



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)



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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...



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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 |
|--|---------------------|---|

† 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.



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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 |
|--|---------------------|---|



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 |
|--|---------------------|---|

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):

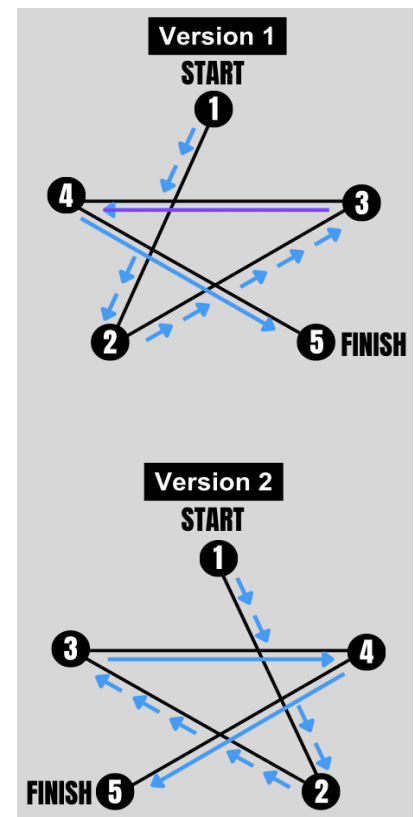
- Position #1:** PERFORM SKILL/POSE (PAUSE), then WALK 8 Steps to...
- Position #2:** PERFORM SKILL/POSE (PAUSE), then WALK 8 Steps to...
- Position #3:** PERFORM SKILL/POSE (PAUSE), then WALK 8 Steps to...
- Position #4:** PERFORM SKILL/POSE (PAUSE), then WALK 8 Steps to...
- Position #5:** PERFORM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



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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 |
|---|------------------------------------|--|



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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