

Vision Steppers *Blaze the Stage Step Competition*

Rules & Regulations

1. All teams must report to the Evander Childs Educational Campus at their assigned registration time on the day of the event, **NO EXCEPTIONS**. Failure to arrive at designated time may result in a loss of stage time for orientation and sound check. All participants and guests must be scanned at the entrance, therefore, please allow enough time for your team to enter.
 - Each team must submit a completed registration with an updated team roster. Registration is done online only at: <http://visionsteppers.org/blazeregistration/>
 - Each team must have all music cued on one CD. (USB if appropriate) or uploaded to their preassigned online folder in **MP3 file format, IN PLAY ORDER**.
 - All stage props must be approved by the NSANortheast
 - Only actual participating step team members and up to three coaches/sponsors will be admitted with your registration fee.
 - Any steppers, participants, coaches, or sponsors above three will require additional registration fees.
 - Use of any type of fog, smoke, fire, laser or pyrotechnics related devices is **STRICTLY PROHIBITED**. (See Deductions: Prop Infractions)
 - All selected team advisors/coaches must report to all scheduled meetings on the day of the event.
 - Teams should consider all scores final. Any changes in scoring will be at the discretion of the NSA Northeastern Directors.
 - **The Vision Steppers, National Stepping Association and all sponsoring entities require that all coaches and steppers to conduct themselves in a professional and courteous manner at all times during the Blaze The Stage Competition.**
 - **Failure to comply with this rule will result in your team's removal from the competition and possibly all other NSA/ NSANortheast competitions. The following WILL NOT be tolerated and will result in your team's performance being HALTED and DISQUALIFIED:**
 - Profane language
 - Vulgarity
 - Sexual gestures
 - Inappropriate apparel; music; language and/or choreography

*****Unsportsmanlike conduct (booing, hissing, etc...)*****

Performance (Time) Windows

- Youth Show (including Showcase): 8 –10-minute performance window for the step team.
- Collegiate Show: 10-12-minute performance window for the step team.
- *Note: the time starts at the first movement or first sound (music/voice) made.*

Division Designations

NSA Northeastern Region will recognize the following age group categories for the purpose of competition participation:

- **(U-12)** Only participants aged 12 and under **OR** participants enrolled in an elementary school are allowed to compete in this category.
- **(U-14)** Only participants aged 14 and under **OR** participants enrolled in a middle/Junior high school are allowed to compete in this category.
- **(U-19)** Only participants aged 19 and under are allowed to compete in this category.
 - This is considered the high school category.
 - The stepper must be enrolled in high school.**
 - **Exception:** participants enrolled in a private or public high school at the beginning of the step season who meet the requirements to graduate early are eligible to compete in this category.
(i.e. A stepper enrolled to step in August 2018 but graduates in June of 2019).
- **(Collegiate)** persons enrolled in a college or university are allowed to compete in this category.
- **(Showcase)** There are no age or school enrollment requirements for this category.

***Compete** is defined as participating in a team's step routine as an active stepper including but not limited to stepping, skits and stunting. An individual older than the age restrictions can participate as a moderator or voiceover; however, stepping, stunting, and skit participation of any kind is not allowed.

****steppers are allowed to step up to any category; however, they cannot step down. (i.e. a U-12 team can step up to U-14; a U-14 team can step up to U-19).**

Scoring Rubric

Introduction (5 points maximum)

- Is the team's introduction exciting, eye-catching and enticing?
- Does the introduction establish the performance theme?

Thematic Flow (15 points maximum)

- Did the music and skits compliment and display the intended theme?
- Is there a balance between stepping and presenting the theme?
- Did you have a clear understanding of the purpose or idea being presented?

Outro (5 points)

- Does the outro "complete the show" or does it appear to be filling time for the performance window?
- Did the team perform the outro with energy maintained, or did the team appear to be tired and sluggish?

Note: Intro, Outro and Thematic Flow (located on one silo score card) will be judged by the same person

Appearance (5 points maximum)

- Are the uniforms consistent with the theme?
- Is the team appropriately and uniformly dressed?
- How does the team attire hold up during the entire step performance?
 - Do any undergarments become exposed or clothes undone during the routine?
 - Do accessories fall off (i.e. wigs, weave ponytails, glasses)?
 - Do pants or shorts rip?

Step Creativity (10 points maximum)

- Does the team incorporate props into the steps (i.e. canes)?
- Are the movements different/creative?

Note: Appearance and Step Creativity (located on one silo score card) will be judged by the same person.

Vocal Clarity (5 points maximum)

- Can you hear and understand what the steppers are saying as a group?
- Did the steppers use proper diction throughout the routine?
- Can you hear and understand when an individual stepper speaks?
- Did the team utilize a voiceover for the entire routine? *There should be a balance between speaking voice & the use of voiceovers*

Scoring Rubric**Showmanship/ Enthusiasm (15 points maximum)**

- Is the team showing awareness of the audience when stepping, speaking, and gesturing?
- Does the routine seem creative?
- Are the steps repetitive? Are the steps exciting? Does the team utilize facials?

Note: Vocal Clarity and Showmanship (located on one silo score card) will be judged by the same person

Transitions/Formations (10 points maximum)

- Is there a clear difference from the placement of the steppers from one step to another? Did the movement flow?
- Did the team utilize a variety of complexity and difficulty elements during their transitions?
- Does the team use a variety of creative formations or does the team remain in one formation for more than two steps? Is the team making use of the performance area allotted?

Complexity/Difficulty (15 points maximum)

- How difficult or complex are the steps and the entire routine to perform?
- Did the team utilize various stunts (i.e. flips, rotational movements, chairs)?
- Did the team utilize high knees throughout the routine?
- Did the team use a variety of complicated elements throughout the routine?

Synchronization/Precision (15 points maximum)

- Are the team members on beat during the entire performance?
- Are individual steppers still moving once the step or transition has ended?
- Are the team members hitting points at the same time with the same body positioning (arm movements, leg alignment)?
- Are the movements sharp with execution from elbow to fingertips?

100 Maximum Points Possible

Note: Stringency of each category is adjusted to Major vs Minor Divisions



Notes:

