# Georgia High School Association Competitive Dance Rubric

<u>**Jazz**</u>

The Jazz division encompasses a range of styles, including jazz, Broadway, contemporary, lyrical, and modern. Teams may incorporate a blend of these styles in their routines. Performances should showcase a high level of difficulty through advanced dance techniques such as turns, leaps, and extensions. Choreography should align with the music, with emphasis on musicality and synchronization. In addition, teams are expected to engage the audience and evoke an emotional response - such as excitement, laughter, joy, sadness, or a sense of drama—that aligns with the chosen style.

**Technique**

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| Techniques of Skills | 10 pts | ● Proper execution of leaps, turns, jumps, and extensions |
| Technique Displayed in other Movements | 10 pts | ● Correct technical execution used in movements specified above and demonstrated in all other choreography.<br>● Includes technique displayed via carriage and posture, balance, and transition movement<br>● Speed and intricacy of transitions and footwork |
| Difficulty of Technical Elements/Movement Difficulty | 10 pts | ● Level of difficulty in technical elements, regardless of execution quality<br>● Consider the complexity and nuance of movement, skills, and transitions in music and lyrics. **Note:** These elements will be evaluated based on their presence and intention, regardless of how well they are executed.<br><br>*ALL the above items will be considered, REGARDLESS OF THE QUALITY OF EXECUTION* |

**Execution of Routine**

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| Execution of Musicality | 10 pts | ● Execution of choreography to the music.<br>● Capturing subtle nuances in vocals, instrumentation, tempo changes, rhythmic shifts, and lyrical cues.<br>Emphasis is placed on how movement and transitions reflect, interpret, or elevate the musical demands. |
| Uniformity of Movement | 10 pts | ● Uniformity and consistent full-body alignment across the team: Evaluates the uniformity of body placement and positioning among all dancers; individual deviations or errors are taken into account. |
| Execution of Spacing and Transitions | 10 pts | ● Uniform spacing<br>● Smooth execution of transitions |

**Choreography**

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| Originality of Concept/Movement | 10 pts | ● Routine presents a fresh, innovative concept<br>● Dancers' movement showcases creativity and includes unexpected, imaginative elements throughout the performance |
| Visual Effect and Design | 10 pts | ● Formations and transitions are purposeful and visually impactful, using elements such as ripples, levels, and canon to create dynamic group visuals and pictures.<br><br>● Demonstrates effective use of fundamental dance elements—space, shape, time, and energy—to enhance overall stage picture and audience engagement |
| Musicality of Choreography | 10 pts | ● The routine consistently reflects the tone, emotion, and intricacies of the music from start to finish.<br><br>*Note: Any deductions for inappropriate music or movement will be applied here only after all other elements are fully credited—no points will be deducted from other categories.* |

**Showmanship**

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| Communication and Projection by Dancers | 10 pts | ● Ability to connect with audience and provoke appropriate emotional response<br>● Authenticity of performance |

## Hip-Hop

The Hip-Hop division encompasses elements of community, self-expression, and storytelling. This category welcomes all street and hip-hop styles, or a fusion of styles, as long as they stay true to the genre. This genre encompasses breaking, popping, locking, house, krumping, and freestyle, among others. Choreography should align closely with the music, highlighting musicality, rhythm, and timing. Choreography in this category should embody the core elements of hip-hop dance: groove, rhythm, texture, and freestyle energy, along with a strong connection to the beat and lyrics of the music. Use of space, levels, dynamics, and timing are essential in shaping the overall impact. Judging will focus on synchronization, execution of style, creativity, and the ability to engage and connect with the audience. Emotional expression—whether through intensity, joy, humor, or drama—should feel genuine and appropriate to the music.

### Technique

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| Hip-Hop Technique | 10 pts | • Proper execution of hip-hop styles presented: Dancers clearly and accurately demonstrate authentic hip-hop styles (e.g., breaking, popping, locking, waacking, house, krumping, stepping, etc.).<br>• Style is consistent with the intent of the choreography and visibly rooted in hip-hop vocabulary. |
| Movement Quality | 10 pts | • Dancers demonstrate intentional, grounded movement with control of speed, direction, and energy.<br>• Movement flows continuously without unnecessary pauses or visible resets. |
| Difficulty of Hip-Hop Movement | 10 pts | • Routine includes intricate, fast-paced, and technically challenging combinations.<br>• Credit is given for athletic elements or tricks when they are true to a hip-hop style that flows and provides continuity within choreography  (e.g., freezes, footwork, power moves from breaking).<br>• All elements are judged for their challenge level regardless of performance quality. |

### Execution of Routine

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| Execution of Musicality | 10 pts | • Movements are precisely aligned with the rhythm, lyrics, and dynamics of the music<br>• Dancers reflect changes in tempo, accents, and musical details throughout the routine |
| Execution of Spacing and Transitions | 10 pts | • Uniform spacing<br>• Smooth execution of transitions |
| Execution of Style | 10 pts | • All team members display a unified and consistent approach to the chosen hip hop style(s), reflecting the intent of the choreography<br>• Consider any individual or small group lapses in style execution<br>*Individual errors or breaks in style considered* |

### Choreography

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|---|---|---|
| Originality of Concept/Movement | 10 pts | • Original, risk-taking, and inventive routine structure and choreography.<br>• Movement of dancers throughout routine includes creative and unpredictable elements |
| Visual Effect and Design | 10 pts | • Effective use of levels, group movements, transitions, ripples, and formations to enhance the stage picture<br>• Visual interest is maintained throughout the performance |
| Musicality of Choreography | 10 pts | • Choreography reflects the mood, energy, and structure of the music<br>• Tricks, if used, are fully integrated into the routine and enhance—not distract from—the style<br>*Note: Any deductions for inappropriate music (DQ) or movement will be applied here only after all other elements are fully credited—no points will be deducted from other categories.* |

### Showmanship

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|---|---|---|
| Communication and Projection by Dancers | 10 pts | • Performance quality and audience engagement<br>• Dancers perform with confidence, intention, and energy that is authentic to hip-hop culture<br>• Emotional connection with audience is evident and appropriate to the style |

## High Kick

Each High Kick routine must include a minimum of **45 kicks at or above waist level**, performed by **at least 50% of the team**. Any dance style may be incorporated to support the routine's structure; however, **specific technical elements such as turns, leaps, jumps, lifts, or tricks are not required *but are encouraged to add to the overall visual effect***. Routines may show difficulty through the **complexity, variety, and structure of kick sequences**, as well as the **height, tempo, and control** of the kicks. All movement—both kicks and non-kick choreography—should enhance the **musical interpretation** and contribute to **visual and rhythmic unison**. Teams are expected to maintain strong **performance quality**, including confident stage presence and **emotional engagement with the audience** that matches the routine's tone—whether it's energetic, dramatic, joyful, or lighthearted.

### Technique

| Kick Technique | 10 pts | <ul><li>Kicking and supporting leg and hips correctly positioned</li><li>Correct prep and ending position and toes pointed</li><li>Kicks are pulled up and down</li><li>Good body line and posture, with shoulders down and correct arm placement</li><li>Head precision/placement</li></ul> |
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| Technique Displayed in Other Movements | 10 pts | All dance movements outside of kick sequences are performed with strong technical precision.<ul><li>Includes proper body alignment, posture, and core engagement.</li><li>Dancers maintain balance and control during transitions.</li><li>Technique is evident in any jazz, pom, or hip-hop-inspired sections.</li></ul>*Note: Leaps, turns, and extensions are not required—do not deduct points if they are not included. **Emphasis of the routine should be on the kicks.** Whatever choreographed movements you choose, in your creative discretion, to do in between your kicks will be judged here.* |
| Technical Difficulty of Kicks | 10 pts | <ul><li>Number and structure of kick sequences</li><li>Height and pace of kicks</li></ul> |

### Execution of Routine

| Execution of Musicality | 10 pts | <ul><li>Execution of choreography to the music.</li><li>Capturing subtle nuances in vocals, instrumentation, tempo changes, rhythmic shifts, and lyrical cues.</li><li>Emphasis is placed on how movement and transitions reflect, interpret, or elevate the musical demands.</li></ul> |
|---|---|---|
| Uniformity of Movement | 10 pts | <ul><li>Uniform placement of entire body by entire team</li><li>Uniform kick height</li></ul>*Individual errors considered* |
| Execution of Spacing and Transitions | 10 pts | <ul><li>Uniform spacing</li><li>Smooth execution of transitions</li></ul> |

### Choreography

| Originality of Concept/Movement | 10 pts | <ul><li>Original and inventive routine structure and choreography.</li><li>Movement of dancers throughout routine includes creative and unpredictable elements</li></ul> |
|---|---|---|
| Visual Effect and Variety of Kicks | 10 pts | <ul><li>Strong visual use of formations, transitions, ripples, levels, and movements to create group pictures</li><li>Variety of kicks performed - consider use of varying kick height, angles, style, and combinations.</li></ul> |
| Musicality of Choreography | 10 pts | <ul><li>The routine consistently reflects the tone, emotion, and intricacies of the music from start to finish.</li></ul>*Note: Any deductions for inappropriate music or movement will be applied here only after all other elements are fully credited—no points will be deducted from other categories.* |

### Showmanship

| | 10 pts | <ul><li>Ability to connect with audience and provoke appropriate emotional response</li><li>Authenticity of performance</li></ul> |
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## Pom

Pom routines may incorporate **any style of dance**, and there are **no required technical elements** such as turns, leaps, jumps, kicks, lifts, or tricks *but are strongly encouraged*. Instead, difficulty should be demonstrated through **precise, complex pom motions and dance technique** that require control, strength, and coordination.

Choreography should align with the music's rhythm, accents, and energy to highlight **musicality and synchronization**. Judges will also evaluate the **creative and purposeful use of poms** to enhance visual patterns, transitions, and overall impact.

Teams should perform with strong **audience engagement**, using expression and performance quality to convey an emotional tone that matches the routine—whether fun, powerful, joyful, or dramatic.

### Technique

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| Pom Technique and Execution | 10 pts | • Arm movements are executed with correct technique, including shoulders down, straight wrists and elbows, and precise placement<br>• Core-supported, strong, and controlled motions<br>• Smooth, effortless execution with ease of movement<br>• Footwork should match the sharpness and timing of arm motions, avoiding disengaged lower-body movement<br>• Weight transfers should be clean and controlled, demonstrating grounded, intentional movement |
| Overall Dance Technique | 10 pts | • All movements and dance beyond pom motions are performed with proper technique, including control in posture, balance, transitions, and any technical elements from jazz, kick, military, lyrical, or hip-hop styles. |
| Difficulty of Pom Motions | 10 pts | • Complexity, risk, and control of pom motions—judged regardless of execution |

### Execution of Routine

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|---|---|---|
| Precision and Uniformity of Movement | 10 pts | • Entire team performs movements and handles poms with consistent placement and technique. |
| Execution of Spacing and Transitions | 10 pts | • Clean transitions and uniform spacing, including any transitions between props if used. |
| Execution of Musicality | 10 pts | • Choreography is performed in sync with the music, highlighting vocal accents, musical details, and changes in rhythm or tempo. |

### Choreography

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Originality of Concept/Movement | 10 pts | • Original and inventive routine structure and choreography.<br>• Movement of dancers throughout routine includes creative and unpredictable elements |
| Visual Effect | 10 pts | • Strong visual use of formations, transitions, ripples, levels, and movements to create group pictures |
| Musicality of Choreography | 10 pts | • The routine consistently reflects the tone, emotion, and intricacies of the music from start to finish.<br><br>*Note: Any deductions for inappropriate music or movement will be applied here only after all other elements are fully credited—no points will be deducted from other categories.* |

### Showmanship

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Communication and Projection by Dancers | 10 pts | • Ability to connect with audience and provoke appropriate emotional response<br>• Authenticity of performance |