



Date: April 1, 2007 (revised)
To: DDCA Board
From: Technical Judges Committee
Subject: Technical rules and penalties update

Proposal 1.0: To adjust the current Technical rules to better serve the DDCA Membership as an educational tool. After our first season with the NEW Judging system, the Technical Committee realized there were areas that could be improved to better serve the DDCA Membership.

Considerations:

- 1.1 DDCA Costume/Music/Choreography penalties to be reduced from FIVE point deduction to ONE point deduction.
Reasoning: Five points off of the Average score in these areas seems excessive, more like a punishment than an education tool.
- 1.2 Tech Judge required to issue Warning for first offense in any of the following categories before a penalty can be issued: Costume, Choreography, Music rules. (NOT Stunt/safety/timing OSAA rules). Penalties in Category (Nov/Dec) are separate from penalties in Traditional (Jan/Feb/March).
Reasoning: If Technical Judges communicates the issue with a Warning, the Coach would be educated of the issue and have opportunity to make the adjustments needed to prevent a penalty.
- 1.3 Instant Appeals process eliminated.
Reasoning: Warning requirement put in place of appeals process. If it is required to give warning at first offense in the costume, choreography, music areas, then there should be no reason the coach/team could not fix the issue before they acquire a violation.
- 1.4 Costume rule 3.6 low-cut tops and high cut leotards are NOT acceptable. Change second part wording to: No revealing/obvious cleavage or cheeks of the gluteus maximus should show outside of costume. At least one third of performers would need to be in violation to have penalty assessed.
Reasoning: Membership wanted clarification on cleavage.
- 1.5 Costume rule 3.7 change to read Clear/nude bra straps showing are acceptable if age appropriate.
Reasoning: Nude bra straps or clear give same appearance on floor.
- 1.6 Penalty process First violation action to remain the same. Add that the offending school's Athletic Director will be notified of violation issue.
Reasoning: If a team receives a violation after they have already been issued a warning OR has decided not to submit questionable material, then the team/coach needs to take responsibility for actions. Administration should be alerted to the issue.

Ramifications:

- 1.1 Might be frustrating for the teams that had the full penalty points for the 2006-07 season.
- 1.2 Technical Judge's process can be used as more of an educational tool to prevent violations and injuries.
 - 1.2.1 Technical Judges will have to track both warnings and violations at locals during the event for each area.
 - 1.2.2 Requires Technical Commissioner to track Warnings separate from Violations.
 - 1.2.3 Would give coach an opportunity to fix issues before receiving penalty.
- 1.3 Any Appeal to penalty shall be initiated by the Coach of the team that received the penalty and sent directly to the Technical Committee. Any overturned ruling would not change placements at that event.
- 1.4/1.5 Rules are clearer to Membership.
- 1.6 Contacting School Athletic Director or Administrator would be the responsibility of the Technical Judges Commissioner.
 - 1.6.1 Coaches could get in trouble with their Administrator for receiving a violation.