



Working with your Athletic Director

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.

Communicating with your Athletic Director is a vital part of coaching your dance team. If your team falls under athletics at your school, you mostly likely will need to receive approval from your Athletic Director for things such as uniforms, fundraisers, and events. Consider typing up your proposals. This way you can present your ideas in a formal and professional manner. It's good to follow-up with your proposals by emailing or a simple phone call throughout the week. Your Athletic Director is dealing with many other sports and school organizations, so it is great to send them a quick reminder!

It's important to listen to feedback from your Athletic Director. Communicate with him/her about your team's performances/fundraisers. Get their input on your successes and aspects that may need improvement. Work with them to compromise and come to a positive solution.

Being as available as possible can help you stay on the same page with your Athletic Director throughout your season. If you are a new coach, you will want to meet with your Athletic Director to see what his or her expectations are of the dance team before your season begins. Keep your Athletic Director informed and interested in your team by giving them frequent updates. Arrange to have one-on-one weekly or bi-monthly meetings to discuss issues or upcoming events happening with your team. These meetings do not have to be long, but a five minute face-to-face conversation is a great way to keep the lines of communication open.

Working with your Athletic Director will help you and your team have a successful season!!