



2017 RULES & REGULATIONS

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	4 min
Large Group	10+	4 min
Production	Min. 20+	6 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: 8 & Under, 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 duet/trio or group routine when 50 percent (%) or more of the dancers are different within the same dance/age category. 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, hip-hop, musical theater, and specialty may contain no more than three (3) 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.

MUSICAL THEATER: Routine featuring one or any combination of "Broadway" theater, character, musical comedy, and song and dance.

SPECIALTY: Routine is not consistent with the dance category definitions or includes a combination thereof. Note: This category may not be used to avoid competing against oneself in the other dance categories. In such cases, the conflicting routine must enter a higher age division.

HIPHOP: 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:** 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 e-mailed at least 14 days prior to the scheduled competition. Studios will have a 14-day grace period to review the schedule for any corrections or updates:

- Changes requested more than 14 days after initial distribution of the studio schedules will be assessed a \$5.00 fee, per change. Changes to the routine title, dancer's name, or the number of dancers performing will not be assessed a change fee, except where the change in number of dancers requires a change in the general category or age division.
- Payments submitted less than seven (7) days prior to the competition must be made with cash, a cashier's check, or money order. Any outstanding balance shall be closed prior to the studio's first scheduled routine; routines will not be allowed to perform if an outstanding balance is open.

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. A representative shall check-in backstage approximately five (5) routines before their schedule performance. Dancers competing in a group routine shall not queue backstage until one (1) number before their scheduled performance. Backstage shall remain clear for routines to enter and exit; Dance Championships Directors reserve the right to clear the backstage area, as needed.

Music

Music may be uploaded online up to 10 days prior to the first day of competition, or CDs and iPods shall be turned in three (3) routines prior to the scheduled performance. All CDs and iPods shall be picked up immediately following completion of the performance. Dance Championships Directors are not responsible for lost or stolen CDs or iPods.

- **DIGITAL UPLOAD:** Music may be digitally uploaded through the online registration software.
- **CDs:** The routine and studio name shall be clearly printed on the CD or label.
- **iPODs:**
 - Name of the studio shall be visible on the device.
 - An individual playlist shall be created for each routine with only one (1) song in each playlist.
 - Playlist shall be labeled with the entry number and routine name, for e.g. "426 – Dance, Dance, Dance."
 - Song file shall be labeled with the routine name.
 - The repeat function must be disabled.



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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/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 and video shall be provided to each Studio Director.

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 92 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 Award shall be presented to the Overall High Score. For each age division containing a minimum 15 qualifying routines, Awards shall be presented 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, where there are two routines, the highest scoring production routine shall receive a Plaque. Where there are three (3) or more production routines, a Plaque and \$100 Scholarship shall be awarded.

Scoring

If there is only one contestant in a category, a gold medal shall be conferred automatically.

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

5 pt. deduction, per routine: use of flash photography and video cameras

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

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. Studio Directors and Dance Teachers 19 years or older who teach competition classes will not be allowed to compete. Use of any photography and video cameras (including digital cameras and cell phones) will result in a 5-point deduction per routine. Repeated offenses of any prohibitive may result in disqualification.

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.