

# *2015 Dance Champs Rules and Regulations*

*Please read the following rules, regulations and information very carefully.  
Failure to comply could result in point deductions, extra fees, and disqualifications.*

**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS** -- DANCE CHAMPS is open to performers of all ages.

- Performers may enter as many routines as they wish.
- A SEPARATE ENTRY FORM must be submitted for each routine. Studio Summary Sheet, Entry Forms and Dancers Release Forms need to be filled out completely, legibly, and sent to our DC office by the deadline date.
- Names and ages of all participants must appear on the official entry form or it will not be accepted.
- We do not accept independent entries
- **Entries are not accepted the day of the competition.**

**Mail Entries** with payment (cashier's check, money order or credit card information or register on line by credit card payment only).

- NO personal check accepted.
- **NO REFUNDS** after the deadline date.
- Cancellation due to injury, illness or other reason will be given a partial credit for future Dance Champs competitions. You must request an official Dance Champs Studio Credit Form, complete it, and have it signed by DC Director. To claim your credit, you must submit the Credit Form (copies not accepted) with your future entries. DC will not replace lost Credit Forms.
- Entries are due in our office 30 days prior to the competition date.
- Entries are accepted on a "First Come, First Serve" basis and will be limited based on available venue times. Entries received without payment will not be accepted or processed until payment is received.
- If the maximum number of entries has been received by the deadline date, additional entries will not be accepted.
- DC reserves the right to change competition dates and locations due to unforeseen circumstances, add additional competition days, or cancel a competition that does not receive the minimum entries required.
- Confirmation packets will be emailed to your studio, informing you of your studio code, and competition schedule at least seven days prior to the competition or teachers may access "DC Connection" to access their studio information.

**ENTRIES** received after the deadline date are subject to a \$10 late fee per routine payable prior to competing and may not appear in the program book.

- A change to a routine is subject to a \$10 service charge, payable by credit card.
- No changes can be made ten days prior to the competition and **ABSOLUTELY NO** changes at the competition.
- There is a \$30 service charge on all returned checks and credit card payments with 2% interest charged per month until full payment is received.
- No phone or faxed entries will be accepted.

## **STUDIO REBATES - STAR REWARDS CLUB**

**10% Studio Rebates** are offered to qualifying studios with the following requirements:

- (1) Entries exceeding \$2,000,
  - (2) Entries received 45 days prior to the first day of selected competition,
  - (3) Completed Studio Summary Form, and Dancers' Release Form, and
  - (4) Entry fees paid in full by cashiers' check or studio check.
- If paying by credit card and comply with (1), (2) and (3) requirements, a six percent rebate will be given.

Rebates will be mailed to the studio two weeks after the competition. If payment is returned as "unpaid", no rebate will be given.

### THREE LEVELS OF COMPETITION

**RISE CHAMPION** is designed for dancers, 19 years of age or younger, who attend three hours or less of dance classes/rehearsals per week and has limited or no competition experience.

- High point awards will be presented. No cash awards at this level.

**ROYAL CHAMPION** is designated for dancers 19 years of age or younger, who attends five hours or less of dance classes/rehearsals per week and has limited competition experience.

- Routines are eligible for High Point Awards.
- High Point Solo, Duet/Trio, Small Groups, Large Groups, and Production in Petites, Juniors, Teens, and Senior Division will be awarded \$50. At least five routines in each category required for cash awards.

**GRAND CHAMPION** is designated for dancers, 19 years of age and younger, who attend more than five and a half hours of dance classes/rehearsals a week and has extensive competition experience.

- The GRAND CHAMPION level is open to all performers.
- High Point performances will be announced.
- Cash Awards will be presented to High Point Solos, Duet/Trios, Groups and Productions routines for Petites, Juniors, Teens and Senior Division as designated.
- At least eight routines in each category required for cash awards. If a category has less than eight routines but more than five routines, in a category, high point routines will be awarded \$50.

A dancer must compete all of their solos in the same selected Champion Division. Group routines may compete in different Champion Divisions as selected. Group Champion levels are determined by the majority of dancers dance skill. If a performance level is not selected, your routine will be placed in the **GRAND CHAMPION** level. DC asks that you use fair judgment when placing groups into performance levels. The various levels are designed to give dancers an equal competitive level of competition.

<i>AGE Category</i>	<i>Petites</i>	<i>3 – 8 years of age</i>
	<i>Juniors</i>	<i>9 – 11 years of age</i>
	<i>Teens</i>	<i>12 - 14 years of age</i>
	<i>Seniors</i>	<i>15 – 18 years of age</i>
	<i>Adults</i>	<i>19 years of age or older</i>

- Age is based on the dancer's age as of January 1, 2015.
- Duet/trios, small groups, large groups, and production numbers are based on the average age of dancers. **DECIMALS ARE DROPPED WHEN DETERMINING AGE OF ROUTINE.**
- If protests arise, dancers must be prepared to present proof of age. (birth certificate, drivers license, etc.) or you may be disqualified. Protests must be in writing, signed, and presented to the DC Director one/half hour prior to the incident.
- If there is a dancer 18 years old or older and the average age is 12 years and under, the group routine must compete in the 13 / Over Division. The youngest group dancer must remain on the stage 25% of the routine.

**RELEASE FORMS** – Each performer's parent/legal guardian must sign the Official Dance Champs Release Form. The signed release form must accompany the completed studio entries by the deadline date. By performing on stage, each performer and guardian accepts the terms of the release form no matter of age.

<b>ENTRY FEES -</b>	<b>SOLOS</b>	<b>(1 Dancer)</b>	<b>\$90</b>	<b>2:45 MN</b>
	<b>DUETS/TRIOS</b>	<b>(2/3 Dancer)</b>	<b>\$45 Each</b>	<b>2:45 MN</b>
	<b>SMALL GROUPS</b>	<b>(4-9 Dancers)</b>	<b>\$32 EACH</b>	<b>3:00 MN</b>
	<b>LARGE GROUPS</b>	<b>(10-19 Dancers)</b>	<b>\$32 EACH</b>	<b>3:00 MN</b>
	<b>PRODUCTIONS</b>	<b>(20 or More Dancers) \</b>	<b>\$32 EACH</b>	<b>7:00 MN</b>

**EXTENDED TME** limits may be purchased to accommodate longer routines. \$10 for one additional minute per routine with a maximum not to exceed two additional minutes per routine. Time limits are strictly enforced.

**PERFORMANCE CATEGORIES** consists of **BALLET, POINTE, LYRICAL, CONTEMPORARY, TAP, CLOGGING, SONG AND DANCE, POM PON, JAZZ, HIP HOP, ACROBATS, CHARACTER, OPEN, PRODUCTION, MODERN, MUSICAL THEATRE, ADULT, AND PARENT.**

- Routines containing three or more tricks, must compete in the Acrobat, Character or Open categories.
- A gymnastic pass is considered one trick. Lifts are permissible.

**Acrobat** – Combines gymnastic and dance choreography.

**Ballet** – Consists of ballet technique, classical steps and movement.

**Character** – A routine portraying a recognizable character

**Clogging** – Performed in clogging shoes using clogging technique

**Hip Hop** – Street or contemporary jazz-funk. Must have appropriate lyrics

**Jazz** – A routine consisting of jazz movements and technique

**Lyrical** – Dancers interpret the lyrics, mood and content of the music

**Modern** – Interpret dance using balance, control, and contemporary modern style

**Musical Theatre** – Any style of dance interpreting a song from Broadway/Movie Musical

**Open** – Any style of dance

**Pointe** – Classical or contemporary pointe technique and steps –pointe shoes only

**Pom Pon** – Routine includes marching, kicks, leaps, sharp arm movements and the use of poms

**Song and Dance** – Must contain singing and any style of dance –

**Tap** – Uses Tap technique and steps. No tap sounds in music.

**SINGING** is allowed only in **SONG AND DANCE, CHARACTER, OPEN, PRODUCTION, MUSICAL THEATRE,** and **PARENT DIVISION.**

- Additional sound equipment/microphones may NOT be used or connected to the Dance Champ sound system.
- **Microphones** need to be requested in writing at least one week prior to the competition day.

**ADULT CATEGORY** - Adults may compete in group routines only.

- Parent routines include parents and/or parents with dancers and are adjudicated only.
- Routines are not eligible for High Point/Cash Awards, but will be awarded a special award for top in the category
- If any dancer, age 19 or over competes in a duet/trio, group or line routine, they must compete in the adult division.
- This includes any studio director, full time instructor, student instructor, choreographer and or working performer who is 19 years old and over.

**MUSIC** – We accept CD's and flash drives ONLY

- An accessible backup for all routines is required to be in your possession during the competition. –
- Turn in your studio music at the Registration table one hour prior to the start of the competition.
- Music can be picked up at the end of each competition day by the Studio director. Studio name cannot be used as song title, name of routine, worn as costume apparel or appear on a prop.
- Sound Systems vary at each location. Our MC will not adjust the speed of the music or make cuts in the music or download music.
- Dance Champs is not responsible for lost, stolen or unclaimed music.

**If submitting CDs**

- Each routine must be recorded on a single CD.
- CDs must be in a protective sleeve /case. DC is not responsible for damaged CDs.
- CD and CD sleeves needs to be clearly labeled.
- CD labels will be available the day of the competition.
- Do not place label on CD, but indicate your studio code, name of the routines and routine number on the CD
- We recommend music be professionally duplicated as DC cannot be responsible for unreadable CDs.
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**If submitting USB FLASH DRIVES**

Routines need to be in numerical order according to our program

- Example:                      Filename:                      003 Steam Heat 103.mp3

**MUSIC LABELS** will be mailed to you and must be placed on your CD's. Cd's and CD sleeves need to be marked accordingly.

**JUDGING-** Our panel of well-qualified judges critique each performance against a pre-set point system. (100 points per judge) Our scoring system allows for multiples of PLATINUM, HIGH GOLD, GOLD, and HIGH SILVER Judges decisions are final and represent their professional opinions. If the judges feel that a performance's choreography, costume, or song lyrics are inappropriate, points will be deducted and they will not be eligible for high point awards. Routines may be stopped and disqualified. DEDUCTIONS: time limit (1 pt); routines not completed (5 pts); routines, music, and costumes not suited for family viewing (1-6 pts); entered in the wrong category (1 pt); time delays (5 pts) per judge.

**AUDIO/VIDEO Judges Critiques** may be accessed by teachers on the Monday following the competition through our website. Studio access codes will be given to studio directors upon conclusion of the competition. One Video and three audio critiques will be given for each performance. Scores will be given out at the conclusion of the competition.

**COMPETITION SCHEDULE** – Dance Champs does not have a general format for our regional competitions. When all entries are received, a time schedule is confirmed and posted on our Dance Champs website 7-10 days prior to the competition. Each regional competition schedule may vary. Dance Champs strives to obtain high quality theatres with stages, at least 40 feet wide and 30 feet deep, covered by marley floors. Rosin is permitted but must be provided by your studio.

**MR. and MISS DANCE CHAMPS TITLE** –All solos qualify for Mr/Miss Petite, Junior, Teen and Senior Dance Champ Title at NO EXTRA ENTRY FEE. The High Point Platinum/High Gold score is awarded this title, along with a crown, and cash award.

**FREE IPAD MINI** will be given to each studio entering 50 or more routines. Studios not meeting the criteria will receive tickets for each routine they enter and for each of their dancers participating in or DC Challenge. A drawing will be held and the winning studio will receive a FREE IPAD MINI. A minimum of 200 routines required for the drawing.

**AWARDS** - Thousands of dollars in cash, merchandise and trophies will be awarded at each of our Regional competitions. One trophy will be awarded to each performance.

- Duet/trios, groups and production performances will also be awarded placement ribbons.
- All performances are eligible for HIGH POINT awards within their "Champion" Level (excluding Adults, 19 years and older routines)
- HIGH POINT PERFORMANCES (achieving Platinum, High Gold or Gold) in PETITES, JUNIORS, TEENS, and SENIOR DIVISION WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN EACH CATEGORY (Solo, duet/trio, small group, large group, and production routines with at least three in the category) Cash Awards will be awarded in the Grand Champion Division as designated.
- A minimum of eight routines in each category is required for cash awards in the Grand Champion. Fifty (\$50) will be awarded to the High Point First Place performance if less than eight routines, but five or more routines compete in the Grand Champion Level.
- High Point First Place performances in the Royal Champion Division will be awarded \$50 for Solos, Duet/Trios and Group routines with at least five routines in the category.
- The same performers cannot place more than once in the High Point Awards or compete against themselves in the same performance or age category.
- In case of a tie, the cash award will be divided.
- 2014/2015 Regional High Point First Place recipients may not enter the same routine at another Dance Champ Regional Competition in the same year.
- Cash awards will be sent to the Studio Director.

**DC DANCE CHALLENGE** – Join DC for a "Simulated Audition". A short routine will be taught. Dancers will perform on stage until the judges have chosen the top three winners from the Junior Division (11 years of age and younger) and the Senior Division (12 years of age and older). Winners will be awarded \$25, \$15, \$10 in DC Cash. Tickets may be purchased at the DC Boutique for \$10. DC reserves the right to offer a Petite Division for dancers 6-8 year of age.

**APPROPRIATE PERFORMANCES** is one of the most controversial concerns in the dance industry. Dance Champs is a family-oriented dance competition that is dedicated to providing a safe, positive environment for our dancers and our audience. Points will be deducted, at the judges' discretion for routines with inappropriate or suggestive music, costumes, and/or dance moves. Opinions concerning what is suitable varies. Dance Champs disallows and will disqualify any act for any reason, including those that may be considered inappropriate by the general viewing public. The decisions of the judges are final and represent their professional opinions, not necessarily those of the DC management or staff. Performances displaying highly charged issues reflecting a lack of discretion and awareness of the age and nature of a competition audience will be deemed inappropriate and adjudicated only.

**PROPS** are permissible and must be essential to the routine. We encourage you to use discretion in the size and quantity of props, keeping in mind that venue space is limited. We have limited space at our venues and transporting them thru doors may not be accessible. Props must be in place within 2 minutes and cleared from the stage within 2 minutes. A deduction of 2 points will be taken for each 30 seconds over the time limit. Backdrops, hanging pieces or special lights are prohibited. Props that damage the venue in any way due to dragging, weight, sharp points, etc. will result in point deductions. These safety measures must be adhered. Props are such things as ropes, balls, chairs, benches, and free standing scenery. All props must be labeled with the studio name. If you have questions concerning props, please call our office. The use of fire, smoke, fog machines, knives, electricity and live animals are prohibited. Liquids of any kind, gel, aerosol, helium balloons and throwing of glitter is prohibited. Props cannot exceed 10 feet high and performers cannot stand above 6' on the prop. Free standing props need to be carried on and off the stage. Props need to have buffers/wheels at the bottom. Mats are permitted, but adhere to the same rules. Performers must completely clear off the stage in the event of loose feathers, streamers, hairpieces, etc. or points will be deducted. No items may be thrown or shot into the audience. Dancing in the aisles, jumping off the stage, or dancing near the judges or audience is strictly prohibited. Deductions will result and routines may not qualify for high point awards. Studio owners/teachers will be held liable for any damage to the stage, (as a result of props damaging the stage), dressing rooms, or any part of the venue as a result of the action of your studio. If you cannot set up your props within the designated time limits, please reconsider your props. PROPS not adhering to the time allotted for set up add delays and over extend the competition schedule making us run over our scheduled time.

## **Performance Number**

**Each performance is assigned a number used for reference and identification purposes. DC runs in numerical order. However, in order to accommodate back to back costume changes, you may be asked to compete out of sequence. Dancers need to be checked in with our back stage managers at least one hour prior to your assigned time and be prepared to compete when your number is called. Points will be deducted if performers do not perform in the scheduled sequence, unless permission has been granted by the stage manager or director.** Legitimate costume change issues of less than 4 routines will be accommodated. In the interest of running on time, Dance Champs reserved the right to modify the performance schedule. The wrongful holding of routines will result in a five point deductions.

- Incomplete performances will be adjudicated, and not eligible for High Point Awards. No re-performances will be allowed unless there are unforeseen technical difficulties or the judges request the performance to compete again.
- Any performer competing in a dance competition takes certain inherent risks. These include but are not limited to sprains, bruises, pulled muscles, and broken bones. Dance Champs Participants indicate the acceptance of such risks. Therefore by virtue of entering and performing on stage, it is agreed that participants will not hold Dance Champs, its officers, directors, staff, employees or hosting facility responsible for injuries sustained or illnesses contracted by them while in attendance and/or participating in any activity related to a Dance Champs competition. Dance Champs and the hosting facility are not responsible for personal injury to contestants, spectators, or property loss.
- All participants, teachers, dancers, spectators grant permission/consent to the directors of Dance Champs the use of their photographs, videos, or other electronic media to appear in advertising, news coverage, DC website, or any other commercial use of our event to promote Dance Champs.
- **PERFORMERS CANNOT ENTER, EXIT, OR JUMP OFF THE FRONT OF THE STAGE DURING OR AFTER THEIR PERFORMANCE. THIS IS FOR THE SAFETY OF THE DANCERS, JUDGES, AND OUR AUDIENCE.**
- A Soloist may not compete against themselves in the same performance category. The same group of performers cannot compete more than once in the same exact division, category and age division.
- **Coaching** of dancers is strictly prohibited.
- **Performance rehearsals** need to be completed 30 minutes prior to the dancers' scheduled performance time.
- DC is a family-oriented dance competition that is dedicated to providing a safe, positive environment for our dancers and audience.

## **FREE ADMISSION TO ALL SPECTATORS**

Merchandise, programs books, photos, videos, trophies, and awards will be available for purchase.

Dance Champs reserves the right to refuse entry into the competition as a competitor or spectator to any group or individual who has been deemed unsportsmanlike by our staff. Anyone displaying unsportsmanlike behavior during the event will immediately be asked to leave the facility with loss of entry fees, awards and future performances and disqualification of routines.

**Photography** is strictly prohibited unless noted. We urge all studio owners, teachers and parents to keep our performers photographically safe by reporting suspected photographic violations. If this should occur, your studio entries will be adjudicated only. Dance Champs reserves the right to confiscate the cameras being used. Please inform your studio parents of this rule. Dance Champs will have a professional photographer at each competition.

**SPORTSMANLIKE** conduct is expected from all participants including teachers, dancers, and parents. Dance Champs reserves the right to disqualify routines/studios for obstructing this rule.

**Solicitation** or advertising of any kind is prohibited and will be asked to leave immediately.

Only teachers and performers are allowed backstage.  
Same gender parents and teachers are allowed in dressing rooms

DC reserves the right to refuse service to anyone, disallow any performance, or remove individuals from the premises for any reason deemed appropriate.

**Food, beverage, and gum** are not allowed in the performing areas, dressing rooms, or audience. If food and drink is found on the premises, DC reserves the right to excuse spectators and competitors from the event. Failure to comply with these guidelines could result in disqualification of the studio.

**Smoking, alcoholic beverages, and illegal substances** are prohibited from all competition areas.

**Dressing rooms, performance** areas and backstage areas are to be left in the same condition after the competition as it was prior to the start of the competition.

We encourage the audience to applaud, clap and cheer on our performers.