

# State Spirit Competition Guidelines

## Dance Guidelines



### **Eligibility**

The NMAA State Spirit Competition is open to all NMAA member high school competitive varsity Dance teams. Only one varsity team may represent a school. All teams must adhere to all NMAA eligibility requirements. Each school must submit a team roster and picture on the NMAA website.

### **Performance Categories**

Teams are required to perform a **Pom** routine. For the team's second routine, teams are allowed to perform one of the following routines: **Military, Jazz, or Hip-Hop**. The daily score for each routine is the total of the 5 judge's scores, minus any deductions, and then divided by 5. The two daily scores are then added together to arrive at the team's final score. 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. Teams are to use discretion in the selection of music, costuming, and moves.

Costumes may not inhibit arms, legs, and/or body movements. No midriffs.

# Performance Categories

## POM\*

Poms must be used at least 80% of the routine. No props. Important characteristics of a pom routine include synchronization and visual effects, along with proper pom placement and dance technique. Motions should be very sharp, clean and precise. Your team should be synchronized and appear as “one.” A routine that is visually effective is extremely important, including level changes, group work, formation changes, etc. Keep in mind that a pom routine carries a more “traditional” theme, whereas, jazz routines are more stylized.

## Military

The emphasis will be on synchronization, choreography, technique and execution. Military is precision in style and incorporates many sharp, concise movements that showcase formation changes, level changes, visual effects, group work, contagions, ripples, kicks, etc. Choreography should be carefully constructed to define the routine as military by incorporating difficulty consistent with the goal of team precision. No props.

## Jazz

A jazz routine incorporates stylized dance movements and combinations, formation changes, group work, leaps and turns. Emphasis is placed on proper technical execution, extension, control, body placement and team uniformity. Use creative choreography that will capture the judges and audience. Make it your own style as to distinguish your team apart from the rest. No props.

## Hip-Hop

Routines should include street style movements with an emphasis on execution style, creativity, body isolations and control. The uniformity of all movement throughout the performance should complement the beats and rhythm of music. Teams may also put an additional focus on incorporations such as jumps, jump variations, control jumps, stalls and floor work. No props.

\* **Required Routine**

## **Classification/Divisions**

- Divisions shall be made into the following classifications: A-AAAA, AAAAA, & AAAAAA.
- Teams must compete at the classification level that the school declares for boys' basketball participation.
- Each dance team has no limit to the number of registered participants, and can have up to four (4) alternates. Each team will perform two separate routines with no more than four (4) team members different from one routine to the other.
- 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.
- All performers must be listed on the state registration form submitted to the NMAA.

## Music Specifics

- Each performance may not exceed two minutes and thirty seconds (2:30).
- There will be a deduction of 5 points from the Technical Judge on the total score for exceeding the time limit established for each performance.
- No live music will be allowed during the entrance, routine, or 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.
- A floor monitor will signal for the team to enter the floor. A team will have 45 seconds to enter the floor and get into position. Teams will begin their routine immediately after it is announced. No additional set-up or positioning time is allowed. The time will begin with the first signal (stomp, clap, ready, music, etc.) and end when the routine is over. Teams exceeding the entrance time will receive a five (5) point deduction from their total score for that performance. Deductions will be reflected on the technical judge-scoring sheet.

Routine music must be recorded on a smartphone or tablet. CD's will not be accepted. You must have your music cued and ready to hand over to the music tech on your smartphone or tablet. If using a smartphone please ensure it is in airplane mode. Keep in mind that recording equipment differs. In the event of music malfunction during the State Competition, the music representative must inform the person controlling the music to stop the music. The announcer will tell the performing team to regroup and start over. There will not be a point deduction for a music malfunction. (Note: A coach may not request that the routine be repeated once the team has left the floor.)

# Trophies and Awards

- State Championship trophies will be awarded using the following guidelines:
  - If a class has up to three teams registered, they will compete in the next classification above.
  - If a class has four or five teams, two trophies will be awarded
  - If a class has six or more teams, three trophies will be awarded
- In the event of a tie, the team's highest scoring performance will be used to determine the ranking for the state trophies.

Example:

Team	1 <sup>st</sup> Routine	2 <sup>nd</sup> Routine	Total
1	98	95	193
2	96	97	193
3	94	99	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 tied 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 would be mailed to the remaining teams.

# **Adjudication**

Judges for the State Spirit Competition will be impartial, qualified, and experienced professionals from out of state (4 out of 5) with a thorough knowledge and background in Dance. Judges will provide written evaluations on the score sheets. The daily score for each routine is the total of the 5 judge's scores, minus any deductions, and then divided by 5. The two daily scores are then added together to arrive at the team's final score. Technical judges will rule on safety violations.

Judges' sheets may be picked up at the designated area on the first day at the conclusion of their team's classification, and the second day at the conclusion of the awards ceremony. No technical protests or appeals will be accepted.

## **Awards Presentation & Championship Photographs**

For second and third place, each team may only send two (2) members to the floor. For first place, the entire team may enter the floor for awards.

The Awards Presentation will be held at the conclusion of the event.



## **Regulations for Safety**

Safety rules apply to all Dance teams at all times. Violation of the safety-updated guideline(s) during the State Competition will result in penalty point deductions from the Technical Judge. 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.

Technical judges will determine violations of the safety guidelines.

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

## **Performance Area and Warm-Up**

- All performances will be conducted on the basketball court (94 feet x 50 feet).
- Teams will be given an adequate amount of time for warm-up. No team will be permitted to warm-up in the concourse area.
- Only coaches who are state licensed, AACCA certified, recognized by the school, and listed on the official state registration form submitted to the NMAA are permitted in the competition and warm-up areas. These coaches are the only persons authorized to perform coaching duties.
- A designated "coaches box" on the front edge of the performance area will be provided. Only two licensed and AACCA certified coaches, recognized by the school, are permitted in that area. Coaches must remain in the designated "coaches box" until the completion of the routine.
- Following their performance, teams will have 15 seconds to exit the floor.



## **Team Entrance/Seating**

- Teams will be provided with souvenir bag tags for participants who are listed on the State Registration Form and whose eligibility has been verified via the NMAA website. Bag tags will not be used for admission.
- It is required that all performing teams enter through the complimentary entrance door. Only eligible participants listed on the State entry registration will gain entrance as members of the team.
- Any team member wanting to re-enter the arena or the performance area must show an ID at the complimentary entrance door and be listed on the state registration form.
- No outside food and/or beverages will be permitted.
- Administrators and Sponsors must enter through the complimentary entrance door. Individuals will be admitted according to the NMAA Complimentary Entrance policy.
  - Teams must sit in the participants seating on the Arena floor. Only the performing teams and coaches will be permitted to enter this area.
- Teams are not allowed to change in the seating area. All costume and uniform changes must be done in the provided facilities.

## **Registration**

Send registrations to: NMAA – Spirit Competition  
Attn: Alissa Wesbrook  
6600 Palomas Ave NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87109  
or  
Fax: 505-923-3114

\*All registrations must be submitted to the NMAA by Friday, February 17, 2017.