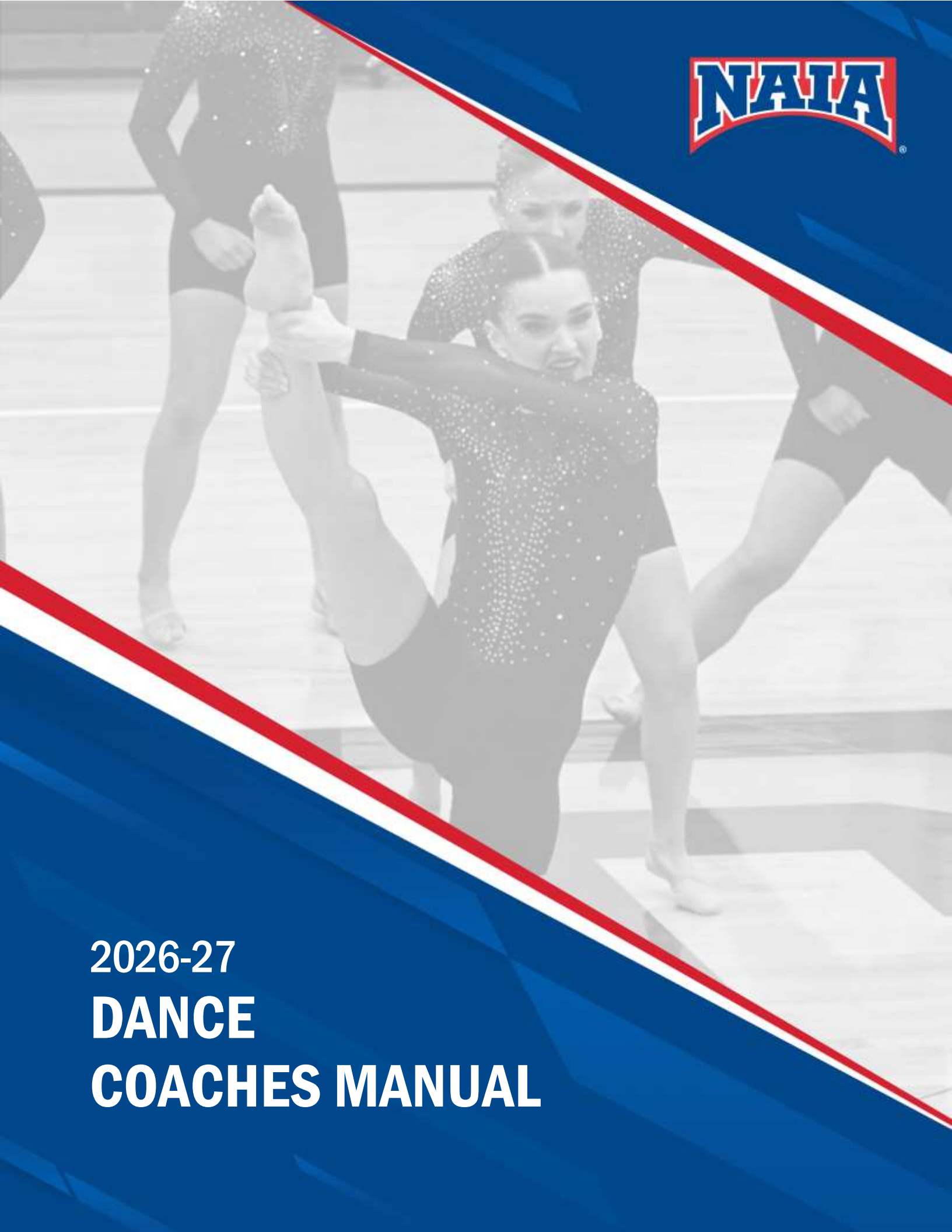


The background of the cover is a grayscale photograph of a dance team performing a high kick. The dancers are wearing dark, sparkly leotards. The image is partially obscured by a large blue diagonal graphic with a red and white border that runs from the top right to the bottom left.

2026-27 DANCE COACHES MANUAL



Table of Contents

IMPORTANT DATES	3
FIVE-YEAR CHAMPIONSHIP CALENDAR.....	3
PLAYING RULES AND REGULATIONS	4
CONDUCT IN COMPETITION	6
POSTSEASON COMPETITION	7
CONFERENCE/UNAFFILIATED GROUP TOURNAMENTS	8
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP	10
TRAVEL	12
NAIA POLICY HANDBOOK INFORMATION	13
REPORTING RESULTS AND STATISTICS.....	14
AWARDS	15
COACHES ASSOCIATION	17
APPENDICES.....	19

For National Championship Selection/Coaches Association/Event Administration contact:

Fred Aubuchon

faubuchon@naia.org

816.595.8339

For Polls Administration, Athletic Communications, & Media Inquiries contact:

Steve Wilson

swilson@naia.org

816-595-8198

The NAIA Competitive Dance Coaches Manual is published annually by the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. The name National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, initials NAIA, logo, and other NAIA symbols and insignia are registered in the United States patent and Trademarks Office. The name, initials, and marks are fully protected and are the exclusive property of the Association. Expressed, written approval by the NAIA President/CEO is required for the use of the NAIA initials, name or marks in connection with any items offered for commercial sale, awards, or promotion, including such use at NAIA events.



IMPORTANT DATES

2026-2027 COMPETITIVE DANCE SPORT CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 1	START – Practices, Scrimmages, Exhibitions, and Competition
FEBRUARY 2	START – Area Ratings Releases Dates: Feb 3, 17, Mar 3, 14
FEBRUARY 2	START – National Selection Committee Polls Releases Dates: Feb 3, 17, Mar 3
JANUARY 31	DEADLINE – Nominations NAIA Scholar-Athletes in NAIA Connect
FEBRUARY 13	DEADLINE – Undeclare from Postseason
FEBRUARY 15	DEADLINE – Submit Champions of Character Nominee
MARCH 13	DEADLINE – Completion of conference/CAC/unaffiliated tournaments
MARCH 15	RELEASE – 6:30pm CST National Championship Qualifiers on NAIA National Selection Show on NAIA Network
MARCH 16	DEADLINE – Submit Official Postseason Rosters in NAIA Connect
MARCH 18-20	All-America Recording Window
MARCH 26-27	NAIA Competitive Dance National Championship <i>Stormont Vail Events Center – Topeka, Kansas</i>
April 1	RELEASE – All-America teams and Dancer of the Year
April 28	Competitive Dance Coaches Association Annual Business Meeting Virtual, 12:00pm CST
April 28	RELEASE – Coach of the Year
JUNE 30	DEADLINE – Submit Scholar Team Award Nominations in NAIA Connect
JULY 15	DEADLINE – Nominations for Hall of Fame

FIVE-YEAR CHAMPIONSHIP CALENDAR

	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Qualification Deadline	March 13	March 11	March 10	March 16	March 15
National Championships	March 26-27	March 24-25	March 23-24	March 29-30	March 28-29

National Championship Website – [Click Here](#)



PLAYING RULES AND REGULATIONS

PLAYING RULES

In 2024, a National Cheer and Dance steering committee was elected comprised of commissioners, athletic directors, and various administrators. This committee initiated the process of adopting the NCA and NDA Varsity rulebooks specific for NAIA Competitive Cheer and Dance. In 2025 Competitive Dance adopted the NDA Team Performance Division Rulebook with NAIA Modifications.

A complete listing of the NDA Rulebook is available in September each year and may be downloaded for free [here](#). Approved Rule Changes for the 2026-2027 season can be found [here](#). NAIA Competitive Dance Rule Modifications can be found [here](#).

All rule changes will include a five-year moratorium before the coaches can submit sport motions for potential rule changes or NAIA modifications. This policy went into effect 2024-2025.

JURISDICTION OF COMPETITION OFFICIALS/JUDGES

The outcome of all contests is under the jurisdiction of the on-site officials and all disputes, protests, etc., must be settled directly with the Host Event Manager and Head Official (protest/appeals are the primary role of the Head Official).

Hiring Judges for events is the responsibility of Conference Assignors; Coaches or Schools are not permitted to hire Judges. If a school is not in a conference, they should contact the NAIA Director of Officiating Initiatives, jgragg@naia.org for a list of Assignors.

New for 2026-2027 – The requirement to have the minimum and maximum number of judges for a qualifying conference/CAC/Unaffiliated grouping tournament will remain consistent with the regular season that allows for a minimum and maximum number of judges.

For all regular season and conference/CAC/Unaffiliated grouping events a minimum of four (4) Judges are required, with a maximum of six (6).

1. Three (3) Panel Judges
2. One (1) Safety/Deductions Judge
3. One of the above Judges must also be selected as the Head Official
4. If there are more than four total judges, add to the panel judges group.

For the NAIA National Championships, seven (7) Judges are required.

1. Five (5) Panel Judges
2. One (1) Safety/Deductions Judge
3. One of the above Judges must be selected as the Head Official, unless one has been pre-assigned

DIVISION OF COMPETITION AND COMPETITORS

There will be one division of Co-ed Competitive Dance. **The NAIA will compete in the NDA Team Performance Division.**

Competitors (Minimum and Maximum)

1. Teams will have a minimum of seven (7) and a maximum of 20 participants on the competition floor.
2. There will be a 5-point deduction for exceeding the maximum (per person) or not meeting the minimum (not per person).

SCORING

Scoring at Duals and Events

1. Scoresheets are provided on the [Coaches Corner](#).
2. The use of an approved Electronic Scoresheet is permissible (one is available on the [Coaches Corner](#)).
3. Teams will be scored by all Panel Judges.
 - a. Panels will consist of three (3) to five (5) Panel Judges.
 - b. All panel officials' scores will be added together to create a raw total.
 - c. The subtotal is created by averaging out the panel officials' scores (divide the raw total by the number of officials).
 - d. The maximum number of points on each score sheet does not total 100, so the scores will be entered into the NAIA Stat System that will add the raw totals, average them, and then convert the average score into a 100-point scale.
 - e. All penalties will be deducted from the converted 100-point scale score to get the FINAL SCORE.
4. Scores will be ranked in order from highest to lowest with the highest score being named the winner.

5. Mathematical errors in tallying should be brought to the attention of the competition event manager. The math in question will be double checked and explained to the coach as applicable. If an error has occurred scores will be adjusted. Mathematical errors must be brought to the event manager within 20 minutes of the final teams performance. Once scores are announced they will be final.

HOSTING AN EVENT

The Host Institution is responsible for reporting results. Host SID's should ensure access to the NAIA Stat System - <https://stats.mynaia.org/> (not Presto) at least two weeks prior to the event. If you have trouble gaining access, please contact the [Athletics Communications Manager](#). Hosts will need to verify that competing teams' Official Rosters are in the Stat System; this should be done at least one week in advance. If a team is not in the Stat System, then you won't be able to report results from your event. See Appendices for the various forms and scores sheets for hosting an event. Additional information on reporting results can be found in the Reporting Results and Statistics section

Neutral Site Hosting

When an Institution is hosting an event that does not involve their own team, it is the Host Institution's responsibility to assign a team as the Reporting Team. In these unique cases, the Host Institution should inform the Reporting Team of their responsibility at least two weeks in advance of the event.

Non-NAIA Event

If a team attends a non-NAIA event, then that team must act as Host and report their results into the NAIA Stat System. If multiple NAIA teams attend a non-NAIA event, those coaches should communicate and determine one individual to act as Host for reporting scores into the NAIA Stat System.

Promoting season events

The National Office Championship Manager can post events on the NAIA website's [Regular Season Competition Listing Page](#). To have your event posted use the [Competitions Form](#) which will be automatically sent to the NAIA for listing. A follow-up email will be sent to you once your event is available on the website.

Rosters, schedules and results must be included on the institution's athletics website. All scores must be reported to the NAIA Dance Score Reporting System within 24 hours of the conclusion of the competition.

For detailed information on Hosting an Event visit both the [Coaches Corner](#) and the Dance Host Manual.

VIRTUAL COMPETITIONS

Virtual Competitions are not permitted as approved NAIA competitions. A Virtual Competition is defined as any portion of a competition being virtual. If any portion of the competition is done through a virtual setting, it is not a valid competition.

UNIFORMS

All uniforms must represent each institution and individual in a positive and respectful manner. No risqué, sexually provocative or lingerie inspired uniform or garments are permitted. Garments should be securely fastened to eliminate any possibility of accidentally exposing an intimate part of the body or undergarments.

See NDA Rulebook for full details on Uniforms.

Any costume in which the appropriateness is questionable should be submitted to the Conference Assignor for approval.

Sponsor Logos

Approved NAIA uniform rules modifications to allow sponsor logos/patches during competition.

- Limit of one sponsor logo or patch on a uniform.
- The logos may not exceed a standard square of 2.25 inches.
- Sponsors of alcohol, tobacco, or any legalized drugs (for example, Oregon marijuana) are not permitted.
- Sponsors whose sole or primary business function is sports gambling (e.g., FanDuel, DraftKings, etc.) are not permitted. Sponsor logos must be in the same location on each set of uniforms (ex: if the home whites patch is on neckline, all home whites must be same, away jerseys could be in a different permissible location).

Placement – A sponsor patch meeting the restrictions of Rule 1-25.2 located in one of two places on the front of the jersey (1) the apex of the neckline; (2) shoulder panel on either the right or left side, and in only one place on the back of the jersey, the apex/center of the neckline as close to the neckline as is possible.



ELIGIBLE COMPETITIONS

Competition

Results for all member institutions participating in Competitive Dance shall include only those games played against accredited, upper-level, four-year, degree-granting institutions, and shall not include games against junior college, club, foreign (Canada and Mexico excluded), or military team.

Competition against institutions holding associate membership in the NAIA or members of the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) shall be considered as satisfying this requirement. To verify countable vs. non-countable opponents, [click here](#). Competition in events that are not approved NAIA competitions must still be reported to the NAIA Stat System and will count as an event, however these events do not count toward a team's season average.

All competitions must have a minimum of two teams from different schools present and both teams must be in the same division (i.e. at least 2 teams competing in Competitive Dance). There are no maximum limits on the number of teams in a division. Officials must be present and familiar with the rules being used and will be brought in at the cost of the host school. The NAIA Competitive Dance Rulebook does NOT need to be used to count as a competition toward the minimum/maximum requirements during the regular season. This is similar to when another championship sport plays against an NCAA institution, and the teams do not play with NAIA specific rules.

To Qualify for Postseason

Teams must compete in a minimum of four (4) competitions, at least three (3) competitions must be approved NAIA competitions. An approved NAIA competition must use approved NAIA Judges, Scoresheets, and NDA Rules, Rubrics, and NAIA Modifications. If a team competes in more than 10 competitions during the regular season, and/or do not attend their Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group Tournament, then they will have violated their declaration.

NAIA Postseason competition begins with a team's Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group Championship or end of day on **Saturday, March 13**. NAIA Postseason events do not count towards min/max competitions.

CONDUCT IN COMPETITION

GENERAL CODE OF CONDUCT

All participants agree to conduct themselves in a manner displaying good sportsmanship and in line with the values of the NAIA Champions of Character program throughout the event. The coach of each team is responsible for seeing team members, coaches, parents, and any other person affiliated with the team conduct themselves accordingly.

1. No coach/competitor during competition or after scores are posted may disrespectfully address a judge/administrator or gesture in such a manner as to indicate resentment.
2. No coach/competitor shall make insulting or disparaging remarks to or about opposing teams or judges or questioning the integrity of a judge. (I.e. suggesting bias or cheating).
3. No coach/competitor shall attempt to influence a judge's decision.
4. No coach/competitor shall use profanity or vulgarity or use derogatory remarks or personal comments during or after the competition.
5. No coach/competitor after competition and scores have been completed shall post disrespecting public comments on judging to or on any type of media.

EJECTIONS AND SUSPENSIONS

An ejection is an action enforced in conjunction with competition by an official consistent with the playing rules in that sport. A suspension is required by NAIA bylaws (Article 6, Section B, Item 7) as an additional consequence related to ejections in conjunction with competition.

Ejections are not subject to appeal. Some sport rules allow protests through an official process outlined in each sport rule book.

Suspensions may be appealed starting with the Conference/Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions). An institution must submit an appeal to their conference within 72 hours of the completion of contest. The conference will submit a recommendation to the national office within 72 hours of receiving the appeal from the institution. The Conduct and Ethics Committee is responsible for all appeals related to suspensions due to ejections of a coach and/or student-athlete.



Once an appeal with appropriate signatures has been submitted to the conference, the student-athlete/coach may continue to participate through the appeal process. If the appeal is not approved, then the student-athlete/coach must sit out of the next scheduled contest(s).

A suspended person cannot be in the competitive venue the day of the contest or communicate with any team personnel or game officials the day of the contest. The student-athlete/coach will normally be removed from the venue during a suspension. However, the game manager will use their best discretion on what is appropriate to risk management procedures regarding their venue.

Ejection reports must be completed by the NAIA game official ejecting a student-athlete or coach. The form must be submitted to the NAIA within 48 hours after the completion of the contest. [Ejection Report Form](#)

POSTSEASON COMPETITION

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

CREDENTIAL INFORMATION

The official party for each team participating in postseason play is up to 24 players in uniform – 20 athletes on the floor and a maximum of 4 alternates and up to 4 support staff. Each team will receive a maximum number of 28 credentials (24 student-athlete credentials and 4 official party credentials).

The deadline for certifying the official roster and performance lineup is prior to the first round of any postseason competition conference/Continental Athletic Conference/unaffiliated grouping, qualifying competition or national championship. Once the event begins, no athlete may participate who is not on the official roster and performance lineup.

Official Postseason Roster forms will now be filled out via [NAIA Connect](#) and sent to the NAIA National Office. If you do not have a login account, please contact naiacconnectsupport@naia.org. Once you login, please follow these [instructions](#).

MEDICAL PERSONNEL

Each team is allowed up to two athletic training/medical personnel on the team sideline. One of which must be an ATC, MD, or DO. A licensed health care provider's license information/number must be submitted in the application in order to receive any medical/athletic training credentials for your team. Applications will close 72 hours before the event starts. Medical personnel credentials can be picked up during team check-in/registration, or at the on-site Athletic Trainers meeting, only with a photo ID.

Please apply here for medical personnel credential: [LINK](#)

SPORTS INFORMATION/MEDIA PERSONNEL

All SIDs/Media personnel will need to apply for a credential for the final site. Applications will close 72 hours before the event starts. Media Credentials can be picked up directly from the on-site Media Coordinator during coaches check-in or at the box office only with photo ID. Only those that have applied for Media Credentials may pick up their credentials.

Please apply here for Media credential: [LINK](#)

ADMINISTRATOR PERSONNEL

All Presidents and Athletic Directors from qualifying teams will each receive two credentials. These credentials can be picked up at the box office/will call.

All other administrators will receive free admission with their NAIA membership card when presented at the box office.

ROSTER AND LINE-UP CHANGES

For Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group Championships that call for preliminary competition between conference teams, performance lineup changes cannot be made once the preliminary competition begins.

A player may be replaced on the official roster between the Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group Championship and NAIA National Championship by any eligible player whose name is included on the NAIA Official Eligibility Form for the current season. The coach will need to hand-carry a copy of the eligibility form to each tournament if a performance lineup change is necessary.



For the national championship, performance lineup changes are permissible between the prelims and the start of the final round only in the event of injury, illness, or family emergency. Replacements are permitted from among eligible athletes only. The changes must be reported to the Championship Director prior to warmups for the finals.

EXPENSES

Each participating team shall be responsible for its own expenses en route to, during and from all postseason events.

COACHES RESPONSIBILITY

The coach or designated person for each participating team must be in attendance and is responsible for their team at all times while at the site of the Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Grouping Championship and National Championship. This person shall accept the responsibility for the conduct of their student-athletes at the National Championship site, during the championship and at all activities connected with the team's participation. In case of property damage, the offending institution shall be held financially responsible.

INSURANCE

Each participating team shall provide its own medical, hospitalization, travel and accident insurance for all members of its official party.

SCORING AT CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

Scores from Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Championships must be reported to the NAIA Stat System (<https://stats.mynaia.org>) at the completion of the event.

Scoring at Championships

Final scores at the Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated grouping championships and National Championship will be determined by the following system:

1. Teams will be scored by all panel officials (in the same manner as regular season).
2. Scores will be ranked in order from highest to lowest.
3. The preliminary score will determine performance order for the final round of competition. Final round performance order begins with the lowest scoring team and finishes with the highest.
4. A final event score will be calculated that reflects a preliminary round score weighed at 25% and a final round score weighed at 75%. Example: Preliminary Round Score: 91.5; Final Round Score: 89.3; Take 25% of 91.5 = 22.875; Take 75% of 89.3 = 66.975. Add 22.875 and 66.975 for a final event score of 89.85.
5. Teams will then be ranked from highest final event score to lowest final event score with the highest score being named the winner.
6. In the event of a tie, the score from finals will be used to break the tie. This process will also be used, if necessary, to determine qualifiers for the national championship.
7. Scores should be available to coaches immediately following the announcement of all final scores and rankings.
8. The outcome of all contests is under the jurisdiction of the on-site officials and all disputes, protests, etc. must be settled directly with the head officials. If a mathematical error is found, then all errors must be reported to the official scorers or sports information staff within 20 minutes of final score announcements for review.

Announcing Final Scores – see National Championship section.

CONFERENCE/UNAFFILIATED GROUP TOURNAMENTS

ADMINISTRATION

The Competitive Dance Conference Championships are planned and administered by each respective host under the leadership of the Competitive Dance Championship Sport Manager.

If available, a conference/CAC/unaffiliated grouping's Competitive Dance Chair will serve as the administrator(s) for their respective Conference Championship in cooperation with the host site Athletic Director. If not available, the host Athletic Director, or a designated person, may serve in this capacity. All Conference Championships must determine a winner.

All Conference Championships must include a contingency plan in case the competition cannot be completed on the originally scheduled date. The qualification deadline will not be extended because of weather.



DATES AND SITES

Each conference/CAC/unaffiliated group is required to have a plan in place to alternate the hosting of their national qualifying tournament within the conference/CAC/unaffiliated group on an annual basis.

Deadline for completion of NAIA Competitive Dance national qualifying competitions is March 13, 2027.

DETERMINING NATIONAL QUALIFIER HOSTS

Each Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Grouping must submit a tournament plan no later than **November 1st** (November 2nd for 2027) annually. Only one plan should be submitted per conference/CAC/unaffiliated grouping. Contact [Championship Sport Manager](#) for more information.

FINANCES

The host site for all conference and national qualifying competitions is responsible for the following:

1. Compensation of officials - The compensation of officials will need to include travel expenses, if necessary.
2. Ordering awards, if applicable.
3. Administrative expenses - Including security, ticket personnel, public address announcer, scorer, timer, etc.
4. Expenses of game administrator, if applicable.

OFFICIALS/JUDGES

Officials for conference/CAC/unaffiliated grouping championship contents shall be assigned by the conference grouping Assignor. Compensation is the responsibility of the host institution.

Officials must be registered through RefQuest. It is recommended that all postseason officials (conference competitions and national championship) should have worked a minimum of two NAIA competitions.

TEAM QUALIFICATION AND SELECTION

Qualification

1. Qualifying Competition Criteria
 - a. Teams and athletes competing must meet eligibility requirements set through the NAIA eligibility center.
 - b. Score criteria, divisions, score sheets, routine requirements, etc. will follow the same format outlined for the NAIA Cheer & Dance National Championship.
2. Prelims/Finals: The competition will be a one-day event including both a preliminary round and a final round. Preliminary scores will seed the teams for the final round. If a qualifying competition host is hosting both a cheer and dance qualifier, the events must take place on two (2) consecutive days unless approved by NAIA Sport Manager.

Selection

1. National Championship Qualifying Process – Conference Direct.
 - a. The top team from each eligible-qualifying competition automatically advances to the national championship as an automatic berth.
 - b. Up to two automatic berths will be awarded to a conference/CAC/unaffiliated qualifying grouping based on the number of teams participating – 1 Auto berth per 6+ teams; 2 Auto berths per 12+ teams.
2. The NAIA Competitive Dance National Selection Committee will select the remaining at-large berths:
 - a. Any declared varsity competitive Dance teams who competed at a conference competition and met the minimum number of competitions will be considered for the National Championships.
 - b. Any team that is not in an affiliated conference/CAC/unaffiliated conference can only qualify for the national championships as an At-Large Team.
3. Twelve (12) Dance teams will advance to the national championship.

CHAMPIONSHIP SELECTION APPEALS PROCESS

If there is misapplication of NAIA policy and procedures regarding tournament selection, an institution may appeal to the NAIA National Office.

Criteria for filing an appeal –

1. A written appeal citing the specific NAIA policies and/or procedures that have been misapplied must be submitted to the NAIA National Office within 24 hours from the time the tournament field has been released.
2. Once an appeal has been submitted a response will be provided within 24 hours from receipt of the appeal.
3. Appeals must be submitted and signed by the Athletics Director and President of the institution.



The NAC liaison will report any concerns to the NAIA National Office immediately following the conclusion of the selection.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

ADMINISTRATION

The NAIA Competitive Dance Championship is under the direct control and supervision of the NAIA and the Competitive Dance Championship Committee. The Championship Committee is responsible for the management of all performances and the general welfare of participating teams and coaches. NAIA Site Manager, the Host, and the Championship Committee will conduct a tournament coaches' meeting and coordinate both pre- and post-championship ceremonies. The Championship Committee consists of three coaches who do not have a team competing in the national championship. The committee will be selected by the NAIA National Office.

The National Championship Host determination will take place through a [Bid Process](#) facilitated by the NAIA National Office.

FORMAT

The National Championship is a two-day event with the preliminary round completed on Friday and the final round completed on Saturday.

National prelim performance order: Teams receiving automatic bids will receive the last performance order spots determined by random draw. The remaining at-large bids prelim performance order will also be determined by random draw for the earlier performances.

National final performance order: Teams will be reordered for finals. Teams will be performing in ascending order based on preliminary round scores.

Team registration, a coaches' meeting and the open student athlete experience will be held prior to the start of the competition. Time should be allotted on Friday morning before the preliminary round for all teams to practice.

ENTRY FEES

Each Cheer or Dance Team will be required to submit a \$500 team entry fee to the Host. The Host may also add a per participant fee for the Student-Athlete Experience Event.

All Fees must be paid in full no later than Coaches Check-In at the National Championships. Any team that has not paid their fees may be subject to dismissal from the Championships.

TEAM HOUSING

All participating teams **MUST** stay at the Hosts' designated hotels. Failure to do so would make a team **INELIGIBLE** for participation.

PARTICIPATION IN FUNCTIONS AT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

All participating teams and individuals competing in a national championship, including opening rounds, must attend all functions including formal and arranged gatherings, Coaches' Meetings, Student-Athlete Experience Events, and Teaming Up for Character Events. Failure to comply will result in a penalty of a \$1,500 fine to the institution.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

If inclement weather should cause travel delays for any team(s) competing in the National Championship, it will be up to the discretion of the NAIA Championship Sport Manager and the Championship Committee to make changes to the National Championship schedule to accommodate such delays.

It is the responsibility of the host Medial Director/Athletic Trainer at NAIA Championship events to determine when an event should be suspended and when it is safe to return to play as the result of severe weather. The Head Athletic Trainer is to notify the NAIA Championship Sport Manager who, in collaboration with the appropriate personnel (Host and Competition Committee, and NAIA National Office), will implement the predetermined action plan for both player and spectator safety.

OFFICIALS/JUDGES

Six (6) officials (five (5) Panel and one (1) Deductions Judge) will be selected to work the NAIA Competitive Dance National Championship. Officials must be registered and certified NAIA Officials. It is recommended that all postseason officials (qualifying competitions and national championship) should have worked two NAIA competitions

RELATED INFORMATION

Prior to both the Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Grouping Championships and the NAIA National Championship, the Championship Resources Page will be posted on the NAIA website for all potential qualifying teams to review, including specific instructions regarding transportation, housing, practices and all responsibilities upon qualification.

Practice – Teams will be assigned a practice time on Friday morning prior to the event. Practice times will be announced at the qualifiers call the week prior to the championship.

Team Check-in & Coaches Meeting – The Head Coach is required to officially check-in their team for the National Championship. Check-in times will be preassigned and are not flexible. Check-in will include verifying and signing the official roster, submitting the performance lineup, verifying or turning in the music wavier, receiving athlete and official party credentials, receiving event gifts, and attending the assigned music-check time.

Shortly after all check-ins are completed, the Head Coach (assistants are permitted to attend, players may not attend) must attend the onsite Coaches Meeting; this is **Mandatory**! The meeting will be conducted by the Host and Championship Committee. It is not required for members of the Officiating team to be in attendance, though the Head Official has the right to attend.

Student-Athlete Experience Event – This event will be held the evening or day prior to the national championship. All teams and individual qualifiers must attend this event.

Teaming Up for Character™ – The Teaming Up for Character™ event will be held in conjunction with the host community. At least two representatives from your team (all are welcome) are required to participate in this event.

Competition Warm-up – A separate facility is used for warm-ups at the National Championship where sound from the warm-up should not impact competition performances.

Coaches Box and Support for Performing Cheer and Dance Teams:

1. Only members of the competing team (athletes in uniform and spotters in Cheer) will be permitted to enter the Performance Area when their team is announced.
2. A designated Coaches Box will be placed in front of the performance area for members of the Official Party (approved staff and alternates).
3. A maximum of 8 members of the Official Party will be permitted in the Coaches Box; Credentials will be required to be in the Coaches Box.
4. All members of the approved Staff and Alternates will be required to adhere to the Coaches' Code of Conduct.
5. During the Competition, members of the approved Staff and Alternates are not permitted to stand, distract the Judges panel, generate sounds (hitting the floor or wall), or attempt to add to the performance.
6. Violations of the Coaches Box may result in an Unsportsmanlike Behavior Violation (5-point deduction, applied to that day's score) and potential removal from the competition.
7. All non-performing teams and spectators are expected to view the competition from the bleachers or other approved viewing areas.
 - a. Any team that is not directly related to the current performing team is not permitted to be on the competition floor, adjacent floor, or coaches box. This includes a dance team that may be from the same school as a performing cheer team (and vice versa).
 - b. Violations of this policy will result in the removal of the team from the competition.
 - c. Removal of any team will result in an overall score of zero.
8. The Host intends to secure the first two rows of bleachers for support groups of the competing team. However, once the team has finished their performance, the support groups will need to vacate the first two row for the next competing team.

Announcing Final Scores

1. Preliminary Round
 - a. Scores are announced as they are tabulated and verified.
 - b. Team standings and performance order for the final round are announced once the preliminary round is completed.
2. Final Round



- a. All teams are brought to the performance floor.
- b. Scores are announced from lowest 2-day totals up to highest.
- c. Teams are expected to remain seated until after the announcement and recognition of the winners and any special presentations.

Awards – Team trophies are presented to the champion, runner-up, and third and fourth-place finishers.

TRAVEL

SHORTS TRAVEL MANAGEMENT

Qualifying institutions are responsible for making their own travel arrangements to the National Championship.

The Official Travel partner of the NAIA is Short's Travel Management. Please contact **Short's Travel (816-323-6405)** to book your travel arrangements.

Short's Travel has contacts with charter air travel as well as charter buses for ground travel.

NATIONAL CAR RENTAL

National Car Rental/Enterprise Rent-a-Car is offering special rates for the NAIA National Championship. Teams will be able to access these special rates by providing the special NAIA contract ID #XZ05146.

Click [here](#) for account setup and instructions to use code.

MASTER'S TRANSPORTATION

Master's Transportation is the official provider of all shuttles/buses for your sale, lease and rental needs. Please contact Maria Duran at 816-979-3493 or mduran@masterstransportation.com for more information.



NAIA POLICY HANDBOOK INFORMATION

The NAIA Policy Handbook can be found at [HERE](#). Please refer directly to the NAIA Policy Handbook for the following –

Competition

- A. Declaration of Intent to Participate – Bylaws, Article I, Section L
- B. Frequency of Play and Scheduling – Bylaws, Article I, Section F
- C. Criteria for Countable Contests – National Administrative Council, Article XXV, Section A, Item 12
- D. Reporting Results – National Administrative Council, Article XXV, Section A
- E. Forfeits – National Administrative Council, Article XI
- F. Conduct in Competition Guidelines – National Administrative Council, Article IV
- G. Ejection Policy – Bylaws, Article VI Section B Item 7
- H. Drug Testing and Reinstatement Procedures – Bylaws, Article VIII

Eligibility

- A. Definitions for Eligibility – Bylaws, Article V, Section B
- B. Eligibility Requirements – Bylaws, Article V, Section C
- C. Transfer Rules – Bylaws, Article V, Sections F-H
- D. Amateur Rules and Reinstatement – Bylaws, Article VII

Recruiting & Financial Aid

- A. Recruitment – Bylaws, Article II, Section D
- B. Campus Visitations and Tryouts of Prospective Students – Bylaws, Article II, Section C
- C. Financial Assistance – Bylaws, Article II, Section B
- D. Financial Aid Limits – Council of Presidents, Article XII

SUNDAY POLICY PLAY

As a matter of policy, NAIA Opening Round and National Championship competition will not be scheduled on Sunday. See NAIA Policy Handbook, National Administrative Council, Article XXIII for additional information.

DRUG TESTING

Drug testing may be done at any randomly selected NAIA National Championship competition for performance enhancing drugs. In accordance with the guidelines set forth by the National Drug Testing and Education Committee, the National Office will select which championships will incorporate drug testing each year. Student-athletes may be tested before, during and/or after NAIA National Championships.

For more information regarding championship drug testing, the [National Administrative Council Drug Testing Policy Manual](#), the safety of supplements and over-the-counter medications and resources to increase awareness on your campus, please visit – www.naia.org/wellness

DRUG TESTING CONSENT FORM

Each academic year all eligible NAIA student-athletes must sign a [Drug Testing Consent Form](#) in which he or she consents to be tested for the use of drugs prohibited by the NAIA Banned Substance List to participate in any NAIA National Championship competitions. This consent form shall be administered by the institution.

To ensure all student-athletes participating in NAIA National Championship competitions have signed a consent form and such form is on record with the institution, a representative of each institution participating in any NAIA National Championship competition must sign an Official Certification of Student-Athlete Consent Form at check-in.

It is recommended that before the season begins that an institution has all student-athletes complete the form to minimize the possibility of issues occurring when the postseason roster is submitted at a NAIA National Championship.

MEDICAL EXEMPTION FORM

The NAIA recognizes that some banned substances are used for legitimate medical purposes. Accordingly, the NAIA allows exemptions to be made for those student-athletes with a documented medical history demonstrating the need for regular use of such a drug. Exemptions may be granted for substances included in the following classes of banned drugs – Stimulants, anabolic agents, beta blockers, diuretics, peptide hormones, anti-estrogens, and beta-2 agonists.

[Medical Exemption Form](#)

REPORTING RESULTS AND STATISTICS

REPORTING RESULTS/SUBMITTING SCORES

Mandated by the NAC, all contest results must be reported to the NAIA scoreboard (Dance Stat System) within 24 hours of completion.

Regular Season Neutral Site Tournament Statistics: The host institution is responsible for recording official statistics, for all participating teams, for those sports in which a weekly national statistical report is conducted. This includes all contests for a tournament, classic, tri-match, or any multi-team event of the like that an institution hosts, regardless of the venue or if the host institution is competing. Those sports include men's and women's volleyball, football, men's and women's soccer, men's and women's lacrosse, men's and women's basketball, competitive cheer, competitive dance, softball, and baseball. The home team of a tournament, classic, tri-match or any multi-team event must provide statistical services for all games, regardless of the venue. Failure of this rule will result in ALL games played in said event will be a no-contest. ****In the sport of Competitive Dance, this requires institutions to post any non-NAIA competition and results to the schedule on the official team website.**

Neutral Site Host

If a Host Site School is not competing in a Hosted Event, the Host must determine and notify (at least two weeks in advance) which team will be considered the Host Team and responsible for reporting scores. It is important for the Host School SID to communicate with the assigned School's SID as well.

Institutions failing to report results for two consecutive weeks, or four total weeks during the season will be subject to a monetary penalty. The first violation will continue to be a warning. Any second violation (first penalty) will be a \$500 fine. The third violation will be a \$1,000 fine and a loss of postseason awards. The fourth violation will be a \$1,000 fine and will be dealt with at the discretion of membership services. Fines will be due within 30 days of notification.

Competition scores and team rosters using NAIA Competitive Dance Rulebook must be reported in the [NAIA Competitive Cheer & Competitive Dance Stats System](#), and on the school web site under schedule/results. The host institution of the competition is the responsible party to submit all results from all institutions in the NAIA Competitive Dance Stats System.

Competitions that are not scored with the NAIA Competitive Dance Rulebook are still reported to the Dance Stat System as a non-NAIA Competition. Results from non-NAIA competitions will still count against a team's minimum/maximum number of required competitions, though the scores will not impact the overall season average. If a team attends a non-NAIA event, then that team must act as Host and report their results into the NAIA Stat System. If multiple NAIA teams attend a non-NAIA event, those coaches should communicate and determine one individual to act as Host for reporting scores into the NAIA Stat System. For questions about reporting results from competitions that are only Jazz, only Hip Hop, only Pow, please contact your [NAIA Championship Sport Manager](#).

The following information is needed to publish a non-NAIA Event:

1. One of the NAIA teams in the competition must act as Host and set-up the competition in the Stat System.
2. All team's Rosters must be in the Stat System to be included in the posted competition.
3. Performance Lineups must be sent to the Host.
4. The Time of the Performance must be uploaded into the system.
5. A Final Score must be uploaded into the system.

Once scores are published, only the National Office will have the ability to make edits to competitions and scores reported.

Additional information regarding the Stat System, how to build a competition, upload scores, and publish/finalize an event can be found on the [Coaches Corner](#) and in the Dance Host Manual.

The public database of scores and team rosters can be found as a link on the [NAIA Competitive Dance sport webpage](#).

Reporting team scores on the NAIA website provides greater team exposure to media, coaches, potential student-athletes and fans.

STATISTICS

It is strongly recommended that the host institution be responsible for all teams' official statistics. The opposing team can file an appeal if they feel an error was made in the official stats up to 72 hours after the conclusion of the contest. The appeal must be



filed with the home team up to 72 hours after the contest and both teams must change the stats. Visit the [Coaches Corner](#) to use the Cheer and Dance Score Correction Form.

It is vital that sport records maintain a certain level of integrity and accuracy. The NAIA urges the official statistician for every sport to become familiar and have a working knowledge of the statistical manual.

AWARDS

Nomination details and forms for the following national awards can be found [HERE](#).

ALL-AMERICA

NAIA All-America tryouts will be video recorded during a standard submission time between Thursday - Saturday prior to the National Championship. Submissions are due by 4:00pm CST on Saturday, March 20. Additional policies, requirements, recording and submission information can be found on the [Coaches Corner](#) in the Resources section under All-America Process/Requirements.

Any individual wishing to try out for All-America must have competed in a minimum of four regular season competitions.

Recording Window: **March 18 – 20, 2027, Final Submission deadline March 20, 2027, at 4:00pm CST.** The NAIA Athletics Communications Department will release the NAIA Competitive Dance All-America teams on April 1.

The All-America Committee will determine the All-America Teams. The Committee will be comprised of the Executive Committee Past President and 2nd Vice President, one member of the National Selection Committee, and three coaches (one Coach from each ARC). The National Selection Committee member is to provide administrative oversight to the committee and is a non-voting member.

The All-America Committee shall select first, second, and third teams each consisting of 14 players. Any Conference Player of the Year that is not selected to a team will automatically be placed on third team. The third team is permitted to be larger than 14 players. If any ties occur for the final placement of any of the teams, then those teams may be larger than 14 players. The Dancer with the highest overall scores is named "Dancer of the Year". A tie for the highest scores with two Dancers will be named Co-Dancers of the Year. Ties with 3+ athletes will be broken with a tiebreaker based on skill vs. routine.

CHAMPIONS OF CHARACTER INDIVIDUAL STUDENT AWARD

Each participating team shall nominate one student-athlete that has shown a documented display of exemplary character and sportsmanship during competition, on campus and in the community that exemplify the core values of Integrity, Respect, Responsibility, Sportsmanship and Servant Leadership. Nominations should be made on the NAIA Champions of Character [LINK](#) and no later than February 15, 2027.

NAIA SCHOLAR-ATHLETE

Criteria for the NAIA Scholar-Athlete Award are as follows:

1. Nominee must be a sophomore or above in academic standing;
2. Nominee must have been in attendance at the nominating institution one full academic year at the time of the nomination deadline – January 31.
3. Nominee has a minimum grade point average of 3.50 (on a 4.0 scale) at the time of the nomination deadline (for transfer students the GPA is only at current NAIA institution).
4. Nominee has been certified as eligible and is listed on the eligibility certificate submitted to conference eligibility chair.
5. Nomination form is complete and submitted through SIDHelp.
6. All the above information is to be received by **January 31, 2027** to be eligible for national press release/website, certificate and honors database – **All criteria must be met by this date.**

NOTE – There are no statistical/playing requirements needed to receive this award.

NAIA Scholar-Athlete nominations will be filled out via the [NAIA Connect](#). **NAIA Connect is the only way to nominate student-athletes as a NAIA Scholar-Athlete.**

If you do not have an account, please sign up and create your own. Access will be granted (usually) within 24 hours. Nominations will be processed entirely electronically. To complete a nomination, the student-athlete must have approved and signed a release



of their cumulative grade point average for nominating purposes. If you or your sports information office does not have a signed release form from the nominated student-athlete on file, a blank document (PDF) will be available for download.

This release form does not need to be turned into the NAIA National Office. You are asked to retain it for your institutional records. The administrator nominating the student-athlete will sign electronically. To be eligible for listing on website or honors database, forms must be submitted by **January 31, 2027**. LATE nominations will not be accepted.

To download a template to create an award certificate for your student-athletes that have earned this honor, [CLICK HERE](#).

RED BANNER SCHOLAR AWARD

New for 2026-2027 – The Red Banner Scholar Award recognizes the highest level of academic achievement among student-athletes competing at each NAIA National Championship Final Site. The award celebrates the NAIA's commitment to developing champions in the classroom, character, and competition by honoring the student-athlete(s) with the highest cumulative institutional grade point average participating in the national championship.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for the Red Banner Scholar Award, a student-athlete must:

1. Be listed on the official active championship roster (team sports) or be an official qualifier and active participant (individual sports) at the NAIA National Championship Final Site.
2. Be recognized as an NAIA Scholar-Athlete for the applicable academic year.
3. Meet all established NAIA Scholar-Athlete eligibility requirements and be submitted through the official NAIA Scholar-Athlete nomination process by the applicable sport deadline.

Selection Process

The NAIA National Office will determine the recipient(s) using approved NAIA Scholar-Athlete data.

- The eligible student-athlete with the highest cumulative institutional GPA at the national championship final site will receive the Red Banner Scholar Award.
- In the event of a tie for the highest GPA, all tied student-athletes will be recognized as co-recipients.
- No additional nomination is required beyond the NAIA Scholar-Athlete submission process.

SCHOLAR TEAM AWARD

In recognition of academic achievement, the NAIA names a Scholar Team for all sports in which Scholar-Athletes are recognized.

Based on a cumulative 3.0 season GPA for the current academic year on a 4.0 scale, all members of the team who appear on the eligibility certificate will be included in the GPA compilation.

The deadline for Scholar Team nominations is June 30. For the NAIA Scholar Team Award go to [NAIA Connect](#).

NAIA COACH OF THE YEAR AWARD

Each conference/CAC/unaffiliated grouping selects a Coach of the Year using its own method of determination.

National Coach of the Year

The National Coach of the Year is determined by a vote taken of all coaches through an online ballot after the national championship. Ballot includes all coaches participating in the national championship. The award will be given during the annual business meeting of the coaches and later released on [NAIA.org](#). In the case of a tie, it should be awarded to the Coach who finished higher nationally.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS

The NAIA maintains a standardized awards program for all National Championships. National Championship awards are provided to the official parties of the top four teams. Team trophies are awarded to the National Championship team, second-place team and third and fourth-place teams.



ORDERING AWARDS

Appropriate conference tournament awards are to be ordered by the conference chair and are the financial responsibility of the conference or the conference tournament host institution. Official NAIA awards MUST be ordered from:

Collegiate Awards

18081 E. Trafficway, Springfield, MO 65802

Contact – Brad Stout – brads@collegiateawards.com

COACHES ASSOCIATION

NAIA-COMPETITIVE DANCE COACHES ASSOCIATION (NAIA-CDCA)

The NAIA-Competitive Dance Coaches Association (NAIA-CDCA) is an organization of collegiate Dance coaches at NAIA institutions. NAIA-CDCA membership dues are paid by the institution as part of its NAIA membership dues for all people who receive all or part of their salary for responsibilities within the athletic department. The NAIA-CDCA studies and makes recommendations through legislation of all actions affecting the organization and administration of the NAIA Dance programs.

MEMBERSHIP

Active membership shall consist of Competitive Dance coaches who are current members of the NAIA and are actively engaged in coaching Competitive Dance at a NAIA institution.

For the purposes of voting by members, each active member institution in good standing is entitled to one vote.

NAIA-CDCA VOTING

NAIA Coaches Associations must have a quorum (at least 50% of eligible voters) for a sport motion to be heard by the National Administrative Council. All voting will be completed using an online process following the business meeting to ensure all head coaches have an opportunity to vote. Motions will still be presented and discussed at the Annual Business meeting. If desired, a "straw poll" can be taken by those present to determine if a motion will be opened for vote to the full coaches association.

SPORT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

The Legislative Committee (Executive Committee) will review all submitted Sport Motions prior to the Annual Business Meeting for potential recommendations, changes, additions or deletions.

2026-2027 NAIA-CDCA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

POSITION/TITLE	NAME, SCHOOL & CONTACT INFO
President	Ashley Kaman , Aquinas College, 616-632-2470, kamana@aquinas.edu
First Vice President	Kinleigh Brecheisen , Univ. of Saint Mary, Kan., 785-643-4666, Kinleigh.Brecheisen@stmary.edu
Second Vice President	Erin Sibbald , Midland University, 402-941-6488, sibbald@midlandu.edu
Secretary	Mandi Maser , Concordia University, 402-643-7320, mandi.maser@cune.edu
Past President	Lynsey Payne , Baker University (Kan.), 785-594-8499, lynsey.payne@bakeru.edu
NAC Liaison	

LEADERSHIP

Section I: The NAIA-CDCA elects officers who provide leadership for the Association. The officers shall consist of a President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary and Past President. The officers shall be elected from the acting membership of the Association at the annual business meeting and must represent NAIA member institutions in good standing.

Section II These five individuals shall make up the NAIA-CDCA Executive Committee. All positions are for two (2) year-terms.

1. Secretary – Nomination and vote required.
 - a. Does not progress to a new role.

- b. Can serve two consecutive terms, the person must be nominated and re-elected into this position.
2. 2nd VP – Nomination and vote required.
 - a. Does not progress to a new role.
 - b. Can serve two consecutive terms, the person must be nominated and re-elected into this position.
3. 1st VP – Nomination and vote required.
 - a. Progresses to President.
4. President – No vote required, unless progressing 1st VP resigns.
 - a. Progresses to Past President.
5. Past President – No vote required.
 - a. If no progression of President is available, then current Past President may serve consecutive terms or any other Past President may serve.
 - b. May be elected to any open position after serving.

Section III: The progression in office shall be from 1st Vice President to President to Past President. In the event a vacancy occurs, the normal progression from 1st Vice President through President shall be accelerated to fill the vacant office. The NAIA-CDCA Executive Committee is empowered to appoint officers from the membership at large to fill a vacant position. Such an appointee shall remain in office until the next annual business meeting when a duly elected officer can be elected by the membership to fill the rest of the existing term or a new two-year term if elections are in order.

DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

Association at all official functions. The President shall plan the agenda and preside over all official business meetings of the NAIA-CDCA.

Section I: The duties of the 1st Vice President are to assume the leadership of the Association at all meetings and functions when the President is not in attendance.

Section II: The duties of the 2nd Vice President are to assume the leadership of the Association at all meetings and functions when the President and 1st Vice President are not in attendance.

Section III: The duties of the Secretary are to take minutes at all meetings of the NAIA-CDCA, submit the minutes to the NAIA National Office for circulation to the membership, maintain records and perform other duties as assigned by the President.

Section IV: The Past President shall serve on the Executive Committee of the NAIA-CDCA and act as a consultant to the President.

It is expected that each member of the Executive Committee be present for conference calls and meetings. Removal from the committee is possible based on inactivity.

NAIA Coaches Associations must have a quorum (at least 50% of eligible voters) in order for a sport motion to be heard by the National Administrative Council. All voting will be completed using an online process following the business meeting in order to ensure all head coaches have an opportunity to vote. Motions will still be presented and discussed at the Annual Business meeting. If desired, a "straw poll" can be taken by those present to determine if a motion will be opened for vote to the full coaches' association.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

The NAIA-CDCA business meeting will be the last Wednesday in April via Zoom. The 2026-27 business meeting will be held on April 28, 2027.



NAIA Competitive Dance Performance Lineup

Competing Team: _____

Coach: _____

Event Name: _____

Event Date: _____

Host for Competition: _____

Athletes on Floor (ALPHABETICAL BY LAST NAME)

Alternates (ALPHABETICAL BY LAST NAME)

1 _____

1 _____

2 _____

2 _____

3 _____

3 _____

4 _____

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

7 _____

8 _____

9 _____

10 _____

11 _____

12 _____

13 _____

14 _____

15 _____

16 _____

17 _____

18 _____

19 _____

20 _____



DANCE PERFORMANCE OUTLINE

School: _____ **# of Dancers:** _____

Routines must clearly encompass a minimum of 30 consecutive seconds of all three styles: Jazz, Pom and Hip Hop. Each style will be judged. Please refer to the NDA College Rule Book for additional information and routine requirements. Please list your routine in chronological order, including an introduction and ending, if applicable.

Beginning Time in Music	End Time in Music	Total Time	Style (Pom, Jazz, Hop Hop)	Musical Notes
Example: 00:00	Example: 00:30	Example: 30 seconds	Example: Jazz	Example: From beginning to drumbeat



NAIA SCORING GUIDELINES



CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

TEAM PERFORMANCE

- Prelims AND Finals for this division will be conducted indoors.
- **Routine is not to exceed 2 minutes (2:00).**
- Routines must incorporate at least 30 consecutive seconds of Jazz, Pom and Hip Hop. Each style will be judged. See jazz, hip hop, and pom category descriptions below for additional details.
- Poms and/or hand-held props may be used in this category but are not required.
- See score sheet and range of scores for more information.

JUDGING SCALE FOR DANCE FUNDAMENTALS

Total points received per caption consider **overall quality and quantity of movement (both variety of elements and number of members performing element)** throughout the routine. Appropriate difficulty level is considered for every caption, with the exception of Collegiate Image and Performance Impression. Specific elements performed that are not listed in one of the following captions will be placed in corresponding captions at the discretion of the judges.

Zero points will be given in a caption if elements for that particular caption are not executed.

COLLEGIATE IMAGE

This category will be utilized to evaluate the overall representation by the team of its institution of higher education, the core values and standards that commonly exist and are mandated by such institution's administration, faculty, staff, alumni and student body. This Evaluation will be based on, but not limited to the following:

SPORTSMANSHIP

The team and each participating member/coach should constantly display good sportsmanship throughout the entire performance regarding respect for themselves, other teams and the viewing audience. Teams should refrain from any taunting, bragging or suggestive expressions or gestures as well as discrimination of any nature.

PERFORMANCE INTEGRITY

All aspects of the performance (music, choreography, skills, language, props, etc.) should represent the highest standards as expected by athletes and elite student body representatives at the collegiate level. All aspects of the performance should also be appropriate for a family viewing audience.

SCHOOL REPRESENTATION

How well the institution has been represented by its team's presentation, props and appearance. NDA recommends that the team and each of its members display an overall appearance conducive to serving as public representatives and ambassadors of their institution regarding grooming, traditional and appropriate attire, conservative make-up, uniformity, etc.

PERFORMANCE IMPRESSION

This score reflects overall appeal as well as each individual judge's overall impression of the routine. Elements factored into this score at each judge's discretion are genuine showmanship (face/full body) projection and confidence.



NAIA SCORING GUIDELINES



EXECUTION - JAZZ

RANGE OF SCORES

LOW	Beginning jazz movement executed with substandard technique (in this case “technique” refers to the movement itself, not to skills). Style is inconsistent lacking posture, control, and body placement. Below average extension, contraction/release, core control, spatial awareness, musicality and command of movement. Technical elements are executed with below average technique. Beginning, or substandard, timing and synchronization of style. Memory mistakes as well as placement causing the routine to appear less cohesive. Spacing is substandard.
MEDIUM	Intermediate jazz movement executed with good technique (in this case “technique” refers to the movement itself, not to skills). Style is mostly consistent working on posture, control, and body placement. Average extension, contraction/release, core control, spatial awareness, musicality and command of movement. Technical elements are executed with average technique. Intermediate, or average, timing and synchronization of style. Few memory mistakes; good placement. Spacing is average, but not precise.
HIGH	Advanced jazz movement executed with strong technique (in this case “technique” refers to the movement itself, not to skills). Style is consistent with emphasis on posture, control, and body placement. Crediting superior extension, contraction/release, core control, spatial awareness, musicality and command of movement. Technical elements are executed with strong technique. Advanced, or strong, timing and synchronization of style. Very precise placement. Spacing is precise.

CHOREOGRAPHY - JAZZ

This score reflects what the choreographer created, rather than how the team executed the routine/movement.

RANGE OF SCORES

LOW	Beginning level routine with basic foot work, minimal musical interpretation, dynamics, direction changes, levels and group work. Routine is lacking in overall creativity and originality. Beginning use of the performance space. Routine utilizes minimal formations and formation changes. Transitions are simple and lack continuity within the routine, i.e. walking transitions rather than dancing through to next formation seamlessly.
MEDIUM	Intermediate level routine with average use of foot work, musical interpretation, dynamics, direction changes, levels and group work. Routine showcases creative and original moments but is missing its full potential. Intermediate use of the performance space. May incorporate more interesting formations and formation changes, but still lacking in transition creativity.
HIGH	Advanced level routine with strong use of intricate, complete, full body movement and strong use of musical interpretation, dynamics, direction changes, levels and group work. Creating a complete thought with the movement. Routine illustrates an abundance of creative and original ideas throughout. Appropriate utilization of the team’s ability level and well-balanced and effective incorporation of technical elements. Advanced use of the performance space. Routine utilizes a variety of well-thought out formations and formation changes. Transitions are exciting and seamless. Team Performance Score Sheet: Bridges the gaps between styles seamlessly.

EXECUTION - POM

RANGE OF SCORES

LOW	Beginning pom motions performed at a slow pace, executed with substandard placement and precision, lacking cohesive connection between upper and lower body pom movement. Lacking dynamics, control (motions may be hyper-extended), support of upper body and core control. Motions may be incomplete and unfinished. Below average ability to maintain accuracy, clarity and control when performing motions. Technical elements are executed with below average technique.
-----	---



NAIA SCORING GUIDELINES



MEDIUM	Intermediate pom motions performed at an average pace, executed with good placement and precision with average cohesive connection between upper and lower body pom movement. Average use of dynamics, control, support of upper body and core control. Average ability to maintain accuracy, clarity and control when performing motions. Technical elements are executed with average technique.
HIGH	Advanced pom motions performed at an up tempo pace, executed with exact placement and precision with cohesive connection between upper and lower body pom movement. Strong dynamic motions supported by upper body strength and core control. Crediting ability to maintain accuracy, clarity and control when performing motions. Technical elements are executed with strong technique.

CHOREOGRAPHY - POM

This score reflects what the choreographer created, rather than how the team executed the routine/movement.

RANGE OF SCORES

LOW	Beginning level routine with basic foot work, minimal musical interpretation, dynamics, direction changes, levels and group work. Substandard incorporation of innovative and creative variations and motion variety. Routine is lacking in overall creativity and originality. Overall incorporation of beginning level style specific visuals such as, but not limited to, group/ partner work, level changes, ground work, opposing motions, contagions, etc. Visual effects are accomplished at a slower pace with obvious execution. Routine utilizes minimal formations and formation changes. Transitions are simple and lack continuity within the routine, i.e. walking transitions rather than dancing through to next formation seamlessly.
MEDIUM	Intermediate level routine with average use of foot work, musical interpretation, dynamics, direction changes, levels and group work. Average incorporation of innovative and creative variations and motion variety. Routine showcases creative and original moments but is missing its full potential. Overall incorporation of intermediate level style specific visuals such as, but not limited to, group/ partner work, level changes, ground work, opposing motions, contagions, etc. Visual effects are accomplished at an average pace with good execution. May incorporate more interesting formations and formation changes, but still lacking in transition creativity.
HIGH	Advanced level routine with strong use of intricate, complete, full body movement and strong use of musical interpretation, dynamics, direction changes, levels and group work. Incorporates innovative and creative variations and motion variety. Creating a complete thought with the movement. Routine illustrates an abundance of creative and original ideas throughout. Appropriate utilization of the team's ability level. Overall incorporation of advanced level style specific visuals such as, but not limited to, creative group/partner work, level changes, ground work, opposing motions, contagions, etc. Visual effects are accomplished at a fast pace with seamless execution. Routine utilizes a variety of well-thought out formations and formation changes. Transitions are exciting and seamless. Team Performance Score Sheet: Bridges the gaps between styles seamlessly.

EXECUTION - HIP HOP

RANGE OF SCORES

LOW	Beginning hip hop movement executed with substandard technique. Style is inconsistent needing to work on grounded movement and musicality, flow and control. Below average quality of execution, stabilization, momentum, isolations and rhythm variations. Technical elements are executed with below average technique. Demonstrates a basic or limited understanding of the chosen style(s). Movement quality is inconsistent and lacks fluidity from moment to moment. Overall groove is minimal, indicating a need for further development. Movement intention is unclear, and execution suggests imitation rather than a grounded understanding of the style's foundational elements.
-----	---



NAIA SCORING GUIDELINES



MEDIUM	Intermediate hip hop movement executed with good technique. Style is mostly consistent working on emphasis of grounded movement and musicality, flow and control. Average quality of execution, stabilization, momentum, isolations and rhythm variations. Technical elements are executed with average technique. Demonstrates an intermediate understanding of the chosen style(s). Movement quality is somewhat inconsistent, and fluidity is good from moment to moment. Overall groove is average, with a need for further development. Movement intention is clear overall, although the execution suggests imitation rather than a full grounded understanding of the style's foundational elements.
HIGH	Advanced hip hop movement executed with strong technique. Style is consistent with emphasis on grounded movement and has exceptional musicality, flow and control. Crediting superior quality of execution, stabilization, momentum, isolations and the body's ability to execute rhythm variations. Technical elements are executed with strong technique. Demonstrates a strong understanding of the chosen style(s). Movement quality is consistent and has advanced fluidity from moment to moment. Overall the groove is compelling, movement intention is clear, and the execution suggests a complete grounded understanding of the style's foundational elements.

CHOREOGRAPHY - HIP HOP

This score reflects what the choreographer created, rather than how the team executed the routine/movement.

RANGE OF SCORES

LOW	Beginning level routine with basic foot work, minimal musical interpretation, dynamics, direction changes, levels and group work. Visual effects are accomplished at a slower pace with obvious execution. Routine is lacking in overall creativity and originality. Routine utilizes minimal formations and formation changes. Transitions are simple and lack continuity within the routine, i.e. walking transitions rather than dancing through to next formation seamlessly.
MEDIUM	Intermediate level routine with average use of foot work, musical interpretation, dynamics, direction changes, levels and group work. Visual effects are accomplished at an average pace with good execution. Routine showcases creative and original moments but is missing its full potential. May incorporate more interesting formations and formation changes, but still lacking in transition creativity.
HIGH	Advanced level routine with strong use of intricate, complete, full body movement and strong use of musical interpretation, dynamics, direction changes, levels and group work. Visual effects are accomplished at a fast pace with seamless execution. Creating a complete thought with the movement. Routine illustrates an abundance of creative and original ideas throughout. Appropriate utilization of the team's ability level and well-balanced and effective incorporation of technical elements. Routine utilizes a variety of well-thought out formations and formation changes. Transitions are exciting and seamless. Team Performance Score Sheet: Bridges the gaps between styles seamlessly.

The NAIA Guidelines were developed from the NDA College Guidelines and are being used with permission from Varsity Spirit.



OFFICIAL JUDGE _____

SCORE ★ SHEET

DANCE TEAM PERFORMANCE

		MAXIMUM VALUE	TEAM SCORE
COMMENTS	COLLEGIATE IMAGE Sportsmanship, Integrity, School Representation	10	
	PERFORMANCE IMPRESSION Projection, Expression, Appeal	10	
	JAZZ	EXECUTION Execution of Jazz Style, Extension, Control, Musicality, Difficulty, Uniformity	10
		CHOREOGRAPHY Creativity, Originality, Musical Interpretation, Difficulty, Staging	10
	POM	EXECUTION Motion Placement, Control, Strength, Difficulty, Uniformity	10
		CHOREOGRAPHY Creativity, Originality, Musical Interpretation, Motion Variety, Difficulty, Staging	10
	HIP HOP	EXECUTION Hip Hop Style, Control, Approach, Musicality, Proper Execution of Elements, Difficulty, Uniformity	10
		CHOREOGRAPHY Creativity, Originality, Visual Effects, Difficulty, Staging	10
	TOTAL		



DANCE DEDUCTIONS REFERENCE TABLE

Deduction	Description of Penalty
0.25	Non-costume jewelry violation.
0.5	Time violation, 3-5 seconds.
0.5	Serious falls to the performance floor incurred by one or more dancers that could result in injury or falls from a lift to the performance floor. Note: these falls are typically a result of dancers performing skills beyond their proficiency. This does NOT include elements such as a hand touch in an acrobatic skill, an incomplete rotation of a turn, or a bobble in a lift.
1.0	Safety/General Competition Rule Violation, i.e. a team performs a skill categorized as unsafe or not allowed.
1.5	Time violation, 6-10 seconds.
2.5	Time violation, 11+ seconds.
5.0	Unsportsmanlike conduct by a coach or student athlete, as determined by the competition officials.
5.0	Inappropriate costume/uniform as determined by NDA Rules.
5.0	Use of vulgar or suggestive choreography. This includes, but is not limited to, movements or choreography implying something improper or indecent, appearing offensive or sexual in content, and/or relaying lewd or profane gestures or implications, such as hip thrusting and inappropriate touching, slapping, positioning of body parts and positioning to one another.
5.0	Use of music or words unsuitable for family listening. This includes, but is not limited to, vulgar or suggestive language, swearwords, and connotations of any type of sexual act or behavior, drugs, mention of specific parts of the body, and/or violent acts or behavior. Note: Removing improper language or words from a song and/or replacing it with sound effects or other words constitutes inappropriate and deductions will be made accordingly.

Scores for each caption will range from 0-10, including tenths of points (i.e. 5.5, 9.2, etc.). The maximum number of points on each score sheet does not total 100, so the scores will be entered into a computer that will add the raw totals, average them, and then convert the average score into a 100-point scale. All penalties will be deducted from the converted 100-point scale score to get the FINAL SCORE.

Additional deductions are possible in the areas of submitting Rosters, Performance Outlines, and Interruption of Performance.



DANCE SAFETY/DEDUCTIONS

Score Sheet

School: _____

Number of participants: _____

Time of Routine	Description
	Overtime 3-5 Seconds (.5 deduction)
	Overtime 6-10 Seconds (1.5 deduction)
	Overtime 11+ Seconds (2.5 deduction)

Over Time
Deductions

Inappropriate Infraction	Description (<i>Sportsmanship, inappropriate music, language, routine, etc.</i>)

Total number of Inappropriate Infractions: _____ multiplied by 5.0 =

Other Rule Infractions	Description and Deductions Points

Total of Other Rule
Infractions

TOTAL DEDUCTION =

Add all values in far right column (light grey boxes) to achieve the Total Deduction.

Disqualified? YES NO



TOTALS SHEET

(For use at regular season competitions only.)

School: _____

Official 1	
Official 2	
Official 3	
Official 4	
Official 5	
RAW TOTAL	

Average the officials' scores (divide total by number of officials) to create subtotal

SUBTOTAL OUT OF 80 POINTS

CONVERT TO 100-POINT SCALE

SUBTRACT DEDUCTIONS

Subtract deductions from converted total to create final score

FINAL SCORE	
--------------------	--



PRELIMINARY TOTALS SHEET

(For use at Qualifying Competitions and the National Championship only)

School: _____

Official 1	
Official 2	
Official 3	
Official 4	
Official 5	
RAW TOTAL	

Average the officials' scores (divide total by number of officials) to create subtotal

SUBTOTAL OUT OF 80 POINTS

CONVERT TO 100-POINT SCALE

SUBTRACT DEDUCTIONS

Subtract deductions from converted total to create final score

PRELIMINARY TOTAL SCORE



FINAL TOTALS SHEET

(For use at Qualifying Competitions and the National Championship only.)

School: _____

Official 1	
Official 2	
Official 3	
Official 4	
Official 5	
RAW TOTAL	

Average the officials' scores (divide total by number of officials) to create subtotal

SUBTOTAL OUT OF 80 POINTS

CONVERT TO 100-POINT SCALE

SUBTRACT DEDUCTIONS

Subtract deductions from converted total to create final score

FINAL DAY TOTAL SCORE	
------------------------------	--

FINAL SCORE

X

.75

=

PRELIMINARY SCORE

X

.25

=

+

=

OVERALL TOTAL SCORE	
----------------------------	--



COMPETITIVE CHEER or DANCE APPEAL FORM

DIRECTIONS: Fill out this form as completely as possible.

- Coaches have 10 minutes from time of receiving their team's scoresheet to alert the host institution/game day manager that an appeal will be made.
- Coaches have 15 minutes in total from the time of receiving their team's scoresheets to submit appeal paperwork.
- Appeal fees will be refunded if the appeal is upheld.

☐ \$100 Appeal (checks payable to the NAIA; must pay on site)

Mail to: NAIA, ATTN: Fred Aubuchon 120 W 12th St, Suite 700 Kansas City, MO 64105

Coach Name: _____ School: _____

Competition Name: _____

☐ incorrect difficulty range per NAIA modifications

☐ incorrectly applied safety infraction

☐ incorrectly applied deductions

Please indicate the reason for the appeal and the remedy sought:

Please cite any applicable competition rules by number and page: _____

Signature: _____ Time and date of filing: _____

Decision of Head Official:

Signature of Head Official: _____

Time and date of decision: _____



Host Institution Score Cheer & Dance Appeal Tracker Form

Institution Name	Sport	Time Scoresheets Given	Coach Initials (received scoresheets)	Appeal Submitted (yes or no)	Appeal Payment Method	Appeal Won or Lost

Please maintain a copy of this for your records. Payment for appeals should be sent to:

NAIA National Office, ATTN: Fred Aubuchon, 120 W. 12th St, Suite 700 Kansas City, MO 64105



NAIA Verbal Critiques

Hosts may choose to use officials cell phones or handheld recorders

Option 1:

Utilize Dropbox- easier to do if using hand held recorders

1. Create a folder for each team in Dropbox and share link with head coach
2. If using officials cell phones- each official will have to log on to host's dropbox account- this can be cumbersome
3. If using voice recorders- transfer file into premade folders on dropbox- typically this involves removing the SD card and transferring using a computer- easier to do if utilizing host dropbox
4. Put each officials critique in the correct dropbox
5. Coaches should have access within 10 minutes

Option 2:

Utilize E-mail- easier to do if using cell phones

1. Have each official use the voice recording option on their cell phone- may also use an iPad if download proper app
2. It is highly encouraged to have officials hand phone to a handler who then sends recording to host email. Host email is then used to email recordings to coach vs email coming from each official.
3. Coaches should receive emails within 15 minutes

Option 1 does require more work on the front end but is slightly quicker on the back end. With Option 2, some emails don't accept large file sizes.

[illegible]

NAIA - Tracking Sheets
TEAM PERFORMANCE
High (9-10), Medium (7-9), Low (5-7)

Judge # _____

[illegible]