



## ***Working with your Assistant Coach***

*By: Terri Varney*

*Terri Varney is a dance teacher, coach, and choreographer in the Chicagoland area. She graduated from Northern Illinois University in 2006 with a BFA in dance performance. She has been working with Universal Dance Association for 5 years.*

Having an assistant coach has many benefits. They are your “right hand man” who can help you throughout your season!

Delegate duties to your assistant to help out with the management of your team. They could be in charge of handling payments, ordering costumes/uniforms, and assisting with practices. It is also great to have an extra helper for dance team auditions, competitions, and running practices for both your Junior Varsity and Varsity teams!

Work with your assistant coach to achieve balance and growth with your dance team. Communication is the key to your success as a team. Brainstorm ideas together on how to improve week to week or year to year! Having strong and steady goals will help both of you stay on the same page throughout the year. Consider having weekly meetings outside of practice with your assistant coach and team captains to create positive goals as a team.

It is very important to recognize your differences. Working with someone who has a different outlook on a situation can produce great creative results. Use your different strengths to your team’s benefit. Maybe your assistant can help with your team’s technique, cleaning a routine, or choreography if your strength is keeping a schedule, making payments, or answering parent’s questions. It’s your differences that will make you a well rounded team!