



MDTA NEWS

The Return to KC in 2023!

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Anise Glenn

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Betsy Cuquet



Join us at the HyVee Arena in
Kansas City for the MDTA State
Dance Team Championships on
Saturday, February 25, 2023!

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President's Message

Coaches,

I hope that this newsletter finds you enjoying some deserved down time before you gear up for summer practices, camps, and choreography sessions!

I would sincerely like to express my thanks to all of you who participated in our State 2022 contest. We hope that you found the day a success and had the chance to celebrate your team's accomplishments and growth over the past season.

Additionally, a heartfelt thank you to the over 50+ coaches who took the time to give us feedback on the contest and what went well as well as critiques as to where we can improve. We realize that we will never make everyone happy, but we do strive to make our contest the best it can be and serve the teams of Missouri in a way that honors and respects their time and talents. Within this newsletter you will see the discussions that came about based upon feedback from our members. As always, we will fine tune our operations for next year and will advise you of those changes as the contest season commences.

I would like to address the comments and concerns that I heard regarding the video submission of routines. First off, we would never show routines to judges prior to the contest as some suggested. To be quite honest, that is hurtful and completely shows a lack of respect for those of us who voluntarily serve on the board. The reality of having video submissions this year was as a safeguard for your teams. We were afraid that some teams may not be allowed to attend the contest due to the rise of COVID and did not want a team to be excluded from the contest if it was due to circumstances beyond their control. If a team was barred by their district to attend, we were going to use the video as their entry and have the judges watch the videos on their devices at the scheduled time of performance, thus giving the team the chance to showcase their talents and efforts. We asked teams to submit videos but did not demand them. In the case of a team not making it, we would use the video and if the team failed to submit a video, then they would no longer be a part of the contest. We always want to do what is best for the dancers and do our best to accommodate as much as possible. Additionally, if you remember, many of you reached out and asked about weather. We cannot control that but planned to use videos in the event of a team being told they could not travel. So, please know we are not a shady group looking to sabotage any team as that is in direct violation of our mission statement and our personal beliefs as current and former coaches.

Our State 2023 competition is scheduled for Saturday, February 25, 2023, in Kansas City at the Hy-Vee Arena. Other contests will be posted on our website so be sure to check out upcoming events. If you are planning to host a contest, please reach out to our newsletter secretary, Melissa Albright so we can place it on our website. Also remember membership needs to be renewed starting in August. Keep your eye on your email to know when the 2022-2023 membership is open.

Another topic which had several comments, costumes. The costume rules apply for all contests including solo competitions. The MSHSAA guidelines are also to be followed at all practices and performance events. If you are unsure if a costume is legal, all you need to do is email me a photo and description of the costume and I will make a ruling and notify you. It does expedite the situation if you can send a photo of a dancer wearing the costume in question. If you are sending a photo from a website, please send all photos the company provides so I can see not only the front, but the side and back as well. I would strongly encourage you to have your soloists give you a photo of their costume and have it checked as well.

Next, I would like to challenge you in two areas. First, take a step away from what is comfortable and the “usual” for your team. Create a routine in a style not typical for your team. Encourage your dancers to submit choreography ideas and create this routine together. Try doing a field routine with a fun, visual prop. Try a fun spirited kick routine. Your crowd will be surprised and impressed with the change. Secondly, if you have multiple schools within your community, work together to perform a routine together at a game or community event. So many of your dancers are friends with other team’s dancers and they never have the chance to work together and feel a sense of community pride. Help your community not to be so divided by setting the example! Just give it a shot, it allows the kids, and you as coaches, to collaborate and make a new memory together.

Finally, as you start to gear up and work with your new teams, I encourage you to really focus on team building and making each member of your team feel valued. Work closely with them and help them grow and develop their skills and talents. After all, you chose them to be a part of your team, so nurture them, support them and be their biggest supporter. Your first focus should be on your school and supporting the other activities in your building and community. If you hit the ground running with competition as your focus, I believe you are missing out on an opportunity to have your dancer’s bond, support one another, learn from each other, and create memories that will last them a lifetime. Kids these days have enough pressure and stress coming at them from every angle imaginable, dance should be a release and celebration of their passion and energy. By fostering that, you allow these dancers to create memories that will last a lifetime and help them feel a sense of belonging and pride.

Enjoy what time off you have and I look forward to working with all of you. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to your regional representative, or contact me or a board member so we can assist you in any way we can.



**In dance,
Brett**

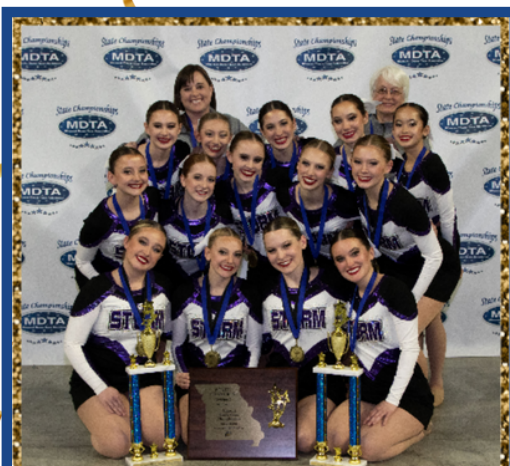




2022 State Champions



St Francis Borgia
Division 1



Notre Dame De Sion
Division 2



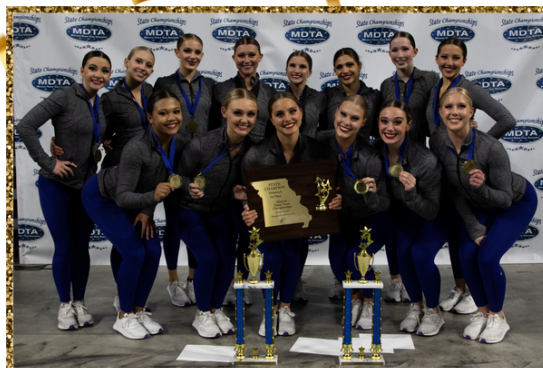
Kearney High School
Division 3



Rockwood Summit
Division 4



Wentzville Liberty
Division 5



Liberty High School
Division 6

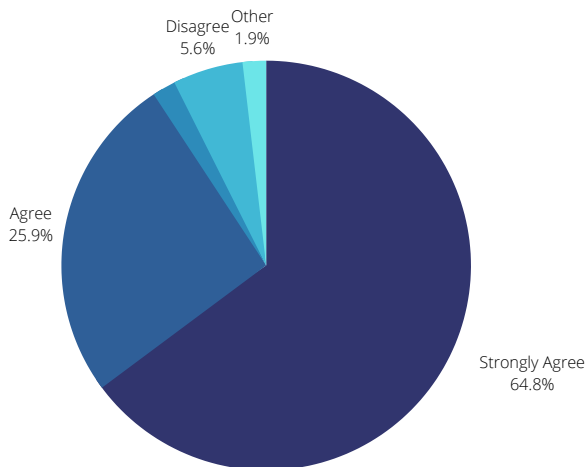


COACH FEEDBACK

Thank you Coaches for your Feedback! Your responses are appreciated!
Below are the results from the 2022 State Survey along with response from the Executive Board.

Together we will continue to make improvements for the State Dance Championships to be a smooth and enjoyable experience for everyone!

The pre-contest information and emails were helpful in preparing me and my team for state.



What could MDTA do differently, ahead of the contest, to assist you in preparation in terms of information?

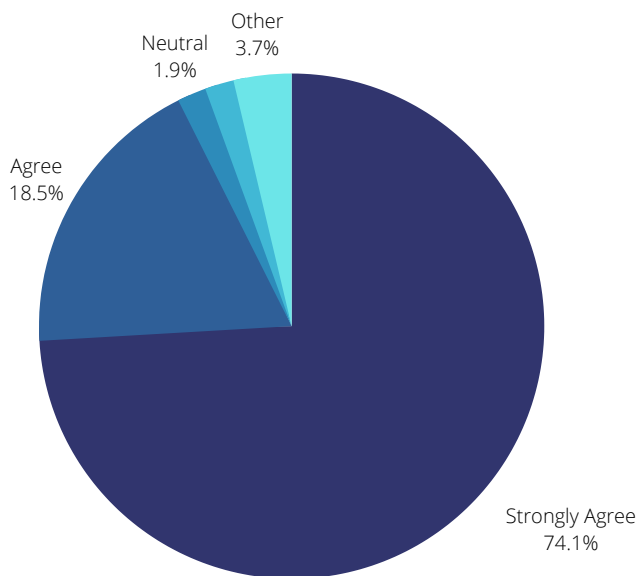
MDTA does apologize and understands the frustration of frequent changes made leading up to the contest this year. These changes were made in regards to the implications of the ever changing Covid-19 and efforts to provide a safe contest, as well as options for ALL schools, should they be impacted by the virus. MDTA will continue to remain transparent and upfront with information, but hopes we will soon return to normal and changes throughout won't be necessary.

The MDTA website will always be the main source of information in one place. Emails, social media, and newsletters with the same information will continue to be provided as a courtesy to coaches.

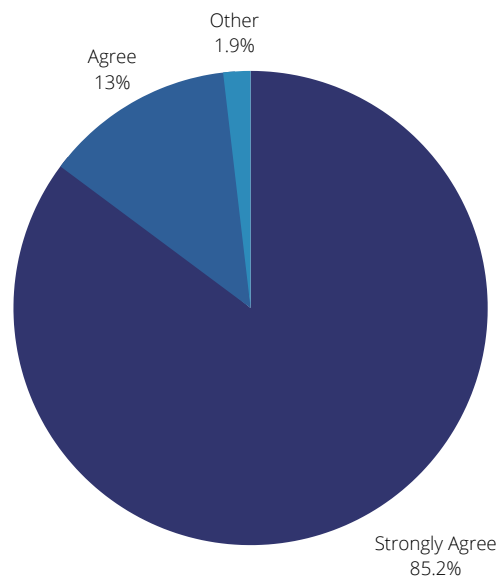
Based off your feedback, MDTA plans to:

- Provide a checklist this year with embedded links and deadlines for when items need to be completed. This will be provided via email, MDTA newsletter, and the website.
- Utilize the BAND app more often
- Continue providing Facebook Lives with pertinent information via our coaches Facebook Group: **Missouri Dance Team Association (MDTA) Coaches Group**

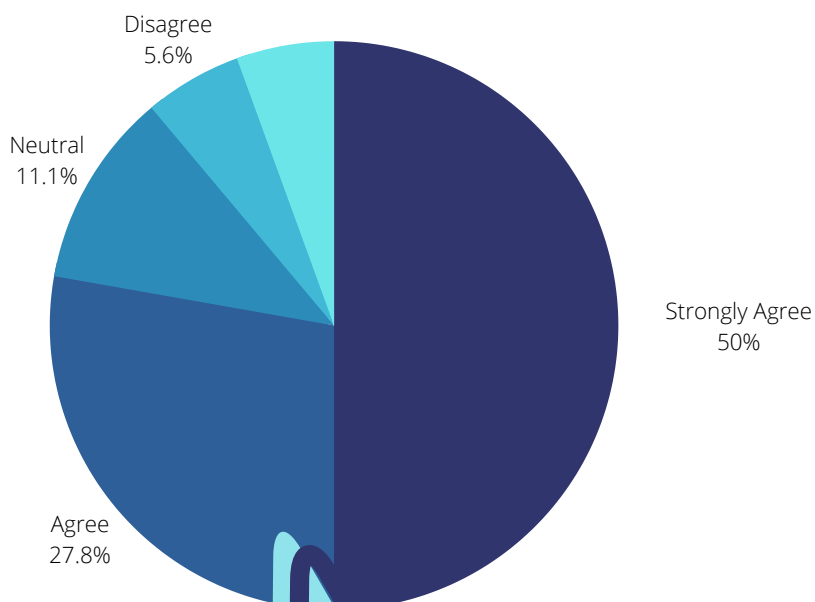
The Team Check In Gate Went Smoothly.



Inspections Went Smoothly.



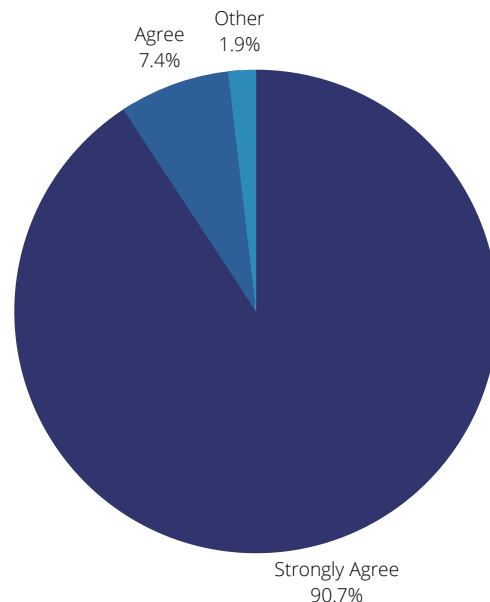
I Liked The Way The Penalty Procedure Was Handled.



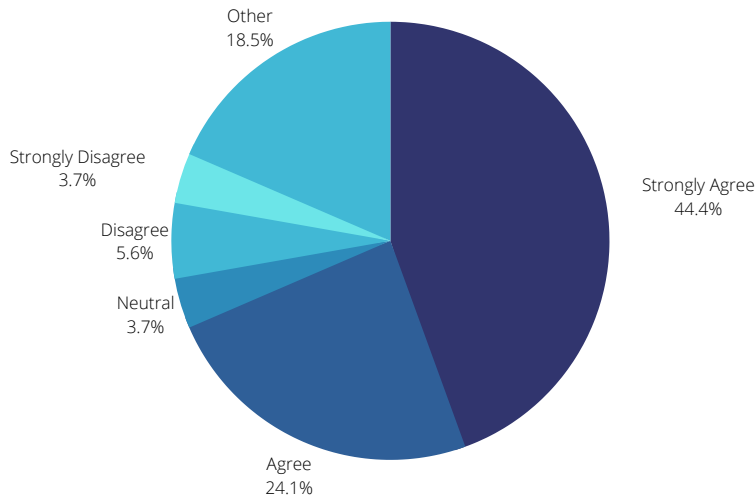
The Executive Board is looking into ways of notifying coaches of any penalties after their performance for 2023 that is handled in a more private manner.

MDTA will only require teams to go to inspections if the team is late for their designated time.

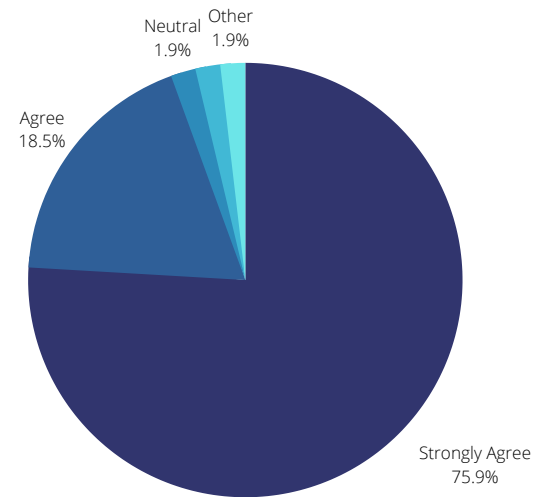
Inspectors Were Friendly and On Time



I Liked the Electronic Scoring and Verbal Comments



I Liked Being Able to See My Scores as well as Each Teams Scores



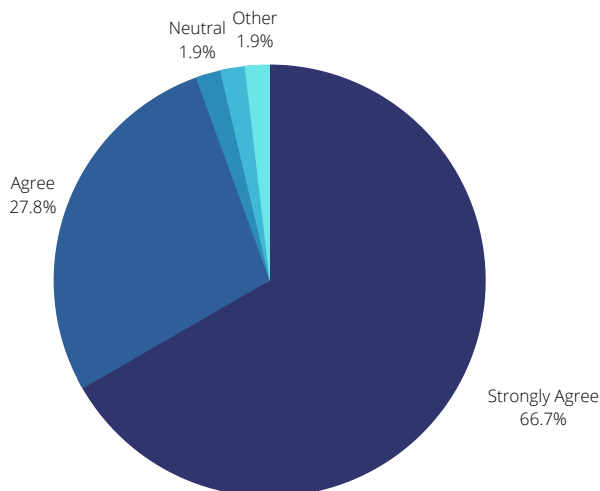
The Electronic Score Sheets and emailing of judges comments was new for 2022, and MDTA recognizes this as a growth area where improvement is needed.

MDTA is already communicating the need for a strong internet connection with Hy-Vee Arena to email promptly and guarantee delivery.

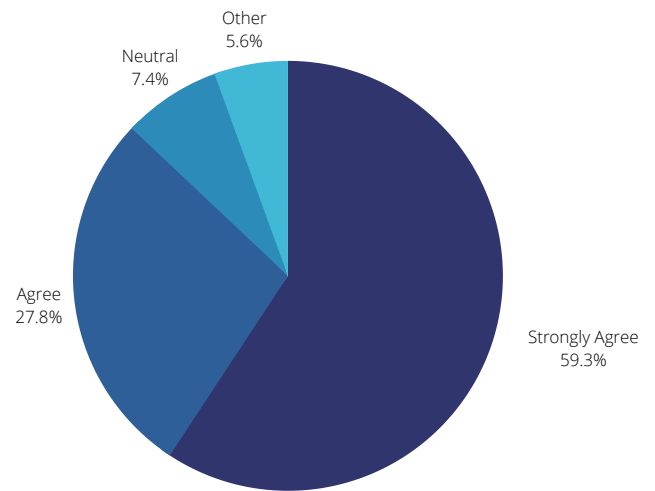
The Executive Board is also communicating improvements based on additional coach feedback the best solution to make sure coaches receive ALL verbal comments and score sheets promptly.

We do thank you for your patience and understanding during this transition at our 2022 contest from paper scoresheets to digital.

I Liked the Flow of the Performance Schedule

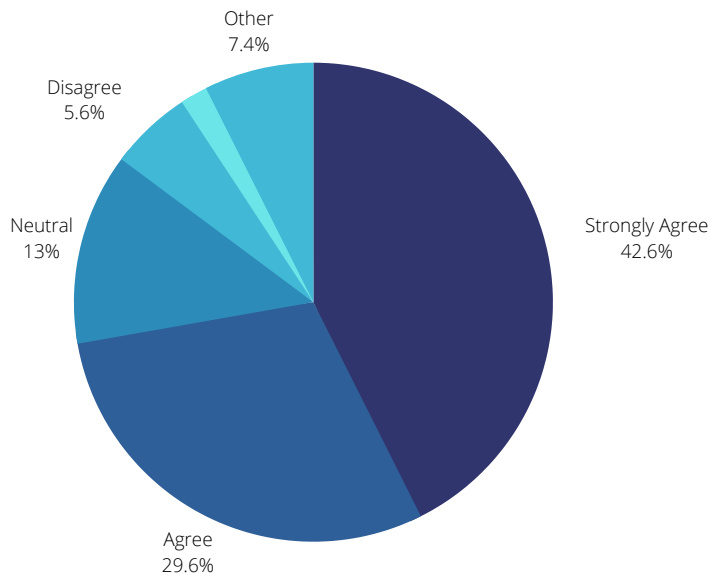


I Liked the Way the Pre-Performance Schedule was Organized.



MDTA understands the need for a safe and adequate warm up space for dancers, and takes the safety of dance teams very serious. MDTA makes every effort to provide a warm up space where teams can practice their routine in full with the resources available at the venue. Unfortunately, the Family Arena is a smaller venue. The Hy-Vee Arena will have additional space available for teams to properly stretch and warm up on a safe floor with and without music for 2023.

I Liked the Award Procedure and Pace



2022 was the first year handling scoring digitally. MDTA is aware this is an area of growth and will continue to make improvements for a smoother awards ceremony in the future. MDTA has already discussed sound issues with the Family Arena and will be sure to have that fixed for the future as well.

From Your General Comments:

- MDTA will continue to collect music prior to the contest date. The Executive Board is actively looking for software to make music submission a smoother process.
- Video Submissions were only required this year as a safety net due to implications schools were experiencing due to Covid-19. In the event a team couldn't attend as a result of rising cases, the teams video would allow them to still remain in the competition. Fortunately, no videos needed to be viewed or used, and MDTA is hopeful future competitions may return to pre-pandemic state.
- MDTA recognizes the need for additional workers at our growing solo competition for it to run quicker and smoother. Suggestions provided on a schedule similar to the team competition, additional signage to navigate the venue, and adjustments to the solo schedule based on team performance is being taken into account for 2023.
- The Executive Board members were once first year coaches and we understand how difficult it can feel to navigate through the state competition. The Regional Representatives are available to help ALL coaches throughout the dance season to assist and mentor. Please never hesitate to contact them with questions.

East Representative, Jean Woodward: jean.woodward@modta.org

Southwest Representative, Melissa Albright: melissa.albright@modta.org

West Representative, Shelley McCain: shelley.mccain@modta.org

2022 MDTA State Dance Team Championship

Financial Report

Expenses	
The Family Arena	32,328.13
Judges payment, transportation + cash for meals	17330.44
Program book costs	5582.32
Parking for college teams	250
Trophies and medals	10042.11
Set up of electronic scoring system	600
JotForm	87
Event Insurance (team and solo)	1630
Music license fees	734
Attorney fees	1053
Printing Scoresheets (back up plan)	294.24
Safety Rules books	101.57
Contest supplies	207.1
Food for solo judges	285.63
Total Expenses (team and solo contests)	70,525.54
Revenue	
Team contest admission (gate)	35626
Program book sales (team and solo contest)	2221
Solo contest admission	3816
Sponsorships	4950
Solo entry fees	9000
Team Contest Entry Fees	20000
Apparel kickback	1097.53
Kickback from Fury Photography	450
Hotel kickback	910
Total Revenue (team and solo contest)	78,070.53

COMPETITION *Updates*



The Kansas City Classic
Saturday, December 10, 2022
Liberty High School

Contact:
Maggie Willis: maggie.willis@lps53.org



1st Annual Wentzville
Holt Dance Regional
Saturday, January 7, 2023
Holt High School

Fort Zumwalt North
Invitational



Saturday, January 21, 2023
Fort Zumwalt North High School

Weather Make Up Date:
February 4, 2023

Contact: Karen Asbell
kasbell@stcharlessd.org

Farmington Dance Invitational

Saturday, January 14, 2023
Farmington High School

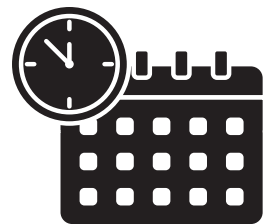
Weather Make Up Date:
Saturday, Feb 4, 2023

Contact: Janna Hagerty
jhagerty@farmington.k12.mo.us



DANCE SHOWCASE

Information

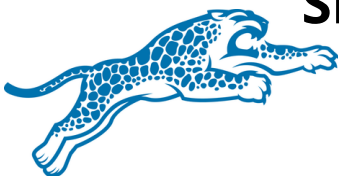


Show Me State Showcase

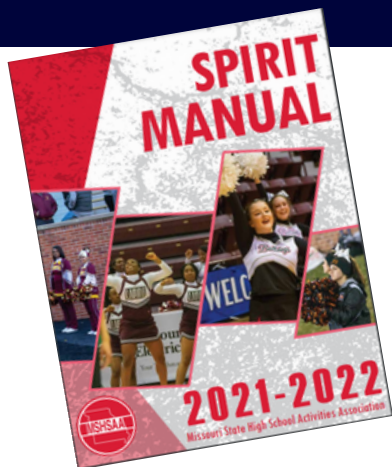
Saturday, February 4, 2023

Blue Springs South High School

Contact: Melanie Dailey
melanie@larkspurdance.com



If you are hosting a competition or contest this year, please email
Melissa Albright at melissa.albright@modta.org
to have it added or updated!



Are You Up To Date on the Spirit Rules?

As coaches, we set rules and guidelines we expect our dancers to follow. It is our duty as a coach to lead the way and follow the rules and guidelines set forth by our state and federal associations.

[Click to view the 2021-2022 MSHSAA Spirit Manual](#)

Listed below are rules most often violated and reported to MSHSAA and MDTA.

Modesty Rule for Dance Costumes

Missouri dance teams are expected to wear costumes that are appropriate for education-based activities and approved by the local school administration for **performances and competitions**. It is the school coach(es) responsibility to be knowledgeable of all NFHS and MSHSAA rules regarding dance and to convey these rules to any company or individual providing a service to the school team (i.e. choreographers, seamstress, prop designers, etc.).

- 1. When the participant is standing at attention, no part of the buttocks, breast, or midriff shall be visible**
- .2. Midriff is defined in Missouri as 3 inches above the belly button all the way around the body. Teams may have a cutout or open back costume. However, if the cut is below the natural waist line in the back the costume is illegal.**
- 3. Bare skin, nude-colored coverings or any material that gives the illusion of flesh shall not be part of the costume in the midriff area.**
- 4. Footwear must comply with NFHS Rule 4-1-5.**
- 5. Participants shall not be permitted to perform/compete in illegal attire.**

All costuming questions should be directed to MDTA President, Brett Elder, at mdtapresident@gmail.com

Jewelry (Section 6, page 13)

Jewelry, etc. shall **not** be worn during practice, games, performances or competitions.

All safety rules found in the spirit manual pertain to every practice, performance (assemblies, games, etc.), and contests, including Nationals. Failure to follow the safety rules can be reported to MSHSAA.

LET'S GET SOCIAL!



Follow us for the latest information!



@MissouriDanceTeams

*Be sure to join our
Missouri Dance Team Association (MDTA) Coaches
Group and like our Facebook page!*



@mdtamodanceteam

www.modta.org



22-23 MDTA Membership opens August 1st!

SET A
REMINDER!

Four groups are targeted for MDTA membership. They are:

- **Individuals who are actively coaching a middle/junior high or high school dance team**
- **Individuals who are former middle/junior high or high school dance team coaches**
- **College or University dance team coaches**
- **Business owners whose company offers services associate with dance team needs. i.e. uniforms, camps, instructions, etc.**

Individual members have the following privileges:

- **Voting for MDTA offices and proposals**
- **Having their varsity team eligible to compete in the State Championship**
- **Holding office on the Board of Directors**
- **Participating in MDTA events and workshops**
- **Professional Development and networking available through the MDTA coaches group on Facebook and live seminars.**
- **Receiving updated information regarding competitions and contests through our email list.**

The membership year runs from August 1 thru July 31st.

Applications will be available at www.modta.org !

Please contact Nikki Boekhout for any membership questions, if you are no longer coaching, or to pass along contact info for the new coach at your school district!

nikki.boekhout@modta.org