

MEMBERSHIP RULES & REGULATIONS
AMENDED JANUARY 2011

1. In order to gain membership of the YCA, all Troupes must have a democratically elected Committee consisting of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee Members.
2. The YCA Committee reserve the right to refuse/suspend membership should they feel any application falls short of the expected criteria. THEIR DECISION WILL BE FINAL.
3. Good conduct from all members and associated troupe supporters are expected at all times. Verbal abuse, excessive alcohol, taking of illegal drugs or fighting will not be tolerated, this includes any Web Site Guest Book slander also any slander entered onto any Social Networking Sites. Any Troupe found guilty of any of these offences, including any indirect person associated with a Troupe, will be disqualified from the competition on that day, followed by disciplinary notifications and finally total loss of membership. Dances will not be under the influence of drugs/alcohol when on the arena.
4. Troupes competing in events, which entail overnight accommodation, are expected to maintain good behaviour whilst in such accommodation. Anyone found putting the YCA in disrepute will be suspended, together with the troupe they are representing, without question.
5. The YCA would like to promote good relationships between all Troupes. We ask that they support each other on and off the arena. Negative or derogatory remarks will not be tolerated and warnings will be issued.
6. The YCA accept no responsibility or liability for personal damage, neglect or loss. Troupes are therefore advised to look into their own insurance and performing rights permission.
7. Whilst these rules and regulations relate to the YCA members, Troupes who are non-members, but also participate in Open Championships, must be prepared to accept and adhere to these rules in order to enter by signing the Troupe Declaration Form.
8. Any complaints must be sent in writing to the Kathryn Hirst, 24 hours after the event/incident, to which the Committee will respond accordingly.
9. Each Member must hold a YCA ID Card to be able to enter any YCA Competitions. Proof of date of birth documentation and a passport sized photo to be produced.
10. Only one YCA ID Card can be accepted per year, i.e.: a child/young adult can only dance with one YCA Member troupe per season.
11. Membership lasts for one year – 1 January to 31 December.

YCA FEES & FUND RAISING

Each team must complete a Troupe Declaration Form for each year of membership -	Free of Charge
Individual ID Cards for all dancers & trainers (Trainers only if active In The Twirl Academy) This includes Subscription fees	£ 5 per person
Line fees for YCA competitions – All sections	£10.00 per section
Spectator Fees payable on the venue door. All spectators are asked to wear a wristband as proof of entry .The cost of entry is:	£3.00 per adult £1.50 per child £1.50 per OAP
Troupe Hosted Competitions - YCA Fees	£70.00
Twirl Academy Seminars – Grades	£ 3.00
Twirl Academy Seminars - General	£ 4.00
Examination Fees	£ 5.00

Fund Raising

The YCA is a children's charity and relies solely on competitions to raise funds to host competitions throughout the year.

Money is required for venue fees, insurances, PA equipment, Judging cards & tapes, TA Badges, Stationery, Computer & printing equipment, trophies, medals, certificates, advertising, banners, telephone, fuel and many other costs to enable the association to function.

Where possible the YCA applies for grants to help fund the events, however we are limited to which funding we can apply for, as we are not directly involved with the children/young people.

The YCA is a non-profit making association and all revenue is put back into the association throughout the season.

To help with cash flow we reserve the right to run raffles and/or 100/150 boards to raise money at YCA and Troupe competitions.

Sponsorship is an area the Committee will be looking into for future seasons.

The 200 clubs will not be running for the foreseeable future.

COMPETITION CRITERIA

The YCA incorporates the following competition sections. Teams may enter as many sections for the season as they wish.

(Themed Troupe of the Year)

Dinky Themed Majorettes
 Tiny Themed Majorettes
 Junior Themed Majorettes
 Senior Themed Majorettes

(Dance Twirl Troupe of the Year)

Dinky Dance Twirl
 Tiny Dance Twirl
 Junior Dance Twirl
 Senior Dance Twirl

(Freestyle Troupe of the Year)

Dinky Freestyle Majorettes
 Tiny Freestyle Majorettes
 Junior Freestyle Majorettes
 Senior Freestyle Majorettes

(Pom Troupe of the Year)

Tiny Poms
 Junior Poms
 Senior Poms

Baby Majorettes will not count to any Troupe of the Year awards

Age Limits

Inclusive age as at 1 January

All Criteria.

BABIES Up to 6 years of age
 DINKIES Up to 9 years of age
 TINIES Up to 12 years of age
 JUNIORS Up to 15 years of age
 SENIORS Unlimited

MASCOTS
 (Age limit as Section)

Time Limits

BABIES 3 - 4 minutes
 DINKIES 5 - 6 minutes
 TINIES 6 - 7 minutes
 JUNIORS 8 – 9 minutes
 minutes
 SENIORS 9 -10 minutes

Pom Pom Sections

TINIES 3-4 minutes
 JUNIORS 4-5
 SENIORS 5-6 minutes

For not meeting the minimum or maximum times, half a point will be deducted per minute or part minute by the Scrutineer.

Timing for all sections - Will commence on the Leaders Start Signal and finish on the Leaders Stop Signal. **This must be the Right hand raised straight to the side of the head and body angle must be facing the timing table AFTER THE MUSIC HAS STARTED. If the Leader fails to comply with this ruling the following penalties will be incurred.**

2 troupe points deducted for failing to start the timing correctly by the Scrutineer.

2 troupe points deducted for failing to finish the timing correctly by the Scrutineer.

Failing to comply with either of the above – Leader will score only one point in the Leadership ability – signals section of

his/her personal score.

Timing will be randomly taken at selected competitions during the season. Only one adult or trainer status member to attend the timing table. This representative must not take video or photographs and must not distract the timing official for the duration of the performance.

Head Count - Minimum Numbers

BABIES	4	Including Leader & Mascot
DINKIES	5	Including Leader & Mascot
TINIES	6	Including Leader & Mascot
JUNIORS	6	Including Leader & Mascot
SENIORS	6	Including Leader & Mascot

Should teams not meet the above minimum numbers – They may be allowed to dance but their score will NOT be count in the overall results

Troupes who meet the above criteria, for **every additional member** above the minimum numbers, they will be **awarded** 0.2 points. **(With the exception of Pom sections)**. We recommend that reserves are trained up to cover sickness and last minute absence on the day, to avoid disappointment.

Teams cannot dance without an active Leader – however the Mascot may step in, but will be judged as Leader and his/her costume must be marked accordingly.

If a member leaves the arena after dancing for part of the routine, the head count will not be adjusted. If a Leader or Mascot leaves the arena prior to the end of their performance and doesn't return, they will not be judged for a personal medal. However if the Leader or Mascot does return, they must have danced for a minimum of 2/3rds of the whole arena time and their score will be assessed by the adjudicator.

Double dancing is permitted providing members stay within the above age limits with the exception where troupes enter an A & B team within the same competition; no double dancing between the teams is accepted.

Dress

Dress is inspected on the arena at randomly selected competitions. Marks out of 10 are allocated with 0.2 points being deducted for faults. In the event of a tie, the adjudicator may add a (+) for overall effect. If a dress inspection is requested, ALL participating members must be checked. Points are not included in the overall score, but a separate award will be given for best dress.

Troupes are expected to dress smartly and to the rules at all times, even when dress is not being awarded for. Judges are permitted to comment on any dress that is causing obstruction or is not meeting the rulebook criteria, on their scorecard and rectification is expected for their next performance.

Dresses or skirts to be of a suitable length to avoid embarrassment and members must be suitably covered in their attire. Hair should be well groomed. We request that dresses are not lifted during their performance.

If on the arena, any item of clothing, headwear, etc, is dropped, 0.2 points will be deducted. Laces untied will also incur 0.2 points per lace should the member be asked to tie them for safety reasons.

Should a members costume need attention whilst on the arena, they will be asked to go to the timing table where a representative of their own troupe shall attend to it. They should then rejoin the team as soon as possible. Laces will be tied by themselves at the side of the arena, or in the case of a very young child they will go also to the timing table area for assistance.

No item of jewellery to be worn on the arena other than ONE pair of sleeper or ear studs. Other body piercing will be penalised. SOS medallions and wedding/eternity/engagement rings are permitted. Tattoos do not need to be covered up. **Make up is only allowed for Senior Sections.**

Freestyle / Poms / Dance Twirl Sections

Leader and Mascot are to be **identical** (or co-ordinated if different gender), but distinctive from the rest. **They must be marked, either on the uniform or by badges, Leader (L) or Mascot (M) to be judged for a personal medal.**

Themed Routines - Costumes

Costumes are of personal choice, and must emphasise the themed routine you are performing. They need not be uniformal and must not be offensive in any way.

Leader & Mascot **must be marked, either on the uniform or by badges, Leader (L) or Mascot (M), to be judged for a personal medal.**

ID Cards

Trainers should always carry the troupes ID cards at every competition for spot checks and security reasons. Spot checks will be announced at the beginning of the appropriate sections.

MISCELLANEOUS COMPETITION RULES

- A. The troupe Mascot is permitted to perform a short solo as the performance reaches a conclusion and must be within the routine time limits. She will be judged up to 5 marks for his/her personal medal.
- B. No arena markers are allowed. Should Team Members wish to bring on two or more batons each for their performance, they must not be placed on the floor at any time, with the exception of the Leader and Mascot who may place additional batons on the floor for part of the display. Their batons must be placed together and they must bring and take ALL their batons on and off the arena with them. They should not be used as markers at any time. Points will be deducted from the Leader/Mascot scores should this rule not be adhered to.
- C. A member can only be a Leader or a Mascot in one section per season.
- D. Commands/Signals may only be given by baton, pom or hand. No verbal or head movement commands are allowed.
- E. Dropped Equipment/Batons/Poms incur a deduction of 0.2 points per drop. Should a member retrieve the baton/pom, 2 full points will be deducted. Batons which bounce on the floor and return to the hand are classed as a retrieval. The decision will be made only by the Timing Scrutineer or the judges on the arena. The troupe representative at the timing table will be informed about their reason for the decision if it is not obvious. If the retrieval was not seen by judges or the timing Scrutineer then no points will be deducted.
- F. All dropped equipment will be picked up by an adjudicator or a chosen representative for the event and passed back to the troupe member. The member must accept the baton given to them.
- G. Taped/CD recorded music must be of good quality, and each section must produce only one tape per entry. Please ensure you bring with you two copies of all music to avoid any disappointment caused by faulty tapes. It is recommend that you have music on both tape and cd. Should the tape stop for any reason part way through a performance, teams will be asked to start from only the beginning of the dance from which it failed. Any subsequent baton drops from there on will continue to be deducted.

- H. 'Order of Draw' schedules are posted to troupe Secretaries a few days prior to the competition. Dance times must be adhered to. Any troupe not ready to dance without a valid reason will be given a recall 2 minutes after their scheduled time. If the troupe is still not ready, 2 points will be deducted by the Scrutineer. If a troupe wishes to change their order of dance, they must swap with another consenting troupe and inform the adjudicators at the start of the section competition.

On occasions time scales are disrupted for a variety of reasons, therefore a representative from every troupe must be present in the dance hall to ensure they are aware of the current running order. If a troupe is unable to be present at their section order, and are still not available to dance at the end of such section, unfortunately they will no longer dance.

- I. All injuries must be reported to the adjudicator prior to the Troupe entering the arena. Bandages, etc, need not be reported unless they interfere with general movement required in performing the display. Should a member become distressed during their performance they may be taken off the arena and no marks will be lost. However, if they wish to remain on the arena, and their deportment is not maintained, they will be deducted accordingly.

Plaster Casts No member is allowed to dance with a plaster cast on any of their limbs.

Pregnancy Members will not dance should they be pregnant. It is the responsibility of the member and/or Troupe Principal to inform the YCA as soon as confirmation of pregnancy is given. The YCA Insurance Policy does not cover such risk.

- J. Troupes are not permitted to practise on the arena at any time once the competition has been opened. Individual members may twirl etc, but no troupe routines allowed. Members **MUST NOT** twirl around the edge of the arena whilst a team is performing.
- K. Troupes are asked not to duplicate movements from other troupe performances. Should choreography or music be deliberately copied, the YCA committee will ask the Troupe Leaders to change it with immediate effect.
- L. Video coverage & photography can only be taken of the troupe you are representing. Anyone found videoing/taking photos of other troupes without prior permission will result in disqualification from that competition. This includes all supporters associated with your troupe.
- M. **Competition Entry Forms and Cancellations.**
Entry forms must be returned to Jason Brooker by the date stated on the booking form together with payment. Should you wish to

cancel any entry once the form has been received by Jason, no refund will be given. Late entries will only be accepted at the YCA Committee's discretion. Cancellation of entries on the day is not permitted. Regular occurrences will result in disciplinary action.

O. Host Competitions

When hosting a competition, all members of the YCA must be invited. Non-Members of the YCA invited at your discretion but must have signed a rule agreement prior to entering the competition.

A Liaison Officer must be allocated for communication between the YCA and the Host Team. Travel Expenses are charged by the YCA at the rate applicable at the time of the competition. **(2011 - £70)**

Host troupes are requested to provide an arena of a decent size, trophies, and medals for each section, adequate sanitation facilities, refreshments and lunch for the YCA Officials. Admission fees are charged at your discretion but it is advised the same charge is made by all the hosting troupes. **The Draw for your competition must be emailed to Jason Brooker prior to distribution.**

P. YCA Trophies

All Trophies presented at our competitions are returnable annually, unless stated on the competition day. All recipients of the trophies must sign for the trophies at the end of the presentation. It is the responsibility of the winning troupe to keep the trophy to the same standard as when it was received and to ensure it is returned prior to the next event the following year. All breakages or losses must be paid for by the Troupe's Treasurer on production of a YCA Invoice within 7 days. **If a trophy is not returned on the day, that section will not be permitted to dance in competition that day.**

In the event of a tiebreak, the trophy will be shared for 6 months. A coin will be tossed to see which team has the trophy for the first 6 months. Once the trophy is transferred to the second recipient, they must change the signatory in the trophy book and ensure it is returned prior to the next annual event.

Q. **Dance Offs** - In the event of a tiebreak at the Universal Majorette Championships in any of the top four placings, a dance off will be carried out with an additional judge. The exact duplicate routine must be performed including Leader and Mascot individual twirling. Troupes will dance off in the order of the original draw.

R. **All Competitions** - Presentation is for all troupe members and is in full uniform, inclusive of footwear.

S. When Choreography of the routine takes place, please ensure that none of the dance steps/music or costume refers to any offensive or sexual nature. The association is based on children and all activity must be suitable for all ages. Themes must be chosen with care as to not offend race, religion, disability or gender.

T. **THE JUDGES DECISION IS FINAL.**

YCA ID Cards

ONLY ONE CARD PER SEASON PER MEMBER

To enable anyone to enter into competition under YCA control, they must hold a current YCA ID Card.

These are produced by the Association to promote fair play with regard to age groups of the competitors and to ensure all children are dancing in the correct range for their age.

Members cannot dance in sections for which they are too old but can dance in sections older than their group. Consideration must obviously be taken as to whether the child is of the ability to dance in an older age group.

If a Trainer or other member of your troupe who doesn't normally dance in competition, would like to take part in the Twirl Academy Seminars or exam structure, they too must hold a current ID Card.

To enable the Association to produce the ID Cards the following documentation is required: -

1. **A Passport photo** – showing head and shoulders of the member. This photograph must not be any larger than the standard passport photo and must be only of the member applying for membership. **Ensure the photograph is comparable to the age of the child for the membership year they are applying for.** Failure to comply will result in the applicants being rejected for membership. The YCA Secretary's decision is final.

Please write their name and troupe on the rear of the photo.

2. **A PHOTOCOPY ONLY** of **ONE** of the following documents
 - Birth Certificate
 - Passport
 - National Health Card
 - Any other official documentation which verifies their date of birth.

Once the above documentation has been collected, please list all members on the form provided and forward to the YCA Secretary together with the current fee. (2011 - £5.00 per member). No cards will be distributed until full payment has been received for both ID Cards & annual subscriptions.

Should you have reason to discuss any private details regarding any of the above documents, ie: name changes etc; please contact the YCA Secretary directly.

All the above information is kept strictly **PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL** and is not passed to any third party. It is for the purpose of YCA Membership and is available only to YCA Officials for the purpose of the association. All YCA Officials are Police Checked to current regulations.

Anyone not holding a VALID YCA ID CARD will not take part in competition or TA Sessions, without exception.

All ID Documentation must be handed to the Secretary a minimum of 10 DAYS prior to the next event to guarantee entry.

Troupe of the Year Awards

Each year the following trophies are awarded at the end of season championships:

**Freestyle Troupe of the Year
Poms Troupe of the Year
Themed Troupe of the Year
Dance Twirl Troupe of the Year.**

**Section of the Year Awards for every YCA Section
Leader of the Year Awards for every YCA Section
Mascot of the Year Awards for every YCA Section**

Points are awarded for the following placings: -

1st Place	-	8 Points
2nd Place	-	6 Points
3rd Place	-	4 Points
4th Place	-	2 Points

In the event of a tie, both joint place winners will be awarded the full mark allocated EACH.

All competitions judged under YCA ruling whether Troupe Hosted or YCA Hosted are calculated into the overall scores.

On completion of the season, the Scrutineer will calculate the result by selecting each team's top results for each section individually, throughout the season. The number of competitions is dependent on the seasonal draws. These are then added to calculate the Troupe of the Year.

Teams who have a section in themed for one age group and a section in freestyle for another section will loose out as two separate trophies are now presented.

Section of the Year awards is also calculated on the sections top achievements, numbers dependent on how many competitions held per season.

Leader and Mascot of the Year awards are also calculated on their top competition results dependent on how many competitions held per season. If a troupe changes their Leader or Mascot part way through the year, it is at their Troupe Principal's discretion who is awarded the medal.

The 'Most Improved Troupe of the Year' is decided by the YCA Committee at the close of the season taking into account increased team ability, troupe dedication, behaviour, respect, support and loyalty for that season.

General Information

1. **Universal Championships**, Troupes who have danced with the YCA during that year in each appropriate section will be given priority of entry into these Championships.
2. As the Association is a registered charity, they have a Constitution in Place, which is available for viewing on request. The Charity Commission and Constitution states that the Association must hold regular meetings throughout the year to maintain their charity status. Competitions are classed as meetings and therefore monthly meetings will no longer be held.
3. The committee reserve the right to hold SPECIAL MEETINGS, throughout the season and expect a representative from all troupes invited to attend.
4. The YCA Child Protection Policy is available for viewing on request. The YCA Appoints yearly, a Child Protection Officer to whom any related issues can be discussed with. Our aim is to protect our members.

The YCA Website is www.yca-online.org.uk. Information is posted on the website for our member's reference and convenience. The guest book and forum is also available for interactive chat. However, please be aware that any information put onto either of these communities is visible to the world. Please be careful what you enter for your own safety. All guestbook entries are scrutinised by the Web Master prior to updating. Photographs are uploaded from various events. If any of your Troupe members would not like their child's photo on the website, they must advise the YCA Principal immediately. No personal names will be used only Troupe Names.

If required the YCA will issue disciplinary letters for misconduct and if necessary membership will be suspended or cancelled.