

Dance and Drill State Rules Interpreter Update, December 2022

The below information to clarify and assist Oregon high school dance team coaches.

1) Technical Judges will only review onsite infractions based on NFHS Spirit Rules and OSAA rules. Technical judges can be a resource to coaches with questions regarding their own team's rule compliance at competitions. If a coach has questions regarding rule compliance of another team, please contact the OSAA Dance and Drill State Rules Interpreter at dance_drill.sri@osaa.org or K.T. Emerson from the OSAA at kte@osaa.org. Onsite technical judges should not be contacted regarding rule compliance questions of another team.

2) Technical Judges only put forth penalties on skills and safety elements that are visually seen by the Technical Judge. At dance competitions, a single Technical Judge may not see a potential safety infraction. Optimal staffing at events is two (2) Technical Judges to capture full performance floor review. Coaches are encouraged to continue to recruit Technical Judges to fill staffing gaps in this important role.

3) Technical Penalties - A dance team may receive two (2) penalty deductions for infractions within the Safety 2 Level and all Stunts/ Lifts/ Tumbling, if executed incorrectly during two different times in a performance. Penalties are issued to dance teams to represent and correct all safety elements.

For example, Rule 4.8.2(b) / In a pom routine a dancer executes an aerial but drops a pom filled hand on the floor, and then later again a dancer executes a kip-up with a pom filled hand - that would be two separate rule infraction executions resulting in two penalties of 5 points each.

The NFHS Points of Emphasis for the 2022-23 Association year are as follows:

1: Situations and Rulings

The situations and rulings contained in the NFHS Spirit Rules Book are intended to supplement and provide clarity of the rules. The rules will always take precedence over situations.

2: Sportsmanship

Spirit participants should strive to boost school spirit; promote good sportsmanship; develop good, positive crowd involvement; and help student participants and spectators achieve the most worthwhile educational objectives of the interscholastic program. Spirit leaders can effectively neutralize negative environments at any interscholastic contests.

3: Return to Play/Activity

The NFHS continues to focus on the health and safety of all participants. Consideration should be taken into account whether at the beginning of the season or after an extended absence from the activity. This would include but not limited to mental, physical and emotional preparedness of the participant.

Emphasis should be given to strength and conditioning, skill progressions, state association return-to-play protocols and any state and local guidelines. Further risk minimization would also include being mindful of the potential of overuse injuries due to extended practices, performances and competitions.

4: Hair

The NFHS aims to be inclusive of all students from varying cultural backgrounds. Some spirit rules have been modified to allow for broader cultural expression through hairstyles. To continue risk minimization, length of hair and hair style must be appropriate for the activity and considered when adding embellishments.

5: Performing Surfaces

Performing surfaces and areas must be suitable for spirit activities. When utilizing mats during practices and games, consideration should be given to the total area necessary for the performance. Extra attention should be given to the difference in the performing surfaces if transition

For further guidance regarding technical judging infractions and descriptions, please see the DDCA Technical Judge Placemat available on the OSAA website.