

2026 Allen County Fair Baton Twirling & Flag Corp Competition RULES ELIGIBILITY

All contestants must be currently enrolled in an accredited high school for the '26 -27 school year to be eligible to compete. Contestants may be male or female. Entry blanks shall be signed by the Principal and Band Director or Auxiliary Director.

Schools will compete in either Class A or Class B depending on school enrollment size. Class A = (351 or higher enrollment grades 9-12) Class B = (350 or less enrollment grades 9-12). **Feature Twirlers and Majorette Squads will compete in the same division. There will not be an A/B class for these two categories only.** Dance Team = Open to any age group, Dance Twirl Team = Open to any age Dance Twirl (Baton) group. Dance Twirl (Baton) is 2 OR More Baton Twirling while Dancing.

ENTRIES There will be no entry fee. **Entry forms must be postmarked no later than Monday, July 20, 2026.** Introduction sheets must be typed; no handwritten material will be accepted. **The deadline for introductions will be Thursday, August 20.** We will not accept any introduction sheets on the day of the competition.

Mail forms to: Allen County Fair Baton/Flag Competition 2750 Harding Highway Lima, OH 45804

PERFORMANCE The contest will take place on the racetrack directly in front of the grandstand. There will be a short check-in meeting with directors before the start of the contest. **The contest will begin at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 23.** In case of inclement weather, it may be necessary to start early, relocate, postpone, or cancel this competition. An estimated appearance time will be assigned to each group prior to the contest. Order of performance will be done by lottery drawing. There will be separate categories for each of the following: Majorette Squads, Flag Corps, Rifles, Dance Twirl Team, **Feature Twirlers (Feature Twirlers must be their band's Feature twirler for the season for the school they attend).** Feature Flags, Dance Team. There needs to be 2 groups for each Dance Team and Dance Twirl Team to have these categories. There needs to be 2 schools in the Rifles to have this category. Please note: Dance Twirl (Baton)Team is 2 Baton twirlers OR more Twirling Baton while Dancing.

Total performance time limits are as follows: Majorette Squads, Dance Team, Dance Twirl Team – 1 1/2 to 3 minutes maximum, Feature Twirlers - 1 to 2 1/2 minutes maximum, Flag Corps - 4 minutes maximum, Feature Flags - 3 minutes maximum, Rifles - 3 minutes maximum.

Timing will begin when your music starts and will end when the final position is held or when the music ends (whichever comes first).

There will be a one-point penalty for each second over the time limit (deducted from the total score).

Each group must provide their own music. A sound system will be provided, and music will be played through the grandstand speaker system. **All participants must bring their music on their tablet/cell phones. Our sound man will have adapters for different devices.** Music should be of good quality and loudness. Music must be ready to play when brought to the table. You will be able to test your music on the official sound system. Each group must have one (1) representative (coach/supervisor/band director) to start their group's music. The representative must remain at the table during the performance and then remove their music upon completion of the routine. If your music does not work, you may try your back-up. There will be one (1) point off for each minute of delay. If your backup does not work, you may perform without music with a (5) point deduction taken from your score. The Allen County Agricultural Society or its representatives will not be responsible for any malfunctioning music.

Props may be put in place as soon as the squad performs before you have left the staging area. Judging sheets will be returned to you following the contest.

JUDGING The contest will be judged by a panel of qualified judges. The judges will score on all areas of the competition. The scores of the judges will determine the final placings. Judges will be given a maximum of 2 minutes to judge each category. Judges will write comments on your score sheets. Final scores will be checked by the judges. Judges' observations and decisions are final.

Baton Twirlers, Flags or groups may not receive "coaching" from the sidelines while in competition. This includes help with routine, hearing the beat of the music, a time limit signal or any other assistance is permitted!

Still pictures and videotaping are permitted at competitions. However, it is understood that videotapes will only be made of one's own child or students, or with the explicit permission of the performer.

WINNERS & AWARDS Trophies will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in each category.

ADMISSION Instructors and participants ONLY will be admitted to the fairgrounds free of charge on the day of the contest.