



2023 Rules and Regulations

Registration

- Visit our website for easy online registration. Complete the registration steps, print out the deposit form from our website, and mail with your deposit to guarantee your reservation.
- Entries are accepted on a first come basis and are limited by time restriction per location.
- Full payment must be received at least 45 days prior to the event.
- All entries must register through a studio.
- Please email or call our office with any questions or concerns.

Performance Levels / Routine Placement

- Studio Directors should use their own discretion to determine the level of each dancer.
- In a routine that has performers from mixed performance levels, more than 50% of the dancers must be from the performance level they are competing in.

Beginner

Dancers that have little competition experience, study up to 3 hours per week and are beginning to demonstrate an understanding of dance technique qualify as beginners.

Intermediate

Dancers that have moderate competition experience, study approximately 4-5 hours or less per week and demonstrate a solid understanding of dance technique qualify as intermediate.

Advanced

Dancers that have extensive competition experience, study more than 6 hours or more per week and demonstrate a strong understanding of dance technique qualify as advanced.

Performance Categories

Acro-Dance- Combines acrobatic/gymnastic and dance choreography. Must contain at least 50% dance choreography.

Ballet- Classical or Contemporary ballet movements and technique, Ballet slippers only.

Contemporary - Routine incorporating lyrical or jazz movement fused with modern elements.

Dance Team / Kick Line- Must consist of traditional dance team and kick line choreography.

Hip Hop- Routine containing hip hop technique from at least one of the various styles.

Jazz - Contains traditional jazz movements and technique.

Jazz Funk- Combines jazz technique with street fusion.

Lyrical- Dancers interpret the lyrics, mood and content of the music.

Modern - Consists of modern technique, movement and choreography.

Musical Theater / Character - A routine interpreting a song from a Broadway or movie musical and/or portraying an easily recognizable character.

Open - Any routine incorporating a combination of dance styles.

Tap - Tap technique No tap sounds in music

Pom-Pom - Performed with pom poms for at least 75% of the routine.

Pointe - A routine containing pointe technique.

Parent - Parent category, must consist of all adult performers.

Baton - A routine using batons with baton technique.

Clogging - A routine containing clogging technique and in clogging shoes.

Folk / Ethnic - A routine with one or more ethnic styles of dance.

Vocal - Routine may be any type of vocal presentation. Accompaniment must be pre recorded. No lead vocals may be recorded; backup vocals only will be permitted. Vocal routines will be eligible for separate overall high scores

Please note in all dance categories, except acro-dance and open, a limit of 3 overhead passes will be allowed.

Divisions / Time Limits

Extended time can be purchased for entries that exceed the time limit

Divisions	Number of Performers	Time Limits
Solo	1	2:45
Duo/Trio	2-3	2:45
Small Group	4-9	3:00
Large Group	10-19	4:00
Lines	20+	5:00
Production	15+	8:00

Age Division

Divisions are based on the dancer's age as of January 1st. Age divisions for all routines will be determined by averaging the ages of the participants in each dance. For averages ending in decimal points the decimal will be dropped.

Age Group	Ages
Mini	6 & Under
Petite	7-8
Junior	9-10
Pre-Teen	11-12
Teen	13-14
Elite Teen	15-16
Senior	17-19
Adult	20+

Judging / Scoring

- Every performance is critiqued by a panel of 3 Judges.
- All Judge Decisions are final.
- Judges will take score using a point system allowing them to score a maximum of 100 points each.
- Judges will take into consideration choreography, technique, stage presence, rhythm & unison.
- All entries will receive a score of a High Platinum, Platinum, High Gold, Gold or High Silver.
- Performers who exit the stage prior to the end of their performance are eligible to perform again for adjudication only.
- All score sheets and audio/video critiques will be uploaded to the Studio Directors registration site at the end of the Competition and the audio/video critiques will be available 10 days after the competition.

Adjudication	Score
High Platinum	297.0 - 300.0
Platinum	285.0 - 296.9
High Gold	274.0 - 284.9
Gold	263.0 - 273.9
High Silver	252.0 - 262.9

High Score

- Entries must compete before their award ceremony to be eligible for High Scores.
- Overall high scores for Solo, Duo/Trio, Groups and Lines/Productions will be recognized in the Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced performance levels.
- Top 10 will be awarded a placement based on the total number of entries in the age category, division and level.

Awards / Special Awards

- Dancers in a Solo, Duo or Trio will each receive an award and pin displaying their adjudicated award.
- All dancers in a group line or production will each receive a pin displaying their adjudicated award.
- A beautiful plaque displaying all group routine awards will be awarded to the studio.
- Scholarships will be awarded based on judge discretion, that may include partial or full tuition to training programs or classes.
- The following titles are considered the Backstage VIP Awards.

Best Costume
Best Use of a Prop
Best Storyteller
Best Music Selection
Best Choreography
Backstage Spirit Award

- Special Judge Awards, Shout out, Studio Stage Door and VIP Awards will be given at the discretion of the judges.

Overall High Score

- The highest scoring routine of the entire competition will be awarded.
- Top 10 placements will be announced and each runner up will be awarded.

Cash Awards

- Cash Award will be given in the form of a studio credit to be used at a future Backstage event.

Division	150 or More Entries
Solo	\$50
Duo/Trio	\$75
Small/Large Groups	\$100
Lines/Productions	\$150

Backstage Ultimate Challenge - Most Entertaining Routine

- Judges will identify three group routines at each regional competition that they feel was the most entertaining in the following group sizes.

Small Group
Large Group
Lines/Production

- Each routine chosen will be awarded a 6ft trophy.
- This winning routine has nothing to do with score.
- All regional Backstage Challenge winners are invited to bring their winning routine for FREE to our Nationals Finals and compete against other winners for the title of National Ultimate Challenge Winner.

High Platinum Elite Challenge

- Advanced Group routines who score High Platinum could be invited to re-perform in our Elite High Platinum Challenge at Nationals. These routines will compete against other High Platinum winners for a chance to be the National High Platinum Elite Challenge Winner. If the same routine wins Ultimate Challenge and Elite High Platinum they will not be able to compete in both challenges.

ADCC Studio of Excellence

- ADCC (Association of Dance Conventions and Competitions) this award is given to a studio that exemplifies the mission and the purpose of the ADCC which is to promote quality, integrity and opportunity in the dance competition world.

Photo for Dreams

- Backstage is a proud sponsor of St Jude's Children's Research Hospital. Studio Directors and or Parents can submit a 5x7 or 8x10 color or black & white photo with the dancer's name, age and studio name on the back. The judges will select who they feel is the most photogenic in both the 10 & Under and 11 & Older age Division. 100 % of all proceeds will be donated to St Jude's Children's Research Hospital.
- Photos should be submitted at the merchandise table along with your donation of \$25.00. Cash or check only written out to St Jude's Children's Hospital can be accepted.

Title Winners

- Title contender must be a soloist in the **Advanced** performance level.
- Each solo must receive a score of Platinum or higher to qualify.
- Soloists who receive the highest score in their age division will be Title Winners
- No additional fees are required.
- Title Winners will be recognized in the following combined age divisions.

7-8	9-10
11-12	13-14
15-16	17-19

Performance Team

- Invitations will automatically be given to any soloist who scores Platinum of 290 or higher.
- Discretion of judges may be used to invite a dancer that did not make the minimum score requirements.
- All participants must register by the deadline on the certificate received and agree to all terms and conditions.
- Performance team members will perform in our Performance Team Showcase at Nationals.
- Additional selections can be made during our workshops or Backstage Ambush.

Mandatory Music Upload

- All music must be uploaded online into the registration system.
- The following formats will be accepted; MP3, MP4, M4A.
- Music may only be uploaded after your registration has been finalized.
- Music must be uploaded 14 days prior to the event start date.
- Please ensure you have the correct version uploaded, pitch and speed cannot be adjusted at the event.
- 2 backup copies of the music must be provided. Acceptable formats of backup music are; USB/IPHONE.
- Please notify the audio technician of any music upload issues prior to the dancer being called on stage. Failure to do so will result in the incorrect music being selected.

Competition Schedule

- The schedule will be available 1 week prior to the competition start date.
- Change requests will be taken into consideration, but are not guaranteed.
- Any changes made are not guaranteed to be in our program.
- All dances should be performance ready at least one hour prior to their scheduled performance time.
- Release forms are attached to your schedule; forms must be completed and handed in at our merchandise desk at check-in.

- **Props**
- Props should be setup and removed from the stage within 1 minute and 30 seconds
- Please do not build any props backstage; this presents a danger to our performers.
- Dangerous props are not allowed
- Props that exceed 9' in height, cannot be guaranteed to fit the stage
- Props cannot be left behind or unattended. Check with our staff for specific staging areas
- Any prop that includes an extensive amount of cleanup is the studio responsibility. Please clear the stage in a timely fashion.

Other Rules & Regulations

- Payment must be submitted in order to be fully registered
- Entry Fees are NON-REFUNDABLE.
- Account credit will be issued for removals as long as this is done prior to the event, credits will be issued to the account the dancer was registered with. Credits may only be used towards entry fees for Backstage Competition LLC. Day-Of Scratches for any reason will not be issued credits.
- Backstage Competition LLC reserves the right to cancel any event due to lack of registration, inclement weather, or any other unforeseen circumstances.
- Backstage Competition LLC will not issue any refunds or be held responsible for any technical issues that are beyond our control. Including but not limited to photos, videos and critiques.
- There is a \$50 fee for returned checks
- All payments must be made 45 calendar days prior to your event. Any payment received after the deadline must be made by credit card. Early Bird discount will not be applied to accounts without full payment 45 days prior to your event.
- Coaching is strictly prohibited and will result in point deduction or disqualification.
- Backstage cannot guarantee a power supply
- Except for technical difficulties on our part, re-performing of any routine will be adjudicated only
- Adjudication only routines are not eligible for high scores, cash award or titles
- Sexually explicit dance or music will not be tolerated and will result in disqualification if found to be inappropriate NO EXCEPTIONS!!
- Video and Photography is strictly prohibited. This includes FaceTime & Video Chats of any kind. In order to protect the choreographer's artistic right and the safety and privacy of all competitors, we reserve the right to confiscate all recording devices used during the event and disqualify an entry.
- Anyone using a personal device for recording or photos will be asked to delete the footage in front of a Backstage crew member.

- Smoking is prohibited in or around the competition area. We ask that all smokers stand at least 50 yards from the competition venue to preserve the wellbeing of our dancers, audience members and our staff.
- Backstage Reserves the right to refuse the entry of any studio
- Studio Directors must sign a release form

Sportsmanship

We strive to create a safe and family friendly event for everyone; therefore the following rules must be adhered to.

- Good sportsmanship is expected from all participants, at all times, in person and on social media. Please remind your studio of this. Anything less than good sportsmanship and respect during our events will not be tolerated and will result in point deduction or disqualification. We are here to have FUN!
- All competitors, teachers and studio directors consent to the use of video, audio and photographs for use in promotional material without royalty, fee or other compensation.
- Please show respect for our venues. Leave the dressing area, auditoriums and all other public spaces clean.

*Rules will be interpreted in the spirit of fairness to all participants. Backstage Competition reserves the rights to change, delete, or add to any rules, regulations, or policies at any time deemed necessary.

Contestants are understood to recognize the risks of physical injury inherent in dance and dance performances and be willing to assume those risks. It is agreed that participants will not hold Backstage Competition or its directors or employees liable for injuries sustained or illnesses contracted by them while in attendance and/or performing in any activity at a Backstage Competition.