

## Contest Rules

**Team Size Rule:** Varsity Public High School Dance Teams classified by team size (Xsmall, small, medium, large and super), must determine their size by reporting the actual number of members on their team and not how many members will be competing at the competition. Contest administrators may elect to further divide some of these team categories that have a large number of participants. Changes in team size must be made in writing four weeks before the contest and signed by your administrator. No changes in team size will be made after the schedule is sent out. We do not have set specific cutoff numbers for team size. Teams and officers will be classified by team size and may vary at each contest to afford the most equitable competition. You will compete with teams of similar size.

**Routine Performance Requirement:** Varsity and Classic Public High School Dance Teams must perform a minimum of 70% of their actual team membership on all team routine events entered.

**Props and Backdrops Usage:** Curtains, staging, and other props for routines should be constructed to fit through a 7 foot tall double door, with the center support bar removed, found at most public school gymnasiums where regional contests are held. Props and staging may have minor assembly on the floor but setup and breakdown time for props and staging will be added to the actual routine performance time length to produce total floor time. Total floor time should not exceed 4 minutes for all dance categories except show production (10 minutes). Any exceptions must be approved by the contest administrator, in advance of the competition.

**Penalty for Being Late:** A 5 point penalty will be assessed to teams not ready to perform when scheduled unless the delay is caused by a technical problem in the competition. This will be determined by the officials conducting the competition. If the competition is running ahead of schedule, teams will have the option of performing early or waiting until their scheduled time but no later. Please go ahead and perform if possible.

**Late Entry Penalties:** Any entries received after the registration deadline (10 days prior to the contest date) may be charged a \$25 late fee for each team, officer, ensemble, and solo routine entered.

**Late cancellations:** Any team that drops events after the schedule has been made will still be responsible for those entry fees.

**Not Allowed:** Trampolines, inflatable devices, diving boards, pyramids or lifts over 1 ½ persons high.

### General Contest Information

[For specific contest information \(maps, entrance, exit, etc.\) please click on the contest name.](#)

**Tickets:** Please see red Admissions button on the right-hand side of the contest page.

**Concessions:** No outside food or drink. There will be a concession stand available for the teams and spectators. Please support our hostesses and purchase your meals from their concession stand. They appreciate it!

**Videographer/Photographer:** Everyone is welcome to bring a video camera and film the contest from their seat. You will not have access to electrical outlets. Tripods are not allowed.

**MUSIC** – Please upload music to our registration site. See Music Upload Instructions on the right-hand side of the contest page. Remember to bring backup music on your device to every competition.

**Team Competition:** Your team may enter a choice of the categories including Jazz, Hip Hop, High Kick, Novelty, Pom, Prop, Lyrical, Modern, Military, Open, Contemporary, Game Day, and Production, and you will be given a separate I, II or III rating on each. You may enter up to 13 routines and have only the best three scores count toward Sweepstakes. Your team is eligible to receive Sweepstakes (rating of at least 85 from at least two judges on each of three routines), Judges Award (rating of at least 90 from all judges on all three routines), and ShowTime's Applause Awards (Precision, Showmanship, Choreography, Audience Appeal and Entertainment, Technique, Energy, Spirit of America, Kick Master). In addition, the judges will select a "Best in Category" routine type for each classification. Team and officer classification will be by the exact number enrolled in your drill team, not the number of dancers performing. Teams and officers will be classified by team size (Xsmall, small, medium, large and super) and may vary at each contest to afford the most equitable competition. At each contest the judges may select several teams for the "Champions Circle" and a Grand Champion in each classification. Entrance and exit are not judged. Time Limit: Entrance, routine and exit 4 minutes maximum.

**Officer Competition:** Officers are invited to enter routines in the same categories. You may enter up to 13 routines and have only the best three scores count toward Sweepstakes. Officers will receive ratings of I, II or III on each routine and are eligible to receive Sweepstakes and Judges Awards. In addition, the judges will select a "Best in Category" routine for each classification. The judges may select officer groups for Champions Circle. Officers should be prepared to perform either on a hard surface or a carpeted floor. Officer routines do not count toward the "Team Grand Champion" award. Entrance, routine and exit 4 minutes maximum.

**Solo Competition:** High School dancers are encouraged to compete for up to a \$300 scholarship to the university of their choice by performing an individual routine. Contestants should be prepared to perform on a carpeted or hard surface. Critique sheets will be issued. Solos will be judged on showmanship, originality, difficulty, technique, appearance, style, memory and flexibility. All soloists will receive 1st, 2nd or 3rd place division (medals, patches, pins, buttons, etc.). Time Limit: 2 minutes, not including entrance and exit. Penalty over 2 minutes 15 seconds.

**Small, Medium, Large Ensemble & Duet Competition:** Dancers may also enter a routine in the duet, small (3-5), medium (6-12) or large (13-20) ensemble categories. These routines should be designed to use the chosen number of participants in the most interesting way, highlighting patterns, partner work, and steps that only that particular number of dancers could do with good visual effect. Each dancer will receive a patch or medal. The top ensembles will be announced at the awards ceremony, and individual trophies will be presented to each winning dancer. Time Limit: 3 minutes. Penalty over 3 minutes 15 seconds.

**Studio Allstar:** Mascot Allstar through HSA competition will be held along with high school competition at each contest. Allstars will be grouped according to age levels. The same ShowTime contest rules listed will apply to Allstar competition. The age of the oldest member of the team determines the classification for the team. **Solos and ensembles will also compete with their age categories.**

**High School Allstar Teams (HSA):** You may perform on an HSA team through August 31 at age 18.

**Entry deadlines:** Deadline for receiving entry, contest fees, and names of solos, ensembles, and officers is four weeks before the contest. We urge you to send in your entries immediately so that you won't miss out on any contest update information. Please email or call us to let us know which contests you're planning to attend, even if you haven't decided on routines yet. You will not be placed on the schedule until fees are received. Late fees apply to fees not paid by the deadlines. Each late entry will be subject to a \$25.00 late fee per routine.

**Early registration bonus:** It certainly helps us to know as early as possible how many teams will be attending each contest. For this year's contests, teams who register and send in full registration fees for at least three team or officer routines before December 15 will receive a 10% credit of their registration fees. Save your team some money and help us with our planning. Send in fees for solos & ensembles at the same time for further savings.

**Refund policy:** Refunds in writing: 30 days before the contest, full refund less 10% bookkeeping fee. 15-29 days before the contest, 50% penalty. 14-0 days before the contest, no refund. No shows receive no refund.

**Props:** A quick reminder to be sure your props are padded on all surfaces that will touch the floor. We cannot allow any unpadded props on the floor. Have your parents and helpers practice moving them on and off the floor without leaving any marks. Tilting props causes gouges in the floor. One year we paid \$1,500 to refinish the floor after a contest. This year you will be responsible for any damage. Thank you for understanding.

**Check-in, Practicing:** When you check in on Saturday, you will receive a name tag and some other information. Then you may feel free to check spacing on the arena floor for five minutes per team - not per routine (please be considerate of other teams and the amount of time you spend on the floor). In order to give as many teams a chance to use the floor as possible, your captain should go directly to the sound table and ask for a practice number. Teams may use the floor in that order. If you do not receive a number, you are welcome to use the floor during breaks and at lunch. The floor will be cleared 10 minutes before the first performance for opening ceremonies.

**Checkpoint, Entrance, Exit:** Please have your team ready and check in at the checkpoint at least 30 minutes before your scheduled performance time. Be sure to also tell your parents and other spectators to arrive an hour early so they won't miss your performances. Your entrance and exit are not judged, so please do not plan anything elaborate so that we may stay on or ahead of our time schedule. Judges will subtract points if drums, cadences, or separate entrance/exit music are used. Be sure all team members are aware of checking in with our checkpoint personnel before each routine. She will be stationed in one corner of the gym. Please see diagram. Your captain should salute to indicate that the music is to begin and the team is ready to be judged. We can move even faster and complete the contest on time if your dancers will be ready and waiting at the checkpoint. As those of you who have been to ShowTime International contests in the past already know, we often run ahead of schedule, so expect to have your awards in your hands and be back on the bus quickly.

**Hostesses and Classrooms for Dressing:** You are encouraged to bring your dancers dressed and ready for their first performance. Drill team members will be assigned to your team to answer any questions you may have. The first thing you will want to do when you get to your dressing room is take note of how it is set up so you can leave it exactly as you found it. You will want to assign some of your Booster Club moms to take shifts to supervise your dressing room. No keys can be issued to the dressing rooms, so please make appropriate plans for supervision. Food and drinks are not allowed in the dressing rooms. We know you'll want to emphasize to your dancers that the rooms need to be left in perfect order when they leave. We suggest that you

clear out the room toward the end of the day and load your things in your bus to avoid congestion at the doors following the contest. Your hostess will then be able to verify that everything has been left clean and in order. Directors should find their hostess and be sure the clean-up is satisfactory to avoid paying an additional clean-up charge for extra custodial time. Please bring your own trash bags and leave all trash outside your door. Thank you for your help.

**Limited Seating:** Since we are in a high school gym, seating will be limited. Please do not allow your dancers to "camp out" in the bleachers, marking off a whole section for your team and their belongings. We simply will not have the room for that. Let them keep their things in the dressing room and come into the gym to watch other teams between their routines. The side opposite the judges generally has plenty of room, and that is where we will ask the dancers to sit. Also, we do not have room for spectators to sit on the floor of the gym. The teams need the entire space for performing. We appreciate your help!

**Inclement Weather:** Occasionally we will experience inclement weather during the contest season. Please do not put yourself in jeopardy driving in hazardous conditions. Wait until roads clear, and we will be happy to work you into the contest schedule when you arrive.

**Dry ice, smoke machines, helium balloons, lights off:** None are allowed inside any of the buildings, gyms, dressing rooms, rest rooms, stands, arenas, hallways, stadiums, nor anywhere at the contest. Balloons often get "lost" in the ceilings, and you will have to pay trade show prices to have them removed. Thanks for understanding.

**Inflatable, fabric or air supported structures:** Absolutely not allowed.

**Directors:** You are not allowed to "coach" your team with hand or body motions nor to lead them through their routines. If you do, your team will be penalized. Mascot groups will be given some leeway.

**Contest Goals:** I would like to encourage you to review your team's contest goals with both the team and the parents. The point of contest is not entirely to win trophies. Besides the obvious competition goals, please also discuss these with your team and spectators: learning and displaying good sportsmanship, being organized with costumes, being on time, being neat and leaving the coliseum neat, giving credit to teams who do a good job, and learning to travel together. Let's teach the dancers some important life skills that will last them a long time.

If you have any questions or comments during the day, please feel free to relay them to the Sound Booth. We are very interested in you and your needs, and we will continue to do everything we can to make your day enjoyable and hassle-free. Every director who read all of this information can pat herself on the back and tell me about it on Saturday! I'll know you didn't read it if you don't tell me!

We appreciate all of your cooperation and the opportunity to host you and your team. We sincerely wish to make the day enjoyable for you, so please let us know if there is anything we can do to help you.