



Analyzing Scores: Training Throughout the Season

While this year's dance season is already starting to wind down, it is important that all officials remember to analyze scores after each meet. Score sheet feedback is the only information that teams receive and it is our job to give accurate feedback. Taking the time to analyze your scores is the best way to become a better judge. JAM sees score analysis as our opportunity to receive training throughout the entire season.

We do the best that we can to give accurate feedback to teams. The nature of dance team as an art form allows for differences in professional opinion, while still utilizing the score sheet criteria for consistency. As officials we must consider over 80 elements on the score sheet when rendering a score.

We expect to see some variation in scores. There is a panel of judges because there are some subjective elements to the score sheet criteria. The ranking system drops high and low ranks to obtain the general consensus of the entire panel.

Questions to consider when comparing your scores to the rest of the panel:

- Are your scores falling within the goal of a 10 point range?
- Are your ranks within 2 rank points?
- Are you consistently low, high, or inaccurate?
- Was this an off day or a pattern from multiple meets?

How to get better:

- Participate fully in the post-meet conference. When you have a score that is out of range, get the perspective of the rest of the panel. You should always be able to justify your score which is why taking very good, detailed notes is imperative.
- After the meet is over and you have received the full results, look at each category to determine where inconsistencies are happening.
- Take advantage of the opportunity to trial judge. If you want more practice, just let the Scheduling Team know. You can trial judge throughout the season, regardless of membership level.
- Make sure to give yourself opportunities to see all levels of Minnesota Dance Team. That means traveling to get a wide variety of classes and ensuring you see varsity, JV and B-squad teams.
- Review training videos. These are posted as a training tool to be utilized throughout the season on the password-protected section of the JAM website.
- Always give your full focus to the routines, know the score sheet categories and criteria, and do your best!

Member News



BABIES

Nicole Brong welcomed a son, Evan James, born December 10.

Sara Nystuen-Royzenfeld adopted a baby boy, Korben Ilya, born December 13.

Laura Harding welcomed a son, John Michael, on December 15.

Ashley VanOverbeke is expecting baby #2, a girl, in May.

Breanna Blaskey announced baby boy #2 is due to arrive in June.

Jenna Skoglund is preparing for baby #3 to come along in August.



JAN & FEB BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|---------------------------|------|
| Elisia Tarnowske | 1/2 |
| Sarah Hudyma | 1/5 |
| Jennifer Kummer | 1/5 |
| Amanda Sundmark | 1/13 |
| Bonnie Schaefer | 1/14 |
| Emily Puza | 1/17 |
| Sherry Dean | 1/19 |
| Ashley VanOverbeke | 2/4 |
| Katie Ohlund | 2/13 |
| Melissa Long | 2/15 |
| Crystal Swenson | 2/15 |
| Maria Novacek | 2/21 |
| Samantha Axt | 2/22 |
| Kendra Granle | 2/22 |

JAM DANCE TEAMS

In the Spotlight

KERI GHELLER



Resides In: Brooklyn Park

Occupation: Marketing Operations Specialist in Peripheral Interventions at Boston Scientific

JAM Member Since: 1994, pre-JAM

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

A: I love being able to still be a part of dance team, and I still find it amazing that I get paid for it!

Q: Tell us a little about your dance background.

A: Dance wasn't a big deal in my hometown, so my first exposure was in junior high. I was a cheerleader but I wasn't going to go far because I wasn't good at tumbling and stunts. When I saw the Pom Pom Squad, I knew that was for me. We only had a performance team, but it was a year-round sport, including the summer. We performed for football, soccer, basketball and wrestling, plus school and city events. I was on the team for three years in high school. Once I graduated, I was an assistant coach for a year and then head coach the following year before moving to Minnesota.

Q: Favorite dance team trend.

A: I really like when teams completely immerse themselves in a theme, costumes, music and moves.

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

A: I spend a lot of time at my sons' soccer and basketball games year-round, both as a spectator and a volunteer. I'm also now helping them manage their schedules as they are making officiating a family thing. I love to cook and bake, especially for my family and friends. My favorite thing is finding time to read.

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

A: I can't think of a single surprising thing!

PARIS SOLBERG



Resides In: Shakopee

Occupation: Occupational Therapist with Bloomington Public Schools

JAM Member Since: 1989, pre-JAM

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

A: I love being able to watch amazing dance routines from teams around the state and supporting a sport I love.

Q: Tell us a little about your dance background.

A: I was a member of the Burnsville Bravettes team for three years, then on a college team for one year. I took studio ballet, tap and jazz for ten years as an adult.

Q: Favorite dance team trend.

A: Each season, I am amazed at the increasing skills and difficulty levels some of the teams achieve. These girls are amazing athletes!

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

A: Being active! I enjoy working out and outdoor sports and activities.

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

A: This is where I usually say, "I judge high school dance team competitions!"

KIM MEYER



Resides In: Lakeville

Occupation: Media Clerk in the Lakeville School District

JAM Member Since: 1994, pre-JAM

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

A: I love getting the best seat in the house to such talented dancers. I also enjoy carpooling to meets - it is so fun to talk dance and catch up with judging friends on the car ride.

Q: Tell us a little about your dance background.

A: I took jazz, tap, ballet and gymnastics lessons since age 3. I've always loved to dance. I loved being a Duluth East Side Stepper in high school. I wish I had time to return to my adult classes that I loved so much - tap is still my favorite.

Q: Favorite dance team trend.

A: I really enjoy how teams are being creative with standard moves and adding something to them. Like the hinge kicks that go to the side, front, side - a standard move with a twist that adds so much pop.

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

A: I love being a dance and Cub Scout mom! I also love hockey and cheer on the Wild, Gophers and UMD Bulldogs (when they aren't playing the Gophers!). I also love going for walks, scrapbooking and going to country concerts with my girlfriends.

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

A: I'm an engineer with an MBA in marketing, but decided after being laid off to try something new in order to reduce stress and spend more time with my kids and husband. It has been an interesting experience learning the ins and outs of a school! I feel very lucky to have this chance put to my "career" on hold and enjoy my kids while they still want me around!



2014-15 Remaining Meets List

| Date | Day | Site | Type |
|---------|----------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1/26/15 | Monday | New London-Spicer | Quad Meet |
| 1/27/15 | Tuesday | ACGC | Dual Meet |
| 1/29/15 | Thursday | Cannon Falls | Invitational |
| 1/30/15 | Friday | New Ulm Cathedral | Dual Meet |
| 1/30/15 | Friday | Prior Lake | Single Performance |
| 1/31/15 | Saturday | Big Lake | Section 2AA |
| 1/31/15 | Saturday | Coon Rapids | Section 4AAA |
| 1/31/15 | Saturday | Minnetonka | Section 2AAA |
| 1/31/15 | Saturday | Mound-Westonka | Section 3AA |
| 1/31/15 | Saturday | Sauk Rapids-Rice | Section 4AA |
| 2/3/15 | Tuesday | New Prague | Single Performance |
| 2/7/15 | Saturday | Aitkin | Section 4A |
| 2/7/15 | Saturday | Austin | Section 1AA |
| 2/7/15 | Saturday | Bloomington Kennedy | Section 2A |
| 2/7/15 | Saturday | Bloomington Kennedy | Section 1AAA |
| 2/7/15 | Saturday | Bloomington Kennedy | Section 3AAA |
| 2/7/15 | Saturday | Dover-Eyota | Section 1A |
| 2/7/15 | Saturday | Montevideo | Section 3AA |

State Tournament Reminders

Watching as a Spectator

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. You will be recognized by other spectators. 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.

Hotel Reservations

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!

UDA Nationals

Huge congratulations are in order for the Minnesota collegiate dance teams that competed at the UDA Nationals recently. Our sport is extremely well-represented by these teams and we are overwhelmingly proud to have our local teams place so incredibly well.

University of Minnesota: Division 1A Pom National Champion, Division 1A Jazz 2nd Place

University of St. Thomas: Open Hip Hop National Champion, Open Jazz 2nd Place

Minnesota State University - Mankato: Open Pom 2nd Place, Open Jazz 3rd Place

St. Cloud State University: Open Pom 3rd Place, Open Jazz 11th Place

College of St. Benedict: Open Pom 4th Place