

# MA Visual FX Contest Guidelines

## Visual FX Team Classifications & Divisions Flags ★ Rifles ★ Twirlers

Student ages will be based on the student's age as of **August 31, 2023**.

School teams are not divided by team size unless 8 or more teams have entered one division.

Private Schools may choose to either compete in the Private School Division or they can compete in High School Division.

### School Divisions

Public Elementary	All Elementary School Teams
Jr. High/Middle School	All Jr. High or Middle School Teams
Junior Varsity	High School Junior Varsity
Private Schools	All Private School Teams
High Schools	All High School Teams
Collegiate	College Teams

### Visual FX Teams Categories

Team Flag

Team Rifle

Team Flag/Rifle

Winter Guard

Dance Twirl

Team Twirl

### Visual FX Teams Performance Times

Including set up, entrance, breakdowns and exits, the following teams have a total of 5 minutes of floor time per routine.

Flag Teams, Rifle Teams, Flag/Rifle Teams, Dance Twirl, and Team Twirl

Winter Guards are allotted 10 minutes total.

Entrances and exits are not a part of the scoring process.

**A one point penalty per judge per minute will be assessed for exceeding routine time limits.**

Once you have registered, you will receive a link to upload your music for Team, Officer, Ensembles, and Solos. Please remember to label your music by genre and age division (if needed). Example: Washington HS - Team Jazz, 17-18 Senior Solo Jane Doe, etc.

The uploads must be in one of the following formats: **MP3, M4A and WAV files only!**

All props and backdrops should be taped to avoid damage to wooden floors and should be constructed to fit through a gymnasium 7' double door with a center crossbar removed. **ALL PROPS MUST BE APPROVED BY THE HOST SCHOOLS PRIOR TO PERFORMANCE.** Prop questions should be directed to the host school contact for each event.

Team performance venues will be a standard high school basketball court arena. Solo, officer and ensemble areas may vary from venue to venue and could range from a gymnasium floor, auditorium stage, to hotel ballroom. When possible, basketball and volleyball lines will be taped down in areas that do not have the generic gym markings.

# MA Visual FX Contest Guidelines

## Solos and Ensembles

### Solos

All solos will compete by age levels.

Awards will be announced for all competing age divisions

Student Ages will be based on their age as of **August 31, 2023**. In the event that age is questioned or contested, instructors need to be able to provide proof of age (birth certificate or government I.D.).

Solos compete in Guard or Twirling divisions. Soloists may enter as many solo entries as they would like, however each performer may only place one time in the overall rankings.

Solo Routines should be between 1.5 minutes and 2.5 minutes.

Tot	4 Years & Younger
Tiny	5-6 Years
Mini	7-9 Years
Youth	10-12 Years
Junior	13-14 Years
Senior 15-16	15-16 Years
Senior 17-18	17-18 Years
Collegiate	19 Years & Older

### Ensembles

Ensembles	Any Number of Performers
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Ensembles include the following age divisions:

Age Division is based on their age as of **August 31, 2023**. Age Divisions will be determined by the average age of the total group.

Ensembles routines should be between 1.5 minutes to 2.5 minutes..

Tot	4 Years & Younger
Tiny	5-6 Years
Mini	7-9 Years
Youth	10-12 Years
Junior	13-14 Years
Senior 15-16	15-16 Years
Senior 17-18	17-18 Years
Collegiate	19 Years & Older

### Solo and Ensemble Guidelines

Once you have registered you will receive a link to upload your music for Team, Officer, Ensembles, and Solos. Please remember to label each piece of music by entry number, genre and age division( if needed).

Example: #00111 Washington HS - Team Jazz, #00112 Senior Solo 17-18, Jane Doe, etc.

**The uploads must be in one of the following formats: MP3, M4A and WAV files only!**

All props and backdrops should be taped to avoid damage to wooden floors and should be constructed to fit through a gymnasium 7' double door with a center crossbar removed. **ALL PROPS MUST BE APPROVED BY THE HOST SCHOOLS PRIOR TO PERFORMANCE.** Prop questions should be directed to the host school contact for each event.

Team performance venues will be a standard high school basketball court arena. Solo, officer and ensemble areas may vary from venue to venue and could range from a gymnasium floor, auditorium stage, to hotel ballroom. When possible, basketball and volleyball lines will be taped down in areas that do not have the generic gym markings.

# MA Visual FX Contest Guidelines

## Registration Information

### Registration

All registrations must be complete a minimum of 14 days prior to the competition date.  
Events do sell out, please be sure to register as early as possible to insure your ability to attend.  
When completing registration be sure to complete additional forms including solo and ensemble names and ages, etc.

**Late entries must call to confirm space and availability.**

Confirmation packets and contest information will be emailed within the week prior to competition. MA will send a schedule to the registration email address for approval first. MA will post a final schedule online after directors have had 24-48 hours to approve the schedule or request changes. The final schedule will be posted online 48 hours prior to the contest beginning.

## Fees

MA 2024	Regionals	Classics	State	Nationals	HISD
Visual FX Teams	\$265.00	\$215.00	\$280.00	\$370.00	\$140.00
Visual FX Ensembles	\$210.00	\$145.00	\$215.00	\$220.00	\$85.00
Visual FX Solos	\$110.00	\$100.00	\$115.00	\$115.00	\$70.00

Winter Guard is considered as a Visual FX Team

Fees are due two weeks prior to competition dates.

Entry fees may be paid by a P.O., check, money order or online via credit card through the registration system.

Checks may not be post-dated and must clear the bank in order to finalize registration.

Payments can be mailed to:

MA Dance  
P.O. Box 940605  
Plano, TX 75094

All regional contest fees paid in full by December 15, 2023 will automatically receive a 10% discount. Any routines (team, officer, ensemble or solo) that you list on your registration and pay for in full by this date will qualify for this bonus. Routines added or changed after this time will be charged the regular registration fee. (This offer applies to Regional, State, and National Competitions Only).

Multi Contest Discount: Teams who attend more than one MA contest in the 2023-2024 competition season will receive 20% off each additional competition attended. (This offer applies to Regional, State, and National Competitions Only). \*Only one discount may apply per contest.

**Refunds for cancellations must be requested in writing and received in our office at least 14 days prior to the competition date.** Phone calls will not be accepted as formal requests for cancellation. Cancellations made less than 14 days prior to a competition date will not receive refunds. **No refunds are given due to weather unless the contest is cancelled.**

# MA Visual FX Contest Guidelines

## Music

### Music Submission at Contest

Once you have registered you will receive a link to upload your music for Team, Officer, Ensembles, and Solos. Please remember to label each piece of music by entry number, genre and age division (if needed).

Example: #00111 Washington HS - Team Jazz, #00112 Senior Solo 17-18, Jane Doe, etc.

**The uploads must be in one of the following formats:  
MP3, M4A and WAV files only!**

It is recommended to have a team representative at the sound table in case of music difficulties, however this is not required.

Adapters are provided for Apple products if needed.

Although you have already uploaded your music to the Google Drive, please always have a backup device or method of music for each song at each contest.

Music that is deemed inappropriate by the judging panel will result in a loss of points in either or both the choreography and overall impression categories of the scoresheets.

### Music Time Limits

Type of Routine	Minimum Time Length	Maximum Time Length
<b>Solo</b>	1 minute and 30 seconds	2 minutes and 30 seconds
<b>Ensembles</b>	1 minute and 30 seconds	2 minutes and 30 seconds
<b>Team Routines</b>	1 minute and 45 seconds	5 minutes (including entrance/exit & Props)
<b>Winter Guard</b>	8 minutes	10 minutes (including entrance/exit & Props)

Winter Guards may request a longer time limit through our office

All music utilized for performance should be legally purchased by the team or organization that is performing. If questions regarding music purchasing arise a director should be able to show proof of how they obtained the music being utilized.

# MA Visual FX Contest Guidelines

## Awards

### Solos

Solo titles will be awarded for studio and school separately in each age division. At the end of team competitions solo award placements will be announced. Pending the size of the contest 3 to 5 placements will be given in each solo division. Solo winners will perform in a parade of solo champions before awards

### Ensembles

Ensemble placements will be given out (3rd through 1st place) for each age division. Ensembles are eligible for judges' choice awards. Judges' choice awards will be awarded to routines the judges believe have special merit.

### Teams

**SUPERIOR TROPHY** - 1 routine with an 85 or higher from all 3 judges.

**OVERALL CHOREOGRAPHY:** Teams that have a choreography score of 83 or higher out of 90 points will receive an outstanding choreography honors banner.

**FIRST PLACE DIVISION AWARDS:** Teams will receive a banner for receiving first overall in their size division. (Formerly called Best In Class).

Judges choice awards will be awarded to routines the judges believe have special merit.

**OVERALL HIGHEST SCORING TEAM** will be awarded a trophy based on the number of teams entered.

## Understanding Our Award Ceremonies

### Solos

Solo winners will be announced during the final division of the contest. There will be no solo finals at classic and regional contests.

After the final team performance, all solo winners will perform in the parade of champions.

Up to 5 placements (5th through 1st place) will be awarded during the Awards Ceremony.)

### Ensembles

Following the final Solo Awards, Ensemble awards will be announced. Ensembles will be divided by age divisions. Ensembles are not divided by category.

All ensemble divisions will be awarded up to three placements (3rd place, 2nd place & 1st place).

### Team

Following ensemble awards, Team Awards will be announced.

Superior Rated teams will be announced next.

Choreography Banner recipients will be announced at the same time as their Superior Ratings  
Following rating trophies, the Judges' Choice Award Banners for teams will be passed out.

First Place Division Banners will be awarded for teams who have the highest overall composite score.

(Formerly called Best In Class)

Top Overall Trophy will be awarded if there are enough entries in the team division (Formerly Winner's Circle)

## After the Contest

All Directors will receive a bag with medals if they had auxiliary solos and ensembles.

Directors will be emailed the full award document within 36 hours of the conclusion of the competition.

Results will be posted online within 48 hours of the conclusion of the competition