



2016 Competition Rules and Regulations

GENERAL CATEGORIES

GENERAL CATEGORIES	NUMBER OF DANCERS	TIME LIMIT
Solo	1	2:45
Duo / Trio	2-3	2:45
Small Group	4-9	4:00
Large Group	10-19	4:00
Line	20-25	5:00
Production	26+	8:00

AGE CATEGORY

The age category for all routines will be determined by using the average age of all performers in a routine as of the date of the first day of competition. Do not use decimals or round up.

AGE CATEGORY	AGE
Mini	4 and Under; 5 and 6
Petite	7 and 8
Junior	9 and 10; 11 and 12
Teen	13 and 14; 15 and 16
Senior	17 - 19
Adult	20+

PERFORMANCE LEVELS

Beginner	Dancers that have little competition experience; study approximately 2 hours per week and are beginning to demonstrate an understanding of dance technique
Intermediate	Dancers that have moderate competition experience; study approximately 3-5 hours per week and demonstrate a solid understanding of dance technique
Advanced	Dancers that have significant competition experience; study more than 5 hours per week and demonstrate a strong understanding of dance technique
Recreational	This category is designed for true beginner dancers of any age to gain experience in performance and competition. Study less than 2 hours per week; learning basic technique. This category will not be eligible for cash awards, titles, or high score awards. Group routines in this category will be eligible for the Backstage Challenge "Most Entertaining Routine" of the day.
Student/Teacher	Teacher and/or professional dancer, 20 years of age or older, competing in a routine with mixed age and performance levels must be placed in the Student/Teacher category



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*Studio Directors and Dance Teachers are asked to use their own sound judgment when deciding on performance levels for their entries, as we realize no competition company can truly know how many hours a child dances or for how many years they have danced. Routines that are obviously under-placed may be elevated by the judges or Backstage Performing Arts management. All decisions are final.

*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. In a mixed performance level Trio, at least 2/3 of the dancers must be from the performance level they are competing in. Violation of these rules will result in disqualification of the subject routine. A studio may move a routine to a higher category prior to the performance of the routine to correct a placement error. Group routines placed in the recreational performance category must consist of all recreational dancers.

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 Theatre / 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
Parent	Recreational parent category; must consist of all adult performers
Pom-Pom	Performed with pompoms for at least 75% of the routine
Tap	Tap technique. No tap sounds in music
Vocal	Routine may be any type of vocal presentation. Accompaniment must be prerecorded. No lead vocals may be recorded; backup vocals only will be permitted

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



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SCORING

ADJUDICATED MEDAL	Competitive	Recreational
High Platinum	297.0 - 300.0	295.0 - 300.0
Platinum	285.0 - 296.9	280.0 - 294.9
High Gold	274.0 - 284.9	270.0 - 279.9
Gold	263.0 - 273.9	260.0 - 269.9
High Silver	252.0 - 262.9	250.0 - 259.9
Silver	242.0 - 251.9	240.0 - 249.9

Adjudicated and Ordinal Scoring:

All solos, duo/trios, groups, lines and productions will be judged by 3 judges on a point system allowing each judge to award a maximum of 100 points. Judges will take into consideration choreography, technique, stage presence, rhythm/unison and overall impression. Based upon the total score of three judges, each routine will receive a silver, high-silver, gold, high-gold, platinum or high platinum ranking. To commemorate this accomplishment, each solo, duo/trio will receive a beautiful trophy and custom ribbon showing the adjudicated award. Studios will receive a beautiful trophy to commemorate each of its group routines. All group dancers will receive an adjudication ribbon for each of their performances. In addition, a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place designation will be awarded in every age group, performance level and general category where there are 3 or more routines. Any ties in adjudicated / ordinal scoring will be recognized. All scores will be uploaded to the studio directors registration site at the end of the competition and a web link containing audio/video judge critiques will be emailed to each studio.

CASH AWARDS

General Category	100 - 149 Entries	150 or More Entries
Solo	\$50.00	\$75.00
Duo / Trio	\$50.00	\$75.00
Groups	\$100.00	\$150.00
Lines/Productions	\$150.00	\$200.00

*All cash awards will be paid to the winning studio.



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HIGH SCORE

Overall high scores for solos, duo/trio, groups, and lines/productions will be recognized in the Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced performance levels and combined age divisions of 10 and under; 11 to 14; and 15- 19. Based on the number of entries at each regional competition up to 10th place could be recognized.

"THE CUP" Overall Highest Scoring routine will be awarded to the highest scoring routine of all entries at a particular regional event. Top 10 placement will be announced.

TITLE

Miss / Mr. Backstage Title contender must be a soloist. Soloist must receive a cumulative score of High Gold or higher to qualify. Soloists receiving the highest technique and stage presence score combined will be awarded the Miss or Mr. Backstage honor in their age division.

*In the 10 & Under Age division Miss/Mr Backstage will be recognized in the following combined age categories:

Mini (6 and under); Junior (7-10)

*In the 11 to 14 Age Division Miss/Mr Backstage will be recognized in the following combined age category:

Teen (11 to 14)

*In the 15 to 19 Age Division Miss/Mr Backstage will be recognized in the following combined age category:

Senior (15-19)

(Age categories may be combined differently or split based on number of entries in each age division)

SPECIAL AWARDS

Backstage VIP Awards will be selected by our judges at each regional competition

The following titles are considered the Backstage VIP Awards:

**ARE YOU READY FOR YOUR CLOSE UP - Photo for Dreams Award

**Costume Award

**Best Use of a Prop Award

**Storyteller

**Best Choreography

Backstage Challenge "The Most Entertaining Routine" - Our judges and staff will identify two routines at each regional competition that they feel are the most entertaining routines of the day in the combined age category of 10 and Under and 11 and Up. All groups, lines and productions are automatically included and winners will be announced at their respective award ceremony. All regional Backstage Challenge Winners each year will be invited to our National Finals to compete that winning routine against all other regional winners for the title of the Backstage Ultimate Challenge National Winner. In addition, during the



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Nationals our judges will have the option to choose up to 5 additional routines that will be given the opportunity to compete for the Ultimate Challenge title.

Photos for Dreams - "ARE YOU READY FOR YOUR CLOSE UP" Backstage's Photos for Dreams contest will raise money for the Dream Foundation, a non-profit organization assisting families with ill children and providing them with the moral support and financial help at a time when it is most necessary and/or Aidan's Voice an organization which was created for kids who deal with bullying and harassment - their mission is to bring awareness, education and positive change to children, parents, educators and their communities. Forms for the photogenic competition can be found on the registration page or can be emailed directly to studio directors.

Special Judge Awards that highlight special aspects of performances and/or performers that caught the attention of our judges and/or staff will be awarded.

BACKSTAGE PERFORMANCE TEAM

Our judges will select dancers to become members of our performance team. Members of the performance team will showcase routines created by our National's judges at opening and closing ceremonies at our National Finals and may be given opportunities to be demonstrators at our workshops.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships will be awarded at our regional competitions based on judges' selection. Scholarships will include partial or full tuition to training programs or classes that will enhance the dancer's training.

MUSIC

All music must be on CD (one song per CD). CDs must be clearly labeled. Music must be cued. Studios must bring back up CDs. Our DJ will not adjust the speed of the music or make cuts in the music. Backstage Performing Arts is not responsible for music left at the competition.

IPODS (no iPhones please) will be accepted, however is not the preferred choice. Ipods MUST be **clearly labeled with the studio name, address and phone #.** All music must be on **1 play list** in the **numerical order** provided in the studios schedule. The playlist should be the studio's name and the title of the music with entry #. With recent software upgrades to Apple products we cannot guarantee that all iPods will work with our equipment. CD backups are strongly recommended

COMPETITION SCHEDULE

Regional competition schedules will be available via email one week prior to the start of competition. Please be ready to perform at least 1 hour prior to your performance time. You must be prepared to



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perform when scheduled. Legitimate costume change issues of less than three routines will be accommodated. In the interest of running on time, Backstage Performing Arts reserves the right to modify the schedule. The wrongful holding of numbers may result in disqualification.

Routines will be scheduled, where possible, according to the following age divisions, 10 and Under, 11 to 14 year old and 15 to 19 year old.

ENTRY

Visit our website for easy online registration. Complete the steps, print out your registration confirmation and send in your studio check or money order. If at any time you require assistance with the online registration please feel free to contact our office. Release forms must be completed and returned for each dancer prior to performance. These forms can be found at the end of this document, on the registration page, or can be emailed to studio directors.

*Please register at least 30 days prior to the event- we will not over book. Entries received less than 14 days prior to the show may not appear in the program.

NOTE: You must submit payment in order to be fully registered.

Entry Fees ARE NON-REFUNDABLE. There is a \$35.00 fee for returned checks.

ADDITIONAL RULES

- Our competitions are family events; sexually explicit dance or music will not be tolerated. No exceptions.
- Coaching will not be allowed and may result in points deduction or disqualification.
- Props should be setup and removed from stage within 1 minute and 30 seconds. Please do not build props backstage this presents a danger to our performers. Dangerous props are not allowed. Props, which exceed 9' in height, cannot be guaranteed to fit on stage. Backstage Performing Arts cannot guarantee a power supply.
- Except for technical difficulties on the part of Backstage Performing Arts, re-performance of any routine will be adjudicated only.
- Any concerns regarding an entry on the day of competition may be made to the competition director by a studio director/teacher only.
- Adjudicated only routines are not eligible for high scores, cash awards, or titles.
- All competitors, studio owners, teachers, family and audience members are required to show respectful, courtesy and sportsmanlike behavior at all times. Violators can be subject to removal from the venue, point's deduction or disqualification.
- Please show respect for our venues. Leave dressing areas, auditoriums, and all other public spaces clean and free of debris.
- All judging decisions are final.



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By performing at Backstage Performing Arts, you are consenting to the use of photographs and/or video footage for promotional purposes.

***Rules will be interpreted in the spirit of fairness to all participants. Backstage Performing Arts 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 Performing Arts 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 Performing Arts Competition.



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Medical Waiver, Release Agreement and Authorization

Please complete all sections of this form. All forms must be received on the date of the event in which you are attending or sooner.

Participant Name: _____ Age: _____ DOB _____

Phone: _____ Email address: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Phone number (home/work/cell): _____

Participating Studio Name: _____

Studio Owner/Director Name: _____

Release Agreement: I hereby on behalf of myself and/or my child, release and forever discharge BackStage Performing Arts Competition and their respective employees, partners, members, other participants, volunteers, clients, officers, sponsors, owners of premises used to conduct the event from all and any claims for any injury to persons or property resulting from participation in a Backstage Performing Arts Competition event. I further understand that Backstage produces promotional material about their events and that a participant may be included in videography or photography taken during an event and used in that promotional material (paper or electronic) without compensation or fee of any kind.

Medical Waiver: Contestants, their parents/guardians, and studio owners/directors/teachers are understood to recognize the risks of physical injury inherent in dance/gymnastics/cheer and any/all types of performances being undertaken at a Backstage Performing Arts Competition and be willing to assume those risks. It is agreed that participants will not hold Backstage Performing Arts 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 Performing Arts competition.

Authorization – I hereby grant permission for my child to participate in a Backstage Performing Arts competition, workshop, class or program.



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Parent / Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____