



2024 Rules and Regulations

Registration

- Visit our website for easy online registration. Complete the registration steps and mail your deposit to guarantee your reservation.
- Entries are accepted on a first come basis and are limited by time restrictions per location.
- Full payment must be received at least 45 days prior to the event.
- All entries must register through a studio.
- Please email or call our office with any questions or concerns.

Levels

- At Backstage, in order to run a fair competition for all, we utilize three different performance levels for dancers. These include beginner, intermediate, and advanced categories. Please see page 2 for more details on our performance levels and to determine where your dancers fall.

By registering with Backstage Competition LCC you are agreeing to have read all our rules and regulations. It is the responsibility of studio directors to share all rules, regulations and expectations with their dancers and families.

Performance Levels / Routine Placement

- Directors should use their own discretion to determine the individual level of each dancer. At registration, Directors will select a level for each dancer that will carry through with them in each of their routines. The level in which they are placed will follow them into every routine they compete in.
- Level Advancements- In order to run a fair competition for all dancers and give them an equal opportunity for success, we are adding a level advancement policy. When all three judges agree that a routine can compete at a higher level, that routine will be bumped up. Directors will be informed of any level advancements prior to the routine's award ceremony.

Solo's- Dancers must compete in the level they are registered. Soloists may not compete against themselves in the same performance category.

Duo/Trio and All Groups- In order to keep levels fair for each studio attending, Backstage will be using a point system to determine the specific level of a routine.

- Beginner dancers are 1 point each
- Intermediate dancers are 2 points each
- Advanced dancers are 3 points each

For example, if a routine has 5 Beginner dancers and 3 Intermediate dancers. The following equation would apply to determine the level. 5 Beginner dancers = 5 points, 3 Intermediate dancers = 6 points. Since 6 is greater than 5 the routine will be placed in the Intermediate level.

Beginner-

Dancers that have little competition experience, study up to 3 hours per week and are beginning to demonstrate an understanding of dance technique qualify as beginners. Beginner dancers may compete only 1 solo.

Intermediate

Dancers that have moderate competition experience, study approximately 5 hours or less per week and demonstrate a solid understanding of dance technique qualify as intermediate.

Advanced

Dancers that have extensive competition experience, study more than 5 hours per week and demonstrate a strong understanding of dance technique qualify as advanced.

Performance Categories

Acro-Dance- Combines acrobatic/gymnastic and dance choreography. Must contain at least 50% dance choreography.

Ballet- Classical or Contemporary ballet movements and technique, Ballet slippers only.

Contemporary - Routine incorporating lyrical or jazz movement fused with modern

elements. **Dance Team / Kick Line**- Must consist of traditional dance team and kick line

choreography. **Hip Hop**- Routine containing hip hop technique from at least one of the

various styles. **Jazz** - Contains traditional jazz movements and technique.

Jazz Funk- Combines jazz technique with street fusion.

Lyrical- Dancers interpret the lyrics, mood and content of the music.

Modern - Consists of modern technique, movement and choreography.

Musical Theater / Character - A routine interpreting a song from a Broadway or movie musical and/or portraying an easily recognizable character.

Open - Any routine incorporating a combination of dance styles.

Tap - Tap technique No tap sounds in music

Pom-Pom - Performed with pom poms for at least 75% of the routine.

Pointe - A routine containing pointe technique.

Parent- Parent category, must consist of all adult performers.

Baton - A routine using batons with baton technique.

Clogging - A routine containing clogging technique and in clogging shoes.

Vocal - Routine may be any type of vocal presentation. Accompaniment must be pre recorded. No lead vocals may be recorded; backup vocals only will be permitted. Vocal routines will be eligible for separate overall high scores

Please note in all dance categories, except acro-dance and open, a limit of 3 overhead passes will be allowed.

Divisions / Time Limits

Extended time can be purchased for entries that exceed the time limit

Divisions	Number of Performers	Time Limits
Solo	1	2:45
Duo/Trio	2-3	2:45
Small Group	4-9	3:00
Large Group	10-19	4:00
Lines	20+	5:00
Productions	15+	8:00

Age Division

- Divisions are based on the dancer's age as of January 1st. Age divisions for all routines will be determined by averaging the ages of the participants in each dance. For averages ending in decimal points the decimal will be dropped.
- Studio Directors must be prepared to present birth certificates if a question of age should arise.
- Any routine including a teacher is not eligible for overall awards. A teacher is someone who choreographs or teaches and is 20 years of age or older.

Age Group	Ages
Mini	6 & Under
Petite	7-8
Junior	9-10
Pre-Teen	11-12
Teen	13-14
Elite Teen	15-16
Senior	17-19
Adult	20+

Judging / Scoring

- Every performance is critiqued by a panel of 3 judges.
- All judges decisions are final.
- Judges will use a point system allowing them to score a maximum of 100 points each.
- Judges will take into consideration choreography, technique, stage presence, rhythm & unison.
- All entries will receive a score of a High Platinum, Platinum, High Gold, Gold or High Silver.
- Performers who exit the stage prior to the end of their performance are eligible to perform again for adjudication only.
- All score sheets and audio/video critiques will be uploaded to the studio directors registration site at the end of the competition and the audio/video critiques will be available 10 days after the competition.

Adjudication	Score
High Platinum	297.0-300.0
Platinum	296.9-285
High Gold	284.9-274
Gold	273.9-263
High Silver	262.9-252.0

High Score

- Entries must compete before their award ceremony to be eligible for High Scores.
- Overall high scores for Solo, Duo/Trio, Groups and Lines/Productions will be recognized in the Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced performance levels.
- Top 10 will be awarded a placement based on the total number of entries in the age category, division and level.
- Soloists may not compete against themselves in the same performance category.

Awards / Special Awards

- All dancers in a group line or production will each receive a pin displaying their adjudicated award.
- A beautiful trophy and a plaque displaying all group routines will be awarded to the studio.
- Scholarships will be awarded based on judge discretion, that may include partial or full scholarship to future competitions, training programs or classes.
- Special Judge Awards, Studio Spotlight, Stage Door and VIP Awards will be given at the discretion of the judges.
- The following titles are considered the Backstage VIP Awards. All group routines are eligible for VIP awards.

Outstanding Costume	Outstanding Use of Prop
Outstanding Music Selection	Outstanding Stage Presence
Outstanding Storyteller	Outstanding Choreography
Backstage Award	

Overall High Score

- The highest scoring routine in each Division of the entire competition will be awarded as follows.
- Top 10 placements will be announced and each runner up will be recognized.

Cash Awards

- Award will be given in the form of a studio credit to be used at a future event.

Division	200 or More Entries
Solo	\$50
Duo/Trio	\$75
Small/ Large Groups	\$100
Lines/Productions	\$150

Backstage Regional Challenges

Ultimate Challenge: Judges will identify one small group, large group, and one line or production at each regional competition that they feel is the most entertaining. The winning routine has nothing to do with score and is based on entertainment value only! All winning routines in each category will be awarded a 6- foot trophy and be invited to bring their winning routine for FREE to our national finals and compete against other ultimate challenge winners for the title of national ultimate challenge winner.

Solo/Duo/Trio Call Back Challenge: This challenge is based on how captivating the judges felt the performance was. The Judges can choose to invite solos, duos and or trios in both the intermediate and advanced levels to perform their routines for FREE at our national finals and compete against all other solo/duo/trio call back winners.

Backstage Future VIP's Challenge: This challenge is for all 10 and under beginner groups. Judges are looking for simple clean beginner technique along with outstanding stage presence. All winning routines are invited to compete their routine for FREE at our national finals against all other regional winners.

High Platinum Elite Challenge: Advanced group routines who score High Platinum are eligible to be invited to re-perform in our Elite High Platinum Challenge at Nationals for FREE. These routines will compete against other High Platinum Challenge winners.

- Additional routines can be picked at Nationals to perform in the above challenges.

Challenge Participation Requirements

- If any Regional routine is invited to participate at Nationals for any Challenges, the studio attending will need to have registered at least 60% or more of their Regional entries to participate in the challenges, with the exception of the Ultimate Challenge.
 - The same routine cannot participate in more than one challenge.

ADCC Studio of Excellence

- ADCC (Association of Dance Conventions and Competitions) this award is given to a studio that exemplifies the mission and the purpose of the ADCC which is to promote quality, integrity and opportunity in the dance competition world.

Photo for Dreams

- Backstage is a proud sponsor of St Jude's Children's Research Hospital. Studio Directors and or Parents can submit a 5x7 or 8x10 color or black & white photo with the dancer's name, age and studio name on the back. The judges will select who they feel is the most photogenic in both the 10 & Under and 11 & Older age Division. 100 % of all proceeds will be donated to St Jude's Children's Research Hospital.
- Photos should be submitted at the merchandise table along with your donation of \$35.00. Cash or check only written out to St Jude's Children's Hospital can be accepted.

Title Winners

- Title contender must be a soloist in the **Advanced** performance level.
- Each solo must receive a score of Platinum or higher to qualify.
- Soloists who receive the highest score in their age division will be Title Winner.
- No additional fees are required.
- Title Winners will be recognized in the following combined age divisions.

7-8	9-10	11-12
13-14	15-16	17-19

Performance Team

- Invitations will be given to soloists who score Platinum of 290 or higher. - Discretion of judges may be used to invite a dancer that did not make the minimum score requirements.
- All participants must register by the deadline on the certificate received and agree to all terms and conditions.
- Performance team members will perform in our Performance Team Showcase at Nationals.
- Additional selections can be made during our workshops or Backstage Ambush.

Mandatory Music Upload

All music must be uploaded online into the registration system.

- The following formats will be accepted; MP3, MP4, M4A.
- Music must be uploaded 14 days prior to the event start date.
- Please ensure you have the correct version uploaded, pitch and speed cannot be adjusted at the event.
- 2 backup copies of the music must be provided. Acceptable formats of backup music are; USB/IPHONE.
- Please notify the audio technician of any music upload issues prior to the dancer being called on stage. Failure to do so will result in the incorrect music being selected.

Competition Schedule

- The schedule will be available 1 week prior to the competition start date. - Change requests will be taken into consideration, but are not guaranteed. - You will have **3 days from the time you receive your schedule to make any changes**, after the 3-day grace period any changes will incur a charge per change.
- Absolutely no changes can be made on the day of competition.
- All dancers must perform at their scheduled time unless it was cleared and in writing from the competition director, failure to perform on time will result in point deductions. - Any changes made are not guaranteed to be in our program.
- All dances should be performance ready at least one hour prior to their scheduled performance time.
- Release forms are attached to your schedule; forms must be completed prior to the event in order to participate

Props

- Props should be set up and removed from the stage within 1 minute and 30 seconds - Please do not build any props backstage; this presents a danger to our performers. - Dangerous props are not allowed
- No baby powder, liquid, hairspray, paint, glitter, or anything that could leave residue on the stage. - No fog, smoke machines, or strobe lights allowed.
- No material under ½ inch can be used.
- Props that exceed 9' in height, cannot be guaranteed to fit the stage
- Props cannot be left behind or unattended. Check with our staff for specific staging areas - Any prop that includes an extensive amount of cleanup is the studio responsibility. Please clear the stage in a timely fashion.

General Rules

- Payment must be submitted in order to be fully registered
- Entry Fees are NON-REFUNDABLE.
- Account credit will be issued for removals as long as this is done prior to the event, credits will be issued to the account the dancer was registered with. Credits may only be used towards entry fees for Backstage Competition LLC. Day-Of scratches for any reason will not be issued credits.
- Backstage Competition LLC reserves the right to cancel any event due to lack of registration, inclement weather, or any other unforeseen circumstances.
- Backstage Competition LLC will not issue any refunds or be held responsible for any technical issues that are beyond our control. Including but not limited to photos, videos and critiques. - There is a \$50 fee for returned checks
- All payments must be made 45 calendar days prior to your event. Any payment received after the deadline must be made by credit card. Early bird discount will not be applied to accounts without full payment 45 days prior to your event.
- Coaching is strictly prohibited and will result in point deduction or disqualification. - Backstage cannot guarantee a power supply
- Except for technical difficulties on our part, re-performing of any routine will be adjudicated only - Adjudication only routines are not eligible for high scores, cash award or titles - Sexually explicit dance or music will not be tolerated and will result in disqualification if found to be inappropriate NO EXCEPTIONS!!
- Video and Photography is strictly prohibited. This includes FaceTime & Video Chats of any kind. In order to protect the choreographer's artistic right and the safety and privacy of all competitors, we reserve the right to confiscate all recording devices used during the event and disqualify an entry. Anyone using a personal device for recording or photos will be asked to delete the footage in front of a Backstage crew member.
- Smoking is prohibited in or around the competition area. We ask that all smokers stand at least 50 yards from the competition venue to preserve the wellbeing of our dancers, audience members and our staff.
- Backstage Reserves the right to refuse the entry of any studio
- Only studio Directors may question routines for rule infractions, however any protest must be made in writing to the competition director within 30 minutes of the performance. - All dancers, teachers and parents attending Backstage Competition give permission for any photographs or videos taken during the competition to be used to promote future events. - Only dancers, teachers, studio directors and prop crew are allowed backstage. - If a routine cannot perform during their allotted time the routine will be adjudicated only. - Dancers may not exit or jump off the stage at any time during a backstage event, this includes performances.
- Hallways may not be used for stretching, changing, applying makeup, storage for personal items, or for any other reason other than traveling through the building.
- Backstage Competition LLC and the host venue are not responsible for any lost property during the event. By registering your dancer, you agree that Backstage Competition LLC and staff are not responsible for any lost property or injury during the event.

Sportsmanship

We strive to create a safe and family friendly event for everyone; therefore the following rules must be adhered to.

- Good sportsmanship is expected from all participants, at all times, in person and on social media. Please remind your studio of this. Anything less than good sportsmanship and respect during our events will not be tolerated and will result in point deduction or disqualification. All competitors, teachers and studio directors consent to the use of video, audio and photographs for use in promotional material without royalty, fee or other compensation.
- Please show respect for our venues. Leave the dressing area, auditoriums and all other public spaces clean.

*Rules will be interpreted in the spirit of fairness to all participants. Backstage Competition reserves the rights to change, delete, or add to any rules, regulations, or policies at any time deemed necessary. Contestants are understood to recognize the risks of physical injury inherent in dance and dance performances and be willing to assume those risks. It is agreed that participants will not hold Backstage Competition or its directors or employees liable for injuries sustained or illnesses contracted by them while in attendance and/or performing in any activity at a Backstage Competition.

Failure to comply with these rules will result in point deductions or disqualification. It is the responsibility of the studio director/owner to review these rules and regulations with both dancers and their parents.