



# SCHOOL GAMES

# Dance

Level 3

County Level

Judges Support pack



This judges pack is to be used as a briefing document for all judges involved in the competition. You will find that elements of this pack also appear in the School Games Competition Toolkit.

- The judging panel should always consist of **three independent** judges.
- Judges will be asked to score on three categories; all three judges will give a category 4: Overall Impact Score (see judging categories).
- Judges have the responsibility of scoring and determining the placing of teams.
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## EVENT PROCEEDINGS

- Judges are requested to arrive at the venue for a briefing at least one hour before the start of the competition.
- Judges will be given paperwork and seated in the competition area 10 minutes prior to the competition starting.
- Performances will take place in an area chosen by the competition organiser,
- Props are allowed, as long as the school provides them.
- Judges are asked to mark each school's performance against pre-determined criteria (see below)
- Judges will be asked to give **positive verbal comments to the competitors**
- The first three performances should not be scored until all three groups have performed. This is to enable the judges to gauge the standard of competition
- Each team's scores should be finalised directly after their performance (bar performances one and two)
- After all teams have performed, the judges should convene in a separate room or area so the results can be collated and placings calculated.

### How does the judging work?

- Each judge will score on two categories plus category 4.
- Two scores will be created for each category.
- The two scores will be averaged to create a final category score.
- The scores off all three judges will be averaged to give a category 4: Overall Impact score.

Each judge will judge the following categories:

- Judge One – Categories 1,2,4
- Judge Two – Categories 2,3,4
- Judge Three – Categories 1,3,4



The categories are as follows:

Category 1	Concept (10 marks)	Soundtrack (5 marks)
Category 2	Choreography (20 marks)	Floor use (15 marks)
Category 3	Performance Skill (20 marks)	
Category 4	Overall impact (30 marks)	

## JUDGING CRITERIA

		Things to consider		Things to consider
CATEGORY 1	Concept (10 marks)	Originality Exploration of a theme Innovation	Soundtrack (5 marks)	Appropriateness to overall theme Ability to create or enhance mood and atmosphere Original and creative choices
CATEGORY 2	Choreography (20 marks)	Appropriateness to theme Innovation and originality Composition of dance movement (including degree of difficulty) Integration of movement and soundtrack Use of choreographic elements such as rounds, cannons, solo performances, unison etc.	Floor use (15 marks)	Use of stage area Entrances and exits Levels Spatial awareness
CATEGORY 3	Performance Skill (20 marks)	Focus and projection Execution of choreography Skills such as mime and gesture Synchronisation (if appropriate) Commitment to performance		
CATEGORY 4	Overall impact (30 marks)	Effective use of all elements Total performance impact Overall impact of theme		



## JUDGES SCORING GUIDELINES

1 – 10 point selection	1 – 20 point selection	1 – 30 point selection		
1 - 2	1 – 4	1 - 6	=	Needs work
3 - 4	5 – 8	7 – 12	=	Fair
5 - 6	9 – 12	13 – 18	=	Good
7 – 8	13 – 16	19 – 24	=	Very good
9 - 10	17 - 20	25 - 30	=	Excellent

Scoring example:

	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3	Calculation	Score
<b>Category 1</b>					
Concept	5		6	$(5 + 6)/2$	5.5
Soundtrack	6		7	$(6 + 7)/2$	6.5
<b>Category 2</b>					
Choreography	15	13		$(15 + 13)/2$	14
Floor Use	8	9		$(8 + 9)/2$	8.5
<b>Category 3</b>					
Performance Skill		23	25	$(23 + 25)/2$	24
<b>Category 4</b>					
Overall Impact	20	23	25	$(20 + 23 + 25)/3$	22.7
				<b>Final Score</b>	<b>81.2</b>

N.B. The 'Judging score calculator' will work out all scores and placings automatically.



## JUDGES FEEDBACK

The judges are required to provide two types of feedback to the schools/teams:

- Each judge will be given the opportunity to comment verbally during the competition. It is up to you to decide how you want to structure this, for example you could ask judges to feedback after every three performances.
- The judging score cards provided in the competition toolkit have an area for the judges to write positive as well as constructive comments about the overall performance. You could decide to pass these onto each team after the competition.

## JUDGING HINTS

- Judges should not give standing ovations.
- Judges should not use phrases like "You're the best I've seen tonight", "top marks" or "full marks".
- Judges should be seen to be acting fairly to all acts. Please pay full attention to all performances.
- Judges need to act uniformly, i.e., use words which highlight the strengths of the act and praise it where appropriate, but don't go overboard with gushing superlatives which make it hard to explain to both students and parents if a team does not place.
- **DO NOT USE ANY NEGATIVE COMMENTS DURING THE VERBAL PUBLIC FEEDBACK. SAVE CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM FOR YOUR WRITTEN FEEDBACK SHEETS.**
- Schools may wish to see the judge's comments after the competition. Please ensure that comments are presentable and appropriate.
- **ALL SCHOOLS ARE MARKED ON A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD** e.g. public/private schools should be marked the same as secondary schools; mainstream schools should be marked the same as schools catering for students with special needs.
- **EACH ELEMENT SHOULD BE MARKED EACH SEPARATELY**  
E.g. judges should not give an overall mark of '90' and then split the marks over their 3 categories to reach this total.
- **JUDGES SHOULD BE PREPARED TO JUSTIFY THEIR MARKS**  
E.g. if a team or the required justification on a particular score the competition organiser may return to a judge to seek their rationale
- Personal likes and dislikes (e.g. dance styles, song choices, etc.) should not influence marks



## COMMENT SUGGESTIONS

These are very rough ideas for comments, which would need further expansion, but may give you some ideas.

- Congratulations on an enthusiastic presentation.
- I was impressed by your lively/exuberant performance.
- You presented an interesting interpretation of the music.
- You successfully linked the music to the theme.
- The choreography complemented your choice of music.
- I commend you on the staging.
- You used the area effectively to bring all groups in.
- You used the props well to heighten the mood of your performance.
- The theme had a dramatic impact on me.
- The outstanding feature was the relevance of the theme to young people.

### Have any questions or queries?

Contact [schools@emdp.org](mailto:schools@emdp.org)