

Appendix I-IBTA Contest Rules and General Information 2012

Age Levels for Solo Events

Juvenile	4-9 years
Pre Teen	10 - 12 years
Junior	13 -15 years
Senior	16 -20 years
Senior Plus	21 years and over

Age Levels for Dance Twirl, Pom Pom Dance & Team Twirl Events

Pee Wee	4-6 years (average age)
Juvenile	7- 9 years (average age)
Pre Teen	10-12 years (average age)
Junior	13-15 years (average age)
Senior	16 years & over (average age)

Age Levels for Command Marching Teams

Juvenile	4-10 years (average age)
Junior	11-15 years (average age)
Senior	16 years & over (average age)

Age Levels for M & M and Twirl Corps

Juvenile	4-10 years (average age)
Junior	11-13 years (average age)
Senior	14 years (average age)

Competition Age

The minimum age for competing at contest with the IBTA is 4 years. All competitors must be toilet trained.

Average Age

To calculate the average age of a corps or team, add together the ages of all the individuals (excluding guard or reserves) in years and months on the first day of contest, divide the result by the number of corps/team members. If you are using the Excel version of the entry form, this will calculate for you.

All corps members must be capable of performing the routine. No pee wee or mascot may be used to lower the average age.

Number of Members

M & M Corps (excluding guard)	Minimum 10	Maximum 20
Twirl Corps (excluding guard)	Minimum 10	Maximum 16
Team Twirl	Minimum 3	Maximum 9
Dance Twirl Teams	Minimum 3	Maximum 9
Pom Pom Dance Teams	Minimum 3	Maximum 9

Multiple Team Entries

It is acceptable to enter up to two teams in each division in pom pom dance teams, dance twirl teams and team twirls, providing both teams satisfy all the other rules in terms of numbers, ages and levels. This is not permissible in any other team or corps events.

Naming Multiple Team Entries

It is a requirement to name multiple teams rather than just A/B. This will speed up prize giving. It is optional to name team in sections where you only have one entry.

Amalgamation of Members from More Than One Corps for Team Events

The twirlers from two corps may combine to perform twirling corps and/or M&M corps, providing each corps has no more than 16 registered and competing twirlers. The entries should be submitted by one corps director on behalf of all. No points will be awarded to any groups for high point's purposes if a combined team receive an award.

Mike Talbot Memorial Award

The Mike Talbot Memorial Award is an award to the Corps that accumulates the highest points in Marching Events over the Competition year. The events are Basic Strut, Military Strut, M&M Corps, Command Marching & Honour Guard. The competition year will commence at Summer Contest and include Irish Open, Winter Contest, Irish Closed and the International Championships. The award will be presented at The International Championships every year. Points will be awarded in the same manner as the high points. Only IBTA members are eligible for this award.

Standard Levels

Assessing Athletes

As assessment of an athlete may move the athlete up or down a level.

For previous members, a time frame of three years from the time the athlete last competed must have lapsed. Athletes that have competed in another association have to be assessed to determine what level they are. The assessing of athletes must be booked through the IBTA Teacher's Representative who will assign the assessment to a level five Judge.

First Time Twirl

Open to any twirler under the age of 21 years who has never competed at any bona fide IBTA competition (or any competition run by a recognised organisation). Having entered this division you must progress to beginner irrespective of whether or not any award was received.

Beginner Level

Open to any twirler who has not competed at novice, intermediate or advanced level in that event before. A twirler will progress to novice if awarded first or second place at beginner level, providing the protection rule is not applied to the class.

Novice Level

Open to any twirler who has not competed at intermediate or advanced level in that event before. A twirler will progress to intermediate if awarded first place at novice level, providing the protection rule is not applied to the class. Any twirler aged 4-9 who is awarded 1st place in Novice level will not progress to intermediate until they are 10 years of age.

Intermediate Level

Open to any twirler who has not competed at advanced level in that event before. A twirler will progress to advanced if awarded first place at intermediate level providing the protection rule is not applied to the class. Any twirler aged 10-12 who is awarded 1st place in intermediate level will not progress to Advanced until they are 13 years of age.

Advanced Level

Open to any twirler who has been placed first at intermediate level in a class that was not subject to the protection rule.

Individual Top Twirler

Juvenile	4-9 years
Pre-Teen	10-12 years
Junior	13-15 years
Senior	16-20 years
Senior Plus	21 years +

Twirlers must compete in the following events

Basic Strut	T Strut
Military Strut	Solo Twirl
Parade Strut	2 Baton (10+ only)
Solo Dance Twirl	

In order to be eligible for Top Twirler at the Irish Open Contest, a Corps must fully register all its members for the entire year. An exception to this is, if a genuine 'New Corps' applies for membership half way through the membership year. A genuine 'New Corps' is a Corps who has not previously been registered with IBTA.

Progression levels for Duets

The progression levels for duets will be applied as they are for solo events. Any twirler aged 4-9 who is awarded 1st place in Novice level will not progress to Intermediate level until they are 10 years of age. Any twirler aged 10-12 who is awarded 1st place in intermediate level will not progress to Advanced until they are 13 years of age.

Protection Rule

A twirler can be protected from having to progress to the next level if the judge does not feel they are ready to progress, even though a first (or second in beginner) place is awarded.

Conditional Rule

A first, second or third place does not have to be awarded and twirlers must convince the judge that they are worth the appropriate award before it is made using the scale of proficiency as a guide.

Determining Standard Levels for Team and Corps Events

When working out the standard level for all team and corps events, only those members forming the main body of the performance should be considered excluding any guard.

Reserves

Reserves should be entered in appropriate age groups, and will then be eligible to perform in any of the entered team or corps events in that age group only. Should a reserve be used on the day, the team will not be moved to take in to account levels or ages.

Eligibility

Any corps who has 50% of new members since their last award may revert to one level lower. Any corps who has 75% of new members since their last award may revert to beginner level. N.B the Contest data base held by the Contest Officers will be programmed to calculate team and Corps Levels. This is regardless of whether your entry forms are e-mailed or Posted, as Posted entry forms will be programmed into the Data Base by the Contest Officers.

Pregnant Twirlers

IBTA does not allow pregnant twirlers to compete (or to take any practical exams). This is for safety and insurance purposes. Should a twirler discover that she is pregnant once their entries have been sent then we will refund her entry fees, and we will allow the Corps to re-arrange your teams as necessary. Please advise the Contest Office as soon as you are aware of this, and they will allow you a period of time to make any adjustments you need to enable your teams to compete. Please ensure that your twirlers are aware of this very important rule, and that your corps supports and abides by it.

Timings

	Minimum	Maximum
Basic Strut	Not Timed	
Military Strut	Not Timed	
Parade Strut	Not Timed	
T-Strut (timed from first movement to final salute)		
First Time Twirl/Beginner/Novice	No Minimum	1 Min 30 Secs
Intermediate	No Minimum	1 Min 45 Secs
Advanced	No Minimum	2 Mins
Solo Twirl (timed from salute to salute)		
First Time Twirl/Beginner 0 - 9 years	1 Min	1 Min 30 Secs
First Time Twirl 10 -20 years	1 Min 20 secs	1 Min 30 Secs
Beginner 10 years & over	1 Min 20 secs	1 Min 30 Secs
Novice	1 Min 20 secs	1 Min 30 Secs
Intermediate	1 Min 40 Secs	2 Mins
Advanced	2 Mins 10 Secs	2 Mins 30 Secs
2 Baton (timed from salute to salute)		
First Time/Beginner/Novice	1 Mins 20 Secs	1 Min 30 Secs
Intermediate/Advanced	1 Min 40 Secs	2 Mins

Solo Dance Twirl All levels	Determined by the cut of the music. Two cuts - one for twirlers aged 0-12, one for 13 + and Top Team	
Duet (timed from salute to salute)		
First Time/Beginner/Novice	1 Min 20 Secs	1 Min 30 Secs
Intermediate/Advanced	1 Min 40 Secs	2 Mins
	Minimum	Maximum
Team Twirl (timed from salute to salute)		
Pee Wee- All levels	1 Min 30 Secs	2 Mins
All other ages/levels	2 Mins	3 Mins
Dance Twirl Teams (timed from first note to last note of the music)		
Pee Wee - All levels	No Minimum	2 Mins
All other ages/levels	No Minimum	3 Mins
Pom Pom Dance Teams (timed from first note to last note of the music)		
Pee Wee - All levels	No Minimum	2 Mins
All other ages/levels	No Minimum	3 Mins
Command Marching Teams		
All ages	Maximum 1 minute	
M & M Corps (timed from salute to salute not to include any music used to enter or exit the performing area)		
All ages/levels	4 Mins	5 mins
Twirling Corps (timed from salute to salute not to include any music used to enter or exit the performing area)		
All ages/levels	4 mins	5 mins

Salute

The back of the right hand shall touch the hollow of the left shoulder with the right elbow level with the top of the shoulder, palm out, fingers together and wrapped tightly around the shaft of the baton. Foot position is optional. Salute should be held for at least two counts. Timing starts as the hand leaves the salute position with the exception of T-Strut. Timing stops as baton comes to stop in salute position.

Performing Struts

Basic Strut	Performed in a square, comment sheet, no baton handling
Military Strut	Performed in a square, comment sheet
Parade Strut	Performed in a rectangle, penalties recorded on a score sheet
T Strut	Performed in a 'T' pattern, penalties will be recorded on a score sheet

In Basic and Military Strut, a twirler may be subject to elimination for the following reasons:

- Out of Step
- Dropping Baton
- Knocking hat with baton/hand (Military Strut)
- Incorrect Uniform (Military Strut) - See under 'Marching and Manoeuvring Corps' for costume

Elimination is at the discretion of the Judge.

Penalties - Individual Events and Duets

Penalties incurred before timing begins (before the first salute) or after timing ends (after the final salute) are not recorded and are not considered by the judge when reaching the score.

Unsportsmanlike conduct	Up to 5.0 or disqualification
Incorrect pattern (T & parade strut)	2.0
Quadrant failure (solo dance twirl)	2.0 per quadrant
Complete fall	1.0 each
Costume penalty	1.0 Each infringement (Max 4 infringements per twirler- includes poor fitting, underwear showing (includes clear bra straps) tugging at costume and costume in two pieces without body stocking.
Incorrect taping of batons and repair	1.0 per baton
Failure to salute (beginning or end)	1.0
Improper salute (beginning or end)	0.5
Drops	0.5 each
Partial fall	0.5 each

Out of Step (T & parade strut)	Up to 4 consecutive steps	0.5 per set
	One complete direction	0.0 in timing caption
Out of step (solo dance twirl)	0.5 per occasion	
Omitted required basic strut (T-strut)	0.5 per set of compulsory basics	
Lofting baton (T-strut)	0.5 each	
Twirls (T-strut)	0.5 each	
Gymnastic movements (T-strut)	0.5 each	
Dropped equipment (solo dance twirl)	0.5 each	
Overtime/Under time	0.1 per second	
Breaks and slips	0.1 each	
Off pattern	0.1 each	
Loss of balance	0.1 each	
Hesitations (parade strut)	0.1 per beat	
Back steps (parade strut)	0.1 per step	
Non 2 baton trick (2 baton & duet)	0.1 per trick	
Unison (duet)	0.1 each	
Penalties – Corps and Teams (In Addition to or In Place of Normal Solo Penalties)		
Failure to salute (beginning or end)	2.0 each	
Improper salute (beginning or end)	1.0 each	
Drop	0.3 each	
Partial fall	0.3 each	
Out of step	0.3 each	
Dropped clothing or equipment	0.1 each in corps/0.3 each in teams	
Late in inspection	2.0 penalty	
	5 mins + late - No inspection, penalty 1.0 per member	
Rank/file/interval/distance (M&M/ Twirling Corps/Command /Guard)	0.1 each	
Honour Guard & Colour Guard	Minor Violations	0.1 each
	Major Violations	1.0 each

Practising

Practice is permitted in any designated practice areas

Disqualification

In addition to failing to comply with rules listed as resulting in disqualification, a twirler may be disqualified if their age or other personal details have been falsified, or they are observed being coached or timed from the sidelines by any person whatsoever.

Flash Photography

No flash photography may be taken during the contest. Any unauthorised person taking photographs will be liable to eviction, and if such a person is in any way connected with a corps or twirler, then that corps or twirler will be disqualified. The use of flash is strictly prohibited and all corps directors are responsible for ensuring that all persons connected with their corps are aware of this.

Still Photography / Video Cameras

It is permissible to take still photographs or video a performance of a twirler or team from your own corps. Any person doing so must have and be displaying an IBTA photo/video pass. Passes are available to anyone who requests one, however a suitable CRB/Garda will need to be provided. Any person taking photographs will be liable to eviction, and if such a person is in anyway connected with a corps or twirler, then that corps or twirler may be disqualified.

ADDITIONALLY, individual leisure Centres may have their own restrictions regarding Photography, Videoing and the Use of Video Mobile Phones. PLEASE insure that you adhere to these rules also.

Prizegiving

There should no eating or drinking on the floor during prize giving, please ensure all competitors from your corps abide by this.

Music

Apart from M&M, twirling corps, dance twirl teams, pom pom dance teams and solo dance twirl, continuous music will be used for all divisions at the tempo of 115 beats per minute. For the sake of avoiding monotony, some slightly up-tempo music will be included. For solo dance twirl there will be two selections of music, one for 0-12 years (inclusive) and one for 13 years and over.

For the solo dance element of top twirling team award the 13 years and over selection will be used, irrespective of the age of the twirler.

Corps directors should ensure that their music is recorded on cassette tape and is in the correct position for immediate replay. It cannot be guaranteed that facilities to play CDs will be available and all music must therefore be on cassette tape. All corps must have a back up copy of the music ready for immediate playing should the first copy fail; any corps not so prepared may be subject to disqualification. One corps director must be available to ensure that the music is ready for the operator without delay as soon as it is required.

Corps directors may list the name of their music with their entry forms. This will then be recorded on the score sheet to advise the judge.

Corps directors may check the timing of their music on the equipment supplied at contest. This may be done before or after competition each day. If the equipment has a variable play speed this may be used. It is the responsibility of the corps director to operate it. The provision of equipment with a variable play speed control cannot be guaranteed.

Corps Shuffling

A corps is permitted to perform only once in a division. For example, a corps will be disqualified if a member is entered or performs in both junior and senior classes of the same event. It is acceptable for a twirler to perform once in the main body of the routine and once in the guard.

Taping of Batons

For safety reasons a twirler may tape the shaft of the baton in any way they wish. The taping of Baton Shafts is at the discretion of each individual, Teacher or Corps. Penalties will be taken when Tapes are not uniform in Duets, team and Corps events, or are dirty or in bad repair. The penalty is 1.0 per Baton.

Numbering Competitors for Basic and Military Strut

All competitors taking part in basic and military strut (including top team events) must be numbered according to the run sheets. It is the responsibility of the corps director to prepare and provide these numbers, which should be a minimum of three inches square. Please make the figures large and clear and ensure they are attached securely to the left side on the hip and not on the competitor's back.

Entry and Exit for Solo Events and Teams

In the following events it is not necessary to march on and off the floor: solo twirl, 2 baton, duets, solo dance twirl, T-strut, parade strut, team twirl, dance twirl teams and Pom Pom dance teams. This applies at all ages and all levels.

The procedure to be used is as follows:

When the previous competitor has left the area, the next competitor should immediately enter and use any time to warm up and prepare for their performance until the judge is ready. When the judge is ready they will nod to the competitor who should salute and continue with their routine. At the end of their performance the competitor should salute and leave the floor in a dignified manner.

The procedure is the same for T-strut and parade strut, except that the competitor should take up their pose when the judge nods.

For solo dance twirl the competitor should wait for the announcer to advise them to take up their first position and wait for the music.

Change of Pace in Military Strut

For competitions in first time twirl, beginner and novice it is only permissible to perform a change of pace when going round on their own. They must perform at quick pace when going round together.

For competitors in intermediate and advanced levels a change of pace commencing with 4 slow marches is compulsory. To avoid competitors colliding when going around all together the judge will give the command "slow march" to start all competitors simultaneously. Should the judge require competitors only to perform quick pace, then they will give the command "quick march".

Lobs in Military Strut

Military lobs **MUST NOT** be performed in first time twirl classes, at all ages, and 4-6 years all levels. The twirler must however continue the nose to hip motion whilst turning the corner. Lobs are compulsory at all other levels.

Uniforms/Costumes

Bearing in mind that this is a sporting event the following are requirements for costuming for all events.

M&M & Twirling Corps

No change of uniforms is permitted between inspection & performance for any reason.

Military Strut

Military style costumes must be worn and must be complete with a military style hat. Decorations in the hair or any other style of hat are not acceptable and will result in elimination. If leotards are worn they must be long sleeved up to the neck and with a skirt. It is also acceptable for long trousers to be worn.

Basic Strut, T Strut, Parade Strut, Solo Twirl, Duet & 2 Baton

Leotards or all in one (cat suit style) costume may be worn.

Solo Dance

Leotard or Costume to suit the theme of the music may be used if desired, but is not compulsory.

Footwear

In the interests of safety, all twirlers must wear footwear when performing in any event. Under no circumstances will any twirler be permitted to perform in bare feet.

Team and Corps Rules and Guidelines

Team Twirl

One baton per member which must be used by a member throughout the entire routine. If you wish to include multi baton material this is quite acceptable providing all batons remain in use and does not vary from the ratio of one baton per member of the team. Costume: Leotard or all in one (cat suit style). No other props or scenery are permitted.

Dance Twirl Teams

One baton per member of the team. Costume to suit the theme of the music may be used if desired, but is not compulsory. No other props or scenery may be used. Costume is any item of clothing worn not carried, hats may be worn but may not be removed during a performance. If removed it becomes a prop and props are prohibited.

Pom Pom Dance Teams

One pair of poms per team member. Costume to suit the theme of the music may be used if desired, but is not compulsory. No other props or scenery may be used. Costume is any item of clothing worn not carried, hats may be worn but may not be removed during a performance. If removed it becomes a prop and props are prohibited.

Command Marching

4-10 years - A series of commands for 1 minute, left turn, right turn, about turn, counter march.

11- 15 years & 16 years + - A series of commands for 1 minute, left turn, right turn, about turn, counter march, right oblique & left oblique.

Marching & Manoeuvring Corps

One baton or one auxiliary prop per corps member which must be kept and used by that member throughout the entire routine. (NB one pair of poms = one auxiliary prop). Exchanges will be permitted providing the items exchanged are alike e.g. flag to flag or baton to baton. Limited dance, footwork and body movements will be acceptable. No gymnastic movements, acrobatics, balances, lifts or pyramids are permitted.

A minimum of ten members carrying the same item of equipment must be used excluding honour guard, with the choice of equipment entirely at the discretion of the corps director/teacher. It is not compulsory to have ten members with batons. No other decorative props or scenery may be used.

For a minimum of 50% of the time, members must be marching in a recognised style. Marching time will only be recorded when at least ten members are marching as a co-ordinated unit.

Military style costumes must be worn and must be complete with a military style hat. Decorations in the hair or any other style of hat are not acceptable and will result in elimination. If leotards are worn they must be long sleeved up to the neck and with a skirt. It is also acceptable for long trousers to be worn.

Military style uniforms must be worn for military strut, marching and manoeuvring corps and command marching teams and by all honour and colour guard members. Honour and colour guard uniforms must also include white gloves.

Twirling Corps

One baton per corps member which must be kept and used by that member throughout the entire routine. If you wish to include multi baton material this is quite acceptable providing all batons remain in use and does not vary from the ratio of one baton per member of the team.

A minimum of ten baton twirlers must be used and they must twirl for sufficient time to satisfy the twirling time rule. For twirling corps, the twirling time between salutes must be a minimum of 50% of the total time. Twirling time will only be recorded when at least ten members are twirling as a co-ordinated unit.

No other props or scenery are permitted. Costume: Leotard/sporting event style costume

Honour and Colour Guard

An honour/colour guard may be used within an M&M corps or twirling corps, however, if used will not be considered in the judging of the class. The guard is judged simultaneously by the guard judge, against other honour/colour guard units. The honour/colour guard will go through inspection at the same time as the main corps.

Judging is based on precision, bearing and timing, and a final posting and presenting of arms will be considered by the guard judge.

Top Twirling Team

Limited to one entry per corps. Six team members (plus one reserve if desired). Please note that this event will only run if there are four or more teams entering.

Twirler 1 MUST perform both BASIC and MILITARY Strut. Should any Twirler have competed in their individual event and then become injured the Reserve would NOT be able to take their place in Pom Pom. In the Case of Twirler 1 if they have only performed in one of the two events the Reserve would not be able to perform in the second event or

In order to be eligible for Top Team at the Irish Open Contest, a Corps must fully register all its members for the entire year. An exception to this is, if a genuine 'New Corps' applies for membership half way through the membership year. A genuine 'New Corps' is a Corps who has not previously been registered with IBTA.

Contest/Registration Paperwork

Incorrect paperwork received for Contest and Membership will incur a penalty of £10.00/€11.50

Late fee of £5.00/€5.75 per member if registration paperwork or funds lodged late to the appropriate IBTA Bank account after the specified date. Transfer dates vary from bank to bank so please allow at least 5 working days for your funds to reach the designated account.