

National Team Guidelines 2024-2025

1. The twirling/dancing “season” is from September 3rd, 2024 - July 27th, 2025. If you cannot commit to attending regularly through July 2025, please contact Anna for Non-competitive or State Team class details.
 - a. All National Team Members are required to enroll in ballet. Dance technique is a huge part of twirling. All Athletes are strongly encouraged to participate in jazz and/or poms in addition to ballet, as the more they dance the stronger twirler/dancer they will become. We have competitive and non-competitive Jazz and Poms classes. Audition is required for competitive jazz and poms. Competition-level jazz and poms will perform at all the same competitions as baton. Ballet is non-competitive. Ballet will be performed in the recital only.
 - b. All National Team Members will participate in a 3-hour Production Class scheduled weekly at Christ Lutheran Church on Thursdays from 5:30-8:30 pm each week. In addition, each National Team Member will participate in a 1 to 2-hour “Dance-Twirl” Baton class scheduled weekly evenings.
2. If you accept a position on the National Baton/Dance Team and then are removed for disciplinary reasons or you remove yourself from the Team for any reason other than Major Illness or Injury after November 1, 2024; you will be charged a \$250 Choreography Fee per routine vacated to compensate for the time it takes to change and make adjustments to the team routines.
3. **Competitions are Mandatory.** Failure to attend a competition will result in disciplinary measures up to and including expulsion from the team. Most competitions are in the months of March, April, May, June, and July. A listing of approximate competition dates are listed below. These dates are not set in stone, they are only to serve as a tentative guide and may change.
 - a. **Community Performances:** From time to time, the National Team will be asked to perform at various community events. These events include parades, football games, basketball games, special events such as Friday Night Live, Farmers Markets, the County Fair, or other collegiate or professional sporting events. I strongly believe the experience of performing helps build confidence and self-esteem. Participation is highly encouraged.
 - b. **Parades:** We perform in various fall and summer parades. Each National Team Member is required to participate in a minimum of **3 parades each season.**
4. **CLASS ATTENDANCE:** All students are expected to attend class regularly. Students who miss practice for any reason, are required to make up the missed practice time by either attending open gym or taking a private lesson to learn/practice the material missed. **It is the athlete’s responsibility to know the choreography when they come to class. If the athlete misses class, it is up to them to reach out to another team member or to utilize the class videos shared through Google Drive to learn the material they missed and be prepared to participate upon returning to class.** Please note that absences (excused or unexcused) or failure to know/execute the routine may affect your child’s eligibility to participate in competitions and/or performances

at the Team Director's discretion. Absences may impact an athlete's placement/role in a routine or particular section of a routine.

- a. For multi-sport athletes, a printed calendar of your conflicting practice/games must be turned in to Anna prior to your sports season. As stated above all missed classes must be made up by attending a different class time, open gym, or private lesson. **For the success of the team, PLEASE NO FAMILY VACATIONS, overnight camps, etc... from June 16th – July 27th, 2025. This is our busiest competition season, and all members need to be present at practices.**
5. **CLINICS:** There will be a minimum of 4 National Team Clinics held this year which may involve a Saturday/Sunday up to 4+ hours each day. **Clinic Attendance is mandatory.** Date and times will be given 3 weeks in advance so you may plan. There will be an additional fee for clinics. Clinics are when we learn a lot of choreography and clean routines, so it is imperative that everyone be in attendance.
6. **The weeks prior to Nationals, Monday, June 16th - Friday, June 20th; Monday, June 23rd - Friday, June 27th, Monday, June 30th -Wednesday, July 2nd; Monday, July 7th - Friday, July 11th, and Monday, July 14th - Thursday, July 17th we will have mandatory morning practice.** The practice times will be dependent on the gym availability but will occur sometime between 8:00 am – 2:00 pm each weekday. This is in addition to the regularly scheduled evening practices with the exception of Thursday evening production.. *Depending on how routines are coming along, we may continue to hold Thursday evening Production practices as well. (this is different from this past summer). **The schedule above is for all National Team Members. *Dates may change depending on when the 2025 National Baton Twirling Championships are scheduled. This is based on the assumption that the National Championships will be held July 21st - 25th, 2025, however, be aware Nationals may return to the earlier dates of July 14th-18th.**
 - a. The National Production Team will continue to meet on Thursday evenings as usual through June 12th. The Production team's progress will determine if the evening practices are continued into July. A decision will be made regarding this after the Regional Championships.
7. **FUNDRAISING:** Fundraising opportunities will be provided. Each team member must either pay or fundraise approximately \$350.00 for competition entry fees, gym, and prop expenses.
 - a. **Candy Land Classic Competition** Fundraiser is targeted to be held in April 2025. National Team members and parents are expected to participate in/volunteer at least two shifts. This is the largest fundraiser we do. The funds raised at the CLC will be for the General Team Fund and used to purchase props, equipment, and/or gym time.
 - b. **"Calendar Fundraiser"** for October 2024. This fundraiser will be used specifically to pay for gym time. Our estimated gym fee for this season is around \$11,000. It is imperative to the success of our team to have gym time, so please work hard to get your calendar sponsors. A great way to thank your sponsor is to take a picture with a Thank you note each day for October and post it on your social media or be sure your athlete writes a handwritten thank you note to their supporters. Calendars will also be emailed to everyone on the team in late August to early September. All funds will be due by Thursday, September 26th. Those who elect to not participate in this fundraiser will be

assessed an additional Gym Fee to their national team account in the amount of \$150.00.

- c. We will do a **Marcus Movie Pass Fundraiser, Racine Kringle**, and possibly **Seroogy's Candy Sales** for students to earn toward their individual twirler account.
 - d. Additional fundraisers may be added. I am always open to ideas, so if you have an idea and are willing to "chair" it, let me know.
 - e. Competition Fees are subject to change if additional competitions are added/or subtracted. **Final Competition Fee balances are due on Thursday, June 5th, 2025**
8. **PRACTICE ATTIRE: All team members are expected to come to class prepared to participate at the start time of class. This does not mean walk in the door and then do your hair!** Hair is to be in a secure bun prior to arriving at class. Hair should be up in a secured bun that students do not need to "re-do" during class time. It's wise to arrive a few minutes early to begin stretching prior to entering the classroom.
- a. Each time we need to stop class to wait for a teammate to "fix" their hair, additional minutes will be added to the end of class.
 - b. If a National Team member comes to class dressed inappropriately, they will be asked to call home and have appropriate clothing and/or footwear delivered. Everyone should arrive with enough time to change shoes, use the restroom, and enter the classroom at the designated start time.
 - c. Sweatshirts and baggy sweatpants are only to be worn during the first 10 minutes of class during warmups. Make sure your athlete is wearing a tank top and shorts or fitted leggings/tank top under their warm-ups. It is imperative to see leg-lines and body-lines while in class.
 - d. **Tank tops or leotards must be worn during all baton and dance classes. NO T-SHIRTS!** When having a class at Christ Lutheran Church athletes must wear tanks that cover their midriff.
9. **Code of Conduct Team Members:** National Team Members are expected to conduct themselves in a "professional" work-like manner when at practice, competitions, and performances. **All members are expected to treat their fellow teammates, parents, and instructors with respect. Disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated.**
- a. We will work together as teammates to build each other up and support one another. Students who behave in a disrespectful manner will be asked to leave class or take time out to re-group. Their return to the team will be at the director's discretion.
 - b. If any National Team Member is found to be engaging in inappropriate behavior, misusing Social Media Accounts, or is found to be participating in activities that involve vaping/tobacco, drugs or alcohol will face consequences up to expulsion from the team. Return to the team will be at the director's discretion. Anytime an athlete is in RTC attire, the utmost professionalism, sportsmanship, and friendliness are expected.
 - c. If your athlete is 10 years old and above, and they have a question or concern regarding a particular routine or incident, I expect to hear it from the athlete first.

10. **Code of Conduct Parents:** All National Team Parents are expected to conduct themselves in a supportive manner. We are one team working together to create the best possible experience for all athletes.
- a. Please ensure your athlete arrives at practice on time with proper attire and necessary supplies (shoes, batons, water). Don't participate in "the rumor mill". If you have a question about a competition, a routine, or an event, ask. Do not assume. If you are asked a question by a fellow parent and you are not 100% sure of the answer, ask Anna or Aryn.
 - b. Social Media - no more than a 15-30 second clip of a National Team performance may be posted to a social media account. We work hard to create unique choreography for our students, and we have noticed parts of our twirl sections, dance routines, and soloists' routines showing up in other groups' and individuals' routine content. Posting full routines on social media makes it easy for competitors to watch and learn the material that you have paid us to create.
 - c. **Above all, teach your children to support one another! Cheer on each other's successes!** Jealousy is ugly and does not look good on anyone. As hard as it may be at times, we learn more from our failures than our successes. Be there to support your athlete when they've had a rough day, and to celebrate with them when they achieve success.

11. Tentative Competitions are as follows:

- a. Hollywood Knights - Bolingbrook, IL (Winter)
 - b. Carnival Contest – Michigan (spring). likely soloists only, but possibly team if ready.
 - c. Candy Land Classic - Waukesha North High School (Early April)
 - d. Twirling Twisters Spring Competition - Hoffman Estates, Illinois (Spring TBD)
 - e. Miss Majorette of Wisconsin - (tentatively mid-May, 2025) - likely soloists only
 - f. Summer Splash Competition - MN (early June)
 - g. All North Regional Championships - Oshkosh, WI (tentative 6/21/2025)
 - h. Wisconsin State - Wauwatosa, WI (tentatively 6/28/2025 or 7/12/2025)
 - i. TU Nationals – Canton Ohio (possible for warm-up for NBTA Nationals, tentatively July 12-13th, 2025) - only a potential if for some reason WI State date does not conflict.
 - j. National Championships, South Bend, IN (estimated 7/21-7/25/2025) or (7/14-7/18/2025)
 - i. Competitions may be added. *Additional Solo Competition opportunities will be emailed out as they are announced. Most other solo competition opportunities will involve travel.
 - ii. Looking into other Fall/Winter competition dates and will update through Team Snap calendar and email if any are added.
12. **Team Communications:** National Team members will be utilizing the **TeamSnap app, Facebook, Instagram, and email**. It is each National Team Member's responsibility to make sure you have downloaded these apps to stay up to date on all team activities.
13. **Team Competition Attire:** New this Fall, each National Team Member will receive information on ordering a Team "Twirler Pack" that will include a Team Baton Bag, Team Tank, Team Shorts, Team Leggings, and jacket (if you don't already have one).

National Team Guidelines Acknowledgement

I hereby acknowledge I have received the National Team Guidelines. I have read and understand the expectations as a member of the National Competition Team. I understand competitions are mandatory and I understand the importance of regularly attending practice. I commit to working my hardest to be a good teammate.

Athlete's Signature _____

Parents Signature _____

Date _____