



## UDA COLLEGE HOME ROUTINE RULES 2024

*Effective July 1, 2024*

\*These rules apply to COLLEGE teams ONLY for home routines ONLY.

**Red** print denotes a change from prior year\*

### GENERAL DANCE GUIDELINES

- A. All participants agree to conduct themselves in a manner displaying good sportsmanship throughout the event. The coach of each team is responsible for seeing that team members, coaches, parents, and any other person affiliated with the team conduct themselves accordingly.
- B. All programs should have, and review, an emergency action plan in the event of an injury.
- C. Coaches must recognize the entire team's ability level and limit the team's activities accordingly.
- D. No technical skills should be performed when a coach is not present or providing direct supervision.
- E. All practice sessions should be held in a location suitable for the activities of dance, and away from noise and distractions.
- F. Warm-up and stretching should precede and conclude all practice sessions, pep rallies, games, competitions, performances, and other physical activities.
- G. The performance surface should be taken into consideration before engaging in any technical aspect of dance. The performance area should be reasonably free of obstructions. Dancers should not perform technical skills on:
  - a. Concrete, asphalt, or any other hard or uncovered surface
  - b. Wet surfaces
  - c. Uneven surfaces
  - d. Surfaces with obstructions
- H. The dance team coach or other knowledgeable designated representative should attend all practices, functions, and games.

### DANCE COMPETITION ROUTINE GUIDELINES

- A. Formal entrances which involve dance, technical skills, and all traditions/chants are not permitted. Dancers should enter the performance area in a timely fashion.
- B. All staging, backdrops, special effects, or any items that may damage or otherwise alter the performance floor or environment are prohibited (water, powder, glitter, fire, sliding oil, etc.).

- C. Center markers will not be allowed. This includes but is not limited to- stuffed animals, toys, alternate dancers, spacing ropes, etc.
- D. All performers (unless injured) must remain within the performance area throughout the entire routine. Dancers can only enter the performance area through the designated entry at the beginning of the routine and exit at the designated exit at the end of the routine. Athletes will not be penalized for leaving the performance surface but must stay within the performance area throughout the duration of the routine.
- E. **Teams have 30 seconds from the team's introduction to start the routine. If a team exceeds this time limit, a penalty will be assessed.**
- F. Teams will have a maximum of (2) two minutes to demonstrate their style and expertise. If a team exceeds the time limit by more than (3) three seconds, they will be issued a penalty.
- G. Timing will begin with the first choreographed movement or note of music, whichever is first. Timing will end with the last choreographed movement or note of music, whichever is last.
- H. **All teams should refrain from any type of excessive celebration following the team's performance.**

## PENALTIES

Any team that does not adhere to the terms and procedures of these "Safety Rules and Guidelines" as outlined in this document will be subject to ranking last for Home Routine Evaluations.

## MUSIC GUIDELINES

- A. I have read and understand the USA Cheer Music Copyrights Educational Initiative and all sound recordings used in our team's music shall only be used with written license from the owners(s) of the sound recordings.
- B. For the most up to date music information, visit <http://varsity.com/music>. If you have any questions, cheer teams should email [info@usacheer.net](mailto:info@usacheer.net). Please check Preferred Provider list for updates and changes periodically.
- C. Teams must be able to provide proof of licensing, in the form of a printed copy, during registration at the event.
- D. If your team is featured in the TV broadcast and uses an original composition created for your performance, your routine music will be used in the show if you also secured synchronization rights. Teams must be able to provide written documentation that synchronization rights were properly secured during registration at the event for the original routine music to be included in the show.
- E. When recording your music for the event, coaches or music editors should edit their song in a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) and make sure that the volume of the song is at 0. Things to note: Most DAW's have a default that sets a track at -6 when a track is added. Check to see if there is a normalization process after you render or save your work.
- F. If you would like to perform your school's original fight song, you may bring a recording of your marching band playing the song. You will need to get the school's permission to use the song and recording. A letter granting permission for the cheer or dance team to use the fight song on school letterhead is enough. It should be signed by your program's administrative supervisor. Go to [varsity.com/music](http://varsity.com/music) for more details.
- G. If a team does not have required paperwork, they will be given the option to count the routine verbally or perform to an approved track of music or a track with counts (Provided by Varsity Spirit).
- H. If a team does not have the required paperwork and chooses not to count the routine or perform to an approved track of music or a track with counts, the team will be disqualified from the competition and not allowed to perform or compete.
- I. If there are concerns regarding a certain team's use of music, a Challenge Form must be completed immediately following the team's performance.
- J. A challenge can only be made by the official coach of a team competing at the event at which the challenge is being made.

- K. Challenge Process a) All music challenges must be submitted in writing to the event director. b) There will be \$100 fee to request a music challenge and must be in the form of a check made out to St Jude Children’s Research Hospital. c) Fees collected will be voided if challenge is correct. d) If the team challenged can provide documentation during the event and can be verified, the fees will be donated to St. Jude. e) If the team challenged can provide documentation that requires further review, a decision will be finalized within 48 hours of the event.
- L. It is required that each team have a responsible adult at the music station that knows the routine and music (no alternates or team members allowed). This representative is responsible for pressing “play”. Should an adult choose not to stay at the music table for the duration of the routine, and a malfunction occurs, teams may or may not be permitted to perform the routine again.
- M. All teams must provide their own device for use on the event provided sound system. Music should be on a digital music player/iPod/iPhone. CD’s will no longer be allowed, and CD players will not be provided at competition.
- N. Please make sure that all devices have a headphone jack to connect to sound system and are fully charged, volume turned up and placed in airplane mode.
- O. Please ensure that jacks are clean and free of any debris which may impact connectivity. You will need to acquire an adapter in advance if your player does not have a headphone jack.
- P. Teams may not use Disney themes, nor may they have costumes that resemble a Disney character. However, Disney music is acceptable if following the music guidelines.

## DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY AND COSTUMING

- A. All facets of a performance/routine, including both choreography and music selection, should be appropriate and suitable for family viewing and listening. Examples of inappropriate choreography may include, but are not limited to, vulgar or suggestive movement appearing offensive or sexual in content, displaying acts of violence, and/or relaying lewd or profane gestures. Music containing words unsuitable for family listening is not allowed. This includes, but is not limited to, swearwords and connotations of any type of sexual act or behavior, drugs, and/or violent acts or behavior. Removing improper language or words from a song and replacing them with sound effects or other words may still constitute ‘inappropriate.’ Music or movement in which the appropriateness is questionable or with which uncertainty exists should be assumed by the coach to be inappropriate and removed to not put their team in an unfortunate situation.
- B. Shoes, on both feet, are recommended but not required while on the performance surface. Please note that should dancers choose to wear shoes, anything with wheels is not allowed (example: roller skate, roller blades, Heelys, etc.). Wearing socks and or footed tights only is not allowed.
- C. Teams competing at the College Cheerleading and Dance Team Championships and/or any competition at Walt Disney World may NOT use Disney costumes that resemble a Disney character or movie. **Any use of Disney music requires prior approval and must be sent to [musicinfo@varsity.com](mailto:musicinfo@varsity.com) at least one month prior to your first competition. Any use of Disney theme and costuming requires prior approval and must be sent to [udarules@varsity.com](mailto:udarules@varsity.com) at least one month prior to your first competition.**
- D. All male dancers’ costumes must include a shirt that is fastened; however, it can be sleeveless.
- E. Jewelry as part of the costume is allowed.
- F. Please note that for Home Routines, the following styles are allowed: Pom, Jazz, and/or Hip Hop. Game Day is NOT permitted for Home Routine Evaluations.

## DANCE PROPS

Props are allowed in all Hip Hop, Jazz, and Pom categories; however, they must fit through a standard 36-inch door. Props must be handheld and cannot have the ability to bear the weight of the dancer. Standing props that could be used to bear the weight of the dancer are not allowed (Examples- chairs, stools, benches, ladders, boxes, stairs, etc.) Any props used must first be approved through the UDA National Office **at least 2 weeks prior to camp**. To get them approved, please send a video of the prop in use to [udarules@varsity.com](mailto:udarules@varsity.com).

## DANCE HANDS FREE POMS

The use of hands-free poms will be allowed. Hands-free poms are defined as poms specifically made so that performers do not have to hold the poms but rather, they are affixed to the performers hand. Proper use means bars cannot be in the palm of the hand and only an elastic band can be between the supporting hand and the performance surface for skills, tricks, etc. A hair tie, rubber band, or tying pom strings/pieces together will not be counted as a hands-free pom.

## UDA COLLEGE HOME ROUTINE DIVISIONS

Home Routine is open to all colleges, universities, and junior colleges in the continental United States. All team members must be registered full-time students at their college or university and official members of the school's spirit squad (no Club Teams). Each camp will consist of the following three divisions for Home Routines:

1. **Division IA** - NCAA I-FBS
2. **Division I** - NCAA I-FCS
3. **Open Division** - NCAA II, III, Jr. College, NAIA and all other schools

Teams at schools transitioning to a new athletic division (Example: moving from Division I to Division IA) will compete in that new division at our championship as soon as the school's football/basketball teams begin competing at the new division/conference level. There is no transition period.

## UDA COLLEGE ROUTINE SAFETY RULES

### TUMBLING AND SKILLS (EXECUTED BY INDIVIDUALS)

1. Hip over-head rotation skills with hand support are not allowed while holding poms in the supporting hand. (Exception: Forward rolls and backward rolls are allowed). The proper use of hands-free poms for hip over-head skills is allowed. \*Please reference the Hands-Free Poms section for more details\*
2. Hip over-head rotation skills with hand support that are not airborne in approach are limited to 3 connected skills. (Example: 3 consecutive headsprings are allowed; 4 are not allowed).
3. Hip over-head rotation skills with hand support that are airborne in approach OR hip over-head rotation skills without hand support are allowed provided the following:
  - a. May not connect to any other hip over-head rotation skill.
  - b. May not be done consecutively without a stop or stall in momentum in between each skill.
  - c. Involves no more than one twisting transition.
  - d. Standing full twisting back flip will not be permitted.
  - e. **Clarification: Dive rolls are allowed if peak does not surpass shoulder height, and the dancer first bears weight on the hand(s) before head/neck/shoulders contact performance surface.**
4. Simultaneous tumbling over or under another dancer that includes hip over-head rotation by both dancers is not allowed.
5. Choreographed drops to the knee, thigh, back, front, head, shoulder, or seat onto the performing surface are not allowed unless the dancer first bears weight on the hand(s) or foot/feet.
6. Landing in a push-up position on the performance surface is allowed from a standing or kneeling position or from a jump with forward momentum. All variations of a shushanova are not allowed.

**\*Below are some examples of commonly known dance skills. This does NOT mean that they are required for your routine, nor does this list encompass all skills that are legal/illegal. The above rules still apply \***

#### ALLOWED:

Aerial Cartwheels	Back Tucks
Front Aerials	Back Handsprings
Front Handsprings	Front Tucks
Front/Back Walkovers	Round Offs (with or without hands)
Side Somi	Head spins

Forward Rolls	Windmills
Backward Rolls	Kip Ups
Cartwheels	Shoulder Rolls
Headstands	Headsprings (with hands)
Handstands	Backbends
Stalls/Freezes	Dive Rolls

**NOT ALLOWED:**

Shushanova	Toe Pitch Back Tucks
Layouts	No handed headsprings

**DANCE LIFTS AND PARTNERING (Executed in pairs or groups)**

1. The Executing Dancer must receive support from a Supporting Dancer who is in direct contact with the performance surface through the entire skill. (Exception: Kick Line Leaps).
2. At least one Supporting Dancer must maintain contact with the Executing Dancer(s) throughout the entire skill.
  - a. Lifting with poms is allowed.
  - b. Extensions, pyramids, and basket tosses are NOT allowed.
3. Swinging in and out of lifts and tricks is allowed in the prone and/or supine positions; swinging forwards, backwards, or making a complete circular rotation will not be allowed if the Executing Dancer is in a prone position (body facing the ground).
4. Hip over-head rotation of the Executing Dancer(s) may occur if a Supporting Dancer maintains contact until the Executing Dancer returns to the performance surface or is returning to the upright position.
5. Vertical Inversions are allowed if:
  - a. The Supporting Dancer(s) maintain contact until the Executing Dancer returns to the performance surface or returns to the upright position.
  - b. When the height of the Executing Dancers shoulders exceeds shoulder level of the Supporting dancer, there is at least one additional dancer to spot who does not bear weight.

**RELEASE MOVES/UNASSISTED DISMOUNTS TO THE PERFORMANCE SURFACE**

1. An Executing Dancer may jump, leap, step, or push off a Supporting Dancer if:
  - a. The highest point of the released skill does not elevate the Executing Dancer's feet above head level of the Supporting Dancer.  
Exception: toe touches off a dancers back/leapfrog jumps will be allowed
  - b. The Executing Dancer may not pass through the prone or inverted position after the release.
  - c. Toe pitch back tucks are not allowed.
2. A Supporting Dancer may release/toss an Executing Dancer if:
  - a. The highest point of the release/toss does not elevate the Executing Dancer's hips above head level of the Supporting Dancer.
  - b. The Executing Dancer is not supine or inverted when released.
  - c. The Executing Dancer does not pass through a prone or inverted position after release.
  - d. Toe Pitch back tucks are not allowed.