

SECTION 4: CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

Dance Team World Education Foundation understands that the very idea of “dance team” varies from state-to-state and also internationally. **Our definition celebrates originality, authenticity, and artistic expression.**

We encourage teams to bring their own unique voice and creativity to the floor in every category. There is no specific “formula” or style we expect. Moreover, we welcome innovation, risk-taking, and routines that reflect the identity of your team and your dancers.

Our judging panel is committed to providing feedback that is not only fair and thoughtful, but also **genuinely helpful to your growth throughout the season.** Whether you're refining a style, debuting a new concept, or building your team's confidence, our goal is to support your process through meaningful evaluation... and most importantly, friendly camaraderie!

Each team division has its own scoresheet that is specific to the style/genre. The scoring rubric for each division is designed to be clear, consistent, and centered on execution, performance quality, and choreography.

The page has detailed descriptions of each dance category. And remember, your team's unique artistry and choreographic creativity are always welcome here!





Contemporary

Our “contemporary” division encompasses styles commonly referred to as contemporary or modern dance. Combinations of these styles may also be used. The team should demonstrate difficulty using advanced dance skills (e.g., turns, leaps, extensions). Movements should complement the music and teams will be judged on both musicality and uniformity. Teams should also display an ability to connect with the audience and provoke an emotional response (i.e., excitement, laughter, joy, sadness and/or sense of drama) appropriate to the style presented.

Hip Hop

There is no one definition to describe hip-hop dance, which is continuously transforming and redefining itself with each new generation of dancers. Any general street or hip-hop style (or combination of styles) is acceptable in this category. Movements should complement the music, and teams will be judged on both musicality and uniformity. Teams should also display an ability to connect with the audience and provoke an emotional response (i.e., excitement, laughter, joy, sadness and/or sense of drama) appropriate to the street dance styles presented.

Jazz

Our “jazz” division encompasses styles commonly referred to as jazz, Broadway, or jazz-funk, and teams have successfully competed in the jazz division with all of these styles. Combinations of these styles may also be used. The team should demonstrate difficulty using advanced dance skills (e.g., turns, leaps, extensions). Movements should complement the music and teams will be judged on both musicality and uniformity. Teams should also display an ability to connect with the audience and provoke an emotional response (i.e., excitement, laughter, joy, sadness and/or sense of drama) appropriate to the style of jazz dance presented.

Kick

30 kicks of at least waist height performed by at least 50% of the team must be included in each routine. Any style of dance may be used to accomplish this and there are no required movements. Turns, leaps, jumps, lifts, or tricks are not required. The team may



demonstrate difficulty through the incorporation of the number and structure of kick sequences and the height and pace of kicks. Movements should complement the music and teams will be judged on both musicality and unison. Teams should also display an ability to connect with the audience and provoke an emotional response (i.e., excitement, laughter, joy, and/or sense of drama) appropriate to the kick routine choreography presented.

Lyrical

Any general lyrical dance style (or combination of styles) is acceptable including styles commonly referred to as lyrical or liturgical. Combinations of these styles may also be used. The team should demonstrate difficulty through the incorporation of classical ballet technique, advanced dance skills (e.g., turns, leaps, extensions), and musical demand. Movements should complement “lyric-based” music selections. Teams will be judged on both musicality and uniformity. Teams should also display an ability to connect with the audience and provoke an emotional response (i.e., excitement, laughter, joy, sadness and/or sense of drama) appropriate to the Lyrical routine choreography presented.

Military

A Military routine should contain but not be limited to clean, crisp movements with visual formation changes/transition, and visually complex arm, hand and/or leg lines. Movements should complement the music and teams will be judged on both musicality and unison. Military routines DO NOT need to adhere to parade marching standards of leading with the left foot on odd-beats, and may utilize any style of transitional movement that highlights unity and overall precision. Teams should also display an ability to connect with the audience and provoke an emotional response (i.e., intensity, excitement, laughter, joy, and/or sense of drama) appropriate to the military style presented.



Novelty/Open

This division encompasses any style of thematic dance movement (subject to our rules and regulations related to entry guidelines), including but not limited to those styles not otherwise offered separately such as Novelty, Show Production, or Character dances. Combinations of styles may also be used. The team should demonstrate difficulty appropriate for the chosen style(s). Movements should complement the music and teams will be judged on both musicality and uniformity. Teams should also display an ability to connect with the audience and provoke an emotional response (i.e., excitement, laughter, joy, sadness and/or sense of drama) appropriate to the style presented.

Pom

Any style of dance may be used to present a pom dance routine, and there are no required movements. Turns, leaps, jumps, kicks, lifts, or tricks are not required. The team should demonstrate difficulty through the incorporation of intricate pom motions. Movements should complement the music and teams will be judged on both musicality and uniformity. Teams will also be judged on the creative use of poms for visual effect. Teams should also display an ability to connect with the audience and provoke an emotional response (i.e., excitement, laughter, joy, and/or sense of drama) appropriate to the Pom style presented.

Prop

Any style of dance may be used to present a prop-focused routine and there are no required movements. Turns, leaps, jumps, kicks, lifts, or tricks are not required. The team should demonstrate difficulty through the incorporation of intricate motions including the prop. Movements should complement the music and teams will be judged on both musicality and uniformity. Teams will specifically be judged on the creative use of a single prop or multiple props for visual effect. Teams should also display an ability to connect with the audience and provoke an emotional response (i.e., excitement, laughter, joy, and/or sense of drama) appropriate to the style presented.



Spirit Line/Game Day

The Spirit Line/Game Day division allows a dance program to showcase the type of routine the team might do at an event as a dance team. Routines competing in this division must have two sections, performed in order, as follows:

1. **Spirit Raising Routine:** Include 1 or more of the following (at the team's option):
 - a. Fight Song Routine
 - b. Sideline Routine
 - c. Stand Routine
 - d. Step Routine
 - e. Drum Cadence

2. **Performance Routine:** A routine of any style designed to appeal to the crowd at a school event (such as a sporting event).

Dance skills such as leaps, turns, extensions, acrobatic tricks, lifts, etc., are not required. Thought should be given to a well-thought out, clear and complementary choreographic program script as a whole, as well as seamless transition(s) joining the two routines. The Spiritline/Gameday routine should focus on dance and not cheerleading – as such, any section that includes a coordinated cheer or chant not accompanied by a dance element will not be judged or earn any points for the team.

Team Performance

Team Performance is a combination of pom, jazz, kick, and hip-hop styles. Please see the descriptions of those individual styles for more information. Teams should demonstrate proficiency in each style to maximize their score. Judges are instructed to award 0 points in the Technique and Difficulty caption for any style they do not see in the routine at all, and judges will reduce a team's score in the Technique and Difficulty caption for any style that is not present in an amount deemed sufficient by that judge to evaluate the team's proficiency in the applicable style. For this reason, it is recommended that teams have well-defined sections devoted to each of these styles of at least 25-30 seconds in length. Movements should complement the music and teams will be judged on both musicality and unison. Teams should display an ability to connect with the audience and provoke an emotional response (i.e., excitement, laughter, joy, sadness and/or sense of drama) appropriate to each style presented.