

**2009 NOAC-AMERICAN INDIAN ACTIVITIES  
Straight Dance Outfit**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ LODGE # \_\_\_\_\_

JUDGE \_\_\_\_\_ CONTEST# \_\_\_\_\_

**MAXIMUM SCORE 90 POINTS**

**Items 1, 4, 5:** 10 points each

Scale 0 = Missing or Incorrect Item; 1-3 = Acceptable;  
4-6 = Good; 7-9 = Excellent; 10 = Superior.

**Items 2, 3, 6:** 20 points each

Scale 1-5 = Good start; room for improvement; 6-10 = Solid basic outfit, lacking some items; 11-15 = Excellent; 16-20 = Superior

**SCORE**

**Item 1: HEAD** - Roach; Roach Feather(s); Roach spreader;  
Scalp Feather; Headband. – (optional) or - Otter fur turban

(10) \_\_\_\_\_

Superior: Roach—well made, worn correctly, appropriate flare, should stand up in the front, colors coordinated with outfit, with German Silver or bone spreader and 1 or 2 roach feathers; scalp feathers correctly decorated; Porcupine hair roaches are preferred. Headband, (optional) white handkerchief, correctly folded. Or - Otter fur turban correctly decorated with ribbon work and beaded rosettes. .

Acceptable: Fiber roach; un-coordinated color roaches; inadequate length, poorly constructed or worn out roach; Otter fur turban made from other fur or fake fur.

Incorrect: Un-coordinated feather crest; bandannas covering head; no roach; war bonnets; animal skin headgear; missing spreader or spreader with no roach feather socket, missing items.

**Item 2: UPPER BODY** - Ribbon Shirt; Scarf And Slide; (20) \_\_\_\_\_  
Arm Bands with Ribbon Decoration; Bandoliers; Belt; Otter Dragger; (optional) – Vest;  
Breastplate; or Metal Hair Plates

Superior: Ribbon shirt with contrasting ribbon decoration, length should be to the crotch; scarf - in color matching the shirt ribbons; German silver neckerchief slide and armbands - all with stamped designs; bone or imitation hair pipe bandoliers with glass or plastic beads; beaded belt or Concho belt; vest with matching decorations to the rest of the straight dance suit, breastplate of proper size to the style of outfit, properly decorated otter fur dragger, or German silver hair plates, preferably stamped with designs.

Acceptable: Items that do not coordinate well with the outfit; belt with little or no decoration; ill fitting ribbon shirt; bandoliers poorly constructed and sized wrong in relationship to body size.

Incorrect: No scarf or slide, no bandoliers; no belt; parts of outfits from other dance styles; OA sash, missing items.

**Item 3: MID AND LOWER BODY- Straight Dance Suit** (20) \_\_\_\_\_

Consisting of Aprons, Leggings, Trailer; Finger Woven Yarn Set; Bells.

Superior: Straight dance suit (aprons, leggings, trailer) made from broadcloth decorated with proper ribbon work; (optional) leather leggings; (optional) floral beaded aprons – only if used with proper tribal style of dress; finger woven side drops and garters; proper bells – tied on correctly.

Acceptable: Dance suit made from substitute materials and decorated with other than ribbon work; something used to substitute the finger woven yarn set (painted canvas belt webbing, drops decorated with chrome metal spots or small mirrors, braided yarn,) small bells; dew claw bells (only if used with a proper tribal style outfit) .

Incorrect: no dance suit; or leggings, shirt, apron, trailer, all made from ceremony team outfit parts, (usually with cloth cut fringe); no yarn set; no bells, missing items.

**Item 4: HANDS - Fan, Mirror Board, Dance Stick** (10)\_\_\_\_\_

Superior: Imitation eagle tail feather flat fan w/beaded handle; Imitation eagle wing fan w/beaded handle; decorated mirror board; beaded dance stick.

Acceptable: Flat fan other than imitation eagle tail feather; loose fan; simple mirror board; dance stick with minimum decoration.

Incorrect: No hand articles. Whip sticks, hand articles from other dance styles, missing items.

**Item 5: FOOTWEAR - Moccasins** (10)\_\_\_\_\_

Superior: Fully or partly beaded plains hard sole moccasins, preferably Southern Cheyenne style, or Kiowa/Comanche style Duster type moccasins.

Acceptable: Undecorated hardsole moccasins or colored/painted canvas deck shoes with proper designs.

Incorrect: No moccasins; leather soft sole moccasins; sneakers

**Item 6: OVERALL:** Does the outfit have the right “look”? (20)\_\_\_\_\_

Does it look complete? Is it consistent? Does it represent a “tribal” style?

**FINAL SCORE** (90)\_\_\_\_\_

**Ribbon Scale**

White 1-24; Red 25-49 Blue 50-73 Gold 74-90

### **A note about outfits:**

The most important thing about a modern Straight Dance outfit is its overall look. Outfits are meant to be danced in, not to be judged in a still position. The components of your outfit should move well when you dance and work to enhance your dancing style. For this reason, materials, size, shape, and placement of the individual outfit components listed above must be in order. When specific materials are called for—such as broadcloth, beadwork, or finger woven yarn work, - an adequate substitution of cloth, sequins, painted material, or plastic canvas cross-stitch can be use. However, proper colors, designs, and proportions must be in place for the article to get maximum points from the judge.

This form is not just a scoring sheet; it is a resource for you to constantly improve your outfit to be the best that it can be. When you look at the individual scores on items 1-7 as well as the overall score, think of what you could do differently next time to improve each item by just a few points. Our goal as the NOAC Straight Dance staff is to elevate your outfit to a higher level of quality each time you dance. By continually improving your outfit, your individual dance style will improve as well.

### **A Note to all contestants:**

This form is designed to outline what a Straight dancer would wear at a contemporary powwow. It represents the norm as defined by modern dancers in Oklahoma and across the country. Some relevant works on the subject of Straight dancing outfits include:

- (1) "Men's Southern Straight Dance." DVD video, Full Circle Communications.
- (2) Many articles in past "Hobbyist" publications, including *The American Indian Hobbyist*; *American Indian Traditions*; *American Indian Crafts & Culture*; *Moccasin Tracks*, and *Whispering Wind Magazine*. Although most of the above listed magazines are out of print, Xeroxed copies of the various articles mentioned are available.

Be aware that although a printed or recorded work may have been relevant at the time of its making, Straight Dance is an ever-changing dance style and these works can sometimes become outdated within a short period of time. If possible, attend powwows and notice the subtle trends being added to Straight Dance outfits of today. If you live in an area where it is difficult to attend powwows, you can use resources such as powwows.com and YouTube to view photos and video footage of powwow dancers. Please be respectful of other's outfits. Model your outfit after contemporary dancers, but do not copy specific designs.

The history of the Straight Dance is one of the most fascinating and well documented of all the men's dance styles. While these outfits of the past have their place in history, many of the components are not appropriate for contemporary dance styles. Stay current and up-to-date on your outfit style.