



National Society of Arts and Letters

Supporting young talent in the performing, visual, and literary arts since 1944

2021 NSAL National Awards Competition in Dance

AWARDS

1. Top competitors at both the Chapter Level and the National Level receive cash awards.
2. The first place winner at the National Level will be awarded \$12,000.
3. In previous years, NSAL has presented awards totaling as much as \$40,000 to the winning contestants.

NATIONAL COMPETITION RULES

1. Competitors in the 2021 National Competition in Classical Ballet must show evidence of career potential but not be under exclusive contract to a dance company or have an agent/manager at any time during the competition.
2. The competition is open to dancers ages 16-23. Competitors must have passed their 16th birthday on or before the Chapter Level competition and have not yet reached their 24th birthday by the date of the National Level competition - Friday, June 4, 2021.
3. Professional dancers are not permitted to enter the competition. "Professional Dancer" is defined by the NSAL Dance Competition as an individual who is employed or contracted as a full-time dancer (apprentices included) with a professional dance company; or an individual who is regularly employed to perform as an independent dance artist. This includes dancers who are not currently employed under such a contract, but have been in the past.
4. The competition is open to dancers of all nationalities, races, religions, genders and sexual orientations.
5. Competitors must be a citizen or legal resident of the United States or US Territories with a valid taxpayer identification number. Contestants must have a United States Social Security number and a United States residence address.
6. Competitors in the National Level Competition will have competed in and been declared the sole first place winner of a NSAL Chapter Level Competition prior to entering the National Competition.
7. Competitors will enter the competition of the chapter closest to their home, school, current residence, or as assigned by the National Awards Competition Chair.
8. Competitors shall enter only one chapter competition. Chapter competitions may be held as early as October 2020. A list of Chapter contacts may be found in the Information & Registration Packet and on the NSAL website.
9. Competitors shall electronically submit the completed and signed Registration Form along with the other materials requested on the form to the Chapter Chair (or Chapter President if no Chair is specified) by the Chapter deadline.
10. Contestants' identity and chapter affiliation will remain anonymous to the judges until judging has been completed.
11. All chapters shall use the national rules for chapter competitions.
12. A winner of a NSAL National Competition in Dance cannot compete in any future NSAL dance competitions.

Continued - NATIONAL COMPETITION RULES

13. To receive an award at the National Level competitors shall attend and participate in the following events:
 - a. Attend the contestant orientation meeting on June 3, 2021
 - b. Participate in all three components of the National Competition:
 - 1) Adjudicated Master Class
 - 2) Classical Variation
 - 3) Contemporary Variation
 - c. Attend the Awards Ceremony on June 5, 2021
 - d. If the National Level Competition pivots to virtual, additional information will be provided about required video submissions and/or live-stream elements of the competition.
14. The top three winning national contestants will permit videotaping of their performance to be played at the Awards Ceremony on Saturday, June 5, 2021.
15. Award winners will be prepared to participate in post-competition print, digital, TV or radio interviews or media conferences, if requested.
16. A competition registration fee may be assessed at the Chapter Level Competition, but not at the National Level Competition.
17. The chapter sponsoring each contestant shall pay the expenses for conference registration, hotel accommodations and transportation to and from the National Competition in Pittsburgh.
18. NSAL reserves the right to use any photos taken of any competitor, teacher or judge during warm-up, classes, competition or at any social function or awards ceremony.
19. All NSAL photos used independently for publication by a competitor shall credit photographer and NSAL.
20. NSAL has the right to amend the rules and regulations at any time.
21. There will be no decision which will result in a tie.
22. In the event that any issue is not clearly addressed in the rules and regulations, the decision of NSAL will be final.

PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

1. Each competitor will be judged on their performance in three components of the competition:
 - a. Classwork: Competitors will participate in a 1.5 hour master class that includes classical barre work, centre practice, pointe (for women), and a contemporary enchainement.
 - b. Classical Variation: Present one variation from the list below. Women must perform en pointe.

Female:	Black Swan Variation, Swan Lake (M. Petipa, L. Ivanov) Kitri Variation (w/fan), Don Quixote (M. Petipa) Florine Variation, Sleeping Beauty (M. Petipa) Pas D'Esclave Variation, Le Corsaire (M. Petipa)
Male:	Siegfried Variation, Swan Lake (M. Petipa, L. Ivanov) Ali Variation, Le Corsaire (M. Petipa) Bluebird Variation, Sleeping Beauty (M. Petipa) Nutcracker Prince Variation, Nutcracker (M. Petipa, L. Ivanov)
 - c. Contemporary Solo: The Contemporary Solo must demonstrate proficiency of range of movement within the framework of a dance vocabulary other than ballet. The solo may be original choreography by the competitor or choreographed by someone else. The solos should not exceed 2.5 minutes. Props prohibited. No pointe.

Continued - PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

2. Competitors must provide an mp3 audio file of their own music in advance of the competition. Each mp3 audio file should be labeled with the dancer's name and the title of the dance.
3. Only performance quality music is acceptable.
4. Competitors must also bring a back-up copy of their music on a recording device such as a CD or flash drive.
 - a. Only the music for the classical variation (Track 1) and the contemporary solo (Track 2) shall be on the back-up device. Record each track with a 2 second lead.
 - b. The music back ups will be handed in at the contestants' orientation session which is June 3, 2021 at the National Level.
5. A performance number will be added to the music recordings at the competitor orientation after each dancer has drawn a performance number from a hat.
6. Attire for the competition shall be as follows:
 - Classwork and Classical Variation:
 - Female - any solid color sleeveless leotard (and optional matching short skirt) with pink or flesh colored tights and shoes.
 - Male - any solid color fitted shirt with black tights and shoes.All tights must be worn inside shoes for classwork and the classical variation.
 - Contemporary Solo:
 - Female - any solid color sleeveless leotard with tights (pink or flesh color), black dance shorts, or bare legs
 - Male - any solid color fitted shirt with either black tights or dance shortsCompetitors may perform the contemporary solo barefoot, in socks, half-sole shoes, in jazz shoes, or sneakers.

ADJUDICATION

1. Competitors will be judged on technique (placement, precision, etc.) in the adjudicated master class.
2. Competitors will be judged on artistry, style, technical skill and musicality in the Classical Variation and Contemporary Solo components of the competition.
3. There will be three qualified judges having no personal connection or advance partiality towards any competitor. An alternate judge will be available in the event a designated judge needs to disqualify himself/herself from judging a competitor.
4. Judges will not see any contestant's name or chapter affiliation until after the judging is complete.
5. Judges will be separated from the audience and each other during the performances. They shall not confer during the presentations.
6. After the last competitor has performed, the judges shall confer and will have the option for callbacks on the same material before making their final decision. There will be no decision that results in a tie. The decision of the judges is final.

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

1. Covid-19 protocols will be in place to safeguard the health of all involved.
2. If necessary, the competitions may pivot to a partial or full virtual format at the Chapter Level and/or the National level.
3. The dates of competitions at the Chapter and National Levels will remain the same, however, new deadlines and procedures for uploading video components of the competition may apply.
4. Competitors will be notified by the competition via email regarding upload procedures and deadlines.

Format Recommendation for Virtual Competition

1. *Attire: same as for live competition*
2. *Music: Music should be recorded as part of the video and not edited in afterward.*
3. *Video: All video should be well lighted and of good quality. It is recommended to shoot the barre from a side angle and everything else from straight on. The classical variation and contemporary solo videos must be unedited. No additional noises should be audible in the background.*
4. *Identification: The name of the competitor must not appear in the content of the video submitted for judging. The video file should be named with the competitor's name and the component of competition. Example: John Smith/Classwork*
5. *Classwork: Competitors must upload a digital video of himself/herself performing classwork in a studio environment. Excerpts of live performances will not be accepted. The video file must contain all the elements listed below. The video should not exceed 10 minutes, frame the full body throughout, and show the competitor's artistic, musical, and technical capabilities. Males and females should wear soft ballet shoes.*
 - a. *Barre work:*
 - Not more than 5 minutes.*
 - Present only one side.*
 - Show pliés, tendu, adagio with battement lents and/or développés, and grand battements.*
 - b. *Centre practice:*
 - Pirouettes en-dehors and en-dedans*
 - Adagio (soft ballet shoes)*
 - Small and medium jumps including assemblés, jetés, sissonnes, and beats*
 - Tour en l'air right and left (male competitors only)*
 - c. *Grand allegro:*
 - Females should include a diagonal of turning steps in the enchainement*
 - Males must show cabrioles, entrechats six and double tours en l'air within the enchainement*
6. *Classical Variation: Competitors must upload a video of himself/herself performing one of the approved variations in a studio or on a stage without any visual distractions in the background. Video of a live performance before an audience will not be accepted.*
7. *Contemporary Solo: Competitors must upload a video of himself/herself performing a Contemporary Solo in a studio or on a stage without any visual distractions in the background. Video of a live performance before an audience will not be accepted.*
8. *Optional Personal Statement: The competition may request the competitor to upload a video of himself/herself briefly answering the following questions: What sparked your love of dancing? What nourishes you as an artist? In what direction would you like to see your career as a dancer go? Note: This element may be shared to offer the audience interesting insights about the competitor, but it is not to be judged as a component of competition.*

Live Stream Option

9. *Where the technical capability is available, the Competition may choose a live stream option for the Classical Variation and the Contemporary Solo. With this option, competitors perform these components of the competition in a studio or on a stage (without visual distractions) for a live stream audience and the judges. Under this option, the classwork component will be judged from the submitted classwork video in advance, and the videos of the Classical Variation and Contemporary Solo will be held as back-up for judging should technical difficulties arise.*

NSAL National Dance Chair, Cindy Free at cindy@birminghamballet.com Phone: 205-516-0022

NSAL National Dance Co-Chair, Edie Barnes at ediebarnesdance@gmail.com

Links to Related Information:

[2021 NSAL Awards Competition in Dance - Information & Registration](#)

[NSAL Website](#)