



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):

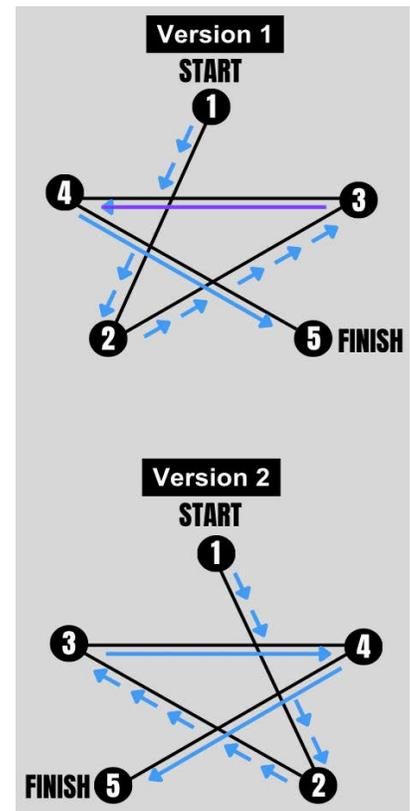
- Position #1:** PERFORM SKILL/POSE (PAUSE), then WALK 8 Steps to...
- Position #2:** PERFORM SKILL/POSE (PAUSE), then WALK 8 Steps to...
- Position #3:** PERFORM SKILL/POSE (PAUSE), then WALK 8 Steps to...
- Position #4:** PERFORM SKILL/POSE (PAUSE), then WALK 8 Steps to...
- Position #5:** PERFORM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

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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