



## 2026 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.

**SOME OF OUR RULES HAVE CHANGED FOR 2026. THESE ARE HIGHLIGHTED IN YELLOW FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE.**

### **REGISTRATION PROCESS:**

- Entries must be entered and paid on our online registration form **40 days before** the respected competition city.
- Entries will be accepted on a first come first serve basis.
- Any entries received after the deadline date will be assessed a late fee of \$20 per entry. No Exceptions. This fee will automatically be added to your total amount to be paid in full.
- Entries ARE NOT accepted the day of the competition.
- **Entries are not guaranteed acceptance until payment is received.**
- Emailed, faxed or phone entries ARE NOT accepted.
- Dance Champs has the right to refuse any entry at any time.
- Dance Champs reserves the right to change competition dates and locations due to any unforeseen circumstances.
- Minimum of 4 routines from a studio required for registration.

**PAYMENTS** can be made by credit card, cashier's check, or studio check. Outstanding fees after the deadline date must be paid by credit card and will incur the late fee. **Studio checks WILL NOT be accepted after the deadline date.**

**RETURNED CHECKS** and/or declined credit cards will be charged a \$35 returned fee.

- **REFUNDS** WILL NOT be offered for any reason after the deadline date. No Exceptions.
- Credits for future DC Events will be given in the event of injuries.
- Day of scratches will result in forfeit of entry fees.
- If an event has reached the minimum required number of performances, and it has been confirmed, no refunds will be issued.
- Credit card disputes will be subject to a \$50 charge back fee.
- In the event a competition is cancelled due to circumstances out of the DC Management's control, Dance Champs will try to reschedule the event within 12 months. If unable to reschedule, a refund may be issued.

**CHANGES/CORRECTIONS** can be made via your DCG Studio Account up until 20 days before the respected competition at no charge. If changes need to be made after the 20-day deadline, a \$10 fee per change will be added to your entry fee total. No Exceptions.

Entry Types		
Entry Type	# of Performers	Time Limits
Solo	1 Dancer	2:45 Minutes
Duet/Trio	2-3 Dancers	2:45 Minutes
Small Group	4-9 Dancers	3:00 Minutes
Large Group	10-19 Dancers	4:00 Minutes
Line	20+ Dancers	6:00 Minutes
Production (storyline)	20+ Dancers	8:00 Minutes



### **DC TITLE COMPETITION**

- \*Solo Title Competition is available for Shooting Star and Shining Star levels only.
- There is a \$50 fee in addition to the solo entry fee.
- Each Solo Titlist participant in each age group and level will be awarded a crown.
- Title winners will be awarded a crown, jacket and plaque.

**EXTENDED TIME** may be purchased to accommodate longer routines. There will be a \$10 fee for an additional minute per routine with a maximum of 2 minutes. Time limits are strictly enforced.

### **CATEGORIES:**

- Acrobat – Combines gymnastic and dance choreography.
- Ballet – Consists of ballet technique, classical steps, and movement.
- Clogging – Performed in clogging shoes using clogging technique.
- Contemporary – A routine combining Jazz and Lyrical technique to interpret the music.
- 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.
- Tap – Uses Tap technique and steps. No tap sounds in music.
- All Star – Dance Team style – i.e. Pom, Mix, Kick, Prop etc.

### **AGE DIVISIONS**

- **AGE DIVISIONS** are divided into six divisions: Mini, Petite, Junior, Teen, Senior, and Adult
- Age divisions for all routines will be the average age of all the performers as of January 1st, of the competition year.
- To determine the age group, average the ages of the performers, then drop the decimal.
- If age division protests arise, the studio must be prepared to present proof of age (birth certificate, driver's license, etc.).
- Failure to provide proof of age may result in the 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 the respected awards ceremony.



Age Group Breakdown	
Age Group	Ages
Mini	6 & Under
Petite	7-8
Junior	9-11
Teen	12-14
Senior	15-18
Adult	19 & Older

Mini and Petite age groups WILL NOT be divided up into levels. All Mini will compete in one level (Rising Star Point Breakdown) and all Petite will compete in one level (Shooting Star Point Breakdown).

**NEW IN 2026** – All productions/lines will compete in one level (Shining Star Point Breakdown) in their respected age divisions.

**ADULT DIVISION** performances will be for adjudication only. All adult performances must compete in the Shining Star level. Any performance that has an adult-aged performer (19 years or older) must be placed in the Adult Division regardless of the average age. This division is for adjudication only.

**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:**

**COMPETITION LEVELS** are divided into four levels; Sparkle Star, Rising Star, Shooting Star and Shining Star. These levels are made to help dancers compete in their appropriate skill level. This decision is made by the studio director and/or teacher. We ask that you truly evaluate your dancers and place them in the appropriate level. Tumbling skills, pirouette combinations and advanced skills should be placed in the Shooting and Shining Star level. If our judges deem a routine more advanced than the level they are competing in, Dance Champs will bump them to the next level. We are implementing these so dancers of all skill levels have a chance to compete against others on the same level.

**Sparkle Star** – This level is strictly for special needs performances. We understand those with mental, physical and neurological difficulties still love to dance. We welcome those in this category to showcase their love and talent of dance.

**Rising Star** – This level is for the novice dancer that is just beginning to compete. These routines should not include any tumbling passes, double pirouette or more, and no pirouette combinations. Overalls will be given in this level, but no DC Cash will be awarded.

**Shooting Star** – This level is for the beginner/intermediate dancers in the competitive world of dance. These dancers can have more advanced skills as the Rising Star level, but not include advanced skills, such as quad pirouettes, and advanced pirouette combinations. Overalls and DC Cash Awards will be presented.



**Shining Star** – This level is for the advanced dancers who have numerous years in the competitive world of dance. These dancers should be more advanced and mastered skills and able to execute them with ease. Everything is allowed in this level. Overall and DC Cash Awards will be presented.

**Bump Rule** - Group performances may only contain up to 1/3 (33.33%) of dancers in a more advanced level than the level the routine is placed in. Example – a Shooting Star large group of 10 may only contain 3 Shining Star Level dancers to stay in the Shooting Star level. If there are 4 Shining Star level dancers, that is more than the 1/3 rule and will be placed in the Shining Star level. A dancer must compete all of their solos in the same competition level. All performances may choose to compete in a higher level if desired. If you have any questions about this rule, please contact our office.

## **AWARDS:**

### **GENERAL NOTES AND AWARDS**

Each performance will receive a Bright Star, Super Nova, Elite Platinum, Star Platinum, Platinum, Star Gold or Gold award based on the score given for their performance.

**Overall Awards** – will be awarded following the criteria below

Overall Awards Breakdown	
1 – 3 Routines	Top 1 Overall
4 – 5 Routines	Top 2 Overalls
6 – 8 Routines	Top 4 Overalls
9 – 13 Routines	Top 5 Overalls
14 – 16 Routines	Top 8 Overalls
17 – 29 Routines	Top 10 Overalls
30+ Routines	Top 15 Overalls

### **SHOOTING & SHINING STAR LEVEL 1<sup>st</sup> PLACE CHAMPION AWARDS\*\***

Top Petite, Junior, Teen, Senior Solo	\$100 DC Cash Award
Top Petite, Junior, Teen, Senior Duet/Trio	\$125 DC Cash Award
Top Petite, Junior, Teen, Senior Small Group	\$150 DC Cash Award
Top Petite, Junior, Teen, Senior Large Group	\$200 DC Cash Award
Top Petite, Junior, Teen, Senior Production	\$250 DC Cash Award

\*\*There must be a minimum of five performances in a category for DC Cash to be awarded.

**DC Cash** is credited to your studio account to use at the current year's DC Nationals towards studio entry fees.

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





**Star Studio Award** – The top three studios that have the highest scoring routines (based on their top 25 scored routines) will be awarded the Star Studio Award. A studio must compete 25 routines (minimum of 15 must be duet/trio or groups) or more to be eligible for this award. \*Must have a minimum of 200 registered routines at the competition for DC cash to be awarded.

**1<sup>st</sup> Place – \$500 DC Cash Award**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place – \$250 DC Cash Award**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place – \$100 DC Cash Award**

**Judges Choice Awards** – At the beginning of each awards ceremony, the judges will each select a performance that they feel deserved special recognition. This award is not based on adjudication scores.

**Best Entertaining Award** – This will be awarded to a Petite/Junior and Teen/Senior group performance exhibiting entertainment elements. This award will be given each day to the performance the judges select as the most entertaining routine.

### **SCHEDULING AND PERFORMANCE TIMES:**

**SCHEDULING** - Dance Champs does not follow a general format. Each regional competition schedule may vary. Every regional schedule is set up based solely on the breakdown of entries by solos, duet/trios and groups received for the designated city. A time schedule with assigned performance numbers will be emailed to all studios at least 10 days prior to the competition. An overview schedule will be posted to our website at least one week prior to the competition date for the general public.

**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. All performers must be prepared to perform 90 minutes prior to their scheduled performance time. The performance order will take precedence over the scheduled time, so please be prepared to perform early. Legitimate costume changes of less than 3 routines will be accommodated. In the interest of running on time, Dance Champs reserves the right to modify the schedule. Doors to the venue will open 45 minutes prior to the start of the competition. The first 10 scheduled performances are asked to arrive ready to perform in full costume, hair and makeup. Performances must check in with our Back-Stage Ambassador at least four numbers prior to their performance. 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 reperformances will be allowed unless there are unforeseen technical difficulties, or the judges request the performance to compete again.

### **MUSIC:**

All Music must be uploaded to your Dance Comp Genie account at least one week prior to the competition. Please make sure the correct version of your routine music is uploaded. Dance Champs is not responsible for incorrect music upload. Routines with incorrect music will not be eligible to recompile. An accessible backup for each performance is required to be in a studio representative's possession during the competition. **This must be in the form of a Flash Drive.**

**iPod, iPhone, Laptops and CD's WILL NOT be accepted.** Sound Systems vary at each location. We cannot adjust the speed of the music, make cuts in the music or download music. The Dance Champs staff will not make edits or alterations onsite. Music must not have any inappropriate language. Any song containing inappropriate language is subject to a 5-point deduction. By signing and competing at Dance Champs, studios acknowledge and assure that all music has been legally bought or covered under the studio's music licensing rights that they hold.



## **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 BRIGHT STAR, SUPER NOVA, ELITE PLATINUM, STAR PLATINUM, PLATINUM, and STAR GOLD. The decisions of the judges are final, and represent their professional opinions, not those of the DC management or staff. 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.

<b>Adjudicated Scoring Breakdown</b>			
<b>Award</b>	<b>Shining Star</b>	<b>Shooting Star</b>	<b>Rising Star</b>
<b>Bright Star</b>	<b>295 – 300</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Super Nova	285 – 294.9	280 – 300	275 - 300
Elite Platinum	275 – 284.9	270 – 279.9	265 – 274.9
Star Platinum	265 – 274.9	260 – 269.9	255 – 264.9
Platinum	255 – 264.9	250 – 259.9	245 – 254.9
Star Gold	245 – 254.9	240 – 249.9	235 – 244.9

<b>Scoring Breakdown</b>	
<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Points Allowed</b>
Technique	1-30
Execution	1-30
Presentation	1-20
Choreography	1-10
Overall	1-10

**AUDIO/VIDEO JUDGES CRITIQUES** – Each performance will receive three video/audio critiques. Critiques may be accessed by studio directors the Tuesday after the competition. Studio Directors will receive an email with access codes to log into their DCG Studio Account to view their critiques.

**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. 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 any kind is strictly prohibited. If this should occur, your studio entries will be disqualified. Dance Champs reserves the right to confiscate any form of video/audio being used. Please inform your studio parents of this rule. We urge all studio owners, teachers and parents to keep our performers photographically safe by reporting suspected photographic violations. Dance Champs will have a professional photographer and videographer at each competition.



**MEDIA FEE** – Each Dancer will receive all their photos and videos of each performance for a **\$25 fee**. All photos and videos will be available for download to each family 72 hours after the completion of each regional competition. This fee will show up on your account portal as a ‘registration fee’. An email will go out to all studio directors with directions on how to access all the studio photos and videos after the completion of the competition. We are not responsible for technical issues.

### **SENIOR SPOTLIGHT**

We want to spotlight all your graduating seniors. Studios can submit a photograph and a short bio of each graduating senior performer to be showcased in our program book. **The Senior Spotlight information needs to be sent 30 days prior to the competition.** Seniors will also be recognized at our awards ceremony. Click [HERE](#) to submit your Senior Spotlight.

### **GENERAL NOTES**

**JUDGES/TABULATION TABLE** - No one may approach the judging/tabulation table or the judges during the competition.

**PERFORMERS** cannot enter, exit, or jump off the front of the stage during or after their performance. Dancing in the aisles or near the judges is also prohibited. This is for the safety of the performers, judges and our audience. Deductions will occur, and routines may not qualify for high point awards.

**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. 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.

**DRESSING ROOMS** will be provided for all performers. The 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

**ADMISSION** is free to the public. Doors will open 45 minutes prior to the first scheduled act. NO FOOD, DRINK OR SMOKING is allowed in the competition performance area or inside the contracted venue. We must adhere to the venue rules and guidelines at all times.

**SAFETY** is a top priority at Dance Champs. We highly encourage all those attending to be responsible for their personal belongings, beware of surroundings and supervise children at all times. Stay safe and have fun while attending Dance Champs competitions.

### **PROPS**

- 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 through 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. 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.
- 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 overextends the competition schedule making us run over our scheduled time.

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

**DISCLAIMER** – Dance Champs and the hosting venue are not responsible for any kind of damage, loss or injury by participants or spectators or their property while attending any area of the venue premise. 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 and spectators 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. This includes, but not limited to spectators, dancers, parents, teachers, and studio directors. Any legal actions taken against Dance Champs must be filed in Kansas City, MO. All legal/attorney fees incurred from legal actions taken against Dance Champs will be the sole responsibility of the prosecutor. Dance Champs reserves the right to cancel any events due to lack of registration, weather, and/or any unforeseen circumstances. Dance Champs also reserves the right to change locations, venue, dates at any time deemed necessary. Dance Champs will not be held responsible for any additional costs endured for any type of travel arrangements. Dance Champs, their officers, and the host venue and staff will not be responsible for any injury, illness, damage/stolen to property to anyone in attendance of the event. By registering for Dance Champs, all the Directors, Teachers, participants, and their families agree to our Rules and Regulations. Dance Champs holds the right to make changes to the Rules and Regulations as needed.





# SOLO & DUO/TRIO SHOWCASE EVENT

Dance Champs invites all solos, duet/trios to compete in our Kansas City Showcase Championship competition. All subtitles listed below will follow the current Dance Champs Regional Rules and Regulations with the exceptions listed under them.

## **REGISTRATION PROCESS**

Each soloist may compete up to three solos in different categories.

Compete the same solo at any DC Regional competition in the same year and receive a 25% discount. Discount cannot be combined with any other discount, credit or promotion.

## **COMPETITION LEVELS**

Six levels of competition: Shining Star, Shooting Star, Rising Star, Petite, Mini and Sparkle Star.

## **AWARDS**

Each performance will receive placement awards in the form of Bright Star, Super Nova, Elite Platinum, Star Platinum, Platinum, and Star Gold.

Overall Awards will be presented in each age division depending on the number of routines.

Judges Choice Awards – Each judge will choose a soloist per awards ceremony for a special recognition award.

Awards excluded from this event – Choreography Award, Star Studio Award, and Most Entertaining Award

## **SCHEDULING & PERFORMANCE TIMES**

## **MUSIC**

## **JUDGING AND CRITIQUES**

Audio and Video critiques by three experienced, qualified judges for each routine.

## **PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEO**

A Media Fee of \$20 will be charged to your account for each dancer.



# NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

In addition to the Dance Champs Regional Rules and Regulations the following rules are added for the National Championship.

**DC COSMIC CHALLENGE** – Our National judges will select performances in each of the Shooting and Shining Star Levels – (Solo, Duet/Trio, Small Group, Large Group, and Productions) for Petites, Juniors, Teens and Seniors, to participate in the DC Battle. One studio per entry category will be invited back to compete in the DC Battle. Judges may select a second routine from a studio if no performers overlap the two routines. Multiple solos from the same studio will be selected to recompete in the DC Solo Cosmic Challenge. There must be at least eight routines in each entry category to take part in our DC Battle. In the event our DC Battle cannot be held, the national performance scores will stand as the final overall awards. Dance Champs has the right to combine categories to meet the minimum routine requirement.

## DC COSMIC CHALLENGE AWARDS

	<u>First Place</u>	<u>Second Place</u>	<u>Third Place</u>
Solos	Trophy/\$250 DC Cash*	Trophy/\$100 DC Cash *	Trophy/\$50 DC Cash *
Duet/Trios	Trophy/\$250 DC Cash*	Trophy/\$125 DC Cash *	Trophy/\$75 DC Cash *
Small Groups	Trophy/\$300 DC Cash*	Trophy/\$175 DC Cash *	Trophy/\$100 DC Cash *
Large Groups	Trophy/\$400 DC Cash*	Trophy/\$225 DC Cash *	Trophy/\$175 DC Cash *
Productions	Trophy/\$500 DC Cash*	Trophy/\$275 DC Cash *	Trophy/\$200 DC Cash *

\*A minimum of eight routines in each category for the cash awards to be presented. If less than eight routines, DC cash awards/Gift Certificates may be prorated. This is for the Shining Star and Shooting Star Level only.

**OPENING NUMBER** – Each studio competing at our National Championship has the opportunity to send up to 4 dancers to participate in the opening number at our DC Battle. Online registration will be required alongside the National entry fees. Participants must be 12 or older to participate. [Click HERE to register your dancers for the Opening Number.](#) A fee of \$15 will be charged to the studio for each opening number participant to cover a shirt and choreography time. Each participant will need to wear the shirt provided and black booty shorts and either tan jazz shoes/half soles and white tennis shoes.