

Spectator Etiquette

By Christine Clayton

There is nothing better than having friends and family support the winterguard activity and attend performances. If spectators follow these simple guidelines, it will improve their experience, and each unit's performance.

1. **No Flash Photography** – This is a circuit rule that is in place for the safety of all the performers. Flashes can be distracting for the performers on the floor. Most gyms have enough light for pictures to come out without using the flash. Along these same lines, please cover the little red light on video cameras...that can be distracting as well.
2. **Stay out of the Judges' Areas** – The judges' areas are marked off to allow them enough space to judge the show without having people too close. This allows them enough comfort to evaluate each show in the same manner. Even when there is not a performance taking place, the judges are often taking notes and writing down scores. Please do not walk through these taped off areas under any circumstances.
3. **Stay Seated During Performances** – Please remain seated during any unit's performance. Please do not enter or exit the stands or change seats while a guard is on the floor. This can be distracting for other audience members, the judges and the performers.
4. **Be Respectful** – If you stay to watch teams other than the one you are rooting for, please be respectful. Don't talk during the performance and when it is over, show your appreciation for their efforts through applause.
5. **Control Your Enthusiasm** – We all love to scream and yell when our favorites come on the floor. Please be controlled in your excitement. Do not scream during a unit's entire performance. It is one thing to clap for a great catch; it is another to scream your best friend's name non-stop during the show. Overly rowdy behavior diminishes the experience for the other spectators, can annoy the judges and can distract your friends who are performing.