

**MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER**

**MAY 2016**

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**NEW WEBSITE!**

As I’m sure you are aware, our website was having major issues last year. Thanks to Mary Murtha from Wildfire and Mary Laile, we are getting ready to launch our brand new website in early June. Thanks, ladies for volunteering your expertise and services.

Please send us pictures of your dancers (formal ones or candids!) for the photo gallery. In addition, if your studio, team or school has a website that you would like us to link at our website, please send that as well.

Send all website materials to Mary Laile before May 23 at mmm0326@gmail.com

**AUTUMN MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND CLINIC**

Since this is a biennial rule change year, we are scheduling a membership meeting to review and clarify all rules, give the dancers an opportunity to attend a dance clinic, and give all of the members and judges a chance to meet, discuss concerns, give kudos, etc.

In order for us to find the best date possible, please go to the doodle.com link below and check off any and all dates you would be to attend that meeting. We will choose the one or two dates which most members and judges can attend and send the information out to you about time and place. Please complete this by May 26th so that we can schedule the event and location.

<http://doodle.com/poll/5rnwd2a9up5agbk9>

**SUMMER CAMP!**

Don’t forget to schedule your private summer dance camp soon! Our instructors are available to help you design your own version of the perfect camp experience. You know best what your team needs and how we can best help. Attached to this email is the information packet about this summer’s offerings.

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**MEMBERSHIP FEES, SANCTION FEES, JUDGES’ REGISTRATION**

**Forms are attached and you can get started with your registration and membership fees.**

**\*\*Your SCAU membership gives you discounted rates on all competition fees, including Nationals. Your fee will reduce your contest fees by $20 per category and by $300 for Nationals.**

**\*\*There is also a generic contest entry form so you can get started on your contest schedule; a contest schedule draft is addressed.**

**\*\*Contest Directors—please fill out the contest sanction form and send it in.**

**\*\*JUDGES—fill out your registration forms and send in ASAP.**

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**RULE CHANGES AND ADDITIONS**

There are some exciting changes in the rules this year. During the weekend of April 23 and 24, ten members of the Board of Directors met and discussed what we thought was going well, what needed to be improved, and how we could best serve the needs of the dancers in our circuit. There were representatives from judges, from large teams and small teams, from primary teams to senior teams. Thanks so much to Board members Stephanie Blakely, Heather Kamer, Wyonna Chenault, Krystle Branham, Mary Murtha, Mary Laile, Pam Six, Mindy Farry, Jody Cox, and Cheryl Poggi. The following will be the major changes and additions. I think that we are constantly working toward making the organization more inclusive and welcoming for everyone. The complete rules are attached to your email, but this is a summary of the major portions.

C**ompetitive Levels**

There are now more competitive levels which we feel will ensure that all teams have a chance at success at a more competitive level. These will be available for soloists as well.

NOVA: New teams; new members; still learning about the competitive experience (teams WILL be scored on the traditional score sheet and will re

ceive ratings and placement awards—not stars). Nova will not be divided into small and large.

CLASSIC: An intermediate level for teams that are not new to the competitive circuit, but are still refining their skills. These teams have some advanced dancers, but also some newer dancers with less technical skills. This division will also receive scores, ratings, and placements. Classic is available for elementary, junior, and senior ages and will be divided into Small and Large (see team size below).

SELECT: An advanced competitive level with experienced, technical dancers. Choreography and formations are more advanced. This division will also receive scores, ratings, and placements. Select is available for elementary, junior, and senior ages and will be divided into Small and Large (see team size below).

**Team Size**

While the Board left the team sizes the same, it increased the category to 3 teams in each size in order to break a category into small and large.

**Tiny Division**

We were asked to consider adding a division for the Tiny Division (pre-Kindergarten). This division was added and may compete in the Open category with no size or competitive level division. They may also compete in Officer. A Tiny team may compete in multiple routines (example Jazz and

Hip Hop), but they will all be in the Open category. Tiny Division will not be divided by size or competitive level.

**Dancer of the Year Award**

Rather than select Amazing Dancers at each contest, the judges will select one dancer in each age division as a Dancer of the Year nominee. That individual will be recognized at the awards of each contest and at Nationals. At Nationals, one dancer in each age division will be named Dancer of the Year. This award replaces the Leadership Award—there will be no captain scoring.

**Category Changes**

There is no longer a pom rule that says a pom must remain on the body at all times. The Open category was given an extra minute (5 minute max) in

order for production shows to enter Open (there is not a separate Production category).

**Judging Additions**

At contests where there are more than 2 judges, the lowest score will be dropped.

Judges will give special awards at each contest in Technique; Showmanship; Visual Effects; and Choreography (in lieu of the “created” awards at each contest)

**Order of Categories**

Jazz, Lyrical, Pom, Kick, Open, Hip Hop, Officer (to allow for more costume change times—using larger categories to offset time constraints)

**Grand Champion at Regular Contest**

There will still be only one grand champion at all contests other than Nationals—regardless of size or competitive level (Nova, Classic, Select). At contests where the day is divided into two awards ceremonies, a Grand Championship will be awarded at each awards ceremony.

**Nationals Changes**

Friday night will be all solos and ensembles (gets bigger every year!). Officer lines will be included in their regular category competition (Junior and Senior officers on Saturday; Elementary, Primary, and Tiny officers on Sunday).

Saturday night awards will consist of ratings, placements in each age, category and competitive level ( Junior, Small Pom, Classic). Medals will be awarded for the top routines in each age, size, and competitive levels. High Points will not be awarded since that is what Best of the Best reflects.

No Grand Champions will be awarded based on Saturday’s scores…see below.

Sunday’s Tiny, Primary and Elementary contest will not change.

Sunday’s Best of the Best will be a dual contest (Classic and Select). Saturday’s top 10-15 Classic routines and the top 10-15 Select routines (in each age) will move forward to the Best of the Best. A team may take a maximum of 3 routines forward to Best of the Best.

Classic Best of the Best Winners’ Circle will be awarded for the Top Ten Classic Routines.

Select Best of the Best Winners’ Circle will be awarded for the Top Ten Select Routines.

Two Grand Champions will be awarded (Classic and Select) based on the average of Saturday’s top 3 scores and the average of the routines taken forward to Best of the Best.

The Grand Champion Awards on Sunday will reflect a consistent excellence for both Saturday and Sunday’s performances.

**Contest Requirements**

Teams must compete in a minimum of 2 contests (including their State Championship—if available) to be eligible for Nationals.

**Fees:**

MEMBERSHIP FEES: Initial membership fee per team is $200; renewal fee is $100. Memberships postmarked after November 1st of each year will be

charged $400 and $200 respectively. A 5% service charge will be charged for credit card payments.

FEES/TEAMS: The entry fee for regular contests will be $95 for SCAU members ($115 for non-members) per category entered.

In addition , **a $45** PER TEAM entry will be collected for medic fee, awards, flashdrives, and rosette placement ribbons. The fees for Regional and State Championships will be $120 for SCAU members and $150 for non members per category.

FEES/SOLO and ENSEMBLES at ALL CONTESTS EXCEPT NATIONALS: $60 for SCAU Members; $80 for non-members

FEES/NATIONALS:

ADULT, SENIOR, JUNIOR, ELEMENTARY TEAMS: $650 for SCAU members; ($950 for non-members for 3 routines); each additional routine=$100

TINY TEAMS: $200 for SCAU members; $500 for non-members for 3 routines; each additional routine=$100

PRIMARY TEAMS: $500 for SCAU members; $800 for non-members for 3 routines; each additional routine=$100

OFFICER LINES not competing in other team categories: $175 for members; $400 for non members

SOLOS: $85 for SCAU members; $105 for non-members

ENSEMBLES: $130 FOR SCAU members; $155 for non-members