

Dance Champs 2017 Rules and Regulations

“Where Dancers Shine Like Stars”

Please read carefully! Failure to comply with our rules and regulations could result in point deductions, extra fees and possibly disqualification.

REGISTRATION PROCESS:

ENTRIES must be entered on our online registration form 30 days before the respected competition city. Any entries received after the deadline date will be assessed a late fee of \$10 per entry. This fee will automatically be added to your total amount to be paid. Entries **WILL NOT** be accepted the day of the competition. Entries are not guaranteed acceptance until payment is received. Emailed, faxed or phone entries **WILL NOT** be accepted. Dance Champs has the right to refuse any entry at any time.

CHANGES/CORRECTIONS can be made via your online account. Any changes to a routine can be made 10 days before the respected competition at no charge. Studio accounts will be locked 10 days prior to the competition. If changes need to be made after the deadline, a \$5 per change will be added to your entry fee total.

EXTENDED TIME may be purchased to accommodate longer routines. There will be a \$10 fee for an additional 30 seconds per routine with a maximum not to exceed one additional minute per routine. Time limits are strictly enforced.

PAYMENTS can be made by credit card, cashier's check or studio check. Entries received after the deadline date must be paid by credit card, cashier's check or money order. Studio checks **WILL NOT** be accepted after the deadline date.

RETURNED CHECKS and/or declined credit cards will be charged a \$35 returned fee. Dance Champs **WILL NOT** offer refunds for any reason after the deadline date. No Exceptions.

STUDIO REBATES of 10% will be offered to qualifying studios with the following requirements:

- Entries exceeding \$2,000
- Entries received 45 days prior to the first day of selected competition
- Completed online registration for all performances
- Entries paid in full by credit card online, cashier's check or studio check.

****Rebates will be mailed to the studio one week after the selected competition.**

PERFORMANCE CATEGORIES:

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.

AGE DIVISIONS AND COMPETITION LEVELS:

AGE DIVISIONS are divided up into five divisions; Petite – 8 years and younger, Junior – 9-11, Teen – 12-14, Senior – 15-19 and Adult – 20 years and older. Age divisions for all routines will be the average age of all the performers as of January 1st, 2017. To determine the age group, average the ages then drop the decimal. Performances will maintain their regional age division for nationals. You must recalculate the average age of a routine for nationals if any of the dancers in a routine change. If age division protests arise, the studio must be prepared to present proof of age (birth certificate, drivers license, etc.). Failure to provide proof of age may result in disqualification of that routine. Protests must be in writing, signed by the studio director, and presented to the Dance Champs Director one hour prior to respected awards ceremony.

ADULT AGE DIVISION will not be eligible for Cash Awards, but will be presented Overall Awards. All adult performances will be in the Shining Star level. Any performance that has an adult aged performer must be placed in the Adult Division regardless of the average age.

BUMP RULE – Duet/Trios and groups that consist of dancers from multiple age divisions will only be able to compete one age division lower than the oldest dancer in the routine. If you have a senior age dancer in a group which the average age is 10, that routine must compete in the teen division regardless of the average age.

COMPETITION LEVELS are divided into three levels; Rising Star, Shooting Star and Shining Star.

Rising Star – This is a recreational level. This is for performances that just want to be on stage and shine. **NO OVERALL AWARDS ARE GIVEN IN THIS LEVEL.**

Shooting Star – This level is for the dancers just starting in the competitive world of dance. Overall Awards will be given for this level.

Shining Star – This level is for the dancers who have competed in the competitive world of dance. Overall Awards will be given for this level. *This is the **ONLY** level that is eligible to compete for Mr./Miss Dance Champs Title.

When determining competition level for Petite, Junior, Teen and Senior performances, you must use our new **3-4-5 RULE**. This is for the Shooting Star and Shining Star levels ONLY.

- 3 or less years of dance classes
- 4 or less hours of studio time a week (this counts for any time spent dancing)
- 5 or less routines at one competition

You must have two or more of the criteria above to be placed in the Shooting Star level. If a routine has only one of the criteria, they will be placed in the Shining Star level. If a group is made up of Shooting and Shining Star dancers, at least 50% of the dancers must be from the level they are competing in. Any dancer registered in the Shining Star level will not be permitted to dance in any Rising Star level performance. A dancer must compete all of their solos in the same competition level. If a competition level is not selected, the performance will automatically be entered in the Shining Star level. All performances may choose to compete in a high level if desired.

AWARDS:

GENERAL NOTES AND AWARDS

Each performance will receive a Platinum, High Gold, Gold or High Silver award based on the score given for their performance.

SHINING STAR LEVEL OVERALL AWARDS

Top Petite, Junior, Teen, Senior Solo*	\$100 + \$100 National Gift Certificate
Top Petite, Junior, Teen, Senior Duet/Trio	\$100 + \$100 National Gift Certificate
Top Petite, Junior, Teen, Senior Small Group	\$125 + \$100 National Gift Certificate
Top Petite, Junior, Teen, Senior Large Group	\$125 + \$100 National Gift Certificate
Top Petite, Junior, Teen, Senior Production	\$150 + \$150 National Gift Certificate

*The Top Shining Star Soloist in the Petite, Junior, Teen and Senior age division will be given the title of Miss/Mr. Dance Champs.

*The Top 5 Soloist in each age division will be invited to participate in the opening number at the "Cosmic Dance Challenge" (See Dance Champs Nationals for more information). Deadline to reserve your spot in the opening number will be two weeks from the end date of the competition city.

Shining Star Award – Top Shining Star score of the competition*	\$100 National Gift Certificate
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Shining Star Series – Top Soloist w/2+ routines (score is averaged) *	\$100 National Gift Certificate
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*Must have a minimum of 5 performers (10 routines)

SHOOTING STAR LEVEL OVERALL AWARDS

Top Petite, Junior, Teen, Senior Solo	\$50 + \$50 National Gift Certificate
Top Petite, Junior, Teen, Senior Duet/Trio	\$50 + \$50 National Gift Certificate
Top Petite, Junior, Teen, Senior Small Group	\$50 + \$50 National Gift Certificate
Top Petite, Junior, Teen, Senior Large Group	\$50 + \$50 National Gift Certificate
Top Petite, Junior, Teen, Senior Production	\$50 + \$50 National Gift Certificate

Shooting Star Award – Top Shooting Star score of the competition* \$50 National Gift Certificate

Shooting Star Series – Top Soloist w/2+ routines (score is averaged)* \$50 National Gift Certificate

*Must have a minimum of 5 performers (10 routines)

SHOOTING & SHINING STAR COMBINED AWARDS

Star Jazz Award – Top jazz score from each age division (petite, junior, teen and senior).*

Star Tap/Clogging Award – Top tap/clogging score from each age division (petite, junior, teen and senior).*

Star Lyrical/Ballet/Pointe Award – Top lyrical/ballet/pointe score from each age division (petite, junior, teen and senior).*

Star Open/Contemporary Award – Top open/contemporary score from each age division (petite, junior, teen and senior).*

Star Hip Hop/Pom Pon/Acro Award – Top Hip Hop/Pom Pon/Acro score from each age division (petite, junior, teen and senior).*

Star Character/Musical Theater/Song & Dance Award – Top character/musical theater/song & dance score from each age division (petite, junior, teen and senior).*

*All solo, duet/trio, small group, large group and productions in the respected age division (from both the Shooting and Shining Star levels) will be combined to make up this award. Each category must have a minimum of 10 performances per category in order for this award to be presented. Dance Champs has the right to combine categories. Only Shooting Star and Shining Star levels are eligible for this award.

Star Choreography Awards – Choreography awards will be presented to group routines with outstanding work in the area of choreography, selected by the panel of judges.

Star Studio Award – Each studio that enters two group routines in each of the four age divisions (Petite, Junior, Teen, and Senior) in the Shining Star level, will be eligible for this award. The two highest scores from each qualifying studio in the Petite, Junior, Teen and Senior age divisions will be calculated. The studio with the highest cumulative score will be awarded the Star Studio Award along with a \$500 cash award in recognition of the studio's diversity.

Star Spirit Award – This award will be chosen by our Dance Champs Staff. It will be awarded to the studio who we feel embodies the true meaning of sportsmanship throughout the competition.

Star Entertainment Award – This will be awarded to a Petite/Junior and Teen/Senior group performance exhibiting entertainment elements.

Supernova Award – This award will be awarded to the top score of the competition regardless of competition level or age division.

SCHEDULING AND PERFORMANCE TIMES:

SCHEDULING - Every regional schedule is set up based solely on the breakdown of entries by solos, duet/trios and groups for that particular city. A time schedule with performance numbers will be emailed to all studios and an overview schedule will be posted to our website at least one week prior to the competition date. Dance Champs does not follow a general format. Each regional competition schedule may vary.

PERFORMANCE TIMES will be determined from the regional competition schedule. Each performance is assigned a number used for reference and identification purposes. Dance Champs runs in numerical order. Performers must be prepared to go onstage at their scheduled time. Legitimate costume change issues of less than 4 routines will be accommodated. In the interest of running on time, Dance Champs reserves the right to modify the schedule. Performers must be prepared to dance in order, up to 1 hour ahead of their scheduled performance time. Performances must check in with our Back Stage Ambassador at least 4 numbers prior to their number. The wrongful holding of performances may result in disqualification or point reduction. 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.

MUSIC:

CD Labels will be provided in each Studio Packet, available at the Registration Table when doors open for the competition. It is the studio's responsibility to have each CD labeled correctly. Each performance song must be recorded on a single CD. CDs must be in a protective sleeve/case. Dance Champs is not responsible for damaged CDs. Dance Champs recommend music be professional duplicated as Dance Champs will not be responsible for unreadable CDs.

USB Flash Drives are accepted and highly recommended. Flash Drives need to be turned in one hour prior to the first performance. Studio name or code must be clearly identified on the flash drive with a sticker or marker. Performance files need to be named correctly on the flash drive. Each song must be labeled as follows:

Performance Number – Name of Performance.mp3

Example – 003 – Steam Heat.mp3

EXTRA NOTES – An accessible backup for each performance is required to be in studio possession during the competition. All music must be turned in at the Registration Table one hour prior to the start of the competition. Studio Names cannot be used as a song title, worn as costume apparel or appear on a prop. Sound Systems vary at each location; we cannot adjust the speed of the music, make cuts in the music or download music. Music can be picked up at the end of the competition by the Studio Director at the Registration Table. Dance Champs is not responsible for lost, stolen or unclaimed music.

JUDGING & CRITIQUES:

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.

AUDIO/VIDEO JUDGES CRITIQUES - One Video and three audio critiques will be given for each performance. Critiques may be accessed by teachers on the Monday following the competition after 9 PM. Studio Directors can log into their Dance Champs Online account to view their critiques. Scores will be available at the conclusion of the competition at the Dance Champs Boutique table along with your music.

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 vary. 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 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.

PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEO

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOING of performances is strictly prohibited. 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.

GENERAL NOTES

PROPS are permissible and must be essential to the routine. Props are such things as ropes, balls, chairs, benches, and free standing scenery. 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 to. 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.

PERFORMERS cannot enter, exit, or jump off the front of the stage during or after their performance. This is for the safety of the performers, judges and our audience.

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.

DRESSING ROOMS will be provided for all performers. Dressing rooms are only for performers and parents who are assisting with costume changes. Only same gender parents and teachers are allowed in dressing rooms

DISCLAIMER - 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.

DANCE CHAMPS reserves the right to refuse entry into the competition to 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.