

State Spirit Competition Guidelines

Dance Guidelines



Eligibility

The NMAA State Spirit Competition is open to all NMAA member high school competitive varsity Dance teams who have attended the mandatory Spirit Coaches Clinic and participated in three (3) sanctioned events between November-March. 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 by December 1st of the current year.

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**. These performances must incorporate the criteria listed on the judging scoresheets. 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 midriiffs.

Performance Categories

POM*	Military	Jazz	Hip-Hop
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>

* Required Routine

Classifications/Divisions

- Divisions shall be made into the following classifications: A-AAA, AAAA, & AAAAA.
- 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.

Performance Time Limit and Music Specifics

- 1) Each performance may not exceed two minutes and thirty seconds (2:30).
- 2) A floor monitor will signal for the team to enter the floor. A team will have 30 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.
- 3) 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.
- 4) 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 a school representative to control/start the music.
- 5) Routine music must be recorded on a tablet or smartphone. CD's will not be accepted. You must have your music cued and ready to hand over to the music tech on your tablet or smartphone. 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 school representative controls the music, to include the sound on the tablet or smartphone. Therefore, they will make the determination whether to stop the music. The announcer will then tell the performing team to regroup and start over. There will not be a point deduction for a music malfunction. A coach may not request that the routine be repeated once the team has left the floor. Please be sure to record your music at the highest volume possible.

Trophies, Scores and Rankings

- State Championship trophies will be awarded using the following guidelines:
 - If a class has up to four teams registered, only one trophy will be awarded.
 - If a class has five or six teams, two trophies will be awarded
 - If a class has seven or more teams, three trophies will be awarded
- 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.
- 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 st Routine	2 nd 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 2 third place (97).
- 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 with a thorough knowledge and background in Dance. Judges will provide written evaluations on the scoresheets. Each day the performance is evaluated by five (5) judges for a total of ten (10) judges evaluating performances during the two day event. Technical judges will rule on safety violations and time limit infractions.
- Judges' scoresheets 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.
- By participating in the state spirit competition, each team acknowledges the scores, judge's decisions and validated point totals from the individual scoresheets are final.

Awards Presentation & Championship Photographs

For second and third place, each team may send a maximum of four (4) 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 Official High School Spirit Rules Book** for the safety guidelines which may be purchased at 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 comp door. Only eligible participants listed on the State entry registration will be permitted as members of the team.
- Any team member wanting to re-enter the arena or the performance area must show an ID at the comp 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.

***Registrations must be submitted to the NMAA by Tuesday, February 18, 2020.**