



2024-2025 MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

Dance Team Rules, Policies and Bylaws

General Information

See the [MSHSL Handbook Page](#) for information regarding the following:

- Multiple level teams at Sub-Varsity levels
- Official Squad Size
- Substitution in MSHSL Tournaments
- Weather (heat, cold, lightning)

See the MSHSL Official Handbook [Bylaw 502](#) for information regarding:

- Daily and Season Player Participation Limitations

CONTEST RULES

Refer to [Bylaw 402](#): Except as modified by the League, the MSHSL Dance Team Rulebook rules for the current year shall be the official game rules for all interscholastic contests in which League members participate.

END OF SEASON

Refer to [Bylaw 411](#)

1. Student Participation on a Non-School Team While the Season is Still in Progress.
 - A. The season shall end when the student or the student's team has been eliminated from further participation in a League tournament series.
 - B. Students who have been eliminated from further participation in a League tournament series may participate as an individual or as a member of a non-school team in that sport.
2. School Team Practice and Competition:

The "end of the season" shall be defined to be the last date of the state tournament in that sport.

 - A. Schools may continue to conduct practice and training for all squad members, including the students who have been eliminated from further individual competition in a League-sponsored series, until completion of the state tournament conducted by the League in that activity.
 - B. Dual contests may be scheduled after the start of the official League tournament series providing the school does not exceed the maximum number of games/matches/meets permitted in that activity.



2024-2025 MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

3. No school may engage in any meet or meets, practice, training, or other activities between the end of the season and the opening of the next season in that sport.
4. During the Summer Vacation Period ([Bylaw 208](#) - Non-School Competition and Training—Team and Individual Sports) members of a high school team may participate on a non-school team and they may receive coaching or training from a salaried or non-salaried member of the student's sophomore, B-squad, junior varsity or varsity high school coaching staff in that sport provided the school has approved a summer coaching waiver for the coach or coaches of that sport.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR SPECTATOR CONDUCT

In order to elevate standards of sportsmanship and encourage the growth of responsible citizenship among the students, member schools, fans and school personnel, the MSHSL held a Sportsmanship Summit and asked student participants to identify behavior expectations they felt should be in place at every school event.

These minimum behavior expectations provide a foundation upon which member schools, conferences, administrative regions, and the League's Board of Directors can build specific guidelines for activities under their control.

MSHSL [Bylaw 409](#), **RESPONSIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATING TEAMS, STUDENTS AND SPECTATORS**, speaks to this issue, directly, and [Bylaw 409-2](#) specifically states that, **"School officials shall be held responsible for the proper conduct of teams, team members, students and home spectators regardless of where the contest is being held."**

In all MSHSL activities, each participating school shall designate a person or persons from that school to serve as crowd control supervisors or chaperones. MSHSL tournament staff may require school administrators to contact the tournament manager prior to the start of the tournament game so that they can be immediately contacted to respond to behavioral issues regarding their team members, students and/or spectators at the tournament site. Each supervisor or chaperone should be immediately identifiable to the students and to the tournament site ushers and other security personnel. This will help to coordinate crowd control between school supervisors and tournament site personnel. 8/9/2005

MSHSL MINIMAL BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS FOR REGULAR AND POST-SEASON TOURNAMENT COMPETITIONS:

- Respect the American flag and the National Anthem.
- Spectators must wear clothing that covers the entire torso. Those who do not comply or who wear clothing that is vulgar, obscene or that in some other way inappropriate, as determined by school/tournament personnel, will be removed from the arena/stadium if they do not cooperate with this behavior expectation.
- The use of appropriate language is expected at all times. Profanity, negative chants, booing, trash talk, name calling, personal attacks or other acts of disrespect are unacceptable and must be immediately addressed by school and/or tournament administrators.



2024-2025 MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

- Respect the game/contest. Under no condition shall anyone other than the members of the official squad enter the playing surface. No one may interfere with the contest in any way.
- Handheld signs, which do not obstruct the view of others, will be permitted provided they are in good taste. Signs, message boards, “white” boards or other similar items contest/tournament officials deem to be in poor taste will be removed.
- Signs on sticks, balloons, or any other type of artificial, celebratory items are not permitted.
- Artificial noise makers (i.e. megaphones, cowbells, sirens, whistles, thunder sticks, and other similar items) are not allowed.
- Laser lights are strictly prohibited.
- No Pets Allowed

THANK YOU for supporting your student athletes and fine arts participants and for providing a positive environment in which educational activities are conducted.

Dance Team Information – Regular Season

See the MSHSL Official Handbook [Bylaw 522](#) for information regarding:

- Contests
- Last Date to Join a Team
- Practice Sessions Before First Contest Season Begins
- Tryouts

CLASSES

League-sponsored competition will be conducted in three classes — A, AA and AAA; and in two divisions — High Kick and Jazz. All Dance Teams registered with the MSHSL shall be eligible to compete in the Section Tournament.

Schools may choose to compete in either division or both divisions. Each division competition will be held on separate days.

Each class in the State Tournament shall have a qualifying round, and six (6) teams shall advance to the finals.

COMPETITION ON NON-SCHOOL TEAMS

Refer to [Bylaw 203](#): A team member may compete only on the school team during the high school season. A team member may compete in solo competition or compete as a member of a non-school team if that team's composition and dance style is significantly different from the high kick and jazz style used by high school teams. Students may attend camps or clinics and compete within the content of that camp or clinic in the same way that other athletes can compete on teams within the clinic.



2024-2025 MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

NATIONAL COMPETITIONS AND PERFORMANCES

Dance teams must follow the same rules as other sports which are guided by MSHSL [Bylaw 410](#). There are no limitations on competitions with teams from bordering states (Wisconsin, Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota) or provinces (Manitoba, Ontario). Competitions with teams from all other states are limited to four (4) teams.

NOTE: Any school sponsored trips for teams or individuals must follow MSHSL Rules & Policies.



2024-2025

MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE



2024-2025 MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE
