

We are so excited to have you joining us for the 2026-2027 Season. Below you will find our rules and awards for both regionals and nationals. If you have any questions, please contact us at 843-471-0403 or info@ignitedancecompetition.com. We are looking forward to an amazing season with you!

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 can be purchased by the minute 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 6 years old & Under
- Petite 7-8 years old
- Junior 9-11 years old
- **NEW!** Preteen 12-13 years old
- Teen 14-15 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.

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

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. **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. **Soloists at the competitive level may only perform three solos.**
- **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.

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.

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. We ask that all studio owners and directors are honest about the number of hours each dancer trains upon the registration of that dancer.

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 by the on-site director, 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 approximately 14 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. Studios should thoroughly check all of their 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 adjudication 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

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.

NEW! All the pictures and videos taken by the Ignite media team are complimentary and can be accessed 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

Entry fees can be accessed through the DanceCompGenie portal. For new accounts, proof of studio ownership will be required before your account is approved.

All entry fees must be paid in full 21 days in advance of any Ignite Dance Competition Event. Entry fees received after this time frame will be subject to a late fee per routine. Entries not paid in full 18 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. Tracking is required for all mailed payments.

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 29486. 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

Refunds are at the sole discretion of Ignite Dance Competition. No refunds will be provided 14 days before an event. If a refund is granted, it will be issued automatically in the original form of payment 10 days after the event.

All deposits are non-refundable and non-transferable.

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.

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.

Programs and Merchandise

Ignite Programs and Merchandise will be for sale in each city. Both are first-come, first-serve. No cash sales.

Nationals Qualifier

Routines wishing to join us for Nationals must attend and compete at a regional event. Routines cannot 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). In the group routine is smaller but the length of music does not change, additional time will need to be purchased.

Dancers cannot 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 \$80 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 on the age of the dancer on January 1 of the current year.

Registration for opening number will only be open May 19 - June 9, 2027. 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 150 dancers per Nationals 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. 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. In the event that there are not five groups from five different studios in any age division, Ignite reserves the right to combine age divisions.

At the end of the awards ceremony when the top five routines are announced, dancers will have seven 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 seven 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.

2026-27 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.

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

Adjudication Scale

NEW! Ring the Alarm 300-292 (Competitive + Elite Levels ONLY)

Diamond	291.9-285
High Platinum	284.9-275
Platinum	274.9-265
High Gold	264.9-255
Gold	Up to 254.9

*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.

Category Overalls

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.

Artists on Fire

This is presented to 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.

Judge's Choice Awards

During duet, trio, and group award ceremonies, Ignite will also award and recognize routines for:

- **Outstanding Choreography:** a routine with creative vision and originality
- **Artistry + Innovation:** a routine with emotional connection and artistic expression
- **Exceptional Showmanship:** a routine with dynamic performance and stage presence
- **Legacy Award:** a routine that leaves a lasting impression long after it leaves the stage

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.

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

Technical Excellence

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 in the given level to be eligible for this award. This award is presented at the recreational, competitive, and elite levels. A studio may only receive one Technical Excellence 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.

ADCC Studio of Excellence Award

Presented during the final group ceremony of the weekend, this prestigious honor is given by ADCC member competitions to dance studios that best exemplify values of teamwork, sportsmanship, quality training, and overall industry excellence.

National 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.

National Improv Challenge

At Nationals, Ignite will host its Nationals Improv Challenge. Ignite will recognize the Improv winner for each age division. If there is less than 5 entries in an age division, Ignite reserves the right to combine two or more age divisions. 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.