



IGNITE

DANCE ACADEMY

DANCE
COMPETITION
HANDBOOK

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What are Dance Competitions?

Dance competitions give dancers the opportunity to showcase their talents with a larger community beyond the studio who share the same passion for dance. Competing exposes dancers to goal setting, personal accountability, team building, commitment, and resiliency amongst many other important life lessons. Competitions allow dancers to learn and grow in an environment surrounded by children with similar goals.





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How Does It Work?

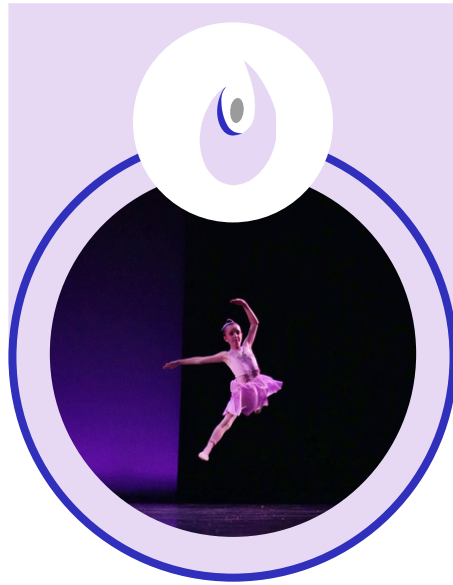
Dancers showcase a routine choreographed by their instructors to a judge or a panel of judges. They are judged based on their performance, technique, musicality, texture, rhythm, and acting/singing skills (in certain dance genres). The number of years they have danced, their age and level are all taken into consideration and averaged. Routines are given feedback by judges who are well established in the field of performance and dance. Dancers may be judged against other dancers (in the same or different studio) that are in the same age group and level performing a similar genre.

It is important to note that routines are critiqued individually - i.e. getting a mark on a project at school. If there are other routines in the same category (same age, level, and genre) the judges then take the overall marks and may assign placings (best in performance, highest in mark, medal placement).



Unlike other competitive sports, dance focuses on the individual routine and does not penalize a routine based on the performance of another. This means each routine gets a medal placement or score and competitions can have multiple golds/silvers/bronzes if all routines score similarly. Judges give comments and constructive criticism on paper, in a recording and/or live to help dancers grow. Since dance is very much artistic as it is athletic there will always be a degree of subjectivity when it comes to judging. Some routines may do a little better in one competition versus another depending on the judge - although they do all try to remain objective.

Lastly each dance competition has their own set rules, categories, placements and awards. It is the responsibility of the teachers and the studio to ensure routines align with their criteria.



Expectations

Each studio, instructor, parent and dancer will hold different expectations for competitive routines. At Ignite Dance Academy Inc. we do not hold expectations such as earning specific medal placings or scores. We also do not require students to audition. The only expectations that the studio holds is that each dancer holds themselves accountable for their personal growth. Attendance is absolutely mandatory for all of our dancers who wish to pursue competitive dance. Dance is a team sport and lots of changes can occur during a span of a single class. We believe in pushing our students to achieve their personal best in a safe and nurturing environment. The mental and physical health of our athletes are of the utmost importance.



Expectations

We do hold each competitive dancer accountable by requiring regular attendance in dance class, trusting the feedback from their instructors as well as practicing/stretching at home. As a studio we want to pride ourselves with the responsibility of ensuring each dancer receives our support, attention, and quality training each competitive season.

We hope to carry good sportsmanship in and outside the studio. Our goal is to maintain a professional and supportive environment to foster healthy competitions against our own studio and amongst other studios.

If a dancer will be late or has to miss a class we require as much notice as possible. If a dancer has to miss 2 consecutive practices or has missed more than 3 overall practices a makeup/private lesson must be booked and paid for by the parents.



Class Etiquette

✓	Hair slicked back and tied
✓	No Gum
✓	Proper shoes
✓	No Jeans
✓	Bodysuit and Tights

Please use washrooms before class

Categories and Levels

Each dance competition differs in their categories and levels. It is the responsibility of the studio director and teachers to assign and enter their dancers in the correct category.

Although each category and level differs from competition to competition, these are the most common categories and levels that can be found (names and years differ for each competition). A dance can be penalized by disqualification if it is not placed in the appropriate category. *Please note that these descriptions have been put in the simplest terms and may not encompass all categorical specifications*

Categories

BALLET

CLASSICAL / CHARACTER / CONTEMPORARY

Ballet categories are sometimes separated into their distinct forms. Character ballet often invokes a storyline, theme or represents characters. Classical ballet uses technique with no purposeful storyline. Contemporary ballet is a mixture of both contemporary and ballet. Common ballet syllabi are R.A.D, Vaganova Method, and Cecchetti. Ignite uses both R.A.D and Vaganova Method.

JAZZ

Jazz categories focus on jazz technique, syllabi, and flexibility.

HIP HOP

Hip Hop categories are the most varied, they are usually mixed between street style hip hop, studio based and street jazz. Street style is its own culture with its own history, studio based is what can be described as a studio's own style of hip hop and street jazz is hip hop with a background in jazz.

TAP

Tap categories consist of tap technique, syllabi and no pre recorded sounds

OPEN

Open categories are a mixture of all the other genres or cannot be distinctly placed into one category.



Categories

MUSICAL THEATRE/NOVELTY/VARIETY

This category mixes acting, dancing and singing/lip-syncing. The dance style used is determined by the choreographer - it is often in jazz, tap or ballet.

POINTE

This category is similar to the ballet category just with pointe shoes worn.

CONTEMPORARY

Similar to hip hop this category has varied styles depending on the studio and choreographer. It is an ever evolving type of dance that has deep roots in ballet technique.

MODERN

Modern dance is a category based on modern technique and syllabi from dance revolutionaries. It has deep roots in ballet and came from a rebellion against certain ballet constructs. At Ignite we use the Graham and Cunningham technique.

LYRICAL

Lyrical category is based on the number of jazz and ballet training a dancer has. It uses a mixture of both jazz and ballet technique. It evokes emotion and the routine is centered around the lyrics of a song.

Categories

ACRO

Is a new category that is based on gymnastics, acrobatic and dance movements.

NATIONAL

National category is for routines based on a country of origin and has cultural and historical elements.

PRODUCTION/LINE

A category that can be mixed with other categories and is often a routine with 15+ dancers or is a routine that is 5 minutes or more.

STUDENT CHOREOGRAPHY

A category for senior dancers that choreograph their own routine. It is often a category with a random mixture of all types of dance.

ADULT

Adult categories can be mixed with the other categories or have its own category. It is often with dancers who are either 18+ or 21+ depending on the competition.

Levels

PRE COMPETITIVE / PERFORMANCE / GENERAL

This level is often for dancers who take 8-9 or less hours of dance per week depending on the competition. All dance including dance class in schools, private lessons, technique and stretch classes count as hours of dance per week.

For routines with more than one dancer the average hours and years of training is taken.

COMPETITIVE / ACCELERATE / ELEVATED

This level is for dancers who take more than 8-9 hours of dance per week depending on competition.

It is important to note that once a dancer has competed at this level they can no longer compete in performance or pre-competitive even if they greatly reduce the amount of hours they dance for.



Levels

BEGINNER / NOVICE

Usually for dancers who have only taken 1-2 years of dance depending on the competition. The number of years of dance is calculated after the age of 5. Dance classes taken at 5 years or younger do not count.

JUNIOR

Dancers who have been dancing for 2-5 years of dance depending on the competition. The number of years of dance is calculated after the age of 5. Dance classes taken at 5 years or younger do not count.

INTERMEDIATE I/II

Dancers who have been dancing for 5-8 years of dance depending on the competition. The number of years of dance is calculated after the age of 5. Dance classes taken at 5 years or younger do not count.

ADVANCED

Dancers who have been dancing for 7-10 years of dance depending on the competition. The number of years of dance is calculated after the age of 5. Dance classes taken at 5 years or younger do not count.

Levels

SENIOR

Dancers who have been dancing for 10+ years of dance depending on the competition. The number of years of dance is calculated after the age of 5. Dance classes taken at 5 years or younger do not count.

NOTES

All levels differ for each competition and it is the responsibility of the studio director and teacher to enter dancers in the appropriate level

The current dance year counts as 1 year of dance - i.e. a first time competitor at the age of 6 has one year experience

Groups Solos/Duets/Trios



GROUPS

Groups are 6+ dancers and their level is calculated by averaging everyone's hours and years of dance training.

SMALL GROUPS

Small groups are 4-6 dancers depending on the competition and their level is calculated by averaging everyone's hours and years of dance training.

TRIOS

Trios are 3 dancers and their level is calculated by averaging everyone's hours and years of dance training.

DUETS

Duets are 2 dancers and their level is calculated by averaging everyone's hours and years of dance training.

SOLOS

Solos are routines with only one dancer and their level is calculated by the hours and years of dance training they have done.





SCORING

Each dance competition has their own rubric or rules in terms of scoring. Adjudicators are industry professionals that are hired to give feedback and score based on the performance of the routine. Dance is a subjective sport and art form meaning what can score really well in one competition may not do so well in another. What remains consistent is technique (found in jazz and ballet training), performance quality, musicality, stage use and cleanliness (ability of the group to stick together).

All routines will be provided a score out of 100 and a verbal or written feedback sheet/recording will be given to instructors at the end of the competition. Usually for each mistake (timing, technical, performance) a dancer makes they are taken a mark off.

MEDALS



Medals are based on scores that also differ from each dance competition. A mark i.e. 85% would be a gold in some competitions and a silver in others. The type of metal differs for each event. Dance instructors often look at the score average and feedback sheet to see if the group is improving from each competition.

AWARDS



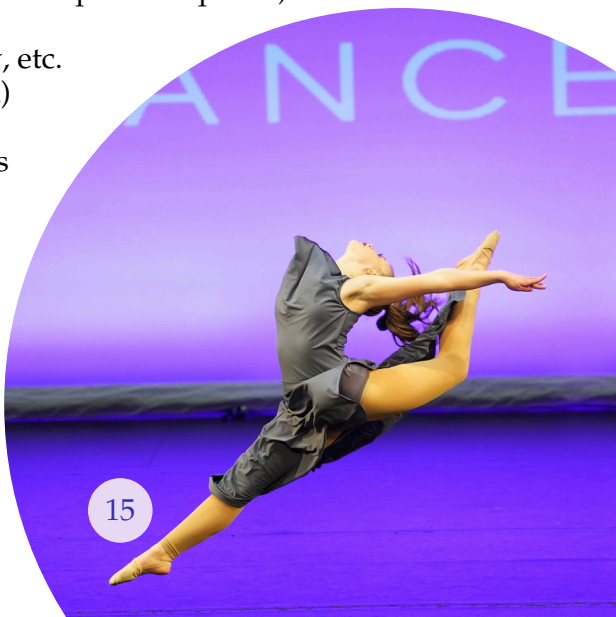
Each competition gives out different awards, it could be a pin, medal, certificate or trophy. If there are any cash awards those are usually split between the studio and the dancer or dancers. The awards and overall awards a dancer can win can typically be found in the website of each dance competition.

COST

Depending on the amount of routines, classes and competitions a dancer enters will determine their cost. It is mandatory for all of our competitive dancers to take a foundation class unless they are strictly in just hip hop.

What you pay for:

1. Dance classes + Foundations class
2. Entry Fees
3. Costumes (\$115.5 for competitive dancers)
4. Tights (group orders are placed to shade match, we suggest you buy a minimum of two for each dance in case of emergency - \$12 - \$15)
5. Shoes (please check each year with instructor as to what type to buy)
6. Dance Makeup (specific red lipstick required)
7. Hair pins, gel, hairspray, etc. (to purchase on your own)
8. Dance pictures or videos (\$25 for Plié Prep)
9. Any travel expenses or accommodations (only for out of town competitions)



COST

Entry fees breakdown

Solos - \$95 - \$140 (per dancer)

Duets/Trios - \$75 - \$90 (per dancer)

Groups - \$65 - \$80 (per dancer)

Deposit - \$50 (per dancer) *comes off over all total, due the day you register*

Studios are not allowed to share the precise amount of entry fees for each competition. This is so that each competition company can remain competitive in price and business. They also reserve the right to increase prices each year

TRAVEL

Some competitions may take place outside of Lethbridge and accommodations along with travel are at the expense of each dancer. We will try to stay close to home or provide plenty of notice for out of town competitions.



COSTUME/PROPS MAKE UP



COSTUME AND PROPS

Each costume for competitive dancers will be \$115.5 to help pay for any shipping and custom fees. If there are any props needed for a routine dancers and the studio will run a fundraiser to help pay for the props.



MAKE UP

Stage makeup is absolutely mandatory for all competitive dancers regardless of age or gender. A document will be sent home to explain what is required. Stage makeup shows a level of professionalism and helps the dancers be seen by the judges against the bright stage lights.



Mandatory vs. Optional

MANDATORY

Ignite Dance Academy Inc. participates in two mandatory competitions. Meaning each registered dancer in the routine must be present in these competitions. If a dancer does not attend a mandatory competition they may be asked to pull out of the class. If it is due to unforeseen circumstances such as injuries the group will still perform just with a dancer missing.

A reminder that once registered competitions cannot return or exchange entry fees unless it is due to extreme injury with a doctor's note.

All dancers must arrive a minimum of 1 hour before their category start time to give sufficient time for warm up and also because the competitions reserve the right to run 30 minutes ahead.

OPTIONAL

Optional competitions are not mandatory for all dancers to attend. The majority of the group under the discretion of the director is needed for the group routine to compete in the optional competition.

Although we do not hold tryouts or auditions for competitions, Ignite Dance Academy Inc. reserves the right to pull any dancer from any routine or competition if the dancer or parent displays unsportsmanship-like behaviour or lack of commitment towards other dancers, teachers or community members without any refunds.





Competition Dates

MANDATORY

ShyAnn Santana Festival - Medicine Hat

April 23 -26

Esplanade Arts & Heritage Centre

401 1 St SE, Medicine Hat AB T1A 8W2

Plié Prep - Lethbridge

May 6 - 10

Yates Memorial Centre

1002 4 Ave S, Lethbridge AB T1J 0P5

OPTIONAL

Evolve Dance Competition - Banff

May 21 - 24

The Fenlands Banff Recreation Centre

100 Mt Norquay Rd #2, Banff AB T1L 1C3





Important Dates

SEPTEMBER

8 First Day of Classes

\$50 Entry Fee Deposit Due

15 Semester Class Fees Due in Full

Opt in or Out of Optional Competition

22 - 26 Bring a Friend Week

27 Competition Parent Meeting

28 Solos/Duets/Trio Sign Up - First Come First Serve

OCTOBER

6 Competition Entry Fees Due (mandatory and optional)

TBD Team Bonding Event

13 Thanksgiving - No Classes

31 Halloween - No Classes

NOVEMBER

11 Remembrance Day - No Classes

17 Competition Costume Fees Due

DECEMBER

TBD Night at the Studio

12 Last Day of Classes before Winter Break





Important Dates

JANUARY

5 Classes Resume

12 Semester Class Fees Due in Full

19 - 23 Bring a Friend Week

FEBRUARY

2 Recreational Costume Fees Due

13 Last Day of Classes before Reading Week

23 Classes Resume

MARCH

TBD Competition Dress Rehearsals

APRIL

2 Last Day of Classes before Spring Break

13 Classes Resume

22 - 26 ShyAnn - Medicine Hat (Mandatory Competition) - No Competitive Classes





Important Dates

MAY

6-10 Plié Prep - Lethbridge (Mandatory Competition) - No Competitive Classes

18 Victoria Day - No Classes

Picture Day Payment Due

21 - 24 Evolve - Banff (Optional Competition) - No Competitive Classes

31 Picture Day - All Classes, Solos, Private Lessons

JUNE

TBD Recital Tickets go on Sale

5 Last Day of Classes before Summer Break

7 Dress Rehearsals

7 Year End Recital

8 Year End Recital



