

## **Studio Practice**

### **Can dancers practice with their studio during the IHSA competition season?**

- No. *By-Law 3.103 The phrase, "participate on any non-school team," as utilized in By-law 3.101, is defined to mean engaging in any team activity, including but not limited to, tryouts (except as defined in Section 3.102), drills, physical practice sessions, player evaluations, team meetings, etc.*

### **What is the difference between a competition routine practice and a studio lesson?**

- A dancer MAY take classes/lessons at a studio during their schools competition season. Lessons may naturally include some overlap with skills and techniques that would be in a competition routine.
- A dancer MAY NOT participate in a practice that is considered a competition routine practice. This would be a practice that is teaching, working on and/or cleaning a competition dance during the IHSA dance competition season.
- **Example of a Legal Studio Lesson:** Dancers are working in a class on kick skills. Dancers are lined up and receiving instruction on kick technique.
- **Example of an Illegal Competition Practice:** A team of dancers are learning choreography for a competition routine.

### **Can a dancer sit and watch a competitive routine practice at a studio or club during the high school season?**

- No. Sitting and watching would be considered engaging in team activity.

*By-Law 3.103 The phrase, "participate on any non-school team," as utilized in By-law 3.101, is defined to mean engaging in any team activity, including but not limited to, tryouts (except as defined in Section 3.102), drills, physical practice sessions, player evaluations, team meetings, etc.*

### **Could a high school competitive team dancer be a part of a performance only club or studio team during the high school season?**

- A dancer can be part of a performance only team during the IHSA season. However, the choreography that is being taught during the high school season for performances only could not later be used as a competitive dance after the high school season ends.

### **IHSA Travel Policy**

#### **Can teams miss more than one day of school for Dance Competition?**

- No. The travel policy is a By-law for all sports at the IHSA. Therefore, dance teams do have to follow the travel policy and will not be allowed to miss more than one day of school.

#### **IHSA Policy 10. Travel Policy**

***Schools may travel any distance provided the participating students miss no more than one school day, including travel to and from the competition.***

- Below are a few interpretations for the Travel Policy. All of these options have to be coordinated through the schools local administration.

-Teams can take two half days. A half day on Friday and a half day on Monday.

- In-service days. If the Friday or Monday before competition is an in service day at the teams' school, that team could take the in-service day as well as a school day.

-Request for appeal. The team could submit a written request for appeal through their school's official representative to the IHSA Executive Director, Dr. Marty Hickman.

### **Divisions**

#### **When will I know which division our team will be competing in for the IHSA State Series?**

- The enrollment cut off numbers which determine what division (1A, 2A, 3A) your team will be competing in have not been set. Divisions will be determined after November 1, the deadline for teams to enter the State Series

### **Dance Tryouts**

#### **When can an IHSA Competitive Dance Team conduct team tryouts?**

- Could an IHSA Member School conduct tryouts for the 2012-13 Competitive Dance Team this spring?
  - Yes, the IHSA Competitive Dance By-Laws will not be in effect until July 1, 2012. The IHSA is communicating to school administrators and coaches that teams should continue to try out as they normally would this spring and will have to follow all IHSA By-laws beginning July 1, 2012, when the IHSA school calendar begins.
- Could an IHSA member school conduct tryouts for the 2012-13 Competitive Dance Team after July 1, 2012 and before October 29, 2012?

- No, because the IHSA Competitive Dance By-Laws go into effect July 1, 2012. Team tryouts must be before July 1, 2012 or after October 29, 2012 for a school's Competitive Dance Teams.

**When can my Halftime Dance Team conduct tryouts?**

- Halftime Dance Teams can host their tryouts at anytime throughout the year. These are performing teams at school events and teams not eligible for competition. For example, if a school has a Halftime Dance Team that performs during football games that school may conduct tryouts at anytime. (For example: April, May or any other date that the district designates.)

**Does an IHSA member school Dance Team still have to comply with the IHSA By-laws even if they are not going to enter the IHSA State Series but plan to compete at other contests?**

- Yes. All IHSA member schools must comply with all IHSA By-laws, regardless if they are entering the IHSA State Series. (This applies to: Eligibility, Season Limitations, Contest Limitations, Qualifications of Coaches, etc.)
- 

**Studio Competition**

**Will IHSA member school students be allowed to compete for a school's IHSA Competitive Dance Team and compete for a dance studio during the IHSA Competitive Dance Season, Monday, October 29 through Saturday, March 30?**

- No, IHSA member school students will not be able to compete for a studio and compete for their high school during the Competitive Dance Season (Monday, October 29 of Week 18 through Saturday, March 30 of Week 39). After the IHSA Competitive Dance Season dancers are allowed to compete for a studio or after their school's last competition date, whatever comes first.
- *IHSA By-law 3.101: During the school season for a given sport, in a school which maintains a IHSA Competitive Dance team in that sport, a student shall not participate on any non-school team, nor as an individual unattached in non-school competition, in that given sport or in any competition that involves the skill of the sport in question. Violation shall cause ineligibility for a period not to exceed 365 days.*

**Studio Lessons**

**Will dancers be able to take lessons at a studio and compete for their IHSA Competitive Dance Team?**

- Yes, as long as they are taking lessons from someone other than a coach from their high school Competitive Dance Team. If a coach from the high school Competitive Dance Team is conducting the lesson then no more than (2) students from the same school can be involved in a given lesson.
- *IHSA By-law 3.111: During the school year, a person who is a coach at any IHSA member school may not be involved in any respect with any coaching school, camp, or clinic for any interscholastic sport or which provides instruction in any skill of an interscholastic sport and is attended by more than two (2) persons from the coach's school. Violation shall cause ineligibility for a period not to exceed 365 days. Programs that involve only demonstration of skills and sports theory without providing instruction and requiring active participation by attendees are not considered coaching schools.*

### **Choreographer & Studio Instructors**

#### **Can a choreographer or a dance studio instructor also coach at a high school?**

- Yes, provided that he or she meets the requirements of IHSA By-law 2.070 Qualifications of Coaches.
  - IHSA By-law 2.070
  - <http://www.ihsa.org/documents/forms/2011-12/2011-12-section2.pdf>

#### **Can an IHSA Competitive Dance Team use a choreographer during the summer?**

- Yes.

#### **Can an IHSA Competitive Dance Team use a choreographer during the IHSA Competitive Dance Team Season?**

- Yes, if the choreographer meets with the school dance team during the Competitive Dance Team Season (3.351) he or she will have to be a certified coach (By-law 2.070).

### **Summer Contact Days**

#### **Will IHSA Competitive Dance Teams have to comply with By-law 3.153, which restricts coaches to 25 contact days during the summer of 2012?**

- Yes, all IHSA Competitive Dance teams will have to follow By-law 3.153 beginning July 1, 2012. Any contact prior to July 1 will not count against the 25 contact days, since the IHSA

Amendment Proposals go into effect on July 1, 2012. Next summer, in 2013, dance coaches will be limited to (25) contact days between Monday of Week 49 and Sunday of Week 5.

**Can an IHSA Competitive Dance Team attend summer camp?**

- Yes, however if it is after July 1, 2012 teams will have to count camp dates as summer contact days (By-law 3.150).

**Halftime Dance Teams**

**Can an IHSA member school's Halftime Dance Team practice in the summer?**

- Yes, Halftime Teams that are performing at football games, basketball games and other school events do not have follow the Practice Limitations for Competitive Dance Teams.

**Can an IHSA members school's Halftime Team go to camp in August?**

- Yes, Halftime Teams that are performing at football games, basketball games and other school events do not have follow the Season Limitations for Competitive Dance Teams.

**End of Summer Contact**

- **How does By-Law 3.150 Special Provisions for Summer Participation effect Competitive Dance Teams? "Black Out Days"**
  - Last Day for Summer Contact (By-Law 3.153) only applies to Competitive Teams. During the summer students are allowed to have a maximum of 25 days of contact, instruction in the skill or techniques of the sport, with their coach. After the last day of summer contact, July 29, 2012, the coach cannot organize Competitive Team practice until the first day of the Competitive Dance season October 29, 2012. By-Law 3.150 does not apply to Halftime (performance) Dance Teams. Halftime Dance Teams are governed by the IHSA Activity By-Laws. (By-Law 4.000)
  - **3.153** Persons who coach a sport at a member school may have a maximum of 25 days of contact in that sport with students from that school during the period between the last day of classes or Monday of Week 49 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar (whichever date is earlier) in the spring each year and Sunday of Week 5 in the IHSA Standardized Calendar. Students may have a maximum of 25 days of contact per sport with persons who coach that sport at the school they attend during the same time period. A day of contact is defined as any date on which any coaching or instruction in the skills and techniques of any sport takes place.
- **How does By-Law 3.150 Special Provisions for Summer Participation a effect Halftime (performance) Teams? "Black Out Days"**

- Fall Halftime Teams that are performing at school football games and school events can practice at anytime.

### **Multiple Sport Participation During a Season**

- **Can a dancer participate in another sport or activity during the Competitive Dance Season or during the fall or winter when the dancer is a part of the Halftime Team?**
  - The IHSA does not have a By-Law or any limitations that would prevent a dancer from participating in multiple sports or activities during a season.

### **Step Team Competition**

- **If a high school has a Competitive Dance Team and a Step Team, does the Step Team have to follow the IHSA rules for dance? Can both teams compete at the IHSA State Series?**
  - A school is only allowed to enter one team in the IHSA state series. Yes, a Step Team would have to follow the IHSA rules if they are competing. If a school has a step team that only preforms and does not compete against other schools then the team would follow the IHSA Activity\_By-Laws. (By-Law 4.000).

### **Orchesis Team Competition**

- **Does an Orchesis Team that only competes once a year have to follow the IHSA By-Laws?**
  - Yes. An Orchesis Team that competes has to follow the IHSA By-Laws. An Orchesis Team that only performs does not have to follow the By-Laws.

### **Rules Book**

- School Spirit Teams and Halftime Teams that dance at school football and basketball games are governed under the NFHS spirit rules book and the IHSA Activity By-Laws.
  - IHSA Activity By-Laws
  - <http://www.ihsa.org/documents/forms/2011-12/2011-12-section4.pdf>
- **Can members of our school Halftime Dance Team also become members of our Competitive Dance Team?**
  - Yes.