



Competition Etiquette

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Competition day is a whirlwind of stress, excitement, laughter, concentration and fun. A lot of dancers and coaches are busy and nervous running around getting ready, practicing, checking in and performing. There is a lot going on at all times but the whole process can be made much easier if all participants engage in using some simple competition etiquette.

First, one of the best ways to keep things running smoothly at the competition is to be prepared. Letting your dancers know how the day will go will ease their mind and make the day run like a well oiled machine for everyone involved. Being prepared includes being very in tune with the day's schedule. Making sure you're where you need to be at all times is a huge courtesy to the competition staff and all the other teams. This will assist in keeping the competition on schedule so that things aren't delayed.

Another thing that is a general rule of competition etiquette is to make sure your team is being supportive of as many other teams as possible. As every dancer knows, it's so much more fun to perform for a crowd that is energetic. Your dancers would want other teams to cheer for them, and it would be great if your dancers would do the same. If you have another team from your school performing that same day, encourage your team to stay to watch and cheer on that team. Even if you're competing against a school, good sportsmanship is always encouraged and expected. A supportive atmosphere is essential in order for your dancers to a successful competition experience.

Perhaps the most important rule of competition etiquette is that, win or lose, your team stays positive. Even if they do not receive the score or placement they were expecting, encourage them to focus on positive outcomes of competition. They got up in front of a HUGE crowd and performed! That's an amazing accomplishment. Not many people can say that they've done that. Competition is so much more about the experience and journey of the season than it is of the result. Try to have your dancers focus on that and not get down on themselves if they don't receive a placement that they wanted. On the flipside of that, try to help your dancers remain gracious if they DO win. Getting that placement trophy is obviously the icing on the cake, but try to have your dancers remember that other teams have worked hard as well and everyone deserves to be proud of themselves after competition.

If your dancers follow through with these few guidelines, you are assured to have a very smooth and enjoyable competition experience.