

JAM DANCE TEAMS

MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER, FEBRUARY 2013

Dear JAM Members,
It's STATE month! Can you believe that we are already heading into Sections and State? This season has gone by way too fast! It seems that we were just sitting in training and preparing for the first meets. And now, the first weekend of Sections is just days away.

While teams across the state are tweaking formations and choreography and drilling their routines countless times, we as officials need to take this time to mentally prepare. The teams are counting on us to provide consistent and precise score sheet feedback. It is our challenge to determine who gets a bid to the State Tournament, makes Finals and gets crowned the champions of 2013. View this responsibility as a privilege and bring your best to these last few meets!

Happy Tournament Time,
JAM Core Group

JAM MISSION STATEMENT:

JAM was formed for the purpose of promoting, training and increasing the number of quality dance team officials throughout the state of Minnesota. JAM subscribes to a four-fold mission: 1) To provide information and facilitate discussions between judges, coaches, activities directors and MSHSL. 2) To encourage standards of sportsmanships at meets and competitions. 3) To offer a mentoring program to new and/or inexperienced judges. 4) To maintain and support its quality judges and strive to increase our credibility as trained, knowledgeable professionals.



Interesting State Statistics

Would it surprise you to know that in the last five years, 82 different teams have been a part of the State Dance Team Tournament? Of those 82 teams, 42 have made it to the Finals! Great job, MN Dance Teams!

Here's the breakdown:

29 different Class A teams making it to the State Tournament
14 different Class A teams making it to Finals

30 different Class AA teams making it to the State Tournament
14 different Class AA teams making it to Finals

23 different Class AAA teams making it to the State Tournament
14 different Class AAA teams making it to Finals

Fun Survey!

It seems like every year at State, there is a discussion about what dance team songs should go into the proverbial Hall of Fame. Here's your chance to submit your favorite. Email jamscheduler@yahoo.com with your picks. We'll print the Top 3 in the March newsletter!

Best dance team High Kick–Precision song of all time?
Best dance team Jazz song of all time?

Reminder to Officials Attending the State Tournament

If you plan on attending the State Tournament as a spectator this year, please remember that you represent JAM and the MSHSL as an official. Refer to our Code of Conduct and refrain from cheering for any particular team or commenting on routines or results. Your role as a JAM official, whether "on duty" or off, is to maintain integrity, neutrality, respect and professionalism.

JAM Spring General Membership Meeting

Please join us on **Saturday, March 2** for the Spring General Membership Meeting. This year, the meeting will take place at 1:00pm at Park Tavern in St. Louis Park.

Socialize with your fellow officials, celebrate the season and vote on new Core Group members.

Refer to the Evite for more event details. If you didn't receive the Evite, contact us and we'll make sure to send it your way! See you there!

CONTACT US

WEBSITE: www.jamdanceteams.org

FACEBOOK: JAM Dance Teams

CORE GROUP EMAIL:
jamdanceteams@yahoo.com

SCHEDULING TEAM EMAIL:
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What is the Minnesota Average?

By Laura Berg Olsen

You've heard the term Minnesota Average but maybe you're not quite sure what it means? Well, we can fill you in!

The MN Average is the standard principle that JAM judges apply to the scale in order to render scores consistently – meet to meet, class to class and location to location. The MN Average standard is CURRENT routines of MSHSL teams ONLY. Considering out-of-date routines and/or teams that do not participate in the MSHSL dance team program when using the scale skews the average and does not allow all of our judges in all areas of the state to stay consistent, one to the other or meet to meet.

Consider a panel of the following judges:

- The last time Judge Bobbi Sue was involved in dance was on her high school dance team. Jimmy Carter was President, "We are the Champions" was the Number 1 hit, and her favorite outfit included checkered bell bottoms. Kicks were high, dances were slow and content was low. Ripples were in and jump splits got standing ovations. Bobbie Sue wonders where all the great split moves went and refuses to give a score higher than a 2 if dancers don't kick their seats when running.

- Judge Victoria has a great dance background – just ask her and she'll tell you how she grew up in New York and trained as a prima ballerina and started dancing en pointe when she was 2! She has never given a score higher than a 4 in technique and she would like to make it a requirement that all dancers wear their hair in buns.

- Judge Rita danced at the local studio when she was young and she *knows* dance! After all, she watches every episode of Dance Moms, So You Think You Can Dance, Dancing with the Stars and Bunheads! Her favorite movie *ever* is Flash Dance. She TiVo's all the dance shows so she can watch them over and over and over. Every team looks good to her – she has never scored lower than a 70 for anyone. She just *loves* those girls and doesn't want anyone to feel bad.

Put those 3 judges in the same panel and who knows what you might come up with for scores!

That's why JAM judges use the MN Average. Scores are based on what MSHSL teams are doing currently – and because coaches and judges all have access to that information, everyone can start on the same page. It helps to give the best possible feedback on MN high school dance team routines.

Bottom line – JAM judges want to give effective, understandable feedback (scores) consistently, regardless of where the meet is, where the judge or team are from or what the background of the judge might be. That standard begins and ends with MN dance teams and the dancers on them. It is the job of the official to learn, understand and ultimately, judge from that.

In the Spotlight

Get to know JAM judge:

ALLIE HELGREN



Resides In: Rosemount, MN

Occupation/Company: Seminar Coordinator, Ceridian LifeWorks

JAM Member Since: 2001

Q: Tell us a little about your dance background.

A: I danced with a community group in grade school when my oldest sister started as one of their teachers. It started with high kick routines, but as the teachers changed we added hip-hop. Both of my older sisters were on the "danceline" in high school, so I was always watching them practice at home and at competitions. I was fortunate to be a freshman when my sister Melanie was a senior, and my oldest sister Kim was our Assistant Coach my senior year.

Q: Why did you decide to become a MSHSL official?

A: I was staying involved after high school, going to watch and cheer on my old team at competitions. One of my sisters had been judging and encouraged me to try it - it was interesting to learn more about the "other side" and still be around MN dance teams.

Q: What are your interests and hobbies?

A: My family loves sports - we spend a lot of time up at the U of M attending football and hockey games. We try to take a road trip to a sporting event each year, I love seeing all of the different venues! My husband, Adam, and I have 2 kids - Maddy (4) and Grady (almost 2) - I love spending time with them. I also enjoy baking, movies and reading when I have the time.

Q: Tell us about a favorite dance that you performed or costume you wore. How old were you?

A: I'm not sure it was my favorite, but it was the most memorable! My sophomore year we were dancing at halftime of a football game - it had rained and of course the field was a mess. We went out there anyway and had what we later named "our mud performance". There was mud flinging through the air with each kick, after we were covered in mud. Fortunately we wore old polyester costumes!

Q: What is your ideal vacation spot?

A: I love the beach, anywhere warm and relaxing. My husband and I went to Fort Myers Beach on our honeymoon, we've been back almost every year since.

MSHSL Tabulation Program: Point Summary

This year the MSHSL unveiled a new tool for coaches in the tabulation program. The program automatically adds up the points from each judge in 5 categories, Kicks or Jazz Skills, Execution, Choreography, Difficulty and Routine Effectiveness. Please send us a quick response and let us know if you use this program, if you found it helpful or if there are any changes that would make it more useful.

Minnesota State High School League Dance Team Competition

Point and Rank Summary

MEET DATE: 5/12/12 MEET SITE: Large Invitational
 CLASS: AAA CATEGORY: High Kick Category

Final Rank	School	Category Points Breakdown					Category Points Total			Rank		
		Kicks	Execution	Choreography	Difficulty	Routine Effectiveness	SubTotal Points	(Deductions)	Total Points	Out of Total Points Possible	Rank Points	Final Rank
1	apple	127	92	81	91	42	433		433	/ 600	4	1
2	carrot	114	60	78	78	37	367		367	/ 600	8	2
3.5 TIE	fruit	90	60	60	60	30	300		300	/ 600	14	3.5 TIE
3.5 TIE	melon	90	60	60	60	29	299		299	/ 600	14	3.5 TIE
DQ	banana	74	60	48	54	33	269	DQ	DQ	/ 600	-	DQ
										/		

“Dance Moms” Compete in Minnesota

On January 12, some of our JAM judges were able to watch the stars of the Abby Lee Dance Company “Dance Moms” hit TV show compete in the In10sity competition at Maple Grove High School after the MSHSL dance team invitational that day.

The Abby Lee dancers competed against several Minnesota studios in the group competition. They performed a military-style hip hop routine. The routine placed 7th in the category with a performance from Larkin Dance Studio of Maplewood taking first place. The footage from the “Dance Moms” visit to Minnesota is expected to air on episode 11 of this season.

The photo to the right shows Abby Lee with some of the competing dancers. What a fun experience for all who participated!



Save the Date

February 2 - Section Meets

February 8 - JAM Core Group Application Deadline

Send your completed application to klohlund@gmail.com

February 9 - Section Meets

February 15 - State Jazz Tournament

February 16 - State Kick Tournament

March 2 - JAM General Membership Meeting

1-4pm at Park Tavern in St. Louis Park

2012-2013 Remaining Meets Scheduled with JAM

Date	Day	Site	Time	Type
2/1/13	Friday	Lakeview	6:15 p.m.	Invitational
2/2/13	Saturday	Hawley	12:00 p.m.	Section 4A
2/2/13	Saturday	Sartell	12:00 p.m.	Section 4AA
2/2/13	Saturday	Waconia	12:00 p.m.	Section 3AA
2/2/13	Saturday	Wayzata	12:00 p.m.	Section 2AAA
2/9/13	Saturday	Aitkin	12:00 p.m.	Section 2A
2/9/13	Saturday	Dover-Eyota	TBD	Section 1A
2/9/13	Saturday	Faribault	11:00 a.m.	Section 1AA
2/9/13	Saturday	Montevideo	12:00 p.m.	Section 3A
2/9/13	Saturday	North Branch	TBD	Section 2AA

KUDOS KORNER

So many good things have happened lately, that we are recognizing two JAM members in this month's Kudos Korner!

A very special thank you is extended to JAM veteran member, **Melissa Erp**. Melissa has been a terrific ambassador for JAM across the state and particularly in her region of southwest MN. Melissa has gone above and beyond on more than one occasion this season.

When the coach from Worthington was interested in hosting a weeknight invitational, Melissa knew it could be a challenge to find available officials as the nearest JAM member lived over 100 miles away. Melissa put a lot of time and energy into gathering a panel of officials for the meet. Ultimately, the date and time of the meet did not work out for both parties but the connection that Melissa made with the coach is sure to pay off in JAM's favor in the long run.

Just recently, Melissa has also showed her ability to pull together resources when we are short on available officials. For the Lakeview competition, we ended up being short staffed when officials were not able to make the meet due to location and/or work issues. Melissa worked for many days and was able to connect with a former dance team coach and two former JAM members in the area. The coach was pulled in to kick count/time and the former JAM members were brought on to tab. The meet coordinator could not have been more pleased with Melissa's efforts...and neither could we! She wrote, "Thank you Melissa and JAM for making this work for us. I know the kick counter is excited and I have heard that tabulators are some of the best around. I can't thank you enough for helping us make this competition happen!" **Way to go, Melissa!**

Tara Dolder, a first-year member of JAM, was recently kick counting at a meet. When she received her payment in the mail, she noticed the amount on the check far exceeded the amount she should have been paid. Tara returned the check to the school for a much lower amount. **Thank you, Tara!** Your honesty makes JAM look like the true professionals we are!

Member News



Carrie Coppock welcomed a healthy baby boy, Harold William, on January 28.

Haley Haberle is expecting her first child, a girl. She is due on April 15.

New things in your life?

Email us to be included in the next membership newsletter!

2012-2013 JAM Scheduling Statistics

Regular Season:

113: Meets Requested
 955: Total Officiating Positions
 606: Judge Positions
 149: Tabulator Positions
 203: Kick Counter/Timer Positions

Post Season:

9: Section Meets Requested
 94: Total Officiating Positions
 64: Judge Positions
 14: Tabulator Positions
 16: Kick Counter/Timer Positions