

Accountability Process for 2026

For the 2026 competitive season, we will be bringing back an accountability measure, though it will look somewhat different than in past years.

Intent

- NOT to rejudge the contest or determine right or wrong
- Idea is to have a safe conversation (between peers) to learn and grow
- Given themes from the judge summit, these conversations reinforce use of key terms and our ability to consider things anew: especially in the areas of innovation and imagination, and broadening recognition
- Identify something to consider and apply when judging the next time
- Share ways that you stay current, not necessarily directly related to color guard (this can also occur during meal breaks, van rides, or whenever you have some down time)

Following Regional Plus events

- Have contact with caption partner to discuss the weekend and your process
- What did you value? What were caption specific strengths?
- What were some questions you had? What were caption specific deficiencies or questions?

Following Single Panel Events

- Have contact with one or two people, especially if in different captions
- What did you value? What were caption specific strengths?
- What were some questions you had? What were caption specific deficiencies or questions?
- Discuss how the caption lens means there could be different results.

We are asking judges to direct their own accountability partnerships once a month (once in February and again in March). Judges should also be prepared for contact from their caption manager as a follow up to the weekend. This is a normal part of our process to continually grow, develop, and apply our philosophy.

Accountability Follow Up

- Following contact, send one or two bullet points to your manager that briefly outline the conversation or exchange. Communication could be through email or text. Each person should send information to their manager.
- What was a takeaway or something to consider differently or additionally?
- Did you learn anything or think about something from a different perspective? If so, what?
- Please try to complete this process within the week following the contest you judged.
- Judges are welcome to complete this process as often as they like, but please do not send more than one accountability per month to your caption manager unless otherwise asked.