

Section 1. Dance Divisions

The contest will have four (6) divisions of competition.

DIVISIONS:

Solo Competitions (Grades 1-5)

1. Classical
2. Non Classical (Film/Folk)

Solo Competitions (Grades 6-10)

3. Classical
4. Non Classical (Film/Folk)

Group Competitions (Grades 1-10)

5. Classical
6. Non Classical (Film/Folk)

Section 2. Participants

This category is to be considered “Open” for individual participants, members, desiring to perform routines. Contestants will be judged based on originality, choreography, execution and entertainment value. Event coordinators will notify the contestants if there is prelims conducted for any competition category prior to event.

Section 3. Awards

- A. Computation of scores in each dance category and for overall score will be determined by the total score of all judges.
- B. Three (3) Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places of the entire competition if we have more than three participants in each competition category. If not, event coordinators will notify prior to competitions on # of prizes.
- C. The announcement of awards shall be as soon as possible after the last dance of the Competition.

Section 4. Dance Contest Format

- A. All contestants will be given overview of the contest format and rules, and announcement of music selections prior to beginning of the competition. In the event a music selection is found to violate the rules, a suitable replacement will have to be provided by contestant. The Contest Coordinator shall have the final decision to approve the selected song/music.
- B. Contestants will be called upon the performance in alphabetical order. In case a contestant registered for two competitions, the coordinators will communicate the performance order for them.
- C. The event shall be conducted in a format appropriate to the total entries and single round competitions.
- D. In the event of a re-run, the re-run will occur at the end of that division heat.

Section 5. Music

The contestants have their own choice of selecting songs for both Classical and Non-Classical items.

- A. Selection of chosen routines should be MP3 or compact disc (CD/CDR) format.
- B. Variations in the dance are allowed as long as the character of the dance remains intact.
- C. Music will play through the entire length of the song

Section 6. Dance Rules (Classical & Non-Classical)

- A. Each contestant shall have 6 minutes, entrance and exit inclusive, to execute their routine.
- B. While flirtatious moves are acceptable, overt sexual, vulgar or crude dance positions are inappropriate.
- C. Props are allowed. They are defined as small handheld or worn objects that can be appropriately revealed, utilized, and retained (e.g., tear-away skirt, guns and holsters, hand-held flowers, spurs, parasols, canes, ropes, chairs, suitcases, etc.). In other words, start with an empty floor, leave with an empty floor.
- D. Universally understood dance floor etiquette should be adhered to at all times during the competition, respective to the particular dance category. Each flagrant infraction of dance floor etiquette may be cause to be dropped.
- E. The rules are subject to change by Contest coordinator and Judges prior to event. All the rules will be notified to all contestants prior to competition begins.
- F. For Group Competitions, the following additional rules apply on top of the above rules.
 - a. Min/Max Count - The number of Participants should be minimum for 4 kids and maximum for 10 kids

- b. Grades Limit - The participant in group should be Grade 10 or below. They can participate any combination and only restriction is each group participant should be Grade 10 or below.

Section 7. Being Ready

Contestants must be ready to perform when scheduled and/or called or shall be scored no show with zero (0) placement for that category.

Section 8. Judging Criteria.

A panel of judges (1-3) consisting of either dance instructors, professional dancers, or dancers with competition experience shall be used. All judges agree to judge in an impartial manner. Any conflict of interest shall be reported to and resolved by the contest coordinator.

Judging will be done on a “Relative Placement System”. Each judge will have criteria to judge the performances either in Classical or Non-Classical. Final winners will be determined by judges and *judge’s decision is Final*.

The following judging criteria will be used for each dance shall be scored as follows:

1. CONTENT

- A. Variety of dance positions, dance movements, and/or combinations as appropriate to the specific dance.
- B. Difficulty of dance movements and/or combinations from one dance position or alignment to another.
- C. Uniqueness or originality of dance movements and/or combinations from one dance position or alignment to another, to include presentation of dance position.
- D. Continuity of dance movements and/or combinations to either interpret dance theme and music, or to demonstrate dance control. This refers to exceptional phrasing, which includes spontaneous adjustments of dance pattern for irregularly phrased musical selections.

2. EXECUTION

- A. Basic pattern, rhythm, timing, and initial phrasing between partners and to the selected music. For correctly phrased musical selections, phrasing may be shifted for momentary variation, but generally should be maintained throughout the specific dance.
- B. Proper performance of footwork, hand, head, arm, and body movements through dance variations; to include balance and centering through executed movements.

- C. Alignment, framework, and proper presentation of dance positions; to include smoothness of follow-through from movement into position; to demonstrate properly initiated lead and follow technique from position into movement.

3. STYLE

- A. Artistic interpretation and choreography projected through dance movement as it relates to the selected music and the specified dance category.
- B. Attentiveness, enthusiasm, enjoyment of the dance, and general good partnership as perceived through appropriate presentation.
- C. Flair and accent of dance movement, generating an atmosphere and instilling a mood appropriate to the specific dance category.
- D. Coordinated appearance appropriate to competition attire and the specific dance category; posture, grooming, and use of costume as it compliment the contestants and their projected dance style.

