHOOL NOMINATING: _____

SPORTSMANSHIP TEAM NOMINATION: _____

BRIEF STATEMENT (OPTIONAL)

How did this team demonstrate outstanding sportsmanship and the spirit of reconciliation?

COACH'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

★ DUE: BEFORE GRAND ENTRY ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2026 ★



PLEASE SUBMIT COMPLETED FORMS TO:

KELLEE J. BREWER

LNI Cheerleading Coordinator

✉ Inicheerleading@gmail.com

☎ 605-440-7861

Thank you ★★

for helping recognize the student-athletes and teams who best represent the values, sportsmanship, leadership, and spirit of the Lakota Nation Invitational.

LNI CHEERLEADING OFFICIAL RULES & POLICIES



1 COACH RESPONSIBILITIES

- Ensure all athletes understand and follow LNI rules and policies.
- Display respect toward judges, officials, opponents, spectators, and event staff.
- Be responsible for the conduct of athletes, assistant coaches, and team personnel.
- Arrive on time for all rehearsals, evaluations, performances, and meetings.
- Ensure all athletes meet eligibility requirements and compete in approved uniforms.
- Maintain a safe environment by following all stunt and safety regulations.
- Keep sidelines and competition areas clean and free of unnecessary equipment.
- Accept judges' decisions respectfully and encourage athletes to do the same.
- Promote the LNI values of respect, unity, reconciliation, and sportsmanship.

2 JUDGE INTEGRITY

- **No coach, athlete, parent, or spectator may communicate with a judge regarding scoring before, during, or after the competition.**
- **Judges will not discuss scores, rankings, comments, or placements before, during, or after the competition.**
- **Judges' decisions are final.**
- **Any attempt to influence, intimidate, or confront a judge may result in penalties or disqualification.**
- **Coaches, athletes, team personnel, and spectators must remain outside the designated Judges' Area at all times.**
- **Coaches, athletes, team personnel, and spectators must remain outside the designated Officials' Area at all times.**
- **All teams will be evaluated using the published LNI scoring criteria.**

3 UNIFORM & APPEARANCE

- School-approved uniforms are required.
- Hair must be secured off the shoulders.
- No glitter on hair, face, body, or uniform.
- No jewelry.
- No long fingernails.
- Athletes must comply with all LNI appearance standards.

4 SIDELINE RULES

- Maximum of eight (8) athletes may perform on the sideline at one time.
- Sideline equipment and props must be used safely.
- Bags, props, and personal belongings must remain off the competition floor with the coaching staff.
- The sideline must remain clear and hazard-free at all times.
- Schools entering two teams may combine both teams during pre-game and halftime performances.
- Teams are expected to shake hands before and after each game as a demonstration of good sportsmanship and respect.

5 TIMEOUT & GAME RULES

30-SECOND TIMEOUTS

- Stay 3-4 feet from court boundaries.
- Limited stunting only.
- Quick entrance and exit.

60-SECOND TIMEOUTS

- Stunting permitted only when safe.
- No stunting while the ball is in play.
- Remain clear of entry, exit, and end lines.

FREE THROWS

- No cheering during free-throw attempts.

WARM-UPS

- Stunting only when the court is clear and safe.

6 ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

- All athletes must appear on the official LNI roster before competing.
- Only rostered athletes may participate in any event.
- Athlete substitutions must comply with LNI participation guidelines.

7 SPIRIT MUSIC & FIGHT SONGS

- Spirit music must be appropriate for a school and family-friendly environment.
- Fight Songs are instrumental.

8 PROPS

- Only approved Game Day props may be used.
- Props must be used safely and under coach supervision.
- Props must not interfere with the game, officials, spectators, or other teams.
- Props must be removed immediately following each performance.

9 PERFORMANCE READINESS

- Teams must report to the designated warm-up area before their scheduled performance.
- Teams must be present and ready when called.
- Late arrivals may result in schedule adjustments at the discretion of event officials.

10 SPORTSMANSHIP

- Respect opponents, officials, judges, event staff, and spectators.
- Demonstrate positive leadership at all times.
- Taunting, profanity, or disrespectful behavior may result in penalties or disqualification.
- Represent your school with dignity, integrity, and pride.

11 MEDICAL & SAFETY

- Athlete safety is the highest priority.
- Athletes should perform only skills they can safely execute.
- Coaches are responsible for reporting injuries to event staff.
- Injured athletes should be evaluated before returning to participate.

12 EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

- In the event of an emergency or facility evacuation, all teams must immediately follow directions from LNI officials, Monument staff, and emergency personnel.

13 EVENT COMPLIANCE

- Teams must report on time for all rehearsals, evaluations, performances, and meetings.
- Participation in all required Game Day and Sideline events is necessary for final rankings.
- Teams must follow all directions from event staff, security personnel, and officials.

LNI AUTHORITY

The Lakota Nation Invitational Cheerleading Coordinator reserves the right to interpret, clarify, and enforce all competition rules and procedures. Any situation not specifically addressed in these guidelines will be resolved by the LNI Cheerleading Coordinator.



ONE TEAM. ONE STANDARD. ONE CHAMPION.
RESPECT • UNITY • RECONCILIATION • EXCELLENCE

