

# JAM DANCE TEAMS

MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER, OCTOBER 2012



Dear JAM Members,

It's here! It's here! The competitive season is officially underway on October 22! Teams across the state are beginning their choreography sessions, mapping out new formations and mixing music. Soon practices will begin and before we know it, we'll be in the stands with tally sheets, calculators and scoresheets!

We hope you are as excited about the 2012-2013 season as we are! Clean out your judging bag, get reacquainted with the MSHSL Officials Corner and take care of all the beginning of the season "housekeeping."

See you at training!  
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.

## JAM to Present at MADT Convention

JAM has been invited to participate in an educational and professional development opportunity at the MADT (Minnesota Association of Dance Teams) Annual Fall Convention. The convention will be held on Saturday, October 27 at Eastview High School. Coaches and dancers from teams all over Minnesota will be in attendance at the event.

JAM will play an integral role in a coaches' session entitled "Enhancing Knowledge and Teaching Techniques." Through the use of videos prepared by MADT, coaches will learn to identify what they're doing right, where and how they can improve and how they can be successful both against their competition and as measured by their own team goals. The session will include actively scoring teams and discussion and feedback of scoring.

Five veteran officials will represent JAM at the convention. Thank you to those who are volunteering their time for this event. We truly appreciate your willingness to speak on behalf of JAM!

## New This Year

We will be implementing a new feature to our training this year. In the past, we have spent hundreds of dollars on printing and copying services for the training material that is given to each member.

This year, we have decided to only print the necessary paperwork for the working sessions and a condensed booklet of the training material. In addition to this printed material, each member will also receive a JAM USB drive and lanyard, preloaded with the MSHSL Excel tabulation programs, important forms such as tally, recap and rank sheets, and Superior Judge forms.

Please use these USB drives when tabulating and to also aid in your own organization of JAM material. One suggestion would be to create folders for each meet you officiate at - save any attachments from emails, meet results, and additional files relevant to that meet in the folder.

We hope that you will find great benefit out of these USB drives. Please let us know your feedback throughout the season.

## MSHSL To-Do List

1. Register with MSHSL if you haven't already done so!
2. Watch the online Rules Meeting before November 6
3. Print out the Rules Exam - found in the "Your Messages" section of the Officials Corner
4. Using your Rules Book, answer the exam questions
5. Complete the online Rules Exam before November 6
6. Enter your varsity judging schedule online
7. Apply for State Tournament consideration before December 1

## New Member Gathering

Don't forget! The new member gathering is Friday, October 26 from 6-8pm. Email [jamscheduler@yahoo.com](mailto:jamscheduler@yahoo.com) if you'd like to attend! Open to members with 0-3 years experience.

## CONTACT US

WEBSITE: [www.jamdanceteams.org](http://www.jamdanceteams.org)

FACEBOOK: JAM Dance Teams

CORE GROUP EMAIL:  
[jamdanceteams@yahoo.com](mailto:jamdanceteams@yahoo.com)

SCHEDULING TEAM EMAIL:  
[jamscheduler@yahoo.com](mailto:jamscheduler@yahoo.com)

## Are You Coachable?

Excerpts from the National Federation of State High School Associations Pre-Season Guide on Leadership

It's so important to not only be an accurate and consistent official, but also one who can take criticism and become a student of the sport. The NFHS Leadership Guide recently published an article on becoming more coachable as an official. Here are some highlights from that article about self-assessment.

### Ask questions.

Make a concerted effort to find the information you are looking for. Veteran officials appreciate when you tap into their officiating knowledge. Chances are, if you have a question about a particular rule or element of a routine, that you aren't the only one who is curious about it.

### Be a team player.

Think of every meet as a learning experience. Be receptive to feedback from the Superior Judge and be flexible if your assignment needs to change at the last minute.

### Obtain and maintain a positive attitude.

A positive attitude when receiving feedback will show interest in what you are doing. If you feel frustration coming on, remind yourself why you officiate.

### Leave it on the dance floor.

Every meet is a new one. Don't carry baggage from last night's meet in which you were "off" into the stands the next day.

### Admit your mistakes.

Humility is an important part of officiating. If you were wrong, admit it and move on. Too often officials let mistakes linger and it affects the way they officiate from that point on.

### Work hard.

You are not above any assignment that has been assigned. You were assigned your positions for a reason. Always give 100 percent. If you don't feel like you are putting forth much effort, it's likely that you aren't the only one who is thinking that way.

Remember, mistakes will happen and misjudgments will occur. Mentors, rules coordinators and the Core Group are there to help us along and make sure we don't make the same mistake twice. Make yourself open to criticism and never stop learning.

## The Rules Get a Bad Rap

As teams are in the full swing of planning their seasons, we hope that they are keeping the rules in mind. While some of the rules regarding dangerous moves or uniform requirements may seem antiquated or outdated, there are many good reasons why the rule exists. As officials, is it not our job to debate the nature of the rules...we are trained and paid to enforce the rules.

The rules tend to get a bad rap. When a deduction is given because of a rules violation, it can sometimes be seen as a punishment. The rules are not put in place to hinder the creativity of a team's uniform or choreography, or to limit the content of a routine. They have been established to protect the safety of the dancer.

As choreography becomes more advanced and routines become more complex, it is imperative that we watch for moves that may endanger a dancer. It is not our goal to hand out violations and take deductions from teams but rather promote safety and stress the importance of performing moves correctly. Too often, dancers suffer from knee and hip issues later in life because of the stress dancing placed on their bodies. We hope that having these rules in place will prevent some of those injuries.

Uniform guidelines have been established to limit the design and creativity of the costume, but to protect dancers of all shapes and sizes. Although a halter-style bra top and short shorts may be a cute look for your routine, the dancer with the larger bust or a few extra pounds may not be comfortable performing in that type of uniform. We want all athletes to feel covered and comfortable in their uniform so they can focus on performing and not on how they look in what they're wearing.

Please be sure to read through the Rules Book carefully and thoroughly and be familiar with the various types of rules violations. If you have any questions, please contact a Rules Coordinator or Superior Judge.

## In the Spotlight

Get to know JAM judge:  
**MELISSA ERP**



**Resides In:** Montevideo, MN  
**Occupation/Company:** ECFE Teaching Assistant at Montevideo Schools

### Q: Tell us a little about your dance background.

A: I took several years of studio dance classes beginning all the way back in my elementary years where I received training in jazz, tap, and ballet. Once in high school, I became part of the dance team where the routines were mostly High Kick and Pom. While on the dance team, I was a member of some of the choreography committees as well as a Community Rec Advisor teaching routines to elementary and junior high students.

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

A: I decided to become a MSHSL Official because I wanted to stay involved and give back to a sport that grabbed my heart!!

### Q: What are your interests and hobbies?

A: These days it's crafting, baking, and watching Vikings football.

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

A: My favorite routine that my high school dance team performed was a High Kick routine to the song "Hungry Eyes." It was a routine that our team was asked to perform at a basketball regions game that our school was hosting between two area towns...we said yes and only had two weeks to put this routine together! The gym was full on all three sides that night and the energy and applause we received from all of those fans is something I will always remember!

### Q: What is your ideal vacation spot?

A: My ideal vacation spot would have to be Hawaii!



2012-2013 Meets Scheduled with JAM (as of 10/15/12)

Date	Day	Site	Time	Type
11/16/12	Friday	Coon Rapids	7:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
11/17/12	Saturday	Shakopee	10:00 a.m.	Invitational
11/20/12	Tuesday	Hill-Murray	7:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
11/27/12	Tuesday	Burnsville	7:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
11/29/12	Thursday	Holy Angels	7:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
11/29/12	Thursday	Hopkins	7:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
11/29/12	Thursday	Irondale	7:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
12/1/12	Saturday	Apple Valley	9:00 a.m.	Invitational
12/1/12	Saturday	Chaska	10:00 a.m.	Invitational
12/1/12	Saturday	Detroit Lakes	12:00 p.m.	Invitational
12/3/12	Monday	Monticello	7:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
12/3/12	Monday	Osseo	7:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
12/4/12	Tuesday	Eastview	7:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
12/4/12	Tuesday	South St. Paul	7:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
12/6/12	Thursday	Litchfield	7:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
12/6/12	Thursday	Rochester John Marshall	7:00 p.m.	Triangular
12/8/12	Saturday	Albany	12:00 p.m.	Invitational
12/8/12	Saturday	Benilde-St. Margaret's	11:00 a.m.	Catholic Jamboree
12/8/12	Saturday	Eastview	9:00 a.m.	Invitational
12/8/12	Saturday	Fergus Falls	11:00 a.m.	Invitational
12/8/12	Saturday	Hutchinson	1:00 p.m.	Invitational
12/8/12	Saturday	Lakeville North	10:00 a.m.	Invitational
12/8/12	Saturday	Target Center - WOW Sports	10:00 a.m.	Invitational
12/8/12	Saturday	Zumbrota-Mazeppa	11:00 a.m.	Invitational
12/10/12	Monday	Blaine	7:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
12/10/12	Monday	PEM	6:00 p.m.	Triangular
12/11/12	Tuesday	St. Cloud Cathedral	6:30 p.m.	Conference Meet
12/11/12	Tuesday	New Ulm Cathedral	7:00 p.m.	Dual Meet
12/13/12	Thursday	Pine River-Backus	7:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
12/13/12	Thursday	Spring Lake Park	7:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
12/13/12	Thursday	Wayzata	7:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
12/13/12	Thursday	Worthington	6:00 p.m.	Invitational
12/14/12	Friday	Hopkins	7:00 p.m.	Mini Invitational
12/14/12	Friday	Willmar	7:30 p.m.	Conference Meet
12/15/12	Saturday	Apple Valley	TBD	Conference Championship
12/15/12	Saturday	Bemidji	11:00 a.m.	Invitational
12/15/12	Saturday	BOLD (location TBD)	TBD	Invitational
12/15/12	Saturday	Edina	12:00 p.m.	Invitational
12/15/12	Saturday	Fridley	12:00 p.m.	Invitational
12/15/12	Saturday	Holy Angels	9:30 a.m.	Invitational
12/15/12	Saturday	Lake City	12:00 p.m.	Invitational
12/15/12	Saturday	Maple Grove	10:00 a.m.	Invitational
12/17/12	Monday	Anoka	7:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
12/18/12	Tuesday	Chaska	7:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
12/20/12	Thursday	Jordan	7:30 p.m.	Conference Meet
12/21/12	Friday	Rochester Century	7:30 p.m.	Triangular
12/22/12	Saturday	Frazee	12:00 p.m.	Invitational
1/5/13	Saturday	Belle Plaine	12:00 p.m.	Invitational
1/5/13	Saturday	Blaine	TBD	Invitational
1/5/13	Saturday	Robbinsdale Cooper	1:00 p.m.	Conference Championship
1/5/13	Saturday	Tracy-Milroy-Balaton	12:00 p.m.	Invitational
1/5/13	Saturday	Winona	TBD	Invitational

Date	Day	Site	Time	Type
1/7/13	Monday	BBE	6:00 p.m.	Invitational
1/7/13	Monday	Big Lake	7:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
1/7/13	Monday	Pierz	7:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
1/8/13	Tuesday	New Ulm Cathedral	7:00 p.m.	Dual Meet
1/8/13	Tuesday	Rochester Century	7:30 p.m.	Triangular
1/8/13	Tuesday	Sauk Rapids-Rice	6:30 p.m.	All-Area Meet
1/10/13	Thursday	Albany	6:30 p.m.	Conference Meet
1/10/13	Thursday	Delano	6:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
1/10/13	Thursday	Edina	7:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
1/11/13	Friday	Norwood-Young America	7:30 p.m.	Conference Meet
1/12/13	Saturday	Hawley	12:00 p.m.	Invitational
1/12/13	Saturday	Lakeville South	10:00 a.m.	Invitational
1/12/13	Saturday	Maple Grove	10:00 a.m.	Conference Championship
1/12/13	Saturday	Marshall	10:00 a.m.	Invitational
1/12/13	Saturday	Minnetonka	TBD	Invitational
1/12/13	Saturday	Rochester Century	11:00 a.m.	Invitational
1/12/13	Saturday	ROCORI	11:00 a.m.	Invitational
1/12/13	Saturday	Waconia	12:00 p.m.	Invitational
1/17/13	Thursday	Hopkins	7:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
1/17/13	Thursday	Mayer Lutheran	7:00 p.m.	Conference Championship
1/18/13	Friday	Crosby-Ironton	TBD	Conference Championship
1/18/13	Friday	St. Cloud Apollo	7:00 p.m.	Conference Championship
1/19/13	Saturday	Farmington	12:00 p.m.	Invitational
1/19/13	Saturday	Mayer Lutheran	12:00 p.m.	Invitational
1/19/13	Saturday	Mound Westonka	1:00 p.m.	Conference Championship
1/19/13	Saturday	Pelican Rapids	11:00 a.m.	Invitational
1/19/13	Saturday	PEM	12:00 p.m.	Conference Championship
1/19/13	Saturday	Rochester Century	12:00 p.m.	Conference Championship
1/19/13	Saturday	Rogers	1:00 p.m.	Conference Championship
1/19/13	Saturday	Superior WI	12:00 p.m.	Conference Championship
1/19/13	Saturday	Wayzata	9:30 a.m.	Invitational
1/19/13	Saturday	Yellow Medicine East	12:00 p.m.	Invitational
1/21/13	Monday	ACGC	7:30 p.m.	Dual meet
1/24/13	Thursday	Becker	6:30 p.m.	Conference Championship
1/24/13	Thursday	BOLD (Bird Island)	6:30 p.m.	Conference Championship
1/25/13	Friday	Cannon Falls	6:00 p.m.	Conference Championship
1/26/13	Saturday	Dover-Eyota	12:00 p.m.	Invitational
1/26/13	Saturday	Eastview	7:00 p.m.	Showcase
1/26/13	Saturday	MACCRAY	12:00 p.m.	Conference Championship
1/26/13	Saturday	Mounds View	8:30 a.m.	Invitational
1/26/13	Saturday	Prior Lake	10:00 a.m.	Invitational
1/31/13	Thursday	ACGC	7:00 p.m.	Invitational
2/1/13	Friday	Lakeview	6:45 p.m.	Invitational
2/2/13	Saturday	Hawley	TBD	Section 4A
2/2/13	Saturday	Sartell	12:00 p.m.	Section 4AA
2/2/13	Saturday	Waconia	TBD	Section 3AA
2/2/13	Saturday	Wayzata	TBD	Section 2AAA
2/9/13	Saturday	Aitkin	TBD	Section 2A
2/9/13	Saturday	Dover-Eyota	TBD	Section 1A
2/9/13	Saturday	Faribault	TBD	Section 1AA
2/9/13	Saturday	Montevideo	12:00 p.m.	Section 3A
2/9/13	Saturday	North Branch	TBD	Section 2AA

## Member News



### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Bailey Aalfs  
Lisa Allison  
Laura Christopherson  
Amanda Clemens  
Jody Delorit  
Tara Dolder  
Kendra Granle  
Alison Hart  
Karna Hay  
Sarah Hudyma  
Sarah Jensen  
Mariah McGill  
Jenna Raines  
Rachael Rupp  
Stephanie Sorbel  
Elisia Tarnowske  
Jenna Tomczik  
Katie Wallin  
Jamie Woods



### EMPLOYMENT

**Lauren Jenkins**, a professional makeup artist for television and film, was chosen to do makeup for the daytime talk show "The Doctors." Her episode will air on October 30.

**Amanda Filzen** has accepted a position as a child protection social worker in Superior, Wisconsin. She will be moving to Duluth at the end of October.

**Jennifer Gilhoi** accepted a new job with Array Services Group in Sartell as the HR/Payroll Administrator.

### New things in your life?

Email us to be included in the next membership newsletter!

## 2012-2013 JAM Regular Season Scheduling Statistics (as of 10/15/12)

**95: Meets Requested**  
**836: Total Officiating Positions**  
**521: Judge Positions**  
**138: Tabulator Positions**  
**177: Kick Counter/Timer Positions**

### Scheduling Note:

The master list of meets has been emailed to members already. Please follow the instructions to indicate your availability for meets.

Included with the meet list will be a PDF of Scheduling Expectations created by the Scheduling Team. Please read through the document and contact the Scheduling Team at [jamscheduler@yahoo.com](mailto:jamscheduler@yahoo.com) if you have any questions or concerns.

## Save the Date

### October 15

MSHSL Online Rules Meeting & Exam Available

### October 26

New Member Gathering

### October 27

MADT Fall Convention

### November 3

JAM Training - Shakopee East Junior High School

### November 6

MSHSL Online Rules Meeting & Exam Deadline

### November 17

JAM Training - Sauk Rapids/Rice High School

### December 1

MSHSL Application for State Consideration Deadline

### February 2 & 9

Section Meets

### February 15-16

State Tournament

### March 2

JAM General Membership Meeting

## NOTES FROM THE CORE GROUP

The JAM Core Group is excited to see familiar faces and meet the new members at the annual trainings.

We have been spending many hours planning for the workshops, including scouting locations, food and catering coordination, creating presentation material, editing video and much more.

We truly hope you enjoy the training and learn a lot of valuable information to make this year the best yet!

The Core Group includes: Stacy Abel, Amanda Ballensky, Colleen Christensen, Sara Hordyk Portner, Becky King, Katie Ohlund, Emily Puza, Lauren (Barnes) Theobald