

MINUTES OF THE IHSA DANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, February 25, 2025-Virtual Meeting

The IHSA Dance Advisory Committee meeting was held virtually. Committee members present were: Martha Mulligan, Chicago (Northside); Amy VanWagenen, Geneva (H.S.); Eugenia Scavone, Lombard (Montini); Rebecca Hack, Eureka (H.S.); Mark McDowell, Quincy (Notre Dame); Clint Hamilton, Highland; Christina Erickson, (IHSA Official) and Lynn Gelatka (IHSA Head Clinician). Tarah Haskenherm from Effingham (St. Anthony) was unable to attend the meeting. IHSA Assistant Executive Director Tracie Henry conducted the meeting.

Terms and Conditions Recommendations

None

Administrative Recommendation

1. **Scoresheet and Rubric Revision– Recommendation:** The following proposed changes aim to align the score sheet with a 55/40/5 balance between skill, artistic evaluation and program quality. Consistent with competitive sports, these adjustments prioritize assessing teams based on their athletic performance, ensuring that skill execution carries greater weight in the evaluation process while still balancing artistry.

Rationale:

Current Scoresheet:

Choreography	15 points
Musicality	15 Points
Difficulty	15 Points
Technique	15 Points
Synchronization	15 Points
Staging/Spacing	15 Points
Showmanship/Overall Visual Effect	10 points
Total Points:	100 Points

New Proposal:

Choreography	15 Points
Musicality	15 Points
Difficulty	15 Points
Technique	15 Points
Synchronization	15 Points
Spacing	10 Points
Staging	10 Point
Artistic Expression	5 Points
Total Points:	100 Points

Modify the Choreography Rubric Language:

Rationale: Modifying the rubric language slightly by placing greater emphasis on the creative expression of choreography will provide a clearer framework for teams, helping to define expectations more precisely.

13-15 pts: Excelling- Exceptional flow and continuity; exciting build in choreography; exceptional use of unique material, creativity, program concept and design. **and memorable moments in choreography, exceptional use of visual effects, variety in choreography and use of unique material**

Separate Staging & Spacing in the scoresheet:

Rationale: The current rubric combines staging and spacing into a single category. However, to better align with the rationale of separating artistic and skill-based scoring, these elements should be evaluated independently. Staging pertains to the intentional placement and movement of performers to enhance visual impact and storytelling, while spacing focuses on the precision and consistency of formations and transitions. By distinguishing these components, judges can more accurately assess both the artistic and technical execution, ensuring a clearer and more effective evaluation process.

In addition, to maintain the 55/40/5 balance in the scoresheet, where artistic elements account for 40% of the total score, the value of Staging assigned to this category must be reduced from 15 points to 10 points.

SPACING- 10 Points

10-9.0 Excelling: The athletes are excellent at utilizing the performance floor effectively. Performers display an exceptional spatial awareness in stationary formations. There is excellent precision and spatial accuracy during transitions. There is an exceptional level of spatial awareness throughout the routine.

8.9-8.0 Applying: The athletes are good at utilizing the performance floor effectively. Performers display good spatial awareness in stationary formations. There is good precision and spatial accuracy during transitions. There is a good level of spatial awareness throughout the routine.

7.8-7.0 Developing: The athletes are sometimes utilizing the performance floor effectively. Performers display some spatial awareness in stationary formations. There is some precision and spatial accuracy during transitions. There is some level of spatial awareness throughout the routine.

6.8-6.0 Lacking: The athletes lack utilizing the performance floor effectively. Performers lack spatial awareness in stationary formations. There is minimal spatial accuracy during transitions. There is a minimal level of spatial awareness throughout the routine.

STAGING 10 Points:

10-9.0 Excelling- Exceptional variety and creativity in the formations. The formations and transitions created are logical and purposeful. The levels, directions, and sectioned group work highlight the athletes in an effective way. The exceptional use of seamless transitions creates a memorable visual impact.

8.9-8.0 Applying—Good variety and creativity in the formations. The formations and transitions created are logical and purposeful. The levels, directions, and sectioned group work highlight the athletes in an effective way. There is some use of seamless transitions which sometimes creates a memorable visual impact.

7.8-7.0 Developing -Some variety and creativity in the formations. The formations and transitions created are logical and purposeful. The levels, directions, and sectioned group work highlight the athletes in an effective way. The use of seamless transitions creates a memorable visual impact.

6.8-6.0 Lacking- Lacking variety and creativity in the formations. The formations and transitions created are rarely logical and purposeful. The levels, directions, and sectioned group work lack highlighting the athletes in an effective way. There is rarely a use of seamless transitions which rarely creates a memorable visual impact.

Showmanship/ Overall Visual Effect and Replace with Performance Quality - 5 points

Rationale: The current language of the scoresheet emphasizes showmanship, which is a foundational aspect of any high-level routine. However, at the state level, all teams have already demonstrated excellence in these areas. To better differentiate performances, a greater emphasis should be placed on intentionality of the performance quality. By refining this category to highlight passion, connection to the material, breath, energy, and commitment teams can be more distinctly evaluated based on their ability to bring creative interpretation to their routines. This shift will create a clearer competitive edge and encourage teams to push the boundaries of artistic innovation

No rubric assigned- the point allocation for this category remains flexible and based on overall impression.

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:

1. Tracie Henry reviewed the proposal process. **IHSA Advisory Committees** communicate information about their area of interest to the [Board of Directors](#) and staff. She clarified which committees make recommendations for changes in policy, administration, and terms and conditions. The Terms and Conditions recommendations are reviewed by the [IHSA staff](#), [Athletic Administrators](#) and then either approved or rejected by the Board of Directors. The committee reviewed the minutes of the 2024 Competitive Dance Advisory Committee Meeting.
2. The committee reviewed the minutes of the 2024 advisory committee meeting. The committee reflected that all changes made in 2024 were favorable including: the decrease in the deduction for violating the competition boundary, adding a performance based legality (PBL) to the technical scoresheet and increasing the range for judges to score within different rubric sub-captions.
3. Tracie Henry shared IHSA updates including the [nine amendment proposals](#) that were passed during the annual amendment referendum process; including increasing the number of regular season contest dates in competitive dance from 6 to 8 as well as the modification in the number of summer contact days restriction from 25 to 20 days.
4. The committee provided general feedback on the IHSA Dance season including Sectionals and the State Final. The committee discussed the State Final venue site and the online booking process for hotels in Bloomington. The online process was well received but a concern was shared that several properties were requiring two night minimum. Special Olympic Unified performances continue to be a highlight of championship Saturday. IHSA will continue to look for ways to highlight the Unified teams and expand performances to Friday as well.
5. The committee discussed a proposal to increase the number of contests allowed per IHSA By-law 5.352. Tracie Henry communicated the process for an amendment to the IHSA By-laws as well as the [Legislative Commission](#). In October of 2023 a proposal was submitted to the Legislative Commission to increase the contest limitations to eight (8) contests effective within 30 days of passing. The Advisory Committee supports the increase from six (6) to eight (8) contests but encourages the author to strike the 30-day provision before submission for October of 2024.

6. The committee reviewed a proposal with three options to provide a quantitative reward for teams putting more dancers on the floor. The three options included a bonus point for: 1A-10; 2A-15; and 3A-25. The options were to take a team's total raw score and add a multiplier for the number of dancers on the floor which would be a TourneyWire calculation, not a judge evaluation. The final option within the proposal was decrease the number of points awarded for difficulty and reward redistribute points for number of athletes on the floor. The committee did not support any of the options.
7. The committee reviewed IHSA Board Policy [41. OFFICIALS RATINGS REQUIREMENTS AND PENALTIES](#) The committee expressed that 12 ratings by January 16 was too many and would suggest revising the policy requirement for dance coaches to 9 ratings. The average number of ratings submitted for 2024-2025 was 10.9 per school.
8. Tracie Henry recognized out-going committee members Mark McDowell, Quincy (Notre Dame); and Christina Erickson, Mundelein for their service to the committee.