

Judging Guidelines

Please arrive at least one hour early to the team judging area. At this time you will be given instructions on where to go and what to do. If you have any questions, you may call or email the office on Wednesday prior to the competition for specifics.

I: SCORESHEETS

- Please write legibly.
- Use a blue or a black pen to fill out scoresheets. **NO PENCILS!**
- Sign and fill out scoresheets ahead of time.
- Review the different areas of the scoresheets ahead of time.
- Freshen yourself on comments and phrases to use. Try to use proper dance terms on your talk tapes.
- Make sure that you are careful with your comments especially with junior teams. They are very sensitive and need positive reinforcement as well as useful critiques.
- **DO NOT MAKE ANY COMMENTS ONWEIGHT!** The appearance score should be a 9 or 10 unless you see something drastically wrong, and then it should be no lower than a 7.
- Make sure to make comments/check marks in each category on the scoresheets, most especially for any rating other than DIVISION I. You will be expected to justify the score that you give on your score sheet as well as on the tape.
- Circle the division rating you feel the team or individual should receive. If your score does not match the rating, the tally administrator will come back to you for a correction.
- If you need to change a score, ask for a new score sheet.
- The tally administrator or head judge should total scores, however, it is advised that you write a total on your personal tally sheet, for your own preference to refer to when awards need to be decided on. Please respect requests from the tally administrator and the Head Judge. They have been designated by the ADTS® office to make decisions that will be in the best interest of the company. She will have a more objective 'overall' picture of the contest.

II: RECORDED COMMENTS

- Tapes have a lead tape on them so it is necessary to fast forward them before speaking into them.
- Test your tape recorder ahead of time to insure batteries and machine are working properly. It might be a good idea to have 1 or 2 extra recorders out in case yours malfunctions. Do this well before the contest begins, as well as several times throughout the day.
- Re-test batteries and operation throughout the day.
- Familiarize yourself with the recorder's operations. Make sure the "pause" or "voice activation" (VOX) buttons are on.
- Make sure the school name or soloists name is on the tape. This will ensure proper distribution.
- Speak clearly and with enthusiasm. Make sure that you are making an ample amount of comments that support your scoresheet. Remember, the team will listen to your tapes. Be constructive and positive.

- Introduce yourself at the beginning of the routine you are judging. This is very important. Ex. Hello, Starlites, my name is Joyce Pennington and I will be judging your novelty routine today. Good Luck! "
- Make sure your comments are consistent throughout the routine and make a synopsis at the end to emphasize important points. Your score sheet comments and oral comments should all support each other as well as support the score you are giving.
- Make sure to cover all sections of the score sheet. Avoid being repetitious with comments or phrases.
- Use tact and be constructive with your comments or phrases. Your comments on the tapes should have positive points even on the worst teams. Many are coming to a contest for the first time and have worked very hard to get there. Please give them something to build on. Pretend the team is sitting right in front of you and listening to your comments.
- If you give less than a Division I rating, make sure that you support it with your comments.
- If your tape recorder fails to function, do a synopsis at the end of the routine with another recorder.
- **DO NOT MAKE COMMENTS ABOUT WEIGHT!**

III: GENERAL TIPS

- Make sure you take the time needed to insure proper results.
- If your score varies more than 6 points from the other judges, **YOU WILL BE ASKED TO ADJUST YOUR SCORE ACCORDINGLY** .Also, if a team is missing a rating by one or two points, you may be asked to adjust up. **PLEASE DO NOT TAKE THIS PERSONALLY!**
- Make sure your appearance is professional and mature and not too cutesy or trendy (see section on contest dress code).
- - Prior to the contest, you will be assigned "set up" areas. You must assist in your area. If you finish early, please go and assist other areas until all work is completed.
- When you are judging for a long day (especially solos), you can get very tired. Take a break when you feel that you cannot objectively judge the next team(s) or person(s). Standing up and getting a drink of water can easily adjust your outlook.
- You will be issued a personal tally sheet. Please keep a record of your scores for a cross reference.
- Keep notes on outstanding performances deserving the following **JUDGES AWARD: JAZZ, KICK, PROP, NOVELTY , MILITARY , POM PON, LYRICAL, OPEN, MODERN, OFFICERS**. Look at the highest score in that category, then take into consideration overall impression. Also, you will be asked to select teams that have shown overall performance levels in **CHOREOGRAPHY, TECHNIQUE, PRESENTATION, and PRECISION**.
- Please judge junior teams according to their age/ability levels (K-3, 4-6, 7-9).
- **GUSSIE NELL DAVIS AWARD OF EXCELLENCE** is all 90's and above from each judge on every routine. **DR. IRVING DREIBRODT AWARD** is the highest score in the **MILITARY** category
- You cannot imagine how much it means to the teams for you to take the time to speak to them at the end of the contest. We receive constant positive feedback on how thrilled the girls were to have one of the judges speak to them after the contest was over. Even the smaller and weaker

teams need to know from us that they are important and that they get noticed too. Sometimes the smallest positive gesture can make a great difference and the smallest negative one can cause a **TIDAL WAVE.**

- The most important thing to remember is that these teams come to competition not only to do good, but also to improve and receive critiques from professionals. You must comment to each team just like it was your own. Most of our judges are directors so please think of what you like to hear when your teams go to competition.
- **FOOD-** Some contests are quite long and there may not be a "runner" to get food as often as you need. If you tend to get hungry often, or have special needs, please bring crackers or snacks with you, to tie you over until you can break between categories. However, even if there is a runner, **please do not make an excessive number of trips to the concession stand.**
- **RESTROOM BREAKS AND BEING COMFORTABLE** -Try to hold it until a break between categories. Any staff member is welcome to bring a stadium chair, pillow, or anything that might make your long day of judging on bleachers more comfortable.