



# 2021 TSSAA Dance Rules and Regulations

## Table of Contents

\*All updates and changes displayed in green font\*

Table of Contents .....	1
TSSAA SCHOOL GUIDELINES AND DIVISIONS.....	2
SCHOOL DIVISIONS AND CATEGORIES: .....	2
TEAM PARTICIPANTS.....	3
GAME DAY ROUTINE RULES.....	3
NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES .....	5
GENERAL GUIDELINES.....	5
COMPETITION ROUTINE GUIDELINES.....	5
CHOREOGRAPHY AND COSTUMING .....	5
PROPS.....	6
HANDS FREE POMS .....	6
HIGH KICK.....	6
ROUTINE SAFETY RULES.....	7
MUSIC GUIDELINES.....	8
INTERRUPTION OF PERFORMANCE .....	9
PENALTIES .....	10
SPORTSMANSHIP .....	11
JUDGING PROCEDURES.....	11
TIE BREAKING POLICY.....	11
SCORES AND RANKINGS.....	11
FINALITY OF DECISIONS.....	11
DISQUALIFICATION.....	11
AWARDS AND PRIZES:.....	11
HOW TO HANDLE PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS .....	12
INTERPRETATIONS AND / OR RULINGS.....	12
VIDEO MEDIA POLICY.....	12
LOGO USAGE.....	12
EXCLUSIVITY .....	12
COVID-19 TSSAA and VARSITY COMPETITION RULES.....	13
RULES AND REGULATIONS AGREEMENT .....	13

# TSSAA SCHOOL GUIDELINES AND DIVISIONS

(Performance Routine and Game Day Divisions)

*Only TSSAA member schools may compete at TSSAA Competition.*

*Dance teams may only compete in TWO category/division (example: Pom & Game Day) at the TSSAA Competition.*

*Individuals are NOT permitted to compete on two School teams.*

*Only TWO registered coaches are permitted to enter the team entrance and stay with team throughout warmup and performance.*

*Alternates must be dressed in matching school dance uniform or team warm-up. Alternates dressed in street clothes or dress other than dance uniform/team warmup will need to purchase a spectator ticket and enter as spectator.*

*TSSAA strongly recommends that you have an alternate (not a member of another competing squad at the same event), who is prepared to substitute in the event of injury, probation, etc. No cheerleader/dancer may represent more than one Team, even in the event of injury or emergency. Once a team checks into the event, the team will not be allowed to change divisions.*

## SCHOOL DIVISIONS AND CATEGORIES:

All teams in the Varsity, Junior Varsity or Junior High divisions must be an official school dance team. The Junior Varsity Division is any official school dance team that is recognized by their school as the Junior Varsity or "B" Team. Individuals are NOT permitted to compete in two divisions within the same school (Example: A dancer is not allowed to compete with both a JV and a Varsity team). Individuals are also NOT permitted to compete on two different school teams. (Example: A dancer is not allowed to compete with ABC Junior High and XYZ High School or ABC High School and XYZ High School). **Individuals must be enrolled members at their school to participate.**

### A. Dance Divisions ONLY –

**\*Please note that the division sizes below are for TSSAA ONLY.**

- Middle School = 5-40 members (Jazz, Pom, Hip Hop, Kick, Game Day)
- Junior Varsity = 5-40 members (Jazz, Pom, Hip Hop, Kick, Game Day)
- Small Varsity = 5-11 members (Jazz, Pom, Hip Hop)
- Medium Varsity = 12-15 members (Jazz, Pom, Hip Hop)
- Large Varsity = 16-40 members (Jazz, Pom, Hip Hop)
- Varsity Kick = 5-40 members
- Varsity Game Day = 5-40 members

B. If a school has two Varsity teams, they both must be an official school dance team as deemed by administration. To compete two Varsity teams, the following requirements must be met:

C. Team members may not be a part of both teams.

D. Teams must provide documentation on school letter head, signed by the principal, that there are two Varsity dance teams at the school, as well as a roster for each team. This documentation must be sent to the office prior to attending camp or a regional competition. Registrations for our National Dance Team Championship will not be approved without receipt of this documentation.

E. Each team must qualify separately for our National Dance Team Championship either at camp with 7 or more members, or by placing at a regional competition, so long as they attended overnight camp with 7 or more members.

F. If teams choose to have two Varsity teams in the same division (i.e., two Medium Varsity Pom teams), they recognize that they will compete against each other.

G. **All Junior High Divisions** – 9th Grade and Below. Junior High Divisions WILL be allowed 9th grade participants if (1) they attend a school that is under the administrative supervision of the same school board as the junior high school

that they are representing AND (2) a minority of the team are 9th graders. Junior High teams with most 9th graders would compete as a Junior Varsity.

- H. **All Junior Varsity Divisions** – 7th Grade -12th Grade. Junior Varsity Divisions WILL be allowed 7th grade participants if they attend a school that is under the administrative supervision of the same school board as the high school that they are representing. Junior Varsity teams must be the official Junior Varsity of the school they represent.
- I. **All Varsity Divisions** – 8th Grade - 12th Grade. 7th grade participants will NOT be allowed on a Varsity team; however, 8th grade participants will be allowed to participate on a Varsity team if the school they attend is under the direct administrative supervision of the same school board as the Varsity team they are representing.
- J. **Please Note:** If a team has an equal amount of 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders on the team, they will be required to compete in the Junior Varsity Division.

## TEAM PARTICIPANTS

The minimum number of participants a team can have for a regional competition is five (5) \*. **The maximum number of participants a team can have is forty (40).** Teams competing with two routines must stay in the same division but can have different numbers in both routines. Teams will be able to trade out, remove, or add a designated number of dancers between their 2 categories, based on their division. See below for division breakdowns. Teams may continue to trade out dancers and maintain the same number of performers in both routines.

**TSSAA is not required but reserves the right to split Varsity Kick and Game Day into size divisions if there are 10 or more teams registered for that category.**

- The breakdown is as follows and is based on the number of dancers performing.
  - Small Varsity teams may trade out, remove, or add up to two (2) dancers.
  - Medium Varsity teams may trade out, remove, or add up to three (3) dancers.
  - Large Varsity teams may trade out, remove, or add up to four (4) dancers.

Examples:

A Small Varsity team is competing Jazz and Pom. They have 9 dancers in Jazz. For Pom, the team traded out 0 dancers and added 2 dancers; therefore, they are dancing 11 in Pom.

A Medium Varsity team is competing in Pom and Hip Hop. They have 13 dancers in Pom. For Hip Hop, the team traded out 1 dancer, and added 2 dancers; therefore, they are dancing 15 in Hip Hop.

A Large Varsity team is competing in Pom and Kick. They have 24 dancers in Pom. For Kick, the team traded out 2 dancers and removed 2 dancers; therefore, they are dancing 22 in Kick.

## GAME DAY ROUTINE RULES

***\*These rules apply to JUNIOR HIGH, JUNIOR VARSITY, and VARSITY teams competing in this division at ALL events (regionals and NDTC)***

### I. TEAM GUIDELINES

- A. The competition is open to all junior high, junior varsity, and varsity teams in the country.
- B. **Teams must have a minimum of five (5) dancers- the maximum is forty (40) dancers.**
- C. Individuals may not represent more than one team at TSSAA competition.
- D. Our Game Day divisions are as follows:
  - 1. **Junior High Game Day – 9<sup>th</sup> grade and below**
    - 5-40 members
    - Junior High Divisions WILL be allowed 9th grade participants if (1) they attend a school that is under the administrative supervision of the same school board as the junior high school that they are representing

AND (2) a minority of the team are 9th graders. Junior High teams with a majority of 9th graders would compete as a Junior Varsity.

## 2. Junior Varsity Game Day – 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades

- 5-40 members
- Junior Varsity Divisions WILL be allowed 7th grade participants if they attend a school that is under the administrative supervision of the same school board as the high school that they are representing. Junior Varsity teams must be the official Junior Varsity of the school they represent.

## 3. Varsity Game Day – 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades

- 5-40 members
  - 7th grade participants will NOT be allowed on a Varsity team; however 8th grade participants will be allowed to participate on a Varsity team if the school they attend is under the direct administrative supervision of the same school board as the Varsity team they are representing.
- E. Individuals are NOT permitted to compete in two divisions within the same school (Example: A dancer is not allowed to compete with both a JV and a Varsity team). Individuals are also NOT permitted to compete on two different school teams. (Example: A dancer is not allowed to compete with ABC Junior High and XYZ High School or ABC High School and XYZ High School).
- F. Teams will be able to enter 2 categories (Pom, Jazz, Hip Hop, Kick, or Game Day at TSSAA.
- G. Teams will not be able to compete with less team members than their other categories.
- H. Teams are able to move up in size divisions for the Game Day and Kick divisions ONLY.
- I. TSSAA is not required but reserves the right to split Varsity Kick and Game Day into size divisions if there are 10 or more teams registered for that category.

### General Notes

1. Teams will be evaluated and scored on each Game Day component. Within each component, performances will be scored on synchronization, execution of motion and overall effect. In addition, other components that pertain specifically to each section will be judged.
2. The performance will follow this order: Fight Song, Spirit Raising, and Performance Routine.
3. Teams are required to wear a traditional uniform that you would wear when representing your school. These should be in school colors; uniforms must follow all midriff rules, which states when dancers are standing at attention, all costumes/uniforms must cover the midriff area completely. The midriff includes the entire midriff section from the bra line down, front of the body only. Nude body liners are acceptable.
4. Teams may use poms, but they are not required. No other props or signs are allowed.
5. Mascots will be allowed but must remain on the performance floor the entire time. Mascots may not be involved in any stunts/technical skills, and should position themselves away from skills being performed. Teams may add up to 1 (one) mascot in their Game Day Routine and the mascot will not count towards the total number of participants allowed. Mascots must follow all eligibility guidelines and must be students enrolled at that school.
6. Bands/drum lines/pep bands are not allowed.

### Time Limitations

1. All components (Fight Song, Spirit Raising, and Performance Routine) should not exceed 1 minute. If a component exceeds the 1 minute time limit, a penalty will be assessed.
2. The overall time limit (including transitions) should not exceed 3 minutes 30 seconds (3:30) for TSSAA. Timing will begin with your fight song music, or any choreographed movement- whichever happens first.
3. Teams must show a clear separation between elements. Teams are highly encouraged to show spirited interaction as a clear transition.

## II. GAME DAY ROUTINE SAFETY RULES

Teams competing in the game day divisions must follow all the routine safety rules and regulations TSSAA. Refer to page 7 for more information.

## NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES

For TSSAA the max number of performances a dancer on a school team may be in is TWO (2).

## GENERAL GUIDELINES

- A. All participants agree to conduct themselves in a manner displaying good sportsmanship throughout the event. The coach of each team is responsible for seeing that team members, coaches, parents, and any other person affiliated with the team conduct themselves accordingly.
- B. All programs should have, and review, an emergency action plan in the event of an injury.
- C. Coaches must recognize the entire team's ability level and limit the team's activities accordingly.
- D. No technical skills should be performed when a coach is not present or providing direct supervision.
- E. All practice sessions should be held in a location suitable for the activities of dance, and away from noise and distractions.
- F. Warm-up and stretching should precede and conclude all practice sessions, pep rallies, games, competitions, performances, and other physical activities.
- G. The performance surface should be taken into consideration before engaging in any technical aspect of dance. The performance area should be reasonably free of obstructions. Dancers should not perform technical skills on:
  - H. Concrete, asphalt, or any other hard or uncovered surface
  - I. Wet surfaces
  - J. Uneven surfaces
  - K. Surfaces with obstructions
- L. The dance team coach or other knowledgeable designated representative should attend all practices, functions, and games.

## COMPETITION ROUTINE GUIDELINES

- A. Formal entrances which involve dance, technical skills, and all traditions/chants are not permitted. Dancers should enter the performance area in a timely fashion.
- B. All staging, backdrops, special effects, or any items that may damage or otherwise alter the performance floor or environment are prohibited (water, powder, glitter, fire, sliding oil, etc).
- C. Center markers will not be allowed. This includes but is not limited to- stuffed animals, toys, alternate dancers, spacing ropes, etc.
- D. Time limit is as follows:
  - 1. SCHOOL teams will have a maximum of (2) two minutes to demonstrate their style and expertise. If a team exceeds the time limit by more than (3) three seconds, they will be issued a penalty.
- E. Timing will begin with the first choreographed movement or note of music, whichever is first. Timing will end with the last choreographed movement or note of music, whichever is last.

## CHOREOGRAPHY AND COSTUMING

- A. All facets of a performance/routine, including both choreography and music selection, should be appropriate and suitable for family viewing and listening. Examples of inappropriate choreography may include, but are not limited to, vulgar or suggestive movement appearing offensive or sexual in content, displaying acts of violence, and/or relaying lewd or profane gestures. Music containing words unsuitable for family listening is not allowed. This includes, but is not limited to, swearwords and connotations of any type of sexual act or behavior, drugs, and/or violent acts or behavior. Removing improper language or words from a song and replacing with sound effects or other words may still constitute 'inappropriate.' Music or movement in which the appropriateness is questionable or with which uncertainty exists should be assumed by the coach to be inappropriate and removed as to not put their team in an unfortunate situation.

- B. Shoes, on both feet, are recommended but not required while on the performance surface. Please note that should dancers choose to wear shoes, anything with wheels is not allowed (example: roller skate, roller blades, heelys, etc.). Wearing socks and or footed tights only is not allowed.
- C. Teams may NOT use Disney themes, nor may they have costumes that resemble a Disney character, movie, or theme.
- D. When dancers are standing at attention, all costumes/uniforms must cover the midriff area completely. The midriff includes the entire midriff section from the bra line down, front of the body only. Nude body liners are acceptable. This rule applies to all pom, jazz, kick, hip hop, AND Game Day divisions.
- E. For the safety of all athletes, tights are HIGHLY recommended to be worn with costumes, but not required.
- F. All male dancers' costumes must include a shirt that is fastened; however, it can be sleeveless.
- G. Jewelry as part of the costume is allowed.

## PROPS

Props are not allowed. A prop is defined as anything that is danced with that is not always attached to your costume and is used to enhance the routine. Articles of clothing, such as jackets, headbands, sunglasses, hats etc. may be removed from the body and discarded; these items may not have any choreographed movement done with them. If taken off and danced with, it becomes a prop. Items/articles of clothing brought onto the stage but not worn are considered a prop. **This rule applies to the Game Day category as well.** Poms being used in a pom routine do not count as props.

## HANDS FREE POMS

The use of hands-free poms will be allowed. Hands-free poms are defined as poms specifically made so that performers do not have to hold the poms but rather, they are affixed to the performers hand. Proper use means bars cannot be in the palm of the hand and only an elastic band can be between the supporting hand and the performance surface for skills, tricks, etc. A hair tie, rubber band, or tying pom strings/pieces together will not be counted as a hands-free pom.

## HIGH KICK

Each routine must have a minimum of 60 kicks. We suggest that your routine have more than 60 to ensure meeting the minimum requirements. A kick is defined as one foot remaining on the floor while the other foot lifts with force at least one inch from the floor. At least half the team must execute a kick for it to be counted. Teams with an odd number of dancers will have the allowance of one less (Example: A team has 15 members. Both 8 dancers executing a kick AND 7 dancers executing a kick will count as the "majority".)

- Leg Holds: If the leg hold is lifted off the ground with force at or above 90 degrees and is performed by most of the team, it is considered a kick that counts towards the requirement.
- Ripple/Contagions: When a kick is performed in a ripple or a contagion by most of the team, it will count as one (1) total kick toward the required minimum.
- Chasing ripples/Pickups: These kicks will count as one (1) kick, however many times it is completed by most of the team.
- Contracted/Can-Can Kicks: Any time the leg extends at or above 90 degrees, contracts and extends again at or above 90 degrees, it will be defined as separate kicks.

Passe, flick kicks which kick behind the dancer, turn sequences, toe taps, kicks while kneeling or sitting, etc. will not be counted as kicks

## ROUTINE SAFETY RULES

### A. WEIGHT BEARING SKILLS

Hip over-head rotation skills with hand support are not allowed while holding poms in the supporting hand. (Exception: forward rolls and backward rolls are allowed). The use of hands-free poms for hip over-head skills is allowed. \*Please reference the Hands-Free Poms section for more details\*

### B. TUMBLING AND TRICKS (Executed by Individuals)

**\*Note: The following are lists of commonly known dance skills. This does not mean that they are required for your routine, nor does this list encompass all skills that are legal/illegal. \***

#### ALLOWED:

Aerial Cartwheels	Front/Back Walkovers
Front Handsprings	Round Off
Branny	Stalls/Freezes
Side Somi	Head spins
Forward Rolls	Windmills
Backward Rolls	Kip Ups
Cartwheels	Shoulder Rolls
Headstands	Headsprings (with hands)
Handstands	Backbends

#### NOT ALLOWED:

Front Tucks	Back Handsprings
Front Aerials	No handed headsprings
Dive Rolls	Toe Pitch Back Tucks
Layouts	Shushunova
Back Tucks	

1. Airborne skills without hand support are not allowed. (Exception: Headsprings with hand support, aerial cartwheels, and side somis not connected to any tumbling skill are allowed).
2. If a team chooses to use hands free poms for aerial cartwheels and/or side somis, and later touches down, the poms MUST be flipped off of the hand, or a penalty will be assessed. Simply wearing the hands-free poms for the aerial cartwheel and/or side somi does not make it legal if they are not used correctly.
3. If a team chooses to use non- hands-free poms for aerial cartwheels and/or side somis, they MUST be moved to one hand. If a dancer later touches down with the hand that holds both poms, a penalty will be assessed. There are no exceptions to this rule.
4. Tumbling skills with hip over-head rotation is limited to 3 connected skills. (Example: 3 consecutive headsprings are allowed; 4 are not allowed).
5. Simultaneous tumbling over or under another dancer that includes hip over-head rotation by both dancers is not allowed.
6. Choreographed drops to the knee, thigh, back, front, head, shoulder, or seat onto the performing surface are not allowed unless the dancer first bears weight on the hand(s) or foot/feet.
7. Landing in a push-up position onto the performance surface from a jump in which the legs are in front of the body and swing behind are not allowed. All variations of a shushunova (see glossary) are not allowed.
8. Airborne skills without hip over-head rotation may not jump from a standing or squatting position backwards onto the neck, head, back, shoulders, and/or hands. Any kip up motion must initiate from the back/shoulder area touching the ground. (NOTE: This rule refers specifically and only to the "rubber band" /" bronco" kip up skill, as well as any skill jumping backwards into a headstand/handstand stall).

### **C. DANCE LIFTS AND PARTNERING (Executed in pairs or groups)**

1. The Executing Dancer must receive support from a Supporting Dancer who is in direct contact with the performance surface through the entire skill. (Exception: Kick Line Leaps).
2. Elevators, thigh stands, shoulder sits, and chair sits are allowed.
3. The following cheer-based stunts are not allowed:
  - a. Extended cheer stunts (the lifted dancer is extended in an upright position over the base(s) who maintain fully extended arms and have the lifted dancers' feet in hands)
  - b. Pyramids and basket tosses
4. Swinging in and out of lifts and tricks is allowed in the prone and/or supine positions; swinging forwards, backwards, or making a complete circular rotation will not be allowed if the Executing Dancer is in a prone position (body facing the ground).
5. Hip over-head rotation of the Executing Dancer(s) may occur if a Supporting Dancer maintains contact until the Executing Dancer returns to the performance surface or is returning to the upright position.
6. Vertical Inversions are allowed if:
  - a. The Supporting Dancer(s) maintain contact until the Executing Dancer returns to the performance surface or returns to the upright position.
  - b. When the height of the Executing Dancers shoulders exceeds shoulder level of the Supporting dancer, there is at least one additional dancer to spot who does not bear weight.

### **D. RELEASE MOVES (Unassisted Dismounts to the performance surface)**

1. An Executing Dancer may jump, leap, step, or push off a Supporting Dancer if:
  - a. The highest point of the released skill does not elevate the Executing Dancer's feet above head level of the Supporting Dancer.
    - i. Exception: toe touches off a dancers back/leapfrog jumps will be allowed
  - b. The Executing Dancer may not pass through the prone or inverted position after the release.
  - c. Toe pitch back tucks are not allowed.
2. A Supporting Dancer may release/toss an Executing Dancer if:
  - a. The highest point of the release/toss does not elevate the Executing Dancer's hips above head level of the Supporting Dancer.
  - b. The Executing Dancer is not supine or inverted when released.
  - c. The Executing Dancer does not pass through a prone or inverted position after release.
  - d. Toe Pitch back tucks are not allowed.

## **MUSIC GUIDELINES**

- A. I have read and understand the USA Cheer Music Copyrights Educational Initiative and all sound recordings used in our team's music shall only be used with written license from the owners(s) of the sound recordings.
- B. For the most up to date music information, visit <http://varsity.com/music>. If you have any questions, dance teams should email [dancemusic@varsity.com](mailto:dancemusic@varsity.com). Please check the provider list for updates and changes periodically.
- C. Teams must be able to provide proof of licensing, in the form of a printed copy, during registration at the event.
- D. If your team is featured in the TV broadcast and uses an original composition created for your performance, your routine music will be used in the show if you also secured synchronization rights. Teams must be able to provide written documentation that synchronization rights were properly secured during registration at the event for the original routine music to be included in the show.
- E. When recording your music for the event, coaches or music editors should edit their song in a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) and make sure that the volume of the song is at 0. Things to note: Most DAW's have a default that sets a track at -6 when a track is added. Check to see if there is a normalization process after you render or save your work.
- F. If you would like to perform your school's original fight song, you may bring a recording of your marching band playing the song. You will need to get the school's permission to use the song and recording. A letter granting



permission for the cheer or dance team to use the fight song on school letterhead is enough. It should be signed by your program's administrative supervisor. Go to [varsity.com/music](http://varsity.com/music) for more details.

- G. If a team does not have required paperwork, they will be given the option to count the routine verbally or perform to an approved track of music or a track with counts (Provided by Varsity Spirit).
- H. If a team does not have the required paperwork and chooses not to count the routine or perform to an approved track of music or a track with counts, the team will be disqualified from the competition and not allowed to perform or compete.
- I. If there are concerns regarding a certain team's use of music, a Challenge Form must be completed immediately following the team's performance.
- J. A challenge can only be made by the official coach of a team competing at the event at which the challenge is being made.
- K. Challenge Process a) All music challenges must be submitted in writing to the event director. b) There will be \$100 fee to request a music challenge and must be in the form of a check made out to St Jude Children's Research Hospital. c) Fees collected will be voided if challenge is correct. d) If the team challenged can provide documentation during the event and can be verified, the fees will be donated to St. Jude. e) If the team challenged can provide documentation that requires further review, a decision will be finalized within 48 hours of the event.
- L. It is required that each team have a responsible adult at the music station that knows the routine and music (no alternates or team members allowed). This representative is responsible for pressing "play". Should an adult choose not to stay at the music table for the duration of the routine, and a malfunction occurs, teams may or may not be permitted to perform the routine again.
- M. All teams must provide their own device for use on the event provided sound system. Music should be on a digital music player/iPod/iPhone. CD's will no longer be allowed, and CD players will not be provided at competition.
- N. Please make sure that all devices have a headphone jack to connect to sound system and are fully charged, volume turned up and placed in airplane mode.
- O. Please ensure that jacks are clean and free of any debris which may impact connectivity. You will need to acquire an adapter in advance if your player does not have a headphone jack.
- P. Teams may not use Disney themes, nor may they have costumes that resemble a Disney character. However, Disney music is acceptable if following the music guidelines.

## INTERRUPTION OF PERFORMANCE

### UNFORSEEN CIRCUMSTANCES

1. If, in the opinion of the competition officials, a team's routine is interrupted because of failure of the competition equipment, facilities, or other factors attributable to the competition rather than the team, the team affected should STOP the routine.
2. The team will perform the routine again in its entirety but will be evaluated ONLY from the point where the interruption occurred. The degree and effect of the interruption will be determined by the competition officials.
3. While masks are not required on the warmup floor and/or performance floor unless dictated by state or local guidance, an athlete may choose to wear a mask. If an athlete chooses to wear a mask during the performance and the mask restricts the athletes view and/or interferes with skills or otherwise becomes a safety concern, the athlete should either secure or remove the mask. If the athlete does not secure or remove the mask, the routines is subject to being stopped by competition officials. If stopped, the team will perform the routine again in its entirety but will be evaluated ONLY from the point where the routine was previously stopped. Competition officials will determine the impact of the interruption.

### FAULT OF TEAM

1. In the event a team's routine is interrupted because of failure of the team's own equipment, the team must either continue the routine or withdraw from the competition.

2. The competition officials will determine if the team will be allowed to perform later. If decided by officials, the team will perform the routine again in its entirety but will be evaluated ONLY from the point where the interruption occurred.

## INJURY

1. The only persons that may stop a routine for injury are:
  - a. competition officials,
  - b. the advisor / coach from the team performing or
  - c. an injured individual.
2. The competition officials will determine if the team will be allowed to perform later. If the competition officials allow a routine to be performed later, the spot in the schedule where the re-performance is to take place is at the sole discretion of competition officials. The team may perform the routine again in its entirety but will be evaluated ONLY from the point where the interruption occurred.
3. The injured participant that wishes to perform may not return to the competition floor unless:
  - a. The competition officials receive clearance from, first, the medical personnel attending to that participant, the parent (if present) AND THEN the head coach/advisor of the competing team.
  - b. If the medical personnel do not clear the participant, the participant can only return to the competition if a parent or legal guardian in attendance signs a return to participation waiver.
  - c. Any athlete who exhibits signs or symptoms consistent with concussion should be removed from the activity at that time and should not be allowed to return to activity that day. The athlete should not return to activity on a subsequent day until evaluated by and receives written clearance for such participation from a qualified physician (MD or DO specifically trained in concussion management).
  - d. In addition to the Varsity Brands head injury policy, we encourage you to be familiar with the specific laws of the state where the competition is being held.

## PENALTIES

A deduction will be given for EACH safety/general competition rule violation. The point value of this deduction will be as follows:

- 1 point- General rules violations including (but not limited to) **timing infractions of 1-5 seconds over time**, not enough kicks, costume/shoe rules, prop rules, editing in templates for virtual events, not including a template for virtual uploads etc.
- 1.5 points- **Timing infractions of 6 or more seconds over time**, routine safety rule violations
- 2 points- Only music capture incidentally will be permitted. No music can be edited into the video. Teams who do edit music into the video will receive a 2-point penalty. **\*This penalty applies to virtual events ONLY\***

If you have any questions concerning the legality of a trick or move, please email the video to [udarules@varsity.com](mailto:udarules@varsity.com). Include your team's name, your name, a contact phone number, and the event attending. **Videos submitted for a regional/local event must be received two weeks prior to the event and must be labeled with the event attending. Videos for NDTC must be received by January 14<sup>th</sup>.** All videos will only be accepted from the head coach of the team. If received after the deadline, the video is not guaranteed a response. Videos from choreographers will not be allowed. For questions, please contact [udarules@varsity.com](mailto:udarules@varsity.com).

## SPORTSMANSHIP

1. All participants agree to conduct themselves in a manner displaying good sportsmanship throughout the competition with positive presentation upon entry and exit from the performance area as well as throughout the routine.
2. The advisor and coach of each team is responsible for seeing that team members, coaches, parents, and other persons affiliated with the team conduct themselves accordingly. Severe cases of unsportsmanlike conduct are grounds for disqualification.
3. When a coach is in discussion with an official, other coaches, athletes, and parents/spectators, they must maintain proper professional conduct. Failing to do so may result in a 1-point penalty, removal of coach, or disqualification.

## JUDGING PROCEDURES

The judges for the event will be appointed at the sole discretion of Universal Dance Association. As the teams make their presentations, the judges will score a portion of the scoresheet. Judges scores will be AVERAGED together to determine the overall team score.

## TIE BREAKING POLICY

In the event of a first-place tie, event officials will look at the raw scores per judge to see which team was ranked higher most often in each caption. Should a tie remain, the ranking points from the "Overall Impression" portion of the scoresheet will be used to break the tie.

## SCORES AND RANKINGS

Individual score sheets are for the exclusive use of each judge. Each judge has the responsibility and authority to review and submit his or her final scores and rankings prior to the final tally of the scores for all teams. No scores and rankings will be given over the telephone. After each round of competition, teams will receive the judges' score sheets and comments for their team. In addition, teams will receive a ranking sheet with the names and scores of all teams in their group.

## FINALITY OF DECISIONS

By participating in this competition, each team agrees that all decisions by the judges will be final; questions concerning comments on the score sheet will be allowed, however scores and judges decisions will remain final. Each team acknowledges the necessity for the judges to make prompt and fair decisions in this competition and each team therefore expressly waives any legal, equitable, administrative, or procedural review of such decisions.

## DISQUALIFICATION

Any team and/or spectators of that team that do not adhere to the terms and procedures of these "Rules and Regulations" will be subject to disqualification from the competition and will automatically forfeit any right to any prizes or awards presented by the competition.

## AWARDS AND PRIZES:

Awards will be given in each division. The number of awards given will be based on the number of squads participating in each division. If there are three squads in a division, then there will only be a first place given. If there are five squads in a division, then there will be a first and second place given. In a division with six to 20 squads, there will be a first, second and third place given. If a division has 21 or more squads, there will be a first, second, third and fourth place given.

## HOW TO HANDLE PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS

- A. RULES & PROCEDURES – Any questions concerning the rules or procedures of the competition will be handled exclusively by the advisor/head coach of the team and will be directed to the Competition Director. Such questions should be made prior to the event.
- B. PERFORMANCE – Any questions concerning the team’s performance should be made to the Competition Director immediately after the team's performance and/or following the outcome of the competition. Coaches will be asked to fill out a Routine Review Form with their concerns and will need to allow up to two business days following the conclusion of the event for their submissions to be reviewed. Questions regarding another team and/or their performance will not be allowed. Not all routine review forms will be handled on site.
- C. Deduction sheets will be available shortly following each team’s performance. Questions regarding penalties can be made by the head coach of the team only and must be done within 30 minutes of the final performance of the division or prior to final awards-whichever happens first. Once results have been announced, no rules violation challenges will be accepted.

## INTERPRETATIONS AND / OR RULINGS

Any interpretation of any aspect of these Rules and Regulations or any decision involving any other aspect of the competition will be rendered by the Rules Committee. The Rules Committee will render a judgment to ensure that the competition proceeds in a manner consistent with the general spirit and goals of the competition. The Rules Committee will consist of the Competition Director, Head Judge, and a designated competition official.

## VIDEO MEDIA POLICY

No commercial recording (audio or visual) or commercial live streaming is allowed in the event venue or other event-related venues (including, but not limited to, hotels and restaurants) or on the grounds of any such venues (collectively, “Event Locations”). In the event a team authorizes the commercial recording or streaming in any Event Location, the team will be automatically disqualified. In addition, the personal, non-commercial use of live streaming apps (such as Periscope, Facebook Live, etc.) to capture all or any part of a performance during the event is not permitted. By attending/purchasing admission to the event, each attendee grants permission to TSSAA, Varsity Spirit, LLC and its affiliates, designees, agents, licensees, and invitees to use the image, likeness, actions and statements of the attendee in any live or recorded audio, video, film, or photographic display or other transmission, exhibition, publication, or reproduction made of, or at, the event in any medium, whether now known or hereafter created, or context for any purpose, including commercial or promotional purposes, without further authorization or compensation.

## LOGO USAGE

Teams will not be allowed to use the TSSAA logo, VARSITY (UCA, UDA, NCA OR NDA) logo or the NHSCC logo including: banners, rings, bows, t-shirts, etc. without prior approval from the TSSAA and UCA Office. However, the use of the TSSAA, UCA, UDA, NCA or NDA letters will be allowed.

## EXCLUSIVITY

Varsity Spirit is the exclusive TSSAA Cheer/Dance competition provider. No other cheer/dance instructional organization, choreographer may present, solicit business, recruit or distribute merchandise during the TSSAA State Cheer & Dance Championship. Exception: If the Vendor has expressed in an advanced Statement of Work and received written consent from TSSAA and Varsity Spirit.

## COVID-19 TSSAA and VARSITY COMPETITION RULES

While the final details and schedule of any competition could require up to the day adjustments, and all guidelines are subject to change based on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”), federal, state and local guidance, please be assured that Varsity Spirit is committed to delivering the same quality of competition experience for which we are known. We appreciate your understanding of the flexibility this will require. By accepting the Terms and Conditions as the authorized person from my program I agree and acknowledge to abide by the COVID-19 TSSAA and Varsity Competition Rules.

## RULES AND REGULATIONS AGREEMENT

By accepting the Terms and Conditions as the authorized person from my program I agree and acknowledge that (i) I am the sponsor/director of the team (ii) I have read and understand the foregoing, (iii) I will be solely responsible for communicating the foregoing to all coaches/directors in my program that will coaching and directing teams at the TSSAA, (iv) I will ensure that my teams will comply with all rules and regulations at all times, and (v) my team will support the results of the competition, as I am a role model for my programs.