



2023-2024 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.

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. See [Winter FAQ's](#) for additional information on tryouts.
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.
- 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.

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.

SUMMER PERFORMANCES

Teams may perform in one community-based event during the summer provided that approval has been received from the MSHSL office 30 days prior to the event. Please complete the **waiver form** and send it to the MSHSL. Preparation time is limited to one week preceding the event.

Dance Team Information – Post Season

ELIGIBILITY DURING LEAGUE-SPONSORED TOURNAMENT – SECTION AND STATE

Refer to [Bylaw 206.4.B.1.d](#): A student must be fully eligible under all local school district policies, MSHSL Bylaws and Rules & Policies to be in uniform, occupy the bench or playing area, participate and receive individual/team awards, including all-tournament honors, in the awards ceremony.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN LEAGUE-SPONSORED TOURNAMENTS

Refer to [Bylaw 405](#): A member school must schedule a minimum of three interscholastic varsity games, meets or matches to qualify for League-sponsored tournament participation in that sport.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The League Office will inform member schools of policies, procedures, dates, sites, and times of tournament competition. Information will be posted in the Dance Team section of the League's Web site (www.mshsl.org).

REGISTRATION

All Dance Teams participating in a Section Tournament **MUST** register for the Section Tournament in December each year. This registration will include intent to participate, and in which division (High Kick, Jazz, or both). This information will be used to balance the number of teams that will advance to the State Tournament, as per current MSHSL policy.

OFFICIAL SQUAD SIZE

The maximum number of dancers that may compete is as follows:

High Kick 34 Jazz 26

For awards and admittance to the State Tournament the official squad size is the number of dancers that compete plus up to 6 alternates, 2 managers and 3 coaches.

PERFORMANCE INJURY PROCEDURE

The League will provide a trainer for on-the-site medical attention.

If a dancer is bleeding or if there is an injury before the team enters the competition floor, a physician or trainer **MUST** examine the dancer in question. The team whose member has been injured will be moved into the final competition slot and all other teams will be moved forward. If a dancer has been injured before the team moves to the competition floor, a trainer or physician must affirm that said dancer may compete in the preliminary or final competition.

In an extreme instance when a dancer is injured or unable to continue the competition, the adult at the music table, who is responsible for that line, may make the decision to terminate the music and the competition. The team will then immediately exit the floor. The next team in order of competition will be called to the floor. No scores will be recorded for the unfinished performance. The team that terminated its competition will be placed in the last competition position for that class and must compete without the injured dancer. If the team whose dancer was injured advances to the finals, the injured dancer may compete with their team provided that a trainer or physician has examined the dancer and affirms that they may compete. Judging for the competition will begin with the first beat of the music with no reference to the unfinished performance noted in any of the judges' scores. If the injured dancer then competes and is re-injured, the team (1) must complete its routine and will be judges accordingly or (2) they may choose to terminate their competition and withdraw from the final round.

SCORING ERRORS

In the event a tabulation error is alleged after the completion of the meet, a coach must notify the Meet Director within one (1) hour from the time the score packets become available to the coaches. If the tabulation error is verified, the Meet Director, in consultation with the Superior Judges, will correct the error and sign off on the corrected results, which will become the official results. The Meet Director will contact those teams affected by the corrected results and the Superior Judge will fill out and send an incident report to the MSHSL.

STATE TOURNAMENT SCHOOL QUALIFYING INFORMATION

Specific information for qualifying schools is available on the MSHSL Administrative Web Site under Tournament Information.

POST-SEASON GAMES – AWARDS

League rules prohibit schools from participating in post-tournament competition. No awards, other than ribbons, medals, or trophies, may be received by or given to any squad member without forfeiture of eligibility privileges. Be sure your squad members and community understand this rule before possible violations develop. See [Bylaw 204](#) of the Official League Handbook to understand the established policy.

AWARDS

Section

- Trophies: 1st - 3rd place team
- Medals: 1st - 3rd place team
 - Jazz: AAA-28, AA-28, A-23
 - High Kick: AAA-38, AA-33, A-28

State

- Trophies: 1st - 3rd place team
- Medals: 1st - 3rd place team
 - Jazz: AAA-37, AA-32, A-30
 - High Kick: AAA-45, AA-45, A-45
 - 1st - 3rd place coaches Jazz and High Kick (3)
- Certificates: All participants, coaches of each team (3)

It is a violation of MSHSL policy for a member school or a representative of a member school to establish, distribute or accept any awards