



SECTION V: CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

Dance Team Union encourages creativity in all categories. There is no particular style or “formula” required in any category. Dance team is about more than just imitation of previous award-winning routines - we want to inspire your dancers to showcase their own unique style. Our judges will strive to provide you with the most valuable feedback you will receive all season.

Full category descriptions may be found in the following pages.

High Kick

30 kicks of at least waist height performed by at least 50% of the team must be included in each routine. Any style of dance may be used to accomplish this and there are no required movements. Turns, leaps, jumps, lifts, or tricks are not required. The team may demonstrate difficulty through the incorporation of the number and structure of kick sequences and the height and pace of kicks. Movements should complement the music and teams will be judged on both musicality and unison. Teams should also display an ability to connect with the audience and provoke an emotional response (i.e., excitement, laughter, joy, and/or sense of drama) appropriate to the style presented.

TECHNIQUE

Kick Technique (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kicking and Supporting Leg and Hips Correctly Positioned • Correct Prep and Ending Position and Toes Pointed • Kicks are Pulled Up and Down • Good Body Line and Posture, with Shoulders Down and Correct Arm Placement
Technique Displayed in Other Movement* (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Movements Used in Routine <u>Other than Kicks</u> Executed with Correct Technique • Includes Technique Displayed Via Carriage and Posture, Balance, Transitions, and Execution of Any Technical Pom, Jazz or Hip-Hop Movements [Leaps, turns or extensions NOT required; do not deduct for their absence]
Technical Difficulty of Kicks (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and Structure of Kick Sequences • Height and Pace of Kicks • ALL the above items are considered, REGARDLESS OF THE QUALITY OF EXECUTION

EXECUTION OF ROUTINE

Uniformity of Movement (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uniform Placement of Entire Body by Entire Team • Individual Errors considered
Execution of Spacing & Transitions (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uniform Spacing • Smooth Execution of Transitions
Execution of Musicality (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Execution of Choreography to the Music • Capturing Nuances of Vocal and/or Musical Cues and Tempo Variations

ARTISTRY

Uniqueness of Concept/Movement (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept of Routine is Fresh and New • Movement of Dancers Throughout Routine Includes Creative and Unpredictable Elements
Visual Effect and Variety of Kicks (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purposeful Visual Impact of Formations and Transitions, Ripples, Levels, and Other Movements as a Series of Group Pictures • Variety of Kicks Performed
Musicality of Choreography (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choreography, From Beginning to End of Routine, Communicates the Details and Overall Mood of the Music • <u>Deductions go here for inappropriate music, movement or costuming only after crediting other factors – points will not be deducted from any other scoring category</u>

SHOWMANSHIP

Communication and Projection by Dancers (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to Connect with Audience and Provoke Appropriate Emotional Response • Authenticity of Performance
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* This is NOT intended to require any specific technical jazz, pom or hip-hop movements (including leaps, turns, lifts, or other tricks) in the routine. Emphasis of the routine should be on the kicks. Whatever choreographed movements you choose, in your creative discretion, to do in between your kicks will be judged here. Teams will not receive credit in the technique score for technical difficulty of non-kick movements.



Hip-Hop

There is no one definition to describe hip-hop dance. Hip-hop dance is continuously transforming and redefining itself with each new generation of dancers. Any general street or hip-hop style (or combination of styles) is acceptable in this category. Movements should complement the music and teams will be judged on both musicality and uniformity. Teams should also display an ability to connect with the audience and provoke an emotional response (i.e., excitement, laughter, joy, sadness and/or sense of drama) appropriate to the style presented.

TECHNIQUE

Hip Hop Technique (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proper Execution of Hip Hop Style(s) Presented • Ease of Movement • Purposeful and Controlled Movement of Arms, Legs and Body
Difficulty of Movement (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Demand of Hip-Hop Movements, Including Tricks (if any) • Movement Variety • Speed and Intricacy • DEDUCT FOR EXCESSIVE SETUP OR RECOVERY FROM TRICKS (IF ANY) –difficulty of ALL the above is considered, REGARDLESS OF THE QUALITY OF EXECUTION
Musical Demand (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How Difficult is it to Dance to the Selected Music? • Tempo Changes, Musical Nuances, Meter, Lyrics and Cues, and Other Musical Demand are considered [NOTE: ALL the above items are considered, REGARDLESS OF THE QUALITY OF EXECUTION]

EXECUTION OF ROUTINE

Uniformity of Movement (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uniform Placement of Entire Body by Entire Team • Individual Errors considered
Execution of Spacing and Transitions (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uniform Spacing • Smooth Execution of Transitions
Execution of Musicality (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Execution of Choreography to the Music • Capturing Nuances of Vocal and/or Musical Cues and Tempo Variations

ARTISTRY

Uniqueness of Concept/Movement (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept of Routine is Fresh and New • Movement of Dancers Throughout Routine Includes Creative and Unpredictable Elements
Visual Effect (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purposeful Visual Impact of Formations and Transitions, Ripples, Levels, and Other Movements as a Series of Group Pictures
Musicality of Choreography (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choreography, From Beginning to End of Routine, Communicates the Details and Overall Mood of the Music • Tricks, if any, are Fully Integrated into Choreography and Heighten Routine’s Theme, Personality and Excitement • <u>Deductions go here for inappropriate music, movement or costuming only after crediting other factors – points will not be deducted from any other scoring category</u>

SHOWMANSHIP

Communication and Projection by Dancers (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to Connect with Audience and Provoke Appropriate Emotional Response • Authenticity of Performance
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Jazz

DTU's "jazz" division encompasses styles commonly referred to as jazz, Broadway, contemporary, lyrical or modern and teams have successfully competed in the jazz division with all of these styles. Combinations of these styles may also be used. The team should demonstrate difficulty using advanced dance skills (e.g., turns, leaps, extensions). Movements should complement the music and teams will be judged on both musicality and uniformity. Teams should also display an ability to connect with the audience and provoke an emotional response (i.e., excitement, laughter, joy, sadness and/or sense of drama) appropriate to the style presented.

TECHNIQUE

Jazz Technique (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proper Technical Execution of all Leaps, Turns, Jumps, and Extensions
Technique Displayed in Other Movement (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Movements Used in Routine <u>Other than Jazz Movements Specified Above</u> are Executed with Correct Technique • Includes Technique Displayed Via Carriage and Posture, Balance, and Transition Movement
Overall Difficulty (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulty of Leaps, Turns, Jumps, and Extensions • ALL the above items will be considered, REGARDLESS OF THE QUALITY OF EXECUTION

EXECUTION OF ROUTINE

Uniformity of Movement (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uniform Placement of Entire Body by Entire Team • Individual Errors considered
Execution of Spacing & Transitions (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uniform Spacing • Smooth Execution of Transitions
Execution of Musicality (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Execution of Choreography to the Music • Capturing Nuances of Vocal and/or Musical Cues and Tempo Variations

ARTISTRY

Uniqueness of Concept/Movement (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept of Routine is Fresh and New • Movement of Dancers Throughout Routine Includes Creative and Unpredictable Elements
Visual Effect (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purposeful Visual Impact of Formations and Transitions, Ripples, Levels, and Other Movements as a Series of Group Pictures
Musicality of Choreography (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choreography, From Beginning to End of Routine, Communicates the Details and Overall Mood of the Music • <u>Deductions go here for inappropriate music, movement or costuming only after crediting other factors – points will not be deducted from any other scoring category</u>

SHOWMANSHIP

Communication and Projection by Dancers (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to Connect with Audience and Provoke Appropriate Emotional Response • Authenticity of Performance
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Lyrical (All Star only)

Any general lyrical style (or combination of styles) is acceptable including styles commonly referred to as lyrical, contemporary, or modern. Combinations of these styles may also be used. The team should demonstrate difficulty through the incorporation of advanced dance skills (e.g., turns, leaps, extensions) and musical demand. Movements should complement the music and teams will be judged on both musicality and uniformity. Teams should also display an ability to connect with the audience and provoke an emotional response (i.e., excitement, laughter, joy, sadness and/or sense of drama) appropriate to the style presented.

TECHNIQUE

Technique and Difficulty (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proper Technical Execution of all Leaps, Turns, Jumps and Extensions • Difficulty of Leaps, Turns, Jumps, and Extensions
Technique Displayed in Other Movement and Difficulty (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Movements Used in Routine <u>Other than Movements Specified Above</u> are Executed with Correct Technique • Includes Technique Displayed Via Carriage and Posture, Balance, and Transition Movement • Technical Demand of Other Movements • Speed and Intricacy of Transitions and Footwork
Musical Demand (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How Difficult is it to Dance to the Selected Music? • Tempo Changes, Musical Nuances, Meter, Lyrics and Cues, and Other Musical Demand are considered [NOTE: ALL the above items will be considered, REGARDLESS OF THE QUALITY OF EXECUTION]

EXECUTION OF ROUTINE

Uniformity of Movement (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uniform Placement of Entire Body by Entire Team • Individual Errors considered
Execution of Spacing & Transitions (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uniform Spacing • Smooth Execution of Transitions
Execution of Musicality (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Execution of Choreography to the Music • Capturing Nuances of Vocal and/or Musical Cues and Tempo Variations

ARTISTRY

Uniqueness of Concept/Movement (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept of Routine is Fresh and New • Movement of Dancers Throughout Routine Includes Creative and Unpredictable Elements
Visual Effect (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purposeful Visual Impact of Formations and Transitions, Ripples, Levels, and Other Movements as a Series of Group Pictures
Musicality of Choreography (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choreography, From Beginning to End of Routine, Communicates the Details and Overall Mood of the Music • <u>Deductions go here for inappropriate music, movement or costuming only after crediting other factors – points will not be deducted from any other scoring category</u>

SHOWMANSHIP

Communication and Projection by Dancers (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to Connect with Audience and Provoke Appropriate Emotional Response • Authenticity of Performance
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Pom

Any style of dance may be used to accomplish this and there are no required movements. Turns, leaps, jumps, kicks, lifts, or tricks are not required. The team should demonstrate difficulty through the incorporation of intricate pom motions. Movements should complement the music and teams will be judged on both musicality and uniformity. Teams will also be judged on the creative use of poms for visual effect. Teams should also display an ability to connect with the audience and provoke an emotional response (i.e., excitement, laughter, joy, and/or sense of drama) appropriate to the style presented.

TECHNIQUE

Pom Motion Technique (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arm Motions are Performed with Proper Technique (Shoulders Down, Straight Wrists and Elbows, Proper Placement) • Core Engaged on Motions • Control and Strength of Motions • Ease of Movement
Technique Displayed in Other Movement (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Movements Used in Routine <u>Other than Pom Motions</u> are Executed with Correct Technique • Includes Technique Displayed Via Carriage and Posture, Balance, Transitions, and Execution of Any Technical Jazz, Kick, Military, Lyrical, or Hip-Hop Movements
Difficulty of Pom Motions (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk, Intricacy and Control Required by Pom Motions <p>ALL the above items will be considered, REGARDLESS OF THE QUALITY OF EXECUTION</p>

EXECUTION OF ROUTINE

Uniformity of Movement (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uniform Placement of Entire Body and Props by Entire Team • Individual Errors considered
Execution of Spacing & Transitions (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uniform Spacing • Smooth Execution of Transitions (including Transitions from Prop to Prop, if any)
Execution of Musicality (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Execution of Choreography to the Music • Capturing Nuances of Vocal and/or Musical Cues and Tempo Variations

ARTISTRY

Uniqueness of Concept/Movement (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept of Routine is Fresh and New • Movement of Dancers Throughout Routine Includes Creative and Unpredictable Elements
Visual Effect (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purposeful Visual Impact of Formations and Transitions, Ripples, Levels, and Other Movements as a Series of Group Pictures
Musicality of Choreography (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choreography, From Beginning to End of Routine, Communicates the Details and Overall Mood of the Music • <u>Deductions go here for inappropriate music, movement or costuming only after crediting other factors – points will not be deducted from any other scoring category</u>

SHOWMANSHIP

Communication and Projection by Dancers (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to Connect with Audience and Provoke Appropriate Emotional Response • Authenticity of Performance
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VARIETY

Detailed Descriptions - Variety Scoring Categories

ARTISTRY

Uniqueness of Concept/Movement (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept of Routine is Fresh and New • Movement of Dancers Throughout Routine Includes Creative and Unpredictable Elements
Visual Effect (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purposeful Visual Impact of Formations and Transitions, Ripples, Levels and Other Movements as a Series of Group Pictures
Musicality of Choreography (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choreography, From Beginning to End of Routine, Communicates the Details and Overall Mood of the Music • <u>Deduct here for inappropriate music, movement or costuming only after crediting other factors - do not deduct from any other scoring category</u>

TECHNIQUE

Technique in Chosen Style(s) (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movements in Chosen Style are Performed with Proper Technique • Consider Ease, Control and Strength of Movement
Technique Displayed in Other Movement (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Movements Used in Routine <u>Other than Movements in Chosen Style(s)</u> are Executed with Correct Technique • Includes Technique Displayed Via Carriage and Posture, Balance, Transitions
Overall Difficulty (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Demand of Movements • Intricacy and Control Required by Transitions and Footwork <p>Must consider ALL of the above items, REGARDLESS OF THE QUALITY OF EXECUTION</p>

EXECUTION OF ROUTINE

Uniformity of Movement (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uniform Placement of Entire Body and Props by Entire Team • Consider Individual Errors
Execution of Spacing & Transitions (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uniform Spacing • Smooth Execution of Transitions
Musicality of Execution (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Execution of Choreography to the Music • Capturing Nuances of Vocal and/or Musical Cues and Tempo Variations

SHOWMANSHIP

Communication and Projection by Dancers (10 pts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to Connect with Audience and Provoke Appropriate Emotional Response • Authenticity of Performance
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