

2026 Twirling Contest Booklet



Maryland Baton Council, Inc.



Sanctioned by the United States Twirling Association

All contests are governed by rules and procedures of the current USTA Rulebook.

This contest booklet includes information and entry forms for ALL Maryland Baton Council sponsored competitions and organization competitions for the year, including MD State Championships.

- ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED with FULL Payment. EMAIL Entries will only be accepted with full electronic payment. Processing fee will be added on to all electronic payments.
- USTA Twirling age: compete at age s/he will be on August 31, 2026.
- Truxtun Gym: Pip Moyer Recreation Center, 273 Hilltop Lane, Annapolis, MD 21403

| | | |
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| MARYLAND BATON COUNCIL OF THE USTA Board Members | Terry Althoff, President Vickie Simmers, Vice-President Susan Yoffe, Secretary Dale Amos, Treasurer | Mandy Pometto, Board Member Rhonda Lancaster, Board Member Dana Davis, Board Member Jill Yoffe, Board Member |
|---|--|---|

2026 Events Calendar

| Date: | Sponsor and Event | Location | Mail Registration Forms to: | Postmark Deadline |
|----------------------------------|---|---|---|--------------------------|
| Saturday March 21 | Maryland Baton Council Contest "The Shamrock Open" | Truxtun Gym Annapolis, MD | Terry Althoff 12102 Round Tree Ln Bowie, MD 20715 | Saturday, February 28 |
| Saturday April 11 | Maryland Baton Council Contest "The Chesapeake Classic" Triathlon | Truxtun Gym Annapolis, MD | Terry Althoff 12102 Round Tree Ln Bowie, MD 20715 | Saturday, March 21 |
| Saturday April 25 | Maryland Baton Council <i>KOKOSZKA KLASSIC RISING STARS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP</i> Contest | Truxtun Gym Annapolis, MD | Terry Althoff 12102 Round Tree Ln Bowie, MD 20715 | Saturday, April 11 |
| Saturday, Sunday May 16-17 | Maryland State <i>CHAMPIONSHIPS & FESTIVAL OF THE FUTURE w/ VA, WV, PA State Events</i> | Truxtun Gym Annapolis, MD | Terry Althoff 12102 Round Tree Ln Bowie, MD 20715 | Saturday, April 25 |
| Thursday June 4 | North East Regional Pre-Trials | East Stroudsburg Univ, East Stroudsburg, PA | Entry on USTA Membership Portal | TBA |
| Fri - Sun June 5-7 | North Eastern Regional Championships | East Stroudsburg Univ, East Stroudsburg, PA | Terry Althoff 12102 Round Tree Ln Bowie, MD 20715 | Wednesday, April 1 |
| July 7-12 | National Championships & US PreTrials & IBTF Qualifiers | Council Bluffs, Iowa | Entry on USTA Membership Portal | TBA |

Questions for Entry Coordinator: Terry Althoff – 301-412-4261, TSTwirl@gmail.com

Questions for Contest Director: Vickie Simmers – 410-274-4515, vickietwirls@hotmail.com

Please, Calls or texts only between 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Leave name, athlete's name, and a detailed message.

The Maryland Baton Council Memorial Scholarship Award presented at the Kokoszka Klassic Rising Stars Contest

At the April 25 contest, the Maryland Baton Council Memorial Twirling Scholarship will be awarded to a Maryland baton twirling athlete. This scholarship award is given in memory of some who have contributed so much to our Maryland Baton Council and our twirling organizations:

Bob Setera, Ann Bittenbender, Sandy Stewart, Janet Weaver,

Catherine Buck, Melody Kokoszka and Sharon Dustin.

These individuals provided many years of dedication to our U.S.T.A. Maryland Baton Council, our athletes, and the sport of baton twirling. They were an inspiration to all who knew them. Athletes must be nominated by their coach, considering the following criteria:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ➤ Character and sportsmanship | ➤ Academic Achievement |
| ➤ Dedication to the sport of baton twirling | ➤ 14 years of age or older (competing age for current twirling year) |
| ➤ Community Service | |

Please include a written summary of no more than two pages explaining why this athlete is being nominated for the scholarship award. **Nominated athletes** will be notified within one week after the deadline. All nominations must be **received by April 5**. Return completed nomination form and summary to Terry Althoff, 12102 Round Tree Lane, Bowie, MD 20715. Email nominations should be sent to tstwirl@gmail.com

NOMINATION OF CANDIDATE

I nominate the following athlete for the Maryland Baton Council Memorial Scholarship Award:

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Nominee</i> | <i>Nominee Email Address</i> | <i>Phone Number</i> |
| <i>Address of Nominee</i> | <i>City</i> | <i>State</i> |
| <i>Signature of Coach</i> | <i>Email Address</i> | <i>Phone Number</i> |
| | | <i>Date</i> |

General Contest Rules and Information:

USTA RULES will be used. All contests sanctioned by USTA.

ENTRY FORMS *Team entries can be on one sheet.* Each athlete entering individual events must have own entry form.

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE to MARYLAND BATON COUNCIL. Returned checks will be assessed \$25 fee paid in full prior to event participation.

REFUNDS will not be given. This includes postponements due to severe weather. No refunds for overpayment.

USTA MEMBERSHIP payment must be made directly to USTA. Membership will be checked in the USTA membership portal by contest director on

ENTRY DEADLINE date. *If you are not a current USTA Member when you **SUBMIT** your entry,* you must include Into Member FEE fee of \$7/athlete. Organization membership may be used for sanctioned foundation events and compulsory/movement technique evaluations for levels C-BII.

LOCAL CONTEST PROGRAM will be digital/electronic only. Lineup will be emailed to all individual entrants and team coaches if email is provided.

Athletes only entered in team portion should request a lineup from their coach.

LOCAL CONTEST AWARDS **Team:** 1st and 2nd place. **Individual:** 1st through 3rd place.

GROUP AND INDIVIDUAL DIVISIONS *Novice:* Less than 3 competitive first places. *Beginner:* less than 5 competitive 1st places at any level; *Intermediate:* less than 10 at any level; *Advanced* has won 10 or more competitive 1st places at any level. OTHER ORGANIZATION WINS **DO** COUNT with exception of USTA Strut. (If intermediate level is not offered, athlete must enter advanced after 5 competitive wins.)

DOOR OPENING TIME Doors open ONE hour before the competition begins. Please allow VOLUNTEERS time to set up by respecting this.

SET SYSTEM Must twirl "*ON NUMBER*" - MISS TURN, NO TWIRL.

COMPULSORIES Evaluations must be recorded in Achievement Book, signed by a certified judge. Athlete must have proof of passing all prior levels. *Without proper records, comments only.* USTA limits athletes to evaluation of 2 levels of compulsories and/or Movement Technique at any meet/contest.

CONDUCT ANYONE CONDUCTING THEMSELVES IN AN UNSPORTSMANLIKE MANNER OR DAMAGING THE FACILITY WILL BE DISMISSED WITHOUT REFUND AT DISCRETION OF CONTEST DIRECTOR OR MARYLAND BATON COUNCIL OFFICER..

NO FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY OR VIDEO LIGHTING DURING ANY PORTION OF THE CONTEST!

NO SMOKING, VAPING, OR E-CIGARETTES IN THE COMPETITION AND PRACTICE AREAS.

NO FOOD OR DRINK IN GYM Facilities do not allow food or drinks in the gym.

PACE/RATING EVALUATIONS Proficiency Accomplishment for Championship Events. PACE is a non-competitive CRITIQUE event which provides an opportunity for athletes to perform in the competition setting, not ranked for placement. Digital Recording comments will be emailed to athlete if email is provided. One critique per championship event.

TRIATHLON Championship Triathlon event will include Solo, Strut and 2B. Beg, Int, Adv determined by Solo level. Foundation Triathlon will include Basic, Military, and Presentation, one level. Age divisions will follow regular age divisions

Group Events (Trio 3 members; Small 4-8 members; Large 9+ members)

Average ages of Team Events: *Tiny Tot: all members must be twirling age 7 or under Prim: 0-9.99 Juv: 10-13.99 Jr: 14-17.99 Sr: 18.0 and over* Each group will have option of competing in an older age division, if at least one member is within that higher age division. Personnel change required to enter additional age divisions. 50%- DT Teams and Twirling Teams, 25% Trios

| | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| PARADE CORPS | Youth/Jr/Sr | One Level | 2-4 min | Min 10 twirlers | Enter Judges' left | Exit Judges' right | 2 min setup allowed |
| See current rulebook.. | | | | | | | |
| ENTERTAINMENT CORPS | Youth/Jr/Sr | One Level | 3-5 min | Minimum 10 twirlers | | 2 min set up allowed | 2 min exit |
| See current rulebook. | | | | | | | |
| SHOW TEAM | Prim/Juv/ Jr / Sr | One Level | 2-3 min | | Small / Large | 1 min set up allowed | 30 sec exit |
| See current rulebook. <i>*offered only at local, state, regional levels</i> | | | | | | | |
| ARTISTIC GROUP | One Level | Content Restrictions | 3:00-3:30 min | Minimum 10 members | | No age requirement for USTA | |
| See current rulebook. ... | | | | | | | |
| TWIRLING TEAM | Prim/Juv/ Jr / Sr | Nov/A/AA/AAA/Elite | 2:00-3:30 min | | Small / Large | Content Restrictions | |
| Emphasis is synchronic twirling with simultaneous blending of baton and body. Routine designed to encompass major modes of twirling. | | | | | | | |
| DANCE TWIRL TEAM / TRIOS | Tiny Tot/Prim/Juv/ Jr / Sr | Nov/A/AA/AAA/Elite | 2-3 min | | Trio / Small / Large | | |
| Group whose routine is a blending of dance steps or series in combination with the baton, coordinated with music. | | | | | | | |
| Tiny Tot Actual twirling season age for each member must be 7 or under. | | | | | | | |
| TRIOS | Tot*/Prim/Juv/ Jr / Sr | Beg/Int/Adv | 2-3 min | | | | |
| Group whose routine is a blending of dance steps or series in combination with the baton, coordinated with music. *Tot Non-Sanctioned. | | | | | | | |

Individual Events (Age divisions with less than 3 athletes may be combined as determined by entry coordinator.)

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|--|--|--|----------------------------------|---|-------------|--|--|
| *COSTUME MODELING | *DRESS MODELING | Age Divisions: 0-9, 10-13, 14-17, 18-21, 22+ | Time 1 min. max. | <i>*Non-Sanctioned</i> Open pattern (modeling) Both use same music. Costume Modeling with or without baton. | | | |
| BASIC STRUT (foundation event) | Age Divisions: 0-9, 10-13, 14-17, 18-21, 22+ | Novice / Beginner / Intermediate / Advanced | USTA Basic, Military Strut Music | 30 sec. | | | |
| 8-count introduction. 32-count square (8 counts each side, executing a left flank on each count 8). Baton cradled on arm or extended from arm with arm swing. Free hand positioned on hip or swinging at side. | | | | | | | |
| MILITARY STRUT (foundation event) | Age Divisions: 0-9, 10-13, 14-17, 18-21, 22+ | Novice / Beginner / Intermediate / Advanced | USTA Basic, Military Strut Music | 30 sec. | | | |
| 8-count introduction. 32-count retraced L: left flank on first count 8, to the rear on second count 7, right flank on third count 7, halt on fourth count 8). Use same repetitive military beat with baton from beginning to end. | | | | | | | |
| PARADE MARCH (foundation event) | Age Divisions: 0-9, 10-13, 14-17, 18-21, 22+ | Novice / Beginner / Intermediate / Advanced | USTA Basic, Military Strut Music | 30 sec. | | | |
| 40-count music with 32-count forward progression march beginning on second count of 8. (8 counts to each side, executing a left flank on each count 8). Lower body must be in step throughout the 32-counts of forward progression (no spins, gymnastics, or other lower body movements). Baton may be used in any mode and pattern of twirling. | | | | | | | |
| PRESENTATION (foundation event) | Age Divisions: 0-9, 10-13, 14-17, 18-21, 22+ | Novice / Beginner / Intermediate / Advanced | USTA Presentation Music | 45 sec. | | | |
| Athlete may start the 12 count intro facing front or back. Athlete presents a 12 count introduction and performs to the Presentation portion (first 32 counts after introduction). Display poses and movement blended with baton handling. | | | | | | | |
| *PACE / RATING EVALUATIONS | Proficiency Accomplishment in Championship Events | | | <i>*Non-Sanctioned</i> | | | |
| Evaluative event offered for each championship event: Solo, Artistic Twirl, Two Baton, Three Baton, USTA Strut, Duet, Artistic Twirl Pairs. | | | | | | | |
| SOLO | Age Divisions: 0-9, 10-13, 14-17, 18-21, 22+ | Nov / Beg / Int / (1:29 sec) | Advanced (1:44 sec) | USTA Solo Music | | | |
| Twirling performance by one person using one baton only. It involves twirling the baton in vertical and horizontal patterns, in the left and right hands and in a continual, flowing motion while demonstrating a broad base of basic skills. | | | | | | | |
| ARTISTIC TWIRL | Age Divisions: 0-9, 10-13, 14-17, 18-21, 22+ | Nov / Beg / Int / Adv | 1:41 sec | USTA Artistic Twirl Music | | | |
| Combination of dance and baton movements correlated to musical phrases, tempo and rhythm of music. Dance movements and baton work executed with proper technique. | | | | | | | |
| TWO BATON | Age Divisions: 0-9, 10-13, 14-17, 18-21, 22+ | Nov / Beg / Int / Adv | 1:29 sec | USTA Solo Music | | | |
| Continuous and simultaneous manipulation of two batons by one person. Combines technique and skills of one baton twirling with moves that require mastery of timing, coordination, concentration, control and dexterity. | | | | | | | |
| THREE BATON | Age Divisions: 0-9, 10-13, 14-17, 18-21, 22+ | Nov / Beg / Adv | 1:29 sec | USTA Solo Music | | | |
| Continuous and uninterrupted manipulation of three batons at the same time by one person. Combines technique and skills of one baton twirling with "juggling" moves to display the mastery of perfect timing, coordination, concentration, pattern/plane treatment, control and dexterity. | | | | | | | |
| USTA STRUT | Age Divisions: 0-9, 10-13, 14-17, 18-21, 22+ | Nov / Beg / Int / Adv | 1:10 sec | USTA Strut Music | | | |
| 12 count introduction and 32 count presentation "fanfare", followed by 88 count forward motion hitting every beat of the music with the feet. Designed to cover the floor space combined with complimentary baton, arm, and leg movements. 8 counts on final beat for ending acknowledgment. | | | | | | | |
| DUET | Combined Ages Prim (0-18) / Juv (19-26) / Jr (27-34) / Sr (35+) | Nov / Beg / (1:29 sec) | Advanced (1:44 sec) | USTA Solo Music | | | |
| Twirling performance by two persons. Involves twirling the baton in vertical and horizontal patterns, in left and right hands and in continual, flowing motion while demonstrating a broad base of basic skills. | | | | | | | |
| ARTISTIC TWIRL PAIRS | Combined Ages Prim (0-18) / Juv (19-26) / Jr (27-34) / Sr (35+) | Nov / Beg / Adv | (1:41 sec) | USTA Artistic Twirl Music | | | |
| Two persons performing combination of dance and baton movements correlated to musical phrases, tempo and rhythm of music. Dance movements and baton work executed with proper technique. | | | | | | | |
| *X-STRUT | Age Divisions: 0-9, 10-13, 14-17, 18-21, 22+ | <i>*Non-Sanctioned</i> Nov / Beg / Int / Adv | Novice (0:30-2:00) | Beg/Int/Adv (1:30-2:00) | March Music | | |
| Prescribed floor pattern, in-step. Floor contact other than feet is not permitted. No rolls, fingertwirls, or baton releases permitted. | | | | | | | |
| Competitive Achievement System (CAS) Evaluations Compulsories Movement Technique Short Program (Jr/Sr) C B BI BII A AA AAA Elite | | | | | | | |
| FREESTYLE CRITIQUES (USTA Time Limits and Age Divisions in Pre Trials/Trials/IC Handbook) Performance Critique given for Pre-Trials or Trials. Comments only. | | | | | | | |
| COLLEGIATE EVENT | Age Division: college/university or high school (<i>*Non-Sanctioned</i>) | One Level | Time Limit (2:00-2:30) | Critique only | | | |
| Performed by an individual, enrolled and matriculating in a college or university, with one or multiple batons (no flags, knives, streamers, hoops, etc) to the university fight song and a powerful musical selection of athlete's choice, and should reflect musicality, movement across the field/competition floor, and presentation. | | | | | | | |

Maryland Baton Council GROUP ROSTERS

Use one roster per group. Make copies for additional groups. Include all info requested.

| Organization Name / Director _____ Group name (to be used in program lineup) _____ Music Selection Title: _____ Music performed by _____ # of Team Members _____ # of Alternates _____ # Aux Members _____ | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|--------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Write: type of group (DT, TT, Trio, AG, Pom, PC, EC, ST) | | | | | | |
| Write: Size if applicable (Trio, Small, Large) | | | | | | |
| Write: age division if applicable (Tiny Tot, Prim, Juv, Jr, Sr) | | | | | | |
| Write: proficiency level (Nov, Beg, Int, Adv, A, AA, AAA, Elite) | | | | | | |
| # | x if alternate | USTA # | Athlete name | Age (8/31/2026) | Birthdate (MM/DD/YYYY) | Conflicts (Organization, Team name and category) |
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| 30 | | | | | | |

WAIVER/INDEMNITY OF LIABILITY: I agree to assume the risk of any injury that may happen to me (or my child) as a result of participation in a USTA sanctioned event. I further agree to indemnify and hold the United States Twirling Association, its agents or employees harmless from any loss they may sustain as a result of injury to me (or my child) as a result of my participation in USTA events. I have read the "Parents/Legal Guardians Responsibilities" (USTA Rulebook) and as a condition for the USTA's acceptance of my child's (or my) entry in a USTA event, I agree to abide by and perform each of the duties that are set forth in that statement

➔ Signature: _____

*****MUST HAVE USTA MEMBERSHIP WHEN ENTRY IS RECEIVED, OR PAY INTRO MEMBERSHIP**

DO NOT WAIT UNTIL DAY BEFORE CONTEST TO UPDATE MEMBERSHIP.

USTA Sanctioned MD BATON COUNCIL CONTEST INDIVIDUAL ENTRY FORM

Circle competition entering. One competition per form. All fees must be mailed with entry.

DOORS OPEN AT 8:00 AM / CONTEST STARTS AT 9:00 AM

Contest Date
Entry postmark date

March 21
Due Sat. 2/28

April 11
TRIATHALON
Due Sat. 3/21

April 25
Due Sat. 4/11

| | | | |
|----------------|-------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| USTA# | Name | Birthdate | Age (on 8/31/2026) |
| Address | | City | State |
| Phone | | Email | |

Coaches (ALL over the last year)

Group Affiliation

WAIVER/INDEMNITY OF LIABILITY: I agree to assume the risk of any injury that may happen to me (or my child) as a result of participation in a USTA sanctioned event. I further agree to indemnify and hold the United States Twirling Association, its agents or employees harmless from any loss they may sustain as a result of injury to me (or my child) as a result of my participation in USTA events. I have read the "Parents/Legal Guardians Responsibilities" (USTA Rulebook) and as a condition for the USTA's acceptance of my child's (or my) entry in a USTA event, I agree to abide by and perform each of the duties that are set forth in that statement

➔ Parent Signature: _____ **(for partner if not entering additional events) Parent Signature:** _____

Modeling Events (Non-Sanctioned): \$8.00 per event

| Fee | Event (circle events) |
|-----|--------------------------------------|
| | *Costume Modeling *Dress Modeling |

Foundation Events: \$8.00 per event (circle level/s) *limited to 2 consecutive classifications*

| | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | Basic Strut | Nov | Beg | Int | Adv |
| | Military Strut | Nov | Beg | Int | Adv |
| | Parade March | Nov | Beg | Int | Adv |
| | Presentation | Nov | Beg | Int | Adv |

CAS Evaluations: C,B - \$8.00 BI,BII - \$9.00 A-Elite - \$11.00

Short Program (Elite Only- Jr/Sr) - \$16.00

| Fee | Event | Level |
|-----|---------------|---------------------------|
| | Compulsories | C B BI BII A AA AAA Elite |
| | Move Tech | C B BI BII A AA AAA Elite |
| | Short Program | Elite Only Jr Sr |

Freestyle Critique: \$22.00 per event

| Fee | Choose level | Pairs Solo |
|-----|---------------------|------------|
| | A AA AAA Elite Open | Pairs Solo |
| | A AA AAA Elite Open | Pairs Solo |

If pairs, write Partner/DOB/Age/USTA#: _____

Collegiate Event: \$22.00 Fill in school name (Evaluative Only / *High School Non-Sanctioned)

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| College / University / *High School | Fee |
| | |

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| Name on CC _____ |
| Visa/MC/Am Exp/Discover _____ Zip Code _____ |
| CC # _____ |
| Exp _____ Security Code _____ |
| MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: MARYLAND BATON COUNCIL |
| MAIL TO: MD Baton Council / Terry Althoff, 12102 Round Tree Lane, Bowie, MD 20715 |

Championship Events: \$10.00 per event

| Fee | Event (circle level/s) <i>limited to 2 consecutive classifications</i> |
|-----|--|
| | Artistic Twirl Nov Beg Int Adv *PACE |
| | Solo Nov Beg Int Adv *PACE |
| | Two Baton Nov Beg Int Adv *PACE |
| | Three Baton Nov Beg - Adv *PACE |
| | USTA Strut Nov Beg Int Adv *PACE |
| | *X-Strut unsanc Nov Beg Int Adv *PACE |

Pairs: \$17.00/ event (paid together) List Partner/DOB/Age/USTA#

| | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| | Duet | Nov | Beg | Int | Adv | *PACE |
| | Art Tw Pairs | Nov | Beg | Int | Adv | *PACE |

If pairs, write Partner/DOB/Age/USTA#: _____

***Note- if partner does not have separate entry, include all partner fees.**

***Triathlon: \$22.00** ONLY at April 12 contest Choose level

| | | |
|--|--|------------------|
| | Foundation (Basic, Military, Presentation) | <i>one level</i> |
| | Championship (Solo, Strut, Two-Baton) | Beg Int Adv |

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Entry Total \$ _____
(X2 if partner) USTA Surcharge (per athlete) \$.50
(X2 if partner) Facility Fee (per athlete) \$10.00
(X2 if partner) Intro Membership (\$7) _____
 Scholarship Donation \$ _____
 Total Enclosed \$ _____
 Credit Card Fee 8% (if applicable) \$ _____
 Total \$ _____

Maryland Baton Council, Inc.



presents

the 59th Annual

USTA Maryland State Championships 2026

& Festival of the Future & Open Advanced Competition

& Hosting Virginia, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia State Events

Sanctioned by the United States Twirling Association

Truxtun Gym / Pip Moyer Recreation Center, 273 Hilltop Lane, Annapolis, MD 21403

Saturday & Sunday, May 16 & 17

| <p>Saturday, May 16, 2026 (order of events and times all subject to change depending on entries received)</p> | <p>Sunday, May 17, 2026 (order of events and times all subject to change depending on entries received)</p> |
|--|--|
| <p>8:00 a.m. Staff set up 8:30 a.m. Doors Open, Practice Gym open to practice for performances 9:00 a.m. Individual Events: State Championship and Finals, Festival of the Future Championship Events and Open Advanced. 9:00 a.m. Individual Events: State Championship and Finals, Festival of the Future Championship Events and Open Advanced. Retreat & Awards</p> | <p>8:00 a.m. Staff set up 8:30 a.m. Doors Open, Practice Gym open to practice for today's performances 9:00 a.m. Individual Events: State Championship and Finals, Festival of the Future Championship Events and Open Advanced. Retreat & Awards</p> |

Deadline: Must be Postmarked by SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026

| | |
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| <p>Mail to: Terry Althoff /MD State Championships 12102 Round Tree Lane Bowie, MD 20715</p> | <p>No metered mail, phone entries, or mail that requires signatures. No Text entries or drop off entries. NO LATE ENTRIES. Emailed entries accepted through Wednesday following postmark deadline with scanned and signed entry form AND waivers AND credit card information for electronic payment. Payment in full must accompany entry by check or money order made payable to MD Baton Council, or complete electronic payment information. \$25 fee for returned checks. No refunds for overpayment.</p> |
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Maryland State General Information /Rules and Regulations

See above for General rules. These also apply to State competition.

All USTA rules and regulations apply.

USTA Membership: All participants must hold a USTA membership.

Ages: Athletes enter at age they will be on 8/31/26

Set System: All athletes / groups must twirl on designated set numbers. Missed turn, no twirl.

Eligibility: a) State residents only for State championship events.
 b) Festival events: foundation, championship, and Advanced Open, CAS evaluations, and Freestyle open to participants from all states.
 c) Athlete/group must compete at eligibility level (nov, beg, etc.) as of midnight on the entry deadline date. **Changes in level** after entry is mailed but *on or before entry deadline date* must be reported

immediately to: Terry Althoff (TSTwirl@gmail.com) Failure to comply may result in disqualification

USTA MD,VA, PA, WV State Championship Team

Titles: AAA / Elite Twirl Teams, AAA / Elite Dance Twirl teams, Adv Trio, Artistic Group, Parade Corps, Entertainment Corps, Show Team

Registration fee in lieu of collecting spectator fees at the door.

Organization fee \$25 per team/\$150 cap per organization.

Individual registration fee \$20 per athlete (instate). Out of state fee \$30 per athlete.

Entry Confirmation & Contest Program will be sent by e-mail

Team Awards – 1st through 3rd places.

Use Roster form above.

Maryland State Championship Commemorative T-Shirt

Online Orders only!!! Tshirt: \$20 Tank: \$25

Must be submitted by May 1, 2026. Ordering Link on Facebook

STATE INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP INFORMATION

◆ FESTIVAL FOUNDATION, CAS AND CRITIQUES ◆

FESTIVAL FOUNDATION

1. Basic Strut, Military Strut, Parade March, Presentation
2. Ages: 0-9, 10-13, 14-17, 18-21, 22+
3. Nov, Beg, Int & Adv in all events except Modeling,
4. Modeling events non-sanctioned
5. No festival titles for foundation and modeling events.
6. Awards: 1st – 5th. Additional places if 10 or more entries.

CAS EVALUATIONS

Compulsories, Movement Technique
See USTA rule book for CAS information

USTA FREESTYLE CRITIQUES

1. Open to any athlete. Performance with one baton.
2. Own selection of music.
3. Time limits follow USTA Trials/Pre-Trials rules.
4. A, AA, AAA, Elite
5. Open Freestyle follow USTA Freestyle Critiques guidelines

COLLEGIATE CRITIQUES

To be held during group portion of competition. Same entry guidelines as local contest. High School Non-Sanctioned.

◆ OFFICIAL STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS ◆

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Womens' Solo: | 0-9, 10-13, 14-17, 18-21, 22+ |
| Mens' Solo: | 0-9, 10-13, 14-17, 18-21, 22+ |
| Strut: | 0-9, 10-13, 14-17, 18-21, 22+ |
| Artistic Twirl: | 0-9, 10-13, 14-17, 18-21, 22+ |
| Two Baton: | 0-9, 10-13, 14-17, 18-21, 22+ |
| Three Baton: | 0-9, 10-13, 14-17, 18-21, 22+ |

1. Competition for State championship individual events will begin at the combined age divisional level.
2. Primary and Juvenile athletes will finish competition with Divisional (Semi-Final) round. Each winner at Divisional round is considered Divisional champion. First and second place winners in combined age divisional (semi-final) rounds for Junior, Senior, and Adult are the competitors in the final round for each event competing for the title of State Grand Champion.
3. Awards: Divisionals: 1st – 7th; Finals: 1st – 6th

DUET & ARTISTIC TWIRL PAIRS

- | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| Primary: | Combined ages of 0-18 years |
| Juvenile: | Combined ages of 19-26 years |
| Junior: | Combined ages of 27-34 years |
| Senior: | Combined ages of 35 years and older |
1. Winners in each pairs division will be state champions.
 2. Awards: 1st through 7th

◆ FESTIVAL AND OPEN ADVANCED ◆

USTA FESTIVAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Solo: | Novice, Beginner, Intermediate |
| USTA Strut: | Novice, Beginner, Intermediate |
| Artistic Twirl: | Novice, Beginner, Intermediate |
| Two Baton: | Novice, Beginner, Intermediate |
| Three Baton: | Novice, Beginner, Intermediate |
| Duet: | Novice, Beginner, Intermediate |
| ArtisticTw Pairs: | Novice, Beginner, Intermediate |

1. Ages same as State Championship.
2. Winners in each division will be festival champion; one round of competition (no final round).
3. Festival champion titles for beginner and intermediate events only – no novice titles.
4. Awards: 1st through 5th

OPEN ADVANCED EVENTS

1. Solo, USTA Strut, Artistic Twirl, and Two Baton, Duet, Artistic Twirl Pairs
2. Ages same as State Championship.
3. Awards: 1st through 5th

NON-SANCTIONED OPEN EVENTS

- | | |
|----------|--|
| X-Strut: | Novice, Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced |
|----------|--|
1. Ages same as State Championship.
 2. Awards: 1st through 5th

2026 MARYLAND STATE w/ VA / PA / WV Events INDIVIDUAL ENTRY

USTA# _____ Name _____ Birthdate _____ Age (on 8-31-26) _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone (____) _____ Parent/guardian Email _____
 Coaches (All for the last year) _____ Group Affiliation _____

Waiver/Indemnity of Liability: I accept full responsibility for any accident or injury that may occur, and I will not hold the USTA, MD Baton Council, or the host facility and all their officers liable. (Athlete may sign for him/herself if over 18) (additional signature for pair partner if not entering additional individual events)

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date _____
 Parent/Guardian Signature (for pair partner) _____ Date _____

Please do not staple checks to form. Circle/highlight events entering – complete all information including TOTAL.

| ◆ STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS: Circle: Maryland Virginia Pennsylvania West Virginia ◆ | | | | | |
|--|-------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Championship Events (\$28) | | Duet (\$38) | | Artistic Twirl Pairs (\$38) | |
| Women's Solo | Men's Solo | Primary (comb 0-18) | Junior (comb 27-34) | Primary (comb 0-18) | Junior (comb 27-34) |
| | Strut | Juvenile (comb 19-26) | Senior (comb 35+) | Juvenile (comb 19-26) | Senior (comb 35+) |
| Artistic Twirl | Three Baton | Partner USTA # _____ | Birthdate _____ | Partner USTA # _____ | Birthdate _____ |
| Two Baton | | Name _____ | Age _____ | Name _____ | Age _____ |
| <i>Only one member send entry; include FULL payment for both.</i> | | | | | |
| (#) _____ Events @ \$28 = \$ _____ | | (#) _____ pairs @ \$38 each: \$ _____ | | | |
| Total for State Championship Events → | | | | | \$ _____ |

| ◆ FESTIVAL OF THE FUTURE AND ADVANCED OPEN EVENTS ◆ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-------------------------------------|----------------|-------|-----|---|------------------|-----|-----|---------------------------------------|------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Foundation Events (\$15) | | | | Festival Championship Events (\$21) | | | | Festival Duet (\$26) | | | | Festival Artistic Twirl Pairs (\$26) | | | | |
| Basic | Nov | Beg | Int | Adv | Solo | Nov | Beg | Int | Pri (comb 0-18) | Nov | Beg | Int | Pri (comb 0-18) | Nov | Beg | Int |
| Military | Nov | Beg | Int | Adv | Artistic Twirl | Nov | Beg | Int | Juv (comb 19-26) | Nov | Beg | Int | Juv (comb 19-26) | Nov | Beg | Int |
| ParadeMarch | Nov | Beg | Int | Adv | Strut | Nov | Beg | Int | Jr (comb 27-34) | Nov | Beg | Int | Jr (comb 27-34) | Nov | Beg | Int |
| Presentation | Nov | Beg | Int | Adv | Two Baton | Nov | Beg | Int | Sr (comb 35+) | Nov | Beg | Int | Sr (comb 35+) | Nov | Beg | Int |
| (#) _____ Events @\$15 = \$ _____ | | | | (#) _____ Events @\$21 = \$ _____ | | | | <i>Only one member send entry; include FULL payment</i> | | | | (#) _____ pairs @ \$26 each: \$ _____ | | | | |
| Non-Sanctioned Open Events (\$21) | | | | Advanced Open Events (\$21) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *X-Strut | Nov | Beg | Int | Adv | Solo | Strut | AT | 2Bat | 3Bat | | | | | | | |
| (#) _____ Events @\$21 = \$ _____ | | | | (#) _____ Events @\$21 = \$ _____ | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total for Festival and Open Advanced Events → | | | | | | | | | | | | \$ _____ | | | | |

| COMPULSORY/MOVEMENT TECHNIQUE EVALUATIONS | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| (C/B \$12 B1/BII \$15 A/AA/AAA/Elite \$16 Short Program \$22) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Short Program | Compulsories: C B BI BII A AA AAA Elite | | | | | | | | | | Movement Tech: C B BI BII A AA AAA Elite |
| Total Compulsory And Movement Technique Evaluations → | | | | | | | | | | | \$ _____ |

| FREE STYLE and COLLEGIATE and *HIGH SCHOOL CRITIQUES (\$34) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|----------|
| Circle entries: Free Style → Level: _____ Free Style Pairs → Level: _____ Collegiate *High School (Non-Sanctioned) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Name on CC _____ | Visa/MC/AE/Discover _____ | Zip Code _____ | Total Critiques → | | | | | | | | | \$ _____ |
| CC# _____ | Exp _____ | Security Code _____ | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Deadline: Must be POSTMARKED by April 25, 2026 . Checks payable to: MD Baton Council . <i>All fees must be enclosed!</i> Mail to: Terry Althoff/MD State Championships, 12102 Round Tree Lane, Bowie, MD 20715 Registration Fee: \$20 for Maryland Athletes. \$30 for out of state athletes. For Pairs: Add extra \$1.00 surcharge & \$20/\$30 registration fee if partner is not in other individual events. Please send on one entry only with payment enclosed for both members. | Total for individual events → | \$ _____ |
| | Surcharge → | \$ 1.00 |
| | Registration fee (all) → | \$ 20 / \$30 |
| | Printed Program Pre-Order (\$10) → | \$ _____ |
| | Credit Card Fee 8% (if applicable) → | \$ _____ |
| | TOTAL ENCLOSED → | \$ _____ |

2026 MARYLAND STATE Events GROUP ENTRY

Circle: Maryland Virginia Pennsylvania West Virginia

Organization _____ Director USTA # _____ Director _____
 Email _____ Coach _____

| | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------|--|---------------|--------|---|----------------|
| State Small Teams | | <i>Please Circle</i> | | | | \$60 per event |
| AAA Small Twirl Team | | Junior | | Senior | | |
| Elite Small Twirl Team | | Junior | | Senior | | |
| AAA Small DanceTwirl Team | Juvenile | Junior | | Senior | | |
| Elite Small Dance Twirl Team | | Junior | | Senior | | |
| Number of Teams | | | | | <input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/> | x \$60 = |
| State Trios | | <i>Please Circle</i> | | | | \$60 per event |
| Trio | Primary | Juvenile | Junior | Senior | | |
| Number of Teams | | | | | <input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/> | x \$60 = |
| State Large Teams | | <i>Please Circle</i> | | | | \$60 per event |
| AAA Large Twirl Team | | Junior | | Senior | | |
| Elite Large Twirl Team | | Junior | | Senior | | |
| AAA Large Dance Twirl Team | Juvenile | Junior | | Senior | | |
| Elite Large Dance Twirl Team | | Junior | | Senior | | |
| Number of Teams | | | | | <input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/> | x \$60 = |
| Festival of the Future Trio | | <i>Please Circle (Tiny Tot non-sanctioned)</i> | | | | \$50 per event |
| Beginner Trio | *Tiny Tot | Primary | Juvenile | Junior | Senior | |
| Intermediate Trio | *Tiny Tot | Primary | Juvenile | Junior | Senior | |
| Number of Teams | | | | | <input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/> | x \$50 = |
| Festival of the Future Small Teams | | <i>Please Circle</i> | | | | \$50 per event |
| Novice Small Twirl Team | | Primary | Juvenile | Junior | Senior | |
| A Small Twirl Team | | Primary | Juvenile | Junior | Senior | |
| AA Small Twirl Team | | | Juvenile | Junior | Senior | |
| Novice Small Dance Twirl Team | Tiny Tot | Primary | Juvenile | Junior | Senior | |
| A Small Dance Twirl Team | Tiny Tot | Primary | Juvenile | Junior | Senior | |
| AA Small Dance Twirl Team | Tiny Tot | Primary | Juvenile | Junior | Senior | |
| Number of Teams | | | | | <input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/> | x \$50 = |
| Festival of the Future Large Teams | | <i>Please Circle</i> | | | | \$50 per event |
| Novice Large Twirl Team | | Primary | Juvenile | Junior | Senior | |
| A Large Twirl Team | | Primary | Juvenile | Junior | Senior | |
| AA Large Twirl Team | | | Juvenile | Junior | Senior | |
| Novice Large Dance Twirl Team | Tiny Tot | Primary | Juvenile | Junior | Senior | |
| A Large Dance Twirl Team | Tiny Tot | Primary | Juvenile | Junior | Senior | |
| AA Large Dance Twirl Team | Tiny Tot | Primary | Juvenile | Junior | Senior | |
| Number of Teams | | | | | <input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/> | x \$50 = |
| Show Team | | <i>Please Circle</i> | | | | \$60 per event |
| Small | Large | Primary | Juvenile | Junior | Senior | |
| Number of Teams | | | | | <input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/> | x \$60 = |
| Other Groups (Circle age group) | | <i>Please Circle</i> | | | | \$60 per event |
| Parade Corps | Entertainment Corps | Artistic Group | Team Critique | Level | | |
| Youth/Jr/Sr | Youth/Jr/Sr | | | | | |
| Number of Teams | | | | | <input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/> | x \$60 = |

| | |
|--|---|
| Name on CC _____ | Group/Team Entry Fees → \$ _____ |
| Visa/MC/AE/Discover _____ Zip Code _____ | Registration Fee \$25/team (max \$150) → \$ _____ |
| CC# _____ | Credit Card Fee 8% (if applicable) → \$ _____ |
| Exp _____ Security Code _____ | TOTAL PAID FOR GROUPS → \$ _____ |

DEADLINE: POSTMARKED BY April 25, 2026 Mail to: Terry Althoff, MD State Championships, 12102 Round Tree Lane, Bowie, MD 20715