

WIAA // GESA CREDIT UNION

POSTSEASON STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

DANCE/DRILL

MARCH 26, 2027 (2B/1A/2A/3A)

MARCH 27, 2027 (4A)

Yakima Valley SunDome

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DANCE/DRILL-SPECIFIC SOPs

CHANGES FROM THE 2025-26 DANCE/DRILL POSTSEASON SOPs ARE INDICATED IN BOLD TYPE AND SHADED.

1.0 QUALIFYING FOR POST SEASON EVENTS

- 1.1 Dance/drill is a team event. A team is defined as being two or more participants.
- 1.2 The team must have performed in at least five school events, such as school assemblies, half-time performances, pep rallies, etc.
- 1.3 The team must have participated in at least one WIAA school sponsored competition in each of the categories in which they wish to compete at the WIAA District event and at the state event. The team must have scored at least the minimum qualifying score (whole numbers only; there will be no rounding of decimals) after all deductions (based upon the cumulative scores awarded by three judges) in the category in which the team will compete at the state event.

Minimum qualifying score for 2026-27 will be 201

Minimum qualifying score for 2027-28 will be 204

- 1.3.1 A school sponsored dance/drill competition is
 1. Staffed entirely by school personnel and/or affiliates (school administrators, teachers, coaches, booster clubs, etc)
 2. All registration/entry fees must be deposited into the school ASB account
 3. Maximum \$100 per routine registration/entry fee may be charged
 4. WOA/WSSJA judges are required
- 1.4 The team must have participated in its WIAA District qualifying tournament and must score at least a 219 or higher as a minimum qualifying score (whole numbers only; there will be no rounding of decimals) after all deductions (based upon the cumulative scores awarded by three judges) in the category in which the team will compete at the state event.
- 1.5 **DRILL DOWN:** Drill Down is a category in which individual participants may compete.
 - 1.5.1 Drill Down participants competing in the WIAA District events must be on teams that qualified and compete at the WIAA District events.
 - 1.5.2 Drill down participants competing in the state championships must be on teams that qualify and compete at the state championships.

2.0 SCHEDULING OF QUALIFYING EVENTS

- 2.1 In order to guarantee the appropriate number of judges for the WIAA District qualifying events, and for all teams to have adequate preparation time, the deadline for determining district entries to the state dance/drill championships shall be midnight Saturday two weeks prior to the week of the state championship event.
 - a. In the school years ending with an even number, Districts 2, 4 and 6 shall complete their qualifying event three (3) weeks prior to the state championship event; Districts 1, 3 and 5 shall complete their qualifying event two weeks prior to the state championship event.

- b. In the school years ending with an odd number, Districts 1, 3 and 5 shall complete their qualifying event three weeks prior to the state championship event; Districts 2, 4 and 6 shall complete their qualifying event two weeks prior to the state championship event.

3.0 STATE EVENT FORMAT: The State Championship will be formatted based upon school classifications, with 4A schools competing against other 4A schools, and the B/1A/2A/3A schools competing against other B/1A/2A/3A schools within each category. Practice times, competition, drill down and the awards ceremony for each classification will be completed in a single day.

- 3.1 The classifications will rotate competition days every other year. The 4A schools will compete on Friday during the school years ending with an even number; the B/1A/2A/3A schools will compete on Friday during the school years ending with an odd number.

4.0 COMPETITION SCHEDULE: The competition director will create the schedule balancing the needs of teams, judges, event staff, and audience. When possible, the director will rotate the order of categories, with the exception of the show category, from year to year so that no category will perform immediately following the show category or last in consecutive years. All teams in the same category will be judged consecutively by the panel assigned to that category whenever possible.

5.0 PRACTICE SCHEDULE: Practices will be scheduled on the same day as the competition for that school. Available practice time will be divided equally among the teams with a minimum of three minutes and a maximum of five minutes per performance. Prop routines would be guaranteed a minimum of four minutes. The practices will be closed to other teams. Participants, coaches, and chaperones may not be in the stands during another team's practice and may not reserve seats or leave items in the stands.

6.0 ENTRY: Entry will be provided for the participants, coaches, and team support personnel as approved by the WIAA.

7.0 CATEGORIES: NFHS Spirit rules and WIAA casebook applications will be strictly enforced in all categories.

- 7.1 All categories are subject to the criteria of the NDCA-WA Rubric.
- 7.2 Themes may be used in any category.
- 7.3 Poms are only allowed in the Pom category.
- 7.4 WIAA Category Definitions: For all categories, teams should display an ability to connect with the audience and provoke an emotional response (i.e., excitement, laughter, joy, sadness and/or sense of drama) appropriate to the style and category presented. Tricks and skills should make a purposeful visual statement and possess dynamic intent to surprise and entertain the audience within the style and category presented.
 - 7.4.1 DANCE: A Dance routine is the movement of the body in a rhythmic and artistic way. Presentations should portray pictures through staging, formation development, and shading. Teams will be judged on their ability to exhibit technical skills in any of the styles of dance they are representing. A routine in this category could include, but is not limited to: jazz, lyrical, contemporary, and modern. It should not dominantly portray another WIAA category definition (i.e., Kick, Hip Hop, Military, etc.).
 - 7.4.2 Hip Hop: Hip-hop is continuously transforming and redefining itself with each new generation of dancers. Any general street or hip-hop style (or combination of styles) is acceptable in this category. Timing and articulation of the body are major elements of the category.

7.4.3 KICK: A Kick routine emphasizes a variety of kick series and patterns. Kick sequences should be the focal point and must be performed by the majority of the team for at least seventy percent (70%) of the routine. A kick is defined as one foot remaining on the floor while the other foot lifts with force. All other choreography is secondary and should not detract from the focus on kicks

7.4.4 POM: A Pom routine is designed to emphasize the visual impact of the poms, and the primary focus of the choreography should be on the poms. The visual impact of poms must be utilized 100% of the time. All other choreography is secondary and should include and enhance the visual impact of pom patterning. Sharp, precise movements and correct arm placement and technique should be evident.

7.4.5 MILITARY:: A Military routine is a precision-based routine with an emphasis on strong upper body placement, rhythmic marching/footwork, effective visuals, clean and sharp movements, maneuvering, and formations. A minimal number of kick sequences are allowed. All other choreography is secondary and should not detract from the focus on precision.

7.4.6 PROP: A Prop routine is designed to emphasize the visual impact of handheld props, and the primary focus of the choreography should be on the props. Props must be utilized by the majority of the team for at least eighty-five percent (85%) of the routine. Any style of dance may be used, but must include and enhance the visual impact of prop patterning. No sets or backdrops should be utilized in this category. Poms are not considered a prop and should not be used in this category. Storylines and/or themes are not required.

7.5 A school may enter only one team in each category. Each school may enter a maximum of three categories.

8.0 PERFORMANCE AREA

8.1 The entire raised basketball court represents the performance boundary area.

8.1.1 The court is 94 feet by 50 feet.

8.2 Entrances and exits from the performance area will not be judged by the performance judges. Teams are encouraged to enter and exit the court using the ramps provided.

8.2.1 The ramps are eight (8) feet by eight (8) feet.

9.0 LENGTH OF ROUTINE

9.1 The length of Dance, Hip Hop, Military, Kick, Pom and Prop routines will be one minute, 45 seconds to three minutes (1:45 to 3 minutes.) A team is also allowed an additional one minute to enter and one minute to exit the performance area.

10.0 SCORING/JUDGING

10.1 Uniforms and dress for performance must be approved by the local school district. Precautions should be taken so that the performing area is not marred. Any shoes that will scuff floors must be taped with non-marking tape. A safety/technical judge may check shoes prior to the performance.

10.2 Each judging unit will consist of three sets of judges with three judges plus two safety/technical judges in each set.

10.3 The points from each judge will be totaled to create a team's overall score. The team with the highest overall total score will be declared the winner in that category. The team with the second highest scores will be declared the consolation winner (second place) and so forth.

10.3.1 The National Dance Coaches Association scoresheet will be utilized.

10.4 Safety/Technical judging and timing

10.4.1 Starts when the first participant crosses the performance area boundary.

10.4.2 Ends when the last participant crosses the performance area boundary.

11.0 ENTRANCE PROCEDURES

11.1 All teams must be in the on deck area 5-10 minutes before their performance time. Teams must remain in the on-deck area and move into entrance position upon hearing the official announcement to do so.

12.0 MUSIC: All music must initially be approved by the local school district administration and meet the regulations listed below. Failure to meet these regulations will result in a penalty. Penalties for inappropriate music will be assessed by safety/technical judges at events.

12.1 **Music must be submitted ahead of time. Details and the deadline for submission will be published by March 1..**

12.2 Music may have words, but all must be appropriate. It is the coach's responsibility to screen all music to ensure that it is appropriate for the students, audience, and community.

12.2.1 Inappropriate words/phrases/sounds/syllables, in any language, must be completely edited out; they cannot be disguised with a sound effect. It should not be obvious to listeners that there was an inappropriate word. When editing, it is advisable to edit out the entire eight-count or section.

12.2.2 Words/phrases that promote activities that are illegal for minors must be completely edited out. Metaphors, innuendos, and slang terms that refer to these activities must also be edited out.

12.2.3 Words/phrases that contain references to guns or other weapons being used to harm others must be edited out.

12.2.4 Coaches should be very cautious of music that has sexual references, metaphors, etc. Choreography should de-emphasize these lyrics.

12.2.5 Penalties for inappropriate music will be assessed by safety/technical judges at events based on NFHS rules.

12.3 A representative of each team must be present at the announcer's table to cue the music when his/her team is performing. No responsibility is taken by the sound crew if no one is there.

13.0 FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY: Flash photography is prohibited. After appropriate warning announcements have been made, violators may be asked to leave the facility by the Event Manager and/or the Safety/Technical Judge.

14.0 PENALTIES

14.1 Any damage to the floor resulting from a team's performance will be that school's responsibility. Rosin is not allowed on shoes or on the competition floor.

14.2 There will be a five point penalty assessed if the routine is over or under the established time limits. Penalties will be assessed in ten-second increments, five points for every 10-second increment.

14.3 No points will be deducted if hands cross outside the court to drop or pick up poms or props.

14.4 A one point penalty will be assessed for each performer who exits the designated performance floor and then re-enters during the performance.

14.6 There will be a five point penalty for safety/technical infractions and choreographed drops and a one point penalty for accidental drops.

14.7 Penalties for Dance/Apparel Accessories

A. There will be a .5 penalty for logo infractions on costumes, for accidentally stepping on items and for accidental costume malfunctions that DO NOT become a safety concern.

B. There will be a .5 penalty for snugly fitting elastic hair ties left on the wrist.

C. There will be a one point penalty for a scrunchie or looser fitting hair tie left on the wrist.

14.8 There will be a five point penalty assessed for inappropriate music.

14.9 A five point penalty will be assessed if teams do not enter or exit the performance area within the one minute time limit for all categories except prop which has a three minute time limit.

15.0 GAMES COMMITTEE - For the purpose of ruling on appeals, the Games Committee shall consist of the event manager, the head judge, a safety/technical judge not involved in the original decision and two participating coaches, athletic directors or school administrators not involved in the dispute in question (either competing in a different category or in a different classification.) If the Games Committee cannot agree to support the appeal, then the original decision will remain in effect.

16.0 AWARDS: Awards will be presented in each category with a minimum of four schools competing in that category or if the conditions below are met.

16.1 The categories may be divided at the state championships by classification if four or more teams compete in a given category at state.

16.1.1 A first place trophy will be awarded in each category with a minimum of four schools competing in that category

16.1.2 A second place certificate will be awarded when five to eight schools compete in a category.

16.1.3 A third place certificate will be awarded when nine to 12 schools compete in a category.

16.1.4 A fourth place certificate will be awarded when 13 to 16 schools compete in a category.

16.1.5 A fifth place certificate will be awarded when 17 or more schools compete in a category.

16.2 If less than four teams compete in a given category, a first place trophy will be awarded if a team scores at least an 85 (based upon the average of the three judges in that panel.)

16.3 If less than four teams compete in a given category at state over a three year period, that category may be combined with the smallest (meaning the fewest number of competing teams) category the following year. If the numbers in the category increase, the category may be separated in future years.

17.0 ALL STATE COMPETITIONS: The WIAA does not select nor announce the selection of an all-state or all conference team. If one is selected, it is done by outside groups, other than WIAA event management, and is announced or publicized by outside organizations.

2026-27 GENERAL SOPS

These General Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) apply to all WIAA postseason qualifying events and State Championships. Sport-specific SOPs provide additional requirements unique to each activity and should be reviewed in conjunction with these General SOPs. In the event of a conflict, WIAA Handbook rules and approved WIAA postseason policies shall supersede these procedures.

ALLOCATIONS

Postseason berths are allocated to WIAA Districts based on the total number of schools offering the sport in that classification/gender. Additional information can be found on the WIAA's [Tournament Berths](#) page.

QUALIFYING TOURNAMENTS/EVENTS

Qualifying events for State Cheer and State Dance/Drill must conclude by the Saturday two weeks prior to the State Championships and must conclude by the Saturday (Thursday for Golf) before the WIAA State Tournament begins.

TOURNAMENT PROGRAMS

Digital programs are offered exclusively online via each sport's Tournament Central page or directly through [Issuu](#).

GAMES COMMITTEE

Tournament Managers will appoint a Games Committee available onsite or by phone for all postseason qualifying and State events. Full details regarding the members and duties of the Games Committee can be found in Rule 22.0.0 of the [WIAA Handbook](#).

PROTESTS

All WIAA State Tournaments will follow the Protest Process outlined in Rule 29.0.0 of the [WIAA Handbook](#). Please visit the [Postseason Protest Procedures](#) resource page for general and sport-specific guidelines.

INCLEMENT WEATHER: TEAMS/INDIVIDUALS UNABLE TO ARRIVE FOR A STATE EVENT

Detailed information regarding the WIAA's Inclement Weather Policy and procedures for postponement or rescheduling can be found in Rule 25.4.0 of the [WIAA Handbook](#).

Thunder & Lightning:

- If thunder is heard or lightning is seen, play is suspended for at least 30 minutes and people are immediately moved to a designated safe location.
- After suspension, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder or lightning before resuming play. Any new thunder or lightning resets the clock to another 30 minutes.

UTILIZING STUDENTS FOR SUPPORT POSITIONS AT ATHLETIC EVENTS

Students younger than high school age may only hold support positions at WIAA State Championships if the parent signs the Underage Worker Form on the [Tournament Registration Page](#) and assumes all risk. The Underage Worker Form must be submitted to the event manager.

PASS GATE

Upon qualification for a State Tournament, schools must submit a [Pass Gate](#) through [FinalForms](#) to indicate school-related individuals that should receive access to WIAA State Tournaments. Detailed Pass Gate instructions, including sport-by-sport quantities and deadlines, can be found on the [Tournament Registration](#) Page.

SUPERVISORY PERSONNEL

Any supervisory personnel must be submitted on the participating school's [Pass Gate](#). If provided a supervisor credential, the badge must be worn prominently. Detailed supervisory expectations can be found in Rule 17.28.0 of the WIAA Handbook.

FAN/SPECTATOR EXPECTATIONS

- Schools are encouraged to share the WIAA's [Fan Expectations](#) with their communities and students prior to attending State Events for policies regarding cheerleader expectations, pep band expectations, cheers, signs, artificial noisemakers, mascots, face painting, continuous standing, clean-up, drones and more.

TEAM ARRANGEMENTS

- LOCKER ROOMS: Teams must be supervised by school personnel while in their assigned locker room.
 - Participants are responsible for leaving locker rooms in undamaged condition.
 - Tournament Management is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

MEDICAL

- PHYSICIANS/TRAINERS: Teams interested in supplying their own physician/trainer must complete the [School Athletic Trainer/Physician Form](#) and return it to the Tournament Manager.

STATE TOURNAMENT IDENTIFICATION AND MERCHANDISE

The WIAA has registered the WIAA logo with the Secretary of State, establishing the ownership of events through legal action and WIAA Executive Board policies.

- The WIAA has licensed [Rush Team Apparel](#) to print, sell, and/or distribute WIAA-registered merchandise. Schools are encouraged to contact the [WIAA Staff](#) for information regarding that partnership.
- Only official, pre-approved merchandise will be sold on-site before, during, or after the event.
- Permission to distribute items onsite at a State Event must be approved by the WIAA Staff.

SPONSORSHIP/VENDOR PRESENCE

Advertising or recognition of non-school organizations/products is limited to WIAA-approved sponsors.