



2025-2026 CHAMPIONSHIPS

COMPETITIVE SPIRIT



GUIDELINES



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PIAA SCHOOL DIVISION & CLASSIFICATION GUIDELINES

Varsity Divisions: 9th-12th Grade **ONLY**

Junior Varsity teams are not permitted to compete

Class 2A and **Class 3A** are calculated by school enrollment and can be found here:

<http://www.piaa.org/schools/classifications/default.aspx>.

Divisions are determined by School and Team size as outlined below:

2A Small: 1-15 athletes on mat

2A Large: 16+ athletes on mat

3A Small: 1-15 athletes on mat

3A Large: 16+ athletes on mat

Coed: At least one male athlete on mat

Mascots are welcome to perform on mat and do NOT impact division classifications

CODE OF CONDUCT

PIAA encourages and supports sportsmanship, integrity and fairness among participants and coaches in all facets of competitive spirit including team/squad practice and performance.

To ensure the most positive experience for all attendees, PIAA asks that the following Code of Conduct be adhered to during the PIAA events:

1. NO PROTEST RULE

a. Under PIAA there can be no protest of Contests as follows: *"The Board of Directors and District Committees will not consider any protest of Contests which are based on play situations or officials' decisions involving interpretation or judgment of plays. In no case will the results of a Contest be reversed, nor will a Contest be ordered or permitted to be replayed. Questions regarding interpretation of rules or judgment of officials should be submitted in writing to the Executive Director."*

2. Participants, coaches, or spectators are prohibited from contacting the Judges during the competition.

*A Head Coach may ask for clarification **only** at the State Championship. *

Please note: if you ask for clarification, you are subject to a routine review and any missed rule violation/deduction could be assessed.

3. Judges' rulings are final related to deductions, final team placements and legalities.

4. Any unruly, aggressive, or belligerent behavior by participants, coaches or spectators toward any other attendee or Event Staff will result in a deduction, potential team disqualification, removal from the event and/or barred participation from future PIAA Districts and/or State Championships.

5. PIAA reserves the right to remove any persons from a competition for unsafe or unsportsmanlike conduct.

TIME LIMITATIONS

1) It is **highly recommended** that a Coach who is 18+ in age is present at the Music Table.

2) Introductions:

1. All introductions (entrances, chants, spellouts, etc.) are considered part of the routine and will be timed as part of the performance. Skills are not allowed during the team's entry to the floor or any time prior to starting the performance.

2. All team breaks, rituals, and traditions need to take place prior to entering the mat.
3. Teams should take the floor immediately with spirit and enthusiasm, but without excessive gestures. Examples: running of the flags, chest bumps, hugs, handshakes, etc.
4. All teams should refrain from any type of excessive celebration following the team's performance. **Any team in violation will receive a ONE (1) point deduction.**
5. There should not be any organized exits or other activities after the official ending of the routine.
- 3) Timing will begin with the first movement, voice, or note of music, whichever comes first.
- 4) If a team exceeds the time limit, a penalty will be assessed for each violation. **One (1.0) point deduction for 3-5 seconds over, Two (2.0) point deduction for 6 seconds and over.**
- 5) Acknowledging the potential variance caused by human reaction speed and sound system time variations, judges will not issue a deduction until 3 seconds over the allowed time. If a routine is re-timed as part of a review, the exact time will be used without the 3 second allowance listed above.
- 6) It is recommended that all teams time their performance several times prior to competition and leave a several second cushion to allow for variations in sound equipment.
- 7) **Excessive Celebration** violations will be assessed: please review the updated deductions sheet for specific examples.

Performance Routines - Each performance routine presentation must include at least one cheer or sideline chant.

- Maximum Overall Time: 2:30 (150 Seconds)
- Maximum Musical Portion: 1:45 (105 Seconds)

INTERRUPTION OF PERFORMANCE

Unforeseen Circumstances

1. If, in the opinion of the competition officials, a team's routine is interrupted because of failure of the competition equipment, facilities, or other factors attributable to the competition, venue (power outage, fire alarm, etc.), the coach of the team at the music stand affected should STOP the routine.
 - a. Examples: Equipment Issue – Music volume is all the way down and athletes can't hear the beginning of the routine, etc. b. Venue Emergency – power outage, fire alarm, etc.
 - b. If the coach chooses not to stop the routine, the team may not have the option to perform again.
 - c. If allowed to perform again, judging will resume from the point at which the injury/interruption occurred as determined by the judges. The routine must be performed full-out from the beginning of the routine. All point deductions accumulated to that point will carry over. If a team prefers not to re-work the routine, at the coach's discretion, they will take the score they have received up to that point. If a skill has not been performed a "0" will be given in the category. Teams that limit/mark skills prior to the point of injury could result in an adjustment in scores based on the skills performed.

Fault of the Team

1. In the event a team's routine is interrupted because of failure of the team's own equipment. The team must either continue the routine or withdraw from the competition.
2. The competition officials will determine if the team will be allowed to perform later. If the competition officials allow a routine to be performed later, the spot in the schedule where the re-performance is to

take place is at the sole discretion of competition officials. The team must perform the routine again in its entirety but will be evaluated ONLY from the point where the interruption occurred.

Injury/Illness

1. The only persons that may stop a routine for injury are: competition officials, the advisor/coach of the team performing or an injured individual. This is a shared responsibility of all parties involved to recognize an injury has occurred. A PIAA certified Athletic Trainer, provided by St. Luke's, will be present to provide emergency health care to all participants.
2. The competition officials will determine if the team will be allowed to perform at a later time. If the competition officials allow a routine to be performed later, the spot in the schedule where the re performance is to take place is at the sole discretion of competition officials. The team must perform the routine again in its entirety but will be evaluated ONLY from the point where the interruption occurred.

PERFORMANCE AREA

1. Approximate floor size will be 54 feet wide by 42 feet deep (9 strips).
2. All participants must start in the competition area with at least one foot on the ground.
3. **BOUNDARY FOR THE PIAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP** – Any team member stepping outside or touching outside the performance area will cause the squad to receive a **.5 penalty per occurrence**.
 - a. A penalty may be assessed when any ONE full hand, foot or body part touches outside of the performance surface.
 - b. Once a team member takes the floor, they must remain on the floor until the end of the performance.
 - c. Boundary deductions may not be issued at PIAA District Championships but will be strictly enforced at the PIAA State Championship.
4. Signs or props may be safely placed or dropped outside the competition area by a team member who must remain inside the competition area.
 - a. Approved props include foam fingers, rally towels, signs, poms, flags and/or megaphones. Props should be used for crowd leading and appropriate for crowd response.
 - b. Props may not be thrown into the crowd.
 - c. Props cannot bear the weight of the performer. This includes sideline cheer/dance boxes used at games.
 - d. No air horns or artificial noise makers allowed.

HOW TO HANDLE PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS

1. **RULES & PROCEDURES** - Any questions concerning the rules or procedures of the competition will be handled exclusively by the advisor / coach of the team and will be directed to the Competition Director. Such questions should be asked prior to the team's competition performance.
2. Questions regarding another team and/or their performance will not be allowed.

FINALITY OF DECISIONS

By participating in this competition, each team agrees that the decisions by the judges will be final, and results may ONLY be reviewed for clarification. Each team acknowledges the necessity for the judges to make prompt and fair decisions in this competition and each team therefore expressly waives any legal, equitable, administrative, or procedural review of such decisions.