



## SECTION 5: SCORES & JUDGING

### How We Judge at Dance Team World

At Dance Team World, we take our judging process seriously. Judges are selected based on their qualifications, real-world experience in the dance industry, and the feedback we receive throughout the season. We aim to build a judging panel that's knowledgeable, fair, and reflective of the standards we uphold at both our regional and national events.

---

### Scoring Format

For team routines, judges initially evaluate routines using a **100-point system**, depending on the specific score sheet for the division. **Solo and Ensemble divisions are scored slightly differently** (See Section 4: Category Descriptions for scoresheet breakdowns). Tie breaker for all rounds is the technique/execution score, followed by choreography/artistry, and then showmanship/performance.

---

### Prelims: Total Point Scoring

In the preliminary round, each judge scores routines independently using our standard scoring rubric. Those scores are added together to create a **total point average** for each team. This traditional scoring model ensures all teams are evaluated fairly and helps us determine which teams advance to Finals.

---

### Finals: Rank-Point Scoring

In Finals, we switch to a **rank-based system** to keep things as fair and balanced as possible. *Here's how it works:*

Each judge still scores routines independently, but instead of adding up point totals, we convert each judge's scores into ranks — for example, their 1st place, 2nd place, 3rd place, etc. Then, we combine the ranks from all judges.

The team with the **lowest total rank** is named the **National Champion**, followed by



2nd place, 3rd place, and so on. (Coaches & Directors will still be able to see their total point average scores from this round of competition on their recap spreadsheet)

Our rank point system during Finals helps protect against any one judge's scores having too much influence — and is viewed as an emerging **best-practice model** used by top-level dance team competitions across the country.

---

## What to Expect from Our Judges

Each judge will complete an individual digital score sheet for every routine and provide constructive, helpful feedback by video critique to support your team's growth. We believe evaluations should do more than just identify obvious opportunities for improvement — they should also offer meaningful insight.

Score sheets will be released after each round or event, and full score rankings will be made available for review in the days following the event. Our goal is to provide as much transparency as possible, so you leave with a clear picture of how your performance was evaluated.

---

## Judging Accountability & Feedback

Judges are held to high standards. After each event, we collect evaluations from participating teams as part of our ongoing quality review process. This feedback helps us make sure our judging stays consistent, fair, and professional across the board.

While judges' decisions are final, we welcome your input. If you have concerns or observations about scoring, we encourage you to reach out through our post-event evaluation form or contact us directly. Just as we ask judges to give your team honest, thoughtful feedback, we invite you to do the same for us — it helps us grow and improve the overall experience for everyone involved.