

Moving equipment, setting up, and tearing down can be the hardest part of the Indoor Drumline/Color Guard activity. If students are not trained to do this properly, they can get stressed out before the most important part of the event, PERFORMING! It is your job as an instructor/director to train your student performers in this area. Remember, ultimately, this is an educational activity and it is your job to provide the tools necessary for them to succeed. Below are some helpful tips to help you get on and off the floor successfully and for helping to make sure the show runs smoothly and stays on schedule.

## Getting On The Floor

- Rehearse this!!
- Know the timing and intervals for your division. Total Interval time and music interval.
- Know where the boundaries are – they will be enforced.
- If you are well prepared, setup and tear down will go smoothly. But you must practice and prepare for it.
- As a Director/Instructor, you should be monitoring and problem solving, NOT setting up or panicking.
- Give everyone a specific job and instrument to move. Including student or parent helpers.
- Inform every one of the timing and boundary rules.
- Organize pit equipment in order as you enter.
- Have battery set their drums off to side of court before deploying the floor.
- Make sure the floor is folded appropriately for the flow of the show so you can pull it half way out before time begins. Remove floor cart from performance area. Check the website for performance floor and performer entry/exit information.
- Move quickly, but not frantically! Don't stress out your students.
- Be sure to communicate with and cue the T&P judge when you are ready.
- If the show host requires, make sure parents or students helping with equipment and/or props have the appropriate wristband. If they do not, they will not be allowed to enter.

## ELECTRONICS

---Tangled cables are HUGE problems! It takes too long to set up, and it is not good for the cable.

---Have synthesizers and mixing boards set up on carts.

---Use a power strip, and have **EVERYTHING** plugged in to it and make sure it is working.

---Have the synthesizer line out plugged into mixing board, or have it ready to go.

---Mixing board should be set up: No tangled wires, Cables plugged in and ready to go.

---If you condense electronics to a cart and have things plugged in you should only have to:

1. Position Cart and speakers.
2. Plug in Power. (THIS SHOULD HAPPEN ASAP!!!) Check maps for power sourcing – always on the front or back 50.
3. Plug in Speakers.

---If you are mic'ing instruments, consider the following:

1. Use a snake from the board.
2. Each microphone should already be attached to instrument and have a cable attached.

---Each performer with a microphone should have a cable attached to the mic and coiled neatly and run it to the mixing board or the snake.

---Many groups use “pre---show” samples to test the sound equipment.

---Have a procedure to check microphones, samplers, and synthesizers. This should be rehearsed.

---Power off electronics before unplugging.

## Getting Off The Floor

- Timing stops when the last person/or piece of equipment crosses the line.
- The students should know the exit direction before they perform. Don't assume they know this.
- Have a plan for moving equipment efficiently. If you have instruments on the tarp, those need to move first.
- DO NOT BLOCK DOORWAYS!!!! Never leave anything in the exit path at any show.
- Make sure you get all of your equipment over the boundary line in time, including your tarp cart. Position this on the exit side after setting up.
- When pulling the tarp, keep it low and slow. If tarps are folded too fast and high, this can become dangerous. This is called "Ballooning" and can result in a penalty. It is recommended you get the floor off the performance area and out the door as quickly as possible.
- Keep moving so the next group off can get through. Do not leave things in the pre---stage area. After you are off the floor, continue moving to your truck/trailer.

## Considerations

- Read and familiarize yourself with the rule book.
- Stay calm and keep your students calm. Shouting is inappropriate while entering and exiting the venue.
- You make an impression on the audience and adjudicators as you enter and exit the floor.
- All equipment must have safe contact with gymnasium floors. Metal stands should have rubber on the end. This includes props. Anything scratching or damaging the floor or base tarp could result in penalty, or worse, a repair bill.
- No dragging timpani or instruments with stuck wheels across gym floors. Please be considerate and educate people moving equipment on how it should be properly handled.
- If it rains or it is wet outside, keep your floor dry and performance footwear dry. No wet tarps will be allowed for safety reasons. Keep your tarp and equipment protected from rain if it occurs. Be sure to have a supply of towels to help keep performers and instruments dry and safe.
- Please refrain from setting up close to others outside when you warm up, and Please do not use loud metronomes outside.
- If you can mount it, DO IT! Cymbals and Toms can be mounted to most any keyboard instrument. The less equipment you have to move individually, the better.
- Watching other groups entering and leaving the floor can be very helpful.

***If your group is prepared for this it will make your job much easier. Please take as much time during a rehearsal as you need to get your students and staff comfortable with this. This will make the experience much more enjoyable for you and your students.***