



NATIONAL BATON TWIRLING ASSOCIATION (ENGLAND)

NEWS DIRECT – Jan'17

Remember to checkout the NBTA (England) website at: www.nbta.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/nbtanationalbatontwirlingassociation

Body & Baton Levels

Body & Baton training dates are as follows: Saturday, 11th February / Sunday, 23rd April / Sunday, 4th June. These will be held at Everest, but there will be a couple more linked with the Passport days (one in SW and one in SE – dates tbc). However - ALL assessments will take place at Everest Community College on the above dates, or at Everest on one of the Twirling Academy / Development Squad dates. These must be requested beforehand to ensure assessors are booked to attend. Passports Bronze, Silver, Gold have been updated, so that they follow the outline of the European Levels, in order to make it easier to pass the Body & Baton levels.

Twirling Academy

All England squad members are expected to attend Twirling Academy sessions relevant to the event/s they qualified in, in order to improve their technique and get help with their European routines.

Anyone unable to commit to attendance at sessions should advise Denise or Maxine with their reasons. Development Squad invites have now also been sent out. Remaining dates are as follows:

Mar 5 th	Dance & X-Strut
April 2 nd	All
May 21 st	Solo & 2-Baton
June 25 th	Dance & X-Strut
July 30 th	Solo & 2-Baton
Sept 17 th	Dance & X-Strut

We have Pieter Hazeu coming over for the May session. If anyone is interested in having him teach on Friday 19th p.m./early evening – please let me know asap.

Selections 2017

Currently the Technical board is working to bring our coaches & judges in line with the European / World way of teaching and judging, in order to have consistent standards throughout the world. A great deal of work is being done by the Technical commissions of WFNBT, to educate NBTA judges to recognise what is expected of our athletes, by using role models to show standards at each level of competition. Our coaches' courses and judges' revision days will be run using these role models to ensure consistency moving forward. The aim is that all NBTA judges will recognise the range of scores a competitor should fall into, depending on the content of the routine and the technique of the execution.

The selection process for Worlds 2018, will go back to being held in Torbay in October for all events, due to issues with school/university exams being held in June.

For this year, as a trial, selections will be open to Novice level and above in the event they wish to compete in and who have passed the relevant Body & Baton levels. Any contestant selected for the England team will be advanced to Intermediate the following year in that event, regardless of age division.

PLEASE NOTE: As is always the case for all age groups and events – contestants who do not reach the required level, in line with the European and World judging criteria, will not be selected, regardless of the number of places available. So if there are only four contestants entered in an event and there are four places available in the squad – only those who reach what is considered the required level will be selected.

Coaches Course

The first session of Level 1 coaches course will be run this year (dates tbc). Anyone interested who has not already applied, or anyone wishing to do their Level 2 Judges Course, please contact the Technical Board at: nbtatechnical@gmail.com

Reminder of Rule Changes for 2017

1. Salute – to come in line with Europe. Fingers to be closed around the baton in a closed grip, rather than straight fingers.
2. Gym moves - these will not be permitted in any domestic competition. They will be allowed in open freestyle events, plus England selection events. Gymnastics moves that will be permitted; forward or reverse roll, gym moves starting or finishing sitting on the floor and if legs do go over the head, they should not go straight over, but rather slightly diagonal / oblique.
3. Two piece costumes showing bare midriff - not allowed in any event.
4. Military Strut costume: skirt must be the same length all the way round, hats must stand up off the head by 2” and cover the crown of the head.
5. Any athlete who is in the England Team for any event is not permitted to be a member of any Beginner Team.
6. Any contestant selected for the England team will be advanced to Intermediate the following year in that event, regardless of age division.
7. PeeWee duets – will be trialled during 2017. Timing 1min - 1.10min, with Beginner restrictions.

New Computer System

This is a work in progress and there are bound to be a few teething problems with the new computer system, so please don't get stressed if you encounter any difficulties – we are there to help and will get any issues resolved.

All corps directors will receive their usernames and passwords in due time, in order to enter the Membership details for their group, however for now, please complete the attached Membership form and pay your membership fees now - £35 corps fee (which allows one corps director), plus £30 per full member / £15 per basic member. Please hand completed forms in to the Competition Desk at Medway, if going this weekend.

For now, all payments should be made into NBTA account by the normal methods (cheque or bank transfer), however in due course, this will change and payment will be made via the website using a facility such as Sagepay or PayPal.

Please collect digital photos of all your members, ready to upload on to the new website for their membership cards. For Medway, 2016 cards will be used.

NBTA Corps Directors: will have the facility to **Renew** existing corps members and **Add** new members. They will be able to view their members' details and class numbers and have the ability to input their own members' competition entries into the system. They will also be able to run Member By Class reports and view competition entries for their own corps (for checking purposes). After NBTA domestic competitions, they will be able to view results.

NBTA Independent Members: will have the facility to input their own competition entries. New members will require a username and password for the system.

NBTA Judges: anyone wishing to register as an NBTA judge will need to have passed the NBTA Judges course, paid the current membership fee and have requested a username and password for the system. Anyone who only judges, or judges and coaches, should register on the system as a **JUDGE**

NBTA Coaches: anyone wishing to register as an NBTA coach will need to have passed the NBTA Coaches course and paid the current membership fee. Anyone who only coaches and does not compete or judge, should register as a **COACH**.

Due to the lack of time to prepare Medway, NBTA Competition Secretary - Jeff Hughes - has input the competition entries on to the new system from the paper copies you sent him. Any new members entering Medway have been put on to the system as Members. All members already existing on the system from 2016 must be Renewed if they have joined NBTA again for 2017.

If everything goes to plan and there are no issues found with this process, then corps directors will be asked to input Littledown competition themselves.

Open Freestyle

It is hoped to include some sections at three of the regional competitions, if time permits. This event will be non-qualifying and rules as per WFNBTAs rulebook for Rhythmic Twirl.

Ability levels: Beg/Nov and Int/Adv. Competitors to enter the level they compete in for domestic Dance Solo

Ages: Juv / Preteen / Jun / Sen, with ages as per current year's domestic competition.

Timing: 2.00 – 2.30mins

Entry fee: £7.50, with medals for a max of Top 3 places (dependent on number of competitors taking the floor).

If time allows, sections for this non-qualifying events to be run at the following Regionals:

Weston-Super-Mare	Beg/Nov
Harlow	All sections
Loughborough	Int/Adv
Nationals	All sections

Videos / Photos

It has been brought to our attention that videos of some members / team's routines are being upload on to various social media sites. Whilst this might be a form of compliment, it is unfortunately not acceptable when permission of the person/people involved has not been granted. As with most schools & clubs, NBTA does not wish to stop anyone taking videos or photographs, however we do ask that these are not uploaded on to the social media, without the person or group featured giving their consent. We realise that this is almost impossible to police, as almost everyone has mobile 'phones with cameras, but we do ask that Corps Directors and Coaches speak to their students & parents on the subject. We sometimes have members who are under protection schemes, who do not wish their location to be made public for obvious reasons. Your co-operation in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Medway Park - parking at the Sports Centre will be free at the weekend.

Hope you all have an enjoyable year twirling with NBTA

Denise

On behalf of the Committee and Technical Board