

Mid American Pompon Parent and Spectator Guide to Judging

The information below is to inform and educate parents regarding the judging process that is used at Mid American Pompon Competitions. Becoming educated in the sport helps to eliminate a misinformed parent. Also, when viewing a competition it is helpful to know the judging categories, requirements and restrictions that apply to each routine. Below we have subdivided different types of information to keep this easy to understand. Please keep in mind for each competitive event, judging categories, requirements, and restrictions vary. Mid American Pompon provides each coach with a detailed list of all judging categories, routine requirements, and restrictions upon the receipt of their team's paid reservation for the event. It is imperative that they read each set of requirements very carefully, to avoid deductions on the team's performance(s) as rules and requirements may change.

1. DIVISION OF TEAMS

Each team that enrolls for the regional and State-Wide Championship must register under the MHSAA Winter Sports Class Ranking. This ranking is predetermined at the beginning of each school year and published by the MHSAA. This year's rankings, dependent upon school enrollment, are as follows:

Class A -- 967 and above

Class B -- 468 to 966

Class C -- 218 to 467

Class D -- 217 and below

*Due to the small number of class D schools that have a pompon team, the class C and D schools are combined.

2. WHAT ARE THE TEAMS SCORED ON?

Appearance	10 points
Skill of Kickline	10 points
Smiles/Showmanship	10 points
Skill/Level of Ability/Talent	10 points
Form, Execution, Precision	10 points
Formations/Transitions	10 points
Team Unity/Rhythm, Timing	10 points
Use of Poms	10 points
Choreography, Use of Music	20 points
Overall Impression	10 points

The material that the coach receives explains **each category** in detail.

3. WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS FOR THE REGIONAL AND STATE COMPETITIONS?

Time Limit – 3 ½ minutes; There is a minimum time of 2 minutes required. These time limits include the entrance and exit from the floor. Pom placement or removal is included in the maximum time, with the exception of a pom that is dropped accidentally. There is a six member team minimum, and no maximum.

Kickline - 32 counts connected, including 4 consecutive straight high kicks

MAPP COMPETITION GUIDELINES

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE **NOT ALLOWED** AND WILL RESULT IN A 20 POINT DEDUCTION (unless otherwise stated below) FROM THE TOTAL SCORE IF THEY ARE TO OCCUR.

Tumbling and gymnastics

1. Tumbling is allowed as long as one hand, foot or body part remains in constant contact with the performance floor. Skills can be performed individually or in combination. Airborne skills are not allowed when hip overhead rotation occurs.

ALLOWED

Forward/backward rolls
Shoulder rolls
Cartwheels
Handstands
Backbends
Front/back walkovers
Stalls
Head spins
Windmills
Kip Up

NOT ALLOWED

Dive rolls
Roundoffs*
Front/back handsprings*
Front/back tucks
Aerials
Layouts
*see below for exceptions

2. *Allowed only for hip hop: airborne skills with hip overhead rotation must involve hand support with at least one hand.
3. Tumbling while holding poms or props is not allowed.
4. Slams/drops to the knee, thigh, seat, front or back position onto the performance floor from a jumping or standing position. Must first bare weight onto hands or feet in order to break the impact of the drop.

Lifts/partnering stunts

1. Jumping or tossing from one athlete to another is not allowed.
2. Jumping or tossing from one athlete to or from the performance floor is not allowed.
3. Jumping off another athlete while sitting is allowed as long as there is hand/arm to body contact with a third athlete the entire time.
4. All cheer stunts and/or pyramid/mounts are no allowed (exception: piggy back)
5. Throwing/tossing is not allowed including basket tosses.

Lifts

1. Lifts are allowed and defined as an action in which an athlete(s) is elevated from the performance floor and set down.
2. A lifting athlete must maintain direct contact with the performance floor at all times.
3. Lifting athlete must have hand/arm to body contact, of the lifted athlete(s), at all times.
4. Swinging lifts are allowed, provided the lifted athlete(s) body does not make a complete rotation. The athletes head/face must be facing the performance floor or audience/judging panel.

General Guidelines

1. Suggestive, offensive or vulgar choreography or music is inappropriate for the audience and could result in a deduction.
2. Poms are not allowed to be put in the mouth of an athlete.
3. Queuing your team while they are performing will result in a deduction.

Code of Conduct

To ensure the most positive experience Mid American Pompon asks that the following code of conduct be adhered to during all Mid American Pompon events:

- Any questions or concerns regarding a team's performance or scores must be communicated by the coach ONLY. Coaches are to contact the MAPP director only after 48 hours following any event.
- Participants, coaches or spectators are not allowed to make contact with the judges or director during any event.
- Judges rulings are final related to placements or deductions.
- Any unruly or aggressive behavior by participants, coaches or spectators toward any other spectator or MAPP staff could result in team disqualification, removal from the event or suspension from future events.

Overall, if a movement is done that is not within the above-specified guidelines and is determined inappropriate, offensive OR dangerous the judging panel will have the option of assessing a 20-point deduction.

Props are not allowed at regional or State competition.

Teams are not disqualified at Regional and State Competition (unless they enroll in the wrong division or use inappropriate music). However, points are deducted from the total score for failing to meet requirements or for including restricted elements in their routine. Deductions will be taken at Regional Competition. The move that the team has been warned about must be removed prior to State Competition or the team will receive a 20 point deduction.

4. HOW ABOUT WHEN A TEAM MAKES A MISTAKE?

At regional competitions, each judge considers mistakes in the overall score. At State Competition, mistakes will be deducted from the total score. A pair of judges will count mistakes. Each mistake is a deduction of ½ point unless the mistake is very large which will result in a full point deduction. One mistake judge watches the left half of the performance floor, while the other watches the right half. Please note that Mid American Pompon encourages that team members who drop a pom during their competition performance pick up the pom as quickly as possible without distracting from the performance.

5. WHO JUDGES THE EVENTS?

Mid American Pompon carefully selects its judges from various areas. Our judges are former pompon team members, former Mid American Pompon staff instructors or former coaches. All judges are required to attend and pass the judges training course issued by Mid American Pompon. Careful attention is paid to the selection and training of our judging panel in order to ensure the most professional competition experience possible.

6. WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO QUALIFY FOR STATE-WIDE CHAMPIONSHIP?

Because of the large amount of Class A teams competing, teams may qualify into one of two categories. Class A teams receiving **80% or more** of the total points will qualify into "Class A"; Class A Teams receiving **75-79.9%** of the total points will qualify into "Class A - Division II". Class B, C/D, and JV teams receiving **75% or more** of the total points will qualify. Middle school teams receiving **70%** or more will qualify for the middle school division. JV and middle school teams receiving **70-74.9%** of the total points will qualify for "JV or MS - Division II" at the State finals if more than 11 teams qualify. While those JV and MS receiving **75%** or higher, will qualify into the JV or MS Division.

7. COACHES CODE OF ETHICS

In order to encourage coaches to have ethical and positive coaching behaviors, Mid American Pompon requires that all coaches who participate in our events sign our coaching code of ethics. The safety of our participants is of the utmost importance to Mid American Pompon, as well as their sportsmanship. Attached is the Coaches Code of Ethics that we have on file at Mid American Pompon for each coach. Please note that if coaches do not adhere to these guidelines, they could jeopardize their team's ability to participate in Mid American Pompon events in the future.
(Attachment – Coaching Code of Ethics)

Parents' thank you for taking the time to read through these guidelines. If you should have questions regarding the information above, please contact your coach for further explanation.