



**Welcome Coaches, Performers, and Fans to the  
47th Illinois Drill Team Association State Finals**  
**Bank of Springfield Convention Center**  
**1 Convention Center Plaza**  
**Springfield, Illinois**

**Entry Fee Payment**

- If your payment has already been submitted and verified by **Cyndi Kraemer**, no further action is needed.
- **For all performances (soloists and teams)**
  - The entry fee is \$100 per routine. Payment is due prior to your first performance and no later than **2:00 pm** at Team Check-In.
  - If paying at State Finals, please follow these steps:
    - Place the State Invoice and payment together in an envelope.
    - Clearly write the following on the outside of the envelope:
      - School Name (not initials)
      - Head Coach's name
      - Re: State Entry Fee
    - Once verified, the Team Check-In representative will clear your team and you will receive your entry packet.
  - Teams with outstanding fees owed to a contest host have been contacted separately.
  - Soloists and Teams not paid in full will not be allowed to take the competition floor.

**Friday Information - Solo Preliminary Rounds - 6:00 p.m.**

- Admission
  - Free for spectators — come cheer on your favorite performer!
- Soloist Check-In: 5:00 - 8:00 pm
  - Coaches may also pick up their team check-in packets for Saturday during this time.
- Finalists will be announced immediately following the Preliminary Rounds, along with the order of performance for Saturday.
- Mr. Video will be taping the event.
- Due to multiple sporting events in the surrounding area, a trainer will not be available. Bags of ice will be provided if needed.

**Coaches - Please share the following with your fans:**

- **Doors Open:** 7:00 a.m.
- **Spectator Fee:** \$15.00 (Children 4 and under are free)
  - *Cash only — ATM on site*
- **No outside food or drink** is allowed. Contents may need to be disposed of upon entry.
  - BOS Center concessions accept **credit and debit cards**

- **Clear Bag Policy:** There is **NO clear bag policy** for this event.
- Due to the length of the State schedule and printing costs, IDTA **will not** be providing a printed schedule. The schedule is available in the State Program and is also available on the IDTA website.
- Programs - **\$20.00** ~ A great souvenir! (cash only) - *The schedule is printed in the program.*
- Spectators & Fans - You should plan to arrive at least 1 hour before the scheduled time of your favorite performers. While we make every effort to remain on schedule, performances may occasionally run ahead or behind the posted times.
- Please be considerate of others during the competition. Spectators should remain **quiet and seated** throughout each performance and must NOT cross in front of or behind the judges' area at any time. When leaving the stands, please exit promptly and quietly so the competition may continue without interruption.
- Under no circumstance are parents or spectators allowed on the basement level. Access is restricted to coaches and team members with wristbands only. Security personnel will be stationed at the stairways to verify wristbands.
- Per NFHS rules, there cannot be artificial noisemakers. Signs are allowed but must not block the view of other spectators.
- Sportsmanship & Conduct – Use of profane, disrespectful language, music, or gestures during performances or anywhere at the contest violates NFHS Spirit Rules. This includes inappropriate behavior towards judges, event staff, coaches, performers, or other spectators. Violations may result in a **3-POINT PENALTY** for the team! This policy applies to performers, coaches, and spectators alike.
- Spectators are welcome to videotape performances. However, the entire event will be professionally recorded by Mr. Video. Orders for state DVD's and HD downloads can be placed the day of the contest at the Mr. Video booth in the vendor area (discounted pricing available) or online at [www.mrvideoonline.com](http://www.mrvideoonline.com).
- Livestream information can be found at [mrvideoonline.com](http://mrvideoonline.com) Click on the link for 2026 IDTA State Finals.
- Woods Studio will be offering photos of teams and State Championship winners (*1st Place in each category, Top 3 Dance and Flag Soloists, High Point, and Grand Champion*). Team photos will be taken behind the stage prior to each performance. State Championship winners will be taken immediately after the presentation of the trophy. A booth will be available in the vendor area for ordering or you can access ordering information on the IDTA website.
- Flash photography is not permitted during any performance as it can create a safety hazard for performers.
  - o Action shots will be taken by Woods Studio and will be available for viewing and purchase online after February 21 at [www.woodsstudio.com](http://www.woodsstudio.com). A booth will be available in the vendor area for ordering or you can access ordering information on the IDTA website.
- Please check out the vendors in the lobby at the Bank of Springfield Convention Center!!

## **Coaches Information**

- Team check-in begins at 6:30 a.m. ~ **All teams need to check-in by 2:00 p.m.**
- Please inform your bus drivers that we **cannot** provide a hospitality room for them due to the layout of the convention center.
- Due to the length of the State schedule and printing costs, IDTA will not be providing a printed schedule to coaches. The schedule will be posted on each gym door and at the practice/warm-up area. It is available on the website and it is also included in the State program. For a hard copy, please print one prior to attending the competition. Make sure parents and fans attending are aware of this too.

- Be sure your team is in the convention center **at least 2 hours before** they are scheduled to perform.
- There is **NO Music Check**.
- There is **NO Pre-Contest meeting**.
- Flag Coaches ~ If you need to unload equipment at the BOS Center, the easiest location is at the corner of Washington and 9th Street, at the back of the building (across from Horace Mann). Pull up to the overhead door in the back, and staff will open it for you so you can bring your equipment inside.
- Coaches will pick-up wristbands at team check-in. Wristbands must be worn at all times by coaches and team members in order to be admitted to the practice and performance areas. The number of wristbands for teams and coaches will be based on the team's membership application. **Additional or lost wristbands are \$10.00**.
- Pre-ordered programs and/or merchandise may be picked up in the lobby on Friday from 5:30–8:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 7:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. After 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, all pre-ordered items will be available at the IDTA merchandise table.
- Changing rooms are available for team use and are located on the lower level (Rooms B-9 and B-10). These rooms are **for changing purposes only**. Teams may **not** practice in the changing rooms. There is no scheduled time for room use; please change and exit promptly so other teams have the opportunity to use the space. Personal and team belongings may **not** be stored in these rooms. Please be respectful of the facility and clean your area before leaving. This includes disposing of all items, **including bobby pins**.
- **Performers should not change in the stands.**
- Team Seating - The upper ring (3rd level) in the convention center is designated for team seating and will be monitored. **Team members are not allowed to sit in the spectator seating area**. Please ask your team members to respect this policy. Teams may leave their bags/belongings in this area while performing. However, we are not responsible for lost or stolen valuables during the contest day.
- A trainer will be available on the main floor next to Section 102 throughout the duration of the contest.
- **Coaches' Videos:** Each coach will be receiving a link to download your team's performances. The link to download will go to your [idta.org](http://idta.org) email. Mr. Video will be uploading videos during the event. Check back a few hours after your performance to download your team's video. If you don't receive your video on the day of State, your video will be sent by February 19. NOTE: This video is for educational use only and not licensed for publishing online to social media outlets.
- If you have any questions regarding scheduling or payment of fees, contact Cyndi Kraemer. If you have any questions regarding pre-ordered programs/merchandise or the facility, contact Michelle Deets.

## **AWARD CEREMONY**

- Your entire team should be in the convention center **no later than 7:30 pm** for the Award Ceremony.
- **Parade of Teams**
  - Teams should line up immediately following the Special Performances.
  - Teams will be announced in the order they arrive. Teams will enter from both sides of the curtain. We will not delay the Awards ceremony because a team is not in attendance.
- Coaches ... NO HIGH HEELS on the floor :)

## **Performance Information/Reminders (Solos and Teams)**

- **Warm-Up Check-In** (downstairs - lower level)
  - Teams should report to the **Warm Up** area (located in the lower level of the convention center) 45 minutes prior to your performance time (no more than 10 teams ahead of your scheduled performance). You and your team (including all Soloists) must check-in with IDTA Staff in the

lower level. You will be directed when you can use the practice areas and when to go upstairs. Signs are posted to direct you to the Warm Up area and Tunnel.

- You will need to bring your own device to play music in the warm-up area.

- **Ready Line Check-In** (behind the curtain area)

- As soon as you get upstairs, you will take your team photo and then need to check-in with the Head Judge Assistant.
- The Head Judge Assistant will also review the line-up instructions and will send the coach to the music table two (2) teams in advance prior to your performance. Performers should NOT take the floor until they have been given the okay.
- **Any team chants should be done behind the curtain and be done quietly!!**

- **MUSIC TABLE**

- Coaches should go to the music table **two (2) teams** in advance prior to your performance.
- A team representative must be at the music table to start the music or indicate when the music should start.
- Please have your music downloaded on your phone or an MP3 player. Your phone must be on airplane mode (or set to Do Not Disturb) so it cannot receive calls or text messages.

- **COACHES SEATING**

- There will be coach's seating near the front of the performance floor. **This section is for coaches and alternates only. No other teams may sit in this area during a performance.** You cannot "coach" during your team's performance. You may be a "fan", but you cannot cause any distraction (yelling, arm gestures, etc.).

- **OUT OF BOUNDS** ~ An out of bounds penalty will be assessed if the entire foot crosses the inside line of the boundary line. Equipment (flags and props) may be pre-set out of bounds.

- **PERFORMANCE FLOOR** ~ The floor is a regulation size basketball court (60 x 112 feet) with black lines. **Standard basketball and volleyball lines will be on the floor!!!!**

- **IHSA SAFETY VIOLATIONS** ~ Be sure to review the 2025-26 National Federation Spirit Rules Book. **There will be no warnings and no reviewing of any videos this week.**

- **AFTER THE PERFORMANCE** ~ You will **NOT** sign your penalty sheet or talk to the Head Judge. There are no appeals. The judges' decision is final. Rising Stars are **NOT** selected during post-season contests.

- Following your performance, you and your team will immediately be escorted to an area behind the performance floor to view a playback of your routine!

- **SPORTSMANSHIP/CONDUCT** ~ use of profane, disrespectful language, music, or gestures during the performance or throughout the contest does violate IHSA Spirit Rule 2-2. This includes ill-behavior towards the judges, event workers, other coaches, or other participants. This may result in a PENALTY of 3 points for your team! This includes performers, coaches, and spectators!

- **JUDGING/SCORES** ~ You will have 3 GE and 3 EX judges for all performances. The judges will score each performance individually and tabulation will total all scores. The judging panels will be shared with coaches in the team entry packets.

- There are **NO verbal evaluations** for the state finals.
- *This may be the first time that many teams have had more than a few competitors at a particular contest, and you may see a fluctuation of scores. Why is that, you ask? The judges use the rubric to determine scores. When there are only a few teams in a category, the score is straightforward to determine using the rubric. However, when there are multiple teams in a category and the majority falls within the same area on the rubric, the judge must make decisions of how to rank each team within those areas. The best of the best is competing here today, and you have given the judges an extremely challenging task. Congratulations to all of you making it to the Finals!*
- **You may also see a larger spread of scores due to the fact there are 3 sets of judges per routine vs 1 set of judges during the regular season.**

***I would like to personally thank each and every one of you for your participation this season. Many teams have shown tremendous growth throughout the season and I congratulate you for that! You should be very proud of yourselves! You have made it all the way!!***

***Cyndi Kraemer, Vice President***