



# 2026 National High School Drill Team Championships

## GENERAL OPERATING SOP

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# GENERAL OPERATING SOP



## SECTION 1 - EVENT OVERVIEW

### A. The NHSDTC SOP

1. This General Operating SOP will include all information that is pertinent to the competition and necessary for your team's preparation & attendance at the National High School Drill Team Championships (*the Nationals or NHSDTC*). Along with the rules and regulations of the meet, there will also be extensive information on the management of the event by Sports Network International, Inc. (SNI). The success of your trip will depend on your ability to internalize all the regulations of the Nationals. Please familiarize yourself with this SOP in detail and be sure to read the COMPETITION SOP as well for all rules relating to the event itself.
2. Once you have read this SOP and understand all its terms & conditions, please contact SNI to ask questions you may have. After this, REGISTER to attend the event on the official website: <http://nhsdtc.thenationals.net>.
3. All schools must utilize and become comfortable with registration and paperwork submission in the **MySchool Website** (<http://myschool.thenationals.net>) for all event matters. Once registered and on your MySchool page you will have paperwork to complete. Most important is the Acceptance of Responsibility Form. All forms are signed electronically and submitted through your MySchool page. No school or organization may compete at the NHSDTC without the proper submission of this form and other required forms listed on your MySchool website. Schools should also look through the official NHSDTC website (<http://nhsdtc.thenationals.net>) as a resource for valuable event/trip/competition information. SNI also posts photos, well wishes and late breaking fun information on the NHSDTC Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/NationalsDrill>). Schools are encouraged to distribute the Facebook Page and the NHSDTC page to their parents to give them a better experience following your efforts here at the NHSDTC.
4. All competitors, instructors, and team supporters are subject to comply with all rules & procedures of the **NHSDTC maintained on all required websites and especially within the SOPs of the event**. Any items not specifically covered by your service manual or by SNI regulation are at the sole discretion and determination of the Judging Director and/or SNI Management.

### B. Event Management & Sponsorship

1. The NHSDTC (also referred to as "the Nationals" or "Grand Nationals") are managed & produced by Sports Network International, Inc.. As the Event Manager, SNI is responsible for organizing all aspects of the event, from setting up the rules and procedures, to securing all necessary judges, the facilities and hotel rooms.
2. The Nationals competition is sponsored by the **U.S. Army Cadet Command** and heavily supported by all service branches for decades. Input into the rules and regulations for the event are garnered largely by feedback from the attending schools and service headquarters input. It is always welcome and much appreciated when those who make the meet exceptional provide feedback to make it better in the future!
3. The Nationals remain the oldest and most highly respected drill & ceremony competition held in the world. For almost 50 years, the NHSDTC has been the only officially recognized all-service championship by the four service JROTCs. It remains an honor to serve as civilian contractors for the services for these many decades. **SNI has hosted over 200 military drill & ceremony competitions of national or regional status. We have the expertise and the trained staff to ensure your group has a fantastic experience, on and off the drill floor.** We constantly work hard to ensure fairness, transparency, safety and glorification of the hard-working cadets and programs remain our top focus!
4. SNI is known for providing near 24/7 customer service for teams attending the NHSDTC. Please allow us to help you with any aspect of your stay in and out of the competition arena.



## SECTION 2 – GENERAL EVENT

### INFORMATION

#### A. NHSDTC Event Entry & Related Info

1. The Nationals are open to JROTC programs and select other quality drill groups after review by the competition committee of SNI. Under no circumstances may any attendee of the Nationals be older than high school age and status to compete. Those older than this maximum age may only compete within the World Drill Championships event (details found on-line at: <http://wdc.thenationals.net>).
2. Only “community -based cadetting” groups may be comprised of cadets formed from more than one school (as this is how these programs are often designed). All other entries may NOT be comprised of cadets from multiple schools.
3. The Registration Fee for all schools of the NHSDTC is \$300.00. Schools entering an Open Level Color Guard unit, or individuals entering the Solo/Dual Competition (outside of competing schools who pay no extra fee) pay a \$75.00 Registration Fee per entry. This fee is due after registering online to maintain a valid entry into the NHSDTC..
4. Teams making the decision to attend the **NHSDTC** should reserve a competition slot by registering online by the annual December 10<sup>th</sup> “early decision” deadline. All units who register before this “Early Decision” deadline are guaranteed acceptance into this event. This is especially useful to the schools traveling from a great distance! Schools WILL register AFTER this date and many will be accepted, but their entries will be reviewed and limited by space availability and other factors. However, with this fee being non-refundable and non-transferable, teams wishing to enter the NHSDTC should do so only after making the irrevocable decision to attend! Should an emergency preclude any registered team from attending, the team should immediately contact SNI. While the Registration Fee likely remains non-refundable, your prompt notification to SNI could allow another deserving team to attend -- thereby keeping your school in good standing at the NHSDTC.
5. **Schools may enter TWO COMPLETE TEAMS in the NHSDTC.** Only in rare circumstances will SNI allow a 3<sup>rd</sup> full team to enter. Should schools wish to enter a separate group of cadets within the Open Level Color Guard event, they would pay the additional \$75 registration fee. Contact SNI for details.
6. Thanks to the generous financial support from the many exhibitors within the Ocean Center Exhibit Hall and the sponsorship support of the U.S. Army Cadet Command, **the NHSDTC will be open to the general public free of charge!** No pass or ticket of any kind will be needed to enter the building. Please remember that the Ocean Center is a county-run facility and as such, has a paid parking garage and surrounding parking lots in effect for all events. Schools may wish to have their bus drop them off in the morning and pick them up later and ensure their spectators know this as well to avoid this charge. This is not controlled by Sports Network International. Schools do have the ability to purchase parking passes through their MySchool page.
7. The NHSDTC competition maintains no realistic ability to stream the events happening through the weekend. We STRONGLY recommend YOUR SCHOOL maintain an active Facebook page and inside that group, you are encouraged to post still pictures and FB Live Stream your performances through the weekend.
8. Cadets competing within the NHSDTC competition CANNOT BE INVOLVED in the National JROTC Fitness Challenge Championships held that weekend on Saturday. Instructors must also be aware that both events run simultaneously, and you cannot supervise both competitions effectively. It is simply too difficult to schedule around the inevitable time conflicts. Please see the Fitness Nationals website for additional details: <http://fitness.thenationals.net>.



## B. Package Plan, Deadlines, & Refund Policy

1. All participants (instructors & cadets) coming to the NHSDTC must participate in the NHSDTC through the NHSDTC Package Plan (*the only exception is for the few solo & dual cadets attending not through a school. They will pay the \$75 registration fee and a per person fee that includes their shirt, a competition medallion and a competition patch*). Through this plan, the event obtains the finest all-service judges, competes in a fantastic first-class indoor venue, uses quality hotels, along with providing competition shirts, medallions, patches & team pictures to every competitor, all for an affordable price.
2. Once your school has been accepted into the NHSDTC, School Registration Fees are completely non-refundable. Any school sending in their 50% Package Fees deposit early can receive a complete refund of their Package Fees paid provided the request is made in writing on or before the deposit deadline outlined on the MySchool site. Schools that do not submit the required paperwork and/or the 50% deposit by the required deadlines may be removed from the event with no refund of the school's registration fee.
3. **MOST IMPORTANT!:** After submitting the 50% deposit and after the deposit deadline, this deposit payment is **TOTALLY NON-REFUNDABLE!** SNI must pay for these requested rooms, as well as purchase all of the other items provided to each attendee **IN FULL**. Rooms reserved cannot be canceled, dropped or otherwise "given back" in any manner. *Also, this deposit is a GUARANTEE TO COMPLETE THE TRANSACTION NO LATER THAN WHEN THE FINAL BALANCE PAYMENT IS DUE*. Therefore, it is crucial that each school understand that the payment of 50% of the package fees is a commitment for THE BALANCE OF THE FEES WHEN DUE. (This is why many schools choose to pay in full on the deposit deadline.) If it is necessary to cancel or "drop" anyone who has paid the 50% fee, the school should find someone else to substitute as they cannot be "dropped". If this is not done, the school will pay for & receive all the package materials and rooms they requested in their initial rooming list and subsequent revisions.

### Important Refund Exception Notes!

*SNI understands that a blanket refund policy as outlined above may appear inflexible. Understand that hundreds of thousands of dollars in non-refundable, up-front payments are made by SNI each year to ensure every school has affordable hotels reserved, as well as event shirts, medallions, patches, team photos and dozens of other competition-related items. Teams simply deciding not to attend, albeit for valid reasons, would make the holding of this event impossible to accomplish.*

*SNI has developed a corporate policy regarding exceptions to the refund policy that all attendees should know. Because of world events, the refund policy is noted below:*

1. *Should any federal governmental body delay or ground flights, buses or other national or regional transportation due to any national security or health issue, and this delay will in turn keep a school from attending the event, SNI will work with the hotels and other event suppliers to attempt to gain a maximal refund possible of monies paid under the force majeure clause. Any refund will be sent to schools as soon as possible after the completion of the event.*

*Understand that SNI will not put anyone at risk through attending the NHSDTC. It is our belief that Daytona Beach, Florida (population 79,000) poses less of a target than thousands of cities and locations across the country, including many cities where teams will be coming from.*

## C. Hotel Information

1. The hotels selected by Sports Network will be a mix of oceanfront properties with largely oceanview and street view rooms in use AND other substantial non-ocean front properties in the city. All are within a 20-minute drive to the competition site. These hotels vary in size & location, as well as general quality or "Package Levels". These range from STANDARD to UPGRADE to PREMIUM (the highest level). Premium level can be either the Hilton Resort or a select number of properties in the same quality/price range. The Package Level of the hotel is an overall arbitrary rating of quality/desirability based on many factors.

2. Schools should know that proximity to the Ocean Center CANNOT be GUARANTEED (EXCEPT by staying at the Hilton across the street). Therefore, all teams MUST maintain ground transport of some kind to make their trip function if they are NOT staying at the Hilton.
3. Several schools often request hotels offering a "breakfast". Few hotels on the beach in Daytona offer this amenity and those that do are often just juice, milk and donuts that can better be presented by your team rather than counting on a hotel to meet your timing, quality and quantity needs. Please know these limitations before final planning.
4. Returning schools are given the first opportunity to go back to the same hotel they stayed in the previous year. Schools will be assigned to a hotel as soon as possible after the 1<sup>st</sup> deposit deadline in March. Hotel info will be sent via email (confirming their hotel placement) and the placement will be listed on their MySchool website as well.
5. *All programs looking to stay at the Hilton Headquarters Hotel should make that thought known to SNI in writing as soon as possible after registration.* The Hilton gets very full very early on and we like to get every team their request whenever possible. The MySchool website has a tab for listing a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place choice of requested hotel. We cannot make guarantees but try to make as many schools happy as possible.
6. At each NHSDTC hotel, the hotel management has complete charge of all security matters and will look to the Instructors/Cadet Commanders to enforce discipline for their team. SNI and/or any hotel is fully within their rights to remove a person, room or the entire team from the hotel should any school fail to maintain reasonable quiet and decorum 24 hours per day. Should this occur, NO REFUND of any fees will occur. Fortunately, school conduct is generally EXCELLENT. Schools must understand that proper hotel conduct is essential.

#### D. The Ocean Center Arena & Conference Center

1. The Nationals competition takes place inside the Ocean Center Arena & Conference Center. The Ocean Center has full concession facilities, public and private dressing rooms, ample car/bus parking areas and much more. The Ocean Center has a main arena & exhibit hall with concrete floors where most competition is held. It has elevated seating for 6,000. It also maintains a conference center with carpeted flooring. The Ocean Center maintains BLACK ceilings in all of the open, large space competition areas.
2. It is HIGHLY recommended that all units maintain a basic first aid kit to attend to minor injuries sustained while in Daytona Beach or traveling. SNI will have a medic on-site at the Ocean Center located directly adjacent to the scoring table on the main floor.
3. At no time may schools block the flow of foot traffic with rifle crates, dressing racks or other large equipment in walkways. For those schools choosing to bring in this type of equipment storage units, there are open areas off to the side of the seating areas that are less trafficked and suitable for placement. The elevator is also available for handicapped individuals and big item egress to the upper deck. No other use of the elevator is allowed.
4. **Multiple designated practice areas are available INSIDE the building.** These areas will be available to use for LIMITED TIMES by attending teams. SNI will not RESERVE nor DESIGNATE these areas any longer. They are available for sign-up when the building is open. Schools may utilize any open areas outside the facility for practice as well.
5. The facility has a very limited number of private meeting rooms available only through SNI. Returning teams have first-priority to reserve their room with all others available on an earliest requested basis. These rooms while locking are NOT SECURE as numerous facility personnel have access. Please contact SNI IMMEDIATELY if you would like one but know that availability is extremely limited.
6. The NHSDTC will maintain DOZENS of event vendors to give the building both a vibrant feel and many great possibilities for your cadet's futures. These groups help fund the Jean Weil Scholarship and also pay many of the costs of utilizing such an amazing facility. We strongly encourage giving your cadets the time while not competing to interact with these outstanding groups and learn about opportunities their future may hold.
7. Often, SNI will maintain a "Scavenger Hunt" for cadets to meet many of the vendors during the weekend. The opportunity to win large prizes are provided to those who participate in this information gathering fun fest. Specific rules for the Scavenger hunt are provided to all teams upon arrival at the Ocean Center.



## E. Competition Discipline & Conduct

1. Discipline problems are not expected at a drill meet of this caliber. SNI reserves the right to remove any individual, group or entire unit from the event as well as the hotel for destructive, profane or other conduct unbecoming JROTC cadets or conduct detrimental to the NHSDTC. This includes bad conduct in or around the NHSDTC competition site, any NHSDTC hotels or common areas outside. An 11pm curfew is in effect for each event evening. All schools be aware Daytona Beach has a city curfew for all minors not accompanied by an adult as well.
2. While cadets are waiting to compete at the competition site or just remaining as spectators, they must be either: #1) in the lobby/exhibit hall vendor area, #2) at the concession or rest room areas, #3) in the dressing areas readying for competition, or #4) in their seats watching the event. Dressing areas are provided solely for the convenience of teams. These areas are totally unsecured. Teams using these areas should not leave personal belongings unattended. Any abuse of these facilities will not be tolerated. While at the Ocean Center, teams should only dress in dressing rooms or restroom facilities. Do not allow your cadets to dress in the bleachers.
3. Teams should bring with them all needed equipment to clean & shine shoes, belts, buckles, uniforms etc. Hotel towels or other hotel items are NOT to be used to polish shoes or otherwise ready the uniform. This problem occurs the most frequently -- make sure your cadets do not engage in this activity!

## F. Commander's Call

1. An online ZOOM CONFERENCE COMMANDER'S CALL will be held for the Nationals event. Date & time for this will be provided to all registered school on the MySchool portal. Expansive and detailed, this meeting will highlight key points of the competition as well as attendance items for your school and any last-minute updates. This online meeting will have the ability to take questions as well (primarily in the chat window). Please remember, all event questions are ideally asked in advance via this meeting, email or telephone. Last minute questions on-site should be avoided always.

## G. Awards Ceremony

1. With a unified two-day event, the NHSDTC Awards Ceremony for all drill events hosted during the NHSDTC will be held on the final night on a grand stage constructed on the main arena floor of the Ocean Center. It is a spectacle of great pomp with amazing staging, lighting and video presentations. It is a long ceremony – eat first!
2. No team placements will be announced in advance under any circumstances. The Awards Ceremony is as much a part of the NHSDTC as any team event. Attendance is EXPECTED unless prior permission has been granted for true emergencies. All teams are expected to attend in uniform.
3. Schools will have assigned seating at this Awards Ceremony that will be handed to them upon registration on site at the Ocean Center. SNI will have an ample number of seats for your school's needs based on the information you will provide to us on how many total people are attending.
4. At the CONCLUSION of the event, all schools will send ONE REPRESENTATIVE to the left side of the stage where each group can receive their score sheets, scoring reports, team photos as well as any other items designated for their group. FAILURE TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE (or a designee for your school) will result in these original items being sent COD SHIPPING to your school.

# SECTION 3 - COMPETITION RULES

## A. Eligibility & Performance

1. With varying standards nationwide, SNI does not regulate the scholastic qualifications of attendees. Community based cadetting groups, middle school and other non-JROTC units may attend the NHSDTC, however these non-JROTC groups will likely only occupy a competition space in the lowest competition levels initially to prove their mettle.

2. Schools wishing to enter Division 1 – Masters or Division 2 – Advanced should compete in at least 3 local or other drill competitions during the school year prior to the NHSDTC and those teams should finish within the top half of the overall scoring within their competitive group for at least half of your pre-Nationals drill meets. Beyond that, historical strong finishes at the NHSDTC is always the best indicator of where the school belongs, competitively. See Item B below for more clarification on Levels.
3. Schools entering Division 3 - Basic level will not maintain this requirement as strongly as they are often just starting out and are using this exposure to build their program. They are “strongly encouraged” to compete in at least three meets prior to attending, but their finish will not be relevant. These schools are accepted on a case-by-case basis. Division 3 schools should note that this division is a starting point, not a competitive level to stay in for many years. Programs should grow in their competitive ability and be able to move into Division 2 within a few years. See Item B below for more clarification on Levels.
4. SNI will also accept a limited number of solo & dual entries as stand-alone without attending schools. These cadets must contact SNI directly to both register AND we will outline the regulations to enter the competition.
5. While the competition uses service manuals as a guideline (Army TC 3-21.5, MCO 5060.20 & Air Force JROTC Drill Manual, respectively), **event judges are trained to score competing units in accordance with the performers' chosen service manual**. This allows all units to compete at the ***NHSDTC*** on an even basis, be it Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force or Coast Guard. However, the big three manuals for the Army, Marines/Navy and Air Force are the only ones authorized for use. The Navy Cadet Field Manual (though like the MCO) nor any other manuals are known to the judges and not approved.
6. SOP changes or clarifications will be covered in advance. As these changes are made, minor changes are posted on the SOP Update website (<http://www.thenationals.net/dt-SOPupdates.htm>). Units are responsible for **CHECKING THIS WEBSITE TO ENSURE THEY RECEIVE UPDATES** up until the week prior when the site is finalized.

## B. What Teams Compete WHERE at the Nationals

1. Teams will register into the competition level they feel they belong (Masters, Advanced, Basic) upon entry. The THREE DIFFERENT LEVELS/DIVISIONS of the NHSDTC are fairly clear in their definitions and listed below:
  - a) **Division I / Masters Level: Highest competition division for those teams who are prepared and most fairly compete against the best units in the country**. Some of these schools often have former cadets or outside trainers who assist in preparation. Regardless of limitations, these teams compete well in most all events and vie for numerous top finishes.
  - b) **Division II / Advanced Level: Very competitive division for teams who have a solid history of winning trophies in their local/area/region meets and can compete well in most events they participate in**. Advanced Division Schools would have historically done very well in the Challenge Division (pre 2021 and won several trophies there), or lower finishing Masters teams.
  - c) **Division III / Basic Level: These teams will be somewhat inexperienced at drill competitions or they do not have much competition experience against many teams**. These schools are often from smaller towns/schools that have much smaller programs. They do not have a history of winning many/any trophies at anything above local small city competitions.
2. Teams will initially select their Division placement. However, final determination regarding competition level placement is the sole and subjective decision of Sports Network International and may not be finalized until just weeks before the event. INSTRUCTORS often play an outsized role in where teams ultimately will be assigned to compete as do past years finishes. Please do not call about being “loaded with freshmen” and think that holds much sway. Good teams stay good because of the instructors, not the years of cadet experience.



3. Teams that drill without rifles enter within the Unarmed Division of the event. Teams that drill with rifles of any kind or weight enter the ARMED Division of the event. No "hybrid" or other combination teams utilizing both armed & unarmed cadets are allowed.
4. Schools wishing to enter a "stand-alone" color guard (a color guard that maintains no attached drill team) must do so in the **Open Level Color Guard** competition only. The event is open to teams of all skill levels, it is not a part of the overall scoring of any entered NHSBTC team – it is simply a proud display and scored event for color guards often from all corners of the globe!
5. Note: No Knockout Drill events are held at the NHSBTC. Schools have found that they wish to spend their time off the drill floor after a long two days of competition.

### C. Qualifications for Multiple Team Entries & Multiple Level Entries

1. Each school may have ONE Armed entry and ONE Unarmed entry. Schools with very large programs may contact SNI and request to enter more teams between the competition divisions. School entering multiple teams will compete separately and on their own merits, with all teams eligible for all event trophies and Championship.
2. Units not competing for the National Championship (those NOT entering every team event in their competition division) may have their ability to enter limited or delayed by SNI as this is an event designed to crown an overall champion.
3. Cadets may only compete in one DIVISION at the Nationals (i.e., Div 2 Armed). Therefore, while a single cadet may compete in each EVENT within a competition level and division, he/she may not compete in events for **two separate teams (such as Armed & Unarmed)**. Teams found in violation of this rule can be disqualified from the event. Ensure your team does not have cadets "crossing over" and competing for two different teams.
4. Every team from a school MUST be denoted with a distinctive & descriptive team name (i.e., Acme High School-Eagle Battalion & Hawk Battalion cannot be named simply "A" Team and "B" Team). All names should obviously reflect good taste with military, historical and/or school nicknames preferred.
5. If your school does not currently have a team name in place, we strongly suggest that your program take the time to consider a team name to make them distinctive. It could be your school's mascot or a service-related name. Schools with more than one team MUST have different names for each.



### D. Competition Schedules

1. **New in 2026:** SNI will publish a tentative/preliminary event schedule in early April (date to be listed on the MySchool portal). This schedule will have tentative times for all team events. The purpose for this publishing is to give schools the opportunity to make us aware of any conflicts that might exist and give us time to fine-tune and adjust the schedule to its final status. Schools will then have the FINAL schedule posted approximately 10 days in advance.
2. Every effort is made to have schools bringing multiple teams to have their competition times not overlap or conflict. However, there are limitations to how much time can be factored in to providing ample gaps between each performance by multiple teams from one school. Be prepared for this potential factor in your attendance.

## SECTION 4 – COMMUNICATION WITH SNI

### A. General Information

1. SNI has office hours Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. We are also available often beyond these hours via phone or email. You can always call the SNI main number at 800-327-9311. Justin Gates (x1001) is the primary source for SOP or Judging questions. Samantha SteClaire (x1004), Sharron Ritch (x1003) and Brie Gates (x1002) can all answer general event questions and those particular to your MySchool account, hotel rooms, paperwork and finances.
2. SNI's main email address – [sni@thenationals.net](mailto:sni@thenationals.net) is viewed by ALL SNI team members. You can also send an email to any of us personally using our first names – [justin@thenationals.net](mailto:justin@thenationals.net), [samantha@thenationals.net](mailto:samantha@thenationals.net), [sharron@thenationals.net](mailto:sharron@thenationals.net) or [brie@thenationals.net](mailto:brie@thenationals.net).
3. **New in 2026:** The MySchool portal will have a Communication Tab that will allow you to ask questions or inform SNI about things we may need to know. This portal will allow back-and-forth conversations (like texting) that can take place between you and an SNI team member. When the conversation is concluded, we will mark it as done and you can start a new thread. But all existing conversations are there to be able to easily review throughout the school year. The purpose for this means of communication is to better ensure that we are tracking that all questions get answered and that we can easily go back to confirm any details on a request that you may have made. All of which should be easier than trying to track down one email within the thousands that we have every month.

## SECTION 5 - NHSDTC TROPHIES & AWARDS

### A. Team Events & National Championship Trophies

1. All teams are eligible to win team trophies within each event entered, regardless of how many total events the team enters. Every team event scored toward the overall championships will maintain 1st through 5th place team trophies. Only in a case where a division maintains 8 or less schools would trophy numbers be reduced. A national championship and runner-up trophy will be presented in each of the three competition levels at the Nationals within both the Armed & Unarmed Divisions.

### B. Determining the Overall & Runner-up Champions for each Division

1. Overall division placement is determined by a team's finish within each of the four team events, not simply by the raw score earned. The scoring system in use for the NHSDTC is known as a "Proportional Event Scoring System". Full scoring and tie breaking procedures are found in the Competition SOP.



### C. Solo and Dual Exhibition Events

1. Armed Solo & Dual Exhibition events are also offered to individual cadets from all schools competing within the armed division at the NHSDTC. Only Dual Exhibition is offered for individual cadets within the teams entering the Unarmed Division of the NHSDTC. No additional fees are imposed for competing schools seeking an overall title entering solo and/or dual cadets into this competition as your team registration fee covers this.
2. Each TEAM is allowed to enter ONE solo and ONE dual entry (ARMED) or one dual entry (UNARMED). Some schools with a strong history or strong competitors may be granted a 2<sup>nd</sup> entry as well.
3. All Solo & Dual entries may be male, female or mixed for dual teams. Gender is not a determining factor. If there are at minimum EIGHT female solo or dual armed entries, SNI will have these individuals compete separately from their all-male counterparts and produce trophies in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> exclusively for female Solo and/or dual Armed Exhibition. A mixed dual team (one male/one female) will always compete with male teams.

4. There is only one level of competition within all solo & dual events and the competition should be quite high. Historically, over 110 solo armed cadets and 60 dual teams will be a part of the competition. Being a part of that is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. In events where over 40 entries occur, two “pools” of cadets may be created with the top finishers in each moving on to a final medal round performance to compete for awards.
5. Although these events don't count towards a team's National Championship total, cadets are eligible for awards in each as well as the national notoriety that comes with a top finish. 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> place trophies will be awarded for these events there are ten or fewer entries (Female Solo primarily), then 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> place trophies are provided.

#### D. Commander's Trophy

1. The Commander's Trophy will be derived from commander's evaluation scoring judged during the Regulation Drill events only. The score is separate from the team score (although a tie-breaker of “overall team finish” is in place for the Commander's Awards). First, second & third place awards are presented in each Level & Division.

#### E. Certificate of Achievement Plaques & Cadet Certificates

1. All schools competing for an overall championship(s) (teams entering a competition unit in **every** division event counted towards the overall championship) will receive a personalized plaque for the school to commemorate their quest for a championship. One per school is awarded, regardless of how many TEAMS you have competing.
2. Schools eligible to receive this plaque will have an announcement made prior to the start of the awards ceremony. The school will be given directions on what to do to receive this recognition.
3. All competing cadets who participate in the Nationals will receive a personalized Certificate of Excellence. These certificates will congratulate each competitor for their hard work and strong performance at the Nationals. These certificates are generated from the rooming lists required from each school. It is VITALLY IMPORTANT that these lists are ACCURATE regarding both the names of the competing cadets and that they are SPELLED CORRECTLY using Upper/Lower case letters (not all caps please).

All materials produced for the National High School Drill Team Championships are the sole property of Sports Network International, Inc. (SNI). Event SOPs, Event Scoresheets, Judges Manual, and all other written materials may not be used or reproduced in whole or in part without the express written permission of SNI.