

JAM DANCE TEAMS

JANUARY 2014 NEWSLETTER

Welcome back, Officials and Coaches!
We hope everyone had a restful and relaxing winter break!

January will sure be heating up with some fantastic dance team action this month! Several conference champions will be crowned in the next few weeks. Invitationals will be packed with teams hungry for a win. This is really the time where we start to see some great dance team evolution.

We are "in the trenches" of the season where overuse and injuries can become more of an issue. Be sure to maintain a good balance of dancing full-out with other practice techniques to keep the dancers as healthy as possible.

Here's to a great 2014!
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 sportsmanship 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.



January Meets Update

We are only one-quarter of the way into the month, but January has proven itself to be quite challenging already. We're used to March coming "in like a lion" and "out like a lamb," but for the Scheduling Team, January has had the characteristics of a crocodile, chomping through our calendar.

Weather-related issues had their toll on several meets during the first week. Rescheduling those cancellations, along with a slew of new meets on already over-capacity days, and shuffling members around due to a variety of reasons has been a huge puzzle to figure out. In just the last week alone, the Scheduling Team has been able to effectively manage the reassignments of 27 meets and 119 officials. To put it in perspective, there are 63 meets in January, so essentially, almost half of all previously scheduled meets were affected by the January crocodile. At last count, 428 emails had been sent in an effort to rearrange most of the month.

The Core Group and Rules Coordinators also met earlier this month to assign officials for Sections. That's another 12 meets and 123 positions to fill based on a number of criteria. The crocodile hasn't been hungry for Section meets, so those have been undisturbed by the angry reptile. Let's hope that it stays that way!

It's been a stressful start to the second-half of the season but it's all worth it - we get more opportunities to watch and evaluate great routines and teams get more opportunities to receive score sheet feedback.

Thank you all - officials, coaches, and meet coordinators - for your patience while we sorted through the crocodile chaos. We truly appreciate all of your continued support! We love what we do and we're very happy to be a part of so many dance team events this season!

2013-14 Scheduling Statistics

138 Total Meets Scheduled	1,258 Total Officiating Roles
58 Invitationals	807 Judge Positions
35 Conference Meets	262 KCT Positions
20 Conference Championships	193 Tabulator Positions
13 Dual, Tri or Quad Meets	
12 Section Tournaments	

Save the Date

Jan 11	SUPER HOT SATURDAY All Officials Needed
Jan 18	SUPER HOT SATURDAY All Officials Needed
Jan 25	SUPER HOT SATURDAY All Officials Needed
Feb 1	Core Group Applications Due
Feb 1	Section Meets
Feb 8	Section Meets
Feb 14	State Tournament (Jazz)
Feb 15	State Tournament (Kick)
Mar 1	Spring General Membership

CONNECT WITH JAM

WEBSITE:

www.jamdanceteams.org

CORE GROUP EMAIL:

jamcoregroup@gmail.com

SCHEDULING TEAM EMAIL:

jamscheduler@gmail.com



Mid-Season Post-Meet Survey Results

After each JAM-scheduled meet, the Scheduling Team sends meet coordinators a link to a quick post-meet survey to gather feedback to improve our organization. The mid-season survey results follow:

How well did the JAM Scheduling Team communicate with you?

Extremely well - 60%

Very well - 37%

Moderately well - 3%

Slightly well - 0%

Not well at all - 0%

How well did the Superior Judge communicate with you?

Extremely well - 74%

Very well - 24%

Moderately well - 3%

Slightly well - 0%

Not well at all - 0%

How effective is JAM in providing quality, professional officials?

Extremely effective - 53%

Very effective - 42%

Moderately effective - 5%

Slightly effective - 0%

Not effective at all - 0%

How effective is JAM in providing accurate and consistent score sheet feedback to teams?

Extremely effective - 37%

Very effective - 50%

Moderately effective - 11%

Slightly effective - 2%

Not effective at all - 0%

Overall, how satisfied were you with your last experience with JAM?

Extremely satisfied - 58%

Very satisfied - 37%

Moderately satisfied - 5%

Slightly satisfied - 0%

Not satisfied at all - 0%

How likely are you to use JAM again?

Extremely likely - 84%

Very likely - 16%

Moderately likely - 0%

Slightly likely - 0%

Not likely at all - 0%

How likely are you to recommend JAM to others?

Extremely likely - 79%

Very likely - 21%

Moderately likely - 0%

Slightly likely - 0%

Not likely at all - 0%

Additional comments:

"Thank you so much - JAM did a wonderful job. Our Superior Judge was GREAT!"

Jen Burfeind, Meet Coordinator, Zumbrota-Mazeppa

"Very easy to work with JAM. Communication is the best! Very professional!"

Lisa Roth, Coach, Aitkin

"JAM makes hosting an invite a very easy process, from booking, to communicating before the event and the process the day of. Everything runs very smooth and efficient with JAM!"

Meg Leonard, Coach, Rogers

"I like how JAM judges will explain rulings to coaches with questions...so that we can learn from it in the future. I also believe that using the whole score sheet is beneficial to teams who want to grow from the evaluation scores and I like this approach."

Cheryl Smoczyk, Coach, Forest Lake

"The Superior Judge connected with me a few times prior to the event to confirm everything. She also made an effort to find me at the end of the competition to go through a recap of the day's events as well as make some suggestions for next year. We had quite a few major events (including two medical emergencies) happen during the last few hours of our event and the Superior Judge was on top of all of it and quickly helped us determine how to handle the situations."

Tiffany Boozier, Meet Coordinator, Apple Valley

"Very impressed with the communication with the superior judge prior to the meet. She was very organized and helpful with the meet information and looking over our schedule of the day to make sure everything was correct."

Jennifer Simon, Coach, Plainview-Elgin-Millville

"Great communication and leadership from the Superior Judge. The tabulators were phenomenal. They were professional and friendly. I enjoyed working with JAM."

Joe Perkl, Activities Director, Hopkins

JAM Wants You!

Although next year seems so far away, the Core Group is already planning ahead for it. Beginning this month, applications for next year's Core Group will be accepted. If you are interested in becoming more involved in the behind-the-scenes workings of JAM, please consider applying to become a part of the 2014-2015 Core Group.

The Core Group works year round to develop our member training, improve judging processes and procedures and to help continue to build and improve our organization as a whole. It's extremely important that you be a self-starter, that you are able to work with minimal direction and that you are able to commit to the position and duties. You must be passionate about dance and dance team and have a desire to make a difference. It is a difficult but extremely rewarding and fulfilling experience.

The benefits of Core Group membership are many, including:

- Free JAM membership
- Free hotel stay for Northern Training
- Small annual stipend
- Connect with other JAM members and stay involved year-round
- Ability to implement your ideas

Please consider giving more of yourself to our organization. More information about applying to the Core Group, including the application form, will be sent via email. In the meantime, if you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact any current Core Group member or email the Core Group at jamcoregroup@gmail.com.

In the Spotlight

AMANDA SUNDMARK



Resides In: Duluth

Occupation: Douglas County Social Worker in Superior, WI

JAM Member Since: 2010

Q: What is your favorite part about being a MSHSL dance team official?

A: I just love being involved in dance again. I missed it so much before I joined JAM, and it's fun to continue to learn and grow with the sport in a different capacity.

Q: Tell us a little about your dance background.

A: I danced for the BOLD Dance Team for 5 years. I was a choreographer my junior and senior years, as well as a captain my senior year. I taught dance classes and choreographed some solos for a studio my first year of college.

Q: Favorite dance team trend.

A: Everything! I can't pick just one!

Q: Outside of dance, what are your interests and hobbies?

A: I love spending time with family and friends, shopping, running, going fishing, the MN Twins, and sleeping in when I can.

Q: What is something people would be surprised to know about you?

A: I never had my ears pierced until I was 21 years old.

BECKY KING



Resides In: Andover

Occupation: School Psychologist for Sherburne N. Wright Special Ed. Cooperative

JAM Member Since: 2006

Q: What is your favorite part about being a MSHSL dance team official?

A: I love staying involved in dance team and seeing the ever-changing talent. The routines and skills have become so much more difficult and intrinsic. I love gearing up for the season in November and then ending on a big bang at State. It makes winter that much better! You also meet some great people from judges, ADs, coaches, and dance moms.

Q: Tell us a little about your dance background.

A: I started dancing at the age of 3 at Larkin Dance Studio until I graduated high school. In 10th grade I joined the Forest Lake Dance Team that was just starting up again and stayed on through my senior year where I was captain and part of the choreography team.

Q: Favorite dance team trend.

A: The music. Each season you always wonder what the year will bring for music, like is it a Michael Jackson year, Glee year, Madonna year, etc. I also like hearing how teams bring back music and put a different twist on them.

Q: Outside of dance, what are your interests and hobbies?

A: I love cooking, traveling with my husband, going up north, jetskiing, walking our dog, and spending time on the lake/swimming. My (or I should our) new favorite hobby/interest/obsession is watching our baby boy grow. He has obviously been taking up our time now and that is what we have been sooo into.

Q: What is something people would be surprised to know about you?

A: I have my scuba diving certificate. I also haven't broken any bones or had any surgery ever.... knock on wood!!

MISSY TUTEWOHL



Resides In: Farmington

Occupation: Building Secretary/Registrar at Valley Middle School in Apple Valley

JAM Member Since: 1999, founding member

Q: What is your favorite part about being a MSHSL dance team official?

A: Just being able to stay involved with one of my passions in life. This is my 25th year of judging and I still love it as much as I did when I first started judging. I love having the best seat in the house while judging. Minnesota has a lot of amazing dancers and I enjoy watching dance evolve every year with new choreography and better technique. I am thankful to still be a part of dance team with judging, being a MSHSL Rules Coordinator and a Mentor.

Q: Tell us a little about your dance background.

A: I started dancing when I was three and studied tap, ballet, jazz, pointe, lyrical and hip-hop over the years. I was on my high school danceline for three years, we were not allowed to be on the team as a freshman. I was the choreographer my junior and senior year and also a captain. I have taught jazz and dance team classes at dance studios and have been coaching the Valley Middle School dance team for 10 years.

Q: Favorite dance team trend.

A: There have been so many trends that, at the time, you think are really cool (sequin calf warmers, matching gloves, bun warmers), and now you look back and think how ridiculous was that! I do really like how jazz has become more lyrical.

Q: Outside of dance, what are your interests and hobbies?

A: I enjoy working on counted cross-stitches, Sudoku puzzles, reading, exercising, floating around in my pool in the summer with a good book and a beverage.

Q: What is something people would be surprised to know about you?

A: I used to compete in roller skating competitions with my dad when I was younger.

Got a question to ask future "In The Spotlight" members?

Email jamcoregroup@gmail.com with your questions to be included in an upcoming interview!

Remaining 2014 Meets Scheduled with JAM

Date	Day	Site	Type
1/9/14	Thursday	ACGC	Small Invitational
1/9/14	Thursday	Holy Family	Wright County Conference Meet
1/9/14	Thursday	Hopkins	Lake Conference Meet
1/9/14	Thursday	Rochester Century	All-City Triangular
1/9/14	Thursday	St. Cloud Cathedral	Granite Ridge Conference Meet
1/11/14	Saturday	Aitkin	Invitational
1/11/14	Saturday	Chaska	Missota Conference Championship
1/11/14	Saturday	Hawley	Invitational
1/11/14	Saturday	Lakeville South	Invitational
1/11/14	Saturday	Maple Grove	Northwest Suburban Conference Championship
1/11/14	Saturday	Marshall	Invitational
1/11/14	Saturday	Minnetonka	Invitational
1/11/14	Saturday	Rochester Century	Invitational
1/11/14	Saturday	Rocori	Invitational
1/11/14	Saturday	St. Francis	Mississippi 8 Conference Championship
1/11/14	Saturday	Waconia	Invitational
1/11/14	Saturday	Winona	Invitational
1/13/14	Monday	Melrose	Mini Invitational
1/13/14	Monday	Roseville	Suburban East Conference Championship
1/14/14	Tuesday	Litchfield	Dual Meet
1/14/14	Tuesday	Willmar	Quad Meet
1/16/14	Thursday	Jordan	Minnesota River Conference Meet
1/16/14	Thursday	Concordia Academy	Tri-Metro Conference Meet
1/16/14	Thursday	Minnetonka	Lake Conference Meet
1/17/14	Friday	Pine River-Backus	Northern Lights Conference Meet
1/18/14	Saturday	Delano	Wright County Conference Championship
1/18/14	Saturday	Faribault	Big 9 Conference Championship
1/18/14	Saturday	Farmington	Invitational
1/18/14	Saturday	Mayer Lutheran	Invitational
1/18/14	Saturday	Monticello	Invitational
1/18/14	Saturday	Pelican Rapids	Invitational
1/18/14	Saturday	St. Charles	Three Rivers Conference Championship
1/18/14	Saturday	Totino-Grace	Invitational
1/18/14	Saturday	Wayzata	Invitational
1/18/14	Saturday	YME	Invitational
1/20/14	Monday	Orono	Quad Meet
1/23/14	Thursday	Becker	Granite Ridge Conference Championship
1/23/14	Thursday	Belle Plaine	Minnesota River Conference Championship
1/23/14	Thursday	YME	West Central Conference Championship
1/24/14	Friday	Goodhue	Hiawatha Valley Conference Championship
1/24/14	Friday	Pequot Lakes	Northern Lights Conference Championship
1/25/14	Saturday	Blaine	Invitational
1/25/14	Saturday	Canby	Camden County Conference Championship
1/25/14	Saturday	Eastview	Showcase
1/25/14	Saturday	Fergus Falls	Invitational

Remaining 2014 Meets Scheduled with JAM

Date	Day	Site	Type
1/25/14	Saturday	GFW	Invitational
1/25/14	Saturday	Holy Angels	Catholic Jamboree Invitational
1/25/14	Saturday	Mounds View	Invitational
1/25/14	Saturday	New London-Spicer	Invitational
1/25/14	Saturday	Prior Lake	Invitational
1/25/14	Saturday	Simley	Invitational
1/27/14	Monday	Brooklyn Center	Tri-Metro Conference Championship
1/27/14	Monday	RCW	Invitational
1/28/14	Saturday	Dover-Eyota	Invitational
1/30/14	Thursday	Cannon Falls	Invitational
1/31/14	Friday	Lakeview (Cottonwood)	Invitational
2/1/14	Saturday	Chisago Lakes	2AA Section
2/1/14	Saturday	Mound Westonka	3AA Section
2/1/14	Saturday	Sauk Rapids-Rice	4AA Section
2/1/14	Saturday	Wayzata	2AAA Section
2/1/14	Saturday	Elk River	4AAA Section
2/3/14	Monday	BBE	Invitational
2/7/14	Friday	Paynesville	Dual Meet
2/8/14	Saturday	Dover-Eyota	1A Section
2/8/14	Saturday	Bloomington Kennedy	2A Section
2/8/14	Saturday	Montevideo	3A Section
2/8/14	Saturday	Aitkin	4A Section
2/8/14	Saturday	Austin	1AA Section
2/8/14	Saturday	Bloomington Kennedy	1AAA Section
2/8/14	Saturday	Bloomington Kennedy	3AAA Section

Member News



WEDDINGS & ENGAGEMENTS

Kaelynn Kampa is newly engaged to Tyler Kamps. They are planning an August 2015 wedding. Congratulations!



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Elisia Tarnowske	1/2
Jennifer Kummer	1/5
Sarah Hudyma	1/5
Amanda Sundmark	1/13
Emily Puza	1/17
Sherry Dean	1/19

MSHSL Ratings Reminder

COACHES: Don't forget to rate your officials on the MSHSL website! The MSHSL uses these ratings to help determine which officials will be hired to work at the State Tournament in February. It is very important that you take a few moments after each meet to assess your scoresheet feedback and rate the officials based on the dance team criteria.

When using the A and B ranking system, the electronic tabulation program automatically strikes the high and low ranks from left to right. Please make sure you are reviewing scores and placements of all officials.

OFFICIALS: Don't forget to add the varsity teams you judged to your schedule on the MSHSL website! The MSHSL uses these lists, among other criteria, to help identify which officials are best suited to judge each class at the State Tournament.

Also, remember to rate the schools after each meet. This information is used by the MSHSL as a way to gather feedback about the sportsmanship and conduct of athletes, coaches and spectators, as well as a way to identify opportunities or accomplishments for particular events.

State Hotel Reminder

Don't forget to make your hotel reservations for the State Tournament if you plan on staying near the Target Center! Downtown hotels fill up very fast with the influx of teams and fans reserving blocks of rooms this month!