



September 2023

*Congratulations to the
NEWLY ELECTED
IDOA Board!*

President:

Gina Dryden
Reginadryden@yahoo.com

Vice-President:

Allison Stewart
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Education Coordinator:

Christina Erickson
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Secretary:

Summer Riordan
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Treasurer:

Katie Dryden
katedryden@yahoo.com

**IHSA Clinician
Representative:**

Lynn Gelatka
lynn_marie22@hotmail.com

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 September Newsletter

We would like to thank our outgoing board member Katie Kaczanko for all her hard work and dedication she has put into her various positions on the IDOA board, her commitment to IHSA dance is EXCELLING and we will miss her! Please help us welcome new board member

Summer Riordan as our secretary!

See page 2 of this newsletter to learn a little bit more about her!

2023-24 IDOA TRAINING ANNOUNCEMENT

VIRTUAL TRAININGS

Monday, October 9, 7 - 8 pm

Technical Officiating Session:

- Recommended for all levels of experience.
- Presented by Allison Stewart & Cindy Albright

Sunday, October 15

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 - 11:15 am

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

Session 3: 11:30 - 12:30

Choreography & Difficulty: What is applying? What is Excelling?

- Recommended for all officials

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 commenting 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!!!**

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](#)

Follow our Instagram @idoa_dance_officials for videos, updates and more!

Mark your calendar for the season update meetings:

In order to keep our membership as informed as possible about any changes and updates with IHSA dance, we will be hosting 3 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. Pre-Season: Wednesday, Oct 11th 8-9pm
- B. Mid Season: Wednesday, Dec 13th 8-9 pm
- C. Post-Season: Wednesday, Feb 7th 8-9pm

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

The 2023-2024 IHSA Competitive Dance season is almost here! Please take a moment to vote for Dance Official of the Year via the below link.

Please submit your vote by **Friday, September 22, 2023.**

[**VOTE HERE FOR IHSA DANCE OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR**](#)

IDOIA Member Spotlight: Summer Riordan

1. Years as an IHSA official? 12, how can that be?
2. Why did you become an official? Dance means everything to me. It armed me with skills that prepared me for adulthood. It is an honor to continue to support the growth of such a beautiful sport while preparing youth for their adult lives ahead of them.
3. What is your dance background? I think I am addicted to dance. It is a constant in my life, even just watching it thrills me like nothing else. I danced mainly Ballet and Jazz in the studio as a child, and joined my competitive dance team in high school. I started coaching in high school and continued in college, but I missed performing so much. I walked onto my college competitive team. As soon as college ended, I knew I also needed a break from coaching, and I immediately started training to judge. I haven't stopped since. Now, I am rounding out all my roles with dance mom. (I just finished sewing some pointe shoes prior to answering these questions.)
4. How do you feel you have grown as an official over the past few years? When you start as an official, you naturally see a gap between what you are watching and what you want to see. Getting past that initial gap feeling, and pushing myself to focus on the work and commitment every performer puts in really drives me to focus on crediting what I see working well, determining where this team is, and what is the next step for them to grow from where they currently are. It has nothing to do with me and my experience, and everything to do with their own. If I was their coach, what would be next at practice on Monday? The other thing I learned, after a great deal of time learning the nuances of each section of the scoresheet, is how to help teams see how the different sections of the scoresheet tie together unique to their own performance.
5. What do you enjoy doing in your free time? Spending time outdoors with my family, eating good food and wine, reading by a pool and using my Peloton.
6. Favorite vacation spot? O'ahu, my cousin lives there. I love that you can have totally different experiences on the different sides of the island, and it is all in one beautiful paradise.



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