

VARSITY ALL-STAR DANCE JUDGES TRAINING



Last season, Varsity Brands teamed up with Event Producers, coaches and studio/gym owners to create the FIRST EVER Varsity All-Star Dance Score Sheet.

Why have one score sheet for all Varsity Brands?

- To create more consistency between all Varsity Brands and from event to event across the country.
- To make it easier for our customers to know the criteria when cross competing within multiple Varsity Brands.
 - To help gel our company as one Dance Brand!

The score sheet was extremely well-received last season, so all will remain the same for the '17-'18 season.

Points of emphasis/differences between styles are in RED.



Varsity All-Star Dance Category Descriptions

JAZZ

A jazz routine can incorporate the following approaches to movement: traditional, stylized, hard-hitting, crisp and/or aggressive, all with possible moments of softness while integrating musicality. Emphasis is placed on body alignment, extension, control, uniformity, communication and technical skills.

CONTEMPORARY/LYRICAL

A contemporary or lyrical routine can incorporate the following approaches to movement: organic, pedestrian, traditional modern, and/or traditional ballet. Movement complements the lyric and/or rhythmic value of the music. Emphasis is placed on sustained, expressive movement, control, contraction/release, use of breath, body placement, uniformity, communication and technical skills.

KICK

A kick routine incorporates a variety of kicks and kick combinations, formations, transitions and level changes, etc., for visual effect. Emphasis should be placed on proper kick technique crediting the dancers' control, extension, posture, stamina and uniformity in timing and height of kicks.



Varsity All-Star Dance Category Descriptions

Continued

HIP HOP

A hip hop routine incorporates street style movements with emphasis on the following: body isolations and control, rhythm, style, creativity, execution, uniformity and musicality.

POM

A pom routine incorporates the following characteristics: clean, sharp, strong, precise motions; synchronization; visual effects. It may also include Pom Skills (i.e. pom passes, kick lines, leaps and turns, jumps, etc.). Pom poms must be used 80% of the routine. Males are not required to utilize poms.



Varsity All-Star Dance Category Descriptions

Continued

VARIETY

need to emphasize strongly in your comments & reflect in your score if not truly a Variety routine

A variety routine **must include a blend of at least two or more styles** throughout the routine. Emphasis should be placed on overall creativity and flow of routine and successful technical execution of the dance styles performed.

DANCE

A routine in this category may incorporate any one style or combination of styles. All styles will be judged against each other in this category. Varsity All-Star Dance Event Producers may choose to use this category when necessary to combine divisions for competitive purposes.



SCORING AND CATEGORIES

VARSITY ALL STAR DANCE SCORE SHEET

DIVISION _____

TEAM _____

MAX.
VALUE

TEAM
SCORE

GROUP EXECUTION	60	COMMENTS
OVERALL IMPRESSION <small>Communication / Projection / Appropriateness</small>	10	
UNIFORMITY <small>Synchronization / Timing</small>	10	
SPACING	10	
EXECUTION OF TECHNICAL ELEMENTS <small>Proper Execution of Style Specific Skills & Featured Elements</small>	10	
MOVEMENT TECHNIQUE <small>Placement / Control / Strength / Musicality</small>	20	
CHOREOGRAPHY	40	
CREATIVITY & ORIGINALITY <small>Musical Interpretation / Visual Effects / Variety</small>	20	
ROUTINE STAGING <small>Formations / Transitions / Flow of Routine</small>	10	
DIFFICULTY <small>Incorporation of Level Appropriate Movement & Skills</small>	10	
TOTAL		

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SCORE SHEET PT. 1

GROUP EXECUTION		60
OVERALL IMPRESSION Communication / Projection / Appropriateness	10	
UNIFORMITY Synchronization / Timing	10	
SPACING	10	
EXECUTION OF TECHNICAL ELEMENTS Proper Execution of Style Specific Skills & Featured Elements	10	
MOVEMENT TECHNIQUE Placement / Control / Strength / Musicality	20	



Group Execution

ALL Subcategories under this heading relate to **how the dancers performed on the floor,** as opposed to what was intended/created before they hit the floor.



Group Execution Subcategory Descriptions

ALL STYLES

1. Overall Impression – 10 pts.

Genuine projection, energy, intensity and eye contact. Dancers must display confident, authentic expression to convey the intended message and/or style(s). Appropriateness of music, costume and choreography. Reflects overall audience appeal and personal impression of each judge.

Questions to help you reflect...

- Did I connect to the routine?
- Did the dancers compel a response in me as well as the audience?
- Did the facial expressions match the style of the routine? Or did they seem forced?
- Was the projection and energy of the routine consistent in all dancers?
- Did the dancers seem confident in their performance? Or did they seem hesitant?
- Was there anything about the routine that seemed inappropriate or offensive?



Group Execution Subcategory Descriptions

ALL STYLES

2. Uniformity – 10 pts.

Consistent unison and timing/rhythm by the group as a whole. Uniformity of team movement within both choreography and skills. Commitment to the selected style(s) as a group.

Questions to help you reflect...

- Did the dancers initiate and finish movement uniformly?
- Did the tempo of the music affect the dancers' ability to stay in unison? Did the music seem too fast or too slow for the movement?
- Were the skills executed uniformly from approach through the completion of the skill?
- Did the dancers perform the selected style(s) as one unit? Or did it look like separate individuals who just happened to be doing the same steps?



Group Execution Subcategory Descriptions

ALL STYLES

3. Spacing – 10 pts.

The ability of dancers to gauge and position themselves correct distances between each other in and throughout all formations and transitions.

Questions to help you reflect...

- Is the spacing inconsistent during transitions? Why?
- Are the dancers using marks on the floor to space the formations? Or are they guiding off of each other no matter where they are in the space?



Group Execution Subcategory Descriptions

4. Execution of Technical Elements – 10 pts.

Jazz – The demonstration of proper execution of skills including, but not limited to, leaps, turns, lifts, etc.

Contemporary/Lyrical – The demonstration of proper execution of *style specific skills and elements* including, but not limited to, leaps, turns, lifts, *partnering, etc.*

Kick – The demonstration of proper execution of *technical skills and elements* including, but not limited to, leaps, turns, lifts, etc.

Hip Hop – The demonstration of proper execution of *style specific skills and elements*, including the *approach, release, balance and form.*

Pom – The demonstration of proper execution of *technical skills and elements* including, but not limited to, *pom passes, kick lines, jumps*, leaps, turns, etc.

Variety – The demonstration of proper execution of *style specific skills and elements* including, but not limited to, leaps, turns, lifts, *power moves, pom passes, etc.*

Dance – The demonstration of proper execution of *style specific technical skills and elements* including, but not limited to, leaps, turns, lifts, *power moves, pom passes, etc.*



Group Execution Subcategory Descriptions

4. Execution of Technical Elements – 10 pts.

Questions to help you reflect...

- What specifically is wrong with the execution of the technical element?
 - What can I focus on in my comment to help the dancers improve?
- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| – Weight Distribution | – Head / Focus |
| – Ankle/Knee/Hip Alignment | – Muscle Engagement |
| – Stretch through back of knee | – Use of Breath |
| – Pelvis placement | – Preparation into the element |
| – Abdominals | – Descent / Completion of the element |
| – Rib Cage | – Use of plie to begin / end |
| – Sternum | – Landing toe-ball-heel |
| – Arm Placement | – In lifts / partnering... |
| – Hand Placement | equal weight share or dead weight |
| – Finger Placement | – Seamless entry / exit |
| – Shoulders | |
| – Neck | |

*Remember to only score & comment on what was executed
...what you saw, not what you wished they had done.
That should go in the Choreography caption!*



Group Execution Subcategory Descriptions

5. Movement Technique – 20 pts.

Jazz – The dancers' ability to exhibit the presented style effectively and continually throughout the routine. This includes the overall ease and execution in the strength of movement, as well as the dancers' superior musicality, motion control and precision. This includes the accuracy of body placement, alignment, extension and posturing.

Contemporary/Lyrical – The dancers' ability to exhibit the presented style effectively and continually throughout the routine. This includes the overall ease and execution in the strength of movement, as well as the dancers' superior musicality, *use of breath*, motion control, *extension*, and precision. This includes the accuracy of body placement, alignment *and posture within the style*.

Kick – The dancers' ability to exhibit the presented style effectively and continually throughout the routine *while maintaining stamina*. This includes the overall ease and execution in the strength of movement, as well as the dancers' superior musicality, motion control and precision. This includes the accuracy of body placement, alignment and posturing.



Group Execution Subcategory Descriptions

5. Movement Technique – 20 pts. (continued)

Hip Hop – The dancers' ability to exhibit the presented *style(s)* effectively, continually and *distinctly* throughout the routine. This includes the overall quality of execution, *approach and attack in the strength and intensity of movement*, as well as the dancers' superior musicality, motion control, *stabilization and momentum*. *The accurate demonstration of correct technique within the selected hip hop/street dance style(s)*.

Pom – The dancers' ability to exhibit the presented style effectively and continually throughout the routine. This includes the overall *strength and sharpness of pom motions and movement*, as well as the dancers' superior musicality, motion control and precision. This includes the accuracy of *pom work and body placement*.

Variety – The dancers' ability to exhibit the presented styles effectively and *distinctly* throughout the routine. This includes the overall ease and execution in the strength of movement, superior musicality, motion control, and precision, including the accuracy of body placement *within each style presented*.

Dance – The dancers' ability to exhibit the presented *style(s)* effectively and continually throughout the routine. This includes the overall ease and execution in the strength of movement, as well as the dancers' superior musicality, motion control and precision. This includes the accuracy of body placement *within the selected style(s)*.



Group Execution Subcategory Descriptions

5. Movement Technique – 20 pts. (continued)

Questions to help you reflect...

- Did the dancers look like they had a solid understanding of the style(s) they performed? And did they keep that up from beginning to end?
- Did the dancers show strength and control in their movement?
- Did the dancers have excellent musicality? Did their movement match and complement what you heard in the music?
- Did the dancers' movement seem complete or cut short?
- Did the dancers correctly represent the true nature of the style(s) performed? Or did they look like they were imitating the chosen style(s)?



SCORE SHEET PT. 2

CHOREOGRAPHY	40	
CREATIVITY & ORIGINALITY Musical Interpretation / Visual Effects / Variety	20	
ROUTINE STAGING Formations / Transitions / Flow of Routine	10	
DIFFICULTY Incorporation of Level Appropriate Movement & Skills	10	



Choreography

ALL Subcategories under this heading relate to
**what was created and intended
by the choreographer,**
as opposed to how the dancers performed it.



Choreography Subcategory Descriptions

1. Creativity & Originality – 20 pts.

Jazz – Originality of routine, new concepts and movement, incorporation of a variety of movement within the chosen style(s) that supports the flow of the routine and complements the music. Visual effects that are developed through use of creative floor work, group/partner work, level changes and opposition.

Contemporary/Lyrical – Originality of routine, *artistic interpretation of theme, story or unique concepts that supports the flow of the routine and complements the music and/or lyrics.* Visual effects that are developed through use of creative floor work, *interactive* group/partner work, level changes and opposition.

Kick – Originality of routine, new concepts and movement, incorporation of a variety of movement and *kick variations* that supports the flow of the routine and complements the music. Visual effects that are developed through use of creative floor work, group/partner work, level changes and opposition.



Choreography Subcategory Descriptions

1. Creativity & Originality – 20 pts. (continued)

Hip Hop – Originality of routine, new concepts and movement, incorporation of a variety of movement *within the selected style(s)* that supports the flow of the routine and complements the music. *Creative and unpredictable visual effects* that are developed through use of interactive group/partner work, levels, *group builds, illusions* and/or opposition.

Pom – Originality of routine, new concepts and visuals, incorporation of a variety of *pom motions* that supports the flow of the routine and complements the music. *Creative and unpredictable visual effects* that are developed through use of creative floor work, group/partner work, level changes, *variety of pom motions* and opposition.

Variety – Originality of routine, new concepts and movement, incorporation of a variety of movement within *each style* that supports the flow of the routine and complements the music. Visual effects that are developed through use of creative floor work, group/partner work, level changes and opposition.

Dance – Originality of routine, new concepts and movement, incorporation of a variety of movement within *the style(s)* that supports the flow of the routine and complements the music. Visual effects that are developed through use of creative floor work, group/partner work, level changes and opposition.



Choreography Subcategory Descriptions

1. Creativity & Originality – 20 pts. (continued)

Questions to help you reflect...

- Did the movement seem too repetitive?
- Was the routine predictable? Or did it keep your interest throughout?
- Did the routine flow well from beginning to end? Or did it feel uneven and disconnected?
- Were there exciting moments? Could you point out any stand-out moment?
- Did the movement create clear pictures? Or did the routine seem “blurry” or “muddy”?
- Was there variation in the group work, such as levels, opposition, direction changes?
- Were all parts of the music explored? Or did the routine stick to an even beat throughout?
- Did the movement match and complement the music? Or could the routine have been performed to any song?
- Did the choreography embody the chosen style(s)? Or did it only reference it?
- Was the choreography memorable?



Choreography Subcategory Descriptions

ALL STYLES

2. Routine Staging – 10 pts.

The seamless incorporation of unique and challenging formations and transitions. Transitions create a natural flow between formation changes and visuals within the routine and across the performance space.

Questions to help you reflect...

- Did the formations enhance the choreography? Or were the dancers simply moving from place to place?
- Were any of the transitions distracting?
- Did the transition movement match the style of the routine? Or did it seem to break up the movement as the dancers moved from place to place?
- Were the formations too repetitive?
- Did the choreography utilize the entire performance space?

Top to bottom / front to back / side to side / diagonal to diagonal

- Did the formations create an “amoeba” effect – tight to wide to tight to wide, etc.? Or were they creative and varied?



Choreography Subcategory Descriptions

ALL STYLES

3. Difficulty – 10 pts.

The difficulty of the routine (does not reflect execution). Overall level, pace and intricacy of movement within each style such as footwork, direction changes and technical elements. Effective incorporation of challenging elements while utilizing the appropriate ability level of the team. The choreographic choice of mastered movement and technical elements, as well as utilizing a majority of the team to execute difficult movement and/or skills is also considered. Feature and/or soloist moments enhance the routine without dominating it.

Questions to help you reflect...

- Did the movement seem too fast or too slow for the dancers to execute it properly?
- Were the dancers using both upper body and lower body movement together? Or only one or the other?
- Were dancers performing technical elements too advanced for their ability level?
- How many dancers were executing difficult movement and technical elements?
- Was the routine full of feature groups and soloist movement only? Or were the features used thoughtfully and effectively?
- Did the routine only incorporate difficult technical elements? Or was the movement also challenging?



Scoring Process at Events

Be sure to ask your EP what they utilize!

Option 1 – No Set Ranges

- Gives judges use of full point range within each subcategory.
 - Score from 0-10 or 0-20 for each subcategory on the scoresheet.
- Benefits of this scoring process include:
 - Judges are not limited when setting their scores
 - Could be a quicker process for judges on the panel

Option 2 – Utilizing Set Ranges for each Age Division

- Judge selects the range the team should score in for each subcategory.
 - Ranges are Excellent (high range), Average (medium range) and Needs Works (low range).
- Helps organize results for Event Producers when awarding Bids.
- Benefits of using set ranges include:
 - Judges can narrow down their scores depending on the performance of the subcategory
 - Helps judges organize their scores



VARSITY ALL STAR DANCE REFERENCE SHEET

RANGES FROM A 10 POINT SCALE

Prep	Tiny	Mini	Youth	Junior	Senior/Open
Excellent 4.4—5.0 Average 3.7—4.3 Needs Work 3.0—3.6	Excellent 5.4—6.0 Average 4.7—5.3 Needs Work 4.0—4.6	Excellent 6.4—7.0 Average 5.7—6.3 Needs Work 5.0—5.6	Excellent 7.4—8.0 Average 6.7—7.3 Needs Work 6.0—6.6	Excellent 8.4—9.0 Average 7.7—8.3 Needs Work 7.0—7.6	Excellent 9.4—10.0 Average 8.7—9.3 Needs Work 8.0—8.6

GROUP EXECUTION

Overall Impression	3.0—5.0	4.0—6.0	5.0—7.0	6.0—8.0	7.0—9.0	8.0—10.0
Uniformity	3.0—5.0	4.0—6.0	5.0—7.0	6.0—8.0	7.0—9.0	8.0—10.0
Spacing	3.0—5.0	4.0—6.0	5.0—7.0	6.0—8.0	7.0—9.0	8.0—10.0
Execution of Technical	3.0—5.0	4.0—6.0	5.0—7.0	6.0—8.0	7.0—9.0	8.0—10.0
Movement Technique	6.0—10.0	8.0—12.0	10.0—14.0	12.0—16.0	14.0—18.0	16.0—20.0

CHOREOGRAPHY

Creativity & Originality	6.0—10.0	8.0—12.0	10.0—14.0	12.0—16.0	14.0—18.0	16.0—20.0
Routine Staging	3.0—5.0	4.0—6.0	5.0—7.0	6.0—8.0	7.0—9.0	8.0—10.0
Difficulty	3.0—5.0	4.0—6.0	5.0—7.0	6.0—8.0	7.0—9.0	8.0—10.0

RANGES FROM A 20 POINT SCALE

Prep	Tiny	Mini	Youth	Junior	Senior/Open
Excellent 8.7—10.0 Average 7.3—8.6 Needs Work 6.0—7.2	Excellent 10.7—12.0 Average 9.3—10.6 Needs Work 8.0—9.2	Excellent 12.7—14.0 Average 11.3—12.6 Needs Work 10.0—11.2	Excellent 14.7—16.0 Average 13.3—14.6 Needs Work 12.0—13.2	Excellent 16.7—18.0 Average 15.3—16.6 Needs Work 14.0—15.2	Excellent 18.7—20.0 Average 17.3—18.6 Needs Work 16.0—17.2

DISCLAIMER: Not all Varsity All Star Dance Brands will utilize ranges at events but will administer the score sheet on a 0-10 and 0-20 scale for subcategories. Please check with each Brand prior to the event on how they administer the score sheet.

Scoring Process at Events

Each Event Producer will conduct training on their particular scoring process prior to the event.

Be sure to check with your Event/Judge Director if you have questions!



Have more questions?

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