

National Step Show Alliance

Youth League Development Outline (2010 – 2011 Season)



The mission of the National Step Show Alliance (NSSA) focuses on growing the appreciation of the stepping art form, developing uniform national event standards, and preserving its history. By working with individuals and groups the NSSA is able to provide opportunities for collaboration at the local, state, regional, and national level.

In the “youth” segment (aged 19 and under), the NSSA works with coaches/sponsors to charter youth step leagues, which provide networking, consistency in competition rules & judging, and professional development at the local & national level. New league activity is managed through the Youth Coaches Advisory Roundtable (YCAR), a NSSA sub-committee.

Below is general information related to starting an NSSA affiliated youth league and the process to gaining full NSSA league status. If you are interested in forming a league contact the NSSA to start the process.

Changes to the league formation and maintenance guidelines may be changed at anytime at the discretion of the National Step Show Alliance.

League Types by Geography

- Statewide League
- Multi-State League

To start a league (Provisional League Status)

The first year that a new league established is the “Provisional” year, as the NSSA works with the new league’s leadership to ensure the entity is launched and managed in a manner consistent with NSSA policies and for the benefit of those teams involved in that geographic area.

1) League Development

- a) **State Level (e.g. Tennessee Step League):** There must be at least seven (7) financially active (dues paying) NSSA member teams in the area – individual membership does not count – to start an affiliated youth league at the State level. In subsequent years there is minimum team strength needed to obtain and maintain full league affiliation (see below). Note – members of a district league who are financially active can count towards the

development of a full state league. (ie financially active Nashville Step League members can be counted in the development of the Tennessee Step League).

- b) **Multi State League (e.g. New England Step League)** – is specifically for areas of the country where there may not be sufficient youth step teams to create a State league. There must be at least six (6) financially active (dues paying) NSSA member teams in the area, of which there must be at least 2 member teams from each state represented in the Multi-State League– individual membership does not count – to start an affiliated league at the Multi-State level. In subsequent years there is minimum team strength needed to obtain and maintain full league affiliation (see below).
- 2) At least two NSSA sanctioned step show events must be held in the first year of (Provisional Year) existence by members of the league. NSSA sanctioned events should use NSSA approved rules; there is flexibility on rules in year one as teams and events make the transition to the NSSA rules.
 - 3) There must be a minimum of one Cluster Training Session held within the League geographic area during the Provisional year. A Cluster Training session consists of a Stepping Fundamentals Workshop. The courses count towards education hours for individuals who are seeking NSSA Judge and/or Coach (Instructor) Certification status or renewal.
 - 4) A “League Leadership Committee” of three to five members must be appointed or elected. That group of individuals will be the NSSA direct contact with for the league-related business.
 - 5) There must be at least one League community service project completed during the academic year, topic and scope selected by the specific League’s leadership.
 - 6) Have at least 1 league delegate register for and attend the annual NSSA National Convention, held each summer.
 - 7) A “Year End Report” must be filed by the League Committee with the NSSA at the end of the academic year, due June 15th. This report shall consist of details about league membership strength, activities during the year (shows, workshops, and community service), and plans for the upcoming academic year/step season.

The one-time fee to start an affiliated league is \$225 which is independent of the individual team dues. The local leadership has a full year to gain the required number of dues paying members from the time of the initial application of affiliation.

The NSSA Board, along with YCAR, reviews the status of Provisional leagues during the Summer or Winter Board meeting. At that time a decision will be made about upgrading a league from Provisional to Full League status.

To maintain Full (Active) League status

The NSSA charters the new (provisional) league and will work with the local sponsors to help fulfill the obligations to become the “full” league status. The 2nd year of existence the league must adhere to the affiliation requirements below to maintain full league status.

- a) Maintain a minimum number of financially active (dues paying) members of the NSSA.
 - State Wide League – minimum of ten (10) financially active (dues) teams
 - Multi-State League – minimum of eight (8) financially active (dues paying) member teams.
- b) Have at least 1 league delegate register for and attend the annual NSSA National Convention.
- c) Host a League Championship Event: to be held between the months of December to March of the academic year.
- d) There must be at least one League community service project completed during the academic year, topic and scope selected by the specific League’s leadership.
- e) All League events must use NSSA sanctioned rules. NSSA sanctioned step show events use NSSA approved rules. The results will be part of the NSSA rating system for teams.
- f) Cluster Trainings - hold at least two Cluster Trainings per step season (September – June) within the geography of the league.
- g) A “Year End Report” must be filed by the League Committee with the NSSA at the end of the academic year, due June 15th. This report shall consist of details about league membership strength, league leadership, activities during the year (shows, workshops, and community service), and plans for the upcoming academic year/step season.

The League’s renewal fee for the League is \$150 annually, due by October 15th each year. This fee is independent of the individual team dues.

Full (Active) Leagues are eligible to:

- Serve as the lead group in geographic area for youth league activities that are NSSA supported or sponsored – such as step shows, conferences, or workshops.
- Serve as a satellite location (starting spring 2010) for Regional Cluster Meeting, where certification workshops and training take place. The NSSA sponsors two Regional Cluster Meetings annually, one east of the Mississippi River and one west of the Mississippi River. These events take place each spring.
- Have league events and activities included on the NSSA website along with a league generated email address that will direct email to League leadership.
- Have league/member events featured in the bi-monthly eNewsletter.

- Host the NSSA National Youth Championship Step Show event (beginning 2012). A member of the League Leadership may be part of the National Championship planning process, regardless of the location of the championship. There are two events
 - NSSA High School Division (U18) National Championship event
 - NSSA Middle School Division (U14) National Championship event
- Host the NSSA Annual Convention (beginning summer 2011)
- Co-Host a summer overnight step camp – starting the summer of 2011.

The NSSA reserves the right to put a League “on hiatus” for a year if the league, league leadership, and teams do not maintain NSSA standards for activities during a full step season. Reinstatement of a league will be monitored and evaluated by the NSSA Board and YCAR membership, should a league be placed in hiatus. These requirements and benefits are subject to change at the discretion of the NSSA.