



# 2017 NDTC RULES AND REGULATIONS

*Bold Print and red font denotes a change from prior year*

## I. **DIVISIONS AND CATEGORIES:**

- A. **SCHOOL TEAMS** - 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). Go to [www.uda.varsity.com](http://www.uda.varsity.com) for specific category descriptions, divisions and routine rules.
- B. **ALL STAR TEAMS** – visit [www.usasf.net](http://www.usasf.net) for all star divisions, categories and routine rules.

## II. **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 the teams using a 100 point system. Judges scores will be AVERAGED together to determine the overall team score.

## III. **SCORES AND RANKINGS**

- A. Individual score sheets are for the exclusive use of each particular 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.
- B. All ties in each division or group will remain with the exception of first place. The first place tie will be broken based on judges' final ranking points.

## IV. **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 / coach of the team and will be directed to the Competition Director. Such questions should be made prior to the team's competition performance.
- 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.

## V. **SPORTSMANSHIP**

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. 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.

## VI. **INTERRUPTION OF PERFORMANCE**

### A. **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.

### B. **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 at a later time. 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.

### C. **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 at a later time. If the competition officials allow a routine to be performed at a later time, 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, second the parent (if present) AND THEN the head coach/advisor of the competing team.
  - b. If the medical personnel does 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. In the event of a suspected concussion/head injury, the participant cannot return to perform without clearance from a licensed medical professional that has training related to head injuries, even with a waiver from a parent or legal guardian.

## VII. 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 in an effort 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.

## VIII. DISQUALIFICATION

Any team that does 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.

## IX. FINALITY OF DECISIONS

By participating in this competition, each team agrees that all decisions by the judges will be final and will not be subject for review. 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.

## X. GENERAL SAFETY 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 particular 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:
  1. Concrete, asphalt, or any other hard or uncovered surface
  2. Wet surfaces
  3. Uneven surfaces
  4. Surfaces with obstructions
- H. The dance team coach or other knowledgeable designated representative should be in attendance at all practices, functions, and games.

## XI. COMPETITION ROUTINE GUIDELINES

- A. Substitutions may be made in the event of an injury or other serious circumstance. Substitutes must also abide by the age restrictions in all division in which they compete.

- B. Formal entrances which involve dance, technical skills, and all traditions/chants are not permitted. Dancers should enter the performance area in a timely fashion.
- C. 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).
- D. Teams may dance off of the performance floor; however, all routine choreography for the **entire** team must begin and end on the performance surface. Jumping on or off the performance surface is prohibited.
- E. **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, they will be assessed a penalty.**
  2. **ALL STAR teams will have a minimum of (1:45) one minute forty five seconds and a maximum of (2:30) two minutes thirty seconds to demonstrate their style and expertise. If a team exceeds the time limit, they will be assessed a penalty.**
- F. 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.

## XII. 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. **These guidelines are as of June 16, 2016. For the most up to date music information, visit <http://varsity.com/music>. If you have any questions, cheer teams should email [info@usacheer.net](mailto:info@usacheer.net) and dance teams should email [dancemusic@varsity.com](mailto:dancemusic@varsity.com). Please check Preferred Provider list for updates and changes periodically.**
- C. **Teams must be able to provide proof of licensing upon request. If a team does not have proof of music licensing available, they will be allowed to perform to an optional approved track of music or a track with counts (provided by Varsity Spirit). If a team cannot provide proof of licensing, and do not perform to an optional approved track of music or to counts, the team will be disqualified from the competition.**
- D. **If there are concerns regarding a certain team's use of music, a Challenge Form must be completed immediately following the team's performance.**
- E. **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.**

- XIII. **CHOREOGRAPHY AND COSTUMING**
- A. Routine choreography should be appropriate and entertaining for all audience members. Vulgar or suggestive material, choreography and/or music is not allowed and is defined as any movement or choreography implying something improper or indecent, appearing offensive or sexual in content, and/or relaying lewd or profane gestures or implications. Inappropriate choreography, costuming, makeup and/or music may affect the judges' overall impression and/or score of the routine.
  - B. Teams may NOT use Disney themes nor may they have costumes that resemble a Disney character.
  - C. All male dancers' costumes must include a shirt that is fastened, however it can be sleeveless.
  - D. Jewelry as part of the costume is allowed.

- XIV. **PRELIMINARIES, SEMI-FINALS, AND FINALS**
- UDA reserves the right to determine if a preliminary, semi-final, or final round will be necessary. There will be a preliminary competition held in most categories. All divisions with only one round prior to the finals will be classified as a semi-final. 50% of the teams in each group will advance to the next round. In the event of a tie for the final spot advancing, both teams that are tied will move on. Tournament officials will have full authority to make the final determination of the number of teams selected to advance to the next round.**

- XV. **AWARDS AND PRIZES**
- All teams in the final round of competition will receive a trophy. Teams who rank first, second, or third place will additionally receive a bronze, silver, or gold medallion. Teams placing first will also receive a championship jacket, given to every participant who performed on the floor plus two coaches. Based on availability, rostered alternates can receive jackets from our championship office at the all-star resort after competition has been completed.

- XVI. **NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP PARTICIPATION- SCHOOL TEAMS ONLY**
- It is understood that teams participating in the National Dance Team Championship will not knowingly and willingly participate in any other dance event promoted as a "national championship" or "international championship" for the

2016-2017 school year. (Exception: USA National Championship). Teams who do not adhere will automatically be disqualified from the 2018 Championship.

- XVII. **TELEVISION COVERAGE**
- The National Dance Team Championship will be nationally televised on an ESPN network. Because of the format of the show, not all finalist teams will be shown on the telecast. **Out of respect for the copyrights of others, original music will be composed for all routines featured in the show, in order to meet broadcast licensing requirements. If teams use an original composition created or commissioned by you (an original song and recording to which you own or license the rights by written agreement from a preferred provider), your routine music may be used.**

- XVIII. **TOURNAMENT FACILITY**
- A. The competition is scheduled to be held at the ESPN Wide World of Sports ® Complex.
  - B. Marley Floor: All main floors will have 10 strips and all rehearsal floors will have 8. Approximate floor size is 50 feet X 50 feet.
  - C. The tournament officials shall have the right to alter the time and location of the competition in the event changes become necessary due to inclement weather, facility problems, television production requirements, or any other situation deemed by the tournament officials to be essential to the successful execution of the championship.

- XIX. **APPEARANCES, ENDORSEMENTS, AND PUBLICITY**
- All teams winning titles, awards, or prizes agree to have all appearances, endorsements, and publicity approved through the NDTC office.

- XX. **PENALTIES**
- A two (2) point per judge penalty will be assessed to any team violating any of the specific rules as stated.** If you have any questions concerning the legality of a trick or move, please upload a video to: <http://eventuploads.varsityspirit.com/> Include your team name, your name, and a contact phone number. It must be received by January 10, 2017. For questions please contact Ashley Udashen at [audashen@varsity.com](mailto:audashen@varsity.com).

**For any clarification or interpretation of the above safety guideline please email Ashley Udashen at [audashen@varsity.com](mailto:audashen@varsity.com)**

**ON BEHALF OF MY TEAM, I HEREBY ACCEPT THE COMPETITION AND ROUTINE RULES AND GUIDELINES AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY THESE RULES.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(School/Team Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City/State)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Advisor / Coach's Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Division — Junior High, Senior All Star, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Administrator's Signature)