

THE VALUE OF A TENTH

This tool is one of several guidelines for judges. These guidelines should not be used to upset the ranking and rating process.

Background

The tool that we call “value of the tenth” began as a protection for the corps against arbitrary spreads. By utilizing simple language, the judges now have a means of examining the significance of the spreads between units.

The “value of the tenth” applies **only to the bottom line score** rather than to each of the sub-captions individually. The application to the bottom line score was the result of a DCI Convention instructor caucus vote.

The “value of the tenth” is another tool to provide information to the units. It is understood that the dynamics of any particular contest may override the “value of the tenth”. It can be and often is a useful tool but its use does not, in and of itself, demand ties. Judges must still rank and rate.

Once again, the descriptors that accompany the value of the tenth come from the collective experience of the judge and the judging community.

Overall total score spreads of 1, 2 or 3 tenths: The units are essentially equal except for minor issues; the units might have differing strengths in the two sub-captions, leading to a narrow spread; there could be reversal from night to night, depending on performances and possible changes.

Overall total score spreads of 4, 5 or 6 tenths: The units have identifiable, objective narrow differences and varied nuances that make it clear that one unit is better than the other. The judge should always be prepared to identify the narrow differences between the units.

Overall total score spreads of 7, 8 or 9 tenths: There are at least 1-2 more significant differences in the descriptive words or common questions that detail the sheet. These are easily identifiable and may include but not limited to overall state of completion, quality and completion of one section of the unit, large variations in performance achievement areas and other qualities. The judge should always be prepared to identify those more significant differences.

Overall total score spread of ONE point or more: There are multiple significant differences between the units. The judge should be prepared to identify such differences.