

Baton Twirling Timeline – All Organizations

- 1890: Major Millsaps brings the sport of baton twirling to North America when he establishes Millsap's College in Jackson, Mississippi.
- 1945: First *Drum Major Magazine*
- 1946: NBTA, first Miss Majorette of America contest
- 1947: NBTA (National Board of Technical Advisors) organized by a board lead by Don Sartell
NBTA, first efforts to standardize a score sheet
NBTA, first Miss Majorette of America (Rosemary Schwebs, winner)
DMA, Drum Majorettes of America established by Victor Faber (originally Drum Majors and Majorettes of America)
- 1948: NBTA, John T. Totilas displays leadership in strengthening ties between twirling leaders
DMA, first Majorette Queen of America contest (Bobby Kay Ameling, winner)
- 1950: NBTA, first edition of *Who's Who in Baton Twirling* published
- 1951: NBTA, first National Majorette contest held (Naomi Zarbock, Sr. champion; Ann Nita Ekstrom, Jr. champion)
- 1952: NBTA, wages nationwide campaign to win national prominence for twirling
- 1953: NBTA, National Baton Twirling Teachers and Judges organizations begin
NBTA, first National Twirling Teachers convention held
NBTA, Twirling Hall of Fame inaugurated
- 1954: Popularity of novelty batons becomes highly evident with the increased use of hoops, ribbon batons, fire batons, etc.
- 1955: NBTA, first Jr. Miss Majorette of America contest (Carolyn Ford, winner)
Drum Major Magazine becomes pictorial magazine
- 1957: NBTA, score sheets for two baton, flag, and corps contest introduced
NBTA, National Championship CORPS contest planned, National Scholarship Committee formed
NBTA, Mrs. Majorette of America formed
United States Amateur Twirling Association, Inc. organized to promote education and scholarship opportunities
- 1958: NBTA, six scholarships amounting to \$1,000 cash established as prizes for National Majorette Contest
United States Baton Twirling Association (USTA) founded.
USTA, first Girls' solo champion (Gyl Johnson, Diamond Cup); first strut champion (Karen Kaiser, Silver Boot)
- 1959: NBTA, National Majorette finalists Joyce Rice and Claudette Riley compete on "I've Got a Secret"
George Walbridge, Ray Gaedke, and Merl Smith purchase the Ludwig Baton Company and rename it Star Line. Star Line, Inc. (Indiana)
USTA, first boys' solo champion (Chet Jones)
- 1960: NBTA, new qualification standards for judges and teachers, new rule book, novice division created
WTA, World Twirling Association established
- 1961: NBTA, National Rules Commission established; new Intermediate division, maximum age of 21, new NBTA emblem
- 1962: NBTA, first Miss Majorette of America "In Person" Pageant held at the St. Paul Winter

Carnival

- International Baton Twirling Association formed
USTA, first two-baton champion (Kathy Heams)
- 1965: NTBA National Corps and Miss Majorette of American held at New York World's Fair
- 1966: NBTA, America's Youth on Parade, University of Mississippi
NBTA, National Boys contest held inside for the first time
- 1967: NBTA, AYOP becomes first baton twirling youth event to attract representatives from all 50 states.
- 1968: NBTA, Strut eliminates twirling to preserve the art of strutting
USTA, Dale White first male to win two-baton title
- 1969: NBTA, AYOP held in Syracuse, NY.
- 1970: NBTA, AYOP held at Notre Dame University.
- 1971: NBTA, first College Miss Majorette of America pageant.
- 1973: NBTA, first World Majorette Festival, Hawaii
- 1974: USTA, Solo division split into boys/girls and adult men/women (Michael Cruz, Boys' champion; Joe Poltrone, Adult Men's champion; Debbie Rolph, Girls' champion Diamond Cup; Candy Frank, Adult Women's champion)
- 1975: NBTA, first Juvenile National Majorette Championships "Little Big One," Disney World
- 1976: USTA, first dance twirl competition (Lauren Deery, champion)
USTA, first three-baton competition (Ginnette Groome, champion)
- 1977: WBTF formed in London, England. First president: Mr. John Kirkendall of Ypsilanti, Michigan
- 1978: WBTF by-laws agreed upon on Canary Island.
NBTA, first Grand Festival Tour of Europe, featuring the United States Twirling Team
- 1979: WBTF World Demonstration of Baton Twirling in Piazza San Marco, Venice, Italy
USTA, Glenn Bittenbender first male dance twirl champion
- 1980: WBTF, first world championships with teams from ten countries held in Seattle, Washington (Free Style and Compulsory Moves)
- 1981: WBTF allows teams at world competition
- 1982: NBTA, Great Britain division of NBTA International organized
NBTA, Ronald Reagan sends telegram to participants of AYOP at Notre Dame
USTA, Glenn Bittenbender first male to win three-baton title
- 1984: NBTA International introduces new rulebook with new age plan and Super-X strut.
- 1985: NBTA, first NBTA Europe All-Europe contest in Spain; Don Sartell authors *Understanding the Solo Score Sheet* chart for NBTA International
- 1988: NBTA, Twin Conference Program is done away with and replaced by one National Majorette Championship each year
- 1989: DMA introduces Senior Majorette Queen title (Ashley Edmonds, champion)
- 1990: NBTA International hosts their first world competition in Amsterdam, Holland
- 1991: Official WBTF Constitution with a complete set of by-laws, rules, and regulations signed by fourteen countries.
- 1993: WBTF allows pairs at world competition
WBTF, Baton twirling presented as a promotional sport at the World Games, The Hague, Netherlands.
NBTA International sets "Safety First" rule to protect baton twirlers and the integrity of

baton twirling

- NBTA International hosts world competition in Marseilles, France
- 1996: NBTA World Championships, Italy
- 1997: NBTA, Poland joins NBTA International
- 1998: DMA, Victor Faber retires as National Executive Director. Doris Faber takes over.
- 1999: Last *Who's Who of Baton Twirling* is printed
- 2000: NBTA International hosts world competition in Birmingham, England
- 2003: NBTA International hosts world competition in Marseilles, France
NBTA, first African American Grand National Champion (Juv.) and Juvenile Miss
Majorette of America, Taylor Bolds
- 2005: WBTF replaces compulsory moves with a short program for senior men and women's
divisions.
USTA, first International Cup
- 2006: NBTA International hosts world competition in Eindhoven, Netherlands
- 2009: NBTA International hosts world competition in Ghent, Belgium
- 2012: NBTA International hosts world competition in Switzerland
- 2014: Starline Baton purchases Sharp Baton
- 2015: World Federation of National Baton Twirling Associations (WFNBTA), First
International Grand Prix with combined NBTA and USTA participation
NBTA International hosts world competition in Lignano, Italy