

DANCE HANDBOOK

2025-2026



Varsity Dance Regionals: January 24, 2026

Northern - D.C. Everest High School

Southern - Middleton High School

JEM State Competition: January 31, 2026

Kimberly High School

Varsity Dance State: February 6-7, 2026

La Crosse Center

300 Harborview Plaza

LaCrosse, WI 54601

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this handbook is to provide an explanation of the safety and competition rules for WACPC events, the official Wisconsin State Cheer and Dance Championships, endorsed by WIAA.

PURPOSE

WACPC believes competitions can provide opportunities for networking, developing new ideas, and raising the performance level of teams. Other objectives of WACPC are:

- To educate coaches and athletes about safety in our sports.
- To provide learning and character-building experiences for athletes in our programs.
- To promote our sports at the regional and state levels.
- To provide appropriate athletic challenges through competition, which leads to team improvement.
- To provide a sense of accomplishment for teams and individual athletes.

WACPC ETHICS STATEMENT

Coaching ethics means conforming to professional standards or moral conduct. Cheer and dance coaches have a tremendous influence in the education of an athlete. Never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest ideals of character.

- Coaches should consistently uphold the integrity of the profession, and strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.
- Coaches should have thorough knowledge of the safety rules.
- Competition administrators and judges shall have the respect and support of the coach. Public criticism of competing athletes, teams, coaches, competition administrators, or judges is unethical. Conduct that incites athletes or spectators against these personnel is unethical. Constructive criticism or concerns should be directed to the WACPC Board of Directors.
- Coaches shall actively use their influence to promote sportsmanship.

While it is impossible for competition administrators or judges to monitor the ethical behavior of athletes, teams, or coaches, these rules exist on an honor system.

Examples of unethical coaching may be, but are not limited to:

- Using choreography from a camp, YouTube, or other video sources in its entirety or in large sections.
- Displaying poor sportsmanship during or after a competition or awards.
- Using ineligible athletes.
- Failure to show proper respect during the National Anthem or Pledge of Allegiance.
- Using social media to publicly criticize or bully individual athletes, entire teams, coaches, competition administrators or judges.

SPORTSMANSHIP STATEMENT

WACPC promotes good sportsmanship at all events. Athletes, coaches, and spectators are expected to show consideration for others through their actions at all times. This includes during award ceremonies.

- Demonstrate self control; your behavior reflects on your team, school, and community.
- Display humility and courtesy regardless of placement.
- Support and recognize performances by all teams. This includes remaining in your seats until all awards are distributed.
- Respect the decisions of performance and technical judges.

Repercussions for unsportsmanlike conduct may include, but are not limited to, point deductions and/or disqualification at current and/or future WACPC, Inc. event

MENTORSHIP

- Mentorship is available to all new coaches who are WACPC members
- Coaches who have 3+ years of experience coaching in Wisconsin can apply to mentor new coaches
- Mentorship runs for an entire year.

COMPETITION RULES

It is the coach's responsibility to understand and uphold all WACPC Competition Rules. Every year coaches should attend a District Meeting to review rule changes or view the presentation prior to registration.

Team Registration

Registration for the 2025-2026 WACPC competition series is open October 1 through December 1. Payments for membership and competition entry fees must be postmarked by the mandated deadlines to avoid a late fee. All late fees and penalties will be assessed and must be paid before teams will be allowed to compete. Coaches are responsible for checking the registration spreadsheet on the WACPC website prior to competition.

- Registration Fees: \$25 fee per athlete for the first routine and a flat fee of \$125 for additional routine(s).
- Registration Deadlines:
 - December 1 Submission: Online Registration, Roster, Team Photo
 - December 19 Postmarked: Team Payment (updated 11/10/25)
- A \$500 late fee will be applied to any incomplete registrations after December 1.
- No team registrations will be accepted after December 19.
- **NO REFUNDS**
- Teams must be composed of eligible, active athletes for the current school year, and all individuals must be currently enrolled in their respective school or organization.
- All coaching staff must be over 18 and in team registration in order to be in team only areas.
- All student athletes, managers and/or coach's children must be in team registration in order to be in team only areas.
- Varsity athletes assisting with JEM teams must be in team registration in order to be in team only areas.
- Teams may not throw anything out to the audience during their performance.
- All routines, uniforms, costumes, and music should be appropriate for family viewing. Please review the NFHS rules.
- Special time/performance order requests will not be accommodated.
- Competitions will not be canceled due to bad weather.

[WACPC Procedures for Line Ups \(updated 8/4/25\)](#)

[Bid Waiver Form \(updated 8/4/25\)](#)

Classroom Behavior

Not all sites allow teams to have a classroom to store equipment and belongings. This is a privilege and a responsibility of each coach to make sure the rooms are left in the condition they were in at the check-in. If a team or coach notices damage in their classroom they are required to notify the hosting school. If damage is found, items are found to be missing from the rooms or excessive loose glitter is left to be cleaned by the site, notification to the school and to the coach will be made, along with a statement for coverage of the damage or stolen property. Repairs for any damage caused to the facility are the responsibility of the performing team and/or program. Participation in or knowledge of theft by a member of a school or organization may result in the athlete being banned from competing at future WACPC events.

Noise Makers

The WACPC Tournament Series policy on noisemakers is in accordance with NFHS rules. Fans using noise makers will be asked to stop and may be asked to leave by a WACPC official if there is continued use.

No Carry Ins Allowed

This is the policy of the venue & city health department regulations. This includes but is not limited to: water, gatorade, candy or food of any type. Food deliveries may be refused. If your team has dietary restrictions please let us know.

Coaches PLEASE share with your parents and athletes as this is an issue every year at the admission doors.

Banners/Signs

Teams attending WACPC Regionals and JEM please note teams and fans will not be allowed to tape banners onto the gymnasium walls or other areas of the schools at the request of our site administrators. This will help us to avoid damaging the walls and/or leaving tape marks. WACPC asks you to please limit yourself to small handheld poster sized signs and fan sticks for the Regional Dance and JEM Dance events.

If any Varsity teams advance to the State Event larger banners may be allowed at the La Crosse Center only. **Banners may be hung the day of the event from the railings but must NOT obstruct the view of spectators.** Zip ties (preferred) or tape may be used. These must be removed as soon as the competition is over.

Rules Acknowledgement

An acknowledgement of the Dance Safety and NFHS rules is required by coaches during the registration process in order to participate in WACPC competitions.

COMPETITION ELIGIBILITY

WACPC follows WIAA eligibility guidelines and requirements.

Per WIAA:

All JV & Varsity scholastic teams may only use their schools enrollment, including charter schools, of full-time students in grades 9-12. Enrollment numbers are based off of the previous year's DPI enrollment data. Please refer to the WACPC Enrollment Chart in the handbook area.

Who may participate on public school teams?

- Full-time public school students who attend the school in grades 9-12 and receive 100% of their educational programming from that member school.
- Full-time students enrolled in member charter schools are eligible only at the school of residence. The school of residence which is affiliated with said charter.
- A Home-based Private Education (home school) student who resides in the school district and meets the state law definition of Home-based Private Education student. The law states: "(3g) HOME- BASED PRIVATE EDUCATION PROGRAM. "Home-based private educational program" means a program of educational instruction provided to a child by the child's parent or guardian or by a person designated by the parent or guardian. An instructional program provided to more than one family unit does not constitute a home-based private educational program."
- If your district has multiple high schools, utilize the same method that you use for placement of full-time students attending your schools. Coaches should not recruit home school children. If approached, coaches should direct families to the school athletic director or principal. Home school families should approach your district with a request.
- The administration of a school is responsible for determining eligibility of all its athletes. School administration must verify the eligibility of each participating student prior to their first competitions each school year. A student must meet school and WIAA definition of a full-time student, be carried on a school's attendance roles and be meeting the minimum academic requirement in credits designated by the school in order to be eligible to participate in any interscholastic competition.
- Any student entering 9th or 10th grade at the beginning of the school year as an open enrollment student is eligible starting with the fall season, from a residence standpoint. If this student transfers back to the school of residence or to a nonpublic school, after attending one day of school or one athletic practice, he/she is ineligible for varsity competition for one calendar year. Additional transfer restrictions may also apply to students who have completed four consecutive semesters following entry into Grade 9.
- Foreign exchange students can participate on a JV or Varsity team. WIAA rules allow for one year of eligibility for foreign students participating in exchange programs. All foreign exchange students must have a physical conducted in the United States prior to participating in practice or competition at a member school
- A student shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition if he/she reached his/her 19th birthday before August 1 of any given school year.
- JV teams may consist of students from grades 9-12. These athletes can compete on both JV and Varsity teams as long as coaches and administration are both in agreement and it does not cause any harm, physically or mentally to the athlete.

- Students in grade 8 are ineligible to participate on JV or Varsity teams
- Academic eligibility is school specific. WACPC does not set any academic eligibility rules. Contact your school athletic director and/or administrators for your specific guidelines on academic eligibility.

Per WACPC:

- JV teams may consist of students from grades 9-12. These athletes can compete on both a JV and Varsity team as long as they are registered and rostered on the team prior to the mandated registration deadline. **75% of the total number of dancers competing on a JV team (by rounding up) must come exclusively from the JV team.** Coaches and administration should both be aware of and in agreement with this decision.
- Alternates should be included on the registration form and may or may not perform. Scholastic team members must be officially enrolled and attending the school (or the charter school affiliated with the school) within their school district.
- ***An athlete not performing at a regional competition may compete at a state competition as long as they were registered with the team and are on the roster prior to the regional competition. The 75% rule will still apply.***

GENERAL SAFETY RULES

- All registered WACPC head coaches receive a copy of the National Federation Spirit Rules Book. All scholastic and rec teams competing with WACPC must follow all NFHS rules. Contact the Technical Judge Coordinator with questions or concerns using: dancerules@wacpc.com
- Rules books are also available for purchase and download through the NFHS Digital App.
 - [iOS Download](#)
 - [Android Download](#)
- Videos being submitted for clarification may be shared with NFHS for a final ruling.
- District Meetings are held in the month of August of each year to present and discuss rule changes for the upcoming season. It is the coach's responsibility to understand these rules.
- **PLEASE NOTE:** WACPC does not write the rules for spirit teams. The NFHS Rules Committee is in charge of all rules and regulations. It is the policy of WACPC to uphold the rules and regulations of the NFHS to ensure every aspect of safety for the teams, coaches, and organizations.

PENALTIES AND VIOLATIONS INFORMATION

- Any team that displays a flagrant safety violation or blatantly disregards the safety rules will be disqualified from the competition.
- Any team member refusing to remove jewelry, glitter, or make any other corrections "in the hole" may not enter onto the performing area until the infraction has been corrected. **Daith piercing ONLY allowed with valid medical notes. This medical note should come from a primary doctor and be submitted to dancerules@wacpc.com to be on file for WACPC events. Any other piercing not removed will prohibit dancers from taking the floor.**

- In the hole violations will be given per team.
- Shoes as a performance hazard—If a shoe should come off, it will be treated as a potential performance hazard if left on the floor as the routine continues. A coach has the choice of having the dancer leave the floor to put the shoe back on, or leave them on the floor to do the same. The shoe, however, must be put back on, or it becomes a question of rule 4-1-5a. and the dancer may either remain out of the routine, or return to it in a safe manner. A time out may be taken when this occurs and scoring will resume from the spot of incident.
- Violations may be given per-infraction. Please refer to the [Safety and Education Scoresheets](#).
- **DECISIONS OF THE SAFETY/EDUCATION AND PERFORMANCE JUDGES ARE FINAL UNLESS REVIEWED APPROPRIATELY. SEE [TECHNICAL AND PERFORMANCE DEDUCTION APPEAL](#)**

JUDGING

Every effort is made to provide qualified and objective judges. Each judge completes a Conflict of Interest Form, which will help the judges' coordinator when assigning the judging panel. The final scores will be posted on the Member Resources page of the WACPC website. Members/Coaches must not post individual scores from other teams on social media. These scores are not made public during the event, therefore WACPC asks members/coaches to refrain from sharing them publicly on social media or websites after the event.

MUSIC

The only requirements on music selection are timing and appropriateness.

- **Timing:** Timing begins from the first choreographed movement **OR** the first beat of music, and ends at the last choreographed movement **OR** last beat of music. **No grace period exists.**
 - **Elementary/Novice:** Routine minimum timing will be **1:30** and the maximum will be **2:30**
 - **Middle school:** Routine minimum timing will be **1:45** and the maximum will be **2:30**
 - **JV:** Routine minimum timing will be **1:45** and the maximum will be **2:30**
 - **Varsity:** Routine minimum timing will be **1:45** and the maximum will be **2:30**
 - **Solos, Duet/Trios, Ensembles:** Routine minimum timing will be **1:00** and the maximum will be **1:30**
- **Appropriateness:**
 - Music cannot reference or infer anything related to but are not limited to:
 - Curse words/obscene language
 - Drug or alcohol names or reference
 - Language that portrays violence in a positive light
 - Negative racial, gender, or LGBTQ references
 - Sexual references
 - Please note that you must remove the **ENTIRE** word or reference. **Partial removal is considered a violation.**
 - Please also note that the same rules apply to lyrics in any language.

- WACPC offers the following recommendations:
 - Submit music files prior to the event to dancerules@wacpc.com if you have any doubt. Including music, lyrics, costuming, and potential choreography ideas can assist in the discussion.
 - It is recommended that coaches research lyrics carefully. Sources include www.songlyrics.com or www.urbandictionary.com. Inappropriate lyrics must be clearly heard by the technical judge(s).
- Performance judges may bring inappropriate lyrics to a technical judge's attention.
- A warning/penalty may be assessed to make the coach aware of the lyrics in question.
- If the judges interpret lyrics as inappropriate a penalty may be assessed.

TIMING ROUTINES

- When first called for performance, it is referred to as “in the hole”, which means there are two prior performances. The second call is referred to as “on deck”, which means there is one prior performance.
- Dance teams will have a limit of one minute to take the floor. Timing will begin when the first athlete crosses the regulation court and will end when the team hits their beginning pose. Entrance timing warnings will be given at regionals, with the deductions given at state competitions. Entrances and exits are not judged and need not be choreographed.
- **Choreographed entrances are discouraged.**
- Timing will begin with the first beat of music, sound, or choreographed movement and stops with the final sound. See music section above for routine timing information.

TIME-OUT

It is the coach's responsibility to call a time out. A coach may call a time-out by walking onto the performance area or otherwise signaling to one of the timers or judges, under the following circumstances:

- An unsafe situation detected by a coach or team member(s).
- An injured athlete.
- Technical difficulties with music.

Procedures for dealing with a time-out will be determined by the situation. Minor adjustments in music and/or props must be corrected immediately, and the team will start their performance over. In the case of an injury, the coach will remove the team from the performance area so the next team can perform. The trainer and coach will assess the injury to determine if the injured member can still perform. A competition official and the coach will then consult to reassign placement in the competition line-up. The team will be allowed to perform its entire routine without penalty or deduction. The judging will resume from the point the incident occurred. A competition official may call a time-out when deemed necessary.

A TIME-OUT SHOULD BE VIEWED AS AN EMERGENCY MEASURE ONLY

SAFETY AND EDUCATION DEDUCTION APPEAL

If you disagree with a deduction, you can fill out the [Technical and Performance Deduction Appeal Form](#) at the Review Table and ask for the deductions to be re-evaluated using video the day of the event. If you have emailed dancerules@wacpc.com for a ruling clarification, have that video available. It is important that you save your video or photo approval email. You will be asked to provide that to help with the decision to be made.

Deduction Review Process

- The coaches of the teams will need to pick up each routine's tech sheets within 30 minutes after the first performance or 30 minutes after the completion of the *final* routine in the same session. Please understand that the tech sheets go to the Tally table first, they are put together and then they go to the Review Table where they are available to the coaches. Please also understand that this process might take more than 30 minutes.
- When this happens, the coach will have 15 minutes to determine if they want to file a challenge for their first routine and an additional 15 minutes if they determine they want to file a challenge for the second routine.
- Please note, there will be a 10 minute limit for the discussion between the tech judge and a coach per routine.
- **If a coach reviews a deduction the review will only include the deduction in question.**

TALLY PROCESS

To be utilized at WACPC Series Competitions. Derived from WACPC Dance Committee and BOD, effective 23-24 season.

1. A Score Sheet Sorter gets all the completed Safety & Education and Performance score sheets for a team and collates them. The Sorter will calculate the total of each of the sheets and will write the cumulative score on the bottom.
2. A Tally worker will enter the scores into the WACPC provided tally program.
3. The Head Judge checks the bottom line numbers to see if it matches the Sorter's scores. If both match, the sheets can be scanned. If it does not match, the Head Judge reviews to determine where the error occurred. The Head Judge sends score sheets back to the judges to correct their totals as needed.
4. Verified score sheets are scanned.
5. Safety & Education scoresheets are given to the review table.
6. At the end of a division, prior to awards, the Head Judge of the division will sign off on the announcer form. To do this, the Head Judge will compare their spreadsheet to the program that tally completed for accuracy. The Head Judge will have visibility to deductions at the time that sign off occurs.
7. If there is a discrepancy in the scores a third party would need to recalculate the scores and find the difference.

DAY OF COMPETITION

Coaches' Meeting

All coaches' meetings will be virtual updates sent out to coaches via email the week of competition. These emails will include information on the lineup, event venue information, music submission, and all other specifics for the competition day.

Athletic Trainer

A qualified athletic trainer is always present at the competition site for medical/physical concerns. **Please bring your own first aid kit and supplies for taping and minor injuries.** Trainers will be available to assist, but ask that athletes bring their own tape and wrap.

Spectator Admissions

- **Dance Regional Events:** \$15.00 per person, children under 5 – Free
- **Dance State Events:** \$20.00 per person for the entire weekend including a state program, children under 5 – Free
- **JEM:** \$15.00 per person, children under 5 – Free
- Live streaming will be available for Regionals, JEM and State.

Items for Sale

- Concessions will be available throughout the day; **carry-ins are not allowed at any site. The site and/or WACPC has the right to refuse any deliveries at the door.**
- Please see www.wacpc.com for pre-ordering apparel. There will be secondary opportunities to purchase apparel during post-event online stores.

Videotaping

Acceptable Video Policy. Video recording routines are acceptable. WACPC no longer considers this a violation, instead a way to grow and educate.

Music

- All music should be sent to the DJ prior to the event. Email address for submission will be sent prior to each event.
- As a backup, have music on a device and a dongle to connect to a regular auxiliary cord.

PERFORMANCE CLARIFICATIONS

For all age divisions Elementary - Varsity

- Dance routines will be performed on a basketball court.
- There are four dance divisions: Hip Hop, Jazz, Kick, and Pom.
- The standard entry fee entitles a dance team to compete in one division, with a flat fee for a second and third division. Teams may enter in one, two or three different divisions.
- If a dance team chooses to enter two or three different divisions they must have at least 75% of the athletes in the primary routine (largest number of performers) performing in their secondary and tertiary routines (lowest number of performers). The routine(s) that do not meet the 75% criteria will be disqualified.
 - For example, if your “primary routine” has 13 dancers and your “second and/or third routine” has 9, the “second and/or third routine” would be disqualified. **Keep in mind that with performance schedules your “second and/or third routine” could be performed first.**
 - **The required percentage is figured using mathematical rounding. Example: 14 athletes - 75% is 9.5 which rounds to 10 athletes for the second routine. 15 athletes - 75% is 11.25 which will round to 11 athletes.**
- There is no minimum or maximum number for the size of a team.

DANCE CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS & SCORE SHEETS

Hip Hop

- A hip hop routine can include a multitude of styles but should be executed with a body language, posturing, and attitude very different from Pom, Jazz or Kick.
- All elements of the routine should work together to create an authentic piece true to the hip hop style.
- The routine should reflect the style and theme of the music chosen.
- Clothing needs to be appropriate for family viewing; please review NFHS rulebook.

Jazz

- A jazz routine should include well-executed technical movements with focus on balance, flexibility, control, body alignment, extension and team uniformity.
- Choreography should include a variety of formations, group work, turns, leaps, jumps and technical moves.

- It may also include varying styles of jazz and be creative in order to capture the judges and audience.
- The routine should reflect the mood and general theme of the music.
- Clothing needs to be appropriate for family viewing: please review NFHS rulebook.

Kick

- A kick is defined as the lifting of a toe or foot off the floor with force.
- High kicks will beat waist level or above.
- Hinge kick- leg must be extended, hinged, and re-extended, counted as 2 kicks.
- Y-scale kick- dancer kicks with leg extended, foot is caught by another dancer, counted as 1 kick.
- Examples dance moves **NOT** counted as kicks (not limited to) include: ponying, marching, running position with bent knees, leg catch by self (heel stretch)
- A kick routine should include a variety of kicks and hook ups performed using synchronized team movement, a number of formations and transitions, and recognized kick technique.
- All levels must have 35 kicks of any height by the entire team.
- Clothing needs to be appropriate for family viewing: please review NFHS rulebook.

Pom

- A pom routine should include a focus on clean, sharp, strong and precise motions.
- The routine should be a high energy piece that uses the visual aid of poms as an extension of the body to create pictures and effects pleasing to the audience and judges.
- Playing with rhythms and unique placement is a way to add creativity while making it more difficult.
- Synchronization is key.
- Pom may include supplemental skills such as jumps, leaps, and turns to enhance the piece and challenge athletes while still maintaining uniformity and precision.
- Poms must be used for 80% of the routine
- Clothing needs to be appropriate for family viewing; please review NFHS rulebook.

Score Sheets

- [Kick, Hip Hop, Pom & Jazz Scoresheets, Safety Scoresheets and Judging Rubric](#)
- [Score Sheet Descriptors](#)

VARSITY DANCE DIVISIONS 2026

POM DIVISIONS	OPEN DIVISIONS (JAZZ, HIP HOP & KICK)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● DIVISION 1 (1570 and higher)● DIVISION 2 (1200-1569)● DIVISION 3 (870-1199)● DIVISION 4 (560-869)● DIVISION 5 (360-559)● DIVISION 6 (359 and lower)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● OPEN 1 (1200 and higher)● OPEN 2 (560-1199)● OPEN 3 (559 and lower)

- [GREY ZONE](#): If there are more teams than it takes to even out a division in the “Grey Zone” the team with the furthest travel obligation would stay at the regional that is closer. The team that has the shorter travel obligation would switch. Lines which are linked in the document below as the “Grey Zone”. Teams within that “Grey Zone” would move either to the Northern Regional or Southern Regional based on the teams who registered for Regionals the year prior. If a division is unbalanced the teams in the Grey zone would be moved to the region that would balance the region more equally. (Based on the number of teams competing at each Regional in a particular division)
- [2026 Map - Two Regional Proposal \(New Grey Zone\) - Google My Maps](#)
- Breaks within these divisions are based on the WIAA 9-12 school enrollment, found in the current WIAA high school directory.
- **The enrollment figures pertain to the previous year’s enrollment on the third Friday of September as reported to the WIAA office by the DPI.** Please refer to enrollment information starting on page 8 of [WIAA Bulletin #2](#) from October 2024.

ALL-STATE & JEM SOLOS, DUETS/TRIOS AND ENSEMBLES

SCORESHEETS

- The fee is \$35 per athlete for all solos and small groups
- Acceptable genres are pom, kick, jazz, and hip hop.
- All-state solos, duets and ensembles do not need to be self choreographed.
- Ensembles consist of 4-9 athletes.
- Allowable All State solos, duets/trios and ensembles per team:
 - All-State solos are limited to all seniors or up to 3 athletes per team.
 - Duets/Trios- up to 12
 - Ensembles- up to 5
- Crossovers
 - Athletes can enter one per division
 - For example: An athlete can be in one solo, one duet or trio, and one ensemble.
- You do not need to compete as a team in order to compete in an All State solo, duet/trio or ensemble.
- Timing of routines
 - Routine minimum timing will be 1:00 and the maximum will be 1:30

VARSAITY PROCEDURES

Divisions

- All State soloists will be divided into their respective Pom Division (D1, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6) based on their schools' enrollment for the first round of competition. All qualifiers will then compete against each other in the live competition at state to form the All State Team in their respective division.
- Varsity Duets & Trios will compete against each other unless 30 or more Duets/Trios register. If there are 30 or more submissions, they will be divided into D1, D2 and D3 based on their schools' open division.
- Varsity Ensembles will compete against each other unless 30 or more ensembles register. If there are 30 or more submissions, they will be divided into D1, D2 and D3 based on their schools' open division.

Competition Procedures

- **All State Solos**
 - Two Rounds: First round virtual with videos submitted by January 2nd. No late entries accepted. Second round qualifiers announced during Regionals awards.
 - Second round live performances will take place live at the state competition. Dancers will perform on a wood floor covered with marley. The floor size is 40x28ft.
 - All state teams announced at State awards.
- **Duets/Trios and Ensembles**
 - One round: Virtual with videos submitted. All videos submitted by January 2nd. Placements announced at Regional Award Ceremonies.

Awards

- Approximately 50% of All State submissions will advance to the final round, determined by the natural break nearest to 50% of total submissions. Final All State selection will be approximately 20-30% of all submissions taking into consideration the natural break in scores.
- Top half of the Duet/Trio divisions will be recognized at their appropriate regional.
- Top half of the Ensemble division will be recognized at their appropriate regional.

JEM PROCEDURES

Divisions

- Elementary K-5
- Middle School 6-8
- JV 9-12

Competition Procedures

- One round: Virtual with videos submitted. All videos submitted by January 3rd. Placements announced at JEM Awards Ceremony.
- Awards will be presented as gold, silver and bronze foil on the certificate with the athletes name included

OVERALL IMAGE

CHOREOGRAPHY

- Routine choreography should be appropriate and entertaining for all audience members. Suggestive, offensive, or vulgar choreography and/or music inappropriate for family audiences will not be tolerated and may be penalized.
- Vulgar or suggestive material 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 affects the judges' overall impression of the routine. Please make sure all choreography is age appropriate.
- **Choreography in part (6 or more consecutive 8 counts) or whole cannot be used that has been competed at any time by your team or any other team. The deduction will be 10 times the highest WACPC technical deduction possible and will be sent to the Ethics Committee.**

COSTUMING

Apparel must be age appropriate.

- Midriffs will be covered.
- Midriff is defined as running side seam to side seam.
- No front or side bare cutouts are allowed.
- The cut of the back of a costume may not be lower than three inches below the natural waist of the dancer.
- Shorts must be long enough to completely cover the athletes' bottoms.
- Tops must not expose cleavage.
- Lingerie type costumes are considered inappropriate.
- **Any of the above concerns will result in a violation or disqualification.**

PROPS

- Wearable and or hand held items are allowed in all categories and may be removed and discarded from the body, providing items do not become performance hazards.
- To ensure the safety of all dancers props cannot obscure or cover a routine which needs to be viewable by a tech judge.
- Props must be stored within your warm up area.

AWARDS

- There will **tentatively** be three award sessions at Regionals, two at JEM, and three at Varsity State.
- The number of qualifiers at Regionals will be based on the teams included in the first published line up.
 - For example: 7 teams are on the line up for D5 Pom, 1 team drops day of competition, qualifiers will remain at 4
- **Regional Qualifiers – 50% of division qualifies**
 - **0-2 teams 1 qualify**
 - **3-4 teams 2 qualify**
 - **5-6 teams 3 qualify**
 - **7-8 teams 4 qualify**
 - **9-10 teams 5 qualify**
- If a tie appears in the final place, both teams will advance
- No maximum number of qualifying teams
- **Wildcard Option Process**
 - Wildcard qualifier(s) will have achieved a score equal to or higher than the average of all of the qualifying teams from both regionals.
- **In the event of a tie the following tie breaker will be put into place.**
 - Subtract the high and low and leave the deduction in then ...
 - Subtract only the low and leave the deduction in then...
 - Subtract only the high and leave the deduction in then...
 - The tie is upheld.
- **Trophies/awards will be earned at Varsity State and JEM as follows:**
 - 0-2 teams 1 award
 - 3-4 teams 2 awards
 - 5-6 teams 3 awards
 - 7-8 teams 4 awards
 - 9+ teams 5 awards
- The number of medals awarded will match the number of trophies given for all divisions, including elementary and novice, with a maximum of 3 medal placements.
 - Medals are awarded and given to the number of athletes/managers that are registered to compete.
- During awards ceremonies the teams music will be played while the top 3 teams receive their medals. 1st place teams will have their team members and coaches names will be read by the announcer as they accept their medals.

JEM - JUNIOR VARSITY, MIDDLE SCHOOL & ELEMENTARY DANCE

The WACPC State JEM Dance Championships are designed for students in elementary, junior high, middle school, and non-varsity members of high schools which would include students in grades K-12.

A team is qualified to participate in a WACPC JEM Championship event if:

- They are affiliated with a school district as a school team
- Through the district's rec department
- OR operate under a 501(c)(3) as a government certified non-profit organization.

Teams which are not directly under a school or district may be asked to provide their 501(c)(3) certification.

Teams must follow NFHS and WACPC rules. Teams are not eligible if any part of their organization has competed in an all-star studio based competition.

JEM DANCE DIVISIONS

JV DIVISIONS	POM / JAZZ / HIP HOP / KICK
MIDDLE SCHOOL / REC DIVISIONS (Grades 5-9)	POM / JAZZ / HIP HOP / KICK
NOVICE DIVISIONS (Grades 5-9)	POM / JAZZ / HIP HOP / KICK
UPPER ELEMENTARY (Grades K-6)	POM / JAZZ / HIP HOP
LOWER ELEMENTARY (Grades K-3)	POM / JAZZ / HIP HOP

NO CROSSOVERS ALLOWED BETWEEN ROSTERS AT JEM

- Each team is allowed to enter one team only in a division
 - For example The Sunbeam Dance Team can enter **one** Novice, **one** Upper Elementary, **one** Lower Elementary and **one** Middle School/Rec team
- No dance program can create a team of only 9th grade students in a 5-9 Category at JEM. A team with only 9th grade students would be classified as JV at the JEM competition, no matter if the students were coming from an intermediate school or a high school. This is the same procedure for 6th graders on an elementary team. A dance program can't create a team of only 6th grade students in an elementary division.

Novice Division

- Novice is defined as 5-9 performing with the limited skill set as defined in the handbook.
- Divisions will be divided by average grade level for every 13 teams registered. Novice teams can enter this division as many years as they want provided they meet the criteria
- Skill restrictions will be enforced, deductions will be made for disallowed skills
 - 10 point deduction per prohibited skill
 - Skills allowed: single skills, stationary pirouettes limited to one rotation, round offs, single toe touches, straight leg jumps and leaps, non-airborne skills which involve at least one hand support throughout the skill, round-offs (airborne exception), chaîné, pique turns
 - Skills prohibited:
 - out of body alignment skills- ie tilt, calypso, scorpion, firebird
 - airborne skills- i.e. kip-ups, back handsprings, back tucks, aerials, headsprings
 - exception: round-offs
 - double skills- i.e. double turns, double jumps, double toe touch, jump combinations, fouettes
 - directional changes - i.e. switch leap, switch to open leap
- Time limits for routines are minimum 1:30 and a maximum time of 2:30

Elementary Divisions

- Upper Elementary is defined as K-6. Lower Elementary is defined as K-3.
- Athletes cannot be rostered or compete on both an upper and lower elementary team.
- Rosters will include name, DOB, and grade level & school
- Divisions will be divided by average grade level for every 13 teams registered.
- Time limits for routines are minimum of 1:30 and maximum time of 2:30

JV/JR High/Middle School/Rec Dance Division Split

- Jr. High/Middle School is defined by ages and are grades 5-9. The average age has to be 8th grade or below. Grade levels need to be what your school district defines as middle school, junior high or elementary school. Enrollment needs to be calculated using the enrollment of the participating schools on your team.
- A division will not be split until at minimum 13 teams are registered. Divisions will be split for every 13 teams registered as defined in the [Division Break Process](#)
 - The division will always be cut in half.
 - Half of the teams in Division 1 and half of the teams in Division 2.
 - In the case of an odd number of teams registering for a category, division 1 would have one extra team than division 2.

- Example #1 - 13 Teams Total, 7 will be in one division and 6 teams in another division.
 - Example #2 – 20 Teams Total, 10 will be in Division 1 and 10 will be in Division 2.
- The division will be split by enrollment from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction’s Public Enrollment Master (PEM) files and Private School Enrollment Files. These documents can be located on the dpi website:
 - [Public](#)
 - [Private](#)
- The process in which a team’s enrollment will be determined is listed below:
 - When registering a team, the coach will have to list each dancer’s Full Name, DOB, Grade Level and School they are currently enrolled in.
 - The 6-8 enrollments of any school listed will be added together.
 - If there are any 5th grade students on the team, the 5th grade enrollment from that dancers school will be added into their total
 - If there are any 9th grade students on the team, the 9th grade enrollment from that dancer's school will be added into their total.
 - 6th graders can compete on an elementary program if the school structure includes 6th grade students in their elementary enrollment.

JEM Enrollment Clarifications

- If it is a K - 5th Grade School: Only the 5th Grade Enrollment will be accounted for.
- If it is a 5th - 8th Grade School: The 6th - 8th Grade Enrollment will be added together
 - The 5th Grade Enrollments would only be added in if there were 5th grade students from that school on the team.
- If it is a 6th - 7th Grade School: The 6th - 7th Grade Enrollment will be added together.
- If it is a 7th - 8th Grade School: The 7th - 8th Grade Enrollment will be added together.
- If it is a 6th - 8th Grade School: The 6th - 8th Grade Enrollment will be added together.
- If it is a 6th - 9th Grade School: The 6th - 9th Grade Enrollment will be added together.
- If it is a 9th - 12th Grade School: Only the 9th Grade Enrollment will be accounted for.
- The 9th Grade Enrollment would only be added in if there were 9th grade students from that school on the team. (Rec only)

Please see the previous section entitled COMPETITION ELIGIBILITY for eligibility rules and clarification.

COLLEGE DIVISIONS

- College teams from Wisconsin are eligible to compete at the WACPC state dance competition in Pom, Jazz, and Hip Hop
- College teams compete during the Saturday State Event.
- Teams will be scored using WACPC score sheets.
- Awards will mirror High School state awarding up to 5 teams. (breakdown can be found in the awards section)
- Teams will be awarded the same as varsity teams and at the same award ceremonies.
- College divisions will be split following the JEM rule. Once 13 teams are registered in a single division that division will be split.
- [COLLEGE DIVISION RULES](#)

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