

2022-2024 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	TECHNIQUE OF KICKS
	Posture: body lines correct	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, releves 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	Uniformity
	Alignment: body lines correct	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	DIFFICULTY OF KICKS
	Combinations: of turns, leaps, jumps, flexibility movements	Combinations: of kicks, preps and linking styles
Variety and Distribution: uses ambidexterity, distribution of skills throughout routine	Variety and Distribution: uses ambidexterity, distribution of kicks throughout routine	
Pace: rate and tempo composition of skills	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