

DANCE TEAM AUDITIONS

“The Director’s Guide to Successful Try Outs.”

SCORE SHEETS

NATURAL BREAK

Directors may decide the total number of candidates earning membership to the team by a natural break in the scores. For example, if there is a ten to fifteen point drop in scores among candidates, then a sharp decline in talent level is noticeable. Let us create a hypothetical situation in which fifty dancers audition and thirty-five out of the fifty all earn scores of eighty or higher. The next fifteen candidates score a seventy or below. Because of the ten point difference, the director would choose the thirty-five new members with scores of eighty or higher. Selecting candidates by observing the natural break in the numbers assures that the most talented dancers are chosen versus a set number of candidates.

PASS/FAIL

Unlike the candidates chosen by the natural break in the scores, some teams may choose to take all dancers who score a seventy or above. Therefore a set numerical score has been decided upon as the standard of excellence to be met. As a result, the director may take questionable talent as new team members because a natural break is not observed. Advise judges that if they have any reservations about the candidate’s capabilities to please mark below 70 and not a borderline number like 68 or 69. This will alleviate “close calls”. Parents feel more understanding towards their daughter not making the team when she earns a 67 versus a 69. Most school administration likes the 70 or above rule because it is clear-cut. Therefore, as a judge, be clear-cut. If you feel it would be more of a struggle for the team to include a candidate, then mark your score accordingly. When using the 70 or above rule tally all judges’ scores together for one final score. If a student does earn scores which average to 69.5, then it should be rounded to a 70 to meet the standard of excellence for passing.