

Order of the Arrow

American Indian Activities Guidelines

WOMEN'S JINGLE DRESS

MAXIMUM SCORE 60 POINTS

Scale: 0 = Missing or inappropriate; 1-3 = Acceptable; 4-6 = Good; 7-9 = Excellent; 10 = Superior

Item 1: **HEAD** – Feather Plumes, Center Tail Feather, Barrette, Hair Ties. (10) _____

Superior: Imitation eagle feather plume(s) or center tail feather. Typically a beaded hair barrette secures the plumes/feather at the center back of the head. Beaded, quilled, parfleche, and/or shell hair ties, all coordinated in color and style. A headband (optional). Braided hair. Short hair.

Acceptable: Items in place, mismatched or not necessarily coordinated. Fluffs instead of plumes.

Undecorated hair ties. Braided hair. Short hair.

Inappropriate: Missing items

Item 2: **BODY** Dress or Dress with over skirt, belt, Optional vest (10) _____

*Appropriate shorts or tights **MUST** be worn underneath a one piece dress.*

Superior: Dress or dress with over skirt fit nicely, are the proper length, and made from colorful, fabric. Proper use of ruffle or flair on dress or skirt. Fabric applique and/or ribbon decorations on dress and over skirt. Optional decorated bolero (short) vest worn over dress. Jingles placed appropriately. Belt coordinated with outfit (leather, tack or concho belt acceptable).

Acceptable: Undecorated dress or skirt. Jingles quantity less than desired but placed appropriately. Plain belt.

Inappropriate: Hem too short on either dress or over skirt. Improper fit or improper use of fabric. Lack of jingles. No belt. No shorts or tights under a one-piece dress.

Item 3: **LEGS AND FEET** Leggings, Moccasins or Northern Style Boots. (10) _____

Superior: Fully or partially beaded leggings and moccasins. Northern style boots with beaded decoration (aka "high top" moccasins, or "Crow" boots). Full fabric applique leggings.

Acceptable: Partial fabric applique leggings. Undecorated leggings and moccasins. Undecorated Northern style boots. Commercial hide boots.

Inappropriate: No leggings, moccasins, or boots. The use of tennis shoes or other inappropriate footwear in place of moccasins.

Item 4: **ACCESSORIES** Choker, Jewelry (10) _____

Superior: Beaded choker with a beaded medallion (decorative drop), beaded barrettes, earrings, rings, and/or bracelets coordinated in style and color to compliment the dance clothes. Beaded purse and/or bandolier bag. Big imitation eagle feather fan.

Appropriate: Accessories are present but not coordinated in color or design. Undecorated bag/purse or no purse. Fan of alternative legal feathers.

Inappropriate: Accessories missing

Item 5: **OVERALL** (20) _____

Scale 16-20 Superior; 11-15 - Excellent;

6-10 - Solid basic dance clothes, lacking some items; 1-5 Good start, room for improvement.

Does the set look complete? Are the clothes coordinated in color and design? Do they have the right "look"? Are they consistent with current styles?

Final Score (Maximum 60) _____

Ribbon Scale

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Gold 48-60

Blue 33-49

Red 17-32

White 1-16

A note about DANCE CLOTHES:

The most important thing about a set of modern **Women's Jingle Dress** dance clothes is the overall look. Dance clothes are meant to be danced in, not to be judged in a still position. The components of your dance clothes should move well when you dance and work to enhance your dancing style. For this reason, materials, size, shape, and placement of the individual dance clothes components listed above must be in order. When specific materials are called for - such as beadwork - an adequate substitution of cloth, fabric applique, sequins, painted material can be used. However, proper colors, designs, and proportions must be in place for the article to get maximum points and for your dance clothes to have maximum visual impact.

This outline is not just a "scoring sheet"; it is a resource for you to constantly improve your dance clothes to be the best they can be. When you look at the individual scores of the various headings as well as the overall score, think of what you can do to improve each item, even if just by just a couple of points. Our goal as the NOAC Women's Jingle Dress staff is to help you to elevate your dance clothes to a higher level. By continually improving your dance clothes, your presentation on the dance floor will improve as well.

A note to DANCERS:

This outline is designed to summarize what a Women's Jingle Dress dancer would wear at a contemporary powwow. It represents the norm as defined by modern dancers in the Northern Plains and across the country.

Be aware that although a printed or recorded work may have been relevant at the time of its making, Women's Jingle Dress 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 Women's Jingle Dress clothes of today. If you live in an area where it is difficult to attend powwows, you can use resources such as

www.youtube.com, www.gatheringofnations.com, www.powwows.com, or www.pinterest.com

to view photos and video footage of powwow dancers. Please be respectful of other's dance clothes. Model your dance clothes after contemporary dancers, but do not copy a specific set of clothes verbatim.

While Women's Jingle Dress dance clothes of the past have their place in history, some of the components may not appropriate for contemporary dance styles. Stay current and up-to-date on your dance clothes' style.