Formal/Semi-Formal Dress Code
Why do we have a dress code?

• NDA staff and administration want you to make good choices.
• We are not trying to inhibit your style.
• Dances should be fun, but we want everyone to be comfortable and safe.
• With modesty in mind, the dress code guidelines will be enforced.
Dress Code Rule #1

- Dresses/rompers may not be cut below the bust line. The bust continues around your sides directly under the armpit.
- Necklines of female students must not be lower than five inches from the base of the neck.
- With arms at your side, if flesh touches flesh below the bust line, the dress is inappropriate.
Rule #1- Examples of inappropriate dresses
Dress Code Rule #2

Hemlines should be no shorter than five inches above the knees. This rule applies to dresses and rompers.

These meet dress code!
Rule #2- Examples of inappropriate dresses

These hemlines are more than five inches above the knee.
Dress Code Rule #3

- Dresses may be backless as long as they are not cut below the navel.

These dresses meet the dress code!

Both of these backs are not cut below the navel. Notice how the bust line is covered on the sides.
Rule #3- Examples of inappropriate dresses

These backs are cut below the navel and/or are uncovered at the sides.
Dress Code Rule #4

- Midriffs will not be exposed
- Cut-outs exposing midriffs are not acceptable.
- This includes both front and side. With arms down at your side, if flesh touches flesh in the midriff section, the dress is inappropriate.
- Two piece dresses with crop-tops are not appropriate. If you are wearing separates, you must be able to raise your hands above your head with no midriff showing.

This dress meets the dress code!
Rule #4 - Examples of inappropriate dresses
Dress Code Rule #5

• Dresses may not have a slit that exceeds mid-thigh. This is finger-tip length.

This dress meets the dress code!
Rule #5- Examples of inappropriate dresses
Dress Code Rule #6

- Dresses may be form-fitting, but not be “skin-tight.”
- Body-con and bandage dresses are not permitted.
Rule #6: Inappropriate Dresses
Dress Code Rule #7

- Any part of the body that must be covered according to the previous rules must be covered by SOLID fabric, not sheer fabric, mesh, or lace.

This dress meets the dress code.
Rule #7: Inappropriate Dresses
Pinning and Fabric Inserts

- No pinning will be allowed as an alteration for a dress if the dress does not meet dress code without the pins.
- If the dress does not meet the dress code, fabric inserts must be sewed and not pinned to the dress.
- No cover-ups (coats, shawls, sweaters) will be allowed over dresses that do not meet dress code.
• While we will be reasonable in our interpretation, you should know that you will not be allowed into the dance if you are not dressed appropriately.
• Most importantly, the dress code does not limit your ability to show your style and uniqueness.
• What is appropriate on one girl, may not be appropriate on another. (For example, based on height.)
• Pushing every rule to its absolute limit will result in an overall look that is still inappropriate. Even within the dress code, a form-fitting dress will be more appropriate if it is longer or long-sleeved, for example. A shorter dress will look better with lower heels.
There are many beautiful and stylish dresses that meet the dress code!
Dress Code Summary

- With modesty in mind, the dress code will be enforced.
- Dresses may not be cut below the bust line.
- Necklines must not be lower than five inches from the base of the neck.
- Hemlines of dresses and rompers should be no shorter than five inches above the knees.
- Midriffs will not be exposed. This includes both front and side.
- Very tight, “body con” or bandage dresses are not permitted.
- Dresses may not have a slit that exceeds mid-thigh.
- Dresses must meet the dress code without mesh or pinning.
- No cover-ups (coats, shawls, sweaters) will be allowed over dresses that do not meet dress code.
Make good decisions.
Be safe.
Have fun.