



2026-27 Competitive Dance Policy Updates

This document outlines all rules motions presented to the NAIA National Administrative Council (NAC), including both approved and denied proposals.

Approved Motions	Effective Date
Approved allowing Competitive Cheer and Dance conference championships and national qualifying events to take place over a two-day period, with preliminary rounds conducted on day one and final rounds on day two.	2026-2027
Creation of the Red Banner Scholar Award, beginning with the 2026-27 academic year. The award will be presented at each NAIA National Championship Final Site and will recognize the championship participant with the highest cumulative institutional GPA among eligible NAIA Scholar-Athletes competing in the event. The award utilizes the existing NAIA Scholar-Athlete nomination and approval process and requires no additional submissions from member institutions.	2026-2027
Remove the NAIA Modification for interruption of performance and follow Varsity's event guidelines for interruption of performance.	2026-2027
Update the NAIA Modification for flooring to match the Varsity dimensions for Marley of 38' deep by 49' wide. - The updated modification would read, "The competition space must be wood or Marley floor with minimum dimensions of 38' deep x 49' wide with surround sound speakers and a well-lit performance arena. If stage lighting is used, no lights should shine from the front into the eyes of the athletes".	2026-2027
Remove general safety guideline 4 in the NAIA Modifications Soft-soled athletic shoes must be worn while competing. No bare feet, socks-only or footed-tights- only. Dance paws and pirouette shoes are permitted.	2026-2027
The requirement to have the maximum number of judges for a qualifying conference tournament remain consistent with the regular season that allows for a minimum and maximum number of judges. The proposed wording would be, "For all regular season events and qualifying conference tournaments, it is recommended to have the maximum of six (6) Judges, with a minimum of four (4). - (3-5) Panel Judges - (1) Safety/Deductions Judge - One of the above Judges must also be selected as the Head Official For the National Championships, 6 Judges are required.	2026-2027

Approved Motions	Effective Date
- Five (5) Panel Judges - One (1) Safety/Deductions Judge - One of the above Judges must also be selected as the Head Official	

Denied Motions	Rationale
Strength of schedule Metric. Teams may earn up to 10 points in each of three categories. All points can only be earned at NAIA varsity competitions (NAIA events can include non-NAIA varsity teams (JV or club), however, those non-NAIA varsity teams would not count towards the number of opponents in the metric); conference championships and national qualifying events will not be included in this metric.	Concerns about the length of the season and travel budgets to get to the five separate competitions, depending on geographic location. There are some geographic outliers who would not have the travel budgets to get to big events often. Teams should have the same opportunity to get the maximum number of points.
Move strength of schedule to a Primary Criteria.	Motion was predicated on Strength of Schedule Metric.