NMA Code of Conduct

Nov 5, 2026 · @Ryan Sargent

1. Purpose

This code sets out how everyone involved with the Northern Majorette Association (NMA) is expected to behave, so that every competition is fair, safe and enjoyable for dancers aged 3 to adult. Since 2006 the NMA has been more than a competition: it is a community built on discipline, passion and togetherness, and this code protects that.

The code applies at all NMA competitions, finals, workshops and presentations, on the way to and from them as a troupe, and in any online space linked to the NMA, including our Facebook group.

It applies to:

- Dancers
- Troupe leaders, coaches and chaperones
- Parents, carers and spectators
- Judges, officials, committee members and volunteers

By affiliating to the NMA, entering a competition or attending an event, you agree to follow this code. Troupe leaders are responsible for sharing it with their dancers and families. This code works alongside the NMA Safeguarding Policy and the NMA rule book, both available on the NMA website.

2. What we expect from everyone

- **Respect.** Treat every dancer, troupe, family, judge and volunteer with courtesy, whichever troupe they belong to.
- **Fair play.** Accept results with good grace. Celebrate other troupes' successes as well as your own.
- **Safety first.** Follow the NMA Safeguarding Policy and venue rules, and report any concern to the Safeguarding Officer.
- **Inclusion.** Welcome everyone regardless of age, ability, disability, gender, race, religion or belief, or sexual orientation. Discrimination, bullying, harassment or abusive language of any kind is not tolerated.
- **Look after the venue.** Leave changing rooms, seating and halls as you found them, and follow the venue's rules on food, drink and parking.

- **No alcohol, drugs or smoking.** No one may be under the influence of alcohol or drugs at an NMA event. Smoking and vaping only in areas the venue allows, away from children.
- **Keep it positive online.** What you post about the NMA, troupes or dancers should be something you would be happy to say face to face.

3. Dancers

As an NMA dancer, I will:

- Try my best, work hard and have fun.
- Be kind to dancers from every troupe, on and off the floor. I will not tease, leave anyone out or say unkind things, including online.
- Listen to my troupe leader, coaches, chaperones and NMA officials.
- Stay with my troupe at events and tell an adult if I need to go anywhere.
- Wear my costume, footwear and hair as my troupe asks, and take off jewellery when I compete.
- Handle my baton, poms and props safely, and only use them in practice areas or on the floor.
- Accept the judges' marks, whatever the result, and congratulate other troupes.
- Respect the changing rooms and keep my phone away while people are getting changed.
- Tell my troupe leader, a parent or the NMA Safeguarding Officer if anything or anyone makes me feel unsafe or upset.

For our youngest dancers, troupe leaders and parents can explain this as: **be kind, listen, stay with your team, and tell a grown-up if you're worried.**

4. Troupe leaders, coaches and chaperones

Troupe leaders are responsible for their troupe's conduct at every NMA event. As a troupe leader, coach or chaperone, I will:

- Put dancers' welfare, safety and enjoyment before winning.
- Hold a valid DBS check, make sure my coaches and chaperones are checked, and have a named safeguarding lead and safeguarding policy for my troupe.
- Hold current public liability insurance for my troupe and send a copy to the NMA with my registration.
- Bring enough adult chaperones to supervise my dancers at all times, including in changing areas and breaks.

- Keep dancers' emergency contacts, medical needs and photo consents up to date, and bring them to every event.
- Enter dancers in the correct section for their age and routine, and follow the NMA rule book on timings, costumes and props.
- Coach in a way that is safe and suitable for each dancer's age and ability. I will never use training, stretching or exclusion as punishment, or comment harmfully on a dancer's weight or body.
- Keep professional boundaries: no private messaging of dancers under 18, no gifts or favouritism, and no time alone with a child out of sight of others.
- Raise disagreements about results or running orders politely and privately with NMA officials, never in front of dancers or on social media.
- Share this code with my dancers and their families each season, and challenge poor behaviour from anyone connected to my troupe.

5. Parents, carers and spectators

Your support makes NMA competitions special. As a parent, carer or spectator, I will:

- Cheer for every troupe, not just my own, and never boo, jeer or make remarks about dancers, troupes or judges.
- Stay seated and quiet while a routine is being performed, and only move between routines.
- Accept the judges' decisions. Any query goes through my troupe leader, never directly to a judge or official at the event.
- Respect dancers' privacy: stay out of changing areas unless helping my own child with my troupe's agreement, and never use a phone or camera there.
- Only photograph or film my own child's troupe, for personal use (see section 7).
- Make sure my child arrives on time, is collected promptly, and has what they need, including food, water and any medication.
- Treat NMA volunteers, venue staff and other families with courtesy. Aggressive or abusive behaviour towards anyone will lead to being asked to leave.
- Raise any worry about a child's safety with the NMA Safeguarding Officer straight away.

6. Judges, officials and volunteers

As an NMA judge, scorer, committee member or volunteer, I will:

- Judge and score fairly, consistently and only against the NMA rule book, without favouring any troupe.
- Declare any conflict of interest, such as a family member or close connection in a troupe, before judging, and not judge that section.
- Keep marks and scoresheets confidential until results are announced.
- Hold a valid DBS check and complete the safeguarding training the NMA asks for.
- Give feedback that is constructive, encouraging and suitable for the dancer's age.
- Not discuss marks, results or other troupes with parents or dancers at the event; queries go to the event organiser.
- Behave as an ambassador for the NMA, on the day and online.

7. Social media, photography and filming

- Photograph or film only your own child's troupe, from the audience seating, for personal and family use.
- Never photograph or film in changing rooms, toilets or warm-up areas.
- Don't post photos or videos of other troupes' dancers without that troupe's permission. Don't tag or name children in public posts.
- Don't post criticism of dancers, troupes, judges or results online, including in private groups and "vague" posts. Raise concerns through the proper route (section 8).
- The NMA may remove anyone from the NMA Facebook group, and ask anyone to delete images, if this code isn't followed.
- The NMA only uses images of dancers with parental consent, and never with a child's full name.

8. If the code is broken

Most issues are sorted out with a quiet word. Where they are not, the NMA committee may take action that fits how serious the behaviour was:

Level	Possible action
Minor	A verbal reminder from an NMA official or troupe leader.
Repeated or more serious	A written warning to the person, and to their troupe leader.
Serious	Being asked to leave the event; a troupe's marks or placing withdrawn for that competition.

Level	Possible action
Very serious	Suspension or a ban from NMA events, or a troupe's affiliation ended.

Any safeguarding concern is dealt with under the NMA Safeguarding Policy first, and may be passed to children's social care or the police. Threatening or violent behaviour may be reported to the police straight away.

Raising a concern or complaint

1. Speak to your troupe leader first, where you can.
2. If it isn't resolved, email the NMA at northernmajorettes@gmail.com within 14 days of the event, setting out what happened.
3. The committee will acknowledge it within 7 days and aim to respond in full within 28 days. Anyone named in a complaint will be given the chance to respond.

Appeals

If you disagree with a decision made under this code, you can appeal in writing to the NMA Chair within 14 days. The appeal is heard by committee members who were not involved in the first decision, and their decision is final.

Judges' marks and results are not open to appeal, except where a clear scoring or administrative error is shown.

Review

The NMA committee reviews this code every year before the competition season.

Adopted by the NMA committee on	05/11/2026
Signed (Chair)	*D Sargent*
Next review due	05/11/2027