

NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY
PURPLE PIZZAZZ POM LINE
2022-2023 CONTRACT

Name and Purpose

- The Purple Pizzazz Pom Line was established in 1969.
- The Purple Pizzazz Pom Line is the official spirit hostess of Northwestern State University who loves performing and showcasing their spirit for the NSU Demons. They are an elite team of entertaining and strong performers with collegiate professionalism.
- The purpose of the dance team is to promote school spirit and entertainment while providing athletic opportunity and improving the overall college experience.
- All dancers are expected to have appropriate behavior and respect towards the University's facilities and policies.

Scholarship Qualifications

- All members must be full-time students.
- All members must maintain a 2.0 cumulative GPA.
- All members must enroll in the following courses to receive the scholarship:
 - Pep Band - MUS 1300 47N (CRN# 10460)
 - Varsity Dance – DAN 1170 46N (CRN# 10174)
- All members must complete the Spirit Group Scholarship Acceptance Form.
 - 1st Year Members: \$700/semester
 - 2nd Year Members: \$800/semester
 - 3rd Year Members: \$900/semester
 - 4th Year Members: \$1000/semester
 - Co-Captain/Officers: \$1250/semester
 - Captain: \$1500/semester
 - Out of State participants will also receive an out of state waiver in the amount of \$5394/semester with a 2.5 cumulative GPA.

Team Requirements

- All members must be in good physical health, and able to perform the same skills as they were able to perform at the time of audition.
- All members must submit a physical signed by a registered physician prior to participating in any Pom Line activity.
- **Northwestern State University Eligibility Requirements**
 - The member must sign the Member Acceptance form of the contract prior to participating in Pom Line. Failure to complete the form will automatically terminate membership.
 - Members must comply with all team rules and regulations. Failure to do so will result in review of the infraction by the Director and possible dismissal from the team.
 - Each member will be issued a set of uniforms by the University. These uniforms are the property of Northwestern State University and as such should be returned at the completion of the semester or termination of the agreement. Failure to do so will result in a HOLD being placed on the team member's financial account or record at the university until all materials are turned in to the Director/Coach.
 - Once the member has signed the member acceptance form of the contract, they will be bound by the terms and requirements set forth in this contract.
 - Members must:
 - Maintain the same level of collegiate image as they did at the time of audition.
 - Participant must have a 2.0 in order to audition and maintain the pom line scholarship.
 - Participate in auditions for each performance, Coach and Captain will decide readiness.

- Participate in all team fundraising.
- Participate in all team practices.
- Participate in all team training sessions and team bonding activities.
- Participate in all summer practices, and summer workshops.
- Participate and assist the NSU Athletic Department in the annual scholarship auction in August every year.
- Participate in all football game performances.
- Participate in all pep rally performances.
- Participate in homecoming and Christmas festival parades/performances.
- Participate in all basketball performances.
- Returning members are required to attend UDA or NDA College Dance camp each summer.
- Be selected for the competition group and they will be required to attend UDA National competition in January if the team qualifies for the competition.
- Wear only NSU collegiate apparel.
- Be at all practices and performances even if injured or unable to participate.
- Participate in all other events scheduled by the Director.
- Sign all Pom Line Contracts following auditions in the spring semester and set up an immediate form of team communication app, such as group me or band with the Director and Captains.

Medical Situations

- All attempts will be made to avoid any possible injuries to team members; however, the school nor its employees will accept any financial responsibility should an injury occur.
- Members who have indicated a need for special protective equipment and/or special medicine for illness/injury/allergies MUST have the appropriate item with them at all time, MUST notify the director, and the illness/injury MUST be listed on their physical form and cleared by a registered physician.
- Any member requesting to 'sit out' of any practice, workout, or performance will be required to immediately seek medical treatment for the problem. The member will be required to attend but not participate in team activities until released by receiving a note from the physician, specifying the problem and certifying that the member is allowed to resume activity.
- All medical situations must be documented by appropriate excuse with specific dates and limitations of the member's physical status.
- Doctor appointments are encouraged not to be scheduled during any Pom Line practices, performances, and activities. Team members must notify the Director and Captain of appointments and provide a paper excuse for the appointment.

Practices, Performances, and Collegiate Image

Practices and Workout Schedule: Practices during the year shall vary in length/time depending upon the Team's activities.

- **Fall & Spring Season:**
 - Practice: 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
 - 12:30 p.m. – Until on Fridays prior to home football games or any performances.
 - Additional Practices / Weekly Auditions: 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Wednesday
 - Workouts: on your own outside of practice will be expected on Mondays.
 - Members CANNOT schedule classes before 8:30am and CANNOT schedule classes between 1:30-3:00pm on Wednesdays.
- **Summer:**
 - One or Two 3-day summer workshop will be held according to the calendar.
 - All housing & meal accommodations will be made by the Director.
- **Extra Practices:**
 - Extra practice sessions may be scheduled by giving 24 hours advance notice. Demerits will be given to anyone not in attendance that does not have an approved excuse. If sessions are scheduled with less than 24 hours' notice, attendance is very strongly urged, but demerits will not be enforced. All team rules will always be enforced regardless of notice time.

- **Weekly Auditions:**
 - Each member must show they have mastered each routine to perform. Auditions will be held at a time and day deemed appropriate by the Director and Captain. Auditions will be completed by the Director, Captain, and at least one other representative.
 - The members who are released from a performance are still required to attend the scheduled event, dress with the team, and carry out all other responsibilities.
- **Performances:**
 - The team will perform at all home football games, assigned away football games, home basketball games, Welcome Week Activities, all pep rallies, homecoming parade and events, NSide View Day, Christmas Festival and special NSU events.
 - Inspection will be held prior to every performance by the Director, the Captain, or the Officer Team. All uniforms must be clean and neat, members must have perfect hygiene, hair must be in the designated style, make-up on face and all unapproved jewelry removed.
 - The team will attend each event for the duration announced by the Director prior to the event and will be required to stay the entire time. No Exceptions!
- **Member Expectations:**
 - Arrive on time.
 - Wear the designated attire for all practices and performances.
 - Rolling shorts and showing bra straps (including sports bras while in uniform) is unacceptable.
 - Bring the following items to all team activities:
 - Protective equipment (if necessary)
 - Team binder
 - Water bottle
 - Poms
 - Backpack
 - All practice uniforms including shoes are not to be worn outside of team activities.
- **Collegiate Image:**
 - NO unapproved jewelry! It is distracting and creates a safety hazard. Do not wear it to practice or to any performance event! Only APPROVED small stud earrings will be accepted.
 - Hair and Makeup must be performance ready and styled for all performances, appearances, and events. Hair color must be a natural color.
 - Nail color must be a neutral-toned color and nails cannot be excessively long.
 - Physical Fitness Evaluations
 - Team members must have a Physical Evaluation Medical Form completed by a registered physician before participating in any practices and/or events.
 - Team members will be required to maintain their audition physique for the duration of their time on the squad.
 - If team members do not meet the required physical weight for their individual body type, the body fat percentage will be evaluated. The evaluations will be included for team selection of performances for that week.
 - Evaluations will be conducted to ensure peak physical fitness for all team members.
 - Evaluations will be held at the same time as weekly auditions for upcoming performances and games.
 - The evaluations will include weight, body fat percentage, muscle mass, and BMI readings.

Conduct

- While wearing a uniform (including ANYTHING bearing the Team or School name), members represent Northwestern State University and are expected to conduct themselves accordingly.
- Good sportsmanship is a MUST at all times.
- “Making Out” /PDA, smoking, drinking, profanity, and being under the influence while in uniform are strictly prohibited.
- When on scholarship for Northwestern State University, members are not allowed to wear other university’s apparel while representing the University or attending class.
- **All social media platforms must be reflective of that as a university representative. Pictures, videos, messages, or any actions on any social media platform that is not representative of the values of the pom line team and NSU will result in disciplinary actions and possible termination of membership on the Purple Pizzazz Pom Line.**

Absentees, Tardiness, Grades, Demerits, and Merits

- **Absentees**
 - Demerits will be initially recorded for absences until documentation is received.
 - Unexcused absences from a practice/workout will result in 5 demerits. Unexcused absences from performances/events will result in 10 demerits.
 - Member must turn in appropriate documentation immediately upon returning to pom line activities or the absence will remain unexcused, and demerits will be docked accordingly.
 - Excused absences include:
 - Death in the family
 - Extreme illness
 - Requirements of a scheduled class (documentation from professor required)
 - Any scheduled absence approved by Director with at least 3 weeks prior notice
- **Tardiness**
 - Members should plan on arriving 10 minutes early to all activities to avoid the possibility of tardiness.
 - Special consideration will be granted for unavoidable incidents; however, the member is REQUIRED to communicate with the Director and the Captain in order to have the possibility of being excused.
 - If tardiness exceeds 5 minutes, 1 demerit will be given for every 5 minutes late.
 - If member is absent/tardy (both excused & unexcused) twice in one week, member will NOT be allowed to perform at that week’s game/performance.
- **Grades**
 - Members are required to enroll in the two Pom Line classes to receive the scholarship and participate in pom line practices, performances, and activities.
 - Failure to register yourself for pom line courses by the first Friday of the semester will result in dismissal from the team.
 - Grades will be given per semester according to the number of demerits and merits the member receives.
 - Keep in mind that there are TWO classes, resulting in 2 separate grades.
 - Grades are as follows:
 - A: 0-3 Demerits
 - B: 4-7 Demerits
 - C: 8-11 Demerits
 - D: 12-15 Demerits
 - F: >15 Demerits

- **Demerits**

- A disciplined team is an organized team, and the demerit system shall be enforced.
- Demerits are assigned as part of the disciplinary process, given for violations of rules, regulations, and policies.
- The Director, Captain, and/or Co-Captain will assign demerits; all will be approved or denied by the Director.
- Demerit accumulation period will be from the current formal audition date through the formal audition date of the next year.
- Students serving a performance suspension or probation must meet at the performance in the designated uniform, but will not be permitted to perform or cheer. Appeals, Suspension or probation will be assigned case by case at the discretion of the Director, NSU Spirit Group Coordinator, and Dean of Students.
- Unusual Discipline Problems
 - Each occurrence shall be reviewed by the Director, NSU Spirit Group Coordinator, and Dean of Students and the penalty shall be decided.
 - Morality is defined by each member's parents/guardians; however, if there is a possibility of the reputation of the team being negatively affected by a member's choices, action will be taken immediately to protect the team. Dismissal from the team is a possibility.
 - The Director's decision is final.

- **Merits**

- Merits will help cancel out demerits. The director will determine the number of merits per deed. The Director will provide several opportunities throughout the school year for merits to be achieved. The most common merit opportunity is through service initiatives outside of required pom line events. Generally, but not always, 1-hour events equate to 2 merits.

DEMERITS ARE ASSIGNED FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

A. Not meeting the minimum 2.0 GPA standard	DISMISSAL
B. Not attending a mandatory camp/workshop as scheduled	DISMISSAL
C. Not supporting all fundraising events or failure to comply	DISMISSAL
D. Not agreeing to abide by the decision of the Director	DISMISSAL
E. Refusing to participate in performances or activities designated as a pom line event	DISMISSAL
F. Using drugs or any illegal substances at any time	DISMISSAL
G. Smoking, drinking, or any sexual activity in uniform / practice attire	DISMISSAL
H. Physical altercations	DISMISSAL
I. Verbal altercations with the Director, captains, teammates	10 Demerits
J. Unexcused absence from performance/appearance	10 Demerits
K. Unexcused absence from practice/workout	5 Demerits
L. Disrespect to Director, captains, guest coaches teammates (discretion of Director)	5 Demerits
M. Not wearing planned uniform to performance/appearance	5 Demerits
N. Profanity while in uniform or while representing team or University	5 Demerits
O. Inappropriate conduct in public places (ex. PDA)	5 Demerits
P. Non-participation or cooperation during practice or workout	5 Demerits
Q. Wearing unapproved jewelry while in uniform	3 Demerits
R. Sarcasm with spectators, other school groups, instigating	3 Demerits
S. Unsportsmanlike conduct such as "booing"	3 Demerits
T. Chewing gum while in uniform for practice/event	2 Demerits
U. Unclean uniform	2 Demerits
V. Incomplete uniform shirt, shoes, shorts, poms, etc. (per item)	2 Demerits
W. Ringing of cell phone or alarm during practice	2 Demerits
X. Use of cell phone during practice and/or performance	2 Demerits
Y. Altering performance uniforms or practice attire without prior approval (per item)	1 Demerit

AA. Missing deadlines (money, forms, grade slips, etc.) **1 Demerit**

BB. Not following collegiate image guidelines (nails, hair, makeup) **1 Demerit**

CC. Wearing practice/performance attire outside of practice without prior approval **1 Demerit**

The Big D will be given if anyone is 15 minutes late along with demerits, the Big D will be appropriate conditioning and at the discretion of the Director, if beyond 15 minutes then for every 5 minutes a ½ of a letter grade will be deducted.

Health and Safety

- Coaches and administration consider safety as the number one priority. All regulations as determined by the rules of the Universal Dance Association (UDA) will be followed.
- If or when injuries occur the NSU Athletic trainers will be called first. Injuries may result in medical expenses and are the responsibility of the Pom Line member.

Hazing

- NSU Pom Line does not condone hazing of any kind. Hazing is defined as: Any action taken, or situation created intentionally or unintentionally with or without consent that endangers a student or creates risk or injury, produces mental or physical harm, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule whether on or off campus for the purpose of affiliation with, initiation into or as a condition of continues membership in any student organization, performance group or athletic team recognized by Northwestern State University.

Uniform/Equipment Care

- Uniform Cleaning
 - Do not put any part of your performance or practice uniform in the dryer. This includes all t-shirts!
 - Spandex items are machine washable in COLD WATER. Hang to air dry.
- Equipment Care
 - Performance uniforms and pom pons are to be turned in to the Director's office by noon of the next business day after the final performance of the end of the year.
 - Poms MELT when in contact with hot surfaces (heat registers, car dash boards, etc.) take care and place them in a cool place.

Equipment/Uniform Ownership

- All uniforms and pom pons provided by the University, which are not purchased by the members, are property of the NSU Purple Pizzazz Pom Line and Northwestern State University.
- All items purchased by the members (clothing, special costumes, etc.) are considered personal property.
- All equipment and uniforms belonging to the University shall be returned promptly upon completion of the year (prior to the next Formal Audition), graduation, resignation, or termination from the team.
- Failure to return property to the team will impose a financial obligation upon the member.

Expenses

- Fundraisers
 - Various fundraisers will be coordinated throughout the year. The money raised will go directly to the team's expenses.
- Practice Clothing and Team Shoes
 - Each member will be responsible for the expenses of designated practice attire and other items necessary in the amount given on the Payment Information sheet. The designated practice attire will be determined by the Director and will be required at designated practices.
 - All payment is due no later than the deadline set in the schedule.
 - Team members will be responsible for purchasing their own flesh colored, no-control top, sheer panty hose for performances. All members are encouraged to always keep an extra pair of panty hose in their pom line bag in case of tears and discoloring.
- Additional Equipment/Uniforms
 - In the event any uniform component or piece of University equipment is lost or damaged beyond repair, the member will be held responsible to pay for its replacement (including shipping & handling).

- Dismissal or Resignation
 - If a member is dismissed from the team, she may not audition for the team in the following auditions. She must wait one full calendar year from the date of dismissal or resignation to be deemed eligible to participate in formal auditions.
 - If a member is dismissed or resigns from the team, she forfeits her entire scholarship and will receive an "F" for grades in the designated pom line courses if they are not withdrawn from in appropriate time.
 - If a member terminates or resigns her membership from the team, she relinquishes all fundraised money, and any payments will not be refunded or reimbursed.
 - The team member will not receive any uniform or team items that she has not received at the time of termination from the team.

I have completely read and understand the 2022-2023 NSU Pom Line Contract. I further agree to uphold this contract and understand that failure to do so may result in termination from the squad.

Printed Name of Team Member

Signature of Team Member

Date

Signature of Team Director

Date