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USA Dance/Drill Competitions
11135 Knott Avenue, Suite C
Cypress, CA 90630

Attn:
Dance/Drill Director



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2011-2012

dance drill Competitions

DANCE • ALL-MALE DANCE • CO-ED DANCE • MILITARY • KICK
DANCE/DRILL • HIP HOP • DANCE/POM • PROP • LYRICAL
NOVELTY • CHARACTER DANCE • INDIVIDUAL SOLO

Qualifying competitions for the 2012 USA Dance/Drill Nationals



Qualifying Categories/Divisions for USA Dance/Drill Nationals

If your team competes in any of the divisions listed below and you would like to compete at USA Dance/Drill Nationals, you must first pre-qualify at a USA Dance/Drill Regional. (If you do not have a USA Dance/Drill Regional in your area, you must qualify by DVD. Please refer to "DVD Qualification" instructions enclosed.)

The qualifying divisions include:

HIP HOP

Small (6-10)
Medium (11-17)
Large (18+)

LYRICAL

Small (6-10)
Medium (11-17)
Large (18+)

MILITARY

Small (6-10)
Medium (11-17)
Large (18+)

PROP (6+)

DANCE

X-Small (2-5)*
Small (6-9)
Medium (10-13)
Intermediate (14-20)
Large (21+)

KICK (6+)

NOVELTY (6+)**

CHARACTER DANCE (6+)**

***NEW!** - X-Small Dance now replaces the former Officers division

******At any given USA Regional, teams may enter into either Novelty or Character Dance divisions, but may not enter into both.

For the qualifying divisions, teams who receive an averaged score of 85 points or greater (excluding penalties) for a given routine at a USA Regional will qualify for (and must compete in) the "Championship" division at Nationals. Teams who score an 84.9 or below for a given routine at a USA Regional will qualify for (and must compete in) the "Open" division at Nationals. Only the judges' scores can determine the qualification for "Open" and "Championship" divisions.

If you are located in an area that does not host a USA Dance/Drill Regional, your team must qualify for the "Championship" or "Open" divisions by submitting a DVD by the February 1, 2012 deadline. DVD entries must be accompanied with a DVD entry form and payment by the deadline to be considered. DVDs only - no other form of video will be accepted. Only the judges' scores can determine the qualification for "Open" and "Championship" divisions. Teams may not request to be placed in "Open" or in "Championship".

Non-Qualifying Categories/Divisions for USA Dance/Drill Nationals

The following divisions do not require prior qualification at a USA Regional or via DVD in order to compete in them at USA Dance/Drill Nationals. Please do not submit DVD entries for non-qualifying divisions.

The non-qualifying divisions include:

CO-ED

ALL-MALE

SOLO

DANCE/DRILL

DANCE/POM

GRAND CHAMPION AWARD – The USA supports teams who compete in a variety of styles by offering the Grand Champion Award. A team must compete in four different "Championship" divisions at Nationals to be eligible for this award (i.e. (1) Dance, (1) Hip Hop, (1) Military and (1) Novelty). Divisions separated by size within the same style category do not count as two separate categories (i.e. If a team competes in Championship Small Dance and Championship Medium Dance, only 1 of those routines will count towards the Grand Champion Award).

SWEEPSTAKES AWARDS – For all "Championship" divisions with 3 or more size splits (i.e. small, medium, & large) the USA will award the Sweepstakes to the team with the highest overall score in each category/style. (i.e. highest overall scoring team out of all Small, Medium & Large Championship Military divisions combined will be awarded the Military Sweepstakes, etc.) Scores are tallied based on the results of the Finals competition. The divisions that qualify for the Sweepstakes awards are: Dance, Military, Lyrical & Hip Hop.

Competitions

Registration forms for the following competitions can be found on the USA website at <http://usa.varsity.com> next to the competition date.

ARIZONA

December 10, 2011

NEW LOCATION
Pinnacle High School
Phoenix, Arizona
*Select Divisions Offered:
Hip Hop, Pom, Dance & Lyrical*

CALIFORNIA, NORTHERN

February 4, 2012

Bella Vista High School
Fair Oaks, California

February 11, 2012

Nor Cal State Dance/Drill Championships
Monta Vista High School
Cupertino, California

CALIFORNIA, SOUTHERN

February 5, 2012

NEW LOCATION
Santiago High School
Corona, California

February 11, 2012

Sonora High School
La Habra, California

February 18, 2012

Arroyo Valley High School
San Bernardino, California

February 19, 2012

Glendale High School
Glendale, California

February 25, 2012

Saugus High School
Saugus, California

February 25, 2012

San Pasqual High School
Escondido, California

February 26, 2012

So Cal State Dance/Drill Championships
Fountain Valley High School
Fountain Valley, CA

COLORADO

November 5, 2011
Legacy High School
Broomfield, CO

*Select Divisions Offered:
Hip Hop, Pom, Dance & Lyrical*

NEVADA

January 7, 2012

Desert Oasis High School
Las Vegas, NV

January 28, 2012

NEW LOCATION
Spanish Springs HS
Sparks, Nevada
*Select Divisions Offered:
Hip Hop, Pom, Dance & Lyrical*

OREGON

December 10, 2011

Thurston High School
Springfield, Oregon

*Dates and/or locations are
subject to change.*



dance



Appropriateness

Explicitly inappropriate music/lyrics, costuming and/or movements will incur a 3-point penalty per infraction. All costuming and performances should cater to a family-friendly & age-appropriate environment.

Safety Rules *new*

We have updated our safety rules for the 2011-12 season to allow for many lifts and partnering skills which were previously illegal. Our new rules are still designed to help dancers avoid injury, while now also allowing for many skills that can be executed safely with proper training by a qualified coach. The below safety rules are a comprehensive overview of what is illegal for the 2011-12 season.

Please contact Nicole@usacamps.com immediately if you need clarification on any of the below safety rules.

The following are not permitted and will receive **DISQUALIFICATION** at a USA Dance/Drill Competition:

- Cheer stunts
- Pyramids
- Basket tosses

Thigh stands and shoulder sits are permitted.

The following are not permitted and will receive a **3-POINT PENALTY** at a USA Dance/Drill Competition:

- **NO front tucks, back tucks or layouts** – (Illegal Tumbling Skills)
- **Dancers are not permitted to be horizontal or upside down while being lifted or held above the base(s)' head** – (Illegal Partnering Skills)
- **NO standing on another dancer's torso** – (Illegal Partnering Skills)

Horizontal Lift = lifted dancer's head is in line with his/her hips. This type of lift is only legal if executed at or below the base's head.

Upside Down Lift = lifted dancer's head is below his/her hips. This type of lift is only legal if executed at or below the base's head.

Safety Rules DVD Submission

Prior to USA Nationals, registered teams have the option to submit one DVD to the USA for a comprehensive review of whether the Safety Rules have been met prior to Dance/Drill Nationals. It is preferable if you send a DVD showing each individual skill that you would like evaluated, rather than the entire routine. These submissions are solely for safety rule evaluations (i.e. skills in routines that include partnering/lifts, and/or tumbling skills). The DVD is not for determining qualifications for Nationals, for assessing placement in the correct division, nor for appropriateness assessment. Please do not submit a DVD if your routine does not have partnering/lifts, and/or tumbling skills involved.

"Safety Rules DVD" submissions are due in the USA office no later than March 1, 2012. The USA will officially respond to each team's DVD inquiry & will file all DVDs and official responses for reference at USA Nationals. Each DVD must be labeled with the school name, division(s), contact name, e-mail address, phone number and fax number. Please label the actual DVD and not just the DVD case, and send all routines on one DVD. A written request to review the DVD for safety rules legality must be included.

Submission of a routine does not guarantee that it can be reviewed.

Note that submission of a routine and/or its elements does not preclude a team from being assessed a penalty while at a specific USA competition, as performances from the video submission may differ from those executed on the competition floor.

All DVD submissions must be mailed to:

**USA Dance/Drill Nationals
Safety Rule Interpretations**
11135 Knott Avenue, Suite C
Cypress, CA 90630

Due date: March 1, 2012

DVD Qualification

Important Nationals Information

TEAMS MUST BE REGISTERED FOR NATIONALS IN ORDER TO SUBMIT A DVD FOR QUALIFICATION
Schools may send in their DVD Qualification paperwork with their completed Nationals registration, but may not send in their DVD Qualification without all the proper Nationals registration paperwork submitted. The USA office will place you in the appropriate division(s) of "Open" or "Championship" once the DVD has been judged. Please note that Nationals registration may close before the entry deadline.

All schools located in an area that does not have USA Regionals may enter by DVD to qualify for the "Championship" or "Open" divisions. Only the judges' scores can determine the qualification in "Open" or "Championship" divisions.

Schools should not send a DVD entry for any non-qualifying divisions. Teams may simply enter those divisions into Nationals without prior qualification.

To request a DVD entry form, please e-mail info@usacamps.com

DVD Entry Guidelines:

- 1) Send the entry fee with a completed registration form
- 2) Must be a live performance, showing all participants, with no editing
- 3) Must use (1) clean, high quality DVD
- 4) Only qualifying divisions will be judged
- 5) If you are entering multiple divisions, please place all routines on (1) DVD & label the DVD with the order in which the routines are presented
- 6) Your DVD must be labeled with the school name and all of the divisions entered. Please make sure to label the actual DVD, not just the DVD case
- 7) Submit completed Nationals registration prior to (or at the time of) submitting DVD
- 8) Any DVDs not meeting the above criteria will not be viewed

DVD entries must comply with all competition safety, division & timing rules. All DVD entries (accepted by the deadline) will receive an evaluation form. If a DVD is accepted after the deadline, only qualifications will be provided (no evaluation form).

All DVD entries must be received in the USA office by February 1, 2012. If received after February 1st or if the registration fee is not included, the DVD may not be viewed. Allow 3 weeks from the above deadline for the DVD results. DVD, registration form and payment must all be received in the same packet in order to be viewed.

For information, call:

1.800.886.4USA

or visit us at:

<http://usa.varsity.com>



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divisions

Individual Solo Competition

All contestants must perform a solo dance routine up to 2 minutes (maximum) in length: entrance up to 15 seconds and exit up to 15 seconds. Props are allowed. Any dance style or combination of styles may be used.

Dance

Overall effect must be dance in nature. Any dance style or combination of styles are acceptable. Dance attire or school uniforms may be used.

Co-Ed Dance*

This team must consist of at least 3 males and 3 females. Routine may be of any dance style or combination of styles.

All-Male Dance*

This team must consist of all males. Routine may be of any dance style or combination of styles.

**Please note: the only divisions which have gender restrictions are Co-Ed Dance and All-Male Dance.*

Lyrical

A routine where all dancers interpret the lyrics or mood (intent) of a song (with or without words), using ballet and/or jazz and/or modern technique. This form has an emphasis on quality of movement and includes the use of leg/torso/arm work, balance, facial and body emotion.

Dance/Pom

Routine emphasis must be on the use of pom pon. Teams must use two pompons for at least three-fourths of the routine. Standard school uniforms, dance or military clothing may be worn.

Hip Hop

A routine where dancers perform grounded street-style movement. Difficulty should be not be emphasized through technical jazz technique, but rather through specific hip hop styles. For example, styles could include (but are not limited to): body control, isolations, rhythm, pop/locking, tutting, whacking, krumping, breaking, etc. Any genre of music may be used, as long as the routine as a whole focuses on hip hop style.



Sample scoresheets for all USA competitions will be available on-line by visiting <http://usa.varsity.com> after September 1, 2011.

The contest director may cancel, combine or divide divisions as deemed necessary. If divisions are sub-divided, adjustments will be made in the number of available awards. Teams will be limited to entering 6 team divisions and a maximum of 3 soloists at Regionals. Multiple teams from a school will be allowed (i.e. Drill Team vs. Dance Team or JV vs. Varsity) as long as individuals are not competing on both teams. If a school has dancers competing on more than 1 team (i.e. the same dancer on Drill Team and Dance Team from the same school), those teams will then need to share the 6 maximum number of routines, representing that school.

ELIGIBILITY: Entrants must be registered students in the high school they are representing and official full-time members of their team at the time of competition

TIMING: *NEW RULES* Timing begins with the first note of music or movement and ends with the last note of music or movement.

Solo Routine: Up to 2 minutes (maximum) per routine - entrance and exit up to 15 seconds each.

All Dance, Military, Hip Hop, Kick, Lyrical, Dance/Drill, Co-Ed Dance, All-Male, and Dance/Pom divisions: Up to 3 minutes (maximum) per routine - *entrance and exit up to 30 seconds each.

Character Dance: Up to 3 minutes (maximum) per routine - entrance and exit up to 45 seconds each.

Prop & Novelty: Up to 3 minutes (maximum) per routine - entrance and exit up to 1½ minutes each.

NEW for 2011-12 Routines no longer have a minimum length & "Large" size divisions now have 30 seconds for entrance/exit.

MUSIC: All contestants who use music must provide their own high-quality CD or MP3 device for use on the event provided sound system. Music must be recorded at the correct tempo on a high quality CD or loaded properly onto an MP3 device. Music must be labeled with the school name, division, and team size and ready to play. One or several selections of music may be used. A sound system will be provided. Due to variability in sound systems, a back-up CD or MP3 device must be available and present at the time of performance. Speed control is not available. Music checks on the main sound system are not permitted. A representative must be present at the sound system during the time of performance. Directors/coaches are asked to hold onto their own music until the time of performance and to take music back following the performance. Due to greater room for technical error with some CD's you must have a back-up CD or MP3 of your routine available & present at time of performance.

PROPS: All props must be non-marking. Padding and/or rubber wheels must be used. Penalty is disqualification. Also, the performing school will be responsible for any charges that may occur as a result of damage to the floor.

All props/sets/accessories must (either assembled or disassembled) be able to fit through a standard door measuring 7'h x 3'w at the time of being called onto the floor to perform. Penalty is 10 points. Once your entrance and/or exit time begins, teams may assemble props/sets to any size they wish, but must be able to assemble all props/sets within the 1½ minute time frame (not prior to taking the floor). All teams must enter and exit the gym with ALL props/sets at the time of performance. Storing of props/sets in the gym (before performance or after) may not be permitted.

SHOES: Shoes are not required when performing, but participants that wear shoes must have soft, non-marking soles. Penalty of marking floor is disqualification. Also, the performing school will be responsible for any charges that may occur as a result of damage to the floor. Performers who do not wear shoes while performing do so at their own risk. Shoes are required at all other times when walking around event facilities.

PERFORMANCE AREA: Performance boundaries at Regionals for all divisions will be a regulation high school basketball court.

INSURANCE: Each participant must have his/her own personal insurance. The host facility, the host facility district, the directors/sponsors and/or the USA will not be responsible or held liable for any injuries occurring at a USA Regional and/or the USA Dance/Drill Nationals event. Any student without a completed USA Medical Release and Appearance Form will not be permitted to compete.

First aid staff will be on site at all competitions to provide assistance for emergencies only.

FOOD: At most locations, food and drinks will be available for purchase throughout the competition. Food may or may not be permitted inside the performance venue. "Outside" food or drink is not permitted inside of competition venues at any time. Often, the host school relies upon concession sales as a means of fundraising and your support is much appreciated. If you choose to provide your own food, please use discretion and do not set-up your eating area near the entrance to the competition or in the general vicinity of the concession stand.

general info

Military

Routine must be military in nature with emphasis on precision, straight arm sequences, military maneuvers, pattern formations and a variety of marching styles (i.e. glide, high knee, prance, pony, chug, etc). School uniforms or military attire must be worn. In keeping with the military tradition, all maneuvering/marching/traveling must begin on the left foot.

Dance/Drill

Routine must be a combination of precision dance, straight arm sequences, military maneuvers, pattern formations and a variety of marching styles (i.e. glide, high knee, prance, pony, chug, etc). This routine must incorporate 1/2 dance and 1/2 military movements. (i.e. dance style must not be emphasized over military style and vice versa.)

Kick

Routine emphasis must be on kicks and leg work. Kicks should be the focal point of the routine and must be used for more than 3/4 of the total routine length. Any style of movement may be used, as long as the leg-work is the focal point of the majority of the routine.

Prop

Routine emphasis must be on the creative and visual use of a prop or props. Any style of dance may be used. However, the prop must be the focal point of the presentation, rather than the focus being on the movement of the dancer. The prop must be used in at least 3/4 of the routine. Routine and/or uniform may be thematic in nature, but must not be the focal point of the routine. Standard school uniforms, dance or military clothing may be worn.

Novelty**

Routine emphasis must be on characterization or be of a unique thematic nature. The entire routine must fully express a story line, and may not rely on any prior knowledge (on part of the audience/judges) of the theme's origin. Routine may include precision and linework, as well as dance or military moves, permitting these movements make sense within the theme & story line. Props are permitted but should not be the focal point of the routine. Props should only serve to enhance the story/theme. Themed costumes are permitted, but not required.

Character Dance**

Routine emphasis must be on using a specific theme, character, musical theater, or cultural genre of dance. All movements should make sense for the dancers to execute "in character." Multiple dance styles may be used, but only if each style enhances the theme development. The routine must create the characterization through the use of music, costuming & choreography, and may not rely on any prior knowledge (of the audience/judges) of the theme's origin.

***Teams will be permitted to compete in either Novelty or Character Dance, not both.*



GENERAL ADMISSION: Two free passes are provided for a director or chaperone from each school at USA Regionals. Additional tickets for spectators, directors and/or coaches may be purchased at the door for each Regional.

DRESSING ROOMS: Limited dressing rooms and/or restrooms will be available. The USA and/or the host facility will not be responsible for any lost or stolen articles.

FEES/DEADLINES/REFUNDS/ENROLLMENT

On-Time Registration/Entry Deadline:

Entries must be received 21 days prior to the event for which you wish to register. Completed entry forms with full payment or a purchase order must be in the USA office in order to register for the competition. Forms of payment accepted: school purchase order, school check, money order, cashier's check and credit cards. Personal checks, cash or individual payments are not accepted. Declined credit cards are a basis for immediate cancellation of your registration. Faxed entries must be accompanied by a Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover or purchase order (school name must appear on P.O.). School purchase orders must be paid in full at least 5 days prior to

the event. Teams will be responsible for the full registration fees for cancellations past the deadline or no shows on the day of the event. Entry forms without payment will not be accepted. There will be a \$25 return check fee. The USA reserves the right to deny registration to any team.

Competitions may close to additional participants at any time, including before the "Early Bird" registration/entry deadline.

Competitions are subject to cancellation. The United Spirit Association will not be held responsible for any losses incurred by a team as a result of competition cancellation, with the exclusion of a full refund of team registration fees.

Late Registration Fee: A \$75.00 late registration fee will be assessed for all entries received in the USA office 20 days or less prior to the event for which you wish to register. Registrations will no longer be accepted after the Friday the week before the event. No exceptions.

Waiting Lists: Registration of teams is first come-first served. Competitions may, and often do, close to additional participants even BEFORE the registration/entry deadline. Teams who have not been accepted to compete due to a "full" Regional will be placed

on a "waiting" list. As teams drop from the schedule, teams from comparable divisions who are on the "waiting" list and have paid in full will be added. The "Person to Receive Correspondence" will be notified if the team is placed on the "waiting" list and will be updated with the registration status as the competition nears. As teams drop from the schedule, "waiting" list teams will be added, up to the Friday, one week prior to the competition date. A team (s) will not be added to the schedule the week of the event. The USA does not accept registrations on the day of the event.

The "Person to Receive Correspondence" will be sent/e-mailed a tentative line up with performance times at least 1½ weeks prior to the competition. These times are subject to change. The final schedule will be available by checking usa.varsity.com after 5:00 p.m. (PST) the Wednesday prior to your competition. As of this day, performance times will remain the same regardless of scratches. It is the director's responsibility to check the schedule for accuracy prior to taking the performance floor.

Changes to Divisions or Solo Names - For previously submitted registrations, division/solo name changes will be accom-

modated only if notice is submitted in writing (via fax or email) no later than 21 days prior to the affected Regional. If changes are received 20 days or less before the affected Regional, a \$10 fee per division/name change will be due at the time the change is submitted. Changes to divisions or solo names will not be accepted after the Friday the week before the event. No exceptions.

Requests for refunds or transfers of fees will be accommodated only if notice is submitted in writing no later than 10 days or more prior to the affected event. Nine days or less prior to an affected event, all funds become non-transferable and non-refundable. Funds may be transferred only once and fund transfers may not be split. Refunds are processed 2-4 business weeks after the event; refunds will be mailed 4-6 business weeks after the event.

REGIONALS AWARDS: Plaques will be presented to the top teams in each division. Penalties will affect placement of teams at all Regionals but will not prevent a team from qualifying for the "Championship" division in any of the eighteen eligible categories. Non-competitive evaluations are also available for all qualifying categories/divisions.



USA Nationals

March 30-31, 2012

The 2012 USA Dance/Drill Nationals competition on March 30-31 will be held at the Anaheim Convention Center – Anaheim, CA. The host hotel will be the Anaheim Marriott Hotel.

NOTE - Most USA Regionals are after the deadline for USA Dance/Drill Nationals registration. Please send in your Nationals registration prior to your Regional(s), and the USA office will place you in the appropriate division(s) of "Open" or "Championship" once you have qualified at a USA Dance/Drill Regional.

To obtain a Nationals packet, please go online to <http://usa.varsity.com> or call the USA office at 1-800-886-4USA.

All high school based teams are eligible to participate in Nationals; regardless of what summer training camp they choose to attend.

Dance/Drill Schedule of Events

Nationals competition begins on Friday morning. The private "kick-off" party for participants and guests will follow Friday evening. Competition continues throughout the day on Saturday and is followed by finals Saturday evening at the Anaheim Convention Center.



The following is a tentative schedule of events and is subject to change. Divisions competing on Friday or Saturday for 2012 may be different than in 2011.

Categories/Divisions Competing on Friday

- **Super Dancer**
- **USA Nationals Solo Champion**

Open & Championship

- **X-Small**
- **Small Dance**
- **Medium Dance**
- **Military** - Small/Medium/Large
- **Lyrical** - Small/Medium/Large

Categories/Divisions Competing on Saturday

- **All-Male Dance**
- **Co-Ed Dance**
- **Dance/Pom**
- **Dance/Drill**

Open & Championship

- **Intermediate Dance**
- **Large Dance**
- **Hip Hop** - Small/Medium/Large
- **Kick**
- **Prop**
- **Novelty**
- **Character Dance**

Awards will be presented periodically throughout the competition.

The USA reserves the right to adjust the days of performance, performance venues and times of competition for all divisions based upon final competition enrollment.