

Reminders and Guidelines for Non-Member Teams Competing at IDTA events

IDTA welcomes non-member teams to compete at our regional contests. To allow for the smooth running of each contest, please read the information below. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact IDTA President Michelle Deets at michelledeets@idta.org.

Categories Offered: Pom, Open Pom, Jazz, Hip Hop, Lyrical/ Contemporary, Kick, Production, Tall Flag, Lyrical Flag, Winter Guard

- All categories listed above are open to Jr High, Jr Varsity and Varsity teams. Varsity divisions are as follows: Single A: Schools with an enrollment of 1-499; Double AA: Schools with an enrollment of 500-1199; Triple AAA: Schools with an enrollment of 1200+

IHSA Category:

- Varsity dance teams may choose to enter two routines of any style in this category. Teams will receive written feedback from IHSA judges on the IHSA score sheet.
- This category will only be offered at the contests in November, December and January.

Soloist Category:

- Only open to IDTA dance and flag team members.

Music Compliance

IDTA will expect all coaches/teams/soloists to abide by the copyright laws regarding music usage as part of performances. Please refer to the Legal Music Clarification document on the IDTA website for a detailed explanation of compliant music.

Procedures of the day

*Pre-Contest Meeting: Attendance to the Pre-Contest is optional for teams who are paid-in-full. Only adult representatives from teams may attend; captains/team members may not attend. This meeting is held prior to the start of the contest in order for coaches to meet the Head Judge and receive final instructions. The Pre-Contest information will be posted on idta.org within one week prior to each contest.

*Teams should be in the designated warm-up area at least 3 performances ahead of their own.

*Violations of the NFHS/IHSA Safety Rules will be penalized. If you have questions regarding specific stunts or movements, refer to the IHSA Rules Presentation or contact Tracie Henry at IHSA, (Thenry@IHSA.org), several days prior to the day of the contest. We encourage all coaches to view the IHSA Dance Rules Interpretation, found at ihsa.org. In addition, we encourage coaches to visit the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page on our website.

*Boundaries - Regulation Basketball Court

- All participants must start in the competition area.
- Out of bounds penalty will be assessed if the heel of the foot crosses the inside line of the boundary line.
- Equipment (sets, flags, poms, and clothing) crossing the boundary lines during the performance will not be considered out-of-bounds.
- Production, Winter Guard & Flag categories may pre-set equipment outside boundary lines.

- There is NO penalty if props go out of the boundary lines during a performance, but they cannot be retrieved.

*Timing/Music

- Begins with the first movement or note of music, whichever comes first.
- Ends with the last movement or beat of music.
- All IDTA competitors must use music on a CD or mp3 player.
- It is recommended that only one (1) track of music appear on the CD/mp3 player.
- It is recommended that two (2) copies of each piece of music must be brought to the music table directly before the performance.
- **A team representative must start the music or will receive a penalty for delay of contest.**
 - *The responsibility falls back to the coach/representative rather than the Floor Judge and/or Music Technician to have the correct piece of music for the performance started at the correct time. The wrong piece of music played will be considered a delay of contest.*

*Choreography/Lyrics

- All music is to be checked by the team coach for appropriate language; each team is held responsible for the suitability of its musical selections.
- Choreography and music should be appropriate for ALL audience members. IDTA expects the movement to be appropriate for family audiences and any exception causes a lack of audience appeal.
- Penalties will be given for music or words unsuitable for family listening, which includes, but is not limited to, swearwords; connotations of any type of sexual act or behavior; drugs; mention of specific parts of the body/torso; and/or violent acts of behavior. Removing improper language or words from a song and replacing with sound effects or other words may not necessarily alter the intentions of the lyrics and may still result in a penalty.

*Coaches

- You cannot “coach” during your team’s performance. You may be a “fan”, but you cannot cause any distraction (yelling, arm gestures, etc). You have done all you can to prepare your team – let them show what they can do!

*After the Performance

- Meet with the Floor Judge to sign off on the penalty sheet. If you do not sign the penalty sheet, you cannot appeal a penalty.