



**Terms & Conditions**

THE FOLLOWING RULES AND REGULATIONS SHALL BE READ AND A SIGNATURE PROVIDED ON THE STUDIO ENTRY FORM ACKNOWLEDGING ACCEPTANCE OF ALL RULES AND REGULATIONS SET FORTH.

**General Categories & Time Allowances**

Solo	1 Dancer	3 min
Duet/Trio	2-3	3 min
Small Group	4-9	3 min 30 sec
Large Group	10+	3 min 30 sec
Production	Min. 20+	4 min 30 sec (min) 6 min (max)
Production Extended	Min. 30+	6 min (min) 10 min (max)

**Performance Divisions**

**PROFESSIONAL:** Dancers with competitive experience, dancing more than five (5) hours per week. If a dancer competes in the Professional Division as a soloist they must remain in the Professional Division for all solos.

**APPRENTICE:** Dancers with little or no competitive experience, dancing equal to or less than five (5) hours per week. In a mixed Professional and Apprentice group routine, at least 75% of the dancers must be from the Apprentice Division. For duets/trios, 100% of the dancers must be from the Apprentice Division. There will be no Production categories in this division; they must be entered in the Professional Division. There will be NO cash prizes in this division.

Teachers are left to use their own sound judgment when entering routines. The judges or Dance Championships directors have the right to elevate a routine that appears to be under-placed. All decisions are final.

**Age Divisions**

**PROFESSIONAL DIVISION:** 6 & Under, 7-8 Years, 9-10 Years, 11-12 Years, 13-14 Years, 15-16 Years, 17-18 Years and 19 & Over.

**APPRENTICE DIVISION:** Junior (10 & Under), Teen (11-14 Years), Senior (15 & Over).

Categories shall be split when more than 10 entries are received in an age division. Where possible, such division shall be based on age. A dance routine may enter a higher age category to avoid competing against itself. A dancer may compete against him/herself in a group routine when the majority of the dancers are different. No dancer may perform the same routine twice in two (2) different age divisions.

**Age Determination**

The average age of all dancers on the first day of competition determines the appropriate age division for each routine. ROUND UP WHEN THE DECIMAL IS .5 or GREATER. Full names, ages and birth dates shall be included on the entry form or online registration. Each dancer shall bring proof of age. If a protest is registered, such proof shall be presented upon request of a Dance Championships Director.

**Dance Categories**

All dance categories, excluding acro and hip-hop, may contain no more than two (2) gymnastic tricks. A trick is a movement that passes through or stops at a fully inverted position with both feet off the floor. Shoulder rolls and lifts are not considered tricks. A gymnastic pass is considered one (1) trick.

If lip synchronization or props are used in any dance category other than open, it shall play a minor role in the routine. The major emphasis of the routine shall be dance.

**JAZZ:** Routine shall consist primarily of jazz technique.

**TAP:** Routine shall contain tap technique and consist primarily of tap work. Tap sounds on CD are NOT allowed.

**BALLET/POINTE:** Routine shall consist primarily of ballet technique and include classical steps and movements.

**LYRICAL:** Routine shall interpret the lyrics or mood of the music by demonstrating balance, extensions, isolations and control of movement.

**CONTEMPORARY:** Routine shall incorporate lyrical or jazz movement combined with modern elements.

**MODERN:** A contemporary or abstract style of dance. Routine shall be danced in a contemporary modern style exhibiting freedom of movement to create unusual and interesting effects.

**ACRO:** Routine shall consist primarily of acrobatic moves incorporated with the rhythm of the music. Routine shall consist of at least 50 percent acrobatic moves with the balance of the routine containing dance moves, steps and choreography. Acro contestants shall provide their own equipment.

**PRODUCTION:** Routine shall tell a story or portray a theme. Routine may incorporate any combination of listed dance categories.

**OPEN:** Any routine that does not apply to the listed dance categories including, but not limited to, musical comedy, mime, character, clogging, song & dance.

**HIP HOP:** Routine shall consist primarily of hip hop or street-style technique.

**Entries & Schedules**

Entries will be processed on a first come basis when received with payment in full (payable with check or money order. Credit cards are not accepted).

- **EARLY REGISTRATION:** entries postmarked or received online by the early registration deadline shall receive discounted rates.
- **REGISTRATION DEADLINE:** entries postmarked or received online by the registration deadline.
- **LATE REGISTRATION:** entries postmarked or received online after the registration deadline shall be assessed a late fee. In order to protect the integrity of the schedule, entries received after the registration deadline will be accepted at the discretion of the Directors.

Studio schedules including performance times shall be mailed at least 10 days prior to the scheduled competition. A fee may be assessed for all changes made less than 14 days prior to the competition. Entries submitted less than 7 days prior to the competition must be paid for with a cashier's check or money order.

**Performing**

All dancers are required to be at the competition at least one (1) hour prior to their scheduled performance times except during the first hour of competition, when dancers are required to be at the competition site 1/2 hour prior to their scheduled performance times.

Dancers shall report backstage three (3) routines in advance of their scheduled performance, accompanied by a studio director or teacher. The wrongful holding of numbers may result in disqualification. Entrances and music shall not start until the MC announces the routine to the judges. Any dancer leaving the stage and not completing a routine will not be allowed to repeat the routine, unless there is a problem with the music.

**Backstage**

Due to limited space available, the only persons allowed backstage during the competition, except participating dancers, are studio directors and teachers and those who are needed to move props. Studio directors and teachers shall not arrive backstage more than five (5) routines in advance of the start of the category. The backstage shall remain clear for routines to enter and exit.

**Music**

CD's shall be turned in three (3) routines prior to the scheduled performance. The name of the routine and studio shall be clearly printed on the CD or label. All performance CDs shall be picked up immediately after completion of the performance. Dance Championships Directors are not responsible for lost or stolen CDs.

**Props**

The Dance Championships is not responsible for any props. The taking on and off of props and cleaning the stage after it has become littered during a routine is the sole responsibility of the studio. Trampolines are not allowed.

**Indecent Movements, Lyrics, or Costuming**

If dance movements, lyrics or costuming is deemed too suggestive or otherwise inappropriate for our family audience, it shall not be scored. Such determination shall be made by the panel of judges.

**Judging Panel**

Contestants shall be adjudicated by a panel of qualified, competent judges. All decisions of the judges are final. Judges comments shall be labeled, organized in chronological order and provided to each Studio Director on a USB flash drive or compact disc (CD). In the event of a technical problem, cassette tapes shall be used.

Each judge will award up to 100 points in each of the following categories: technique, presentation, and overall impression (cumulative total of 300 points per judge). The cumulative score of the three judges (maximum 900 points) will determine the ranking of the routine. Critiques and score sheets will be provided at the conclusion of each award's ceremony.

### **Awards**

In the event of a tie for Overall High Score or Grand Champion, a Trophy shall be presented to each routine and the Cash Scholarship shall be equally divided.

### **CATEGORIES:**

- Every dancer in the three (3) highest scoring routines in each category will receive a gold, silver or bronze medal with neck ribbon, according to placement.
- Routines achieving an average score equal to or more than 90 and less than 95 will be announced "with merit."
- Each dancer in a routine achieving an average score equal to or more than 95 will receive an additional honor signifying "Elite" achievement.
- Honorable Mention ribbons:
  - Professional Division: shall be awarded to each dancer in the remaining routines for each category in the 12 & Under age divisions.
  - Apprentice Division: shall be awarded to each dancer in the remaining routines for all age divisions.

### **OVERALL HIGH SCORES:**

- Professional Division: For each age division containing a minimum 10 qualifying routines, a \$200.00 Cash Scholarship and Trophy shall be presented to the Overall High Score. For each division containing a minimum 15 qualifying routines, trophies shall be awarded to the next nine (9) highest scoring routines. The Dance Championships reserves the right to combine age divisions should there be less than 10 qualifying routines.
- Apprentice Division: For each age division containing a minimum 10 qualifying routines, one (1) Trophy shall be presented to the overall High Score. **Routines entered in the Apprentice Division will NOT be eligible for cash scholarships.**

### **GRAND CHAMPION:**

A \$100 Cash Scholarship and Trophy shall be presented to the highest scoring routine in the 12 & Under age division. A \$100 Cash Scholarship and Trophy shall be presented to the highest scoring routine in the 13 & Over age division. A Grand Champion Ribbon shall be presented to each dancer in a Grand Champion routine other than solos. A Trophy will be presented to the teacher of the Grand Champion routine. **Routines entered in the Apprentice Division will NOT be eligible for the Grand Champion.**

### **SPECIAL AWARDS:**

- Choreography: For each age division containing a minimum 10 qualifying routines, one (1) Choreography Plaque shall be presented to the teacher of a solo/duet/trio and one (1) shall be presented to the teacher of a group, each selected by the judges. **Routines entered in the Apprentice Division will NOT be eligible for Choreography awards.**
- Studio Spirit: A \$100.00 Cash Studio Spirit Award and a Plaque shall be presented to the studio Director of the dance studio entering the most dancers.
- Production: Production routines will not compete for the Grand Champion Scholarship and Trophy; however, the highest scoring production routine shall receive a Trophy. Where there are three (3) or more production routines, a \$100 Scholarship shall be included.

### **Scoring**

If there is only one contestant in a category, an average score of 87 shall be attained to receive a gold medal

### **Deductions**

- 15 pt. deduction: if tap sounds are on tape in tap category
- 15 pt. deduction: for violating rule regarding gymnastic tricks
- 15 pt. deduction: for dancer performing incomplete routine
- 1 pt. per second, per judge: for violating time allowances

### **Studio Director & Teachers**

Studio Directors shall check-in at the hospitality desk. Judges comments shall be available to the Studio Directors after their studio's participation in the competition is completed. Score sheets shall be distributed at the hospitality desk to teachers only after each award ceremony. Scoring results shall be posted in the Directors' Room for teachers to view throughout the competition. Protests shall be submitted by the Studio Director or teacher to a Dance Championships Director prior to the ensuing award ceremony.

### **Prohibitives**

Non-compliance will result in disqualification or removal from the competition site. Smoking, the use of spray paints, finger-nail polish anywhere in the building. Eating or drinking in the auditorium. Rhythmic applauding, screaming or whistling during the performance of a routine. Photography and video cameras (including digital cameras and cell phones). Studio Directors and Dance Teachers 19 years or older who teach competition classes will not be allowed to compete.

### **Inherent Risks**

Any dancer competing in a dance competition takes certain inherent risks. These may include, but are not limited to, sprains, pulled muscles and broken bones. Participation in this competition indicates the acceptance of such risks by dancers. By virtue of entering this event, it is agreed that dancers shall not hold The Dance Championships or its officers, directors or staff responsible for injuries sustained while in attendance or participating in The Dance Championships event. Furthermore, The Dance Championships is not responsible for personal property loss or theft to either dancers or other persons.

### **Media Release**

Participants and teachers by virtue of entering a Dance Championships competition, give their permission and consent to the Dance Championships Directors to use their images or photographs or appear on videos, television or any other electronic media for advertising, news coverage or any other commercial use of our events.