

STATE SPIRIT COMPETITION GUIDELINES

April 16-17, 2010

SANTA ANA STAR CENTER

DANCE/DRILL TEAM INFORMATION



I. ELIGIBILITY

The NMAA State Spirit Competition is open to all varsity high school dance/drill teams. Only one varsity team may represent a school. The Public Education Department/NMAA Scholastic eligibility requirements must be followed by members of all teams. Each school must submit a team roster and picture on the NMAA website by the fourth Friday in October.

II. PERFORMANCE CATEGORIES

Teams are required to perform a **Pom** routine and a **Precision Drill, Dance or Prop** routine to be eligible for a State Trophy. The combination score of the two routines will determine the State Champions. These performances must incorporate the criteria listed on the judging forms. The routines are to demonstrate the level of excellence and quality of execution of the basic skills taught in the sport of Dance/Drill. Teams are to use discretion in selection of music, costuming, and moves.

Costumes may not inhibit arms, legs and/or body movements. **No midribs.** Face masks may not be worn, including the painting of facial expressions. Accessories (hats, gloves, skirts etc.) if pulled from the uniforms or body and used in the performance may not be used for more than 20% of the routine.

A floor monitor will signal for the squad to enter the floor. A squad will have a maximum of 2 minutes to (1) *enter* the floor, (2) set up any props, and (3) get into position. Squads will begin their routine immediately after they are announced ("Now performing..."). No additional set-up or positioning time is allowed. The time will begin with the first beat of the music and end with the last beat. Teams exceeding the entrance time will receive a 5 point deduction from their total score for that performance. Deductions will be reflected on the scoring sheet.

A. Pom – REQUIRED ROUTINE

1. Poms must be utilized by members 80% of the time during the routine.
2. Poms are the only prop to be used in this category.
3. See judges sheet for criteria that will be used to judge this category.
4. See "Required Elements" document for those skills that must be included in the routine.
5. There will be a 2 point deduction for any incomplete element.
6. There will be a 5 point deduction for any omitted element.

B. Precision Drill

Any basic military maneuvers or steps such as pinwheels, blocks, ranks and files, etc. may be used. Overall emphasis is on precision; straight arm sequences, kicks and ripples may be used. **DO NOT USE DANCE STEPS.** No head rolls, body rolls, torso movements or hip movements may be used. Pas de bourres, pyramids, lifts, stunts, arch back, toe touches (Russian or Straddle) and gymnastics may not be used. General emphasis is on clean, sharp movements.

C. Dance

Any dance style is acceptable. Movements should complement the music.

D. Prop

Any dance style is acceptable. Movements should complement the music. The routine in this category calls for new and innovative ways to use the prop. Props must be utilized by members 80% of the time during the routine. This includes all props, except Poms within the National Federation guidelines

Due to Fire Marshall regulations, props can be no larger than 6 feet by 6 feet.

All stage props, backdrops and hand props will be inspected prior to performances to ensure that floors are protected from damage. Any prop that does not meet the following criteria will not be allowed on the performance floor:

- Bottom surfaces of props must be covered with a non-abrasive material
- No sharp corners are permitted to touch the floor
- Any prop that may be pushed across the floor must be equipped with non-scratch casters/glidors

III. CLASSIFICATIONS/DIVISIONS

- A. Divisions shall be made into the following classifications: A-AA, AAA, AAAA & AAAAA.
- B. Teams must compete at the classification level that the school declares for boys' basketball participation.
- C. Each school must declare the categories in which they will perform by **the stated deadline on the registration form**. Teams **will not** be allowed to change categories after the deadline.
- D. All performers must be listed on the official registration/eligibility form.
Note: The NMAA be notified in advance and approve of any changes in performing members due to unforeseen circumstances.

IV. MUSIC SPECIFICS

- A. A maximum of two minutes and thirty seconds (2:30) shall be given to each team for each performance. The time will begin with the first beat of the music and end with the last beat.
- B. There will be a deduction of 5 points from the total score for exceeding the time limit established for each performance. This is listed on the judging form and the timers are responsible for deducting the points.
- C. No live music will be allowed during the entrance, routine, or the exit. A music system will be provided. Each team will be responsible for furnishing an individual to signal the music system operator to start the music.
- D. Routine music must be recorded on a quality compact disc. The tape must be labeled with the school and coach's name. **Each coach must provide a second CD for back-up purposes.** Keep in mind that recording equipment differs. In the event of music malfunction during the State Competition, the coach must inform the person controlling the music to stop the music. (Note: A coach **may not** request that the routine be repeated once the team has left the floor.) The announcer will tell the performing team to regroup and start over in the event of a malfunction of the music. There will not be a point deduction for a music malfunction.

V. TROPHIES AND AWARDS

- A. State Championship Trophies and Best of Category Certificates shall all use the same guidelines for distribution.

If a division has up to three teams, only one trophy will be awarded.

If a division has four or 5 teams, two trophies will be awarded.

If a division has 6, three trophies will be awarded.

If a division has 7 or more teams, four trophies will be awarded.

- B. In the event of a tie for state, the teams highest scoring routine will be used to determine the ranking for the state trophies. (see next page for example)

Example: Team 1 scores	98 (1 st routine)	95 (2 nd routine) = 193
Team 2 scores	96 (1 st routine)	97 (2 nd routine) = 193
Team 3 scores	94 (1 st routine)	99 (2 nd routine) = 193

All three teams would be in a three way tie with the combination of both scores. Therefore the highest routine score would be used in ranking for the state trophy which would result in Team 3 winning first place (99), Team 1 second place (98) and Team 3 third place (95).

If the three teams have the same identical routine scores regardless of routine order the state trophy would be awarded to all three teams. The team that traveled the furthest would take the trophy home, and duplicate trophies will be mailed to the remaining teams.

VI. ADJUDICATION

Judges for the State Spirit Competition will be *impartial*, qualified, and experienced *professionals* from out of state with a thorough knowledge and background in cheerleading. Judges will provide written evaluations on the score sheets. All judges' scores will be combined to determine the final score for each performance. Technical judges will rule on safety violations. One technical judge will check squads for uniform violations prior to entering the performance floor.

Judges' sheets may be picked up at the designated area at the conclusion of each session. An NMAA representative will be present at said area. Coaches will have 30 minutes after the end of the session to appeal any deductions. No appeals will be accepted once those 30 minutes has elapsed.

VII. ENTRY FEES

The Competition entry fee is \$150.00. *Entry fee is non-refundable*

Make check payable to: **NMAA – Spirit Competition**
6600 Palomas NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109

***All fees must be postmarked by Friday, January 30, 2009. NO EXCEPTIONS! A \$100 late fee will be assessed if received after payment deadline.**

VIII. FINES

There will be a **\$100.00** fine imposed for any team who registers and fails to notify the NMAA in **writing** by **noon** on **Monday, March 29, 2010** if the team wishes to withdraw from the Competition.

The coach must immediately notify the NMAA if a team will not perform both routines due to unforeseen circumstances. Failure to do so will result in a \$100.00 fine to the school.

IX. AWARDS PRESENTATION & CHAMPIONSHIP PHOTOGRAPHS

Due to Fire Code regulations, each squad can only send 2 squad members to the floor for awards.

The Awards Presentation will be contingent on the number of performances. It will be held at the conclusion of Session 3 (AAA and AAAA) and 4 (A-AA and AAAAA). When awards are announced, the two team representatives will accept the trophy. Following the presentation of the award, the entire team will be directed to an area for photos.

X. REGULATIONS FOR SAFETY

A. All safety rules apply to all New Mexico dance/drill teams at all times. Violation of the safety updated guideline(s) during the State Competition will result in penalty point deductions. Violation(s) of any rules in the current **National Federation Spirit Rules Book** will result in a deduction of penalty points from the total score for that performance. Rule books may be purchased at the NMAA office.

B. Technical judges will determine violations of the safety guidelines. One technical judge will check teams for violations prior to entering on the performance floor.

C. Refer to the current **National Federation Official High School Spirit Rules Book** for the safety guidelines which must be adhered to. (Rulebooks may be purchased through the NMAA office.)

Please note: If you are an AACCA Certified Coach, you signed a statement promising to abide by AACCA rules which in some cases may be more stringent than those of the NFHS.

XI. PERFORMANCE AREA AND WARM-UP

A. All performances will be conducted on the Santa Ana Star Center basketball court (94 feet x 50) feet. Note: All Cheer performances will use a safety mat which will be removed from the floor prior to Dance/Drill teams performing.

B. The first eight teams performing in each session need to arrive forty-five minutes prior to the session and check in for warm up. Teams will be given **5 minutes for stretching, and 5 minutes for warm-up**. No team will be permitted to warm-up in the concourse area.

C. **Only coaches who are STATE certified, recognized by the school, and listed on the official state entry form are permitted in the competition and warm up areas. These coaches are the only persons authorized to perform coaching duties.**

D. State performing teams are not allowed to hold practice on the performance surface at any time during the year. Doing so may result in team disqualification.

XII. TEAM ENTRANCE/SEATING

A. *Teams will be provided with wristbands for participants who are listed on the State Registration Form and whose eligibility has been verified via the NMAA website. No additional wristbands will be distributed.*

B. It is required that all performing teams enter through the will-call door at the lower SE corner of the Arena. *Only eligible participants listed on the State entry registration and wearing the appropriate wristband will be permitted as members of the team.*

C. No outside food and/or beverages will be permitted.

D. Administrators and Sponsors must enter through the will-call door. Individuals will be admitted according to the NMAA Complimentary Entrance policy.

E. Teams must sit in the participants seating on the Arena floor.

1. Only the performing teams and coaches wearing the official wristbands will be permitted to enter this area. Coaches are strongly encouraged to explain this to their school administration, parents, fans, etc.
2. Participants are **not** to take the wristbands off at any time during the event.
3. Participants will not be able to re-enter the area without a wristband.
4. If you are in the participant seating area, you must remain seated during performances. Entrance and exit from this area will only be permitted between performances. A team may be asked to leave the participant seating if they are not respectful of the performing team.

F. Due to fire code regulations, all personal belongings must be stored under the participant's chair. No bags, shoes, poms, etc. should be left in the aisles. Items in the aisles may be confiscated.

G. Teams are not allowed to change in the seating area. All costume and uniform changes must be done in the provided facilities.

BEST OF LUCK TO ALL PARTICIPANTS!

