



DANCE TEAM UNION
UNITE. CREATE. SUCCEED

SCHOOL (VARSITY, JV, JH, ELEM.) &
STUDIO/ALL-STAR RULES 2021-2022

SECTION V: CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

Dance Team Union encourages creativity in all categories. There is no particular style or “formula” required in any category. Dance team is about more than just imitation of previous award-winning routines - we want to inspire your dancers to showcase their own unique style. Our judges will strive to provide you with the most valuable feedback you will receive all season.

Full category descriptions may be found in the following pages.



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**SCHOOL (VARSITY, JV, JH, ELEM.) &
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Duos/Trios

Duos/trios may perform any style of dance. Routines will be scored on the elements listed below which include artistry, musicality and proper technical execution of the style(s) selected by the soloist. There are no required movements. Turns, leaps, jumps, kicks, or tricks are not required but may be performed at the dancers' discretion. The dancers should also display an ability to connect with the audience and provoke an emotional response (i.e., excitement, laughter, joy, and/or sense of drama) appropriate to the style presented.

ARTISTRY (40 points)

Uniqueness of Concept/Movement	20
Musical and Technical Demand	20

TECHNIQUE AND EXECUTION (40 points)

Proper Technique Displayed in Selected Genre (Jazz, Lyrical, Hip Hop, etc.)	20
Uniformity and Musicality of Execution	20

SHOWMANSHIP (20 points)

Communication and Projection by Dancers	20
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TOTAL (100 points): _____



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High Kick

30 kicks of at least waist height performed by at least 50% of the team must be included in each routine. Any style of dance may be used to accomplish this and there are no required movements. Turns, leaps, jumps, lifts or tricks are not required. The team may demonstrate difficulty through the incorporation of the number and structure of kick sequences and the height and pace of kicks. Movements should complement the music and teams will be judged on both musicality and unison. Teams should also display an ability to connect with the audience and provoke an emotional response (i.e., excitement, laughter, joy, and/or sense of drama) appropriate to the style presented.

**DANCE TEAM UNION
KICK SCORING CATEGORIES**

ARTISTRY (30 points)

Uniqueness of Concept and Movement	10
Visual Effect of Kicks	10
Musicality of Choreography	10

TECHNIQUE (30 points)

Kick Technique	10
Technique Displayed in Other Movement*	10
Technical Difficulty of Kicks	10

EXECUTION OF ROUTINE (30 points)

Uniformity of Movement	10
Execution of Spacing and Transitions	10
Musicality of Execution	10

SHOWMANSHIP (10 points)

Communication and Projection by Dancers	10
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TOTAL (100 points): _____

* This is NOT intended to require your team to include any specific technical jazz, pom or hip hop movements (including leaps, turns, lifts, or other tricks) in the routine. Emphasis of the routine should be on the kicks.

Whatever choreographed movements you choose, in your creative discretion, to do in between your kicks will be judged here. Teams will not receive credit in the technique score for technical difficulty of non-kick movements.



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Hip-Hop

There is no one definition to describe hip-hop dance. Hip-hop dance is continuously transforming and redefining itself with each new generation of dancers. Any general street or hip-hop style (or combination of styles) is acceptable in this category. Movements should complement the music and teams will be judged on both musicality and uniformity. Teams should also display an ability to connect with the audience and provoke an emotional response (i.e., excitement, laughter, joy, sadness and/or sense of drama) appropriate to the style presented.

DANCE TEAM UNION
HIP-HOP SCORING CATEGORIES

ARTISTRY (30 points)

Uniqueness of Concept and Movement	10
Visual Effect	10
Musicality of Choreography	10

TECHNIQUE (30 points)

Hip-Hop Technique	10
Difficulty of Movement	10
Musical Demand	10

EXECUTION OF ROUTINE (30 points)

Uniformity of Movement	10
Execution of Spacing and Transitions	10
Musicality of Execution	10

SHOWMANSHIP (10 points)

Communication and Projection by Dancers	10
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TOTAL (100 points): _____



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Jazz

DTU's "jazz" division encompasses styles commonly referred to as jazz, Broadway, contemporary, lyrical or modern and teams have successfully competed in the jazz division with all of these styles. Combinations of these styles may also be used. The team should demonstrate difficulty through the use of advanced dance skills (e.g., turns, leaps, extensions). Movements should complement the music and teams will be judged on both musicality and uniformity. Teams should also display an ability to connect with the audience and provoke an emotional response (i.e., excitement, laughter, joy, sadness and/or sense of drama) appropriate to the style presented.

**DANCE TEAM UNION
JAZZ SCORING CATEGORIES**

ARTISTRY (30 points)

Uniqueness of Concept and Movement	10
Visual Effect	10
Musicality of Choreography	10

TECHNIQUE (30 points)

Jazz Technique (Leaps, Turns, Jumps)	10
Technique Displayed in Other Movement	10
Overall Difficulty	10

EXECUTION OF ROUTINE (30 points)

Uniformity of Movement	10
Execution of Spacing and Transitions	10
Musicality of Execution	10

SHOWMANSHIP (10 points)

Communication and Projection by Dancers	10
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TOTAL (100 points): ____



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Lyrical (All Star only)

Any general lyrical style (or combination of styles) is acceptable including styles commonly referred to as lyrical, contemporary, or modern. Combinations of these styles may also be used. The team should demonstrate difficulty through the incorporation of advanced dance skills (e.g., turns, leaps, extensions) and musical demand. Movements should complement the music and teams will be judged on both musicality and uniformity. Teams should also display an ability to connect with the audience and provoke an emotional response (i.e., excitement, laughter, joy, sadness and/or sense of drama) appropriate to the style presented.

**DANCE TEAM UNION
LYRICAL SCORING CATEGORIES**

ARTISTRY (30 points)

Uniqueness of Concept and Movement	10
Visual Effect	10
Musicality of Choreography	10

TECHNIQUE (30 points)

Jazz Technique (Leaps, Turns, Jumps) and Technical Difficulty	10
Technique Displayed in Other Movement and Difficulty	10
Musical Demand	10

EXECUTION OF ROUTINE (30 points)

Uniformity of Movement	10
Execution of Spacing and Transitions	10
Musicality of Execution	10

SHOWMANSHIP (10 points)

Communication and Projection by Dancers	10
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TOTAL (100 points): ____



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Pom

Any style of dance may be used to accomplish this and there are no required movements. Turns, leaps, jumps, kicks, lifts or tricks are not required. The team should demonstrate difficulty through the incorporation of intricate pom motions. Movements should complement the music and teams will be judged on both musicality and uniformity. Teams will also be judged on the creative use of poms for visual effect. Teams should also display an ability to connect with the audience and provoke an emotional response (i.e., excitement, laughter, joy, and/or sense of drama) appropriate to the style presented.

**DANCE TEAM UNION
POM SCORING CATEGORIES**

ARTISTRY (30 points)

Uniqueness of Concept and Movement	10
Visual Effect	10
Musicality of Choreography	10

TECHNIQUE (30 points)

Pom Motion Technique	10
Technique Displayed in Other Movement	10
Difficulty of Pom Motions	10

EXECUTION OF ROUTINE (30 points)

Uniformity of Movement	10
Execution of Spacing and Transitions	10
Musicality of Execution	10

SHOWMANSHIP (10 points)

Communication and Projection by Dancers	10
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TOTAL (100 points): _____



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Military

A Military routine should contain but not be limited to clean, crisp movements with visual formation changes and visually complex arm, hand and/or leg lines. Movements should complement the music and teams will be judged on both musicality and unison. Teams should also display an ability to connect with the audience and provoke an emotional response (i.e., intensity, excitement, laughter, joy, and/or sense of drama) appropriate to the military style presented.

**DANCE TEAM UNION
MILITARY SCORING CATEGORIES**

ARTISTRY (30 points)

Uniqueness of Concept and Movement	10
Visual Effect	10
Musicality of Choreography	10

TECHNIQUE (30 points)

Military Technique	10
Strength and Articulation of Movement	10
Overall Difficulty	10

EXECUTION OF ROUTINE (30 points)

Uniformity of Movement	10
Execution of Spacing and Transitions	10
Musicality of Execution	10

SHOWMANSHIP (10 points)

Communication and Projection by Dancers	10
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TOTAL (100 points): ____



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**SCHOOL (VARSITY, JV, JH, ELEM.) &
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Solos

A soloist may perform any style of dance. Routines will be judged on the categories listed below which include artistry, musicality and proper technical execution of the style(s) selected by the soloist. There are no required movements. Turns, leaps, jumps, kicks, or tricks are not required but may be performed at the soloist's discretion. The soloist should also display an ability to connect with the audience and provoke an emotional response (i.e., excitement, laughter, joy, and/or sense of drama) appropriate to the style presented.

**DANCE TEAM UNION
SOLO SCORING CATEGORIES**

ARTISTRY (40 points)

Uniqueness of Concept/Movement	20
Musical and Technical Demand	20

TECHNIQUE AND EXECUTION (40 points)

Proper Technique Displayed in Selected Genre (Jazz, Lyrical, Hip Hop, etc.)	20
Musicality of Execution	20

SHOWMANSHIP (20 points)

Communication and Projection by Dancer	20
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TOTAL (100 points): _____



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Spirit Showdown

The DTU Spirit Showdown is a chance for teams to perform a dance showcasing their hometown, school or team in a unique way. There are no required movements. **Entertainment value and creatively showcasing a team’s hometown traditions are each worth 20% of the score in Spirit Showdown!** Props are permitted, and any style or combination of styles of dance may be used. Turns, leaps, jumps, kicks, or tricks are not required. The team and dancers should display an ability to connect with the audience and provoke an emotional response (i.e., excitement, laughter, joy, and/or sense of drama) consistent with the spirit of this category.

The Spirit Showdown is not a cheerleading or songleading competition and teams should not feel bound whatsoever to a “traditional school spirit” model in deciding upon choreography, costuming or music. This category is an additional opportunity for teams to show the audience something that is entertaining, fresh, new and unique to their program. It also allows teams to take creative risks with very few rules and to have fun!

**DANCE TEAM UNION
SPIRIT SHOWDOWN SCORING CATEGORIES**

ARTISTRY (40 points)

Entertainment Value of Routine (Movement and Overall Concept)	20
Showcase of Hometown/School/Team’s Unique Style and/or Traditions	20

EXECUTION (40 points)

Quality of Team Movement (Technique, Uniformity and Spacing)	20
Musicality of Execution	20

SHOWMANSHIP (20 points)

Communication and Projection by Dancers	20
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TOTAL (100 points): ____



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Team Performance

Team Performance is a combination of pom, jazz, hip-hop and high kick styles. Please see the descriptions of those individual styles for more information. Teams should demonstrate proficiency in each style to maximize their score; it is recommended that teams have **well-defined sections devoted to each of these four styles of at least 20-25 seconds in length**. Movements should complement the music and teams also will be judged on both musicality and unison. Teams should also display an ability to connect with the audience and provoke an emotional response (i.e., excitement, laughter, joy, sadness and/or sense of drama) appropriate to each style presented.

DANCE TEAM UNION
TEAM PERFORMANCE SCORING CATEGORIES

ARTISTRY (30 points)

Uniqueness of Concept and Movement	10
Visual Effect	10
Musicality of Choreography	10

TECHNIQUE (40 points)

Pom Technique and Technical Difficulty	10
Jazz Technique and Technical Difficulty	10
Hip Hop Technique and Technical Difficulty	10
Kick Technique and Technical Difficulty	10

EXECUTION OF ROUTINE (20 points)

Uniformity of Movement and Spacing	10
Musicality of Execution	10

SHOWMANSHIP (10 points)

Communication and Projection by Dancers	10
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TOTAL (100 points): ____