



DANCE MASTERS OF NEW ENGLAND

CHAPTER 5

*Solo Title
Scholarship Competition
Handbook*



March 21, 2026
South High School
Worcester, MA

Dear Teachers, Contestants, and Parents:

Welcome to our 2026 Solo Titles Competition! It is with great pleasure that we offer you an outstanding Solo Titles Event this year. Our event is designed to prepare each contestant with a wonderful weekend, a higher level of dance education, and the opportunity to experience the quality and high standards that DMA Nationals has set forth for us to share. It is our hope that you will enjoy this educational process and build friendships along the way. If at any time during this weekend, or prior to the event, should you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please feel free to send them along to me. We are always open to new ideas. Enjoy, and best of luck to each contestant!

Sincerely,
Ann-Marie Carlomagno
Solo Title Director

2026 Solo Title Competition Schedule of Events

(All schedules are tentative; changes could be made depending upon number of entries)

Registration Deadline – February 1, 2026

IMPORTANT- All winners are expected to attend the Nationals at Foxwoods Resort in Mashantucket, CT.

**Please be advised there is no parent meeting this year.
All information is in the solo title handbook.**

Solo Title Schedule

Interviews

Day: Saturday, March 21, 2026

Time: 3:00PM (Approximate, time subject to change)

Talent Presentation

Day: Saturday, March 21, 2026

Time: 6:00PM (Approximate, time subject to change)

Photo Shoot for all 2026 Winning Title Holders

Day: Saturday, March 21, 2026

Time: Immediately following awards presentation for Title Competition

Contract Signing for all 2025 Winning Title Holders

Day: Saturday, March 21, 2026

Time: Immediately following the Photo Shoot

Questions and phone calls from member teachers only please.

Ann-Marie Carlomagno, Solo Title Director

46 Stonybrook Lane, Shrewsbury, MA 01545

amcpacer64@yahoo.com

508-414-1804

Section 1 - Eligibility

1. Only members in good standing or a student of a member in good standing of Dance Masters of New England, Chapter 5, Inc. may enter the DMNE Solo Title Scholarship Competitions.
2. **The Teacher of Record** shall be the **DMNE member teacher** whose signature appears on both the Chapter and National Scholarship Competition Applications. The Teacher of Record shall be legally responsible for the entrant.
3. All other **DMNE member teachers** to be recognized shall be listed as the **Teacher(s) of Recognition**. (A Teacher of Recognition is a member teacher who works weekly with the contestant)
4. If an extreme circumstance prevents the Teacher of Record from attending the DMNE Solo Title event, the teacher of recognition may fulfill the duties. If the teacher of recognition can not fulfill the duties, another DMNE member in good standing may be designated as the approved chaperone.
5. Entrants in the DMNE Solo Title event must have been enrolled (registered and attending classes on a weekly basis) as a student, with the teacher of record listed on the application.
 - a. Current Students:
For a minimum period of not less than seven (7) months prior to the Solo Title event (September of the prior year).
 - b. Students with Less than seven (7) months:
With written permission from the former teacher if the student has studied with the teacher of record for a period of less than seven (7) months prior to the event.
 - c. The **Title Winner must remain** with the DMNE teacher who signed the application for the remainder of the title year for guidance in preparing for Nationals and holding the New England Title.
6. Entrants into the Miss Dance of America, Teen Miss Dance of America, Junior Miss Dance of America, and Petite Miss Dance of America Scholarship Competitions must be female, or have completed their transition to the female gender, single, never married, never had a marriage annulled, not pregnant, childless, and never been convicted of a crime.
7. Entrants into the Mr. Dance of America, Teen Mr. Dance of America, Junior Mr. Dance of America, and Master Dance of America Scholarship Competitions must be male, or have completed their transition the male gender, single, never married, never had a marriage annulled, childless, and never been convicted of a crime.
8. Contestants must have attended one DMNE event during the current season: Open Scholarship Auditions, Annual Convention, or the Winter Workshop, to be eligible for Solo Titles.
9. All Title Winners are expected to represent DMNE Chapter 5 by attending the National Solo Titles competition.
10. If a Title Winner cannot represent DMNE at the National Solo Titles competition, the 1st runner-up will take his/her place and assume the title. The original title holder will then relinquish all rights to the title and will return all winnings to the Board of Directors.
11. Title Holders will return to relinquish their title at next year's DMNE Solo Title Competition under the same teacher of record who submitted their original application.

12. Entrants into the Petite and Master Dance division must be at least 7 years of age and not more than 9 years of age.
13. Entrants into the Jr. Miss and Mr. Dance division must be at least 10 years of age and not more than 12 years of age.
14. Entrants into the Teen Miss and Mr. Dance division must be at least 13 years of age and not more than 15 years of age.
15. Entrants into the Miss and Mr. Dance division must be at least 16 years of age and not more than 23 years of age.
16. All ages are determined as of June 1, 2026.

Section 2 – Rules

17. All entrants will adhere to the standards set by Dance Masters of America, Inc., and adopted by DMNE Chapter 5, Inc. The standards are as follows:
 - a. Inappropriate or sexually suggestive movements should not be part of any performance in any DMNE competition and should be evaluated as such and scores should be lowered accordingly.
 - b. Costuming such as thongs, bikini bottoms or tops that allow exposure of private body parts or that is not age appropriate, should be evaluated as such and scores will be lowered accordingly.
 - c. Vulgar, profanity, or suggestive language in music is not acceptable for our family audiences. Music that is unacceptable or not age appropriate should be evaluated as such and scores will be lowered accordingly.
18. A maximum of 2:50 minutes will be allowed for a talent presentation.
19. Fire, swords, knives, or live animals on stage are prohibited. Props are allowed, however smoke or props that are connected to an electrical outlet may not be used. Dry ice is not acceptable. Studios are responsible for getting props on and off the stage. There is a one (1) minute time limit for prop set up. After that time a five (5) point penalty will be assessed.
20. Props, scenery, and stage sets will only be permitted if they are functional and are an integral part of the choreography and any facility fees for cartage and/or storage will be the responsibility of the Teacher of Record.
21. No props may block the wings, crossovers, or hallways.
22. MUSIC:
 - a. Entrant's music should be uploaded to Dance Comp Genie.
 - b. Member Teachers should have a backup in their possession during the Solo Titles Scholarship Competition.
23. All decisions of the judges are final. Adjudicators score sheets will be the sole property of DMNE. The teacher of record will receive a copy of the tabulation sheet and their video critiques following the Solo Title Competition event.
24. Title Contestants are not allowed to perform their Solo Title routine in PAC. They are allowed to perform a different solo in PAC.

Section 3 – Required Attire for Solo Title Scholarship Competitions

25. Interview

- a. Entrants will be required to sit before the judging panel for an interview.
Petite Miss/Master and Junior Miss/Junior Mr. Contestants will have a three (3) minute interview.
Teen Miss/Teen Mr. and Miss/Mr. Contestants will have a four (4) minute interview.
- b. Females are required to wear a daytime dress or business type suit for the Interviews. Male entrants are required to wear dress shirt and tie with either, dress slacks or business type suit for the interviews.
- c. The judging criteria includes appearance, projection, grammar, knowledge of dance, the ability to express oneself and self-confidence.
- d. The Interviews are scored with a point value of 1-15.

26. Solo Talent

Costuming for the Solo Talent portion of the competition is the responsibility of the entrants. Please keep in mind that DMNE has set certain standards that the Adjudicators will be following.

- a. The talent portion of the competition will have a point value of 1-100.
- b. Singing, baton twirling, playing a musical instrument, pantomime, or audible taps in music is not allowed.
- c. Props must be removed quickly and promptly as courtesy to other contestants, and a clean sweep of the stage if necessary.

27. Awards Presentation

- a. All Title Holders and entrants are required to participate in the Awards Presentation. Entrants will not be judged on their attire.
- b. Entrants will be required to participate in the Awards presentation in their interview attire.

Section 4 – Solo Title Application

The following must be entered in the DMNE Dance Comp Genie no later than February 1, 2026:

28. A completed 2026 DMNE Chapter 5 Solo Title Application form accompanied by the entry fee payment in full:
 - a. Female contestants: \$150.00.
 - b. Male contestants: \$150.00.
 - c. Only studio checks from DMNE member teachers will be accepted – no personal checks.
29. A completed 2026 DMNE Chapter 5 Solo Title Contestant Interview form.
A typewritten form is required. These are read by the judges.
30. An essay (optional but recommended) should be written on the following topic: ***“Why do you dance? Elaborate on how it has changed or affected your life”***. The essay must be typewritten, **200 words maximum**, and the entrants name should be on it.
31. Headshot and Dance shot Pictures should be uploaded to Dance Comp Genie
 - a. One (1) colored 5x7 **high resolution** vertically posed head shot photograph (no hats, crowns, or head ornaments).
 - b. One (1) colored 5x7 **high resolution** vertically posed dance shot picture (taken in dance attire – no costumes). The full body shot should be a pose that complements.
Action shots not recommended. These are for identification purposes for the judges only.

- c. A solid white professional background must be used.
- d. Pictures sent via email will not be accepted.

Section 5 – General Information

- 32. Individual photos of our winners will be taken by our professional photographer on stage at the time of crowning. Group pictures will be taken on stage immediately following the competition. Parents and teachers are asked to wait until these group photos are completed before entering the stage area.

33. Briefing and Contract Signing

A briefing session will be held immediately following the talent competition and photo session with the incoming Title Holders, teacher of record, and parents. What to expect at Nationals, what should be improved upon and invaluable pointers, are some of the areas that will be covered for the new Title Holders to prepare for the National Finals.

34. Awards

The following awards will be presented:

- a. **Essay Award:** presented in each age division to the student with the best essay.
- b. **Interview Award:** presented to the contestant in each age division with the highest interview score. Ties will not be broken.
- c. **Title Winners:** DMNE Chapter 5 will pay the entry fee to the National Miss and Mr. Dance Competition, transportation (economy airfare), hotel accommodations, and the banquet ticket at the National Convention for the student representing Chapter 5 at the National Miss/Mr. Dance Scholarship Competition. DMNE Chapter 5 will pay \$2,000.00 to each of the winners in the Petite/Master, Jr. Miss/Jr. Mister, and Teen Miss/Teen Mr. Dance divisions after the National Convention Registration receipt has been submitted to the Chapter 5 Treasurer. This money is to be used only for national entry fee, transportation, hotel, and banquet ticket at the National Convention for the student representing Chapter 5 at the National Petite/Master, Jr. Miss/Jr. Mr., and Teen Miss/Teen Mr. Dance Competitions. If she / he is unable to attend Nationals, the winner will forfeit their title and any right to that title. The first runner-up will automatically be given the title and all rights to that title, as long as they participate in the 2025 National Solo Titles to be held in Orlando, Florida. In the event of ties for the winner, they will be broken first by their talent score, then class score, then interview. If there is still a tie, a secret ballot by the judges will take place.
- d. In addition, title winners in each age division will receive: Crown (female), Medallion (male), Sash (female), Jacket, Trophy, and flowers.
- e. The DMNE Teacher of Record on the Chapter 5 Titles Entry Form is required by National's Rules to attend the National Convention and Competition with their title holder. The Teacher of Record is expected to stay through the banquet. The Teacher of Record will receive a total of \$2,000.00 (regardless of how many winners the Teacher of Record may have.) to help defray the cost of attending the national convention. A check will be sent to the Teacher of Record after providing the Chapter 5 Treasurer with a copy of their National Convention Registration Receipt.
- f. Title winners are expected to fulfill their obligations throughout the year as Title Holder as set forth by Chapter 5. A contract will be signed immediately after winning the Title. Responsibilities are communicated through our Chapter Liaison.
- g. Past title holders of a particular age division are able to compete again in that age division. A Title Holder may not compete and relinquish a title in the same year. She / he must wait one year after relinquishing their title to compete in the next age division.
- h. Contestants who do NOT win the Title may compete at DMA Nationals PAC without prequalifying as long as they receive a Gold score or above.
- i. Title Winners will give a three (3) minute Farewell Speech (that has been approved by your

Teacher). This will be pre-recorded in a Video Presentation with pictures from the events. This will be submitted to the Solo Title Director by February 1st and must be approved by the Executive Board.

- j. Title Winners may not participate in the November Scholarship Auditions during the year of their reign.

Host Hotel:

AC Hotels Marriott Worcester
125 Front Street Worcester, MA
774-420-7555

Contact: Ann-Marie Carlomagno, Solo Title Director
46 Stonybrook Lane, Shrewsbury, MA 01545
508-414-1804
amcpacer64@yahoo.com

Questions and phone calls from member teachers only please – no parents.

Thank you for supporting
Dance Masters of New England!