

UHSAA Drill Team Score Sheet Breakdown

Revised 9-26-13

CHOREOGRAPHY: (20 pts.)

A good routine should have all of the elements listed on the judging sheet. Do they use the floor area well whether they are a large or small group? However, it isn't necessary to use the entire floor with a very small group. Did the routine use ambidexterity? Does the routine have a variety in steps, levels, floor patterns, and rhythms? What specialty movements did you like? Did the choreographer use a specific part of the body well, or not enough? Did you like the small groups or solos used to give variety to the routine, or did they distract? Has the choreographer listened carefully to potential movements expressed from the music? Does the routine flow smoothly or is the continuity chopped up with too many ideas or music cuts? Make note if you like the organization of the routine such as ABA, AA, BB, ABC choreography. Do formations flow smoothly from one to another? Does a dancer have to travel too far to get to her spot, distracting the flow? Has the choreographer tried unique ideas? You can express a fresh and exciting outlook on an old idea. Is the routine too predictable? Are there surprises? Is the routine too difficult or not difficult enough for the dancers' ability? If a prop was used was it manipulated enough with variety? Was the prop the main focus point of the routine or was the idea too thematic? Did the prop in the character routine add or distract? Were all props and sets utilized to the fullest extent? Is the character theme well developed? Be specific in positive ideas and movements that enhanced the routine. A 20 score could very well be given in this area if the choreographer did well to meet all the criteria. Whether you personally liked or disliked the style, should not be reflected in your score.

DIFFICULTY: (20 pts.)

This is an area where you can have the chance to reward teams for the difficulty they have chosen to put in their routine. Did the team do double, triple, or quad pirouettes? Did they use intricate formations and moving steps? Did they have specialty moves, which incorporated balance, flexibility, or control? How was their body movement? Did the routine and body use ambidexterity, using both sides of the floor and both sides of the body as well? Is the routine too difficult or not difficult enough for the dancers' ability? Are some of the rhythms within the routine unique, syncopated, or uneven meter? If a prop was used, was it manipulated enough with variety and difficulty? Did they take a RISK in trying harder tricks with their prop? Is the prop more than just an extension of the arm? Did all the girls do the difficulty, or just a few in groups or solos? Please use this area to give the team the points that they deserve. These teams have practiced for months and months to perfect the difficult moves that their coaches and choreographers put in their routines. This is where payday should take place. Give them the points they deserve.

EXECUTION: (30 pts.)

It is important that the girls are judged on how well they execute the choreographed movements. If they are simple movements then judge their dynamics, precision, control, alignment, and technique on how well they did the movements choreographed for them, not how difficult the moves were. Do the dancers listen carefully to the rhythms and execute them with precision? Are some dancers' footwork off as they travel to their formations? Is the footwork the same? Are they working as a team to achieve a desired effect? Do they look as "one", if the routine is choreographed to do this? Be specific as to where there are spacing errors, formation corrections, or technical errors such as relevé, turn out, spotting, extension, flexibility, alignment or any movement not executed correctly. What is the name of that specific leap, turn, or tumbling skill they did well or almost succeeded in doing well? "Complete the soutenu turn", "Incredible height in back layout", etc. If you give a 30 score in execution it should be executed (nearly) perfect for every performer. Your eyes should scan each performer carefully. If you have made corrections, then a perfect score is not appropriate. Sometimes the character routines lack in technique and precision. Even if a dancer is in the background, the dancer is still on the floor and her movements and footwork should not distract, but be executed fully and precise.

APPEARANCE/SHOWMANSHIP: (30 pts.)

Generally most teams are not marked down for APPEARANCE. The girls should be praised for their efforts here. They put incredible hours into expensive costuming, hair, make-up, etc. Exceptions may be in "uniformity" when a dancer's costume is not worn right, if hair is in her face, or make-up and accessories are to the extreme and distracts vs. enhances. Also, this would be where to deduct points for fallen hairpieces or costumes that fall off. Comments about dancers' weight should NOT be mentioned. If you like a specific style, color, the uniqueness of the uniform accessories or make up, make note of this. Is the uniform modest, does it fit modestly on every performer? You may have a suggestion for the performers or coach, but your personal opinion in these areas should not be reflected in your score.

For SHOWMANSHIP it is important that every dancer is able to portray correct emotion with the choreographed movement, be it solemn, funny, excited, confused, or sad. Scan the floor often to see if everyone is doing all the areas of showmanship. Do all performers "connect" with the audience? Do they stay in character the entire routine in both the front and back areas? Do they sustain their energy and enthusiasm to the end? Do they project with their upper body vs. just their heads? Do they make eye contact with you or the audience? Do the expressions add or distract from the movement or emotion? Bear in mind that sometimes a choreographer purposely has the dancer focus elsewhere in the room or at each other vs. continuous eye contact with the judges. Are the dancers confident in their movement and expressions? Is the emotion appropriate for dancers to be portrayed to a mixed audience? Are their expressions authentic or believable? How do they carry themselves during transitions? Do all dancers seem united in their style and energy? The Showmanship category is one area where dancers can boost their points. It is sometime easier for everyone to lift a grin or eye, than it is to increase every performer's turnout or flexibility. You will notice some dancers have a difficult time feeling comfortable smiling although they perform technically well.