

2020 Dance Showcase USA Guidelines

Regional & National Entry Fees – Entry fees are available within the On-line registration system.

Rebate Information – Rebate Information is available within the On-line registration system.

Performance Levels

Each division will be divided into three levels:

The **Crystal Level** (Recreational) is for recreational/beginner dancers who are currently taking 3 hours or less of dance/**acro** per week and have not mastered the technical skills required for higher levels.

The **Diamond Level** (Intermediate) is open to contestants currently taking 5 hours or less of dance/**acro** per week and those dancers who would not be considered as a beginner due to previous dance experience.

The **Star Level** (Competition) is open to anyone (regardless of hours) and all contestants taking more than 5 hours of dance/**acro** per week.

NEW In addition to specific training & rehearsal hours weekly, directors and teachers should consider the following guidelines when placing their dancers in their level for competing.

Crystal Level - These are examples of a few skills that would be considered beginning level skills:

Basic turns (single pirouette, simple combinations of chainés and piqués, extensions knee to hip high, and single fouetté or a la seconde turns). Basic leaps and jumps (saut de chat, grande jeté, leap in second, simple ballet combinations such as glissade pas de chat or glissade jeté). Basic tap/clog skills (simple rhythms with limited syncopation, repeated patterns). Beginner acrobatic skills (able to execute a cartwheel, front walk over and back bend, no aerial skills). Beginner Folkloric dance (basic compositional forms, simple rhythms, simple use of handheld props). Know your dance/routine and simple choreography.

Dancers that have mastered the majority of these Crystal skills and are attempting skills defined in the Diamond level below should consider moving up to the Diamond level.

Diamond Level - These are examples of a few skills that would be considered in the intermediate level skills:

Intermediate turns (double pirouette, combinations of multiple chainés and piqués, extensions waist to shoulder high, and 2-3 fouetté or a la seconde turns). Intermediate leaps and jumps (leaps that change direction or switch legs, ability to combine 2 or more leaps in a pattern, ballet leaps and jumps with multiple beats or turning). Execute all positions well (1-5) arms and feet. Intermediate tap/clog skills (variety of rhythms with moderate syncopation, variety of patterns and execute Irish, buffaloes and single toe turns and single wings). Intermediate acrobatic skills (One or two aerial skills). Intermediate Folkloric dance (intermediate compositional forms, variety of rhythms, advancing use of handheld props). More complex choreography with smooth transitions.

Dancers that have mastered the majority of these Diamond skills and are attempting skills defined in the Star level below should consider moving up to the Star level.

Star Level - These are examples of a few skills that would be considered in the advanced level skills:

Performers perfecting 3 or more pirouettes, complex combinations of chainés, double piqués, multiple fouettés, switch leaps and turning leaps, placed battements, extensions and leg holds on relevé, advanced acrobatics, advanced tap/clog skills (doing pull backs, wings, shiggy bops, complex rhythms and syncopation), advanced Folkloric dance (advanced compositional forms, complex use of rhythms, advanced use of handheld props) and complex choreography.

A routine with dancers of different levels will be entered in the Performance Level that applies to more than 50% of the dancers. If exactly 50% of the dancers are at a higher level, then the routine must be entered in the higher level. The Mini Age Division will only be able to compete in the Crystal Level. The Senior Age Division soloist will be able to compete in all three levels. The Senior duet/trios/groups may only compete in the Diamond and Star Level. The Adult Age Division entries will only compete in the Star level. All solos performed by the same dancer must be entered in the same level. If a Star Level dancer is in a duet/trio/group, then that routine cannot be entered in the Crystal Level.

Dance Showcase USA relies on each studio Director/teacher to place their dancers in the level that is best suited for the dancer's abilities and experience of dance. When placing your dancer/dances in the appropriate dance level, you need to consider their technical ability, choreography, master classes, convention attendance, private lessons and stage experience. While placing dances or dancers, you should also consider if the dancer is consistently winning in a lower level, then you should move them up a level to compete against other dancers with similar abilities and to challenge the dancer. When placing group dances into levels, you should also consider if you have 1 or more Star or Diamond level dancers that are being highlighted during the dance and the less experienced dancers are not receiving the same recognition during the dance, then the dance should be placed in a higher level and disregard the 50% rule. Winning is great, but we should challenge our dancers at the same time to allow them to gain self confidence and positive self esteem.

When placing your dances, please consider the following when determining which Performance level best fits your dancer or dancers:

- *How many hours of dance do they take. This includes hours of dance per week for all practices including class time, private lessons, and rehearsal time. It also includes any hours taken in a dance or drill team class at school.
- *Amount of competition experience.
- *Technical ability
- *Past Scoring – for example: a dancer who consistently wins in the Crystal level is demonstrating that they have mastered that level and should move to the Diamond Level. A dancer who is consistently winning at the Diamond level should move to the Star level.
- *Choreography, keep in mind the difficulty and execution of the dance.

Please be advised that these rules are offered as guidelines for studio owners in the placement of their dancers in the level of competition that they feel are appropriate for their dancers. If you have any questions regarding placement or any other rule, please feel free to email or call us, we are always happy to help.

NEW Dance Showcase USA has no control over whether a routine has been placed in the correct level for the regional competitions. Our judges have to judge each dance based on the level that it was entered in. However, if a dance routine has been placed in a level where the dancer/dancers have mastered the majority of the skills at the next level, then the judges have been given the discretion to deduct 3 points from that dance score since the dancer/dancers should have been placed in the next higher level. Also that dance will be moved to the next higher level if that routine decides to come to Nationals. Rather than disqualification or dancing for adjudication only, the purpose of the 3 point deduction is to insure that the rightful winner of that level receives the recognition they deserve.

Division

Solo, Duet/Trio, Small Group (4-9 dancers), Large Group (10-17 dancers), and Line (18 or more dancers). Should a routine drop below the minimum number of performers for the group or line sizes during the competition, the routine will be awarded their adjudication award based on points, however, the routine will not be eligible for Overall Awards.

Age Division

Minis (4 & under), Petite (5-6, 7-8), Juniors (9-10, 11), Teens (12, 13-14), Seniors (15-16, 17-19), Adults (20-29, 30 & over). For Solos, Duet/Trios & Groups, if more than three dances are entered in a combined age division in any category, the division will be split into single young groups. For Duet/Trio, Small Group, Large Group and Line, the average age determines the age division into which you compete. To determine the average age: Add the age of each dancer together, then divide the total by the number of dancers. Drop the decimal point after the average age has been determined, i.e. average age 12.99 will compete in age 12. **ALL AGES FOR REGIONAL & NATIONAL COMPETITIONS WILL BE BASED ON THE DANCER'S AGE ON JANUARY 1, 2020. FOR NATIONALS, IF ANY ADDITIONS/SUBSTITUTIONS/DELETIONS ARE MADE TO THE ORIGINAL LIST OF DANCERS, THEN THE AVERAGE AGE WILL BE RECOMPUTED.** The instructor/parents will be responsible for providing proof of age, if requested.

Bump Rule

Duet/Trio, Small Group, and Large Group entries cannot compete in an age division more than one age division younger than the oldest dancer, regardless of the average age. An example would be a performer age 15 (Senior) dancing in a duet/trio or group with an average age of 10 (Junior), would be moved into the Teen Age Division and put into the lowest age group of the Teen Age Division (age 12). If a performer's age is 20 or older, the Duet/Trio or Group must compete in the Adult Age Division and the above rule does not apply. The Line Division is the only exception to these rules.

Time Limits

Solo and Duet/Trio – 3 minutes, Small Group – 3 minutes, Large Group – 4 minutes, Line – 5 minutes and Production Category – minimum 5 minutes and maximum 8 minutes. We do allow extended time, however, the studio must contact Dance Showcase USA Staff to get approval.

Stage Setup – Setup time for props for Production routines must be limited to 2 minutes and cleared within 1 minute. For other routines, props must be setup within 1 minute and cleared within 30 seconds. If these time limits are exceeded, performances may be subject to point deductions.

Categories of Dance

Acrobatic/Gymnastics – a routine using at least 50% gymnastic passes/moves and incorporates dance technique with definite choreography.

Auxiliary/Drill Team – a routine consisting of precision marching, jazz run or dance style. May use hoops, flags and/or hand props.

Ballet – a routine consisting of ballet technique and classical steps. **(Ballet or similar shoes required. No pointe shoes allowed. Non-compliance will result in a 5 point deduction from the total score).**

Baton – a routine using baton(s) and baton technique. Will be judged on both baton technique and dance.

Character – a routine choreographed to portray a character. The characters may be from movies, theater, TV, etc. Tap sounds are not permitted in music.

Clogging – a routine consisting of clogging technique.

Contemporary – a routine choreographed to interpret and portray emotions, consisting of a combination of lyrical, jazz, or modern techniques.

Contemporary Ballet – a routine consisting of ballet technique with a contemporary style. **(Ballet, prepointe, and pointe shoes acceptable.) If rosin is used, an automatic 5 point deduction will be applied to the total score.**

Folkloric – a routine consisting of ethnic styles of dance, such as African, Hawaiian, Bollywood, Spanish, etc.

Hip-Hop – a routine consisting of hip-hop or street style dance. Reminder: Inappropriate lyrics will result in a 5 point deduction from the total score. We will use Urban Dictionary to interpret.

Jazz – a routine consisting of jazz technique utilizing up-tempo music.

Lyrical – a routine incorporating ballet technical base; meaning technique, lines, placement, balance, flexibility and control, utilizing the emotional lyrics of the music.

Modern – a routine of interpretive dance using balance and control; must be of modern technique, movement, and choreography, not contemporary or lyrical. (example: Graham Horton and Alexander Techniques)

Musical Theatre – a routine interpreting a song from a "Broadway" or movie musical through any style of dance. Tap sounds are not permitted in music.

Open – a routine consisting of a combination of multiple dance styles mixed into one, or one that does not fall under any other **DANCE SHOWCASE USA** category. Tap sounds are not permitted in music. If a vocalist is included in this category, they must also dance, i.e. the vocalist cannot just sing

Pointe – a routine consisting of pointe technique. **(Pointe shoes required for all female contestants. Non-compliance will result in a 5 point deduction from the total score). If rosin is used, an automatic 5 point deduction will be applied to the total score.**

Pom Pon – a routine consisting of precise and definite dance technique with the use of pom pons. Pom pons must be used at least 50% of the dance.

Production – (line only; 18 or more dancers) A routine which allows any dance performance category or combination of dance performance categories or dance styles. Tap sounds are not permitted in music.

Song & Dance – a routine consisting of both singing and any category of dance. Dance must be 50% of the routine. Accompaniment must be with music provided on CD/Flash. No vocals will be allowed on CD/Flash. Vocalist must also dance, i.e. the vocalist cannot just sing. Personal (lavaliere type) microphones or sound equipment may not be hooked up. Only microphones furnished by **DANCE SHOWCASE USA** will be allowed.

Tap – a routine consisting of tap technique and primarily tap work. Tap sounds are not permitted in music.

*Gymnastic/acrobatic passes are defined as any movement(s) where the dancer is completely inverted without one foot on the stage. The only exceptions are forward, backward, and shoulder rolls which can be performed in any category. Lifts, leaps and splits are also permissible. A pass consists of any number of gymnastics/acrobatic tricks across the stage at one time. **Gymnastics passes are allowed in any category as long as the style of dance is predominately the category entered. If the judges feel the dancer is in the wrong category, they may move the routine to the correct category, i.e. a jazz routine with too many passes will be moved to the open category.**

Music

Each entrant will furnish their own music on a flash drive or CD. Our preferred method for providing music is using a USB flash drive. Each routine/song must be labeled as follows on the USB drive:

Dance#_routine_name (example: 005_Chapel Of Love).

Additionally, music should be in a MP3 format or MPEG-4 format and a minimum bit rate of 128. Label the flash drive with studio name. You may put as much of your music as possible on a flash drive that it will allow. If you use iTunes, if you right click on the song, it will have an option for converting the music to a MP3 format. Then just copy those MP3 files to your flash drive.

An alternative method for providing your music on CD, cued, and ready to play (Only 1 routine song per CD will be permitted). **DANCE SHOWCASE USA** will provide labeled CD envelopes for each entry. CDs must be labeled with studio name, title of music, & entry number. Please do not place stickers on CD's. **Do not put MP3 or MPEG-4 formats on a CD, they will not play. It must be burned as an audio file or it will not work.**

Regardless, if you bring CDs or decide to use a USB Flash Drive, we recommend that you bring a master CD as a back up for your entries marked with studio name with a list of their order.

Pitch Level and Speed of music cannot be controlled at the event. Please be sure to upload the correct version for your dancers performance. We will not be able to play any songs from an email or off the internet.

Studio name cannot be used as a song title, name of routine, announced in the song, or during the song, Non-compliance will result in a 5 point deduction from the total score. Once the music starts and Directors/Dancers realize that the incorrect version of the music is being played then they need to notify the announcer or backstage staff before they have danced past three 8-counts, in order to re-dance with the correct music. If they request that the music be stopped or the dancers stop dancing past three 8-counts, then the dance will be allowed to dance again but it will result in an automatic 5 point deduction from the total score for the second dance.

Please be sure to pick up your music. Music CDs and USB flash drives will not be mailed.

Payment Information

All entries must be entered into the On-line registration system and payment must be postmarked 30 days prior to the competition date which is also the deadline date for all entries. **There will be a \$15 late fee per entry for any entries not paid by the deadline date which is 30 days prior to the competition.** Rebate information is available in the On-line registration system. To receive rebates, payment must be received and entries must be input 40 days prior to the competition date. Please send one studio check or debit/credit card for all studio entries. No entries will be accepted by phone. All entries will be processed once payment is received. Mastercard, Visa and Discover are accepted. No Personal Checks accepted at any time. Studio checks will only be accepted when postmarked by the deadline date. *Late entries will be accepted as competition space permits.

All payments received after the deadline date must be paid for by cashier's check, money order or debit/credit card. No Studio Checks will be accepted after the deadline date. If debit/credit cards have limits, the studio director/owner is responsible for making sure that all amounts are available for processing prior to the 30 day payment deadline. There will be a \$25.00 charge on all returned checks and all future payments will be required by cashier's check, money order or debit/credit card.

There will be a fee of \$15 per entry for any changes made after the schedule has been posted including adding/substitutions/removal of dancers. In order to avoid this fee, studios should have all entries finalized and any possible conflicts finalized by the deadline date. Conflicts should be entered in the registration system (in the Remarks area for each entry with a conflict) and we will attempt to work around those conflicts when the

schedule is being done, especially if there are drill team, prom, or other school conflicts. If we can't avoid the conflict that was identified within each dance, then we will refund that money. Conflicts that result from extensive makeup or costuming should also be identified in the Remarks area of the registration.

All entries will require that the director for that studio be in attendance or notification prior to the competition must be given to Dance Showcase and approval made for those exceptions. All entries by studios must have a minimum of \$500 in fee totals. Exceptions may be made but you must contact Dance Showcase USA staff for those exceptions. Independent entries are no longer accepted. **If Dance Showcase USA makes an exception for less than \$500 and the director is not in attendance at the competition, then all entries for that studio will be adjudicated only and not eligible for any overall or special awards.**

Detailed schedules will be available in the on-line registration system 1 week prior to the competition. If it is feasible, the schedule will be posted earlier than 1 week in advance. Directors, please do not wait until a few days before the schedule is suppose to be out to identify conflicts. Please notify us as soon as possible so that we are given a chance to work around that conflict. A general schedule will also be available to the directors to provide to their parents if they desire to do so. These schedules will be on the **DANCE SHOWCASE USA** web site www.danceshowcaseusa.com within the on-line registration system under Reports. **DANCE SHOWCASE USA** has the right to cancel any event that does not qualify with a minimum number of entries. In the event of cancellation, all entry fees will be refunded in full.

Refunds

No Refunds will be given after the deadline date. This means that any injuries, conflicts due to family emergencies, sudden illnesses, etc. will not receive any type of refund, gift certificate, or credit towards any future dance entries.

Judges

A panel of experienced judges will judge the dance routines. All judge's decisions are final. **DANCE SHOWCASE USA** expects all entries to be suitable for "family oriented entertainment." This means that all entries should not be suggestive, sexual or violent. This applies to costuming, lyrics, and choreography. Inappropriate dances will have 5 points deducted.

Dance Showcase USA provides verbal video critiques for all three judges. The videos will only have the music in the background as the judge's comments during the dance will be the main focus. The videos will not be the same HD quality as the videos available for purchase from our professional video company.

Score Sheets

Score sheets and flash drives will **ONLY** be given to the studio director unless the **DANCE SHOWCASE USA** office is notified in writing. Score sheets and flash drives should be picked up after the last awards program for that studio. Score sheets / flash drives will not be mailed.

\$500 Senior Scholarship

Open to all graduating Seniors competing in Regional/Nationals. Submit in writing an essay (no more than 500 words) describing how dance has been a positive influence in your life. (Please **DO NOT** use your name or studio information in your essay.) Return your essay with the scholarship application (found on our website www.danceshowcaseusa.com) by June 1, 2020.

General Information

DANCE SHOWCASE USA reserves the right to increase/decrease the number of competition dates and/or change locations as needed to meet our demands. All attempts are made in scheduling to avoid late night competition, and to allow the younger ages to compete earlier in the competition schedule. All entries are lined up in a random order to prevent any studio from always being first or last. However, once the random order is generated, then **DANCE SHOWCASE USA** reviews the order of dances to determine if any costume conflicts exist. If this occurs, the order will be re-arranged. Any apparent attempt to intentionally alter the scheduled order of the competition will result in a 5 point deduction from the total score.

*All entrants grant **DANCE SHOWCASE USA** permission to use their photographs/videos for promotional and advertising purposes. Admission is free. You may e-mail **DANCE SHOWCASE USA** at glenda@danceshowcaseusa.com. When emailing us, please call us if we have not responded within 72 hours to your email confirming we received it. For emails, please be sure to provide a subject. If no subject is sent, we will not open the email.

*Entrants may not compete more than once in exactly the same division, category, and age group. If a routine has at least one different dancer, you may compete in the exact same division, category, and age group. If the contestant performs in more than one solo, the same contestant can only receive one overall cash award or trophy in the Solo division.

*Any Regional First Place Overall Winner (that has at least 5 entries competing) may not compete the same routine at another Regional competition during the same season unless the routine moves up a level. If a dancer or dancers from that routine, chooses to compete at another Regional competition, then all entries with the exact same dancer/dancers must move up to the next level also. If any of those entries wins at the higher level and they chose to come to Nationals, then they must compete all of those same entries at the highest level at the National competition. Routines winning First Place Overall at the 2019 National Finals or 2019 Grand Showcase Finals may not use the same routine at any 2020 **DANCE SHOWCASE USA** Regional competitions.

*If a dance routine does not perform during its applicable Division (Solo, Duet/Trio, Small Group, Large Group, or Line) and Age Division (Mini, Petite, Junior, Teen, Senior, or Adult), then it will not be eligible for any overall award or placement award and will be judged for adjudication only. Adjudications will only be done based on available time on a given day and prior arrangements must be made before the competition starts.

*Talking, lip sync, and singing are acceptable, however the dance will be the only criteria for judging, unless the category entered is Song & Dance. No coaching is allowed for any age groups.

*The following are not permitted: Fire, Swords, Sand, Knives, Special Sound, Water, Gel, Paint, Aerosol, Glitter, Fireworks, Helium Balloons, Props requiring electrical hook-ups, any type of Liquid, Fog, or Smoke equipment and live animals on stage. Props involving battery operated electricity must be portable and self-contained. No items are allowed to be thrown off the stage toward the audience or the judges. Scenery or backdrops requiring the use of theater fly system or special theater lighting may not be used. Baby Powder or Rosin is **NOT** allowed to be used for pointe or any other category. Body Paint/Makeup must be dry before performance starts. Noncompliance for any of the above will result in a 5 point deduction from the total score.

*Props are allowed, however, they must be free standing. No person or persons may assist with a prop on stage during the dance without being a dancer of the routine. ***NEW*** No person or persons may assist holding a prop from off stage, i.e. holding a scarf or material from off stage. All props must be carried & cannot be dragged across the floor before, during, or after the routine. All props must have the portion that touches the floor covered/padded to prevent damage to the marley floor. Names of the studio are not allowed on props or costumes nor shall be worn by those people assisting with the setup of the props. However, all props left backstage must be identified with the studio name where the audience cannot see it. For safety measures, a dancer may not stand, sit, kneel, or dance above 8 feet from the stage floor on a prop. To clarify this rule, if the dancer's entire body is above 8 feet from the floor a

deduction will occur. Dancing blind-folded without a partner on stage is not allowed. For additional safety measures, no one is allowed to enter, leave the stage during the dance, or exit from locations other than the stage wings and no one should come within one foot of the edge of the stage at any time, i.e. this includes not sitting on the stage with legs extended over the edge of the stage. Hover boards are not allowed in a performance or to be used anywhere in the building. A 5 point deduction from the total score will occur if any of these safety measures are violated.

*Each dance routine is responsible for returning the stage to its original condition when the dance has completed. Littering the stage (leaving flower petals, feathers, etc. on stage) will result in a 5 point deduction if the stage is not cleared immediately after the dance has completed. Please have someone from your studio be prepared to clear the stage.

*Costuming is not judged unless deemed to be inappropriate.

*All protests must be made in writing and by the studio director 30 minutes prior to the awards ceremony for that age division. The instructor will be responsible for providing proof of age, if requested.

***DANCE SHOWCASE USA** and the hosting facility are not responsible for personal injury or property loss to either contestants or spectators.

***NO CAMERAS, PHONES OR ANY ELECTRONIC DEVICE OF ANY TYPE ARE ALLOWED TO VIDEO OR TAKE STILL PHOTOGRAPHY DURING ANY COMPETITION PERFORMANCE TIME. VIDEO AND STILL PHOTOGRAPHY IS ONLY ALLOWED DURING AWARD PRESENTATIONS. We no longer allow video taping or still photography for a number of reasons. In the past, it was always to protect the choreography of studio directors, which still applies. However, in today's world of the internet, it is probably more important to protect our children. Since we do not necessarily know who is from which studio, some one could video or take pictures of children for other purposes than just personal family use. We would hate for someone to put a video on YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram, etc. and represent those children in a demeaning manner. This has been a request of teachers and parents. Directors and teachers please explain this to your parents and tell your parents that they are responsible for telling their guests. If anyone is seen holding a camera in the air or any accidental flash occurs, the routine could have an automatic 5 point deduction applied to the total score.**

A National entrant must have competed in a DANCE SHOWCASE USA Regional competition during the 2020 competition season to qualify for Nationals.** All regional entries are eligible to compete at the National Finals. An increase, reduction, or substitution from an original qualifying entry at Regionals is acceptable. Regional entries cannot move down in Performance Level for Nationals. Entries must remain in the same dance category which they qualified at Regionals. ***NEW However, if an entry performed as a Production at a Regional competition with 18 or more dancers decides to perform at Nationals but has less than the 18 dancers to qualify as a Line, then Dance Showcase USA will allow that dance to be performed in its applicable category as a Large Group at Nationals.

A "LAST CALL" REGIONAL Competition is held at the start of the National Competition. Anyone not able to compete at one of the Regional Sites can qualify for Nationals at this preliminary "Last Call" competition.

National Host Hotels – Details will be on the website when available.

A FREE CRUISE leaving from Galveston valued at no more than \$1500 will be awarded to a director or instructor. A drawing will be held during a Grand Showcase Finals Award Ceremony to determine the winner. Entries will be awarded for Regional & National competitions as follows: Solo/Duet/Trio – Two chances per entry, Small Group – Four chances per entry, Large Group – Six chances per entry, and Line – Ten chances per entry. The name of the instructor to be entered in the drawing will be taken from the registration system. The trip must be taken by July 2021.