



October 2023

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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

2023 - 24 IDOA Training Information

It's not too late to register for our live trainings!

Sunday, November 19 at Mundelein High School

This afternoon session will cover Technical Training **only**, both on the floor and in the stands using TourneyWire. It will run from approx. 12:30 - the end of the competition.

Sunday, December 3rd at Naperville North High School

We will host **LIVE** Panel and Technical trainings 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)

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

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!!!**

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

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 our Education Coordinator, Christina Erickson, at cmerickson07@gmail.com

Mark your calendar for the season update meetings from IDOA & IHSA:

IHSA: On Wednesday, November 8th @ 3:45 Tracie Henry & Lynn Gelatka will host a virtual meeting covering the following:

1. 4-4-4 rule
2. Jewelry clarification

Email Lynn or Tracie if there is anything else you feel needs to be addressed in this meeting. Another meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 6th

IDOA: In order to keep our membership as informed as possible about any changes and updates with IHSA dance, we will be hosting 2 update sessions throughout the season. These will be a wonderful opportunity to get your questions answered, learn about new rule interpretations, continue refining your skills and make connections with your fellow officials. These sessions will be held over Zoom and will be on:

- A. Mid Season: Wednesday, Dec 13th 8-9 pm
- B. Post-Season: Wednesday, Feb 7th 8-9pm

As these dates approach we will share the Zoom link and a request for any questions!

IDOA Member Spotlight: Linnea Mason



Years as an IHSA official? I'm thrilled to be going into my 11 season judging for this sport.

Why did you become an official? After dancing and coaching for several years, officiating felt like the next phase in my dance career. I wanted to stay involved and give back to the sport that gave me so much in my life.

What is your dance background? Dance has been an integral part of my life since I was three years old. Growing up I trained in classical ballet, jazz, tap, contemporary, and modern. In high school, I was on my national qualifying dance team. Shortly graduating from HS, I coached three different IL dance teams who I led to state winning and national qualifying placements. Also, was a UDA Staff member and taught toddlers to teenagers at dance studios across the NW suburbs of IL.

What is the best advice you would give to a new official? Be a sponge and absorb as much as you can. IHSA and the two associations provide great opportunities to learn and grow through clinics, learning sessions, guest speakers and live trainings. Take advantage of these opportunities as much as you can. Also don't be afraid of the NFHS Rules book. It can be daunting at first, but the more you immerse yourself in the booklet and watch as many rule interpretation videos, the better you'll feel. Volunteer to be a tech judge at least once a season (I do) and partner with a veteran tech official to ask questions throughout the season. We have so many amazing and talented tech officials that can help guide you.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time? Living in Chicago, I love exploring and taking advantage of all the city has to offer. Seeing Broadway shows, running on Lake Shore Drive, eating at new restaurants. It truly is the best city in the world....until winter hits and we get those below zero temps

The 2023-24 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 11/28. 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 officials 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 Allison Stewart at ahstewart12@gmail.com