



# 2025-26 Rules & Regulations

We are so excited to have you joining us for the 2025-26 Season. Below you will find our rules, regulations, and awards for both regionals and nationals. If you have any questions, please contact us at [info@ignitedancecompetition.com](mailto:info@ignitedancecompetition.com).

## Types of Entries and Time Limits

• Solo	1 dancer	2 minute, 45 second time limit
• Duet	2 dancers	3-minute time limit
• Trio	3 dancers	3-minute time limit
• Small Group	4 to 9 dancers	3-minute time limit
• Large Group	10 to 19 dancers	4-minute time limit
• Super Group	20 or more dancers	5-minute time limit
• Production	15 or more dancers	8-minute time limit

**Extended Time:** Additional time (by the minute) can be purchased for any group routine that exceeds the time limits listed above. Routines that exceed the time limit AND do not purchase extra time will be scored for adjudication only and will not be eligible for overall awards. Solos, duets, and trios are not able to purchase additional time.

## Age Divisions

All ages for the season are calculated as of January 1 of the current year.

- Mini 4-6 years old
- Petite 7-9 years old
- Junior 10-12 years old
- Teen 13-15 years old
- Senior 16-19 years old
- Adult 20+ years old

If a routine has multiple age divisions, they can only compete in one age division lower than their oldest dancer. **Example:** A routine has juniors, teens, and seniors with the average age being junior they can only compete in the teen division as it is one level below the oldest dancer who is a senior.

## Dance Styles

Entries may compete in the following styles. Entries with three or more acro passes should be entered in the Acro or Open categories.

- Jazz
- Tap
- Ballet
- Contemporary
- Lyrical
- Modern
- Hip Hop
- Musical Theatre
- Acro
- Clogging
- Open

A soloist can only have one solo per category. For example, a dancer can have two solos at the competitive level but they must be in different styles.

## Levels

Each routine will compete at one of the following levels:

- **Recreational:** This is the perfect introduction to the competition stage. Dancers should train for less than 3 hours per week including all technique classes, rehearsals, and private lessons. **Soloists at the recreational level may only have one solo.**
- **Competitive:** This level is for the beginner to intermediate dancer. The dancer may take up to five hours per week including all technique classes, rehearsals, and private lessons. Dancers should not execute any advanced turning sequences, jumps, or leaps. **Soloists at the competitive level may only perform two solos.**
- **Elite:** This level is for the intermediate to advanced dancer who dances for six or more hours a week including all technique classes, rehearsals, and private lessons. The dancer can execute advanced and technical choreography.
- **Pro-Am:** Any routine that has a teacher, choreographer, director, or dancer who is or has been paid to teach or perform must compete at the Pro-Am level. Routines at the Pro-Am level are not eligible for Overall High Score, Choreography, Entertainment, or Most Memorable Awards.

**NEW!** During registration, levels must be entered for each dancer. The registration software will automatically calculate the level of the routine based on the level of each dancer in a routine. All duets, trios, and group routines will compete at the level in which the majority of dancers fall. For example, a routine with three recreational dancers and four competitive dancers will compete as competitive. You can always bump up their level but you cannot bump down a level.

There are no levels for the Improv portion of the competition.

As there is no possible way for any competition to know how many hours a dancer dances each week, levels are at the discretion of the studio. No changes can be made 21 days prior to the event.

## Bump Rule

Ignite Dance Competition reserves the right to “bump” a routine to the next level if it is incorrectly placed. If during a performance the judges unanimously agree the level of a routine needs to be bumped up and the routine scores High Platinum or above, the studio owner and/or teacher will be notified, and the routine will be moved to the appropriate level. Routines can be moved up but not down. All decisions are final.

## Preliminary + Final Schedule

Ignite will send each studio a preliminary schedule 10 days prior to the first day of competition. Studios will have two days to make any changes to levels, age divisions, and to add or remove dancers from a routine. Be sure to thoroughly check each of your entries. Five days prior to the first day of competition a final schedule will be provided for all studios. Once the final schedule is released, no changes may be made to the schedule.

Ignite reserves the right to ask routines to perform up to one hour prior to their scheduled performance time. If a routine is not ready to perform at the assigned time or within three routines of their assigned time, the routine will be scored for adjudications only and will not be eligible for overall awards. If a routine does not perform by the end of its assigned session, it will be disqualified from adjudications.

**NEW!** Changes made after the final schedule has been sent will be subject to a change fee and will not be printed in the program. No changes will be made onsite. Changes include but are not limited to:

- Change of act name
- Change of category
- Change of level
- Change of age division
- Change of division type
- Addition or deletion of performer
- Music file change

## **Nationals Qualifier**

Routines wishing to join us for Nationals must attend and compete at a regional event. Routines can not compete for the first time with Ignite at a Nationals.

Routines that compete at the Regional level and choose to compete at Nationals must stay at the same level (ex. Competitive). They may compete a level up, but they cannot move down a level. Group sizes can go down, just not up (ex. A large group could now be a small group for Nationals, but a small group could not compete as a large group).

Dancers can not compete a different solo at Regionals and Nationals.

## **Nationals Opening Number**

Dancers who are invited to participate in opening number at Nationals and plan to attend Nationals should plan to be present for all days of Nationals. There is a \$60 fee associated with opening number to cover the cost of choreography and a commemorative shirt to be worn during their performance.

Dancers participating in opening number will attend rehearsals for the age group in which they are competing. Opening Number ages are calculated based the age of the dancer on January 1 of the current year.

Registration for opening number will only be open May 13-22, 2026. Dancers must register for opening number even if they receive an invite to join us. No late entries will be accepted. Registration for opening number will be capped at 125 dancers and is provided on a first-come, first-serve basis.

## **Nationals Challenge of the Champions**

At Ignite Dance Competition Nationals, dancers have the opportunity to compete in the Challenge of the Champions. At the end of each group session (Mini/Petite, Junior, Teen, and Senior), the top five group routines (must be a small, large, or super group) of that session will have the opportunity to re-compete and become the ultimate Challenge of the Champions Winner. At the end of the awards ceremony when the top five routines are announced, dancers will have six minutes to change into their costumes, reassemble any props, and meet back on stage for their final performance order. Performance orders will be randomly selected. Once all dancers for that routine have returned backstage, one dancer from each routine will pick a star from the bowl to determine their performance order. Stars will be labeled one thru five and dancers will perform in the order written on the stars. Studios that do not make it back in six minutes will be disqualified. After the top five routines re-perform, a second runner-up, a first runner-up, and a winner will be announced. Each studio may only have one routine in the Challenge. The Challenge of the Champions is only meant for group sessions and not solos, duets, trios, or productions.

## **Props**

Props are welcome on the Ignite Stage. All props must be assembled within 90 seconds and taken down within 90 seconds. If these requirements cannot be met, it needs to be immediately brought to Ignite's attention. All props must fit through a standard 36-inch-wide doorway. Props placing the dancer 8 feet or higher off the ground are deemed unsafe and are not allowed.

Props may not be in the wings until directed by the production manager or backstage crew for the safety of all dancers and participants. Props must also be removed from the wings immediately after the routine. Props must be stored away from pedestrian and vehicle traffic and may not remain backstage, in the lobby or in any undesignated location. Props cannot be stored in the venue.

Fire, swords, knives, guns, live animals, powders, liquids, glitter, paint, sand, confetti, etc. are not allowed. If a routine has these props, it will automatically be disqualified, and entry fees will be forfeited.

## **Dressing Rooms**

Dancers will be provided with an area within the venue to change, get ready, and warm-up for their routines.

Upon arriving at the venue, please see the merchandise table for directions to your studio's dressing room. Dancers, parents, teachers, and studio owners should be kind and share these designated spaces with fellow dancers and studios. A separate space will be assigned for male dancers to get dressed and warm up. All rooms will be clearly labeled. Only dancers, teachers, studio owners, and one parent or guardian per dancer may enter the dressing room. Ignite reserves the right to remove anyone from the dressing room.

### **Music**

All music **must be** uploaded 21 days before the first day of the competition. All teachers should carry a backup of their music via USB drive. CD's will not be accepted. All music should be edited and family friendly.

### **Performances**

If a dancer or group chooses to re-perform for any reason, except for technical difficulty caused by Ignite, that routine will be scored for adjudication only.

All routines, music, and choreography must be family-friendly. Routines that do not meet these criteria will be adjudicated only and not eligible for overall awards.

### **Pictures & Videos**

Video cameras and still cameras are prohibited inside all competition venues. In order to protect the choreographer's rights and the safety and privacy of all competitors, we reserve the right to confiscate all recording devices (including cellular devices) used during an event and/or disqualify an entry. All competitors, teachers, and studio owners consent to the use of video, audio, and photographs for use in promotional material without royalty, fee, or other compensation. By attending or competing in an Ignite event you are agreeing to the use of your image and likeness by Ignite Dance Competition, LLC, all partners, and affiliates. Violation of this policy will result in ejection from the event.

You can purchase all the pictures and videos through the Dakiki app. Your dancer's full name and birthdate as registered for the event will be needed in order to access the media.

### **Video Critiques**

Studio Owners and Directors will receive all video and audio critiques within one week after the final day of competition and will be notified via email once they are available to review. All critiques can be reviewed in your studio's DanceCompGenie Account.

### **Entry Fees and Payments**

Studio Owners and Directors, please contact us for entry fees. Proof of studio ownership will be required.

All entry fees must be paid in full 21 days in advance for regionals and 30 days in advance for Nationals. Entry fees received after this time frame will be subject to a late fee per routine. Entries not paid in full 21 days in advance will be unable to compete and any paid entry fees or deposits will be forfeited. If you are sending a check, it must be postmarked by the deadline to receive the early bird discount or to avoid late fees. If a check is postmarked after the deadline, late fees will automatically be added to your account. No exceptions.

**NEW!** For registrations to be considered complete:

- All routines must be entered correctly
- Payment must be made in full
- Music must be uploaded
- All waivers must be signed

All payments can be made through your studio's DanceCompGenie account or by sending a check directly to Ignite Dance Competition, 1156 Drop Off Drive, Unit C, Summerville, SC 29483. All returned checks are subject to a \$150 returned check fee. Personal checks will not be accepted.

## **Independent Entries**

Ignite does not accept independent entries.

## **Refunds**

**NEW!** Refunds are at the sole discretion of Ignite Dance Competition. Refunds of \$300 or more will be issued automatically in the original form of payment within 10 days of the event. Refunds less than \$300 will be automatically applied as a credit to the studio account for use through November 30, 2026. Any used credits at the end of the year will be forfeited.

If an Ignite event is canceled and we are unable to provide a rescheduled date, a full refund will be provided to the studio.

## **Safety**

Ignite Dance Competition and the hosting facility are not responsible for any kind of damage, loss, or injury sustained by contestants or spectators or their property while attending any area of the venue premises. Participation in our competition indicates acceptance of any such risk by performers. Therefore, upon registration to any Ignite Dance Competition event, it is agreed that all participants will not hold Ignite Dance Competition, its directors, or its employees responsible for any injuries that occur or illnesses that may be contracted during the competition event. Owners, directors, and teachers agree to adhere to the release of liability clause, which is completed during the registration process.

Ignite highly encourages all attendees to supervise children at all times, be responsible for their personal belongings, be aware of their surroundings, and inform Ignite employees of any unsuitable or suspicious activity.

## **Programs and Merchandise**

Ignite Programs and Merchandise will be for sale in each city. Both are first-come, first-serve.

## **Additional Rules**

Ignite Dance Competition, LLC and the host venue are not responsible for any personal injury or property loss before, during, or after the event.

Ignite Dance Competition, LLC reserves the right to cancel any and all events due to lack of registration, inclement weather, or other unforeseen circumstances. Furthermore, Ignite Dance Competition, LLC reserves the right to change an event's location, venue, and/or date(s). Upon changing a location, venue, and/or date(s), a representative from Ignite Dance Competition, LLC will contact your studio. Ignite will not be held liable for any costs endured for any type of travel arrangements made upon canceling an event or an event selling out, including but not limited to hotel fees, transportation fees, or bank fees. We HIGHLY recommend registering for an event prior to making ANY travel arrangements.

# **2025-26 Adjudications & Awards**

## **Scoring**

At both Regional and National events, Ignite will have three judges scoring every routine. Each routine's score is based on three critical components: technique, showmanship, and overall impact. The highest total score from each judge is 100 points and the highest cumulative score is 300.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Points Per Judge</b>	<b>Cumulative Total</b>
Technical Execution	50 points	150 points
Showmanship & Performance	40 points	120 points
Overall Impact	10 points	30 points
<b>Total Score</b>	<b>100 points</b>	<b>300 points</b>

## **Adjudication Scale**

Diamond	300-292
High Platinum	291.9-285
Platinum	284.9-275
High Gold	274.9-265
Gold	264.9-0

\*All ties will be broken and awarded to the routine with the higher technical execution score.

## **Judges Awards**

At each awards ceremony, each judge will have the ability to give judges awards to routines that inspired or stood out to them during each session. These awards are hand-selected and presented by each judge from the stage. These awards are presented at both Regional and National events.

## **Highest in the Category**

When there are three or more routines in the category, Ignite will recognize up to the top ten routines in a category. A category includes a specific level (ex. Recreational), age level (ex. Junior), style (ex. Contemporary), AND an entry type (ex: Small Group). Routines ranking highest in the category will receive verbal recognition only. These routines are recognized at both Regional and National events.

For example, if there are 12 Recreational Junior Contemporary Small Groups at an event; Ignite will recognize the top ten Recreational Junior contemporary small groups not including any additional styles of dance.

## **Overall Awards**

All routines within a specific level (ex. Elite), age level (ex. Senior), and entry type (ex. Solos) will compete against each other for Overall Awards. These awards are given once all routines for that overall have competed. Ignite will award up to the top ten in any overall award. These awards are presented at both Regional and National events.

A soloist may only place once in the overall awards. For example, if a dancer has two solos in the Competitive Junior Solo category. Only the highest-scoring solo will place in the overall awards.

## **Dancer of the Year**

At Nationals, dancers competing a solo will automatically be entered into our Dancer of the Year Competition. Dancers must have competed a solo at our Regional event. Dancers will be recognized at the end of their prospective session. Dancers competing at pro-am level, or in the adult age division are not eligible for this award. This award is only presented at our National event.

### **Artists on Fire**

Artists on Fire are stand-out soloists hand-selected by our panel of judges each weekend for their technique and passion for dance. This award is presented at our Regional and National events.

### **Stand Out Dancers**

Each weekend Ignite offers free convention classes to start each full day of competition. Convention teachers have the opportunity to recognize stand-out dancers in their classes. These dancers will be recognized during the group awards ceremony for their age division. Dancers will be presented with a certificate. This award is presented at both our Regional and National events.

### **National Improv Championship**

At Nationals, Ignite will host its Nationals Improv Championship. Ignite will recognize the Improv winner for each age division. The Mini and Petite Age Divisions will be combined and dancers competing in the adult age division are not eligible for this award. If there are 5-10 entries, one runner up will be awarded. If there are 10 or more entries, two runners up will be awarded.

### **Top Choreographers**

Each weekend Ignite will recognize up to two group routines with outstanding choreography. Solo, duet, and trio scores are not eligible for this overall award. Routines competing at the pro-am level or in the adult age division are not eligible for this award. This award will be presented to the choreographer of the award-winning routine. Ignite has the ability to combine this award if there are fewer than 10 entries in a division.

### **Most Entertaining**

Each weekend Ignite will recognize up to two group routines with outstanding performance quality. Solo, duet, and trio scores are not eligible for this overall award. Routines competing at the pro-am level or in the adult age division are not eligible for this award. Ignite has the ability to combine this award if there are fewer than 10 entries in a division.

### **Most Memorable Award**

This award is selected by the Judges and awarded to up to two routines that the judges would like to see one more time. Solos, duets, and trios are not eligible for this award. Ignite has the ability to combine this award if there are fewer than 10 entries in a division.

### **Highest Score of the Weekend**

Ignite will award the Highest Score of the Weekend to the routines with the highest cumulative score for the weekend. Routines competing at the pro-am level or in the adult age division are not eligible for these awards. Ignite has the ability to combine this award if there are fewer than 10 entries in a division.

- 12 & Under: Highest Scoring Soloist (regardless of level)
- 12 & Under: Highest Scoring Duet or Trio (regardless of level)
- 12 & Under: Highest Scoring Group (regardless of level)
- 13 & Over: Highest Scoring Soloist (regardless of level)
- 13 & Over: Highest Scoring Duet or Trio (regardless of level)
- 13 & Over: Highest Scoring Group (regardless of level)

### **Top Scoring Studio**

This award will be presented to the studio with the highest cumulative average for their group routines. Studios must have at least 5 group routines to be eligible for this award.

### **Spirit of Ignite**

Presented during the final group ceremony of the weekend, this prestigious award recognizes a studio that embodies Ignite's core values. The recipient studio exemplifies community by uplifting others, demonstrating outstanding sportsmanship, and showing unwavering respect throughout the event.