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Jo Auch
Assistant Executive Director

COMPETITIVE DANCE MINUTES

Meeting Date: November 6, 2023
1:30 p.m. via ZOOM

Competitive Dance Advisory Committee Members:

Athletic Director	Jim Altenburg, Harrisburg	2024(2)
Principal	Jason Uttermark, Ab. Cent.	2026(2)
Class "A" Coach	Marla Tegethoff, PG	2026(2)
Class "AA" Coach	Angela Nieman, SFW	2025(2)
Official	Christina Bennett, Pierre	2026(1)
Native American Rep.	Misty Mousseaux, Lakota Tech	2024(1)

1. Auch called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom. All members of the committee were present along with several other coaches who listened in on the meeting.
2. Bennett volunteered to record the minutes.
3. Uttermark made a motion to approve the agenda; second by Altenburg. Motion passes unanimously.
4. Auch reviewed the current membership terms – Altenburg’s term expires with this meeting and he was thanked for his work. Mousseaux who is eligible for another term was happy to stay on for another 3 year term.
5. Auch reviewed the previous rule changes; there were no real issues with these this season.
6. Auch reviewed the list of SD deviations for competitive cheer and dance; there were no questions on these.
7. Committee Report on the State event:
 Neiman was very happy with this year’s event – it hasn’t been held in Sioux Falls since 2008. Being at the Denny Sanford felt like a special event and not just held in a school gym. Auch noted that we had great attendance and felt we might have been really tight with seating room at the Pentagon, so she felt we were in the right place for the event.
 Net ticket sales were \$56,425, which was the most to date for this event.
 The Denny Sanford Premier Center expenses were deducted from that (for event staff, bringing in the courts, etc.) resulting in a net profit of \$16,382. For comparison, net profits were a little over \$25,000 last year in Watertown. Auch noted that are just going to be more expenses for a larger venue.
 There were some concerns about the picture taking area afterward being in the lobby. On the floor was not an option for the event center.
 All in all a great event.

8. Reports from Committee Members

Coaches Report:

Nieman talked about the survey that Stoesser sent out to the dance coaches that asked if they were in favor of keeping a grand champion or if they'd prefer having a champion in each category. 80% of the dance coaches were in favor of category champions.

- i. As a result Nieman introduced Proposal #1- to discontinue awarding grand champion and award individual categories. It was thought that having individual categories might also encourage more Class "A" schools, especially west river, to compete in at least one dance category. There was much discussion on the proposed elimination of a grand champion in dance. Nieman noted that it's not a "true" grand champion when the teams don't all perform in the same categories – it's not comparing apples to apples and judges scores can vary for certain categories, putting teams at a disadvantage in the overall. Uttermark was not in favor of awarding each category awards as in comparison to other sports, that is not what we do. He offered a suggestion to take a look at giving points to teams as they place in each category of dance, i.e., 1 point for first place, 2 points for second place, etc., and whomever scores the least amount of points would determine the overall grand champion, similar to how scoring for the team champion works in track & field. However, there would be a high likelihood of a tie and then if the tiebreaker is the total or average score, there is the same issue as before. It was noted that there are other states, such as MN that award a grand champion in each category.

There was also discussion on requiring schools to do all three dances again, going back to pom being judged by the cheer panel. Uttermark suggested to require all teams to compete in the same two dances and rotate what dance styles are done each year. Auch pointed out that teams have the ability to

perform in one category of dance if they want to try something in the dance world, these teams that compete in one category would be eligible for category awards, just not the grand champion award.

Auch asked if anyone on the committee who would like to move proposal #1 forward.

Nieman made motion to discontinue awarding the grand champion and award individual category awards for Jazz, Hip Hop and Pom. Altenburg seconded the motion. Auch called for a roll call vote: Uttermark- No; Bennett – Nay; Altenburg- Yes; Tegethoff-No; Nieman- Yes; Mousseaux- No. The motion failed 2 yes, and 4 no.

Auch stated that this should be something that should be discussed at the AD's conference.

- ii. Proposal #2 was withdrawn as it was a proposal for awarding places assuming Proposal #1 was approved to eliminate a grand champion. Auch explained how the SDHSAA Board approves how many awards are given for each sport and why there are difference in awarding placing for various sports. Swartos said that the executive staff will continue to evaluate each year.
- iii. The Safety Score Sheet proposal had come from the cheer side. Auch ran through the proposed changes that came out of the cheer advisory meeting that morning. There were no issues with the proposed safety score sheet changes from the dance advisory committee.
- iv. Nieman brought up having X's marked on center. Recommendation to mark on the front of the floor, and the judges table. Auch suggested to move coach's chair into center where the VIP seats are located.
- v. There was a question about judges judging their own students, for example, a ballet instructor judging her students performing. Auch said this is not stipulated currently for regular season. Common sense would tell us that judges should try to remove themselves from these situations, but with limited numbers of judges it may be hard to find judges for the event. She suggested that if this is the case that the AD should contact the schools and see if anyone has an issue with this happening. Also, judges should be aware of this and try to eliminate the conflict before it happens.

- vi. Lastly, the question of whether holding both the Class "A" and Class "AA" State competition on Saturday would increase the number of possible judges available and for coaches to vote on was discussed. This may or may not be a cost savings with the venue and then there are potential space/lodging issues for all teams coming in for the one day. Class "A" was originally planned for Friday so that any competitors who also participated in the State Cross Country event could then attend that on Saturday. This would also make for a very long day for the judges, which brought up the question of whether the panels need to have all the same judges for Class "A" and Class "AA". May complicate things with judges travel/lodging/etc. but the bigger concern would be those athletes that compete in both XC and Cheer and Dance. A lot depends on the location of the event while factoring in travel, availability, and coaches votes.
 - b. Altenburg did not have any further items to discuss from the ADs.
 - c. Bennett mentioned that she heard from some judges and coaches that they want to see a judges training held every year. This would have to be passed by the SPOC as it would be a requirement that would need to be fulfilled for judges. Bennett and Auch will discuss with the SPOC as to how they would like to proceed.
 - d. Uttermark did not have any further items to discuss from the Principals.
 - e. Mousseaux said they are still trying to get more representation in these sports and to figure out how to get more cheer and dance teams involved from tribal areas.
9. Auch recapped that the dance coach's proposal #1 did not pass and proposal #2 was withdrawn; the safety score sheet changes will be brought forward for approval. NO PROPOSALS from the Dance Advisory at this time.
 10. Auch had assumed that all coaches were using the Judges' Manual to help understand judging and team basics, but has found that is not true in all cases. The Judges Manual will be renamed the Coaches and Judges Manual and be used as a combined manual. The SDHSAA Dance Handbook section found on the website AND the COACH /JUDGES TRAINING manual are items each coach and judge are responsible for viewing and understanding the rules. She also asked the committee to review the competitive dance handbook sections and send any suggested additions or changes to her.

There was some additional discussion at the end. Class "A" schedules seem to be less "set in stone" or recurring. It is on the ADs to get the schedules out, so people can contact the AD for scheduled competitions.

Stoeser is going to start a Facebook/Instagram page for coaches. They thought the judges could be welcome to join this group as well. Auch shared some concerns. She thinks this is a good idea if done right; we don't want to see this become a platform for calling out judges on their scores or questioning things in a way that leads to any hostility. As long as EVERYONE (coaches and judges) understand that this is for questions and answers pertaining to the rubric etc. and not about complaining about scores etc. it can be a useful tool.

The next meeting was planned for Monday, November 11, 2024; however, this is Veterans' Day so we will find another date for the meeting.

Tegethoff made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Nieman. By unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Auch
Assistant Executive Director
South Dakota High School Activities Association