

Illinois Drill Team Association

Competition Categories

1:45 – 3:00 Minute Categories

1. Pom

- a. Emphasis is on the use of poms as the focal point of the performance.
- b. Pom color work should create visual images that always enhance the music.
- c. Pom color work should also create memorable visual effects that bring excitement to the viewer.
- d. If a variety of pom work is not seen throughout the majority of the routine, it does not meet the category description.
- e. Poms must be held and used by at least one team member 100% of the performance time.
- f. Additional equipment may not be used.

2. Pom Dance

- a. Emphasis is on the simultaneous use of pom effects and dance sequencing as the focal point of the performance.
- b. A combination of dance sequences with simultaneous pom color work should create visual images that always enhance the music.
- c. A variety of simultaneous dance sequences and pom color work creates memorable visual effects that bring excitement to the viewer.
- d. If the pom work is removed, the routine is too weak to stand on its own and does not meet the category description.
- e. Dance highlights and pom highlights should be simultaneous to meet the category description.
- f. Additional equipment may not be used.

3. Jazz

- a. Emphasis is on the use of entire body stylization through syncopated rhythms, body isolations and grounded movement.
- b. A combination of complex rhythms, beats and patterns should create visual images that always enhance the music.
- c. Performance quality, through body, energy, dance and facial expressions, creates memorable visual effects that bring excitement to the viewer.
- d. If the routine does not consist of strong and intricate choreography that compliments a consistent jazz style, it does not meet the category description.

4. Hip Hop

- a. Emphasis is on the use of total body athletic movements which can include hard hits (popping), holds (locking), smooth grooves, and acrobatic power moves (breaking) as the focal point of the performance.
- b. A series of actions and reactions consisting of complex rhythms, beats and patterns should create visual images that always enhance the music.
- c. Performance quality, through body, energy, dance and facial expressions, creates memorable visual effects that bring excitement to the viewer.
- d. If the routine does not consist of a hip hop style and lacks personality, showmanship and athleticism, it does not meet the category description.

5. Lyrical or Contemporary (one of the following styles should be consistent throughout the routine)

a. Lyrical

1. Emphasis is on connecting fluid movements and emotion as the focal point of the performance.
2. Choreography is expressive, evolving from the music to tell a story.
3. Performance quality, through body lines and emotion, creates memorable visual effects that brings feeling to the viewer.
4. If the routine does not incorporate strong ballet influence, technical ability and emotion, it does not meet the category description.
5. The lyrical style should be consistent throughout the routine.

b. Contemporary

1. Emphasis is on abstract movement and emotion as the focal point of the performance.
2. Choreography is based on its relation to the music (lyrics, sounds or emotional feeling); music can serve as a backdrop to the piece.
3. Performance quality, through abstract muscle movement that creates a more staccato feeling with less fluidity, creates memorable visual effects that brings feeling to the viewer.
4. If the routine does not incorporate a strong dance technique which steps outside the box of the traditional into the more creative, it does not meet the category description.
5. The contemporary style should be consistent throughout the routine.

6. Kick

- a. Emphasis is on the use of the leg as the focal point of the performance.
- b. Leg lines should create visual images which always enhance the music.
- c. A variety of leg lines should create memorable visual effects that bring excitement to the viewer.
- d. If kicks are not seen throughout the majority of the routine, it does not meet the category description.
- e. A kick is defined any time the foot is higher than the waist level, regardless of where is originates from.
- f. Varsity: 50 kicks minimum; JV/Jr. High: 35 kicks minimum.
- g. It may be necessary to go above the minimum required kicks to achieve the desired effect of the program.
- h. Ripples are defined as one kick.
- i. Repeated group work will only be counted once during that phrase.
- j. Pick-ups are defined as continuous kicks.

7. Tall Flag

- a. Emphasis is on the use of tall flags (any flag with a staff longer than 3 ½ feet, excluding caps) as the focal point of the performance.
- b. A combination of movements with simultaneous flag work should create visual images that always enhance the music.
- c. Flag work should also create memorable visual effects that bring excitement to the viewer.
- d. If a variety of flag work is not seen throughout the majority of the routine (75%), it does not meet the category description.

- e. Additional equipment may not be used.

8. Lyrical Flag

- a. Emphasis is on connecting fluid movements and emotion with the simultaneous use of flags as the focal point of the performance.
- b. Flag choreography and movement are expressive, evolving from the music to tell a story.
- c. Flag choreography should also create memorable visual effects that bring feeling to the viewer.
- d. If a variety of flag work is not seen throughout the majority of the routine (75%) and it does not have a clearly defined story that emphasizes emotion, it does not meet the category description.
- e. Additional equipment may not be used.

9. IHSA

- a. Varsity teams may choose to enter two routines of any style in this category. Teams will receive written feedback from IHSA judges on the IHSA score sheet, but this routine will not receive a qualifying score for the IDTA post-season contest.

3:00 – 5:00 Minute Categories

1. Production

- a. Emphasis is on telling a story through character development utilizing dance and incorporating backdrops, props and other stage pieces as necessary as the focal point of the performance.
- b. Dance choreography is creative, evolving from the music to tell a story.
- c. Personality and dance elements should build to create memorable visual effects that bring excitement to the viewer.
- d. If the routine does not incorporate a strong story line and character development, it does not meet the category description.
- e. Props and/or backdrops may be used.
- f. Costumes should be fitting to the theme or story. A costume that replicates trademark logos of any size is permitted.
- g. Set-up time is a five (5) minute limit.

2. Winter Guard

- a. Emphasis is on the use of at least three pieces of equipment (flags, mock rifles, sabers, ribbons, hoops, etc.).
- b. A combination of movement with simultaneous equipment use should create visual interest.
- c. Equipment should also create memorable visual effects that bring excitement to the viewer.
- d. If a variety of equipment is not used throughout the majority of the routine, it does not meet the category description.
- e. Props, floor coverings and backdrops may be used, but are not required.
- g. Set-up time is a five (5) minute limit.

Solos: Miss/Mr. IDTA/Dance

- 1. Any style of dance may be used, as long as the style does not harm the gym floor.
- 2. All solo routines must follow the guidelines required for team performances.

3. Time limit is 1 ½ - 2 minutes.
4. Limited to senior varsity team members.
5. Soloists must be members of IDTA member DANCE teams.
6. Soloists are limited to competing at two regional contests.
7. Teams are limited to a maximum number of two soloists per team per regional contest.
8. A soloist must receive a qualifying score of 80% to proceed to the Miss/Mr. IDTA/Dance Finals.
9. The number of solo performances will be limited to fifteen (15) at each regional competition.
10. All soloists who qualify may compete for the title of Miss/Mr. IDTA/Dance, which will be held in conjunction with the IDTA State Finals.

Solos: Miss/Mr. IDTA/Flag

1. Any style of flags may be used.
2. All solo routines must follow the guidelines required for team performances.
3. Time limit is 1 ½ - 2 minutes.
4. Limited to senior varsity team members.
5. Soloists must be members of IDTA member FLAG teams.
6. Soloists are limited to competing at two regional contests.
7. Teams are limited to a maximum number of two soloists per team per regional contest.
8. A soloist must receive a qualifying score of 80% to proceed to the Miss/Mr. IDTA/Flag Finals.
9. The number of solo performances will be limited to fifteen (15) at each regional competition.
10. All soloists who qualify may compete for the title of Miss/Mr. IDTA/Flag, which will be held in conjunction with the IDTA State Finals.