



# NOAC 2022

## American Indian Activities Competition Guidelines and Rules

### Important Dates

Thursday, June 30 – Registration Deadline for TEAMS using the link below:

[NOAC TEAM COMPETITION REGISTRATION](#) or using the URL below

<https://forms.gle/WD7QuuSLLoCeag7N7>

Monday, July 25 Contestants and Teams CHECK-IN will take place at the  
AIA OFFICE during Registration

Monday, July 25 Mandatory Competitions Meeting for all Contestants, Teams  
and Judges. This meeting will be held 30 minutes following the Opening Show

**\*\*\*Check NOAERS for specific Competition days \*\*\***



## Powwow Exhibition Team Dance

The Powwow Exhibition Team Dance is a competition allowing youth to use their modern day powwow dance clothes for another competition other than the individual dance style competitions. This is another way for the AIA program to “fuel the fire” for our youth Arrowmen across the nation. Much like a high school cross-county team, you race for yourself in individual competition and now for your team as well.

### A. Teams

Teams shall have a minimum of four (4) members. All members **MUST** be from the same lodge. No section teams or teams made up of members from more than one lodge may enter the competition. All team participants must be under twenty-one (21) years of age at the time of the conference, be registered members of the BSA and the Order of the Arrow, and registered conference participants. If a team's dance show involves audience participation, the team is responsible for bringing extra members from their lodge to the competition to act as "audience members" for the performance. Audience members will need to be youth members of the Order of the Arrow as well. NOAC staff and the AIA Dance Competition staff will **NOT** provide additional people for a dance team's exhibition.

### B. Acceptable Dances

The purpose in having this competition is for lodges to showcase exhibition dances that may be seen at powwows today. This would include such dance demonstrations and exhibitions that they may do for Cub Scout meetings, service organizations, or any other public performances. Teams can choose to showcase a variety of things, including, but not limited to, contemporary powwow dance style demonstrations or a choreographed team dance of multiple dancers of the same or different dance styles.

### Examples are:

- a) A showcase/exhibition of each dance style with the correct drum or recorded music.
- b) Synchronized team dance - An example would be 4 grass dancers doing the same moves to a Northern Drum.
- c) Line dancing with southern straight dancers with the correct drum or recorded music.
- d) Specialty dances of certain styles, such as Traditional dances doing a Sneak-Up or Duck-n-Dive.
- e) Hoop dancing, snake dance, trick songs, sneak up, crow hop, duck and dive, dropped article, round dance.

In choosing the dance(s) in which you will perform, consider the following:

1. Dances must be NON-RELIGIOUS and in good taste.

2. Society, clan, or family dances are not acceptable.
3. This is NOT the Historical Team Dance Competition! But for your information - Tribal Councils have asked that the Boy Scouts of America refrain from performing the following dances: Masked dances of: Pueblos, Apache, Iroquois, Creek, Cherokee, or Northwest Coast tribes (A mask is defined as anything that covers the face of the wearer hiding his true identity.). The Ghost Dance, the Pipe ceremony, the Pipe Dance, the Sun Dance, the Hopi Snake Dance, Gourd Dance and the Peyote Ritual are also not acceptable (These dances are NOT acceptable for any conference competition.) At this point in time we are not allowing smoke and stomp dancing for any conference competition.
4. The time limit is 15-20 minutes total time on stage. Total time includes: prop/scenery set up (if any), narrative, dance(s), dance clothes changes (if any), and removal of any props/scenery. Timing begins when the first participant steps onto the competition floor. (Note: Background scenery is not necessary or required.)
5. Teams are limited to a maximum of three (3) dances. Performance of more than one dance is not required, but teams should ensure that judges are provided enough presentation time to fairly assess the team's knowledge and abilities.

#### c. Rules Concerning Attire

1. No protected species parts allowed on any attire. Please be aware of State and Federal laws regarding endangered species parts.
2. Within the guidelines found in the U.S. Code as to the American Flag, flags are not to be used as wearing apparel. With this in mind, no type of U.S. Flag(s) will be permitted as a part of dance attire and should be removed prior to the conference. Flag motifs in quillwork, beadwork, and cloth work are acceptable.
3. National Order of the Arrow Face Paint Policy: Order of the Arrow National Conferences and activities conducted beyond the individual lodge will not permit face paint, body paint or wigs to be used in social or competition dancing, in ceremonies, or ceremonies competition.
4. The Boy Scouts of America policy regarding firearms and knives, as stated in the *Guide to Safe Scouting* will be followed. While we are guests at a university campus, we will abide by the campus policy regarding weapons.

#### D. Lodge Team Dance (Powwow Exhibition Team Dance) Registration Procedures

The Registration Form can be filled out with the Google Form titled "NOAC Team Competition Registration" at:

[NOAC TEAM COMPETITION REGISTRATION](#) or using the URL below

<https://forms.gle/WD7QuuSLLoCeag7N7>

This is due by June 30, 2022 so we can plan what day and time you will perform. The team's Chairman and Adviser must check in at the American Indian Activities office during NOAC registration, Monday, July 25, to confirm competition registration, receive a performance time, and receive up to date information on mandatory meetings, team roster requirements, etc.

## E. Lodge Team Dance (Powwow Exhibition Team Dance) Judging Criteria

Teams competing in the Lodge Team Dance Competition will be judged and awarded a score by each judge on the judging panel in each of the seven (7) areas discussed below. Each area is worth a maximum of ten (10) points and teams may receive a point score ranging from 0 to 10. Team standing/placement is determined by totaling all points received from the judges. Actual scores/points given by judges will not be provided to the teams, however critique sheets from all judges will be provided to the team at the conclusion of its performance. Relative ranking of the teams will be available the day after the competition is finished.

### E.1. Performance

Performances will differ from team to team as to what the content is. Some involve audience participation as well. Because of this broad spectrum, it is difficult to give exact guidelines as to what the judges expect. The most important thing is we expect that the dance show is an accurate representation of contemporary powwow dance styles that is used to educate others in an entertaining way. Judges will evaluate the accuracy of the narration and dances as well as the skill of the team in performing their various roles in the show. Entertainment is an important factor here as well and will be judged accordingly.

### E.2. Master of Ceremonies (MC)

Each group will need a MC to speak for the entire group about what performance is about to take place. The role of the MC is to inform and educate the audience and the MC is expected to show their knowledge about the dances that will be performed. Teams are encouraged to seek an Arrowman that is a great public speaker, engaging, enthusiastic, and understandable. Today's Powwow MC's do an excellent job of keeping the powwow flowing and are very knowledgeable.

### E.3. American Indian Dance Clothes

Please see the individual dance competition resources for guidance on dance clothes.

### E.4. Authenticity

Teams will be judged on the quality of the interpretation and presentation of their dance(s). Contemporary dances must be a good reflection of the current trends in the powwow world.

### E.5. Ability to Perform as a Team

Teams will be judged on their ability to perform their dance(s) so as to exhibit a true oneness and feeling for the dance(s). Teamwork and perceptive interpretation of the dance(s) by the team as a whole will be considered.

### E.6. Music

Teams will be judged on their use of drumming, singing and any other necessary musical accompaniment that should be used for their particular dance(s). As always, quality as well as authenticity of the musical aspect will be considered. The use of recorded music can be used and is encouraged. Bonus points will be given to teams that use their own drum team (max of 10 points.) If you choose to use your own live drum and have singers you will

need good quality singing. A team will need to choose wisely when considering having good quality recorded music or an average drum group. Today's Powwows have a strong connection to major drum groups attracting some of the best talented dancers. Music can be placed on a CD or MP3 format to be used on the sound system provided by the host university equipment and/or NOAC.

#### *E.7. General Effect and Impression*

The general effect and impression of the overall presentation will also be evaluated. This somewhat subjective criteria will permit judges to evaluate the educational, entertainment and informational worth of the overall presentation. Good use of allotted dance time will be considered.

#### **F. Recognition and Awards**

1. Each team will be evaluated and given a rating once their points are tallied up. The ratings will be a Gold, Silver, or Bronze Dance Team. Awards will be given to the teams appropriate to their rating. The judges may also specially recognize some teams that performed exceptionally well in their top-notch performance. Ribbons will be awarded to each participant that performs on the recognized dance team.
2. The winning team will be given the opportunity to perform at the Conference Festival Powwow.

#### **Important Notes:**

1. There will be a meeting of all judges and leaders of the teams in competition 30 minutes after the Opening Arena Show, the first day of NOAC. The adult advisor and youth chairman of each team must be present at this meeting. Location of the meeting will be available at registration check in.
2. Powwow Exhibition Team Dance Competition will be held during NOAC at times given during registration.
3. Any questions regarding the Powwow Exhibition Team Dance competition should be addressed to:

**2022 NOAC AIA Competitions Manager:**

**James Barton**

**Email: [oaaiastaff@gmail.com](mailto:oaaiastaff@gmail.com)**

**Phone: (843) 557-7038**



## Northern and Southern Singing Competitions

Drum members MUST be from the same lodge. All drum members must be under 21 years of age at the time of the competition, members of the Order of the Arrow, and registered participants at the event. Each lodge is allowed to enter one team. All singing must be done in a team fashion. Drums must furnish their own drum and drum stand, if used. Drum sticks are the responsibility of the singers. Chairs will be provided.

### ACCEPTABLE SONGS

1. Northern Drums must sing two northern songs. One of these must be a song that is sung for a special occasion, at a special time during the dance or for a special dance. (e.g., Sneak-up, slide song, duck and dive, Rabbit Dance song). The other song can be a Northern Plains powwow song.
2. Southern Drums must sing two southern songs. One of these must be a song that is sung for a special occasion, at a special time during the dance or for a special dance. (e.g., Trot songs, round dance songs, Snake and Buffalo). The other songs can be a Southern Plains inter-tribal powwow song.  
Family songs should be avoided as well as songs of a religious nature, such as Sun Dance, Native American Church or Peyote songs.
3. Drums that sing northern-style songs in the southern competition, or vice versa, will receive a 5-point deduction from each judge.
4. Men and Ladies Singers will use the following protocol at NOAC – male singers will sit at the drum to sing and ladies singers will be in a second row behind the male singers.
5. Northern singing is a high falsetto voice with the honor beats in the melody of the song, normally in the second chorus.
6. Southern singing is a more nasal tone with the honor beats between the first and second chorus.
7. A list of two primary songs and four alternate songs may be submitted with proper documentation.
8. **Time limit is fifteen minutes.** Timing begins when the judges invite the team to sit at the drum. Any narrative is included in the time allotted. If teams wish to warm up, this should be done away from the competition. Any ceremonies or local rituals should take place privately away from the competition. Going over the allotted fifteen minutes will result in a 5-point deduction from each judge. All teams must be ready to perform fifteen minutes prior to their assigned times.

### RULES CONCERNING ATTIRE

1. Northern Drum Male Singers rightly wear dance outfits, long pants, short pants, and shirts while at the drum. No bare feet or open-toe shoes. Improper attire will result in a 5-point deduction from each judge.
2. Southern Drum Male Singers are much more formal. Long pants and shirts are required. No bare feet or open- toe shoes. Improper attire will result in a 5-point deduction from each judge.

3. Attire for Ladies at the Drum: Women at the drum should wear respectful clothing that includes long pants and a modest shirt. Having a shawl "at the ready" is always a good idea. Dance clothes are very acceptable but not necessary.

## NOAC AIA REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

1. The Registration Form can be filled out with the Google Form titled "NOAC Team Competition Registration" at:

[NOAC TEAM COMPETITION REGISTRATION](#) or using the URL below

<https://forms.gle/WD7QuuSLLoCeag7N7>

2. The team must submit one copy of their required research material (defined below) by June 30, 2022. Late submissions will result in an automatic deduction of 3 points per judge. Send the research report in electronic portable document file format (pdf) to: [oaaiastaff@gmail.com](mailto:oaaiastaff@gmail.com)
3. The team's chairman and adviser must check in to confirm competition registration, receive a performance time, and receive up-to-date information on mandatory meetings, team roster requirements, etc. Registration is Monday, July 25, 2022, at the American Indian Activities office.
4. A mandatory meeting of all judges and competition team adviser and youth chairman will be held one half hour after the conclusion of the Opening Arena Show. Location of the meeting will be available at registration/check-in.
5. The top Northern and Southern team will be given the opportunity to perform at the Conference Festival powwow on Friday of NOAC. Each winning team must be prepared to sing either the Grand Entry Song or an appropriate Flag Song.
6. Research and other questions regarding the Northern and Southern Singing Competition should be addressed to:

### 2022 NOAC AIA Competitions

**Manager:**

**James Barton**

**Email:** [oaaiastaff@gmail.com](mailto:oaaiastaff@gmail.com)

**Phone:** (843) 557-7038

## JUDGING CRITERIA

Drums will be judged and awarded a score by each judge on the judging panel in each of the eight areas discussed below. Some areas have mandatory point deductions associated with failure to comply with stated rules. Each judge in the affected area will take the mandatory point deductions. Team standing/placement is determined by totaling all points received from the judges. Actual scores/points given by judges will not be provided to the teams, however critique sheets from all judges will be provided to the team at the conclusion of the competition. Relative ranking of the teams will be available the day after the competition is finished. The judges will determine the judging criteria and all decisions are final.

1. **Research [MAXIMUM POINTS (20)]**  
In addition to the one copy submitted electronically before the event, two (2) additional printed copies of the team's research material should be brought to the NOAC competition. **All research must be typewritten and PROPERLY FORMATTED/BOUND.** Teams will be evaluated on the quality of the research they have done for the songs they have chosen to sing. **Research submissions must include: origin of song (tribal affiliation), meaning of song (if any), how the song is structured, and references (professional recordings, etc). Historical background of the songs should also be included.**
2. **Synchronization of Drum and Voice [MAXIMUM POINTS (10)]**  
All competition songs should be sung in the appropriate manner: lead, chorus, honor beats, and pickup beats. The singers should sing as a group instead of individuals, and the ending of the song should be definite with no over-beats.
3. **Sound Quality [MAXIMUM POINTS (15)]**  
The singers should match in pitch and harmony for the most part. The drum beat should not overpower, be louder than the song. The second/chorus should not be lower in pitch/volume from the lead.
4. **Dance-ability [MAXIMUM POINTS (10)]**  
Songs should be sung at the appropriate tempo. If a song was composed as a slow, medium or fast song it should be presented that way for competition.
5. **Language and Pronunciation [MAXIMUM POINTS (20)]**  
Songs should be sung with the correct vocables and/or words.
6. **Teamwork [MAXIMUM POINTS (15)]**  
Teams will be judged on their ability to sing the songs as a group. The individual singers should work as one group instead on one or two "stars" pulling the weight for the entire group.
7. **General Effect and Impression [MAXIMUM POINTS (10)]**  
The overall general effect and impression of the songs will also be considered. Some of the factors that will be considered are: the teams' confidence, presentation and explanation of the songs, care of the drum and stick, timeliness, not going over the stated time limit, etc.
8. **Constructive Comments [NOT SCORED]**

## RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

Awards will be given to the top three drums. Special Honorable Mention awards may be given, if deemed appropriate.



## Hand Drum Competition

This is a new competition for the 2022 National Order of the Arrow Conference. Individuals and Hand Drum team members **MUST** be from the same lodge. All drum members must be under 21 years of age at the time of the competition, members of the Order of the Arrow, and registered participants at the event. A lodge may enter individual(s) or teams of no more than three (3). Individuals and groups must furnish their own hand drum and drum sticks. A contestant cannot enter as both an individual and as a part of a team.

### ACCEPTABLE SONGS

1. Contestants may be a single singer or a group of no more than three singers, each with their own hand drum.
2. Contestants may be male or female or can be a mix of both genders.
3. All contestants need to be prepared to sing at least two round dance songs. The first song will be the competition song. The second will be called for if a run-off is necessary.
4. Songs should be sung 4 times through.
5. Time limit is **less than five minutes**. **Timing begins** when the judges invite the individual or team to come to the mc to sing.
6. Contestants will introduce themselves, and their lodge name. They can share the name of the song and where they learned it, but no dissertation will be permitted. Introduction should be less than a minute.
7. Going over the allotted five minutes will result in a 5-point deduction from each judge. All teams must be ready to perform prior to their assigned times.
8. Point deductions will be assessed for not following guidelines.

### RULES CONCERNING ATTIRE

1. Male/Female Singers may wear dance outfits. Dance clothes are very acceptable but not necessary. Shawls are not necessary while in a hand drum contest.
2. Males/Female contestants, not in dance outfits, should wear long pants (long pants or capris for females) and a pullover or collared shirt while singing. No bare feet, open-toe shoes, or midriff tops. Improper attire will result in a 5-point deduction from each judge.

### NOAC AIA REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

The Registration Form can be filled out with the Google Form titled "NOAC Competition Registration" at:

[NOAC TEAM COMPETITION REGISTRATION](https://forms.gle/WD7QuuSLLoCeag7N7) or using the URL below  
<https://forms.gle/WD7QuuSLLoCeag7N7>

1. The contestant(s) must check in to confirm competition registration, receive a performance time, and receive up-to-date information on mandatory meetings. Registration is Monday, July 25, 2022, at the American Indian Activities office.
2. A mandatory meeting of all contestants will be held one half hour after the conclusion of the Opening Arena Show, on Monday, July 25, 2022. Location of the meeting will be available at registration/check-in.
3. The top Hand Drum will be given the opportunity to perform at the Conference Festival powwow on Friday of NOAC.

Research and other questions regarding the Hand Drum Competition should be addressed to:

**2022 NOAC AIA Competitions Manager:**

**James Barton**

**Email:** [oaaiastaff@gmail.com](mailto:oaaiastaff@gmail.com)

**Phone:** (843) 557-7038

## **JUDGING CRITERIA**

Contestants will be judged and awarded a score by each judge on the judging panel in each of the areas discussed below. Some areas have mandatory point deductions associated with failure to comply with stated guidelines. Each judge in the affected area will take the mandatory point deductions. Contestant standing/placement is determined by totaling all points received from the judges. Actual scores/points given by judges will not be provided to the contestants, however critique sheets from all judges will be provided to the contestants at the conclusion of the competition. The judges will determine the judging criteria and all decisions are final.

### *Synchronization of Drum and Voice [MAXIMUM POINTS (15)]*

All competition songs should be sung in the appropriate manner.

Contestants singing as a group should sound like a group instead of individuals. Ending of the song should be definite with no over-beats.

### *Sound Quality [MAXIMUM POINTS (15)]*

The sound of the drum should not overpower, be louder than the singer.

Groups should not be lower in pitch/volume from the lead. Songs should be sung at the appropriate tempo.

### *Language and Pronunciation [MAXIMUM POINTS (15)]*

Songs should be sung with the correct vocables and/or words.

### *General Effect and Impression [MAXIMUM POINTS (10)]*

The overall general effect and impression of the songs will also be considered. Some of the factors that will be considered are: the contestants' confidence, presentation, care of the drum and stick, timeliness, not going over the stated time limit, etc.

*Constructive Comments* [NOT SCORED]

#### **RECOGNITION AND AWARDS**

Awards will be given to the top three contestants. Special Honorable Mention awards may be given, if deemed appropriate.



## Arts and Crafts Competition

The AIA Staff wants to welcome each of you and encourage your participation in the upcoming NOAC Arts and Crafts Competition. The purpose of the Arts and Crafts Competition is to help preserve the skills and talents necessary to make high quality, historically accurate Native American style materials. Across the broad spectrum of Native American crafts, the competition seeks to encourage contemporary crafts persons to do the research and attain the expertise necessary to ensure that these cultural arts are not forgotten. The competition also provides our community an opportunity to formally recognize those artists and crafts persons who have excelled in this realm.

### Arts and Crafts Competition and Exhibition Rules and Guidelines

Please note, there is no advanced or preregistration for the Arts and Crafts Exhibition/Competition. All registration will take place at NOAC. Registration information will be available on-site at check-in.

#### Guidelines

1. All youth participating in the NOAC 2022 Arts and Crafts Competition and Exhibition must be registered participants of NOAC and the BSA. No day visitors will be permitted to participate.
2. All participants will obtain the Arts and Crafts Competition and Exhibition packet and complete all of the forms contained therein. Some forms will need to be turned into the registration prior to the Arts and Crafts competition. Registration numbers inside the packet must be placed on display with the items. [Note: It will be possible to submit forms after individual dance competitions of NOAC should the clothes coach encourage this.] Several of the forms will be collected and used in the tabulation process to assist in determining Competition winners.
3. The exhibitors will be limited to displaying five (5) items. If several items comprise a "set," the "set" will be considered as one item. The Arts and Crafts Competition and Exhibition chairman will have the final determination on whether items make up a "set". Display space should not exceed 72" x 30" (a standard 6 ft. table). Participants should come prepared to appropriately cover the display area (table) provided by NOAC.
4. Exhibitors are responsible for the safety and security of their displayed items. Please be present at your exhibit at all times. While NOAC AIA Staff

will do its best to protect the displayed items, it assumes no liability for any damage and/or loss that may occur.

5. Items that may contain components from prescribed (illegal) species may not be displayed. Exhibitors showing items containing prescribed components will be asked to remove them from their display. Please check both federal and state regulations to determine if your craft items contain parts of illegal species.

**Arts and Crafts Competition and Exhibition  
NOAC 2022  
Registration**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home, cell): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Age on July 25, 2022: \_\_\_\_\_

**Brief List of Items:**

A) \_\_\_\_\_

B) \_\_\_\_\_

C) \_\_\_\_\_

D) \_\_\_\_\_

E) \_\_\_\_\_

Please have this form with you, completed and ready to submit at your exhibit space by \_\_\_\_\_

Assigned competition # \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Assigned competition # \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide a written description of displayed items. If several items make up a "set," the set can be described and displayed as one item. If there are several similar items displayed, please provide descriptions that differentiate these similar items. For example, if the exhibitor has three fans, do not identify them as "Fan 1," "Fan 2" and "Fan 3." Describe significant features of each fan, such as type of feathers, background color of beadwork, etc.

**List of Items:**

A) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

C) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

D) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

E) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please have this form with you, completed and ready to submit at your exhibit space. Please place identifying cards to correspond with appropriate items in your display.



## Individual Dance Competition Guidelines

Any number of Contestants from each lodge may participate in the Individual Dance Competitions. The top ten dancers in each category will perform and be recognized at the powwow. The top three (3) dancers in each category will be recognized with awards at the Powwow on Friday, July 29, 2022.

All contestants must check-in and receive their number at the American Indian Activities office. This will take place Monday, July 25, 2022.

If you have a question about the Old Time vs. Contemporary Northern Traditional categories please bring a picture of your dance clothes to check-in and one of the Judges will advise you in which category you should compete.

A mandatory meeting of all judges and competition team adviser and youth chairman will be held one half hour after the conclusion of the Opening Arena Show, on Monday, July 25, 2022. Location of the meeting will be available at registration/check-in.

### Guidelines

1. There are six (6) Men's categories and four (4) Women's categories of Individual Indian Dance competition:
  - a. Men's Chicken Dance
  - b. Men's Contemporary Traditional
  - c. Men's Fancy Feather
  - d. Men's Grass
  - e. Men's Old Time Sioux
  - f. Men's Straight
  - g. Women's Fancy Shawl
  - h. Women's Jingle Dance
  - i. Women's Northern Traditional
  - j. Women's Southern or Lakes Traditional
2. Dancers must wear appropriate authentic clothing. The judges are the final authority of what constitutes appropriate authentic clothing.
3. Dancers must dance in the style of their clothing. In Preliminary competition, if you are eliminated in one dance style, you may change dance clothes and dance in another style, if scheduling time permits. **You must be registered in both styles.** Dancers **may not** compete in the finals in more than one category.
4. Losing a major article off your dance clothes during the contest may lead to disqualification at the judges' discretion. Arrowmen should not

- self-disqualify for any reason unless they are physically unable to continue dancing. The judges are the final authority of what constitutes a major article. Having your clothes properly maintained and secured tightly eliminates this problem. [Note: During Individual Dance Competition, a Dancer Emergency Repair Team (DERT) may be available to assist in minor repairs of your dance clothes.]
5. All dancers must be under the age of twenty-one (21), and be a registered conference participant at the time of competition.
  6. Dancers must be prepared to compete either indoors or outdoors.
  7. All participants must display the contestant number they were issued at check-in, so that the judges can read it. The number is to be attached to the front of the dance clothes.
  8. Overstepping a song may result in placement being lowered.
  9. No part of any protected species may be worn in any manner. Violation of this rule will result in automatic disqualification. Please be aware of all state and federal laws regarding protected species.
  10. Within the guideline found in the U.S. Code concerning the American Flag, flags are not to be used as wearing apparel. Therefore, no type of U.S. flag(s) will be permitted as part of a dancers dance clothes. Flag motifs in beadwork and quillwork are acceptable.
  11. National Order of the Arrow Face Paint Policy. Order of the Arrow National Conference and activities conducted beyond the individual lodge will not permit face paint, body paint, or wigs to be used in social or competition dancing or in ceremonies or ceremonies competition.
  12. The Boy Scouts of America policy regarding firearms and knives, as stated in the *Guide to Safe Scouting* will be followed. While we are guests at a university campus, we will abide by the campus policy regarding weapons.
  13. The judges will determine the judging criteria and all decisions are final. The Head Dance Judge will have final determination of any judging result or discrepancy and will field any concerns or complaints.
  14. ***Dancers are asked not to leave the dance competition area until dismissed by the MC the day of competition to ensure all judging results are finalized.***
  15. All dancers are encouraged to participate in the coaching of their American Indian clothes. This will take place immediately after the dance competition. The importance of this to the Arrowmen is to help dancers to improve their dance clothes. Also, AIA staff gets to meet you and start to consider selections for Youth staffs at the National Jamboree, National Indian Seminars, and future NOACs.

NOTE: There will be no competition for individual skill dancers. (Hoop, horsetail, etc.)

All dancers are invited to The Conference Festival Powwow on Friday, July 29, 2022.

Please contact James Barton, 2022 NOAC AIA Competitions Manager with any questions ([oaaiastaff@gmail.com](mailto:oaaiastaff@gmail.com), phone: 843-557-7038).



## Clothes Coaching Outline Men's Chicken Dance

DANCER:\_\_\_\_\_

CONTEST#\_\_\_\_\_

LODGE #\_\_\_\_\_

COACH:\_\_\_\_\_

### THE PURPOSE OF THE NOAC AIA COACHING SESSION:

Plains Powwow Culture is a 'popular' culture, evolving continuously in many areas; certainly, in the areas of the music, the dance and the dance clothes. Dance competitions continue to be increasingly popular not just at the summer tribal gatherings, but at big annual dance competitions happening throughout the year. Hundreds of dancers compete for thousands of dollars in prize money. Powwow-style dancing is a passion for many people and the most competitive among them actively keep their eyes on the latest fashions and their ears open to the latest songs. Smart dancers are always looking for ways to improve their dance moves and their dance clothes. Even the best-dressed dancers know their dance clothes can always be 'bumped up a notch'. While dance clothes are not 'judged' at these dance competitions, they do matter. Savvy dancers know they have to look their very best if they want to catch the judges' eye and make a positive impression. And when you look good, you feel good and then you're sure to dance your best.

In our many years of experience and involvement in dancing and powwows, we know that 'powwowing' is a family activity; rare are the dancers who go it alone. The construction of a set of dance clothes is far too complicated an endeavor to be accomplished by any one person. A set of dance clothes is a compilation of items made, received as gifts, purchased, and borrowed for the event. *It Takes a Family to Dress a Dancer*. From Tiny Tots to Golden Age, all dancers have help with their clothes. And guidance from experienced dancers is some of the best help you can get.

At the NOAC AIA Dance Clothes Coaching Session a dancer has the opportunity to discuss his dance clothes with a senior powwow dance enthusiast, tapping into years of experience in the areas of dance, dance clothes, craft and powwow culture. This outline is to be used as a guiding framework, with the understanding

that 'change happens' and everyone needs to keep his eyes open to the latest trends - competitors and coaches alike.

It is the goal of all Arrowmen who have been selected as NOAC Dance Clothes Coaches to share their knowledge and experience with younger dancers (and their support teams) in the hope of inspiring yet another enthusiastic, better-dressed dancer.

**A note about DANCE CLOTHES:**

The most important thing about a set of modern Chicken Dance clothes is the overall look. Dance clothes are meant to be danced in, not to be judged in a still position. The components of your dance clothes should move well when you dance and work to enhance your dancing style. For this reason, materials, size, shape, and placement of the individual dance clothes components listed above must be in order. When specific materials are called for - such as beadwork - an adequate substitution of cloth, fabric applique, sequins, painted material can be used. However, proper colors, designs, and proportions must be in place for the article to get maximum points and for your dance clothes to have maximum visual impact.

This outline is not just a "scoring sheet"; it is a resource for you to constantly improve your dance clothes to be the best they can be. When you look at the individual scores of the various headings as well as the overall score, think of what you can do to improve each item, even if just by just a couple of points. Our goal as the NOAC Chicken Dance staff is to help you to elevate your dance clothes to a higher level. By continually improving your dance clothes, your presentation on the dance floor will improve as well.

**A note to DANCERS:**

This outline is designed to summarize what a Chicken Dancer would wear at a contemporary powwow. It represents the norm as defined by modern dancers in the Northern Plains and across the country.

Be aware that although a printed or recorded work may have been relevant at the time of its making, Chicken Dance is an ever-changing dance style and these works can sometimes become outdated within a short period of time. If possible, attend powwows and notice the subtle trends being added to Chicken Dance clothes of today. If you live in an area where it is difficult to attend powwows, you can use resources such as [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com), [www.gatheringofnations.com](http://www.gatheringofnations.com), [www.powwows.com](http://www.powwows.com) to view photos and video footage of powwow dancers. Please be respectful of other's dance clothes. Model your dance clothes after contemporary dancers, but do not copy a specific set of clothes verbatim.

While Chicken dance clothes of the past have their place In history, some of the components may not be appropriate for contemporary dance styles. Stay current and up to date on your dance clothes' style.

### CHICKEN DANCE MAXIMUM SCORE: 90 Points

#### SCALE:

0 = Missing or Inappropriate Item

1-3 = Acceptable

4-6 = Good

7-9 = Excellent

10 = Superior

#### STANDARD ITEMS

#### SCORE

**Item 1: HEAD:** Roach; Roach Feathers; Spreader; etc.

(10)

Superior: Roach - well made, worn correctly, appropriate flare, length should be a minimum of 14", coordinated with dance clothes, with spreader and roach feathers, or pheasant tails tipped with fluffs (can be decorated. Porcupine hair roaches are necessary). Headband, beaded or other decoration method, colors should coordinate with the dance clothes. A "Wapegnaka" or a Neck Bustle is a possible addition.

Acceptable: Fiber roach; discordant color porky roach; inadequate length, poorly constructed or worn out roach.

Inappropriate: Bandannas; no roach; war bonnets; animal skin headgear; missing spreader; feather visors; missing items.

**Item 2: BODY/CHEST AREA:** Yoke; Body Covering; Tie; Breast Plate; etc. (10)

Superior: Yoke with coordinated colored designs in beaded or fabric applique, sequins, with chainette fringe or ribbon of adequate length. Body covering to include full tights, colors coordinated with dance clothes. Beaded necktie and collar. Decorated otter breastplate, Loop necklace, or bone breastplate, worn appropriately.

Acceptable: Items that do not coordinate well with the dance clothes; inappropriate body covering length of yoke or fringe; simple or undecorated items.

Inappropriate: Lack of proper fringe; t-shirt; no body covering; yarn fringe; bandoliers; OA sash; missing items.

**Item 3: BUSTLE:**

(10)

Superior: Well-constructed round or shingle back bustle in coordinated colors, adequate size and contain uprights and a trailer. Trailer should be decorated with feathers and be a single or double trailer. Feather decoration,

clean design and execution, colors complementing and coordinating with dance clothes, and properly worn. Back bustle should be affixed to waist.

Acceptable: Round bustle with little color or un-coordinated colors.

Inappropriate: No bustle, poorly made bustle, traditional style bustle, missing items or poor materials.

**Item 4: ARMS: Cuffs; Armbands (10)**

Superior: Beaded as part of a set decorated with fluffs or ribbon hanging from armbands. Cuffs worn at the wrist with appropriate design elements as to coordinate with the overall theme of the dance clothes. Beadwork and/or quillwork on armbands and cuffs. Silver or well-made brass armbands are acceptable.

Acceptable: Armbands plain, cuffs are plain or mismatched in overall theme of dance clothes. Inappropriate: No armbands or cuffs; missing items

**Item 5: HANDS: Fan; Mirror Board; Dance Hoop; Dance Stick; Other (10)**

Superior: Fan- wing, flat or loose; mirror board; beaded or decorated dance stick or dance hoop - can be leather, fur or sweetgrass wrapped; items decorated in an appropriate way. All must fit with the overall look of the dance clothes.

Acceptable: Undecorated items, only one hand item.

Inappropriate: No hand articles; objects considered to be from other styles; missing items.

**Item 6: MID-BODY: Aprons; Belt; Optional Side Tabs (10)**

Superior: Aprons, of adequate length and width to cover mid body, with coordinated colored designs in fabric applique, sequins, or beaded, edged in chainette fringe or ribbon. Belt, beaded or other decoration (Concho, tack), coordinated colors. Side tabs (optional) adequately covering space between front and back aprons,

Acceptable: Un-decorated aprons and plain belt.

Inappropriate: No aprons; no belt; no fringe on aprons edges; missing items.

**Item 7: LEGS & FEET: Goats; Bells; Knee Bands; Plains Hard-sole Moccasins (10)**

Superior: Angora "goats" or other appropriate animal, appropriate length, worn correctly. (Goats maybe dyed to match overall theme of dance clothes. Colors must be appropriate to overall look.) Other ankle coverings could include dyed strung feathers, although not necessary. Leg and ankle bells, sleigh or any variation of bells, fastened neatly, worn at both sides and at ankle. Ankle bells do not interfere with goats, properly attached. Knee bands,

beaded, quilled, or other material. Fully or partly beaded or quilled Plains hard-sole moccasins, colors coordinated with dance clothes.

Acceptable: Goats of questionable length or size, gaps in the back, dirty. Undecorated leather moccasins or colored water shoes, canvas deck shoes painted or partially beaded. Bells loosely attached, wrong size or the wrong quantity for dancing.

Inappropriate: No goats, bells, or moccasins; leggings; tennis shoes; leather soft-sole moccasins; missing items.

**Item 8: OVERALL: (20)**

Scale: 1-5 Good start, room for improvement; 6-10 Solid basic dance clothes, lacking some items; 11-15 Excellent; 16-20 Superior

Does the set look complete? Do the dance clothes have the right "look"? Are the clothes consistent with current styles?

**FINAL SCORE (90)\_\_\_\_\_**

**Ribbon Scale: White 1-24 Red 25-49 Blue 50-73 Gold 74-90**



## Clothes Coaching Outline Men's Contemporary Traditional

DANCER:\_\_\_\_\_

CONTEST#\_\_\_\_\_

LODGE #\_\_\_\_\_

COACH:\_\_\_\_\_

### THE PURPOSE OF THE NOAC AIA COACHING SESSION:

Plains Powwow Culture is a 'popular' culture, evolving continuously in many areas; certainly, in the areas of the music, the dance and the dance clothes. Dance competitions continue to be increasingly popular not just at the summer tribal gatherings, but at big annual dance competitions happening throughout the year. Hundreds of dancers compete for thousands of dollars in prize money. Powwow-style dancing is a passion for many people and the most competitive among them actively keep their eyes on the latest fashions and their ears open to the latest songs. Smart dancers are always looking for ways to improve their dance moves and their dance clothes. Even the best-dressed dancers know their dance clothes can always be 'bumped up a notch'. While dance clothes are not 'judged' at these dance competitions, they do matter. Savvy dancers know they have to look their very best if they want to catch the judges' eye and make a positive impression. And when you look good, you feel good and then you're sure to dance your best.

In our many years of experience and involvement in dancing and powwows, we know that 'powwowing' is a family activity; rare are the dancers who go it alone. The construction of a set of dance clothes is far too complicated an endeavor to be accomplished by any one person. A set of dance clothes is a compilation of items made, received as gifts, purchased, and borrowed for the event. *It Takes a Family to Dress a Dancer*. From Tiny Tots to Golden Age, all dancers have help with their clothes. And guidance from experienced dancers is some of the best help you can get.

At the NOAC AIA Dance Clothes Coaching Session a dancer has the opportunity to discuss his dance clothes with a senior powwow dance enthusiast, tapping into years of experience in the areas of dance, dance clothes, craft and powwow culture. This outline is to be used as a guiding framework, with the understanding

that 'change happens' and everyone needs to keep his eyes open to the latest trends - competitors and coaches alike.

It is the goal of all Arrowmen who have been selected as NOAC Dance Clothes Coaches to share their knowledge and experience with younger dancers (and their support teams) in the hope of inspiring yet another enthusiastic, better-dressed dancer.

#### **A note about DANCE CLOTHES:**

The most important thing about a set of modern Contemporary Traditional dance clothes is the overall look. Dance clothes are meant to be danced in, not to be judged in a still position. The components of your dance clothes should move well when you dance and work to enhance your dancing style. For this reason, materials, size, shape, and placement of the individual dance clothes components listed above must be in order. When specific materials are called for—such as beadwork—an adequate substitution of cloth, fabric applique, sequins, painted material can be used. However, proper colors, designs, and proportions must be in place for the article to get maximum points and for your dance clothes to have maximum visual impact.

This outline is not just a "scoring sheet"; it is a resource for you to constantly improve your dance clothes to be the best they can be. When you look at the individual scores of the various headings as well as the overall score, think of what you can do to improve each item, even if just by just a couple of points. Our goal as the NOAC Contemporary Traditional staff is to help you to elevate your dance clothes to a higher level. By continually improving your dance clothes, your presentation on the dance floor will improve as well.

#### **A Note to DANCERS:**

This outline is designed to summarize what a male Contemporary Traditional dancer wears at a modern day powwow. It represents the research done by the use of photos and personal experiences at powwows.

It also relied on two written works for "Lakota" style dance clothes:

(1) The Northern Traditional Dancer by C. Scott Evans, Crazy Crow Trading Post, 1990.

Revised 1998.

(2) The Contemporary 'Traditional Style' of the Lakota by Ronnie Theisz, February 13, 1974.

Beyond these two references we have relied on many other reference materials to cover the description of Contemporary Traditional dance clothes other than Lakota. Numerous books are now available with photos of Contemporary Traditional Dancers. Publications such as *Whispering Wind* magazine also provide excellent information.

Be aware that although a printed or recorded work may have been relevant at the time of its making, Contemporary Traditional is an ever-changing dance style and these works can sometimes become outdated within a short period of time. If possible, attend powwows and notice the subtle trends being added to Contemporary Traditional dance clothes of today. If you live in an area where it is difficult to attend powwows, you can use resources such as:

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com), [www.gatheringofnations.com](http://www.gatheringofnations.com), [www.powwows.com](http://www.powwows.com) to view photos and video footage of powwow dancers. Please be respectful of other's dance clothes. Model your dance clothes after contemporary dancers, but do not copy a specific set of clothes verbatim.

The concepts in this outline represent the norm with a broad distribution. If a Scout-dancer can document items that fall outside this range, he will receive the appropriate amount of points. It should be said, though, that documentation can be a difficult task and needs to be carefully done. Photos are an excellent first step, but one needs to exercise careful judgment when using photos because many designs and colors have family histories. The combination of photos, authoritative articles, and attending modern day powwows will serve the Scout-dancer well.

### CONTEMPORARY TRADITIONAL MAXIMUM SCORE: 110 Points

#### SCALE:

0 = Missing or Inappropriate Item

1-3 = Acceptable

4-6 = Good

7-9 = Excellent

10 = Superior

#### STANDARD ITEMS

#### SCORE

**Item 1: HEAD:** Roach; Visor; Roach Feathers; Spreader, (10)  
"Wapegnaka" (Bull's Tail); Mandan-style Feather Headdress

Superior: Northern style porcupine/deer tail hair roach, well made and correctly worn. No set length, but fits the dancer's body. Spreader of German silver, bone or rawhide, fully/partially beaded, with two sockets and two imitation eagle tail feathers properly attached. Lane-stitch beaded or quilled "Wapegnaka" (Bull's Tail) to match the rest of the beadwork. May include scalp feathers, quilled wheels, etc. A roach pin is usually worn with a large cluster of feather/plumes attached to the outer end. Other possibilities: beaded headband with 1 or 3 beaded or quilled rosettes to coordinate with other beadwork; feather visors made of imitation eagle feathers; small round/mess bustle worn either in the tail of the roach or around the neck; beaded roach crown that matches the rest of the beadwork in design and style; Mandan style headdress.

Acceptable: Northern-style hair roach of poor construction or fiber imitation; a roach excessive in length. Undecorated leather spreader; ribbon, or other decoration in lieu of "Bull's Tail". Poor quality or missing roach feather; poorly constructed feather visors; poorly constructed Mandan-style headdress ("Dog Soldier Headdress"); etc.

Inappropriate: a "feather" roach; animal skin headdress; missing items.

**Item 2: NECK:** Choker (Bone or Beaded), Scarf & Slide; Beaded Necktie; Necklaces (10)

Superior: Properly constructed hair pipe, bone tube, dentalium choker with harness leather or bone spacers, or beaded choker that matches the rest of the beadwork in design and style. Appropriately sized metal backed mirror or disc conch shell in the center may be used. No penalties for plastic vs. bone. Beads may be any sort of glass or plastic bead that matches rest of dance clothes' colors and design. Fabric scarf and a scarf slide may be of German silver or beaded to match rest of beadwork. Beaded neckties matching the rest of the beadwork. If fringe is added it needs to match all other fringe.

Acceptable: Poor construction or poorly matching/coordinating with the rest of dance clothes Inappropriate: Scout neckerchiefs; missing items.

**Item 3: CHEST AREA:** Shirt; Vest; Otter; Breastplate; Bandoliers; Cape (10)

Superior: Shirts are satin or cotton and can be a solid color with an elaborate fabric applique design down the sleeves and over the shoulder or a colored print with simple ribbon decoration; long-johns dyed in a bright color to match over all outfit. Fully or partially (front panels) beaded vests must be done with colors, designs, and beading technique which matches the rest of the dance clothes' beadwork. Bone Breastplate with two or three sections of 4-inch pipes, or two sections of 4-inch pipes separated by a section of 1-2 inch pipes or appropriate beads. Harness leather spacers with appropriate bead embellishments decorated with beaded or quilled rosettes or pendants, ribbons, hawk bells, etc.

Bandoliers made of bones and beads (see Item 2 for bead standards), or of "junk" or deer toe/dew claw dangles. Loop style or bone and bead necklaces that match the rest of the dance clothes. Otter "breastplate" with metal-backed mirrors, quilled wheels, ribbons, and/or quilled or beaded rosettes or pendants that match the rest of the beadwork. Quilled Breastplate made with real quills - extra sweet! Fully or partially beaded cape that matches rest of beadwork set. Cape is fringed with leather or ribbon that matches the rest of dance clothes.

Acceptable: Lower quality, but properly made examples of all the things listed above; beadwork which doesn't match the rest of the dance clothes.

Inappropriate: Bare chest; missing items.

**Item 4: ARMS:** Cuffs; Armbands (10)

Superior: Fully beaded or quilled cuffs of colors, designs, and technique which match the rest of the dance clothes. Cuffs fringed with leather or ribbon fringe which matches all other fringe. Armbands - fully beaded, German silver/brass, or caribou or deer lower leg (with toes) arm bands decorated with beadwork, quillwork, brass tacks or mirrors. Quilled armbands made with real quills that match or coordinate with rest of the dance clothes are a sweet touch.

Acceptable: Armbands are not mandatory, especially with elaborately decorated shirt sleeves; lower quality beadwork which is still correct for designs, colors, and technique, but incongruent with the rest of the clothes; low quality materials.

Inappropriate: Items completely out of the 'norm'; missing items.

**Item 5: HANDS:** Wing or Northern Style Flat Fan; Dance Stick; Shield; etc. (10)

Superior: Appropriately sized wing or Northern style flat fan (Canada goose or turkey for instance). Dance hoop wrapped in otter fur with feather dangles, ribbon, or ermine. Dance stick, cane, mirror board, gunstock war club. Dance sticks are decorated with beadwork of proper colors, designs, and technique (gourd/peyote stitched or bead wrap) that matches rest of beadwork. Appropriately decorated rawhide shields. Properly constructed pipe bags which work well with the rest of the dance clothes.

Acceptable: Poor quality fan or poor quality construction on dance sticks, etc.

Inappropriate: Improper fans (small Straight Dance style fans); improperly constructed pipe bags; missing items; pipes; calumets; sabers; rifles.

**Item 6: MID-BODY:** Aprons; Side Tabs; Belt; Sash; etc. (10)

Superior: Aprons are fully/partially beaded or partially quilled and match the rest of the beadwork. Beautiful fabrics decorated with fabric applique designs, ribbons, metal sequins, ribbon or leather fringe which works well with the rest of dance clothes. Fully beaded side tabs that match in design and color with leather or ribbon fringe that matches. Length of aprons and side tabs is personal preference, but should match each other. Belt can be fully/partially beaded, concho or tack belt. Assumption sashes of appropriate color (not as common among contemporary dancers). Beadwork matches rest of beadwork.

Acceptable: Fabric without decorations; beadwork that doesn't match the rest of the dance clothes.

Inappropriate: Undecorated aprons; finger woven Straight Dance sashes; missing items.

**Item 7: LEGS:** Leggings; Knee Bands; Tights; Fur Anklets; Bells (10)

Superior: Leather or fabric leggings decorated with beadwork designs or painted or fabric applique designs which complement the set of clothes. Beaded knee bands

that match the rest of the dance clothes - fringed with leather or ribbon which matches the rest of the dance clothes. Quilled knee bands are rare, but appropriate. Leather or ribbon fringe is attached and matches all other fringe. Solid color athletic socks are worn with or without stripes. Dyed long-johns to match top and overall outfit. Appropriate colored compression pants (tights - usually black) can be worn. Large brass or nickel plated bells (ca. 1" Dia-1 1/2" dia.) or sheep bells, or deer toes mounted on harness leather and worn in straps at ankles, leg bells extending from the waist to the ankle can be worn, as appropriate. Ankle fur can be dyed a color that matches the rest of dance clothes. Anklets are not mandatory if wearing leggings.

Acceptable: Undecorated leggings. Knee bands with no beadwork or doesn't match rest of beadwork. Good quality fake fur representing correct species.

Inappropriate: Knee high angora hides like that of a Fancy Dancer; missing items.

**Item 8: BUSTLE:** (10)

Superior: Properly sized and constructed U-shaped bustle. Can be one or two rows. Decorated with fluffs, hackle tips, angora, spots and/or horsehair. It is made of imitation eagle feathers (hand painted, dyed, goose, hybrid turkey). Two upright spikes can be decorated with hawk bells, quilled strips, and/or fluffs. The bustle will include properly sized trailers of fabric that matches the rest of the dance clothes. Decorations of feathers, beadwork, fabric applique, ribbon, metal sequins etc. Centerpieces made of beaded/quilled rosettes, mirrors, feather clusters. Old-style mess bustles with modern colors can be worn (not as common among contemporary dancers).

Acceptable: Poor quality construction or materials.

Inappropriate: Hackle bustles, butterfly bustles.

**Item 9: FEET: Plains Hard-sole Moccasins, fully or partially beaded/quilled.** (10)

Superior: Properly designed and constructed two-piece, hard-sole Northern Plains moccasins. Fully or partially beaded/quilled, with proper colors, designs, and techniques. Matches rest of the dance clothes.

Acceptable: Properly designed and constructed two-piece, hard-sole Northern Plains moccasins, undecorated. Or lower quality quill and beadwork.

Inappropriate: Barefoot; tennis shoes; sandals; water socks; etc.

**Item 10: OVERALL:**  
(20)

Scale: 1-5 Good start, room for improvement; 6-10 Solid basic dance clothes, lacking some items; 11-15 Excellent; 16-20 Superior

Does the set look complete? Do the dance clothes have the right “look”? Are the clothes consistent with current styles?

**FINAL SCORE** (110)\_\_\_\_\_

**Ribbon Scale:** White 1-30 Red 31-60 Blue 61-90 Gold 91-110



## Clothes Coaching Outline Men's Fancy Dance

DANCER: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTEST# \_\_\_\_\_

LODGE # \_\_\_\_\_

COACH: \_\_\_\_\_

### THE PURPOSE OF THE NOAC AIA COACHING SESSION:

Plains Powwow Culture is a 'popular' culture, evolving continuously in many areas; certainly, in the areas of the music, the dance and the dance clothes. Dance competitions continue to be increasingly popular not just at the summer tribal gatherings, but at big annual dance competitions happening throughout the year. Hundreds of dancers compete for thousands of dollars in prize money. Powwow-style dancing is a passion for many people and the most competitive among them actively keep their eyes on the latest fashions and their ears open to the latest songs. Smart dancers are always looking for ways to improve their dance moves and their dance clothes. Even the best-dressed dancers know their dance clothes can always be 'bumped up a notch'. While dance clothes are not 'judged' at these dance competitions, they do matter. Savvy dancers know they have to look their very best if they want to catch the judges' eye and make a positive impression. And when you look good, you feel good and then you're sure to dance your best.

In our many years of experience and involvement in dancing and powwows, we know that 'powwowing' is a family activity; rare are the dancers who go it alone. The construction of a set of dance clothes is far too complicated an endeavor to be accomplished by any one person. A set of dance clothes is a compilation of items made, received as gifts, purchased, and borrowed for the event. *It Takes a Family to Dress a Dancer*. From Tiny Tots to Golden Age, all dancers have help with their clothes. And guidance from experienced dancers is some of the best help you can get.

At the NOAC AIA Dance Clothes Coaching Session a dancer has the opportunity to discuss his dance clothes with a senior powwow dance enthusiast, tapping into years of experience in the areas of dance, dance clothes, craft and powwow

culture. This outline is to be used as a guiding framework, with the understanding that 'change happens' and everyone needs to keep his eyes open to the latest trends - competitors and coaches alike.

It is the goal of all Arrowmen who have been selected as NOAC Dance Clothes Coaches to share their knowledge and experience with younger dancers (and their support teams) in the hope of inspiring yet another enthusiastic, better-dressed dancer.

#### **A note about DANCE CLOTHES:**

The most important thing about a set of modern Fancy Dance dance clothes is the overall look. Dance clothes are meant to be danced in, not to be judged in a still position. The components of your dance clothes should move well when you dance and work to enhance your dancing style. For this reason, materials, size, shape, and placement of the individual dance clothes components listed above must be in order. When specific materials are called for—such as beadwork—an adequate substitution of cloth, fabric applique, sequins, painted material can be used. However, proper colors, designs, and proportions must be in place for the article to get maximum points and for your dance clothes to have maximum visual impact.

This outline is not just a “scoring sheet”; it is a resource for you to constantly improve your dance clothes to be the best they can be. When you look at the individual scores of the various headings as well as the overall score, think of what you can do to improve each item, even if just by just a couple of points. Our goal as the NOAC Fancy Dance staff is to help you to elevate your dance clothes to a higher level. By continually improving your dance clothes, your presentation on the dance floor will improve as well.

#### **A note to DANCERS:**

This outline is designed to summarize what a Fancy Feather dancer would wear at a contemporary powwow. It represents the norm as defined by modern dancers in Oklahoma, the northern plains, and across the country. Some relevant works on the subject of Fancy Feather Dancing dance clothes include:

- (1) “The Modern Fancy Dancer” by C. Scott Evans and J. Rex Reddick, Book Publishing Co., 1998.
- (2) “Fancy Dance” DVD/VHS video, Full Circle Communications.
- (3) “Powwow Trail, Episode 6-Fancy Dance.” DVD, *Powwow Trails* video series.

Be aware that although a printed or recorded work may have been relevant at the time of its making, Fancy Dance is an ever-changing dance style and these works can sometimes become outdated within a short period of time. If possible, attend powwows and notice the subtle trends being added to

Fancy Dance clothes of today. If you live in an area where it is difficult to attend powwows, you can use resources such as:

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com), [www.gatheringofnations.com](http://www.gatheringofnations.com), [www.powwows.com](http://www.powwows.com) to view photos and video footage of powwow dancers. Please be respectful of other's dance clothes. Model your dance clothes after contemporary dancers, but do not copy a specific set of clothes verbatim.

The history of the Fancy Dance is one of the most fascinating and well documented of all the men's dance styles. While Fancy Dance clothes of the past have their place in history, many of the components are not appropriate for contemporary dance styles. Stay current and up- to-date on your dance clothes style.

### FANCY DANCE MAXIMUM SCORE: 90 Points

#### SCALE:

0 = Missing or Inappropriate Item

1-3 = Acceptable

4-6 = Good

7-9 = Excellent

10 = Superior

#### STANDARD ITEMS

#### SCORE

**Item 1: HEAD:** Roach; Roach Feathers; Rocker Spreader or Spinners; (10)  
Scalp Feathers; Roach Crown; Headband

Superior: Roach—well made, worn correctly, appropriate flare, length should not conflict with neck bustle, colors coordinated with dance clothes, with rocker or spinner spreader and 2 roach feathers (can be decorated), optional scalp feather or roach crown can be worn. Porcupine hair roaches are preferred. Headband, beaded or other decoration method, colors should coordinate with the dance clothes. Forehead rosette and side drops preferred.

Acceptable: Fiber roach; roach colors discordant with rest of clothes; inadequate length, poorly constructed or worn out roach. Contemporary feather crests if coordinated with the style of the dance clothes.

Inappropriate: Un-coordinated feather crests, bandannas, no roach, war bonnets, animal skin headgear, missing or single feather spreaders, feather visors, missing items.

**Item 2: CHEST AREA:** Cape; Shirt; Vest; Scarf; Necklace; Harness (10)

Superior: Cape with coordinated colored designs in fabric applique, sequins, or beaded, ribbon fringe, 8-14" in length, adequate length and width to cover upper body; colored neck scarf or necklace; Beaded harness, coordinated

colors with dance clothes, adequate length. Contemporary vest and/or ribbon shirt if coordinated with the dance clothes.

Acceptable: Items that do not coordinate well with the dance clothes; inappropriate length of cape, fringe, or harness; ribbon shirt with no cape or vest; simple or undecorated items.

Inappropriate: No fringe; yarn fringe; breastplate, bandoliers; OA sash; missing items.

**Item 3: BUSTLES: Neck Bustle; Back Bustle** (10)

Superior: Matching neck and back bustle, hackle or swing type. 2-3 tip color hackles, full hackle coverage, streamers of lightweight material, coordinated colors, adequate size and cup (not flat), quill shaft decoration, center rosette, properly worn—neck bustle should be high coming well above shoulders, back bustle should be tied to waist and not conflict with neck bustle.

Acceptable: Smaller bustles, thinner hackle coverage, un-coordinated colors, no streamers on back bustles.

Inappropriate: No bustles (back and/or neck,), poorly made bustles as to not hold up during dancing, traditional style bustle, missing items.

**Item 4: ARMS: Cuffs; Arm Bustles; Armbands** (10)

Superior: Fully beaded cuffs of colors, designs, and technique which match the rest of the dance clothes. Cuffs fringed with leather or ribbon fringe which matches all other fringe. Arm Bustles - hackles, coordinated colors with back and neck bustle, center rosette, attached to Armbands. Armbands - fully beaded; tooled leather decorated with ribbon, beadwork, or mirrors.

Acceptable: Fabric cuffs and armbands; smaller arm bustles, thin hackle coverage, uncoordinated colors; no arm bands on arm bustles just tied with scarves underneath.

Inappropriate: No cuffs, armbands or arm bustles

**Item 5: HANDS: Whip Sticks; Fan; Mirror Board; Scarves** (10)

Superior: Whip sticks, beaded or other decoration with coordinated colors possessing streamers, feathers, or scarves at tips with adequate mobility. Optional fan or mirror board can be used with, or in place of, whip sticks, must fit with the overall look of the dance clothes.

Acceptable: Undecorated whip sticks, poor movement of attachments, un-coordinated colors.

Inappropriate: No hand articles. Northern Traditional style dance sticks, hoops.

**Item 6: MID-BODY: Aprons; Belt; Side Tabs** (10)

Superior: Aprons with coordinated colored designs in fabric applique, sequins, or beaded, ribbon fringe, 8-14" in length, adequate length and width to cover mid body. Belt, beaded or other decoration, coordinated colors. Side tabs, beaded or imitation, cloth, fringed, coordinated colors, adequately covers space between front and back aprons.

Acceptable: Un-decorated aprons, scarves for side tabs, plain belt.

Inappropriate: No aprons; no belt or side tabs; breechcloths, no fringe on aprons; missing items.

**Item 7: LEGS & FEET: Goats; Bells; Knee Bands; Plains Hard-sole Moccasins (10)**

Superior: "Goats" angora or other long-haired animal, appropriate length, worn correctly. Bells, sheep bells, below knee or at ankle, do not interfere with goats, properly attached. Knee Bands; beaded, cloth, other material or colored scarves. Fully or partly beaded Plains hard-sole Moccasins, colors coordinated with dance clothes.

Acceptable: Goats of questionable length or size; undecorated moccasins or colored water shoes.

Inappropriate: No goats, bells, or moccasins; Leggings; jingle bells; tennis shoes; leather soft- sole moccasins; missing items.

**Item 8: OVERALL: (20)**

Scale: 1-5 Good start, room for improvement; 6-10 Solid basic dance clothes, lacking some items; 11-15 Excellent; 16-20 Superior

Does the set look complete? Do the dance clothes have the right "look"? Are the clothes consistent with current styles?

**FINAL SCORE (90)\_\_\_\_\_**

**Ribbon Scale: White 1-24 Red 25-49 Blue 50-73 Gold 74-90**



## Clothes Coaching Outline Men's Grass Dance

DANCER:\_\_\_\_\_

CONTEST# \_\_\_\_\_

LODGE #\_\_\_\_\_

COACH:\_\_\_\_\_

### THE PURPOSE OF THE NOAC AIA COACHING SESSION:

Plains Powwow Culture is a 'popular' culture, evolving continuously in many areas; certainly, in the areas of the music, the dance and the dance clothes. Dance competitions continue to be increasingly popular not just at the summer tribal gatherings, but at big annual dance competitions happening throughout the year. Hundreds of dancers compete for thousands of dollars in prize money. Powwow-style dancing is a passion for many people and the most competitive among them actively keep their eyes on the latest fashions and their ears open to the latest songs. Smart dancers are always looking for ways to improve their dance moves and their dance clothes. Even the best-dressed dancers know their dance clothes can always be 'bumped up a notch'. While dance clothes are not 'judged' at these dance competitions, they do matter. Savvy dancers know they have to look their very best if they want to catch the judges' eye and make a positive impression. And when you look good, you feel good and then you're sure to dance your best.

In our many years of experience and involvement in dancing and powwows, we know that 'powwowing' is a family activity; rare are the dancers who go it alone. The construction of a set of dance clothes is far too complicated an endeavor to be accomplished by any one person. A set of dance clothes is a compilation of items made, received as gifts, purchased, and borrowed for the event. *It Takes a Family to Dress a Dancer*. From Tiny Tots to Golden Age, all dancers have help with their clothes. And guidance from experienced dancers is some of the best help you can get.

At the NOAC AIA Dance Clothes Coaching Session a dancer has the opportunity to discuss his dance clothes with a senior powwow dance enthusiast, tapping into years of experience in the areas of dance, dance clothes, craft and powwow culture. This outline is to be used as a guiding framework, with the understanding

that 'change happens' and everyone needs to keep his eyes open to the latest trends - competitors and coaches alike.

It is the goal of all Arrowmen who have been selected as NOAC Dance Clothes Coaches to share their knowledge and experience with younger dancers (and their support teams) in the hope of inspiring yet another enthusiastic, better-dressed dancer.

#### **A note about DANCE CLOTHES:**

The most important thing about a set of modern Grass Dance clothes is the overall look. Dance clothes are meant to be danced in, not to be judged in a still position. The components of your dance clothes should move well when you dance and work to enhance your dancing style. For this reason, materials, size, shape, and placement of the individual dance clothes components listed above must be in order. When specific materials are called for—such as beadwork—an adequate substitution of cloth, fabric applique, sequins, painted material can be used. However, proper colors, designs, and proportions must be in place for the article to get maximum points and for your dance clothes to have maximum visual impact.

This outline is not just a "scoring sheet"; it is a resource for you to constantly improve your dance clothes to be the best they can be. When you look at the individual scores of the various headings as well as the overall score, think of what you can do to improve each item, even if just by just a couple of points. Our goal as the NOAC Grass Dance staff is to help you to elevate your dance clothes to a higher level. By continually improving your dance clothes, your presentation on the dance floor will improve as well.

#### **A Note to DANCERS:**

This outline is designed to summarize what a male modern Grass Dancer should wear on the dance floor.

Numerous books are now available with photos of the many items used by modern Grass Dancers. Publications such as *Whispering Wind* magazine also provide excellent information.

Be aware that although a printed or recorded work may have been relevant at the time of its making, Grass Dance is an ever-changing dance style and these works can sometimes become outdated within a short period of time. If possible, attend powwows and notice the subtle trends being added to Grass Dance dance clothes of today. If you live in an area where it is difficult to attend powwows, you can use resources such as:

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com), [www.gatheringofnations.com](http://www.gatheringofnations.com), [www.powwows.com](http://www.powwows.com) to view photos and video footage of powwow dancers. Please be respectful of other's dance clothes. Model your dance clothes after contemporary dancers, but do not copy a specific set of clothes verbatim.

While Grass Dance clothes of the past have their place in history, some of the components may not be appropriate for contemporary dance styles. Stay current and up-to-date on your dance clothes' style.

### GRASS DANCE MAXIMUM SCORE: 110 Points

#### SCALE:

0 = Missing or Inappropriate Item

1-3 = Acceptable

4-6 = Good

7-9 = Excellent

10 = Superior

#### STANDARD ITEMS

#### SCORE

**Item 1: HEAD:** Roach; Roach 'Uprights'; Spreader; Headband with Medallions (10)

Superior: Northern-style porcupine/deer tail hair roach, well made and correctly worn; usually more than 14 inches in length. Beaded or German silver spreader with two imitation golden eagle tail feathers properly attached or two wires with fluffs attached at the outer ends. A "Bull's tail" of matching colors and designs, worn off the back of the spreader/roach. A roach pin may be worn. Typically large beaded medallion(s) is/are worn on the headband in the center of the forehead, and at the sides.

Acceptable: Northern-style hair roach of poor construction or fiber imitation; improper spreader; poor quality or missing roach feathers or uprights.

Inappropriate: Bandanas; sunglasses; baseball caps; missing items.

**Item 2: NECK:** Choker; Beaded Bib or Necktie; Scarf & Slide (10)

Superior: Properly constructed choker; beaded bib or necktie matching the clothing attire; scarf & slide (German silver or beaded)

Acceptable: Lower quality, but properly made examples of all the things listed above.

Inappropriate: Scout neckerchiefs; missing items.

**Item 3: UPPER TORSO:** Shirt; Cape (10)

Superior: Shirt decorated with fabric applique work, worn under the cape. Cape, made of an appropriate material, decorated with fabric applique or beadwork. Cape has ribbon or yarn hanging down 10-14 inches in length. The front and back of the cape are decorated.

Acceptable: Lower quality, but properly made examples of all the things listed above.

Inappropriate: Ribbon shirts, improper materials or prints, bare chest, missing items.

**Item 4: ARMS: Cuffs; Armbands (10)**

Superior: Fully beaded cuffs and armbands of appropriate colors, designs, and technique.

Acceptable: Lower quality beadwork or fabric applique that is still correct for designs, colors, and technique. Cross stitch canvas (plastic) with woven yarn to form beaded designs.

Inappropriate: Improper colors, designs or construction techniques; etc.; missing items; fake beadwork.

**Item 5: HANDS: Fan; Hoop; Mirror Board; etc. (10)**

Superior: Fan: wing, flat or loose; mirror board; beaded or decorated dance stick or dance hoop - can be leather, fur or sweetgrass wrapped; items decorated in an appropriate way.

Acceptable: Lower quality wing fan, scarves

Inappropriate: Items not typically seen in use on the Plains.

**Item 6: LOWER TORSO: Aprons; Side Tabs; and Pants (10)**

Superior: Aprons made out flashy fabrics with bead work or fabric applique work. Apron has ribbon or yarn hanging down 10-14 inches in length. Front and back of aprons are decorated. Matching side tabs are fully beaded (lazy stitch) or fabric applique work, with ribbon or yarn hanging down 10-14 inches in length. Pants are made of satin/silk material with ribbon or yarn hanging down from the knees 10-14 inches.

Acceptable: Apron and pants without decoration. Lower quality beadwork or fabric applique that is still correct for designs, colors, and technique.

Inappropriate: Inappropriate designs, materials, or construction; aprons or pants without ribbon or yarn; sweatpants; jeans; missing items.

**Item 7: FRONT ACCESORY: "H"-Harness; Loop Necklace (10)**

Superior: Fully beaded or fabric applique "H"-Harness with proper colors, designs, and technique meet the standard. The harnesses of various lengths are seen.

Acceptable: Lower quality beadwork or fabric applique that is still correct for designs, colors, and technique. Cross stitch canvas (plastic) with woven yarn to form beaded designs.

Inappropriate: Improper colors, designs or construction techniques, fake beadwork.

**Item 8: FRONT ACCESORY: Belt; etc. (10)**

Superior: Belt- fully beaded with proper colors, designs, and technique.

Acceptable: Lower quality beadwork or fabric applique that is still correct for designs, colors, and technique. Cross-stitch canvas with woven yarn to form beaded designs.

Inappropriate: Improper colors, designs or construction techniques; missing items; fake plastic beadwork.

**Item 9: FEET: Plains Hard-sole Moccasins; Anklets; Bells (10)**

Superior: Properly designed and constructed two-piece, hard sole northern-style moccasins. Fully or partially beaded with proper colors, designs, and techniques meet the standard. Fur anklets are worn just above the ankle. Bells are either large sleigh or sheep bells that are properly attached and worn above the ankle. Bells are worn over the angora anklets.

Acceptable: Properly designed and constructed two-piece undecorated hard sole moccasins. Properly designed and constructed two-piece hard sole moccasins with lower quality beadwork.

Inappropriate: Bare feet and improper footwear such as slipper-type moccasins, missing items.

**Item 10: OVERALL:  
(20)**

Scale: 1-5 Good start, room for improvement; 6-10 Solid basic dance clothes, lacking some items; 11-15 Excellent; 16-20 Superior

Does the set look complete? Do the dance clothes have the right "look"? Are the clothes consistent with current styles?

**FINAL SCORE (110)\_\_\_**

**Ribbon Scale: White 1-30, Red 31-60, Blue 61-90, Gold 91-110**



## Clothes Coaching Outline Men's Old Time Sioux

DANCER:\_\_\_\_\_

CONTEST# \_\_\_\_\_

LODGE #\_\_\_\_\_

COACH:\_\_\_\_\_

### THE PURPOSE OF THE NOAC AIA COACHING SESSION:

Plains Powwow Culture is a 'popular' culture, evolving continuously in many areas; certainly, in the areas of the music, the dance and the dance clothes. Dance competitions continue to be increasingly popular not just at the summer tribal gatherings, but at big annual dance competitions happening throughout the year. Hundreds of dancers compete for thousands of dollars in prize money. Powwow-style dancing is a passion for many people and the most competitive among them actively keep their eyes on the latest fashions and their ears open to the latest songs. Smart dancers are always looking for ways to improve their dance moves and their dance clothes. Even the best-dressed dancers know their dance clothes can always be 'bumped up a notch'. While dance clothes are not 'judged' at these dance competitions, they do matter. Savvy dancers know they have to look their very best if they want to catch the judges' eye and make a positive impression. And when you look good, you feel good and then you're sure to dance your best.

In our many years of experience and involvement in dancing and powwows, we know that 'powwowing' is a family activity; rare are the dancers who go it alone. The construction of a set of dance clothes is far too complicated an endeavor to be accomplished by any one person. A set of dance clothes is a compilation of items made, received as gifts, purchased, and borrowed for the event. *It Takes a Family to Dress a Dancer*. From Tiny Tots to Golden Age, all dancers have help with their clothes. And guidance from experienced dancers is some of the best help you can get.

At the NOAC AIA Dance Clothes Coaching Session a dancer has the opportunity to discuss his dance clothes with a senior powwow dance enthusiast, tapping into years of experience in the areas of dance, dance clothes, craft and powwow culture. This outline is to be used as a guiding framework, with the understanding

that 'change happens' and everyone needs to keep his eyes open to the latest trends - competitors and coaches alike.

It is the goal of all Arrowmen who have been selected as NOAC Dance Clothes Coaches to share their knowledge and experience with younger dancers (and their support teams) in the hope of inspiring yet another enthusiastic, better-dressed dancer.

#### **A note about DANCE CLOTHES:**

The most important thing about a set of Old Time Sioux dance clothes is the overall look. Dance clothes are meant to be danced in, not to be judged in a still position. The components of your dance clothes should move well when you dance and work to enhance your dancing style. Old Time Sioux being an historic style, proper colors, designs, and proportions must be in place for the articles to get maximum points and for your dance clothes to have maximum visual impact.

This outline is not just a "scoring sheet"; it is a resource for you to constantly improve your dance clothes to be the best they can be. When you look at the individual scores of the various headings as well as the overall score, think of what you can do to improve each item, even if just by just a couple of points. Our goal as the NOAC Old Time Sioux staff is to help you to elevate your dance clothes to a higher level. By continually improving your dance clothes, your presentation on the dance floor will improve as well.

#### **A note to DANCERS:**

This outline is designed to summarize what a male Sioux dancer would have worn from ca. 1900-1930. It represents the research done by the use of vintage photos and authentic examples of outfit components.

A variety of literature was used. Amongst these were:

- (1) "Old Time Sioux Costume" by Norm Feder, *The American Indian Hobbyist*, Nov/Dec. 1958.
- (2) "Old Time Sioux Dancers" by Mike Tucker, 1969.

There are many modern reference materials currently available. Numerous books with vintage photos have been published. There are also books, magazines, and catalogs with photos of the many items used by Old Time Sioux dancers.

Of course, there were Sioux dancers earlier than 1900 and later than 1930. The dance outfits from these earlier and later periods can vary from what is described here. These dates are not "hard-edged" and there can be exceptions. However, the concepts in this form represent a reasonable norm. If a Scout-dancer chooses to use items that fall outside the range described above, he should be prepared to provide appropriate documentation. Vintage photos can provide such documentation, but one needs to exercise careful judgment when using photos. This is especially true of what are termed, "studio photos" since many of these

feature items that belonged to the photographer and were loaned to the Native American being photographed. Tribal affiliation and appropriate dating are important. The use of vintage photos and color photos of authentic outfit components will serve the Scout-dancer well.

### OLD TIME SIOUX MAXIMUM SCORE: 110 Points

#### SCALE:

0 = Missing or Inappropriate Item

1-3 = Acceptable

4-6 = Good

7-9 = Excellent

10 = Superior

#### STANDARD ITEMS

#### SCORE

**Item 1: HEAD:** Roach; Roach Feathers; Spreader; "Wapegnaka" (Bull-tail); or (10)

other period-appropriate headdress

Superior: The standard is a northern style porcupine/deer tail hair roach, well made and correctly worn (usually less than 14 inches in length). The roach will include a bone or rawhide spreader with bone/wooden sockets and one or two imitation golden eagle tail feathers properly attached. Scalp feathers, quilled wheels, etc., may be worn. A roach pin may be worn; it should of the shorter, older style; 5" and longer modern style roach pins do not meet the standard. A lazy stitched or quilled "wapegnaka" with proper colors and designs may we worn with the roach or it may be worn with imitation eagle feathers as an alternative to the roach. A war bonnet may be worn if the rest of the outfit matches; i.e., war bonnets were usually worn by older men with more elaborate outfits.

Acceptable: A fiber roach may be worn.

Inappropriate: Top hats, bowlers, porkpie hats, Civil War hats, bandanas, fur turbans, nonvintage roaches, granny glasses, sunglasses, northern traditional visors, German silver roach spreaders, etc. do not meet the standard.

**Item 2: NECK:** Choker; Peace Medal; Necklace; Neck Bustle; (10)  
Cotton or Silk Neckerchief

Superior: The standard for a choker is one that is properly constructed of hair pipe, bone tube, brass beads, or dentalium with harness leather-type spacers. Ca. 2" backed mirror or conch shell disk may be used in the center of the choker. Plastic bone tube and plastic hairpipe may be used. An otter fur choker also meets the standard. (Quality fake fur may be used.) Authentic or reproduction Peace Medals of proper date/era may be worn either around the neck or on the breastplate. Neck bustles must be properly constructed and sized with an appropriate variety of feathers and feather treatments.

Acceptable: Lower quality, but properly made examples of all the things listed above.  
Inappropriate: Scout neckerchiefs, non-Peace Medal medallions do not meet the standard. Colored pipes or tubes in choker do not meet the standard.

**Item 3: CHEST AREA: Shirt; Vest; Otter; Breastplate; Bandoliers (10)**

Superior: A buttoned, store bought shirt meets the standard. Shirts may be plain cotton, vintage calico-style prints, or striped: such shirts should be typical of commercial shirts available in the early 1900's; a modern plain or striped dress shirt is a good substitute. A hide war shirt may be worn if it is consistent with the rest of the dancer's outfit. Otter "breastplate" with metal-backed mirrors, quilled wheels, ribbons, quilled or beaded panels meets the standard. Long bone breastplates usually have two or three sections of 4-inch pipes, or two sections of 4-inch pipes with a center section of 1-2 inch pipes or appropriate beads. Harness-type leather spacers are used to separate sections and along each edge. In addition commercial cloth or fully beaded vests meet standard. Cloth vests can be trimmed with beadwork, metal sequins, or quillwork. Fully beaded vests must be done with proper colors, designs, and beading technique to meet standard. A quilled breastplate of correct design meets the standard. Bandoliers may be made of beads, of deer toe/dew claw dangles, or of "junk" dangles meet the standard. If a "junk" type is chosen, the materials should be era-appropriate.

Acceptable: Lower quality, but properly made examples of all the things listed above.  
Inappropriate: Modern ribbon shirts; improper materials or prints; bare chest; incorrect beads, etc.

**Item 4: ARMS: Cuffs; Armbands (10)**

Superior: Fully beaded or quilled cuffs and armbands with proper colors, designs, and technique meet the standard. Brass armbands meet the standard. Beadwork or quillwork on cuffs will not normally match that on the armbands.

Acceptable: Loom beadwork that has correct designs and colors. Raffia-simulated quillwork is acceptable.

Inappropriate: Improper colors or colors do not meet the standard. Gauntlets, German silver or plain leather cuffs or cuffs decorated with sequins, tacks, etc. do not meet the standard. Fake beadwork does not meet the standard.

**Item 5: HANDS: Wing Fan; Rope; Quirt; Pipe Bag; Other Appropriate Objects (10)**  
 (see list of appropriate items below)

Superior: An appropriately-sized wing fan (Canada goose, for instance) meets the standard. Coiled ropes, sweet grass hoops, tomahawk pipes, quirt, and pipe bags meet the standard.

Acceptable: Lower quality wing fan, etc.

Inappropriate: Improper fans (macaw, loose fans, modern fans, etc.), mirror boards, peace pipes, calumets, shields, spears, lances, sabers, rifles, Contemporary Traditional dance sticks and improperly constructed pipe bags do not meet the standard. Gourd-stitch beadwork is not appropriate.

**Item 6: MID-BODY:** Breechclout or Aprons; Tack Belt; Sash; Small Pouch; etc. (10)

Superior: Breechclout/aprons of high quality wool or trade cloth meet the standard. Decorations and materials should be appropriate to the period: ribbons, metal sequins, buttons, era appropriate coins, metallic fringe, etc.

Acceptable: Wool without decoration, wool felt with or without decoration.

Inappropriate: Non-wool, incorrect designs, materials, or construction (i.e., Contemporary Traditional beaded clouts, modern ribbonwork, BSA items, etc.) do not meet the standard.

**Item 7: BUSTLE:** Vintage Sioux-Style Bustle (10)

Superior: Properly sized and constructed Sioux-style bustle appropriate to the period meets the standard. The bustle will typically include a variety of feathers and a variety of treatments i.e.: trimmed, stripped, shaved quills, different sizes in concentric circles, fluff tips, dyed (red, green, purple, orange, etc.) Spikes should be prominent and decorated with fluffs, sweet grass braids, hawk bells, quilled wheels, etc. Properly designed and constructed pheasant bustles meet the standard. The bustle will include properly sized trailers of wool or buckskin. Decorations of ribbon, metal sequins, etc. should be period-appropriate. The belt can be leather or it can be a sash. The sash may be woven or a strip of wool; it can be decorated with circular mirrors.

Acceptable: lower quality construction or materials.

Inappropriate: Contemporary bustles, butterfly bustles, other era/tribe-inappropriate bustles do not meet the standard.

**Item 8: LEGS:** Leggings; Long Johns/Union Suits; Knee Bands; Ankle Bands; Bells; Quilled Knee Bands; Bells; Fur (10)

Superior: Wool or hide leggings with or without beaded strips meet the standard; beaded strips are lazy-stitched with correct Sioux colors and designs. Hide leggings may be painted with appropriate stripes, etc. Wool or cotton long johns/union suits, plain or dyed, meet the standard. Knickers may be worn.

Large nickel-plated or brass bells (ca. 1 V" Dia-1 %" dia.) mounted on harness-type leather, may be worn at the knees and/or ankles, and/or legs, as appropriate. Fur knee bands and/or ankle bands should be worn with long johns. They can be angora, otter, buffalo, or skunk (Quality fake fur may be used.)

Acceptable: Felt leggings, bells that are too small or improperly worn, loom beadwork on leggings.

Inappropriate: Non-northern plains leggings, improper colors, designs on beadwork do not meet the standard. Jeans, shorts or pants do not meet the standard. Cow or sheep bells, fur or fake fur from improper species do not meet the standard.

**Item 9: FEET: Plains Hard-sole Moccasins (10)**

Superior: Properly designed and constructed two-piece, hard-sole Sioux-style moccasin meet the standard. They may be fully beaded, partially beaded, partially beaded/partially quilled, or fully quilled, with proper designs and colors. Lazy stitch beadwork meets the standard.

Acceptable: Properly designed and constructed two-piece undecorated hard-sole moccasins. Properly designed and constructed two-piece hard sole moccasins of lower quality.

Inappropriate: Bare feet and improper footwear such as slipper-type moccasins do not meet the standard.

**Item 10: OVERALL:  
(20)**

Scale: 1-5 Good start, room for improvement; 6-10 Solid basic dance clothes, lacking some items; 11-15 Excellent; 16-20 Superior

Does the set look complete? Do the dance clothes have the right "look"? Are the clothes consistent with current styles?

**FINAL SCORE (110)\_\_\_\_\_**

**Ribbon Scale: White 1-30. Red 31-60, Blue 61-90, Gold 91-110**



## Clothes Coaching Outline Men's Straight Dance

DANCER: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTEST# \_\_\_\_\_

LODGE # \_\_\_\_\_

COACH: \_\_\_\_\_

### THE PURPOSE OF THE NOAC AIA COACHING SESSION:

Plains Powwow Culture is a 'popular' culture, evolving continuously in many areas; certainly, in the areas of the music, the dance and the dance clothes. Dance competitions continue to be increasingly popular not just at the summer tribal gatherings, but at big annual dance competitions happening throughout the year. Hundreds of dancers compete for thousands of dollars in prize money. Powwow-style dancing is a passion for many people and the most competitive among them actively keep their eyes on the latest fashions and their ears open to the latest songs. Smart dancers are always looking for ways to improve their dance moves and their dance clothes. Even the best-dressed dancers know their dance clothes can always be 'bumped up a notch'. While dance clothes are not 'judged' at these dance competitions, they do matter. Savvy dancers know they have to look their very best if they want to catch the judges' eye and make a positive impression. And when you look good, you feel good and then you're sure to dance your best.

In our many years of experience and involvement in dancing and powwows, we know that 'powwowing' is a family activity; rare are the dancers who go it alone. The construction of a set of dance clothes is far too complicated an endeavor to be accomplished by any one person. A set of dance clothes is a compilation of items made, received as gifts, purchased, and borrowed for the event. *It Takes a Family to Dress a Dancer*. From Tiny Tots to Golden Age, all dancers have help with their clothes. And guidance from experienced dancers is some of the best help you can get.

At the NOAC AIA Dance Clothes Coaching Session a dancer has the opportunity to discuss his dance clothes with a senior powwow dance enthusiast, tapping into years of experience in the areas of dance, dance clothes, craft and powwow

culture. This outline is to be used as a guiding framework, with the understanding that 'change happens' and everyone needs to keep his eyes open to the latest trends - competitors and coaches alike.

It is the goal of all Arrowmen who have been selected as NOAC Dance Clothes Coaches to share their knowledge and experience with younger dancers (and their support teams) in the hope of inspiring yet another enthusiastic, better-dressed dancer.

#### **A note about DANCE CLOTHES:**

The most important thing about a set of modern Straight Dance dance clothes is the overall look. Dance clothes are meant to be danced in, not to be judged in a still position. The components of your dance clothes should move well when you dance and work to enhance your dancing style. For this reason, materials, size, shape, and placement of the individual dance clothes components listed above must be in order. When specific materials are called for—such as broadcloth, beadwork, or finger woven yarn work, - an adequate substitution of cloth, sequins, etc. can be used. However, proper colors, designs, and proportions must be in place for the article to get maximum points and for your dance clothes to have maximum visual impact.

This outline is not just a "scoring sheet"; it is a resource for you to constantly improve your dance clothes to be the best they can be. When you look at the individual scores of the various headings as well as the overall score, think of what you can do to improve each item, even if just by just a couple of points. Our goal as the NOAC Straight Dance staff is to help you to elevate your dance clothes to a higher level. By continually improving your dance clothes, your presentation on the dance floor will improve as well.

#### **A note to DANCERS:**

This outline is designed to summarize what a Straight Dancer would wear at a contemporary powwow. It represents the norm as defined by modern dancers in Oklahoma and across the country. Some relevant works on the subject of Straight Dancing dance clothes include:

- (1) *Men's Southern Straight Dance* DVD video, Full Circle Communications.
- (2) Many articles in past hobbyist publications, including *The American Indian Hobbyist*; *American Indian Traditions*; *American Indian Crafts & Culture*; *Moccasin Tracks*, and *Whispering Wind Magazine*. Although most of the above listed magazines are out of print, Xeroxed copies of the various articles mentioned are available.

Be aware that although a printed or recorded work may have been relevant at the time of its making, Straight Dance is an ever-changing dance style and these works can sometimes become outdated within a short period of time. If possible, attend

powwows and notice the subtle trends being added to Straight Dance dance clothes of today. If you live in an area where it is difficult to attend powwows, you can use resources such as:

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com), [www.gatheringofnations.com](http://www.gatheringofnations.com), [www.powwows.com](http://www.powwows.com) to view photos and video footage of powwow dancers. Please be respectful of other's dance clothes. Model your dance clothes after contemporary dancers, but do not copy verbatim.

The history of the Straight Dance is one of the most fascinating and well documented of all the men's dance styles. While these dance clothes of the past have their place in history, many of the components are not appropriate for contemporary dance styles. Stay current and up-to-date on your dance clothes style.

### MEN'S STRAIGHT DANCE MAXIMUM SCORE: 90 Points

#### SCALE:

0 = Missing or Inappropriate Item

1-3 = Acceptable

4-6 = Good

7-9 = Excellent

10 = Superior

#### STANDARD ITEMS

#### SCORE

**Item 1: HEAD:** Roach; Roach Feather(s); Roach spreader; (10)  
Scalp Feather; Headband. Optional: Otter Fur Turban

Superior: Roach—well made, worn correctly, appropriate flare, should stand up in the front, colors coordinated with dance clothes, with German Silver or bone spreader and 1 or 2 roach feathers; scalp feathers correctly decorated; Porcupine hair roaches are preferred. Headband (optional) - white handkerchief, correctly folded. Or - Otter fur turban correctly decorated with ribbon work and beaded rosettes. .

Acceptable: Fiber roach; un-coordinated color roaches; inadequate length, poorly constructed or worn out roach; Otter fur turban made from other fur or fake fur.

Inappropriate: Un-coordinated feather crest; bandannas covering head; no roach; war bonnets; animal skin headgear; missing spreader or spreader with no roach feather socket, missing items.

**Item 2: UPPER BODY:** Ribbon Shirt; Scarf & Slide; Bandoliers; Otter Dragger; (20)  
Belt; Armbands with Ribbon Decoration. Optional: Vest; Breastplate; Hair Plates

Superior: Ribbon shirt with contrasting ribbon decoration, length should be to the crotch; scarf - in color matching the shirt ribbons; German silver neckerchief slide and armbands - all with stamped designs; bone or imitation hair pipe bandoliers with glass or plastic beads; beaded belt or Concho belt; vest with matching

decorations to the rest of the straight dance suit, breastplate of proper size to the style of dance clothes, properly decorated otter fur dragger, or German silver hair plates, preferably stamped with designs.

Acceptable: Items that do not coordinate well with the dance clothes; belt with little or no decoration; ill-fitting ribbon shirt; bandoliers poorly constructed and sized wrong in relationship to body size.

Inappropriate: No scarf or slide, no bandoliers; no belt; parts of dance clothes from other dance styles; OA sash; other missing items.

**Item 3: MID & LOWER BODY: Straight Dance Suit Consisting of:** (20)  
Aprons, Leggings & Trailer; Finger Woven Yarn Set; Bells.

Superior: Straight dance suit (aprons, leggings, trailer) made from broadcloth decorated with proper ribbon work; (optional) leather leggings; (optional) floral beaded aprons - only if used with proper tribal style of dress; finger woven side drops and garters; proper bells.

Acceptable: Dance suit made from substitute materials and decorated with other than ribbon work; something used to substitute the finger woven yarn set (painted canvas belt webbing, drops decorated with chrome metal spots or small mirrors, braided yarn,) small bells; dew claw bells (only if used with a proper tribal style dance clothes).

Inappropriate: no dance suit; or leggings, shirt, apron, trailer, all made from ceremony team dance clothes parts, (usually with cloth cut fringe); no yarn set; no bells, missing items.

**Item 4: HANDS: Fan; Mirror Board; Dance Stick** (10)

Superior: Imitation eagle tail feather flat fan w/beaded handle; Imitation eagle wing fan w/beaded handle; Macaw loose fan w/beaded handle; decorated mirror board; beaded dance stick.

Acceptable: Feather fan not beaded; simple mirror board; dance stick with minimum decoration.

Inappropriate: No hand articles; whip sticks; hand articles from other dance styles; missing items.

**Item 5: FEET: Plains Hard-sole Moccasins** (10)

Superior: Fully or partly beaded plains hard-sole moccasins, preferably Southern Cheyenne style, or Kiowa/Comanche style "duster" type moccasins.

Acceptable: Undecorated hard-sole moccasins or painted canvas deck shoes with proper designs. Inappropriate: No moccasins; leather soft-sole moccasins; sneakers.

**Item 6: OVERALL:** (20)

Scale: 1-5 Good start, room for improvement; 6-10 Solid basic dance clothes, lacking some items; 11-15 Excellent; 16-20 Superior

Does the set look complete? Do the dance clothes have the right "look"? Are the clothes consistent with current styles?

**FINAL SCORE** (90)\_\_\_\_\_

**Ribbon Scale:** White 1-24 Red 25-49 Blue 50-73 Gold 74-90



## Clothes Coaching Outline Women's Fancy Shawl Dance

DANCER:\_\_\_\_\_

CONTEST# \_\_\_\_\_

LODGE #\_\_\_\_\_

COACH:\_\_\_\_\_

### THE PURPOSE OF THE NOAC AIA COACHING SESSION:

Plains Powwow Culture is a 'popular' culture, evolving continuously in many areas; certainly, in the areas of the music, the dance and the dance clothes. Dance competitions continue to be increasingly popular not just at the summer tribal gatherings, but at big annual dance competitions happening throughout the year. Hundreds of dancers compete for thousands of dollars in prize money. Powwow-style dancing is a passion for many people and the most competitive among them actively keep their eyes on the latest fashions and their ears open to the latest songs. Smart dancers are always looking for ways to improve their dance moves and their dance clothes. Even the best-dressed dancers know their dance clothes can always be 'bumped up a notch'. While dance clothes are not 'judged' at these dance competitions, they do matter. Savvy dancers know they have to look their very best if they want to catch the judges' eye and make a positive impression. And when you look good, you feel good and then you're sure to dance your best.

In our many years of experience and involvement in dancing and powwows, we know that 'powwowing' is a family activity; rare are the dancers who go it alone. The construction of a set of dance clothes is far too complicated an endeavor to be accomplished by any one person. A set of dance clothes is a compilation of items made, received as gifts, purchased, and borrowed for the event. *It Takes a Family to Dress a Dancer*. From Tiny Tots to Golden Age, all dancers have help with their clothes. And guidance from experienced dancers is some of the best help you can get.

At the NOAC AIA Dance Clothes Coaching Session a dancer has the opportunity to discuss his dance clothes with a senior powwow dance enthusiast, tapping into years of experience in the areas of dance, dance clothes, craft and powwow culture. This outline is to be used as a guiding framework, with the understanding

that 'change happens' and everyone needs to keep his eyes open to the latest trends - competitors and coaches alike.

It is the goal of all Arrowmen who have been selected as NOAC Dance Clothes Coaches to share their knowledge and experience with younger dancers (and their support teams) in the hope of inspiring yet another enthusiastic, better-dressed dancer.

### **A note about DANCE CLOTHES**

The most important thing about a set of modern **Women's Fancy Shawl** dance clothes is the overall look. Dance clothes are meant to be danced in, not to be judged in a still position. The components of your dance clothes should move well when you dance and work to enhance your dancing style. For this reason, materials, size, shape, and placement of the individual dance clothes components listed above must be in order. When specific materials are called for - such as beadwork - an adequate substitution of cloth, fabric applique, sequins, painted material can be used. However, proper colors, designs, and proportions must be in place for the article to get maximum points and for your dance clothes to have maximum visual impact.

This outline is not just a "scoring sheet"; it is a resource for you to constantly improve your dance clothes to be the best they can be. When you look at the individual scores of the various headings as well as the overall score, think of what you can do to improve each item, even if just by just a couple of points. Our goal is to help you to elevate your dance clothes to a higher level. By continually improving your dance clothes, your presentation on the dance floor will improve as well.

### **A note to DANCERS:**

This outline is designed to summarize what a Women's Fancy Shawl dancer would wear at a contemporary powwow. It represents the norm as defined by modern dancers in the Northern Plains and across the country.

Be aware that although a printed or recorded work may have been relevant at the time of its making, Women's Fancy Shawl is an ever-changing dance style and these works can sometimes become outdated within a short period of time. If possible, attend powwows and notice the subtle trends being added to Women's Fancy Shawl dance clothes of today. If you live in an area where it is difficult to attend powwows, you can use resources such as:

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com), [www.gatheringofnations.com](http://www.gatheringofnations.com), [www.powwows.com](http://www.powwows.com),  
or [www.pinterest.com](http://www.pinterest.com)

to view photos and video footage of powwow dancers. Please be respectful of other's dance clothes. Model your dance clothes after contemporary dancers, but

do not copy a specific set of clothes verbatim.

While Women's Fancy Shawl dance clothes of the past have their place in history, some of the components may not appropriate for contemporary dance styles. Stay current and up-to-date on your dance clothes' style.

### WOMEN'S FANCY SHAWL DANCE MAXIMUM SCORE: 80 Points

#### SCALE:

0 = Missing or Inappropriate Item

1-3 = Acceptable

4-6 = Good

7-9 = Excellent

10 = Superior

#### STANDARD ITEMS

#### SCORE

#### Item 1: SHAWL:

(10) \_\_\_\_\_

The Fancy Dance Shawl is the major component of this dance style. Typically the shawl is made from a brightly colored, lightweight moveable fabric and decorated in fabric applique of appropriate design.

Superior: Appropriate length, not only over the shoulders from fingertip to fingertip, but also the length from neck to bottom hem (mid-thigh). Decorated with fabric applique. Trimmed on three sides with 3/8" to 1/2" satin ribbon fringe of appropriate length (usually ankle length or an inch off the ground).

Acceptable: No decoration, chainette fringe, flat fringe, or fringe too short.

Inappropriate: Shawl too short, inappropriate design, no fringe, made from inappropriate fabric such as wool, velvet or other fabric which limits the movement of the shawl.

#### Item 2: HEAD: Feather Plumes, Barrett, Hair Ties.

(10) \_\_\_\_\_

Superior: Imitation eagle feather plume(s). Typically a beaded hair barrette secures the feather at the center back of the head. Beaded, quilled, parfleche, and/or shell hair ties, all coordinated in color and style. A head band (optional). Braided hair. Short hair.

Acceptable: Items in place, mismatched or not necessarily coordinated. Fluffs instead of plumes. Undecorated hair ties. Braided hair. Short hair.

Inappropriate: Missing items.

#### Item 3: BODY: Dress or Skirt and Blouse

(10) \_\_\_\_\_

*Appropriate shorts or tights **MUST** be worn underneath.*

Superior: Dress or skirt and blouse fit nicely, are the proper length, and made from colorful, fabric. Proper use of kick-pleats, ruffle or flair on dress or skirt. Fabric applique and/or ribbon decorations on dress or skirt.

Acceptable: Undecorated dress or skirt.

Inappropriate: Midriff skin showing. See-through bodice or skirt. Hem too short on either dress or skirt. Dress or skirt too narrow as to not allow leg movement. Improper fit or improper use of fabric. No shorts or tights.

**Item 4: BODY: Cape, or Vest with Cape, Belt. (10)\_\_\_\_\_**

Superior: Beaded or fabric applique cape (front and back), or front-fitted vest with beaded or fabric applique cape attached to the back of the vest at shoulder seams. Beaded or coordinated belt (leather, tack or concho belt acceptable).

Acceptable: Undecorated cape, cloth neck scarf and slide worn like a neckerchief instead of cape. Medallion necklace instead of cape. Belt.

Inappropriate: Cape too short in front or back. No cape, neckerchief or medallion. Scout or inappropriate neckerchief used instead of cloth neck scarf. No belt.

**Item 5: LEGS AND FEET: Leggings and Moccasins, or Northern Style Boots. (10)**

Superior: Fully or partially beaded leggings and moccasins. Northern style boots with beaded decoration (aka "high top" moccasins, or "Crow" boots). Full fabric applique leggings.

Acceptable: Partial fabric applique leggings. Undecorated leggings, and moccasins. Undecorated Northern style boots. Commercial hide boots.

Inappropriate: No leggings, moccasins, or boots. The use of tennis shoes or other inappropriate footwear in place of moccasins.

**Item 6: ACCESSORIES: Choker, Jewelry (10) \_\_\_\_\_**

Superior: Beaded choker with a beaded medallion (or decorative drop), beaded barrettes, earrings, rings, and/or bracelets coordinated in style and color to compliment the dance clothes.

Appropriate: Accessories are present but not coordinated in color or design. Inappropriate: No accessories.

**Item 7: OVERALL: (20)**

Scale: 1-5 Good start, room for improvement; 6-10 Solid basic dance clothes, lacking some items; 11-15 Excellent; 16-20 Superior

Does the set look complete? Do the dance clothes have the right "look"? Are the clothes consistent with current styles?

**FINAL SCORE (80)\_\_\_\_\_**

**Ribbon Scale: White 1-22 Red 23-43 Blue 44-63 Gold 64-80**



## Clothes Coaching Outline Women's Jingle Dance

DANCER:\_\_\_\_\_

CONTEST# \_\_\_\_\_

LODGE #\_\_\_\_\_

COACH:\_\_\_\_\_

### THE PURPOSE OF THE NOAC AIA COACHING SESSION:

Plains Powwow Culture is a 'popular' culture, evolving continuously in many areas; certainly, in the areas of the music, the dance and the dance clothes. Dance competitions continue to be increasingly popular not just at the summer tribal gatherings, but at big annual dance competitions happening throughout the year. Hundreds of dancers compete for thousands of dollars in prize money. Powwow-style dancing is a passion for many people and the most competitive among them actively keep their eyes on the latest fashions and their ears open to the latest songs. Smart dancers are always looking for ways to improve their dance moves and their dance clothes. Even the best-dressed dancers know their dance clothes can always be 'bumped up a notch'. While dance clothes are not 'judged' at these dance competitions, they do matter. Savvy dancers know they have to look their very best if they want to catch the judges' eye and make a positive impression. And when you look good, you feel good and then you're sure to dance your best.

In our many years of experience and involvement in dancing and powwows, we know that 'powwowing' is a family activity; rare are the dancers who go it alone. The construction of a set of dance clothes is far too complicated an endeavor to be accomplished by any one person. A set of dance clothes is a compilation of items made, received as gifts, purchased, and borrowed for the event. *It Takes a Family to Dress a Dancer*. From Tiny Tots to Golden Age, all dancers have help with their clothes. And guidance from experienced dancers is some of the best help you can get.

At the NOAC AIA Dance Clothes Coaching Session a dancer has the opportunity to discuss his dance clothes with a senior powwow dance enthusiast, tapping into years of experience in the areas of dance, dance clothes, craft and powwow culture. This outline is to be used as a guiding framework, with the understanding

that 'change happens' and everyone needs to keep his eyes open to the latest trends - competitors and coaches alike.

It is the goal of all Arrowmen who have been selected as NOAC Dance Clothes Coaches to share their knowledge and experience with younger dancers (and their support teams) in the hope of inspiring yet another enthusiastic, better-dressed dancer.

### **A note about DANCE CLOTHES:**

The most important thing about a set of modern **Women's Jingle Dress** dance clothes is the overall look. Dance clothes are meant to be danced in, not to be judged in a still position. The components of your dance clothes should move well when you dance and work to enhance your dancing style. For this reason, materials, size, shape, and placement of the individual dance clothes components listed above must be in order. When specific materials are called for - such as beadwork - an adequate substitution of cloth, fabric applique, sequins, painted material can be used. However, proper colors, designs, and proportions must be in place for the article to get maximum points and for your dance clothes to have maximum visual impact.

This outline is not just a "scoring sheet"; it is a resource for you to constantly improve your dance clothes to be the best they can be. When you look at the individual scores of the various headings as well as the overall score, think of what you can do to improve each item, even if just by just a couple of points. Our goal is to help you to elevate your dance clothes to a higher level. By continually improving your dance clothes, your presentation on the dance floor will improve as well.

### **A note to DANCERS:**

This outline is designed to summarize what a Women's Jingle Dress dancer would wear at a contemporary powwow. It represents the norm as defined by modern dancers in the Northern Plains and across the country.

Be aware that although a printed or recorded work may have been relevant at the time of its making, Women's Jingle Dress is an ever-changing dance style and these works can sometimes become outdated within a short period of time. If possible, attend powwows and notice the subtle trends being added to Women's Jingle Dress clothes of today. If you live in an area where it is difficult to attend powwows, you can use resources such as

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com), [www.gatheringofnations.com](http://www.gatheringofnations.com),  
[www.powwows.com](http://www.powwows.com), or [www.pinterest.com](http://www.pinterest.com)

to view photos and video footage of powwow dancers. Please be respectful of other's dance clothes. Model your dance clothes after contemporary dancers, but

do not copy a specific set of clothes verbatim.

While Women's Jingle dress dance clothes of the past have their place in history, some of the components may not appropriate for contemporary dance styles. Stay current and up-to-date on your dance clothes' style.

## WOMEN'S JINGLE DRESS MAXIMUM SCORE: 60 Points

### SCALE:

0 = Missing or Inappropriate Item

1-3 = Acceptable

4-6 = Good

7-9 = Excellent

10 = Superior

### STANDARD ITEMS

### SCORE

**Item 1: HEAD:** Feather Plumes, Center Tail Feather, Barrette, Hair Ties. (10) \_\_\_\_\_

Superior: Imitation eagle feather plume(s) or center tail feather. Typically a beaded hair barrette secures the plumes/feather at the center back of the head. Beaded, quilled, parfleche, and/or shell hair ties, all coordinated in color and style. A headband (optional). Braided hair. Short hair.

Acceptable: Items in place, mismatched or not necessarily coordinated. Fluffs instead of plumes. Undecorated hair ties. Braided hair. Short hair.

Inappropriate: Missing items.

**Item 2: BODY:** Dress or Dress with over skirt, belt, Optional vest (10) \_\_\_\_\_

*Appropriate shorts or tights **MUST** be worn underneath a one piece dress.*

Superior: Dress or dress with over skirt fit nicely, are the proper length, and made from colorful, fabric. Proper use of ruffle or flair on dress or skirt. Fabric applique and/or ribbon decorations on dress and over skirt. Optional decorated bolero (short) vest worn over dress. Jingles placed appropriately. Belt coordinated with outfit (leather, tack or concho belt acceptable).

Acceptable: Undecorated dress or skirt. Jingles quantity less than desired but placed appropriately. Plain belt.

Inappropriate: Hem too short on either dress or over skirt. Improper fit or improper use of fabric. Lack of jingles. No belt. No shorts or tights under a one-piece dress.

**Item 3: LEGS AND FEET:** Leggings, Moccasins or Northern Style Boots. (10) \_\_\_\_\_

Superior: Fully or partially beaded leggings and moccasins. Northern style boots with beaded decoration (aka "high top" moccasins, or "Crow" boots). Full fabric applique leggings.

Acceptable: Partial fabric applique leggings. Undecorated leggings and moccasins. Undecorated Northern style boots. Commercial hide boots.

Inappropriate: No leggings, moccasins, or boots. The use of tennis shoes or other inappropriate footwear in place of moccasins.

**Item 4: ACCESSORIES: Choker, Jewelry** (10) \_\_\_\_

Superior: Beaded choker with a beaded medallion (decorative drop), beaded barrettes, earrings, rings, and/or bracelets coordinated in style and color to compliment the dance clothes. Beaded purse and/or bandolier bag. Big imitation eagle feather fan.

Appropriate: Accessories are present but not coordinated in color or design. Undecorated bag/purse or no purse. Fan of alternative legal feathers.

Inappropriate: Accessories missing.

**Item 5: OVERALL:** (20)

Scale: 1-5 Good start, room for improvement; 6-10 Solid basic dance clothes, lacking some items; 11-15 Excellent; 16-20 Superior

Does the set look complete? Do the dance clothes have the right "look"? Are the clothes consistent with current styles?

**FINAL SCORE** (60)\_\_\_\_\_

**Ribbon Scale:** White 1-16 Red 17-32 Blue 33-48 Gold 49-60



## Clothes Coaching Outline Northern Women's Traditional Dance

DANCER:\_\_\_\_\_

CONTEST# \_\_\_\_\_

LODGE #\_\_\_\_\_

COACH:\_\_\_\_\_

### THE PURPOSE OF THE NOAC AIA COACHING SESSION:

Plains Powwow Culture is a 'popular' culture, evolving continuously in many areas; certainly, in the areas of the music, the dance and the dance clothes. Dance competitions continue to be increasingly popular not just at the summer tribal gatherings, but at big annual dance competitions happening throughout the year. Hundreds of dancers compete for thousands of dollars in prize money. Powwow-style dancing is a passion for many people and the most competitive among them actively keep their eyes on the latest fashions and their ears open to the latest songs. Smart dancers are always looking for ways to improve their dance moves and their dance clothes. Even the best-dressed dancers know their dance clothes can always be 'bumped up a notch'. While dance clothes are not 'judged' at these dance competitions, they do matter. Savvy dancers know they have to look their very best if they want to catch the judges' eye and make a positive impression. And when you look good, you feel good and then you're sure to dance your best.

In our many years of experience and involvement in dancing and powwows, we know that 'powwowing' is a family activity; rare are the dancers who go it alone. The construction of a set of dance clothes is far too complicated an endeavor to be accomplished by any one person. A set of dance clothes is a compilation of items made, received as gifts, purchased, and borrowed for the event. *It Takes a Family to Dress a Dancer*. From Tiny Tots to Golden Age, all dancers have help with their clothes. And guidance from experienced dancers is some of the best help you can get.

At the NOAC AIA Dance Clothes Coaching Session a dancer has the opportunity to discuss his dance clothes with a senior powwow dance enthusiast, tapping into years of experience in the areas of dance, dance clothes, craft and powwow culture. This outline is to be used as a guiding framework, with the understanding

that 'change happens' and everyone needs to keep his eyes open to the latest trends - competitors and coaches alike.

It is the goal of all Arrowmen who have been selected as NOAC Dance Clothes Coaches to share their knowledge and experience with younger dancers (and their support teams) in the hope of inspiring yet another enthusiastic, better-dressed dancer.

### **A note about DANCE CLOTHES:**

The most important thing about a set of modern **Northern Women's Traditional** dance clothes is the overall look. Dance clothes are meant to be danced in, not to be judged in a still position. The components of your dance clothes should move well when you dance and work to enhance your dancing style. For this reason, materials, size, shape, and placement of the individual dance clothes components listed above must be in order. When specific materials are called for - such as beadwork - an adequate substitution of cloth, fabric applique, sequins, painted material can be used. However, proper colors, designs, and proportions must be in place for the article to get maximum points and for your dance clothes to have maximum visual impact.

This outline is not just a "scoring sheet"; it is a resource for you to constantly improve your dance clothes to be the best they can be. When you look at the individual scores of the various headings as well as the overall score, think of what you can do to improve each item, even if just by just a couple of points. Our goal is to help you to elevate your dance clothes to a higher level. By continually improving your dance clothes, your presentation on the dance floor will improve as well.

### **A note to DANCERS:**

This outline is designed to summarize what a Northern Women's Traditional dancer would wear at a contemporary powwow. It represents the norm as defined by modern dancers in the Northern Plains and across the country.

Be aware that although a printed or recorded work may have been relevant at the time of its making, Northern Women's Traditional is an ever-changing dance style and these works can sometimes become outdated within a short period of time. If possible, attend powwows and notice the subtle trends being added to Northern Women's Traditional dance clothes of today. If you live in an area where it is difficult to attend powwows, you can use resources such as:

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com), [www.gatheringofnations.com](http://www.gatheringofnations.com), [www.powwows.com](http://www.powwows.com),  
or [www.pinterest.com](http://www.pinterest.com)

to view photos and video footage of powwow dancers. Please be respectful of other's dance clothes. Model your dance clothes after contemporary dancers, but do not copy a specific set of clothes verbatim. While Northern Women's Traditional dance clothes of the past have their place in history, some of the components may not appropriate for contemporary dance styles. Stay current and up-to-date on your dance clothes' style.

## WOMEN'S NORTHERN TRADITIONAL DANCE MAXIMUM SCORE: 60 Points

### SCALE:

0 = Missing or Inappropriate Item

1-3 = Acceptable

4-6 = Good

7-9 = Excellent

10 = Superior

### STANDARD ITEMS

### SCORE

**Item 1: HEAD:** Plumes and Feathers, Barrett, Hair Ties. (10) \_\_\_\_\_

Superior: Imitation eagle feather plume or center tail feather. Typically a beaded hair barrette secures the plumes/feather at the center back of the head. Beaded, quilled, parfleche and/or shell hair ties, all coordinated in color and style. Quilled wheel, small beaded medallion/barrett or conch/abalone shell disc with imitation eagle plume attached (in addition to the center feather) worn at the top side of the head. French braided hair. Short hair.

Acceptable: Items in place but mismatched or not necessarily coordinated. Fluffs instead of plumes. No additional feather. Undecorated hair ties. Braided hair. Short hair.

Inappropriate: Missing items.

**Item 2: BODY:** Dress, Dress with Cape, Buckskin (10) \_\_\_\_\_

Superior: Dress or dress with cape fit nicely, are the proper length, made in the correct style and made from correct type of fabric. Suggestions - wool, broadcloth, velveteen, subtle plaids or subtle prints.

Cowrie shell, elk's teeth, dentalium shell, ribbon trim, or fabric applique decorations on dress bodice or cape. Optional gusset (tribe specific: usually Lakota, Plateau) inserted with gusset hem dropped 3-5 inches below the dress hem.

Buckskin fits nicely, is the proper length and style, and made with the correct color hide (off- white, cream, brain tanned, smoked). Decorated with appropriate beadwork (including pattern and placement), cowrie shell, dentalium shell, or elk's teeth. Additional coordinating decoration on lower portion of dress or buckskin.

Bead and hairpipe breastplate (Northern style - front only, past the waist in length). Tack belt, parfleche belt, beaded belt, concho belt (Belt dragger drop

optional.)

Acceptable: Undecorated dress or cape. No cape. No gusset inserted (if needed to be tribe specific). Ribbon trim on dress and/or cape. Plain leather belt. No Belt dragger.

Inappropriate: Hem too short on dress or buckskin. Improper fit or improper use of fabric (bright prints). Wrong color buckskin (non-natural colors ie: red, black, purple, green etc.) No belt. No breastplate.

**Item 3: LEGS AND FEET: Leggings and Moccasins or Northern Style Boots. (10)**

Superior: Fully beaded leggings and moccasins. Partially beaded leggings or moccasins, or fabric applique leggings and moccasins. Northern style boots with beaded decoration (aka "high top" moccasins, or "Crow" boots). Full fabric applique leggings.

Acceptable: Partial fabric applique leggings. Undecorated leggings and moccasins. Undecorated Northern style boots. Commercial hide boots.

Inappropriate: No leggings, moccasins, or boots. The use of tennis shoes or other inappropriate footwear in place of moccasins.

**Item 4: ACCESSORIES: Choker, Jewelry (10) \_\_\_\_\_**

Superior: Choker with a decorative drop, barretts, earrings, rings, and/or bracelets coordinated in style and color to compliment the dance clothes. Accessory materials may be made of silverwork, bone, shell, horse hair, painted rawhide. Beaded flat purse. Big imitation eagle feather fan. Decorated arm shawl.

Appropriate: Accessories are present but not coordinated in color or design. Plain flat purse or no purse. Smaller fan of alternative legal feathers. Undecorated arm shawl.

Inappropriate: Accessories missing. No shawl.

**Item 5: OVERALL: (20)**

Scale: 1-5 Good start, room for improvement; 6-10 Solid basic dance clothes, lacking some items; 11-15 Excellent; 16-20 Superior

Does the set look complete? Do the dance clothes have the right "look"? Are the clothes consistent with current styles?

**FINAL SCORE (60)\_\_\_\_\_**

**Ribbon Scale: White 1-16 Red 17-32 Blue 33-48 Gold 49-60**



## Clothes Coaching Outline Southern Women's Traditional Dance Plains or Lakes

DANCER:\_\_\_\_\_

CONTEST# \_\_\_\_\_

LODGE #\_\_\_\_\_

COACH:\_\_\_\_\_

### THE PURPOSE OF THE NOAC AIA COACHING SESSION:

Plains Powwow Culture is a 'popular' culture, evolving continuously in many areas; certainly, in the areas of the music, the dance and the dance clothes. Dance competitions continue to be increasingly popular not just at the summer tribal gatherings, but at big annual dance competitions happening throughout the year. Hundreds of dancers compete for thousands of dollars in prize money. Powwow-style dancing is a passion for many people and the most competitive among them actively keep their eyes on the latest fashions and their ears open to the latest songs. Smart dancers are always looking for ways to improve their dance moves and their dance clothes. Even the best-dressed dancers know their dance clothes can always be 'bumped up a notch'. While dance clothes are not 'judged' at these dance competitions, they do matter. Savvy dancers know they have to look their very best if they want to catch the judges' eye and make a positive impression. And when you look good, you feel good and then you're sure to dance your best.

In our many years of experience and involvement in dancing and powwows, we know that 'powwowing' is a family activity; rare are the dancers who go it alone. The construction of a set of dance clothes is far too complicated an endeavor to be accomplished by any one person. A set of dance clothes is a compilation of items made, received as gifts, purchased, and borrowed for the event. *It Takes a Family to Dress a Dancer*. From Tiny Tots to Golden Age, all dancers have help with their clothes. And guidance from experienced dancers is some of the best help you can get.

At the NOAC AIA Dance Clothes Coaching Session a dancer has the opportunity to discuss his dance clothes with a senior powwow dance enthusiast, tapping into years of experience in the areas of dance, dance clothes, craft and powwow culture. This outline is to be used as a guiding framework, with the understanding

that 'change happens' and everyone needs to keep his eyes open to the latest trends - competitors and coaches alike.

It is the goal of all Arrowmen who have been selected as NOAC Dance Clothes Coaches to share their knowledge and experience with younger dancers (and their support teams) in the hope of inspiring yet another enthusiastic, better-dressed dancer.

### **A note about DANCE CLOTHES:**

The most important thing about a set of modern Southern Women's Traditional - Plains or Lakes dance clothes is the overall look. Dance clothes are meant to be danced in, not to be judged in a still position. The components of your dance clothes should move well when you dance and work to enhance your dancing style. For this reason, materials, size, shape, and placement of the individual dance clothes components listed above must be in order. When specific materials are called for - such as beadwork - an adequate substitution of cloth, fabric applique, sequins, painted material can be used. However, proper colors, designs, and proportions must be in place for the article to get maximum points and for your dance clothes to have maximum visual impact.

This outline is not just a "scoring sheet"; it is a resource for you to constantly improve your dance clothes to be the best they can be. When you look at the individual scores of the various headings as well as the overall score, think of what you can do to improve each item, even if just by just a couple of points. Our goal is to help you to elevate your dance clothes to a higher level. By continually improving your dance clothes, your presentation on the dance floor will improve as well.

### **A note to DANCERS:**

This outline is designed to summarize what a Southern Women's Traditional - Plains or Lakes dancer would wear at a contemporary powwow. It represents the norm as defined by modern dancers in the Southern Plains or Lakes areas across the country.

Be aware that although a printed or recorded work may have been relevant at the time of its making, Southern Women's Traditional - Plains or Lakes are ever-changing dance styles and these works can sometimes become outdated within a short period of time. If possible, attend powwows and notice the subtle trends being added to Southern Women's Traditional -Plains or Lakes dance clothes of today. If you live in an area where it is difficult to attend powwows, you can use resources such as:

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com), [www.gatheringofnations.com](http://www.gatheringofnations.com),  
[www.powwows.com](http://www.powwows.com), or [www.pinterest.com](http://www.pinterest.com)

to view photos and video footage of powwow dancers. Please be respectful of other's dance clothes. Model your dance clothes after contemporary dancers, but do not copy a specific set of clothes verbatim. While Southern Women's Traditional - Plains or Lakes dance clothes of the past have their place in history, some of the components may not appropriate for contemporary dance styles. Stay current and up-to-date on your dance clothes' style.

## WOMEN'S SOUTHERN TRADITIONAL DANCE MAXIMUM SCORE: 60 Points

### SCALE:

0 = Missing or Inappropriate Item

1-3 = Acceptable

4-6 = Good

7-9 = Excellent

10 = Superior

### STANDARD ITEMS

### SCORE

**Item 1: HEAD:** Feather Plumes, Barrett, Hair Ties, Crown (10) \_\_\_\_\_

Superior: Imitation eagle feather plume(s). Typically a beaded hair barrette or beaded crown secures the plumes at the center back of the head. Beaded, shell or decorative hair ties, all coordinated in color and style. French braided hair. Short hair.

Acceptable: Items in place but mismatched or not necessarily coordinated. Fluffs instead of plumes. Undecorated hair ties. Braided hair. Short hair. No beaded crown.

Inappropriate: Missing items.

**Item 2: Body:** Dress: Choose one of the following three (A, B, or C)

**A. Dress with Wrap Apron (Typically Kiowa or Comanche)** (10) \_\_\_\_\_

Superior: Dress with wrap apron fits nicely, are the proper length, made in the correct style, and made from the correct type of fabric such as dressy fabrics and/or bright, print on print, or brocade-like fabrics. Fringe on apron is the correct length and spaced correctly (no fringe may be indicative of a specific tribe and therefor OK). Gusset inserted with hem dropped 3-5 inches below the dress hem (if tribe specific). Bead and hairpipe breastplate (southern style front and back). Tack, beaded, or concho belt. Belt dragger.

Acceptable: Plain, simple fabric. No gusset inserted. Plain leather belt, no belt dragger. Medallion or scarf worn like a neckerchief instead of breastplate. No fringe on wrap apron unless tribe specific.

Inappropriate: Hem too short on dress or apron wrap. Improper fit or improper use of fabric. No medallion or breastplate. Scout neckerchief.

No belt.

-or-

**B. Ribbon Work Skirt and Blouse (Southern, Central Plains, or Lakes) (10)**

Superior: Skirt and blouse fit nicely, are the proper length, made in the correct style and made from the correct type of fabric - Broadcloth, wool, wool gabardine, for the skirt (may be brightly colored); dressy fabrics and/or bright, print on print, lined lace, or brocade-like fabrics for the blouse. Skirt has ribbon work, machine embroidery, fabric applique, or ribbon decorations. Appropriate blouse may or may not be decorated like a "ribbon shirt" depending on the tribe. Cloth, ribbon, or beaded trailer. Bead and hairpipe necklaces. Finger woven sash worn correctly under the blouse and over the skirt.

Acceptable: Fabric skirt which displays the correct use. Ribbon decoration on skirt. Plain blouse. Medallion or scarf worn like a neckerchief instead of necklaces. Ribbon trailer. No sash.

Inappropriate: Hem too short on skirt. Improper fit or improper use or see-through fabric on blouse. No medallion, necklaces, or breastplate. Scout neckerchief. No trailer.

-or-

**C. Cloth Dress/Buckskin (10)**

Superior: Dress fits nicely and is the proper length, made in the correct style, and made from the correct type of fabric; Suggestions - Broadcloth, wool, wool gabardine (all may be brightly colored). Dress bodice, sleeves, and lower portion have machine embroidery, appropriate beadwork (Including pattern and placement), fabric applique, cowrie shell, or elk's teeth decoration. Buckskin fits nicely, is the proper length and style, and made with the correct color hide (off- white, cream, brain tanned, smoked). Decorated with appropriate beadwork (including pattern and placement), cowrie shell, or elk's teeth. Cloth, ribbon or beaded trailer. Bead and hairpipe breastplate (southern style front and back). Tack, concho, or beaded belt with belt dragger.

Acceptable: Dress which displays the correct fabric use with simple decorations. Medallion or scarf worn like a neckerchief instead of breastplate. Ribbon trailer. Belt. No belt dragger.

Inappropriate: Hem too short. Improper fit or improper use of fabric. Wrong color buckskin (non-natural colors ie: red, black, purple, green etc.) No medallion or breastplate. No belt. Scout neckerchief. No trailer.

**Item 3: LEGS AND FEET:** Leggings and Moccasins or Boots. (10)\_\_\_\_\_

Superior: Southern style boots with beaded decoration. Fully beaded leggings and moccasins. Partially beaded moccasins if appropriate; hose/tights are optional.

Acceptable: Undecorated Southern style boots. Undecorated leggings and moccasins. Undecorated moccasins. Commercial hide boots.

Inappropriate: The use of tennis shoes or other inappropriate footwear in place of moccasins.

**Item 4: ACCESSORIES:** Choker, Jewelry (10)\_\_\_\_\_

Superior: Beaded crown, choker with a beaded medallion (decorative drop), beaded barrettes, beaded earrings, rings, and/or bracelets coordinated in style and color to compliment the dance clothes. Beaded flat purse or drop bag (if tribe specific). Big imitation eagle feather fan. Decorated arm shawl.

Appropriate: Accessories are present but not coordinated in color or design. Plain flat purse, drop bag or no purse/bag. Smaller fan of alternative legal feathers. Undecorated arm shawl.

Inappropriate: Accessories missing. No shawl.

**Item 5: OVERALL:** (20)

Scale: 1-5 Good start, room for improvement; 6-10 Solid basic dance clothes, lacking some items; 11-15 Excellent; 16-20 Superior

Does the set look complete? Do the dance clothes have the right "look"? Are the clothes consistent with current styles?

**FINAL SCORE** (60)\_\_\_\_\_

**Ribbon Scale:** White 1-16 Red 17-32 Blue 33-48 Gold 49-60