

DANCE DIVISIONS & CATEGORIES

ALL-STAR/STUDIO

TINY	5 years and younger as of August 31, 2009
MINI	8 years and younger as of August 31, 2009
YOUTH	11 years and younger as of August 31, 2009
JUNIOR	14 years and younger as of August 31, 2009
SENIOR	18 years and younger as of August 31, 2009
OPEN	14 years and older as of August 31, 2009

SCHOOL

ELEMENTARY TEAM	Teams with 5 or more Performing Members
JUNIOR HIGH TEAM	Teams with 5 or more Performing Members
JUNIOR VARSITY TEAM	Teams with Members in the 11th Grade and Under
VARSITY TEAM	Teams with 5 or more Performing Members

** NOTE --- The age of the competitor as of August 31, 2009 will be the age used for competition purposes throughout the 2009-2010 season for all divisions (Exception: the cut-off date for the maximum age of the Senior teams (18) will remain May 31, 2009 for the 2009-2010 season . For the 2010-2011 competition season it will change to August 31, 2010.

CATEGORIES

JAZZ	A jazz routine incorporates stylized dance movements and combinations, formation changes, group work, leaps and turns. Emphasis is placed on proper technical execution, extension, control, body placement and team uniformity.
POM	Pom poms must be used 80% of the routine. Important characteristics of a pom routine include synchronization and visual effect, clean and precise motions, strong pom technique, and incorporate dance technical elements. Visual effect includes level changes, group work, formation changes, the use of different color poms, etc.
HIP HOP	Routines emphasize the street style movements with an emphasis on execution, style, creativity, body isolations and control, rhythm, uniformity and musical interpretation. Teams may also put an additional focus on athletic incorporations such as jumps, jump variations, combo jumps and other tricks.

DANCE GENERAL PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

TIME ALLOWED FOR PERFORMANCES

TEAM	2 Minutes 30 seconds
PERFORMANCE/SHOW TEAMS	5 Minutes

Timing will begin with the first choreographed movement or note of music and will end with the last choreographed movement or note of music; whichever comes last and does not include prop set up, entering, positioning or exiting. Performances are scheduled every 5 minutes and groups should move on and off the floor as quickly as possible to facilitate performance schedule remaining on time. No group will be permitted more than 5 minutes for set up, performance and exit. A penalty will be assessed for time violation (see penalty information).

PERFORMANCES

All dance performances will take place on a carpeted spring floor with dimensions of 42 feet x 54 feet. Performances are scheduled by category and classification.

Please be advised of the following:

- *Performances will be adjusted accordingly to facilitate costume changes and is subject to change for any reason the Head Judge deems necessary. The decision of the Head Judge is final in all scheduling situations.*
- *In order for the competition to run on time, we will not re-schedule any performances. If your group is not ready to compete at your scheduled time, you will forfeit that performance and it will not be re-scheduled.*

Due to the fact that there are so many crossovers competing in routines, it may be necessary for some teams or individuals to forfeit their scheduled warm-up time.

MUSIC REQUIREMENTS

All music should be recorded on a quality CD that has excellent musical clarity. The CD should be cued and clearly marked with your Team Name and Classification/Category. Also, please have your backup CD with you in the event any problems occur with the original. Do not forget to pick up your music following your group's performance.

Portable compact disc players will not be permitted to plug into the sound system. A sound technician will control the system, however the director/assistant will be required to operate your music. This person is responsible for inserting the CD into the player and pushing "play" and "stop" at the proper time. This person must stay at the music table throughout each performance.

PROPS, BACKDROPS, & HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

All props and backdrops should be inspected by the coach/director prior to performance. Any item that appears unsafe or fails to meet the safety regulation as stated in the above information **WILL NOT** be allowed. Props with rubber or plastic wheels or any moving parts that come in contact with the floor must be taped and/or padded. *Any team that damages the performance floor will be billed for repairs!*

DANCE PENALTIES

There will be a Penalty Judge for each performance. A penalty sheet authorized by the Penalty Judge will be turned in with your score sheets.

TIMING PENALTY

Any violation of the following performance timing limitations will result in a **5 Point Penalty** being deducted from the **Total Final Score** of that routine. Performance timing is from the first to last beat of the music.

1. **Over 2 minutes** 30 seconds for a Team Performance in all categories except Production/Show.
2. **Over 5 minutes** for a Team Performance in Production/Show category.

Any violation of the following timing limitations will result in a **5 Point Penalty** being deducted from the **Total Final Score** of that routine.

1. **Over 5 Minutes** for Set Up, Entering, Performance and Exit for a Performance.

PROP/TAPE/PADDING RULES/REGULATIONS

It is the responsibility of the Director to ensure that all props are inspected prior to performance. If an illegal prop or any hazardous material is utilized during a performance it will result in **a 10 Point Penalty** from that routine.

All participants must wear soft-sole shoes (unless barefoot) so that the floor will not be damaged. Any group that damages the floor will be responsible for damages.

USASF DANCE RULES – Please see all rules and requirements under www.USASF.net.