



OFFICIAL RULES & REGULATIONS

Dance Team World's NATIONAL TITLE championship event isn't just another competition: it's a nonprofit-powered experience designed with coaches and dancers in mind. This set of rules and regulations is designed to help you prepare for the upcoming dance competition season. These guidelines apply to all School-age divisions as well as Studio/All-Star categories. Please read carefully. Rules are subject to change. For questions or concerns, contact us at registration@danceteamworld.com

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SECTION 1: GENERAL RULES

General Questions & Concerns

We're here to help! If you have any questions before, during, or after the event, please follow the process below:

1. Rules & Procedures: Coaches or team advisors should reach out directly with any questions about rules, eligibility, or event regulations. You can contact us by email at: registration@danceteamworld.com
2. Performance-Related Concerns: If you have questions about your team's routine or how it was handled during the event, please contact us — we're always open to a respectful conversation.

General Safety Guidelines

1. Coaches are responsible for knowing their team's capabilities and should ensure routines reflect safe and age-appropriate choreography — even if a particular skill is not listed in our routine guidelines.
2. All teams should have an emergency plan in place in the event of an injury.
3. Technical skills should only be practiced with a coach or advisor present, and in a safe, appropriate space. Teams should never practice/perform on:
 - Concrete, asphalt, or hard surfaces without mats
 - Wet or slippery floors
 - Uneven or obstructed spaces
4. Proper warm-up and cool-down routines are essential and should be done before and after any performance.
5. All Dance Team World events will follow local health and safety laws, along with any additional safety protocols we establish. Coaches, teams, and spectators are expected to fully comply.
6. For more detailed safety expectations, refer to **Section 7: Safety & Logistics**.



Disqualification Policy

While this is extremely rare, teams that do not follow Dance Team World's rules and regulations may be subject to disqualification. If a team is disqualified, they will forfeit any awards or recognition from the event.

Dance Team World also reserves the right to remove or disallow any individual — including coaches, dancers, or spectators — from participating in or attending our events at our sole discretion if behavior is unsafe, disrespectful, or disrupts the competition environment.



SECTION 2: TEAM DIVISIONS

At **National Title Las Vegas**, we're all about giving every team the space to shine. Whether you are a School Team or Studio/All Star team, we've got a division for you!

School Teams (Group Routines)

Please use the following chart to determine appropriate registration of your team's group dance routines. For high school teams, **Varsity routines** are separated by team size. Team categories correspond to the size guidelines in the same row below, as some size divisions are limited to certain dance styles.

Note: JV, Middle School & Elementary school team divisions are NOT separated by size & will be grouped together in the same division (But still separated by dance style).

TEAM CATEGORIES		VARSITY ROUTINE SIZE GUIDELINES		
Contemporary	Varsity & JV →	Small (5-10)	Medium (11-19)	Large (20+)
Hip Hop	Varsity & JV →	Small (5-10)	Medium (11-19)	Large (20+)
Jazz	Varsity & JV →	Small (5-10)	Medium (11-19)	Large (20+)
Lyrical	Varsity & JV →	Small (5-10)	Medium (11-19)	Large (20+)
Pom	Varsity & JV →	Small (5-10)	Medium (11-19)	Large (20+)
Kick	Varsity →	Small (5-15)		Large (16+)
Military	Varsity →	Small (5-15)		Large (16+)
Novelty/Open	Varsity →	Small (5-15)		Large (16+)
Prop	Varsity →	Small (5-15)		Large (16+)
Gameday	Varsity →	Small (5-15)		Large (16+)
Student Choreo	Varsity →	Small (5-15)		Large (16+)
Team Performance	Varsity →	Small (5-15)		Large (16+)

Note: More JV divisions to be added pending interest and registration demand.



All-Star/Studio Teams (Group Routines)

Please use the following chart to determine appropriate registration of your All-Star or Studio team’s group dance routines. Divisions are separated by age division. Group dances will compete in the age of the oldest dancer in the All-Star/Studio group routine.

ALL-STAR/STUDIO TEAM DIVISIONS	
Mini	Age 8 & Under
Junior	Age 9 - 11
Teen	Age 12 - 14
Senior	Age 15 - 19

Ensemble Divisions

We’re not just about team routines... Smaller ensemble groups and team leaders have their own moment in the spotlight, too! These routines can be in any dance style.

Here’s how it works:

- There's **no limit** to how many Officer/Select or Duet/Trio routines your team can enter at our National Title event.
- Each routine is entered into either the **Gold Division** for intermediate to advanced dancers, *OR* the **Silver Division** for advanced-beginner to intermediate dancers — ensuring your ensembles routines are placed in a category that reflects your dancers’ current experience level, skills, and growth.

ENSEMBLE DIVISIONS	EXPERIENCE LEVELS
Officer/Select (4-5 dancers)	Gold
Duet/Trio (2-3 dancers)	Silver



Multiple Entries/Dancers in the Same Division

To keep the competition fair and exciting for everyone, here's how we handle multiple entries in the **same style and division**:

- Teams **may not enter multiple routines in the same style and division** if the *exact same group of dancers* is performing in both.
- If you'd like to enter more than one routine in the same style and division — with **different dancers** — that's totally allowed! But you'll need to assign **distinct team names**:

Examples:

Southwest HS Dance Team & Southwest HS All-Male Team
American HS Red Team & American HS Blue Team

- If the routines **share any of the same dancers**, only the **highest-scoring routine** will be eligible to advance to finals and receive final placement.
- If the routines have **zero overlapping dancers**, both are eligible for finals and award placements. This also applies if a team enters different subdivisions in the same style — for example, one routine in **Medium Varsity Jazz** and another in **Large Varsity Jazz**.

Note: Dance Team World reserves the right to adjust or restrict multiple entries in the same style/division and may move routines to a more appropriate division if needed.

Team Size Regulations

The following guidelines apply to all **team division routines (excludes solos & ensemble routines)**:

- **Team size is locked at the time of registration submission.**
- Each routine must have a **minimum of 5 dancers registered and paid** in order to compete in a team division. If a team drops below 5 performers on the day of the event due to unforeseen circumstances, the routine may still perform — but 5 dancers must have been registered in advance.



- Teams can use a **different number of dancers for each group routine**, as long as they meet the minimum requirement.
-

Time Limit Regulations (Group Dances)

The following time limits **MUST** be adhered to for our National Championship event:

- Small / Medium / Large 2:00 - 3:00 minutes maximum
- Officer/Select 2:00 - 3:00 minutes maximum
- Duet/Trio 1:30 - 2:30 minutes maximum

Grace Period: Each of the above group dance routines will be allowed 5-additional seconds to exceed the music time limit (if needed; without penalty), to accommodate long intro/outro music tracks, and/or dance movement that concludes after music has already ended.



SECTION 3: SOLO DIVISIONS

Our solo divisions are the core foundation of the Dance Team World Education Foundation’s scholarship program. While we provide one of the most rigorous and rewarding experiences through our National Title Solo Championship division, we also offer entry-level and intermediate-advanced dance soloists the opportunity to shine in our **School Grade Level Solo** division and our **All-Star/Studio Solo** division.

SCHOOL GRADE LEVEL SOLOS

SCHOOL GRADES	DANCE STYLES	EXPERIENCE LEVELS
Grade 12	Jazz	Gold
Grade 11	Hip Hop	Silver
Grade 10	Lyrical	
Grade 9	Contemporary	
Middle School (6-8)		
Youth (K-5)		

The **Grade Level Solo** division gives dancers the chance to shine in a solo performance that’s tailored to their current experience level. It also allows students the option to compete in more than one solo category, if desired.

Dancers compete by school grade and choose from four dance styles: **Jazz, Lyrical, Contemporary, or Hip Hop.**

Each routine is entered into either the **Gold Division** for intermediate to advanced dancers, *OR* the **Silver Division** for advanced-beginner to intermediate dancers... ensuring every performer is placed in a category that reflects their skills and growth.

In the performance schedule, grade solo dancers will compete by grade. But awards will be presented by grade level, dance style and also by experience level. This creates multiple opportunities for your dancers to receive national recognition for their talents.

Note: There are no Experience Level OR Dance Style separations for Middle School & Youth solos. Those age divisions shall compete together in the same grade division



ALL-STAR/STUDIO SOLOS

Dancers compete by age division and choose from four dance styles:
Jazz, Lyrical, Contemporary, or Hip Hop.

Awards are presented by style and age division.

ALL-STAR/STUDIO SOLO DIVISIONS	
Mini	Age 8 & Under
Junior	Age 9 - 11
Teen	Age 12 - 14
Senior	Age 15 - 19

Time Limit Regulations (Solo Divisions)

The following time limits MUST be adhered to for our National Championship event:

- School Grade Level Solo 1:30 - 2:30 minutes maximum
- All Star/Studio Solo 1:30 - 2:30 minutes maximum
- National Title Solo Championship 1:30 - 2:00 minutes maximum
(see next page for details)

Grace Period: Each of the above solo dance routines will be allowed 5-additional seconds to exceed the music time limit (if needed; without penalty), to accommodate long intro/outro music tracks, and/or dance movement that concludes after music has already finished playing.

NATIONAL TITLE SOLO CHAMPIONSHIP

SENIOR DIVISIONS
Miss Dance Team (age 16-19)
Mr. Dance Team (age 16-19)
JUNIOR DIVISION
Teen National Title (age 13-15)



Dance Team World's **National Title Solo Championship** is the most elite school dance team solo competition in the United States. It is Inspired by the historic legacy of [Dr. Kay Teer Crawford \(1914-2001\)](#), inventor of the worldwide dance team competition industry. This division celebrates exceptional soloists while fostering camaraderie among dancers, coaches, directors & school-based programs from across the country.

Open to dancers ages 13-19 and divided by age group, this division showcases performers who have earned qualifying bids to represent their school and U.S. state at our Dance Team Nationals in Las Vegas!

Participants in this division are evaluated across (3) key areas:

Dance Routine (70%) | Skills Spotlight (20%) | Leadership/Interview (10%)

Beyond competition, soloists connect with fellow qualifiers from other states, perform in a collaborative **Closing Show routine**, and attend various events and workshops to celebrate their achievements both at home and on our national stage.

For coaches, this division offers a platform to spotlight your top students with an experience they'll never forget, elevate your program's visibility, and gain national recognition for the culture you're building within your team & your school community!

Participation in this division requires a qualifying bid from a Dance Team World-sanctioned regional event. Click below to explore state-affiliated qualifiers for our National Title Solo Championship... *or contact us to find out how to start your own!*

DANCE TEAM WORLD - SANCTIONED REGIONAL EVENTS			
California	Colorado	Iowa	Minnesota
South Carolina	Utah	Wisconsin	Michigan
Click To Learn How To Start Your Own Dance Team World Regional Solo Event!			

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.



SECTION 5: SCORES & JUDGING

How We Judge at Dance Team World

At Dance Team World's National Championship, 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 dance industry trends and equitable scoring standards.

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 scoresheet rubric breakdowns at the end of this section). 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

If we hold a Finals round for a division, we switch to a **rank-based system** to keep things as fair and balanced as possible. Each judge still scores routines independently, but instead of adding up point totals, we convert each judge's scores into ranks (i.e. their 1st place, 2nd place, 3rd place, etc). Then, we combine the ranks from all judges.

The team with the **lowest total rank point score** 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, which is uploaded to DanceComp Genie following the event)

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** being adopted 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 digitally after each round or event, and full score rankings will be made available for review in the days following the event (uploaded to your DanceComp Genie account). 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 this event, we will 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. As the only Non-Profit National Championship event in 2026, your input helps us grow and improve the overall experience for next year!

Sample Scoresheet Rubric Breakdowns

Located on the next two pages...



GROUP DANCE SCORESHEET

This rubric is used for adjudication of all group dance routines.

Please see Section 4: Category Descriptions to ensure dance genre choreography is appropriate for registered routines.

TECHNIQUE ELEMENTS (30 POINTS)

Dance Technique (DT)	10 pts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proper Technical Execution of all Movements in Chosen Dance Style
Difficulty of Movement (DM)	10 pts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Difficulty of Movement performed in Chosen Style, regardless of the Quality of Execution
Quality of Other Movement (QM)	10 pts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overall Quality of Movement (excluding movements in chosen style)• Technical Difficulty of Movement (excluding movements in chosen style)

EXECUTION OF ROUTINE (30 POINTS)

Uniformity of Movement (UM)	10 pts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uniform Placement of Entire Body by Whole Team• Individual Dancer Uniformity Breaks/Errors Considered
Execution of Spacing/Transitions (ES)	10 pts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uniform Spacing• Smooth Execution of Transitions
Execution of Musicality (EM)	10 pts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Execution of Choreography to the Music• Capturing Nuances of Vocal and/or Musical Cues and Tempo Variations

ARTISTRY/CHOREOGRAPHY (30 POINTS)

Uniqueness of Concept/Movement (CM)	10 pts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concept of Routine is Fresh & Intentional• Movement of Dancers throughout Routine Includes Creative of Unpredictable Elements <p><i>Deductions go here for inappropriate music, movement or costuming only after crediting other factors. Points will not be deducted from any other scoring category.</i></p>
Visual Effect (VE)	10 pts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Purposeful Visual Impact of Formations and Transitions, Ripples, Levels, and Other Movements as a Series of Group Pictures
Musicality of Choreography (MC)	10 pts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• From beginning to end, the Choreography communicates the Details and Overall Mood/Tone of the Music.

SHOWMANSHIP (10 POINTS)

Communication & Projection by Dancers (SH)	10 pts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ability to Connect with Audience and Provoke Appropriate Emotional Response• Overall Commitment & Authenticity of Performance
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SOLO & DUET/TRIO SCORESHEET

This scoresheet is used for adjudication of Solo and Duet/Trio routines in School Grade and All Star/Studio Divisions.

TECHNIQUE/EXECUTION (30 POINTS)

Proper Technique Displayed in Selected Genre: Jazz, Lyrical, Contemporary, Hip Hop, etc. (TE)	10 pts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Technical execution of movement within selected style• Appropriateness of difficulty level for dancer's current ability skillset• Precision in foundational elements relative to solo genre (turns, leaps, isolations, footwork, etc.)
Quality of Movement & Musicality (QM)	10 pts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Execution of choreography to the music• Dancer's ability to capture nuances of vocal and/or musical cues• Control of dynamics, accents, and tempo variation
Body Placement & Alignment (BA)	10 pts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anatomical alignment appropriate to genre• Stability of core and weight placement• Use of spine, hips, shoulders, and limb articulation• Intentional control of stylized body shapes

ARTISTRY/CHOREOGRAPHY (30 POINTS)

Uniqueness of Concept/Choreography (UC)	10 pts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overall Concept of routine is fresh & intentional• Movement of dancer throughout routine includes creative and unpredictable elements• Clear artistic movement throughout the routine <p><i>Note: Artistic deductions for inappropriate music, movement, or costuming are embedded in this caption only after crediting other factors listed above.</i></p>
Choreographic Demand (CD)	10 pts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Difficulty of movement performed in selected style, regardless of the quality of execution• Range of movement vocabulary, stamina, and risk.• Complexity of transitions between phrases
Transitions & Staging(TS)	10pts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transitions between movement phrases demonstrate purposeful visual impact• Range of movement vocabulary, stamina, and risk.• Seamless utilization of space, levels & staging

SHOWMANSHIP (10 POINTS)

Communication/Presentation of Overall Performance (SH)	10 pts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ability to connect with audience and provoke appropriate emotional response• Individual Commitment & Authenticity of Performance• Sustained Projection and Endurance from Start to Finish
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TITLE SOLO SCORESHEET

DANCE ROUTINE (70% OF SCORE)

TECHNIQUE/EXECUTION (30 POINTS)

Proper Technique Displayed in Selected Genre: Jazz, Lyrical, Contemporary, Hip Hop, etc. (TE)	10 pts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Technical execution of movement within selected style• Appropriateness of difficulty level for dancer's current ability skillset• Precision in foundational elements relative to solo genre (turns, leaps, isolations, footwork, etc.)
Quality of Movement & Musicality (QM)	10 pts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Execution of choreography to the music• Dancer's ability to capture nuances of vocal and/or musical cues• Control of dynamics, accents, and tempo variation
Body Placement & Alignment (BA)	10 pts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anatomical alignment appropriate to genre• Stability of core and weight placement• Use of spine, hips, shoulders, and limb articulation• Intentional control of stylized body shapes

ARTISTRY/CHOREOGRAPHY (30 POINTS)

Uniqueness of Concept/Choreography (UC)	10 pts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overall Concept of routine is fresh & intentional• Movement of dancer throughout routine includes creative and unpredictable elements• Clear artistic movement throughout the routine <p><i>Note: Artistic deductions for inappropriate music, movement, or costuming are embedded in this caption only after crediting other factors listed above.</i></p>
Choreographic Demand (CD)	10 pts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Difficulty of movement performed in selected style, regardless of the quality of execution• Range of movement vocabulary, stamina, and risk.• Complexity of transitions between phrases
Transitions & Staging(TS)	10pts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transitions between movement phrases demonstrate purposeful visual impact• Range of movement vocabulary, stamina, and risk.• Seamless utilization of space, levels & staging

SHOWMANSHIP (10 POINTS)

Communication/Presentation of Overall Performance (SH)	10 pts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ability to connect with audience and provoke appropriate emotional response• Individual Commitment & Authenticity of Performance• Sustained Projection and Endurance from Start to Finish
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TITLE SOLO SCORESHEET

TECHNIQUE SPOTLIGHT (20% OF SCORE)

SCORED ELEMENTS

<p>Artistic Content & Design (TD) Judges assess the structure and composition of the Spotlight sequence across all five star points. This includes the level of difficulty, diversity of skills, strategic placement of strengths, and the overall construction of the sequence. Content should feel intentional, balanced, and thoughtfully presented to demonstrate range and versatility.</p>	10 pts	<p>Judges evaluate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choreography • Skill Choice • Variety • Construction / Flow
<p>Execution, Control & Presentation (EP) Judges assess the clarity, stability, and completion of each skill performed, as well as the dancer's confidence and projection throughout the sequence. Strong scores reflect clean body placement, controlled landings, seamless transitions between star points, and a poised, engaging presence that maintains audience focus without musical support.</p>	10 pts	<p>Judges evaluate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Execution • Alignment & Stability • Transitions between points • Performance presence • Composure without music

COMPULSORY FORMAT FOR TECHNIQUE SPOTLIGHT

The Technique Spotlight is a structured exhibition performed in a timed star-formation (must be completed in 45-seconds or less). This element should appear pre-choreographed and well-rehearsed. It is performed without musical accompaniment using *Version 1* **OR** *Version 2* of the following format (see diagram):

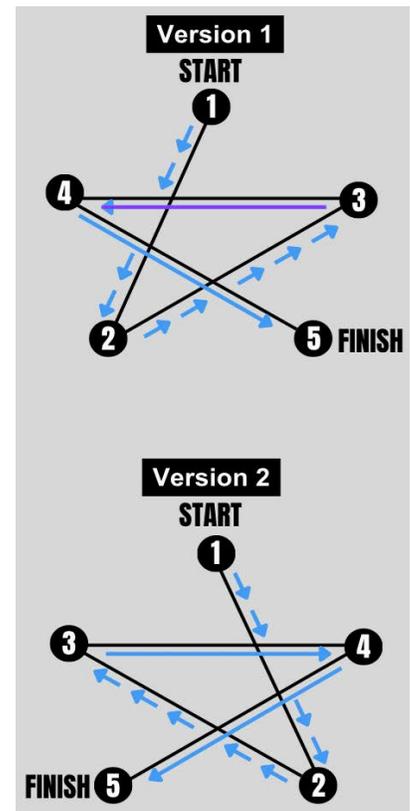
- Position #1:** PERFORM SKILL/POSE (PAUSE), then WALK 8 Steps to...
- Position #2:** PERFORM SKILL/POSE (PAUSE), then WALK 8 Steps to...
- Position #3:** PERFORM SKILL/POSE (PAUSE), then WALK 8 Steps to...
- Position #4:** PERFORM SKILL/POSE (PAUSE), then WALK 8 Steps to...
- Position #5:** PERFORM SKILL/POSE (FINISH), and then EXIT.

DRESS CODE

Dancer **MUST WEAR ALL BLACK** fitted dance attire with any style of dance shoe; Bare feet also allowed. Apparel should accentuate the dancer's talent & movement abilities (No rhinestones, sequins, or flashy embellishments allowed).

PENALTIES

Exceeds Time Limit (45-sec max)	2-Point Deduction
Does not follow approved star-pattern format	2-Point Deduction
Does not take at least 8 steps between positions	1-Point Deduction
Does not cross center line at least once	1-Point Deduction



† This format is preserved as an adaptation in honor of Dr. Kay Teer Crawford (1914-2001) and her historic influence on adjudicated technical standards for dance team soloists, as well as the dance competition industry at-large.



TITLE SOLO SCORESHEET

LEADERSHIP PANEL (10% OF SCORE) - PRELIMS

The Leadership Panel is conducted in a structured, small-group discussion setting. A leadership-focused topic will be presented by the judging panel. Each dancer is provided a required initial response time before limited open discussion begins. Judges evaluate dancers based on Clarity of Thought, Relevance to Topic, Active Listening & Engagement, and Professionalism & Composure. Quality of contribution is valued over quantity of speaking time.

LEADERSHIP PANEL

<p>Miss Dance Team Mister Dance Team</p> <p><i>* There is no leadership panel requirement for the Teen Title Solo division (See "Interview Question" title solo scoresheet for details)</i></p>	10 pts	<p>This format is intentionally designed to help prepare high school students for real-world environments, including collegiate programs, interviews, leadership roles, and professional communication settings. This element evaluates a dancer's ability to communicate thoughtfully and engage respectfully in a structured discussion environment.</p> <p>Judges evaluate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clarity of Thought• Relevance to Topic• Active Listening & Engagement• Professionalism / Composure
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TITLE SOLO SCORESHEET

INTERVIEW QUESTION (10% OF SCORE) - FINALS

In high school Title Solo Finals (i.e. Miss Dance Team/Mister Dance Team) and also the high school Teen Title Solo division, this element is conducted as a single judge's question rather than a small-group leadership panel. This format allows judges to evaluate each dancer individually on leadership communication, composure, and professionalism in a championship setting. The time limit will be strictly enforced.

INTERVIEW QUESTION

<p><u>Miss Dance Team</u> Prelims: Closed Session Finals: On-Stage Question</p> <p><u>Mister Dance Team</u> Closed Session</p> <p><u>Teen Title Solo</u> Closed Session</p>	10 pts	<p>This element assesses how effectively a dancer communicates thoughtful, leadership-centered responses in a concise, professional manner.</p> <p>Judges evaluate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Clarity of Thought● Relevance to Topic● Professionalism / Composure
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SECTION 6: MUSIC COPYRIGHT POLICY

Our Approach to Music Use

Dance Team World Education Foundation is committed to supporting teams' creative freedom while honoring the legal rights of music creators. We comply with all applicable copyright laws and obtain any necessary licenses to host our events. Teams attending our national competition are responsible for ensuring that the music they use complies with the law.

You may perform to **any music**—including original songs, covers, or independent artist tracks—as long as it is used in a legally appropriate way. We strongly recommend that teams **legally purchase their music** and evaluate whether additional permissions or licenses are required based on how the music is being used.

While we do not offer legal advice, we encourage teams to review relevant rulings such as *Tresona Multimedia v. Burbank High School Vocal Music Association* (2020), which found that some educational uses of music could qualify as fair use. Each team's situation is unique, so we encourage you to consult legal resources or advisors as needed. [Read the case here.](#)

FAQs About Our Music Policy

1. Do you have a list of approved or preferred music vendors?

No. We do not endorse a specific list of music vendors or producers. We believe that teams should have the creative freedom to choose music that best fits their vision—as long as it's legally compliant. Some vendors offer music that includes licenses or coverage, which can be useful, but we do not require or prefer one source over another.

2. Why don't you tell us exactly what music is or isn't allowed?

Because compliance depends on **how** the music is being used and by **whom**. Instead of providing a limited list of approved songs or vendors, we empower you to make informed decisions based on your team's specific circumstances. Only you know how your music was obtained, edited, or licensed. We urge you to educate yourself and ensure your selections follow copyright law.

3. What do you require for compliance?

During the registration process, you'll be asked to **confirm that you understand and**



agree to follow our rules, including this music policy. We don't require you to upload music licensing documents, but you should be prepared to provide details if a question arises from an independent copyright holder.

Resources for Teams

We highly recommend reviewing the **National Dance Coaches Association (NDCA) Copyright FAQ** to better understand copyright, music licensing, choreography rights, and performance broadcasting.

[Read the NDCA FAQ](#)

Final Note:

You may perform to any music that complies with the law. We do not dictate your creative choices, but we do expect you to make informed and responsible ones.



SECTION 7: SAFETY & LOGISTICS

General Safety Expectations

At Dance Team World, safety always comes first. Coaches and advisors are responsible for making sure that all movement, tricks, and choreography performed by their dancers are appropriate for the team's skill level and safe to execute.

Every element (including tumbling, lifts, or transitions) should be carefully evaluated by the coach before competition. If you're unsure about the safety of a skill, please reach out... We're happy to help.

For School dance team programs, all routines must comply with the **current NFHS Spirit Rules Book – Dance (Rule 3)**, the details of which are outlined below to help ensure dancer safety at our National Championship event.

All-Star/Studio dance programs are also encouraged to abide by our general safety regulations as outlined below, but not required.

Tumbling & Tricks

We expect all tumbling and weight-bearing movements to be executed with control and with dancer safety in mind. The following restrictions apply:

1. Aerials, cartwheels, or other movements where weight is fully supported on the **hands or head** should not be performed with poms in both hands unless using **hands-free poms**.
2. **Direct drops** to the knee, back, seat, or head are not permitted: Dancers must first absorb weight through their hands or feet.
3. Jumping to a **push-up position** from a leap or front jump is not recommended due to risk of injury.
4. **Landing directly on the head/neck** from an airborne skill is not allowed. Kip-up style movements must begin from the **shoulders/back**, not from direct neck/head contact with the floor.

Lifts & Partnering

We love seeing innovative partnering work, but all lifts must be safe & technically sound:

1. The dancer performing the lift (Executing Dancer) must be **supported by another dancer in contact with the floor** for the entire skill.
(Exception: Kickline leaps.)
 2. Hip-over-head rotations are allowed **if the Executing Dancer is safely returned to the floor** on their feet or hands with proper support. **Hip-over-head rotations/inversions in partnering** must follow NFHS Dance restrictions; if there is any doubt, the skill should be removed.
 3. Simultaneous flipping/tumbling over or under another dancer that involves hip-over-head rotation **for both dancers** is not permitted.
 4. As noted above, **direct drops** to vulnerable areas without proper support are not considered safe.
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Release Skills

We allow supported tosses & dismounts as long as they meet the following guidelines:

1. A Supporting Dancer may release or assist a leap/lift as long as it's executed with control and the Executing Dancer maintains a **safe body position**.
 2. "Basket tosses", "Elevator tosses" or cheer-style airborne launches are not allowed.
 3. Assisted jumps are allowed **only** when controlled and don't function as a toss.
-



Routine Logistics & Floor Dimensions

1. **Planned floor dimensions are as follows:**

Showroom Theater (3/20 & 3/21): 60' L x 35 W'

French Quarter Ballroom (3/22): 60' L x 50 W'

Performance floor in all event venues shall have a Marley covering, with ten 6' foot wide marley panels that run vertically from the perspective of the audience. The stage-right and stage-left sides shall have additional open space for routines that may need to stretch beyond the floor boundaries during the performance. The above dimensions are subject to change as needed to accommodate the event.

2. If your routine exceeds 3 minutes, you must notify Dance Team World **at least two weeks before competition so that we can accommodate extra time in the performance schedule**. While there is a **5-second time limit** grace period without penalty for team, ensemble, and solo routines, we strongly recommend that you keep your routines within the time limit ranges outlined in Sections 2 & 3.
3. A **designated adult** must be present to assist with music playback.
 - Uploading music at least **2 weeks before competition** is required.
4. **Dancer Substitutions** are allowed in case of injury, but any alternate performer must be listed on your official roster submitted at registration.
5. Any **equipment or items** that could damage the marley floor are NOT allowed (including floor markers)

Jewelry

Jewelry is allowed unless deemed unsafe by Dance Team World staff. We reserve the right to ask teams to remove any item considered hazardous.



Props

Props are allowed in all divisions as long as they are:

- Wearable, handheld, or freestanding
- Safely managed by performers
- Not causing any floor damage or obstruction (i.e. rubber wheels, non-marking)

Prohibited items include: dry ice, confetti, glitter, liquids, flammable materials, glass, pipe/drape backdrops that are not mounted upon rubber wheels, or anything else that can't be moved by a single performer.

If you have any prop questions, feel free to send us a photo/video **before competition.**

Note: Poms are only allowed in the Pom, Team Performance, and Gameday categories (acceptable in Novelty/Open Division, as long as all other entry requirements are met for that category).

Audience Involvement

We love a great crowd, and energy from the audience is always welcome! However, judges will only score what happens on the competition floor.

If you're competing in the **Spirit/Gameday** category, you're allowed to incorporate additional "Fan Zone" performers, provided that:

1. All performers are registered and paid
2. Additional participants stay **within the Fan Zone** throughout the routine
3. All safety rules still apply to anyone involved in the performance

SECTION 8: SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

We understand that unexpected situations can arise during LIVE performance. Our priority is always safety, fairness, and professionalism. Here's how we'll handle it:

Performance Interruptions

If a routine is interrupted due to an unforeseen issue **outside the team's control**, the team will be given the option to perform again (such as a music malfunction or Dance Team World production equipment failure that impacts the performance)

If the team chooses to re-perform, the **initial scores will be voided**, and judges will evaluate the **second performance only**.

If the interruption is caused by a **malfunction of the team's own equipment** (e.g. props, sets, etc.), a re-performance option may **not** be offered during that round.

Injury During Performance

If an injury occurs during a routine, the performance may be stopped by:

- An event official
- The team's coach or advisor
- The injured dancer themselves

At the discretion of Dance Team World officials, the team may be offered the opportunity to perform again later in the schedule. Exact timing will be determined by our event staff

If the **injured dancer wishes to rejoin their team** for a second performance, all of the following conditions must be met:

- **On-site medical personnel must approve** the return
- **Parental/guardian and coach approval** must also be obtained
- If the on-site medical team does **not** give approval, the dancer may only return with a **signed medical waiver** from a parent or legal guardian
- If **head injury or concussion** is suspected, the dancer **must** receive formal clearance from a licensed medical professional trained in head injuries before returning



SECTION 9: AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

At our National Championship in Las Vegas, your dancers don't just compete... they get the chance to be recognized in big ways! Dance Team World Education Foundation awards team routines and top soloists based on final division placement. And we present monetary scholarships for standout performers who bring more than just great technique to the floor. Below, you'll find everything you need to know about how awards and scholarships work while your team is on the national stage.

Finals & Awards (only applies if there is a Final round)

1. Advancing to Team Finals

High scoring routines in the preliminary round may advance to a Final round. In divisions separated into multiple groups due to a large amount of entries, the highest scoring routine in that group will automatically advance to finals. Additional teams will advance to finals based on score (this means some groups may send more teams to finals than other groups, based on total score). Finals announcements will be made during the event, as well as posted on our website.

2. Finals Performance Order

The lowest scoring routine from preliminaries will perform first (In the event of a "tie" between two or more teams in the preliminary round, the tie breaker will be the technique score when determining who will perform first). The remaining team performance order shall be randomized for all other finalist teams in that division.

3. Awards for Finalists & Champions

Every finalist receives a trophy (Additional trophies may be presented in divisions with a large amount of competing teams). All **National Champions** are awarded a banner and trophy.

4. Special Awards

A variety of special awards will be presented at various moments during our awards ceremony program.



Scholarship Awards for College, Trade School & Beyond...

This event is unlike most other National Championship dance competitions, because making a profit is not our primary goal. Every dollar we receive goes back into scholarships, production quality, and meaningful opportunities for the dance team world. We're not here to profit off your dancers and their families—we're here to reinvest in them by growing a community that puts students and educators first.

The **Dance Team World Education Foundation** believes excellence extends beyond the performance floor. Through our non-profit organization, dancers become eligible for a variety of exclusive scholarships awarded throughout our National Championship weekend.

These honors recognize more than just technical skill... They celebrate leadership, creativity, and the spirit of the dance team community. But most importantly, they help us build camaraderie and goodwill within the *dance team world*.

From standout soloists to emerging leaders, we're proud to support the next generation of dance talent with meaningful opportunities that make a difference.

 **Learn more about available scholarships and how your dancers can qualify at:**

www.danceteamworld.com/scholarships