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Kristina Sage
Assistant Executive Director

COMPETITIVE DANCE ADVISORY MINUTES

Meeting: November 12, 2024

1:30 p.m. via ZOOM

Competitive Dance Advisory Committee Members:

Athletic Director	Nic Karn, Rapid City Stevens	2027(1)
Supt./Principal	Jason Uttermark, Ab. Cent.	2026(2)
Class "A" Coach	Sarah Taggart, Winner	2026(2)
Class "AA" Coach	Ashley Hoffman, Brandon V.	2025(2)
Official	Christina Bennett, Pierre	2026(1)
Native American Rep.	Misty Mousseaux, Lakota Tech	2027(2)

1. Kristina Sage called the meeting to order.
2. Christina Bennett was selected as the recording secretary.
3. Ashley Hoffman motions to approve the agenda, 2nd by Sarah Taggart; motion unanimously approved.
4. Review Duties/Responsibilities – Kristina explained membership was a three-year term, limited to two consecutive terms.
5. Review Rule Changes for 2024-25
 - a. Changes to tumbling skills allowed; defining tumbling series.
 - b. Limit the number of Dance Routines to any two styles.
 - c. Base of a T-lift may walk only.
 - d. Inquiry Process.
6. Review List of Deviations in Competitive/Sideline Cheer and Competitive Dance
 - a. No glitter hairspray
 - b. A head judge will be designated for cheer and dance. Judges scores from low to high shall be no more than 10 points.
7. Kristina Sage gave a report on the State Event. The Monument facility worked well and the staff there was great to work with. She received a lot of good feedback and ticket sales were better than they had been. She was also happy to see the support teams gave each other.

Sarah Taggart mentioned assigning locker rooms next time. Kristina said this had been done on the second day and they would do that again.

Ashley Hoffman said there was lots of positive feedback for uploading the music ahead of time. It did work best with an extra coach or athlete there to tell staff when to start the music. There was a discussion on warmups; there was concern about the proximity to the performance floor, but it did work well to get to the floor on time. Teams need to be respectful of the order for warmups. In two years, the state will be back at the Monument and they will have the fieldhouse for warmups. Next year the State Competition will be in Watertown.

8. Report from Committee Members; Proposal of recommendations for submission to the Athletic Directors/Board of Directors for further consideration

a. A and AA Coaches Representatives- Sarah Taggart and Ashley Hoffman.

i. Proposal #1 – Score Sheet Review by Coaches

It was determined **not** to move forward the portion of the proposal regarding coaches reviewing scoresheets for 10 minutes following completion. Cheer Advisory had also decided not to move it forward. Kristina Sage will put together a host school document with reminders for items including putting an “X” in front of the dance floor and to have scorekeepers check judges’ scores and return if there are discrepancies.

Sarah Taggart made a motion to move the 5-point range for judges scores forward; 2nd by Christina Bennett; motion unanimously approved.

ii. Proposal #2 – Schedule Warm-up times for all competitions

It was determined that scheduling warm-up times will be incorporated into the host school document Kristina Sage will be putting together, in lieu of moving the proposal forward.

iii. Proposal #5 – Restructure of Dance Grand Champions

The Dance Advisory Committee liked this proposal but wanted to define the points that would be assigned to placement in each category and the tie breaking rules. It was proposed that 1st place in each category would get 20 points, 2nd place would get 19 points, on down through all places in each category (not just the top 3 or 5, for example). Tie breaking rules would be as follows:

1. Deductions
2. Difficulty
3. Execution (the single box score labeled Execution on the performance score sheet)
4. Total highest scoring routine

Christina Bennett made a motion to approve the proposal; 2nd by Ashley Hoffman; motion unanimously approved.

b. Supt./Principal Representative- Jason Uttermark: No issues or proposals to report.

c. Athletic Directors Representative- Nic Karn: No issues or proposals to report.

d. Official Representative- Christina Bennett

i. Proposal #3 – Changes to the Dance Rubric

The Dance Advisory Committee was agreeable to the proposed changes except for changing the difficulty of the Toe Touch/Russian Jump and the Front Handspring skill. There was discussion about clarifying difficulty, particularly for the 9.5 and 10-pt scoring, as some seem to think execution is taken into account (which is not the intent). Christina Bennett will draft

language clarifying dance difficulty scoring for review by the committee, for incorporation into the judges' manual and training materials for judges and coaches. Christina will also revise the proposal to remove the two exceptions noted above. Motion by Ashley Hoffman, 2nd by Nic Karn; motion unanimously approved.

ii. Proposal #4 – Changes to the Inquiry Process

The Dance Advisory Committee decided not to move this proposal forward.

- e. Native American Rep.- Misty Mousseaux: Misty's audio was not functioning but she indicated in the chat she had no issues or proposals to report. They are working to get more Native American schools involved in the sport.
- f. SDHSAA Rep. – Kristina Sage: Kristina thanked everyone for the assistance and the good season.

9. Review recommendations; additional opportunity for proposals following group discussion.

Ashley and Sarah had some additional items to discuss. They would like to see a judges' training every year, with a way for coaches to attend or listen in. They would also like a platform for coaches to ask questions about legality and difficulty. Christina noted that the cheer coaches' association has an email group where they send each other videos and questions. If the dance coaches did this they could advise each other and if there were still questions, then these could be sent to SDHSAA for review.

There was also a question on whether there are issues with particular illegal skills or deductions on items that need to be addressed, such as when teams can and cannot chant prior to performing. Christina Bennett will ask safety judges to share what deductions are being taken, and if patterns emerge or the same deductions are being taken often, these could be addressed with clarifications from SDHSAA.

10. Review SDHSAA Handbook Sections for Competitive Dance: Christina Bennett will propose language to clarify difficulty scoring in dance, as well as work on improving the manual/training materials, for sharing with both judges and coaches.

11. Next meeting date: Monday, November 10, 2025 - 1:30 pm

12. Ashley Hoffman made a motion to adjourn; 2nd by Nic Karn; meeting was adjourned around 2:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristina Sage
Assistant Executive Director
South Dakota High School Activities Association



ADVISORY RULE PROPOSAL CHANGE

Schools wishing to make a rules proposal change for the advisory consider shall complete this form and submit to the SDHSAA office weeks PRIOR to the meeting date so the proposal may be added to the

Dance 1a

Please select the sport in which the rules proposal is being submitted.

☐ Basketball
☒ Comp. Cheer
☐ Comp Dance
☐ Cross Country/Track

☐ Football
☐ Golf
☐ Gymnastics

☐ Soccer
☐ Softball
☐ Tennis

☐ Volleyball
☐ Wrestling
☐ In/Out-of-Season

Title of Proposal: Decrease Judges point spread

Proposal will affect the following classes (please check all that apply):

☐ Class B
☐ Class A
☒ Class AA

Proposed Rule Change:

Decrease the point difference between judges
to 5 points down from 10 pts.

Rationale for Rule Change:

Having a 10pt difference between judges is a very large amount and there should not be that big of a spread for a team's routine/performance amongst the judges.

Jim Borch
Print Coach Name

O'Gorman
Member School

Jim Borch
Coach Signature

Steve Weber
Print Athletic Director Name

O'Gorman
Member School

St. Kurt
Athletic Director Signature

ADVISORY RULE PROPOSAL CHANGE

Dance #3



Schools wishing to make a rules proposal change for the advisory committee to consider shall complete this form and submit to the SDHSAA office preferably two weeks PRIOR to the meeting date so the proposal may be added to the agenda.

Please select the sport in which the rules proposal is being submitted.

Basketball	Football	Soccer	Volleyball
Comp. Cheer	Golf	Softball	Wrestling
Comp Dance	Gymnastics	Tennis	In-/Out-of-Season
Cross Country/Track			

Title of Proposal: Changes to the Dance Rubric

Proposal will affect the following classes (please check all that apply):

☐ Class B
☒ Class A
☐ Class AA

Proposed Rule Change: There would be changes to skill level for some skills shown on the dance rubric, adjustments to the name of some others, and then additional skills added to the rubric. All are listed below:

Additional Skills and place on the Dance Rubric:

- Cartwheel added to Beginning Tricks & Stalls
- Basic T-Lift added to Beginning Tricks & Stalls
- T-Lift with a Fan Kick added to Intermediate Tricks & Stalls (matching where a Fan Kick is listed under Intermediate Kicks)
- Front or Back Walkover added to Intermediate Tricks & Stalls
- Webster (/Suicide?) added to Advanced Tricks & Stalls
- Side Sumi/Baerials added to Advanced Tricks & Stalls

Changes to Existing Skills on the Dance Rubric:

- Change Side Hurdler under Intermediate Jumps to Side Hurdler/Herkie
- Change Ring under Advanced Jumps to Ring/Firebird

Rationale for Rule Change: There are skills that teams are performing that are not listed on the dance rubric and it was thought it would be helpful to add these so teams could get credit for the skills they're performing.

There are also two proposed changes to terms for existing skills on the rubric, as these are sometimes referred to differently.

Christina Bennett – Cheer & Dance Official, Official Representative for Dance Advisory

_____ Print Coach Name	_____ Member School	_____ Coach Signature
_____ Print Athletic Director Name	_____ Member School	_____ Athletic Director Signature

SDHSAA Dance Rubric (12/7/23)

Teams will earn the high point value based on the number of athletes who complete the skills. Below are examples, and are not meant to be all inclusive outline of skills. (Majority is defined as half. If odd number of athletes, round down).

JUMPS – Degree of Difficulty:	LEAPS – Degree of Difficulty:	TURNS – Degree of Difficulty:	KICKS – Degree of Difficulty:	TRICKS & STALLS – Degree of Difficulty: 10 points
10 points Beginning: 1-3 points	10 points Beginning: 1-3 points	10 points Beginning: 1-3 points	10 points Beginning: 1-3 points	Beginning: 1-3 points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Star Arabesque Sissone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stag Split Leap 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any Single Rotation Pencil Coupé Pirouette Fouetté/a la secondé 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hip/Waist Height Straight Leg 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 step Forward or Backward Roll Round O Co ee Grinder Cartwheel Basic T-Lift

• Chained
• Plus Any Additional Intermediate Skills: 3.5- 5 points

Intermediate: 5-6 points	Intermediate: 5-6 points	Intermediate: 5-6 points	Intermediate: 5-6 points	Intermediate: 5-6 points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Side Hurdler/Herkie Double Attitude/Stag C Jumps Front Hurdle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Side/Center Axle Tour Jeté Reverse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any Double Rotation Front or Back Attitude Tour en l'air Illusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chin/Chest Height Flick Hitch Pitch/Pick a Boo Fan (Inside/Outside) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freeze variations Front Handspring K-stand/Colt or Nike Headstand variations Handstand variations Kip up from knees T-Lift with Fan Kick Front or Back Walkover

Plus Any Additional Advanced Skills: 6-7 points

Advanced: 7-8 points	Advanced: 7-8 points	Advanced: 7-8 points	Advanced: 7-8 points	Advanced: 7-8 points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ring/Firebird Pike Around the World Toe Touch/Russian Pitch/Tilt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any Turning Leap Turning C/Suicide Turning Toe Touch/Disc Any Leap with Switch Front/Open/Center Side 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any Triple or Greater Rotation Leg Hold Turn/Leg Pirouette Changing spot in a la secondé Float a la secondé Leap in combo w/ a la secondé 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nose/Forehead Height Tilt Hanger 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Headspring Handstand pirouettes Hollowback Back Handspring Kip up from back Invert Side or Front Aerials (bent or straight legs) Side Sumi or Baerials Websters

Any Connected Advanced Skills: 8.5-10 points

JUMP EXECUTION KEY POINTS:	LEAP EXECUTION KEY POINTS:	TURN EXECUTION KEY POINTS:	KICK EXECUTION KEY POINTS:	TRICKS & STALLS EXECUTION KEY POINTS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Synchronization/Uniformity Technique Body Position/Control Hand/Arm Placement Pointed Feet Height/Extension of Leg(s) Entry/Landing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Synchronization/Uniformity Technique Body Position/Control Hand/Arm Placement Pointed Feet Height/Extension of Leg(s) Preparation/Landing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Synchronization/Uniformity Preparation/Landing Technique Body Position/Control Hand/Arm Placement Foot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Synchronization/Uniformity Body Control Mid-Section Technique Hand/Wrist Placement Shoulders Down/Pressed Back Hook-up/Arm Placement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Synchronization/Uniformity Balance/Control Stable Entry/Exit Technique Head/Hand/Leg/Foot Placement Precision/Uniformity

NOTE: The following tumbling skills will be allowed: Cartwheels, round offs, aerials (front and side with bent or straight legs), front and back handsprings as long as the feet or hands land first.

Any flipping movement that takes off or lands on two feet are illegal with the exception of round offs, front and back handsprings. Front and back tucks are illegal. Tumbling passes that connect different or same skills remain illegal.

**Majority is half and if odd number – round down.

ADVISORY RULE PROPOSAL CHANGE

Dance #5



Schools wishing to make a rules proposal change for the advisory committee to consider shall complete this form and submit to the SDHSAA office preferably two weeks PRIOR to the meeting date so the proposal may be added to the agenda.

Please select the sport in which the rules proposal is being submitted.

- | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Basketball | <input type="radio"/> Football | <input type="radio"/> Soccer | <input type="radio"/> Volleyball |
| <input type="radio"/> Comp. Cheer | <input type="radio"/> Golf | <input type="radio"/> Softball | <input type="radio"/> Wrestling |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> Comp Dance | <input type="radio"/> Gymnastics | <input type="radio"/> Tennis | <input type="radio"/> In/Out-of-Season |
| <input type="radio"/> Cross Country/Track | | | |

Title of Proposal: Restructure of Dance Grand Champions

Proposal will affect the following classes (please check all that apply):

- ☐ Class B
☒ Class A
☒ Class AA

Proposed Rule Change:

Dance Grand Champion will be figured by each placing receiving a point value that is equal in each division. Grand Champion will then be figured by the highest scoring team. If a tie results, deductions would first be used and then difficulty score.

Example:

- 1st place in each division (pom, jazz, hip hop) - each team would score 10 points
2nd place in each division - each team would score 9 points
3rd place in each division - each team would score 8 points

A team receiving a 1st in pom, 2nd in jazz would receive 19 points. A team receiving 2nd in

Rationale for Rule Change:

Giving each division an equal number of points in figuring the grand champion would alleviate any division being scored or weighted differently than others. It would remove any bias, preference, or inconsistency.

Tie breaking rules would need to follow things such as deductions and difficulty vs. highest scoring routine to follow suit.

Ashley Hoffman
Print Coach Name

Brandon Valley
Member School

[Signature]
Coach Signature

BILL FREKING
Print Athletic Director Name

BRANDON VALLEY
Member School

[Signature]
Athletic Director Signature