

# Iowa State Dance/Drill Team Association

## FAQ's

*Updated 10.18.20 (updates highlighted)*

### **IN-PERSON COMPETITION (Plan A)**

**Where is competition being held?** Teams will compete at Wells Fargo Arena and Soloists will be in Hy-Vee Hall.

**What are the new dates for state solo and team competitions?** Tuesday-Thursday, November 17, 18, 19, 2020. Small Schools (17th), Medium Schools (18th), Large Schools (19th). Colleges will perform across all three days.

**Why were the dates changed?** Multiple reasons factored into the decision to change the date of our competitions. Our primary reason was to find the most probable way for our teams and soloists to compete taking into consideration our host venues and the time of year.

**Why was the decision made now?** Registration opens September 1<sup>st</sup> and we wanted teams to have full knowledge of the competition plans. We also want to have ample time to plan the best experience possible in the current situation.

**Why a Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday?** These dates were chosen based on the Iowa Event Center's availability and to avoid conflicting with other state activities such as football finals and the all-state music festival.

**Why are the state solo and team competitions being combined?** The decision was made to combine the solo and team competitions to maximize the chance for teams to compete, only having to make one trip to Des Moines.

**Do teams need to have a hotel reservation the night before and/or the night we perform?** Our intentions with having three days of competition and strategic scheduling eliminates the need for overnight accommodations. Distance from Des Moines will be a factor in our scheduling process.

**What happens if a team has already made hotel reservations for December?** Andrea is working with our hotel partners on moving room block dates in the event individuals or families make the personal decision to stay at a hotel. **Updated reservation links are posted on our website.** Our goal is to schedule each day in a way no team will feel the need to stay the night before or after they perform.

**Is there a chance we may not be able to dance in-person?** Having our competition in-person is our first plan; however, we have a back-up plan to go 100% virtual. Should the situation in Iowa change, we will gather facts of the situation and make the best decision with the information we have as we get closer to November.

**Will Iowa PBS be doing a televised highlight show again?** **Yes! Iowa PBS has confirmed we will have a highlight show.** **Air dates will be released soon.**

**When is registration due for state solos and team competitions?** Registration, pre-order merchandise and all nominations/applications are due at midnight October 1, 2020.

**How will coaches receive wristbands and competition information this year?** Nothing will be mailed out this year. Communications will be sent via email; however, wristbands and passes must be picked up in Hy-Vee Hall at the registration table the day your team and soloists compete.

**Will concessions be open at Wells Fargo Arena and Hy-Vee Hall?** Yes, we are planning to have concessions open during the three days of competition.

**All forms will still be required.**

## **SPECTATORS**

**Can spectators attend in person?** Yes! Seating in the arena and Hy-Vee Hall will have blocked seats to allow for social distancing. By having our event over three days and utilizing the entire arena will allow us to safely manage capacity. The arena seating will be used on all three levels and both sides of the court. We will continue to monitor regulations and specific safety protocols will be released prior to competition.

**Spectator Admission and more:** A webstore will be available early November to easily purchase the following items. Prices will be announced then.

-Pre-purchase general admission tickets

-Live-Stream Access

-Digital Files of team competition categories that will be released following the awards ceremony on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

-Digital Program (hard copies will also be available in Des Moines)

-Merchandise (to be shipped directly to customer following the competition)

-Pre-purchase Live Photos of team routines by Tim McConnell Photography

**Can spectators purchase tickets in advance?** We are working on pre-purchase ticket options. More information will be shared as we get closer to November.

**Will a live stream be available?** Live stream will be available for team routines and more information will be shared as we get closer to November.

**How can spectators watch the competition if they cannot attend in person or are not comfortable attending?** Live Stream will be available, and more information will be shared as we get closer to November.

**Will there be a way to purchase recordings of team and solo performances?** Digital files of each team category will be available for purchase (i.e. Class III Pom, Small School Hoopla, Class IV Hip Hop). Each soloist will receive a recording of their performance as part of their registration fee. It will be a digital file sent to the coach after the competition.

**Can coaches and dancers get in for free the days they do not compete?** Registration fees allow coaches and dancers to attend the day they compete. Any coaches or dancers wanting to return to watch on the other days of competition will need to have their tan wristband on for entrance; however, need to sit in spectator seating if not competing to manage the number of people on the performance floor.

## **SAFETY PROTOCOLS** *(these are the current safety measures; however, will continue to add more detail and adjust appropriately)*

- 3 days to spread out teams and crowds
- Use both sides of the court to utilize entire arena for seating
- Seating blocked off in arena to encourage social distancing
- Scheduled warm up times (using both ends of arena)
- Music uploaded prior to competition for both Solos and Team (contactless)
- Sanitization stations throughout both venues
- Masks are required for participants, coaches, ISDTA staff, spectators.
  - Participants do not have to wear masks while dancing; however, may choose to without penalty.
  - Disposable masks are recommended for participants to easily dispose of before entering the performance floor.
  - Coaches will need to have new masks for performers after they exit the floor.
- All soloists from a team will perform back to back

- No awards ceremonies in person (athletes on the floor)
- Water bottle donation (in consideration)
- Live Stream availability
- Hotel stays eliminated
- Pre-purchase ticket sales (contactless)
- Permission & Liability Forms include COVID sign offs by parents (Colleges do this also; participants 18 years and older can sign.)

## **COMPETITION SCHEDULE**

**When will we know the competition schedule and the day we compete?** Due to the logistics required to create the schedules this year we plan to have schedules communicated by mid-October. After registration closes at midnight October 1st, we will communicate the day teams compete as soon as possible to allow for proper planning.

**Two schedules will be created this year:**

1. **Performance Schedule:** this schedule will show what day teams and soloists perform and the order in which they will perform at Wells Fargo Arena and Hy-Vee Hall. The day your team and soloist(s) perform is solely based on the enrollment size of your school (BEDS) to allow ISDTA to practice social distancing in the best way possible for our performers and spectators. This is not the order in which teams and soloists will be judged. Our production crew will take the videos from each day and compile them into the competition schedule order that will be used for judging.
  - a. Example for team: Class X Pom has 12 teams in the division; 5 of the teams perform on Wednesday and 7 of the teams perform on Thursday based on their school size.
  - b. Example for solos: Class VII Dance has 50 contestants; 25 perform Wednesday and 25 perform Thursday based on their school size.
  - c. Example for solos: TEAM ABCD has 6 soloists; all 6 will perform back to back on the same day; however, this is not the order in which they will be judged, that will be reflected on the competition schedule.
2. **Competition Schedule:** this schedule is the one we are all accustomed to; it will have the full team divisions and the order in which teams will be judged. There will be a competition schedule for each solo division as well.

**In previous years there were teams who typically competed on both days; could this happen again this year?** Teams and soloists will perform on only one day based on school enrollment size (BEDS).

**How will each day's schedule be able to accommodate so many performances?** In Wells Fargo Arena we will have festival style performances where one team will face one direction and the next team will face the other direction. The performance schedule will indicate which side teams will be facing. We will not have our normal black backdrop which will allow us to use both sides of the court, have warm up areas on both ends of the court, and the entire arena for spectator seating. The number of soloist contestants will help us determine if we will do the same style of performances and seating in Hy-Vee Hall.

**When will Color Guard teams and soloists perform?** Color Guard teams and soloists will perform on the appropriate day based on school enrollment size (BEDS).

**Will teams and soloists have enough time in between performances to get ready?** We are strategically scheduling team and solo performances to allow for sufficient time in between performances. We also anticipate a school's soloists to perform back to back for crowd control and to maximize efficiencies for performers and coaches.

**What do teams do when they are done for the day?** Because awards will take place virtually on December 5<sup>th</sup>, teams are not required to stay. Teams are welcome to watch from spectator seating when they are not preparing to perform or are done with their performances.

**Which direction have teams faced in Wells Fargo Arena in the past?** Teams have historically faced west for performances. Diagrams of the arena will be shared soon to understand the layout.

## **MUSIC**

***All music for soloists and team performances will be uploaded*** whether we are in-person or 100% virtual. Backup music is still required for the in-person competition.

**Music verification title(s):** for music with multiple songs, please list all the songs you have purchased to make the mix. If you purchased a pre-made mix you may use that title.

## **JUDGING**

**What made ISDTA decide to have judges virtual?** The challenges of travel and lodging this year prohibited many of the top judges to be here in person.

**Will teams receive judges' critiques for their team routines and soloists?** Yes, however, it will look different this year as we will be using a new software. It will be in a digital format and will be sent to coaches after the competition.

**How will judging be conducted?** Panels will be moderated virtually by ISDTA and each routine will be judged one time as though they were in person judging. Andrea Dana will inform our judges about ISDTA's rules, choreography restrictions, and challenges presented with our seasons this year to be taken into account.

**There will be rules judges at both the in-person competition and the 100% virtual competition.**

## **AWARDS**

**How and when will the awards ceremony take place?** The awards ceremony for both team and solos will take place virtually on December 5th, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. (CST). More information on how to connect to the stream will be provided as we get closer to December. Anyone can attend for free!

**Will there still be special awards?** ISDTA values the achievements off the performance floor and is continuing to provide the opportunity for Senior Scholarships, Team Academic Recognition, Outstanding Community Service, Sportsmanship and Character Counts Coach and Team of the Year. Submit all applications and award nominations by midnight October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**When are scholarship applications and award nominations due?** All applications and award nominations are due at midnight October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**How will teams receive their team and soloist(s) participation certificates, ribbons, and awards?** All certificates will be given to coaches at the registration table in Hy-Vee Hall on the day of competition. The distribution of ribbons and awards will be communicated closer to November.

## **ISDTA STATE MERCHANDISE**

**How can teams and fans order state merchandise?** We strongly encourage coaches to collect pre-orders for this year's ISDTA state merchandise; orders are due by midnight October 1<sup>st</sup>. Orders are completed in the coach's school account on [www.isdta.net](http://www.isdta.net). Pre-orders are at a discounted rate, take advantage!

**When can coaches pick up their pre-ordered merchandise?** Pre-ordered merchandise must be picked up at the registration table in Hy-Vee Hall the day of competition.

**Will there be on-site merchandise sales?** ISDTA will have merchandise sales during the competition, including our commemorative contest program.

**Can merchandise be ordered on-line after the pre-order deadline?** Yes, during the days of the competition there will be a webstore for ordering merchandise to be shipped directly to you.

## **RULES + HANDBOOK**

The rules in the ISDTA handbook all apply to both competition plans (in-person and 100% virtual), including the social distancing rules. These rules apply to all high school and college teams and soloists. Other aspects of the handbook will be updated and communicated soon to reflect the changes to our competitions this year.

**Can dancers be closer than 6 feet for transitions in choreography?** Yes, if the transition is a continuous movement it is acceptable. A transition where movement happens for a few consecutive counts, then dancers stop and do choreography closer than 6 feet, then continue to transition is not acceptable.

**Do dancers need to be 6 feet apart for entrances and exits?** No. Teams need to enter and exit with no physical contact with each other. Specific rules on entrances and exits can be found in the handbook – nothing has changed.

**Costume changes behind backdrops:** Because spectators will be on both sides of the arena coaches need to plan accordingly for any costume changes behind backdrops to not unnecessarily expose any of their dancers.

**It is completely acceptable and will not be counted against a team if their school requires students to wear masks during their performance.**

## **100% VIRTUAL COMPETITION (Plan B)**

**What are the dates of the virtual competition?** Teams and soloists will be able to upload their videos on the date they are/were scheduled to perform in Des Moines; Tuesday-Thursday, November 17, 18, 19, 2020. The submitted videos will be produced into the competition schedule order for judging, streaming and digital file purchase.

**When can coaches begin recording their state team and soloist performances?\*** As a safety-net for teams and soloists to compete, ISDTA is allowing coaches to begin recording their state performances when they so choose. Recordings need to meet ISDTA's requirements, so in the event a team or soloist cannot attend in-person, a virtual recording can be submitted. [Video guidelines are posted on isdta.net/competition resources.](https://isdta.net/competition)

**When will teams be notified if the competition will be 100% virtual?** Our goal is to give you as much advance notice and information to plan accordingly. We are moving forward with the in-person competition unless something drastic occurs: too many schools unable to attend in-person, Iowa Events Center not being able to host us are examples, but not the only reasons. Again, we are planning on the in-person and so should teams.

**Where would teams and soloists perform?** All teams and soloists would be required to perform in a school gym; not a studio.

**How do coaches plan for the virtual option of competition?** Teams and soloists who register for state competition will receive detailed instructions (best practices on how to video, submission requirements, etc.) on how to be prepared for the 100% virtual competition.

**All forms will still be required.**

## **SCENARIOS** (contact Andrea Dana *directly* with specific questions and scenarios)

**What is ISDTA's stance if a school district is 100% on-line learning?** ISDTA aligns with the Department of Education; teams and soloists will not be able to practice or compete during the timeframe in which their school is 100% on-line learning and the district does not allow for teams to practice. Reference the virtual safety-net option\* in the event this occurs for a school.

**What happens if a school is not permitted to travel to Des Moines?** The coach should contact Andrea Dana directly to discuss an alternate way to compete.

**What will happen if a majority of the schools cannot compete in person or if we cannot have spectators?** This will be carefully evaluated and given the facts the decision would be made to do the 100% virtual competition.

**What happens if we cannot do the 100% virtual competition?** We will hold off and attempt to reschedule in the early part of 2021.

**Additional questions should be emailed to:**

**Andrea Dana, ISDTA Executive Director**

[andrea@isdta.net](mailto:andrea@isdta.net)