

ENCORE TALENT PRODUCTIONS

2023 RULES & REGULATIONS

RECREATIONAL LEVEL (Beginner):

Dancers who study less than one (1) to four (4) hours per week at the studio.

COMPETITIVE LEVEL (Intermediate):

Dancers who study four (4) to six (6) hours per week at the studio.

ELITE LEVEL (Advanced):

Dancers who study over six (6) hours per week in the studio.

SPECIAL PERFORMERS:

This category is for special needs dancers and will perform in the recreational category.

Dancers competing in the Competitive and Elite levels must remain in those levels for all entries or routines performed at the individual competition. Routines that are obviously under-placed into the wrong skill level may, at the discretion of Encore Talent Productions, be placed in a higher level by the judges.

AGE DIVISIONS:

Mini:	Three (3) - Six (6) years of age
Petite:	Six (6) - Eight (8) years of age
Junior:	Nine (9) - Twelve (12) years of age
Teen:	Thirteen (13) - Fifteen (15) years of age
Senior:	Sixteen (16) - Eighteen (18) years of Age

All ages for solo performers are defined as the contestant's age as of January 1st of the calendar year. A group's age is based on the average age of the performers as of January 1st of the calendar year. The ages of all performers within the group are added together and then divided by the total number of group members. Results ending in ".1 to .5" are rounded down to the nearest whole number. Results ending in ".6 to .9" are rounded up to the nearest whole number. Groups are not permitted to compete in an age group more than one (1) year below the oldest dancer in the group. Routines competing in Nationals must enter the same age division as they did in the qualifying regional competition. Encore Talent Productions reserves the right to verify any contestant / group's age(s). Violations of entering the wrong age division will result in an immediate disqualification with no refund.

TIME LIMITS:

Solos (Individual Performance):	Three (3) Minutes
Soloists are limited to a total of two (2) solo performances; each being in different categories.	
Duets / Trios (Compete Against Each Other):	Three (3) Minutes
Duet / Trio entries can not win in group categories	
Small Groups (4-9 Dancers):	Three (3) Minutes
Large Groups (10-16 Dancers):	Four (4) Minutes
Lines ((17-20 Dancers):	Four (4) Minutes
Productions (21 or More Dancers):	Six (6) Minutes

A deduction of one (1) point will be assessed for any performance exceeding the time limit. Additional time can be purchased at a rate of \$5.00 per dancer per each additional minute or partial one (1) minute interval.

ENTRY DEADLINES:

The entry deadline for all competitions is fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled competition. A twenty-five percent (25%) deposit is due at time of registration with the remaining balance due in full forty-five (45) days in advance of the event. Entries received after the deadline are not guaranteed to be accepted. However, if there is available time within the competition schedule, they will be accepted with a \$10 late charge assessed per entry. Late entries are not eligible for discounts or promotions. Other than Photogenic contests, no entries will be accepted at the door. Only studios are eligible for discounts or promotions. Independent entries are not permitted regardless of circumstances.

REFUNDS:

Refunds will only be issued if a competition is cancelled by Encore Talent Productions. If a cancellation occurs, participants will be notified in advance of the cancellation and the refund will be forwarded via US mail. No refunds will be given to a contestant and / or studio that is unable to perform. Instead, a gift certificate for future use at another Encore Talent Productions competition within the same calendar year will be given. Those gift certificates are not guaranteed and may only be issued at the discretion of Encore Talent Productions depending upon the reason for the cancellation.

AWARDS:

Encore Talent Productions awards the following:

	<u>Recreational Level</u>	<u>Competitive Level</u>	<u>Elite Level</u>
Encore Star:	N/A	290 – 300	292 - 300
Double Platinum:	285 – 300	273 – 289.9	275 - 291.9
Platinum:	270 - 284.9	256 – 272.9	258 – 274.9
High Gold:	240 - 269.9	237.9 – 255.9	240 – 257.9
Gold:	0 – 239.9	0 – 237.8	0 – 239.9

Each participant within the group entries will receive pins designating their adjudication. All tie scores will be broken by the entry with the highest score in Technique, then Showmanship, then Choreography.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE RESTRICTIONS:

All competitions will follow the infectious disease guidelines established by the Ohio Department of Health Dependent and in effect on the date of a competition, Encore Talent Productions reserves the right to utilize block schedules for individual studios. Under block scheduling a studio's performances will perform during a specified time block. Studio's may be given a choice between blocked scheduling verses non-blocked scheduling, depending upon the actual restrictions. No refunds will be given for any competition cancelled due to infectious disease restrictions. Instead, credit vouchers will be issued for a future competition produced by Encore Talent Productions.

CATEGORIES:

- Tap:** A routines consisting primarily of tap technique. Tap sounds are not allowed on tape and / or within the applicable music. Tap shoes are required.
- Jazz:** A routines consisting primarily of jazz technique. Jazz shoes are required.
- Hip Hop:** A routine consisting primarily of Hip Hop technique. There are no restrictions on shoes.
- Ballet:** Routines must contain ballet technique primarily using classical ballet movement and steps. The use of ballet shoes is required. Acro / gymnastic tricks are prohibited.

- Pointe Ballet:** Routines consisting of pointe ballet technique using classical movements and hard toe pointe shoes. Acro / Gymnastic tricks are prohibited.
- Lyrical:** Routines should tell a story and exhibit balance, extension, and control. Apparel is limited to lyrical shoes and / or bare feet.
- Modern:** Routines should be an interpretation of the music using balance, extension, and control in a contemporary style. There are no shoe restrictions.
- Contemporary:** Routines should interpret music using balance, extension, and control in a contemporary style. There are no shoe restrictions.
- Clogging:** Routines consisting of primarily clogging technique and style. Proper clogging shoes should be used.
- Acro / Gymnastics:** Routine must incorporate controlled gymnastics with rhythm of music, using passes, continual flow from move to move, including five (5) or more Acro / gymnastic moves. There are no restrictions on shoes. Routines with five (5) or more Acro / gymnastic moves can not be performed in any other category. Routines with four (4) or fewer Acro / Gymnastic tricks can be performed in any category.
- Character:** Routines that demonstrate recognizable characters with or without music.
- Ethnic:** Must reflect a particular ethnic style of dance. There are no restrictions on shoes. This category will have its own overall awards for its various age divisions.
- Musical Theater:** A routine that reflects a dramatized or musical / theatrical theme. There are no restrictions on shoes.
- Open:** Routines that do not fit in any of the other categories. A performer may also enter as a separate entry to avoid competing more than once in one category.
- Student Choreography:** Dance must be choreographed by the student(s) with no help or coaching from the teacher. This category will be eligible for special awards if there are at least five (5) entries.
- Photogenic:** Black & White or color photograph submitted in a separate entry; preferably not full length. This category is divided into two (2) age groups. The first being twelve (12) years of age & under and the second being thirteen (13) years and older. This category may be entered at the door. Photos are not to be submitted with entries.

GENERAL RULES:

Contestants should not compete against themselves with multiple numbers in the same category. Individual entry fees apply with no discounts for multiple entries. Dancers may not enter the same dance entered in a prior year's competition. Contestants are discouraged from competing against themselves.

Contestants can only compete during their designated time slot or block of time. If they are not ready to perform during the allotted time, they could be disqualified. Individual studios must notify Encore Talent Productions of any costume change which could cause delays in the performance schedule.

Contestants and participating studios, by registering for the competition, give their permission to Encore Talent Productions to use their images, photographs, or appear in videos, television, or any other electronic media for advertising, news coverage, or any other commercial use.

Any contestant or studio member that conducts themselves in an unsportsmanlike manner risks permanent disqualification and will be asked to vacate the premises without refund. This includes behavior in the dressing rooms. Noise makers of any kind are prohibited. Including but not limited to; air horns, cow bells, rattle devices, whistles, bull horns, or any other items distracting to judges, dancers, participants, Encore staff members, parents, and members of the audience.

During a performance, coaching any participant or group from behind stage, within the wings, side stages, or from the audience, either physically (motions) and / or verbally, is strictly prohibited. Violations will result in immediate disqualification. Only one (1) studio staff member, director, owner, or assistant may accompany participants and / or groups back-stage. Watching performances back-stage is strictly prohibited.

Props are allowed if they are to be used in the routine except for fire, swords, knives, or other items determined to be dangerous by Encore Talent Productions. If the stage is littered by the participant's props or costumes, it is the responsibility of the participant to clean the stage immediately after the routine is finished. Encore Talent Productions are not liable for lost or damaged props. Should a prop, or its movement on and off the stage, damage any type of stage flooring, the registered participating studio will be responsible for 100% of repair and / or replacement costs. No liquid, paint, gel, aerosol, glitter, fog, smoke, powder, paint powder, ashes, or similar substance that would affect the dancing surface is allowed.

Age-appropriate costumes, music, choreography, and lyrics are strongly encouraged. At the discretion of Encore Talent Productions, if dance movements, music lyrics, or costuming are deemed too suggestive or otherwise inappropriate for our family audience, or if the music contains vulgar or inappropriate lyrics, the routine may be scored lower by the judges or disqualified from the competition.

Changing leotards are strongly recommended but are not required. Use of changing leotards is at the discretion of the individual studios.

Videotaping and movie cameras are prohibited. Still photography is limited to taking photographs of the individual child or participant.

Each entry must furnish its own music via electronic / digital methods established by Encore Talent Productions. Music must be uploaded a minimum of ten (10) days prior to the event. Music on cellular phones or devices will not be accepted. It is recommended that all participating studios retain a second copy as a backup in the event of a malfunction of the original copy.

Liability:

Contestants are understood to recognize the risks of physical injury inherent to dance and performances and, by participating in the competition, are willing to assume those risks without liability being assessed to Encore Talent Productions. It is agreed that participants and spectators, jointly and severally hereby forever release, discharge, and acquit Encore Talent Productions from any and all contracts, claims, suits, actions, or liabilities both in law and in equity specifically arising from, relating to, or otherwise described as / or participation in any regional or National Finals Dance Competition including damages or injuries arising from or resulting from participation and / or possible exposure to infectious diseases. By registering for the competition, you acknowledge that there is a certain risk involved in the spread of infectious diseases but will take all precautions to prevent exposure.

Encore Talent Productions is not responsible for lost or stolen property. Do not leave property and / or valuables unattended in the event center, theater, or dressing rooms.

RETURNED CHECKS:

Personal checks are not accepted. Studios must remit a studio check, cashier's check, or money order. There will be a service charge of \$100.00 for all checks returned by a bank. After a check has been returned by the bank, all future entries must be accompanied by a money order or a cashier's check. If payment has not been received on a return check by the competition date, the contestant, participant, and / or studio will not be allowed to perform. There will be a \$25.00 fee for each change (category, age, group, or music) made at the door. Double checking your entry confirmation is highly recommended.

CANCELLATIONS:

Encore Talent Productions reserves the right to cancel any event that does not qualify with a minimum number of acceptable entries. The refund policy listed above will be applicable.