

**Minnesota State High School League Dance Team Competition
CATEGORY & CRITERIA DEFINITIONS**

*Each category includes but is not limited to the following criteria as appropriate to team size.
The three components under each category shall be weighted equally.*

SKILLS/KICKS	TECHNIQUE OF TURNS Posture: body lines correct	TECHNIQUE OF KICKS Posture: body lines correct, no hunching, correct technique used for each type of kick
	Upper Body Placement: carriage lifted, shoulders down, correct arm placement, accurate spotting	Upper Body Placement: carriage lifted, shoulders down, strong arm connections, consistent head placement
	Lower Body Placement: hip and leg placement, passes connected, relevés lifted, extension through foot	Lower Body Placement: hip and leg placement, extension through foot
	TECHNIQUE OF LEAPS & JUMPS	KICK HEIGHT
	Height	Height
	Extension: extension through foot Alignment: body lines correct	Uniformity Consistency Throughout Routine

CHOREOGRAPHY	CREATIVITY Musicality: use of music to enhance choreography through tempo variations, vocal and instrumental interpretations, blending of music and movement Originality: not easily transposed, connection of choreography to music, unique movements and choreography Variety: movements and choreography not repeated
	VISUAL EFFECTIVENESS Levels: use of levels, directions and planes Groups: use of groupwork or featuring/highlighting enhances visual appeal Use of Floor: routine covers different zones of floor space

DIFFICULTY	DIFFICULTY OF ROUTINE CHOREOGRAPHY Quality of Movement: variety and type of movements used: percussive (sharp/staccato), sustained (keeps moving/smooth), swinging (uses gravity/pendulum), vibratory (shakes), suspending (holds balance), collapsing (falls to the earth) Complexity: high level of content, use of layering and dynamic choreography, intricate use of music and counts, pace of choreography, number of dancers performing difficult choreography Distribution of Movement: incorporation of multiple qualities of movements, continuity of movement throughout routine	
	DIFFICULTY OF FORMATIONS & TRANSITIONS Variety: transitions and formations not repeated, variety and complexity of movements used to transition Distribution: number of formations and transitions distributed consistently through routine Intricacy, Planning, and Achievement: build of routine from section to section, use of patterns, clear pathways, spatial awareness, formations achieved by all dancers	
	DIFFICULTY OF SKILLS Combinations: of turns, leaps, jumps, flexibility movements Variety and Distribution: uses ambidexterity, distribution of skills throughout routine Pace: rate and tempo composition of skills	DIFFICULTY OF KICKS Combinations: of kicks, preps and linking styles Variety and Distribution: uses ambidexterity, distribution of kicks throughout routine Pace: rate and tempo composition of kicks

EXECUTION	PLACEMENT & CONTROL Placement: awareness of body, movements positioned correctly Control: articulation of movement, strength of movement Consistency Throughout Routine
	DEGREE OF ACCURACY Memory: lack of hesitations, personal knowledge Timing and Unity: synchronization of movements within dancers Spacing: of dancers within formations and during transitions, symmetry or asymmetry of formations

ROUTINE EFFECTIVENESS Overall Impression: connection to routine, authenticity, attention not drawn to any particular dancer Stamina: dancers properly conditioned to execute routine Confidence and Expression: natural spirit, projection, enjoyment of the dancers
