



October 2022

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If you have questions about any of the included information or any other IHSA dance official questions please feel free to reach out to any of the above members of the Board of Directors

Be sure to bookmark the IDOA website at www.ildanceofficials.com for resources, FAQ's and more!

IDOA October Newsletter

2022 - 23 IDOA Training Announcement

Saturday, October 29 we will offer a series of **VIRTUAL** dance official trainings over Zoom:

Session 1: 9:00 am - 10:00 am

Introduction to IHSA Dance Officiating

- Recommended for officials with 4 years or less of experience.
- We will cover a general introduction to officiating, Q and A, and focus on commenting and scoring for newer officials.

Session 2: 10:15 am - 10:45 am

Technical Officiating

- Recommended for all levels of experience.

Session 3: 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

What do Teams **REALLY** want to Hear

- Find out the top 5 things TEAMS and COACHES want us to understand and improve on.
- Recommended for all officials

On **Sunday, November 20** - We will host the **ONLY LIVE** Panel and Technical trainings of the regular season in two separate sessions starting at approx 8:30 AM and 12:30 PM (definite time will be available when the contest schedule is released) during the Mundelein High School Dance Competition.

- The AM session will cover panel officiating. We will be using TourneyWire and will be scoring and commenting on LIVE routines.
- The PM session will cover Technical Training, both on the floor and in the stands.

If you are an official with 3 years or less of experience, we highly recommend you attending this training if possible.

Space is limited to the first 6 officials for **EACH** session. I will be creating a wait list and send out confirmations upon receiving your registration. **SPACE IS LIMITED!!!**

Official Shadowing

If you would like to shadow at a competition, please reach out to us directly and we can find a date and location that works for you. We want to offer as many opportunities as possible so please reach out to me at cmerickson07@gmail.com

Need a little dance vocab language to use in your critiques? Print out this document and keep it in your officials bag as a quick reference.

[Dance Official Language](#)

Register for ALL training and shadowing opportunities at this [LINK](#)

When was the last time you opened up your dance officials bag?

It might have been a while, your supplies might be depleted and your timer battery might be dead! It might be time to stock up on essentials and re-stock that bag! Here are the items you want to make sure you have in your bag so you can be ready to officiate!

- Rule book (you can get it laminated and bound at any Kinkos for about \$6)
- Timer (check your batteries)
- Pens & pencils (love these [erasable pens](#))
- IHSA patch (you can use these [magnets](#) to easily attach them to your clothing)
- Clipboard
- Advil, mints, gum



IDOA Member Spotlight: Kacey O'Keefe

Years as an IHSA official? 11 years

Why did you become an official? I have been a part of the dance world for as long as I can remember. Becoming a dance official felt right in that I can help as many teams as possible through feedback and scoring at each competition.

What is your dance background? I started dancing in 1994. I graduated from Illinois State University with a B.S. in Dance Education. My dance training includes Bataille Academie of the Danse, American Dance Festival, Boulder Jazz Dance Workshop, Visceral Dance Center, and Beyond Words Dance Center. I have choreographed and taught at a variety of dance studios, universities, and dance intensives all throughout Illinois. Professionally, I have been a dance company member with Rodriguez Dance Theatre, Meraki Dance Company, Outlet Dance Company, Interweave Dance Theatre (Boulder, Colorado), and the Kate Jablonski Statement. In July of 2022, I performed with The Kate Jablonski Statement in Croatia at the Sibenik Dance Festival. Over the past 10 years, I have started and grown the Dance Program at Carmel Catholic High School since 2013. Currently, I teach high school dance full time and I serve as Artistic Director for my school's Orchesis Dance Company. I have been a Dance State official in 2021 and 2022. In 2018, 2019, and 2020 I provided the commentary over the live feed for the IHSA Dance State Series.

What is the best advice you would give to a new official? The best advice I can give to every official is to stay as up to date as possible with our forever changing dance world. It is so important that we all are in tune with today's dance knowledge and to have total accuracy with dance terminology. If you are on panel, advocate for yourself and only offer to take categories you are confident in. Know that you can always learn more about the rubric areas you are confident in.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time? What I have come to enjoy the most is spending quality time with my family. I have a 16 month old daughter named Riley and we spend most of our time dancing around the family room to all the songs from the Sing 2 movie.



The 2022-23 Dance Competition Season is almost upon us! ARE YOU READY?

Here are a few things to make sure you do NOW so you are ready to work in November:

1. If you haven't yet, renew your license via the IHSA log-in page - To renew your license, log in to the IHSA Officials Center using your Official ID and password and click on the "Licensing Center" link. Since it is past the due date, you will be charged a \$30 late fee.
2. Take the rules test by 11/29. You can print out the questions and study them in advance by clicking on the red box that says "Take Part 1 Exam". When you get to the next screen it says you can "Watch the rules presentation", which I highly recommend, and "Print out the questions". This will make taking the test much faster and can also serve as a great resource to review as the season progresses. If you have any questions, please reach out to any of the board members!
3. The IHSA has 2 additional required trainings for all officials. There is a Concussion Management training & exam (valid for 2 years) and Hate Speech and Harassment Video (valid for 1 year). You MUST complete these to be in good standing.
4. Consider applying for a promotion! When you log into your IHSA official account and you are eligible for a promotion it will tell you under: "Level, Years & Promotion Status" We highly recommend applying for a promotion if you are eligible. Many contest hosts look for and request officials that are at the "R - Recognized" or "C - Certified" levels. To be promoted you need 2 recommendations, have attended an IHSA Clinic within the past year and are required to take an additional portion of the rules test which is timed.



Does your black and white wardrobe need a facelift?
Keep your eyes open for IHSA official wardrobe pieces.
All of these images are linked if you like them!
Don't forget we need to wear:

Black pants or skirt
Black dressy shoes

White dressy top
Optional black blazer



Do you feel like you need to guidance as you move through your first few years as an IHSA Dance Official?
Join IDOA's mentoring program and you will have someone there for you to answer your questions and mentor you to be the best official possible.

If you are interested, please email our VP Katie Kaczanko at katieavery82@gmail.com