

Minutes

EGYPT INFORMATION MEETING

BALLET – JAZZ – MODERN/CONTEMPORARY



TUESDAY JUNE 9, 2022
21:00 EST
ONLINE VIA ZOOM

MINUTES IN **BLUE**

Invited:

All Canadian dancers/families wanting more information on Canada's participation in the IDO World Ballet & Jazz Championships and the IDO Modern/Contemporary Championship in Sharm El-Sheik, Egypt, 2022.

Agenda:

1. Welcoming Words

Bonnie Dyer introduced herself, Director of Team Canada Dance, certified Adjudicator and Chairman of Judges, and Supervisor for IDO events. We have been a member of the International Dance Organization since the mid 90's which we have been bringing teams to the World Championships. Our first team consisted of tap dancers from across Canada then we started bringing Ballet, Jazz, Modern/Contemporary, Show Dance, Hip Hop, and Street Dance Show. We are putting together our first Acrobatic Team for the first time and are expanding into other genres such as Latin Dance/Ballroom, Belly Dance, and more.

There are dance families from across Canada in multiple provinces invited to the meeting so Bonnie will address them one at a time

2. World Championship Format

- World Championships are danced in 'elimination rounds'. If there are 60 entries in a category, then it is cut down to 24, then they dance again, it is then cut down to 12.... then the top 6 at the finals.
- The finals are very exciting for both the audience and the dancers.
- The awards are done 'Olympic Style", with a podium, raising of the flags, and playing the winner's national anthem.
- World Cups are done like our competitions in North America where there are multiple genres, the dancers perform once and are awarded. (*The IDO World Dance Challenge is an example of a World Cup we will be attending in Mexico*).
- Bonnie calls this a 'real competition' because only the 'best' are awarded. Everyone receives a certificate with their placement on it, but only the Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals are awarded. Sometimes in North American competitions people feel that the Bronze medals are the lowest – many awards now are gold, elite gold, platinum, diamond, etc..... the Bronze at this competition is very special to win!

- The judges are specialized in the genre, although some may be specialized in more than one genre. They must take an adjudication course as well as demonstrating a thorough knowledge of the genre they are judging. Many of our competitions have 'general' judges who may not know a specific genre well (such as tap). The repertoire judges will have thorough knowledge of the repertoire's they are judging.
- The modern/contemporary style varies across all the countries. Bonnie feels that North America is very influenced by TV and Mia Michaels. Many Europeans perform 'old-school' Modern. It is a very creative and competitive genre.

3. Rehearsal Schedule

- Bonnie wanted to talk about rehearsals right away because that is what most families ask about
- We do not set the rehearsal schedule – the choreographers do
- We cannot predict the schedule until the team is set and they know how many dancers they are working with, the capabilities of those dancers, and how much cleaning they feel they need
- Rehearsal schedules, once confirmed, will appear on TeamSnap, the website, and by email.
- All choreography/rehearsal questions should be directed to the choreographers and IDO Canada office (*either message in Snap or email*). All travel questions should be directed to us. We can help manage conflicts in rehearsal schedules if you need us to.
- Usually we set the choreography in the end of the summer then selected Sundays once a month until departure.
- We take a 'studio-first' approach, meaning that we couldn't attend the World Championships without the dancers and the training that their home studios have given them. We want to work out a rehearsal schedule with your home studio commitments in mind. Any conflicts in schedules can be managed, just reach out to us
- Many of the directors have been or will be contacted by the choreo team to discuss rehearsal conflicts.

4. Egypt/Korea

- There may be another World Cup offered in Egypt in addition to the IDO World Ballet & Jazz Championships and the IDO World Modern/Contemporary Championship. Any dancer going for those genres may also enter any discipline in the World Cup which will be the 2 days after the end of the Modern Championship. If dancers are going to Egypt, they may dance more if they wish. It isn't confirmed yet – they have put out 'feelers' to the various countries to see if there is interest. Bonnie told them that Canada would be interested.
- Korea is hosting a World Cup for IDO members called the IDO Asia and Asia Pacific Festival. Entries for Ballet, Jazz, Modern/Contemporary, Tap, Belly Dance, and Folk. Due to travel restrictions at this time, they will offer a hybrid competition which will allow for IDO members from around the world to enter their routines. Let us know if you're interested

5. Entries Per Nation (EPN's)

- All IDO World Championships only allow 3 EPN's per nation in each category, meaning children, junior, adult, solos/duos/group/formations
- Canadian entries will be split across Canada – for example, if we have 3 female children solo spots, we will decide with the choreographers which dancers will have one of those spots. We will choose the ones we feel will most likely win with their solo. It is an extra routine that is awarded to dancers, the same with duos and small groups (they are awarded and are considered 'extras').

- All dancers in each province will participate in at least one formation (large group). If they were accepted to ballet, jazz, and modern/contemporary, that is 3 formations.
- You must be in one formation to participate in the World Championships with Canada but if you feel the workload is too heavy, you can choose to only do one or two of the formations if you were accepted to more than one. It is a long way to travel so dancers usually like to do more if they have been accepted to do so.
- What we want is the top 3 representatives for the comp

6. Team Travel/Extended Stay

- When we travel, we go as a team. We cannot have dancers making their own way to the Championships. It has not worked out well in the past.
- Going as a team also creates unity and ensures that dancers have arrived safely, they have shuttle service to/from airport-hotel, and checked in properly
- We had a dancer missed the first day of Championships once and they spent all that time and money and weren't allowed to compete. Only dancers in the first round may continue through the rounds
- No air miles allowed in group travel. The airline won't allow it.
- We book our tickets together to ensure that all dancers get a seat as well as family. We want to be on the same flights – not several flights.
- If upgrades are available, we will let you know. Planes only have a certain number of upgrades and premium seats available so the whole team can't travel that way.

7. Resort

- We are staying at a resort in Sharm El-Sheik. Once we get our rooming list submitted, we will find out which hotels we are staying at. The organizers blocked rooms at various hotels as it's easier to coordinate multiple countries that way. Once we get the info, we will share it with you.
- What we do know is that it will have everything we need there, it will be all inclusive (buffet meals, not sure about alcohol), and we won't need to leave for anything. Everything is included in your travel fee
- Parents do room with their dancers. If a parent is not attending, then the dancer needs a team chaperone to travel with.
- Some choreographers don't like the dancers swimming until after they compete, so they aren't so tired.

8. Olympic Committees of some National Members

- Many of our IDO counterparts, such as Slovenia, Bosnia, Italy, Gibraltar, South Africa, Czech Republic...are all under their International Olympic Committees (IOC). Unfortunately, Canada considers us an Art, not a Sport. These countries that win a Gold Medal at the IDO Championships are compensated by their Olympic Committee with financial support all year, and other perks. We have tried to advocate for the same in Canada and is very difficult to convince our government for the same treatment. US has the same problem. Mexico does get some funding from their Arts/Cultural council.
- Russia won't be allowed to participate with us this year because IDO follows the advice/protocols of the IOCs, so Russia is banned until further notice. It is sad for us as we have many Russian dance friends, and they are incredible to compete against (*it isn't the dancer's fault about what is going on*) but that is the way it is.

9. Why the Championships are in Egypt this year

- Russia is not allowed to participate with us this year due to the war. Ukraine may not be competing either. It is a very unfortunate situation for our dance friends in these countries. We hope it resolves soon!
- In the past few years, Poland has hosted the Ballet, Jazz, and Modern/Contemporary Championships. They are separate events that usually draw the same dancers so they have been holding them concurrently. It will not always be this way though.
- Right now, Poland is taking in many refugees from Ukraine as they share a border. Many IDO NMO's did not want to go to Poland this year due to how close the situation in Ukraine is. Dancers who have competed in Ossa know the resort that we normally stay at which is now housing refugees.
- IDO Egypt will be hosting the events this year which will be really nice for a change from Polish winter weather! Many of the IDO staff do vacation there in Sharm El-Sheik as it's quite common for Europeans. It's like we go to Florida.
- Next year it will be somewhere else....we heard Belgium but it's not confirmed to us yet.
- We follow travel advisories for every country we attend. This is a safe area.
- We will also keep our eye on the Covid situation.

10. Vaccination

- *Everyone must be vaccinated to participate this year.* We cannot adjust our schedule to accommodate any quarantining or covid testing if required. Even if restrictions loosen now, they may be tightened again by departure so we are taking the safest approach for our team.

11. What is a Golden Ticket?

- Most dancers get accepted to our team by audition. We were a little late with the auditions this year because we weren't sure which championships were running and where. Once we got that confirmation, we discussed it with our choreographers and if they could schedule a team this year.
- If you were at a competition and received a 'Golden Ticket', that means either the choreographer or IDO Canada staff was at the competition and wanted to invite the dancer(s) straight to the team, either in ballet, jazz, AND modern/contemporary, or just one genre.
- If you were only accepted into one genre and want a chance to compete with the others, please send in a video or come to the next live audition if you can.
- We will not ever give away a Golden Ticket through any competition unless either IDO Canada staff and/or choreographers are present because we cannot allow anyone else to choose members for our team. This is a World Championship, and our standards are high. We choose specific dancers for specific reasons.
- Next year and going forward we will be teaming with some competitions to award Audition Tickets or Golden Tickets for World Cups (not Championships).
- As previously mentioned, a World Cup is run more like our competitions with multiple genres and dancers dance once (or again at Finals Gala) and are awarded. Anyone can take part. World Championships are limited in number of dancers and entries, so we are careful in our selection.

12. TeamSnap

- We use TeamSnap to communicate within the teams.
- when the teams are confirmed, or you have accepted your position on the team, you will get an invite to TeamSnap
- We have used this in the past for other teams as a main tool for schedules, chat, and files. All emails will be stored under Files so if you miss any, you can go there. Schedules are posted on the app.

The chat feature is a great tool for asking questions so everyone can get the answer, in case they were wondering as well, or you can privately message a question. Choreographers and administration will be on and using the TeamSnap. Updates will also come by email, and our website will post important information as well.

13. Questions/Answers brought up in Meeting

a) When will we start choreography/rehearsals?

- Once the team is finalized and the choreographers know how many dancers there are, their skill level, and need for cleaning, they will set the rehearsal schedule. It will appear on TeamSnap.
- If you cannot make a rehearsal due to studio conflict, please let both us know at the ido Canada office (can be through email or TeamSnap), as well as the choreographer so we can discuss how to make it up. Likely the team will be meeting once a month over the winter to rehearse. Zoom *may be an option occasionally so dancers don't have to travel in bad weather.
- Modern/Contemporary is scheduled for the last weekend in July and Ballet and Jazz will be approx. the first 10 days in August. Specific times will be shared with the team once the team is finalized – after the next audition likely
- All choreography will be done at this time, it won't be a week for this and a week for that....the modern/contemporary is beginning first because of the choreographers schedule
- The times may vary for each day but you will know in advance if you need to make transportation arrangements.
- It could be a 9-5 situation but if there are 'extra's that need to be worked on, then that may be in addition. Generally the dancers will be there for most of the day if possible. It will be similar to an intensive week!

b) If I got a Golden Ticket for Ballet, can I participate in Jazz and/or Modern/Contemp?

- Yes – please send us a video of the dancer doing those genres or come to the final audition. You won't need to pay for that.
- Many dancers accepted for Jazz will likely be accepted for Modern
- We just need to make sure the dancer is capable of keeping up with the other genres. Not all dancers can change their styles

c) Will all the teams across Canada combine to create one large dance?

- No. It would be difficult to do, especially now with limited times for scheduling – choreographers and dancers are busy and in demand
- We will be concentrating on perfecting our own routines.
- We used to do our teams only this way – where all dancers across Canada competed on the same team/group but now we have provincial teams.
- Dancers will stay with and socialize with the other province dancers so you will get to know them!

d) How many routines will a dancer do?

- Dancers accepted to the ballet, jazz, and mod/con teams can do at least 3 formations. Not everyone will be asked to do a small group, duo, or solo, but some might get these in addition to the formation.
- If you have been asked to do more routines than you can handle, you can decline.

*Extra Routines don't have to be new. If you have a solo, duo, small group already and the dancers are on the team, we will arrange to view those routines at rehearsal and they may get a chance to perform it. Routines that are selected may be 'tweaked' to make it more World Championship ready.

e) How many dancers in a group?

- We are allowed a maximum of 24 dancers per formation (per age).
- Everyone is in a formation
- Solo/duo/group are considered 'extra's and are chosen by choreographer.
- Solo (1), Duo (2), Group (3-7), Formation (8-24)
- Ages for formations are for Dec. 31 the year of the competition. Children are under 12, Junior are 13-16 (split for solos into Junior 1 which is 13-14, and Junior 2 which is 15-16).

How big are the teams?

- We have travelled with 'full' teams in the past, meaning 24 on each children, junior, and adult. This can also include 2 full teams (east and west).
- This year might be different – due to many families still financially recovering from the pandemic, the times that we are in (some don't want to travel yet) and so many time conflicts with dancers' prior commitments. We didn't know when or where the Championships were going to be until much later this year. We usually know this a year in advance, but not this year.
- In short, Bonnie expects fewer dancers per team this year.

f) Costume fees?

- We do not yet have the costume fees yet until the team is set. It could be from \$150-\$300 per costume. We do try to keep the cost as low as possible.
- The east team can sometimes rent a costume but there is no guarantee.
- Platter tutus are sometimes an issue for travelling. There isn't a lot of room when travelling for these. In the past we have had everyone chip in and boxed all the tutus up and checked them in as 'special luggage'.

g) Is the resort 'all-inclusive' and if so, does that include alcohol?

- Your travel fee includes the 'all-inclusive' price, which does include buffet meals for breakfast, lunch, dinner – but there are also restaurants nearby if you choose to go and pay at one.
- We aren't exactly sure about the alcohol but there is alcohol served at the resort. It is not a 'dry' town despite being in Egypt.
- Sharm El-Sheik is very different than the rest of Egypt and relies heavily on tourism. It is also an important location for diplomatic meetings and international peace conferences. In 1982 the president of Egypt designated this town as the "City of Peace" and it is now one of the most popular beach resort destinations.

h) What is the 'Special Event' that is included?

- We have been told that there will be a special dinner/show that the teams are invited to. It will be an 'Egyptian' experience
- We will also host a Canadian 'mixer' with the other dancers across Canada

i) Is there a direct flight? If not, where will we be travelling through?

- There is no direct flight from anywhere in Canada to Sharm El Sheik airport.

- We will be transferring in either Frankfurt, Italy, or Cairo.
- We will be using trusted Canadian airlines or their partners. We won't be travelling on 'budget' airlines. Part of this is because we want to ensure that we depart and arrive on schedule, as well as safety (we trust our airlines and their partners). It isn't worth saving a bit of money to compromise our safety as a group or our schedule. We don't have the time to sit around an airport or looking for flights home because it was cancelled for some reason.
- Any layover will be short. We won't be taking the time this year for long layovers in Europe.

j) What is the payment schedule?

- We are very flexible on the payment schedule as long as it is paid for by departure.
- If you need it adjusted at any time, let us know and we can help. Often you can change your instalments on the system yourself.

k) Are taxes included?

- Yes, all taxes are included in your travel fee. We cannot break them down as we pay multiple taxes in multiple currencies. We pay air taxes, hotel, etc.

l) Do we need a Visa to enter Egypt?

- Yes. We will be getting a group Visa to enter. We believe it will be about \$25 US, not hundreds as some people have mentioned seeing.

m) Can extra Family members travel with us?

- We don't know how much room we have at this point
- Rooms tend to be small – either two single beds or two singles pushed together for a double. Sometimes we can get a third bed or 'quads'.
- If we can get some larger rooms/beds, you can bring more family.
- If the rooms are small and you will need more than one room, the 'extra' adults may have to stay at another (nearby) hotel if there aren't enough rooms at the team hotel. *We want all the dancers to stay together, not at several hotels.* We can add you into the rooming list – which we really want to submit as soon as possible so we get the 'best' hotel options first!
- We will do everything we can to keep everyone together.

n) Will there be downtime?

- Yes! You will have a full day before the start of the event to get accustomed to the time change. You likely won't be competing everyday (schedule released closer to event) as well as time after the competition ends.

o) Do I have to go for 8-10- days?

- No. We understand that not everyone can go away for almost 2 weeks. It is far to go so many families choose to stay for the duration, but not everyone does
- If you choose to do only one championship (ballet/jazz or modern/cont) then you can stay the 4 or 5 scheduled days for that championship. The cost difference isn't a lot but there is some savings of a few hundred dollars.
- You can't stay with another family because the rooms aren't made for that. Usually we don't see two double beds in a room – it's usually single beds. That is why we count a hotel room for every dancer. The cost is the same whether there are 2 or 4 travelling because we take that into account when making the fees. Most of your fees are for flights and we actually pay per person for hotels, not by the room.

p) Can we go to see the pyramids?

- The pyramids are located about a 30-45 min drive from Cairo airport.
- We won't be scheduling this as a team, per se, but there is an opportunity to book the tour through the resorts/Sharm El Sheik and we can do that all together with anyone who wants in.
- The tour from the Sharm El Sheik are about 16 hrs from what we have seen. They pick you up in Sharm El Sheik, you take a flight to Cairo, spend the day touring, fly back to Sharm El Sheik at the end of the day. From what we have found, it costs about \$250 cdn per person plus admission to the various tourist spots.
- We haven't found a flight with a long enough layover in Cairo to combine the day and we don't want to spend the night in Cairo either.
- This would also have to be done after the competition ends. Those going for the entire competition, we have said you can stay for 8 or 10 nights for the same cost. If you stay the additional 2 days you can use that for tourism.

q) What is the cancellation policy?

- We take the \$200 deposit initially as we have to put deposits down on flights and hotel.
- If we have to cancel/postpone the team for some reason, the most you will lose is your deposit as airlines don't usually give those back to us. This is usually within 6 weeks of travel. Hotels usually don't return deposits either. If they do, then you will see that returned as well. Service fees are taken from the credit cards right away and they don't go to us either so we can't refund those. We will refund the rest of your fees.
- Choreography/costume fees will not be refunded as this goes to your choreographer and usually you will have already attended class and ordered costumes.

r) Insurance

- Many credit cards do include cancellation insurance – which is if the airline doesn't fly or the event is cancelled, not if you change your mind. Look into your credit card insurance.
- Your job may offer health insurance, or you can buy your own.

s) What is the choreography fee?

- \$250/dancer/group plus costumes for ballet and jazz each
- \$300/dancer/group plus costumes for modern/contemporary
- Includes rehearsals

t) What is the success of Team Canada in the past?

- SUCCESSFUL!
- We are known as having great training and technique
- We haven't taken a team since 2018 – but we tend to win several medals every time we attend.
- We go to win, not for a fun trip – but the trip can be fun as well!

u) Do parents need to pay admission? Can they watch?

- Usually, it costs about 8 euros per day to watch and parents need to buy their own tickets at the door.
- This year we decided it would be easier to include this and get admission for everyone before the start of the competition

- You cannot take pictures or videos of the dancers – but there will be some videos for sale by the organizer. Sometimes you can buy a press pass but not always. We do not know how much about the videos yet. They are very strict with their rules!
- There is always livestream – usually for a cost for about the same as admission. We have no idea what the internet is like in Egypt. Quality varies between countries.

v) Fundraising and Sponsorship

- We have allowed it in the past for sponsors to be added to your team jacket. Usually on the arm and in a similar colour to the jacket
- Send in your sponsors for the website too!

w) Flat or pointe shoes for ballet?

- Children 12 and under will not be allowed on pointe
- The ballet choreographers usually like to see the dancers on pointe but it may not be necessary for the formation – prepare for both

x) Some families haven't received any emails yet with information....why?

- Any dancer that auditioned for the team should have received an email by now with the results – accepted, alternate, or not accepted. Some emails have been returned as the emails given at the audition were not clear. Contact us if this is you.
- If you received a Golden Ticket, it was our understanding that you were to reach out to us through our website. We have your names (from the Competition), not your emails. If you or someone you know received a Golden Ticket and want more information, have them email us or contact us through the website.
- We have a lot of information on our website already but are always willing to answer your questions at any time. Please note that we have 'day' jobs as well so we will answer as soon as possible. In addition, we haven't had teams for 2 years and everything seems to be happening at once this year, rather than spread out like in the past. Your patience is very appreciated.
- Once you are on the team, communication through TeamSnap is the best
- Contact idodance.canada@gmail.com for more information

y) Will you/IDO staff be travelling with us?

- Not on the flight but we will be there!
- Bonnie and Melissa will both be in Germany at the Tap Championships right before the Ballet/Jazz/Modern Championships so will meet you there.
- Bonnie will be working at the competition as the Chairperson of Judges and Melissa will be there as a Captain to take care of the teams
- The choreographers have all travelled with our team several times before and will be travelling with you on the flight

z) Can friends travel on their own? Can we get the booking information so they can join us there?

- Dancers may never travel on their own, they must travel with the team
- If a parent/friend chooses to travel on their own, they must do everything on their own. They must get their own shuttle, their own rooms, and pay their own admission. We cannot accommodate partial trips as we book things as a group.
- When we get the hotel and flight information, they can try to book. For some competitions it is highly unlikely to get into the same hotel because it is so limited for space (such as

Poland and Germany) but we haven't been to this resort town in Egypt before so we cannot comment on that.

aa) What travel vaccines do we need?

- A lot of this information will be provided to you
- Currently, up to date on core vaccines (especially polio), and covid. Recommended vaccines include Hepatitis (Twinrix) and Typhoid.

bb) Is there videos of past competitions we can see?

- Yes, we will try to upload some to the page on our website for you to watch.

cc) Can family and friends watch a dress rehearsal?

- We usually do have a dress rehearsal that family/friends can see all the hard work!

dd) What about the deadline to accept? Can we find out the schedule before we commit to the team? The deadline is approaching....

- The choreographers really want to know who/how many are on the team before they set the schedule. This will be posted.
- You will know rehearsal dates, just not times just yet
- The choreographers do set choreography for all the genres at the same 'choreo week', you won't need to set aside a week for ballet, a week for jazz, etc. It will be done at the same time. Same with fall schedules, it will likely be combined to make it easier.
- Usually 1-2x/month in the fall, not every weekend. It may pick up closer to departure.
- We are being lenient with some rehearsals if you must miss one for prior commitments.
- The Ontario team will hold rehearsals and choreo week in Waterdown at Dancemakerz Studio.
- The Alberta team will share between Shelley's Dance in Edmonton and Prestige in Calgary for rehearsals.

ee) What provinces are part of Ballet, Jazz, Contemporary teams? Is BC?

- We usually rotate the teams through the provinces every year and it really depends where the dancers are.
- Ontario usually has a team but not always. They didn't go in 2018, only BC
- Alberta, Manitoba, and British Columbia tend to share the 'west' title.
- This year, Ontario and Alberta are planning teams

ff) Do we represent our studio/school?

- We represent Canada. We are one Canadian team.

gg) Should dancers practice on their own? Are they allowed to?

- YES!
- Please practice on your own as much as you want! Our time together is short and it is better to use rehearsal time to polish the group and make minor adjustments rather than on technique and re-learning choreo.
- You will have a video to reference and music to practice with as well.
- The music might change but you will have something to practice to when available.

- It is more preferred to see the dancers attend a live audition. It's easier for the choreographers to assess. If a dancer cannot make it live, then a video audition can be submitted.
- Ontario has one more live audition then they will start the team. They will accept video auditions until the live audition is over
- Alberta has scheduled 2 auditions – one in Edmonton and one in Calgary. They will accept video auditions if dancers cannot make either of the live competitions
- ALBERTA – dancers who were accepted to the 2018 team and have paid are requested to attend the audition (at no charge) or submit a recent video so the choreographers can see that your training has been maintained. You most likely have changed age categories.

15. We are here for your questions at any time, don't be shy!

Sometimes we don't always address everything you may need to know as we have done this for so long. There are no 'stupid' questions – ask away! You can't read our minds, nor can we read yours!

16. How fun is it to participate in the World Championships....?

Fun! It's probably one of the most exciting things your dancers will do in their lives. We have had dancers attend that didn't even get to the podium and had an amazing time. Some dancers on the teams have made lasting friendships and it's a great experience. It doesn't matter what studio you are from; we are all team Canada and it's nice to mingle the dancers together. We will be doing team socials at the competition to get to know the dancers from the other provinces.

FYI, Canada is one of the only countries that have been awarded the Sportsmanship award from IDO. We are known as friendly and open to cheer for others.

17. Closing Remarks

Bonnie wanted to express once again how special this opportunity is and the comradery that takes place at these championships. We want your dancers to have fun but also work hard and improve. We want to work with you and your studio on making this a great experience. Thank you for attending! We will send out more information soon. We are just prioritizing some of our time and will get you your answers as soon as possible. Goodnight!

18. Meeting closed at 22:31 EST