



OFFICIAL RULES & REGULATIONS (2027)

Dance Team World’s National Championship event in Las Vegas 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 our upcoming Dance Team Nationals. These guidelines apply to all School Dance Team divisions **AND** All-Star/Studio competition 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 GUIDELINES

General Questions & Concerns

Welcome! If you have any questions about our Rules package or while participating in our National Championship, please contact us. We're here to help...

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**.



Policy Regarding Multiple Entries 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.
- Directors may enter more than one routine in the same style and division with **different dancers**, but will need to assign **distinct team names**:

Example:

Southwest HS Dance Team, Southwest HS All-Male 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: We reserve the right to adjust or restrict multiple entries in the same style/division and may move routines to a more appropriate division if needed.

Policy Regarding Combined Divisions and/or Addition of Divisions

In the spirit of competition and to ensure an exciting event, divisions may be added or combined depending on overall event interest and/or competition registration demand.

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 Education Foundation 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: SCHOOL TEAM DIVISIONS

At Dance Team Nationals, we give every school dance program the space to shine. Whether you are a High School, Middle School, or Elementary School, we've got a division for you!

Group Dance Divisions (School Teams)

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.

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+)
Spiritline/Gameday	Varsity		Small (5-15)		Large (16+)
Student Choreo	Varsity		Small (5-15)		Large (16+)
Team Performance	Varsity		Small (5-15)		Large (16+)

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).



NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Extra Small Divisions (Duet/Trio & Ensemble/Select)

There's **no limit** to how many Ensemble/Select or Duet/Trio routines your team can enter at our National Championship event. These routines can consist of any dance style.

EXTRA SMALL DIVISIONS	EXPERIENCE LEVELS
🏆 Ensemble/Select (4-5 Dancers)	Gold
🏆 Duet/Trio (2-3 Dancers)	Silver

Grade Level Solos

The **School Grade Level Solo** division gives students the chance to shine in a solo performance that's tailored to their current experience level and preferred dance genre. It also allows them the option to compete in more than one solo dance style genre, if desired.

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

Experience Levels

Extra Small and Grade Level Solo routines are entered into either the **Gold Division** for intermediate-advanced dancers, *OR* the **Silver Division** for advanced-beginner to intermediate dancers... ensuring that these routines are placed in a category that reflects your dancers' current experience level, dance skills, and growth goals. Directors should register solos and extra small routines in their appropriate experience level. We do NOT use experience level for registration/scheduling of Small, Medium, and Large group dances.



NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

TITLE SOLO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

DIVISION	AGE
Miss Dance Team National Championship	16 - 19
Mr. Dance Team National Championship	16 - 19
Teen Title Solo National Championship	13 - 15



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

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 THREE key areas:

Dance Routine (70%)	Technique Spotlight (20%)	Leadership Panel/Interview (10%)
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Beyond competition, this division empowers school team role model soloists with an experience like no other! Title Soloists connect with peer qualifiers from other states, perform in a collaborative **Closing Show routine**, and attend various events and workshops that 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 exposure & recognition for the culture you're building within your team and your school community back home.

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 Title Solo National Championship... *or contact us to find out how to start your own!*

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



Time Limit Regulations (School Divisions)

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

- Title Solo 2:00 minutes maximum
- Grade Level Solo 2:30 minutes maximum
- Duet / Trio 2:30 minutes maximum
- Ensemble / Select 3:00 minutes maximum
- Small / Medium / Large 3:00 minutes maximum

Music Upload Requirement: All music must be uploaded to your online registration account at least 2-weeks prior to the event. We have added an additional 5-second grace period for all music files to accommodate for long intros/outros and movement that occurs before/after music. Our online registration system will only allow files to be uploaded that meet this time limit criteria. Please edit music files to meet this requirement.

Additional Group Dance Logistics (School Divisions)

The following guidelines apply to ALL group dance routines (excludes duet/trio & ensemble):

- 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 without penalty. 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/maximum dancer requirement.
-



SECTION 3: STUDIO/ALL-STAR DIVISIONS

We offer a high caliber experience for All-Star teams, Studio teams, and independent dance programs from within the United States and also International. Please use the following charts to determine appropriate registration of your All-Star or Studio dance routines.

Divisions are separated by experience level and age division with January 1st cut-off date. Group dances will compete in the average age of all dancers in the routine.

OVERALL AGE DIVISIONS	
🏆 Mini	Age 8 & Under
🏆 Junior	Age 9 - 11
🏆 Teen	Age 12 - 14
🏆 Senior	Age 15 - 19

GROUP DANCE SIZE GUIDELINES	
Duet/Trio	2-3 Dancers
Small	4-10 Dancers
Medium	11-19 Dancers
Large	20+ Dancers (<i>No Maximum</i>)
Line/Production	25+ Dancers (<i>No Maximum</i>)

DANCE CATEGORIES	
🏆 Acrobatic	🏆 Line/Production
🏆 Ballet	🏆 Lyrical
🏆 Character	🏆 Military
🏆 Contemporary	🏆 Musical Theatre
🏆 Folkloric	🏆 Open
🏆 Hip Hop	🏆 Pointe
🏆 Jazz	🏆 Pom
🏆 Kick	🏆 Ballroom

EXPERIENCE LEVEL GUIDELINES	
Novice	3 hours dance class a week and/or maximum of 2 years total competition experience
Intermediate	4-6 hours dance class per week and/or maximum of 4 years total competition experience
Elite	6+ hours dance class per week and/or maximum of 4 years total competition experience

Experience Level of group dance must round up when 50% of dancers meet guidelines.

Age Division for All Star/Studio solos may be further segmented by 1-year increments as needed, pending registration demand (example: Age 6, Age 7, Age 8, etc).



Time Limit Regulations for All-Star/Studio Teams

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

- Solo 2:45 minutes maximum
- Duet / Trio 2:45 minutes maximum
- Small 3:00 minutes maximum
- Medium 4:00 minutes maximum
- Large 4:30 minutes maximum
- Line / Production 8:00 minutes maximum

Music Upload Requirement: All music must be uploaded to your online registration account at least 2-weeks prior to the event. We have added an additional 5-second grace period for all music files to accommodate for long intros/outros and movement that occurs before/after music. Our online registration system will only allow files to be uploaded that meet this time limit criteria. Please edit music files to meet this requirement.

Additional Group Dance Logistics

The following guidelines apply to ALL group dance routines (excludes duet/trio):

- Each routine must have a **minimum of 4 dancers registered and paid** in order to compete in a group dance division. If a team drops below 4 performers on the day of the event due to unforeseen circumstances, the routine may still perform without penalty. 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/maximum dancer requirement for that size.
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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 dance programs 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 dancers.

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

The scoring rubric for each division is designed to be clear, consistent, and centered on execution, movement quality, artistry, and performance.

The following pages have detailed descriptions of each dance category. Whether you are a school dance team or all-star/studio team, your unique artistry and choreographic creativity are always welcome here!

SCHOOL TEAM CATEGORIES		STUDIO/ALL-STAR CATEGORIES	
Contemporary	Novelty/Open	Acrobatic	Line/Production
Hip Hop	Pom	Ballet	Lyrical
Jazz	Prop	Character	Military
Kick	Spiritline/Gameday	Contemporary	Musical Theatre
Lyrical	Student Choreo	Folkloric	Open
Military	Team Performance	Hip Hop	Pointe
		Jazz	Pom
		Kick	Ballroom



SCHOOL TEAM CATEGORIES

Contemporary

This division encompasses styles commonly referred to as contemporary or modern dance with emphasis on combining traditional dance styles, abstract articulation, and/or unique interpretive movement. 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 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 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 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 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.

Spiritline/Gameday

Must showcase the type of performance the team might do at an event as a dance team. Routines 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-organized choreographic performance as a whole, as well as seamless transition(s) joining the two routines. Routine should focus on dance and not cheerleading (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)

Student Choreography

Teams are limited to only (1) entry in this category. Routine must be 100% student choreographed, and may consist of any dance genre or combination of movement styles. 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.



Team Performance

This category requires a variety of pom, jazz, kick, and hip-hop styles combined into one cohesive routine. 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 ZERO 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.

STUDIO/ALL-STAR CATEGORIES

Acrobatic

A routine in this division should incorporate a combination of dance technique and controlled acrobatic movement such as walkovers, limbers, handstands, aerials, handsprings, contortion/flexibility skills, or similar elements. The routine should still contain dance choreography in addition to acrobatic content. Dancers will be judged on technique, control, musicality, and uniformity, as well as the integration of acrobatic elements into the choreography. Dancers should also display an ability to connect with the audience and provoke an emotional response appropriate to the style presented.

Ballet

Our "ballet" division encompasses routines rooted in formal classical ballet technique and vocabulary. The routine should demonstrate grace, precision, clean lines, turnout, control, and appropriate use of traditional ballet movements. Pointe shoes are not permitted in this category. Movements should complement the music and dancers will be judged on both musicality and uniformity. Dancers should also display an ability to connect with the audience and provoke an emotional response appropriate to the ballet style presented.



Ballroom

This division encompasses routines based on traditional ballroom repertoire and may include Standard and/or Latin ballroom technique. Dancers should demonstrate partnering skills, rhythm, fluid movement, precise footwork, and technique appropriate to the ballroom style presented. Movements should complement the music and dancers will be judged on both musicality and uniformity. Dancers should also display an ability to connect with the audience and provoke an emotional response appropriate to the ballroom style presented.

Character

This division encompasses routines that portray a recognizable character, persona, or role throughout the performance. The character may be inspired by a play, movie, television show, Broadway production, stereotype, or other clearly identifiable source. Any style of dance appropriate to the theme may be used, and acrobatic elements may also be incorporated. Movements should complement the music and dancers will be judged on both musicality and uniformity. Dancers should also display an ability to connect with the audience and provoke an emotional response appropriate to the character and theme presented.

Contemporary

This division encompasses styles commonly referred to as contemporary or modern dance with emphasis on combining traditional dance styles, abstract articulation, and/or unique interpretive movement. 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.

Folkloric

This division encompasses routines that incorporate ethnic, cultural, or traditional dance styles with strong historical or cultural roots. Examples may include, but are not limited to, styles such as Chinese, Japanese, Mexican Folklorico, Spanish Flamenco, Hawaiian, polka, belly dance, or other culturally based movement vocabularies. The dancer should demonstrate authenticity and technique appropriate to the style presented. Movements should complement the music and dancers will be judged on both musicality and uniformity. Dancers should also display an ability to connect with the audience and provoke an emotional response 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.

Line/Production

This division encompasses large-scale routines designed to create visual impact through group staging, choreography, and theatrical presentation. Any style of dance or combination of styles may be used. Routines in this category often include a storyline, theme, plot, or narrative element and may incorporate props, sets, or other production features for visual effect. Dancers should demonstrate difficulty appropriate to the chosen style(s) and be judged on musicality, uniformity, staging, and overall presentation. Dancers should also display an ability to connect with the audience and provoke an emotional response appropriate to the production 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.

Musical Theatre

This division encompasses routines inspired by Broadway musicals, movie musicals, or television productions with a theatrical performance style. Any dance style appropriate to the source material may be used, and routines may emphasize storytelling, characterization, staging, and performance quality in addition to technical execution. Movements should complement the music and dancers will be judged on both musicality and uniformity. Dancers should also display an ability to connect with the audience and provoke an emotional response appropriate to the theatrical style presented.

Open

This division encompasses routines that combine multiple dance styles or do not fit squarely into any other single category offered. Any style of dance, or combination of styles, may be used in this category. Dancers should demonstrate difficulty appropriate for the chosen style(s), with choreography that is clear, intentional, and well-developed. Movements should complement the music and dancers will be judged on both musicality and uniformity. Dancers should also display an ability to connect with the audience and provoke an emotional response appropriate to the style presented.



Pointe

Our “pointe” division encompasses routines rooted in classical ballet or ballet-based technique performed in pointe shoes. The routine should demonstrate strength, balance, control, clean lines, and appropriate pointe/toe technique throughout the choreography. Movements should complement the music and dancers will be judged on both musicality and uniformity. Dancers should also display an ability to connect with the audience and provoke an emotional response appropriate to the pointe 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.



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 following each 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 Duet-Trio divisions are scored using a **70-point system** (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 performance. This traditional scoring model ensures all dance routines are evaluated fairly.

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 rank points (i.e. their 1st place = 1 point, 2nd place = 2 points, etc). Then we combine the rank points 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 a single 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!

Scoresheets will be released digitally after awards, and full score recap 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 scoring model 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 optional 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 the United States, your input helps us grow and improve the overall experience for next year!

Sample Scoresheet Rubrics

Located on the next pages...



NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

GROUP DANCE SCORESHEET

TECHNICAL COMPONENTS (30 POINTS)

Dance Technique (DT)	10 POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proper Technical Execution of all Movements in Chosen Dance Style
Difficulty of Movement (DM)	10 POINTS	<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 POINTS	<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 POINTS	<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 POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uniform Spacing Smooth Execution of Transitions
Execution of Musicality (EM)	10 POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Execution of Choreography to the Music Capturing Nuances of Vocal and/or Musical Cues & Tempo Variations

ARTISTIC COMPONENTS (30 POINTS)

Uniqueness of Concept/Movement (CM)	10 POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concept of Routine is Fresh & Intentional Movement of Dancers throughout Routine Includes Creative or Unpredictable Elements <p><i>Deductions go here for inappropriate music, movement or costuming only after crediting other factors.</i></p>
Visual Effect (VE)	10 POINTS	<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 POINTS	<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 POINTS	<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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† Our group dance rubric aligns with [National Dance Coaches Association](#) caption-based scoring practices, and is an adaptation of scoresheet captions currently utilized by [Dance Team Union](#). The Dance Team World Education Foundation recognizes both organizations' data-based research efforts in developing the strongest adjudication standards for competitive dance performance.



NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

SOLO & DUET/TRIO SCORESHEET

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

TECHNICAL COMPONENTS (30 POINTS)

Proper Technique Displayed in Selected Genre: Jazz, Lyrical, Contemporary, Hip Hop, etc. (TE)	10 POINTS	<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 POINTS	<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 POINTS	<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

ARTISTIC COMPONENTS (30 POINTS)

Uniqueness of Concept/Choreography (UC)	10 POINTS	<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 POINTS	<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)	10 POINTS	<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 POINTS	<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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NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

TITLE SOLO SCORESHEET **DANCE ROUTINE (70% OF SCORE)**

TECHNICAL COMPONENTS (30 POINTS)

Proper Technique Displayed in Selected Genre: Jazz, Lyrical, Contemporary, Hip Hop, etc. (TE)	10 POINTS	<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 POINTS	<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 POINTS	<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

ARTISTIC COMPONENTS (30 POINTS)

Uniqueness of Concept/Choreography (UC)	10 POINTS	<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 POINTS	<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)	10 POINTS	<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 POINTS	<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>	<p>10 POINTS</p>	<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>	<p>10 POINTS</p>	<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):

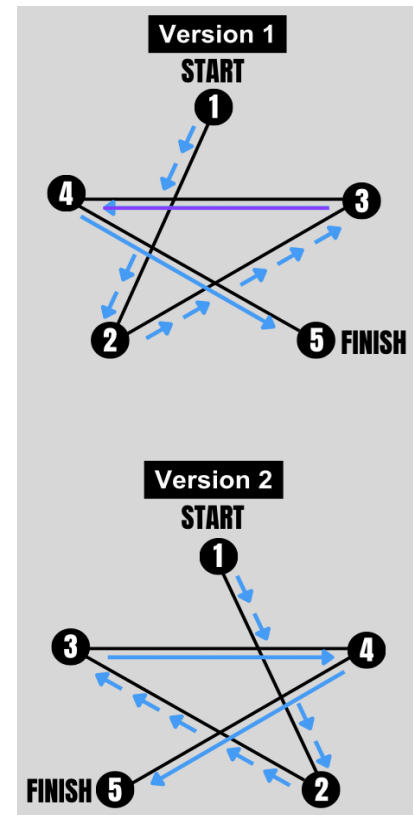
- Position #1:** PERFORM SKILL/POSE (PAUSE), then WALK 8 Steps to...
- Position #2:** PERFORM SKILL/POSE (PAUSE), then WALK 8 Steps to...
- Position #3:** PERFORM SKILL/POSE (PAUSE), then WALK 8 Steps to...
- Position #4:** PERFORM SKILL/POSE (PAUSE), then WALK 8 Steps to...
- Position #5:** PERFORM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



NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

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 National Championship Mister Dance Team National Championship</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>	<p>10 POINTS</p>	<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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NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

TITLE SOLO SCORESHEET

ON-STAGE QUESTION (10% OF SCORE) - FINALS

In high school Title Solo Finals (i.e. Miss Dance Team/Mr. 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 National Championship</u> Prelims: N/A (See Leadership Panel Scoresheet) Finals: On-Stage Question</p> <p><u>Mr. Dance Team National Championship</u> Closed Session</p> <p><u>Teen Title Solo National Championship</u> Closed Session</p>	<p>10 POINTS</p>	<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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† 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.



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 dance programs 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.



Music 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.

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** are encouraged to follow NFHS Dance restrictions (not required); 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.
-

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.
-

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.



Routine Logistics & Floor Dimensions

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

Showroom Theater: 60' L x 35 W'

French Quarter Ballroom: 60' L x 50' W

Orleans Arena: 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. **A designated adult must be present to assist with music playback.**

- Uploading music at least **2 weeks before competition** is required.

3. **Dancer Substitutions** are allowed in case of injury, but any alternate performer must be listed on your official roster submitted with your online registration.

4. Any **equipment or items** that could damage the marley floor are NOT allowed (including floor markers)

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 **Spiritline/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



Prop Use & Load-In/Load-Out

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 load-in/load-out questions, feel free to send us an email and/or a photo/video **before competition**.

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



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 also 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 dancers are on our national stage.

Finals & Awards

1. Solo & Duet-Trio Awards

School solo awards are presented by grade level, dance category, and also by experience level. All-Star/Studio solos and duet-trio awards are presented by age division, dance category, and also by experience level. This creates multiple opportunities for your dancers to receive national recognition for their talents.

2. Advancing to Team Finals (School Teams)

High scoring routines in the preliminary round may advance to a Final Round *or* judges choice exhibition performance during our Closing Show. In school divisions separated into multiple groups due to a large number 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 score). Finals announcements will be made during the event when applicable, and also posted at danceteamnationals.com

3. 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.

4. Closing Show

There will be separate Closing Show formats for School Teams and All-Star/Studio Teams. Additional details provided to registered teams, but this part of the event is not to be missed!



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5. Awards for Finalists & National Champions

Every Nationals finalist team receives a trophy (Additional trophies may be presented in divisions with a large number of competing teams). All **National Champions** are awarded a banner and trophy at a designated awards ceremony.

6. World Championship Awards (School Teams)

In school divisions with participating international teams, World Championship awards are offered in select Varsity styles (only when sufficient international participation exists). We reserve the right to determine whether a style will advance to a separate World Championship awards ceremony based on the size and composition of the field. In the event that an International championship opportunity is deemed viable, only the Top 3 teams in the division will receive Medals. The gold medal team is named **World Champions** and awarded a separate banner & trophy.

7. Worlds Bids (All Star/Studio Teams)

In All Star/Studio divisions, **unpaid at-large bids** may be awarded to qualifying group dances to attend the [All Star World Championship](#) (produced by the Open Championship Series). Only group dances competing in the **Elite** experience level will be eligible for Worlds bids. Dance Team World's application as an officially sanctioned bid-event is currently *pending approval*. This rules packet will be updated as soon as we are granted event approval.

8. Specialty Awards

A variety of special awards will be presented at various moments during our awards ceremony program (i.e. Score-based Awards, Judges Choice, Producer's Awards).

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 community. 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 during our National Championship weekend.



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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 dance team 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