

2020 Official Rules & Regulations

Please read carefully. Failure to comply with the rules below could result in disqualification.

DIVISION LEVELS

*It is up to the discretion of the Studio Director to determine the division placement of their dancers. Routines that are obviously under-placed may be elevated by the Judges or Management. All decisions are final.

*In a mixed Recreational/Intermediate/Elite group routine, at least 50% of the dancers must be from the division they are competing in. Routines that are moved to the Elite Division by Judges or Management will be exempt from this rule.

Technical Specifics & Guidelines

Recreational Division – For dancers with little or no competition experience who take 3 hours or less of class per week. There will be no redeemable gift certificates or cash awards in this division. There will be a presentation of top scores.

Intermediate Division – For dancers who take 4-8 hours of class per week and have participated in competitions for 3-5 years.

Elite Division – For dancers who take 9+ hours of class per week and have significant competition experience.

Pro/Am Division – For teachers and professional dancers. A professional or teacher is defined as any individual that is being compensated for classes or choreography. If a professional dancer or teacher competes in a routine, their routine must be in the Pro/Am division. The Pro/Am division will be adjudicated only. If there are 5 or more Pro/Am entries, a high score will be presented. There will be no redeemable gift certificates in this division. This division will be scored on the Elite Level Scoring system.

Type	Time Limit	Max # Dancers
Solo	2:45 (limit 3 solos per dancer, 3 different performance categories. Only the highest scoring solo will appear in the top scores)	
Duet/Trio	2:45	
Small Grp	3:00	4-9 dancers
Large Grp	4:00	10-19 dancers
Line	5:00	20+ dancers
Production	8:00	20+ dancers

*Add'l minutes may be purchased if time exceeds limit.

*No changes (Division, Age or Group) will be allowed after the Final Schedule is released without a Change Fee Charge being assessed.

Ages

Determined by using average age of the dancer(s) as of January 1, 2020. Do NOT round up. Dancers maintain their Regional Age at the Finals. You must recalculate the average age of a routine for Finals if any of the dancers in a routine changes.

Petite: 8 & under **Junior:** 9-11 **Teen:** 12-14 **Senior:** 15-19 **Adult:** 20 & Older (May compete as Recreational or Intermediate. Entry will be adjudicated. Overall Award will not be given unless there are 5 or more entries.)

Adjudication Criteria & Awards

All solos, duet/trios and groups will be judged on a point system. Each studio will receive a score and video critique of their studio's routines. The video critique will be accessible for up to 90 days after the event via the DCG online studio center.

Criteria

Each performance will receive up to 100 points per judge on the following criteria:

Technique:	35pts	Choreography:	20pts	Costume/Appearance:	5pts
Execution:	25pts	Stage Presence:	15pts		

Scoring Scale

	<u>Elite Division</u>	<u>Intermediate Division</u>	<u>Recreational Division</u>
Platinum Star	293-300		
Platinum	283-292.9	278-300	273-300
High Gold	273-282.9	263-277.9	253-272.9
Gold	263-272.9	248-262.9	233-252.9
High Silver	262.9 & Below	247.9 & Below	232.9 & Below

Title Competition (Recreational & Vocal solos are NOT eligible)

*Participants must be from the Intermediate or Elite division.

*Regional Title fee is \$25.

*There must be at least two contestants up for Title per age division in order for each Title Division to be held. If only one entry is submitted per age division, entry fee will be refunded. Exception for male categories: When necessary, male categories will be combined as 11 & under and 12 & over for Mr. Petite/Junior Dancer and Mr. Teen/Senior Dancer.

*Any soloist wishing to compete in the Regional Title competition must **pre-register** (prior to event) for their respective Regional Competition.

*Soloists may enter only one solo for consideration per Regional competition.

*All 2020 Title Winners will be eligible to compete for the 2020 Dancer of The Year Title Competition at no additional charge to their title registration fee. All Regional Title Participants will be eligible to compete for the 2020 Dancer of The Year Title Competition at a cost of \$45.

*All National Title Winners cannot compete for the same title the following year.

For example, National Miss Junior Dancer 2019 may compete for Miss Teen Dancer in 2019 but not Miss Junior 2020.

*Title Age Division

Miss Petite / Mr. Petite
Miss Junior / Mr. Junior
Miss Teen / Mr. Teen
Miss / Mr.

*Title Winners will receive:

- Crown or Hat
- Custom Acrylic Plaque
- Patrick J Certificate
- Waiver of Title/Dancer of The Year Registration Fees for the current year Nationals event.

Title Selection Guidelines

- *Scores for Regional Title will result from: 1)Solo Performance 2)Improvisation Performance
- *The format of the Title Competition is subject to change at the discretion of the Director.
- *Each dancer will be grouped by age for the improv session. Dancers are asked to appear on stage in basic dance wear, to improv to music selected by Competition Staff. Music will NOT be released prior to the competition and will allow for a lyrical, contemporary, jazz, open, tap or hip-hop interpretation by the dancers. Dancers will be required to wear an audition number for the Improv session.
- *Each dancer's improv score will be combined with their solo score.
- *Improv scores will be determined as follows based on a 100 point scale: Technique = 25 points, Showmanship = 25 points, Originality = 25 points, Musicality = 25 points
- *After scores are combined, Judges will rank the dancers and the top 3 will be awarded.
- *The announcement of the winners and runners up will occur during the Title Competition session or upon the completion of all solo entries, whichever occurs first.

Dancer of The Year National Title Competition

- *The 2020 National Title Competition is a separate event held at Nationals.
- *Regional Title Winners are invited to participate in the Challenge Opening Number on the final competition day.
- *All soloists competing for the National Title Category should **pre-register** prior to the event with the payment of the \$45 National title registration fee.
- *If a soloist competes at different Regionals and qualifies more than one solo, the soloist may only compete with one of the routines at Nationals.
- *National Title Winners are ineligible to compete in the 2021 National Title division unless they have moved up in an age division.
- *There must be at least two contestants for Title in each age division in order for the Title Competition to be held. We reserve the right to revert to an 11 & Under and 12 & Over age division if deemed necessary.
- *National Title dancers will be scored on their Solo and Improvisation.
- *All Title dancers must attend a minimum of (2) Master Classes.

General Awards

Each entry will be adjudicated and receive an award indicating their entry's achievement based on the scoring system for each level of competition.

Overall Top Awards

Overall Awards will be presented to the TOP scoring entries in each level of competition. It will be determined by the Director if the Top 10, Top 5, Top 3 or the Top Overall 1st place entry will be recognized during the Overall Awards. This will be based on the number of entries at the regional competition. Title competitors may still place in the Overall Top Awards.

The **Top Score Star Award** will be presented to the highest scoring routine per performance division (Recreational, Intermediate and Elite) per session AND out of the entire competition. This award applies to solos, duos-trios and groups (small, large, line and production). The Winner of the Top Score Star Session Award will receive a beautiful trophy and the winner of the Top Score Star Overall Award will receive a beautiful Gold Cup and a \$100 Fusion Star Buck.

Regional Cash Award Chart (Intermediate & Elite Divisions)

The top overall placements are eligible for cash or certificate voucher awards. For competitions with 250+ routines, overall awards will be monetary, under 250 routines, overall awards will be voucher certificates. There must also be a minimum of 15 entries per performance/age/type division for solos/duos/trios and 10 entries for groups in order for cash or certificate vouchers to be issued. *Vocal top overall placements may be combined and awarded in the 11&Under and 12&Over age divisions.

	Award Amount
Solo	\$50
Duo/Trio	\$75
Groups	\$100
Vocal*	\$25

Achievement Awards

Our judges will select certain outstanding performances for achievement awards.

Studio Awards

Fusion Encore Award

Staff and Judges will select from time to time select routines they want to see again on the Fusion National stage. Those routines will be awarded the Fusion Encore Award which will entitle that routine to attend the Fusion Nationals free of charge.

Fusion Spirit Award

Staff will choose the one studio that best displays overall courtesy and support to all of their fellow competitors. This studio will be presented with a beautiful Fusion Spirit acrylic plaque.

Creative Artist Award

The Creative Artist Award is presented to a routine that our judges deem as being a stand out performance based on the choreography and creativity of the dance. The winner chosen for this award will receive a beautiful Fusion Creative Artist acrylic plaque.

The Total Commitment Award

Judges will select a routine per competitive session that they have seen a total commitment from the creativity, costuming, execution, and stage performance. The winner of this award will receive a beautiful Fusion Total Commitment acrylic plaque.

ADCC Studio of Excellence Award

The ADCC Studio of Excellence Award is presented on behalf of the Association of Dance Competitions and Conventions to a studio that shows versatility by entering routines in many categories of dance. This award goes to a studio that takes on the challenge of offering their students the opportunity to experience and excel in all areas of dance.

Fusion Show Star

At each regional event, (1) 11 & Under and (1) 12 & Over group routine will be chosen as a Fusion Show Star. These winning routines will be posted online for voting. The video with the most likes by August 1, 2020 will win \$500 Fusion Star Buck! Routines are nominated by Judges based on entertainment value and must be a group routine to be considered. Show Star nominees have great energy on stage and pull great energy from the audience. Be sure to cheer your favorite routine on so that they may move on to be the 2020 Fusion Show Star!

Star Power Studio Award

Every competing studio's Top 3 highest scores from the group segment of the competition for all three performance divisions (Recreational, Intermediate, Elite) will be tabulated. During the final group awards session, the one studio with the highest point total from the Recreational, Intermediate and Elite group performance division will be named as a Star Power Studio Winner. In the event of the tie, we will add in succession, each studio's next highest scoring group entry until the tie is broken. The Star Power award winners (Intermediate and Elite) will receive a beautiful trophy with either a \$100 cash award or certificate voucher based on the Cash Award Chart provisions. The Recreational Star Power Studio will receive a beautiful trophy. In addition, all three winners will receive a free dance studio package sponsored by *Studio To Go* and a 10% off an in-house convention provided by The Bridge.

Fusion Stars

In every Regional city, judges will select certain outstanding Elite and Intermediate soloists from the Petite, Junior, Teen and Senior age divisions to be a part of the *Fusion Star Team*. Studios with mixed Elite and Intermediate division dancers will be chosen from the Elite division first. Fusion Stars will perform a production number choreographed by our industry professionals which will provide the Nationals Opening Number for the Challenge on the final day. Please note: Studios attending Nationals that do not have solo performers may nominate two performers each in the Petite, Junior, Teen and Senior age divisions to participate as a Fusion Star.

Fusion Ambassadors

In every Regional city, judges will select outstanding Elite and Intermediate soloists from the Petite, Junior, Teen and Senior age divisions to be a Fusion Ambassador during our Nationals. Fusion Ambassadors will be a representative of FNDC during Nationals by assisting in master classes alongside our industry professionals, assisting with awards and also during our Gala of The Stars Dancer's Welcome Party. Ambassadors will also participate in a photoshoot during the Nationals events.

Photogenic Entry

Photogenic entries are to be entered the day of competition only. Photograph size is a color 5x7 or 8x10 headshot. Parents or studios may submit photo(s) and entry fees to the merchandise table at the beginning of the competition. Fees may be paid via cash, certified check or credit card only. No personal checks will be accepted for photogenic entries. Entries will be judged in the *11 and under* and *12 and over* age categories. Judged photos may be picked up by parents or studio directors after the photogenic competition is complete. Winning photos will NOT be returned as they will be used for marketing of winning entries. Fusion is not responsible for photos that are left behind. An entry form will be filled out at the merchandise table when you check in the day of competition. Cost is \$25/entry. A portion of the proceeds will be donated in 2020 to the efforts of #RiseUp and its scholarship program for disadvantage dancers.

PERFORMANCE CATEGORIES

Ballet	Includes classical or contemporary ballet technique. Ballet slippers only.
Pointe	Includes classical or contemporary pointe technique and steps. Pointe shoes only.
Lyrical	Routine should demonstrate balance, extension, isolations and control using contemporary lyrical moves set to the mood or lyrics or the music.
Contemporary	Routine incorporates lyrical or jazz movement fused with modern elements.
Modern	Includes modern technique movements.
Jazz	Routine consists of traditional jazz movements and technique.
Tap	Routine must contain tap technique.
Clogging	Routine utilizes either traditional or contemporary clogging technique and style.
Parent	Recreational parent category.
Vocal	Includes vocal presentation. Accompaniment must be on cd. No lead vocals permitted on cd, backup voices will only be permitted.

****In the above performance categories, only three gymnastic tricks are permissible. A deduction of 1 point per judge will result for routines that do not comply. Minimum lip syncing and talking are permitted if a character is not portrayed.***

Hip Hop	Includes street or jazz funk technique. No suggestive moves or inappropriate music allowed.
Open	Routine consisting of any of our listed categories or combinations of listed category styles.
Musical Theatre	A routine interpreting a song from a Broadway or Movie Musical.
Acro-Dance	Routine combining gymnastics and dance choreography. Must contain at least 50% dance choreography.
Pom Pon	Routine is performed with pom pons for at least 75% of the routine.
Production	A routine that consists of 20 or more dancers utilizing props, sets and a main theme.

MUSIC 🎵

ALL music must be directly uploaded through DanceComp Genie Registration process no later than the Friday Week prior to the competition weekend. Music upload is a requirement for our events. If you do not honor this requirement by the due date, a late fee of \$50 will be applied to your account.

Speed control will not be adjusted and recording should be of good quality.

Backup music is required and may be submitted in the following formats utilizing the final schedule routine numbers:

*Backup CDs – one routine per CD. CD must be labeled with routine number and name.

*USB/Flash Drive – routines must be listed with routine number and name.

*Electronic Devices (phones, laptops, ipads, etc.) are **NOT** acceptable forms of backup music

All backup music must be labeled with your studio name and turned in at the beginning of the competition to the sound manager located at the Judges Table. Music left behind by the studio will be left at the venue.

GENERAL RULES

Competition Schedule

*A confirmation of your studio's entries will be accessible through your online studio center. Please review and ensure entries are in the proper categories, performance levels and age divisions. Once the final schedule is completed, the ability to make changes and/or corrections is considerably limited, if not impossible. If changes are requested once the final schedule has been released, a \$5 change fee will be assessed. This fee must be paid by credit card at the time the change(s) is made. All changes must be submitted in writing via email.

*When possible, every Regional schedule is based on the breakdown of entries by division level and type (solo, duet/trio, groups, lines, and productions) for that particular city. Dancer must be ready to perform 1 hour before their scheduled time.

*Performers must compete on the designated day, time, and in scheduled order, unless a schedule change has been pre-arranged with the Fusion office. Routines that compete outside of their scheduled day, time, or order will be eligible for adjudication only.

*A final schedule will be available via the online studio center to each studio 3 days (or before if available) prior to the first day of competition.

*Critiques are provided in the form of videos with an overall report providing a Judges score for each routine. The video critiques and score sheets will be available online via each studios DCG registration account in a timely manner following the conclusion of the competition.

Props

*The placement and removal of props, mats, etc., must be completed within 1 minute. No form of liquid, gel, glitter or other substance may be used that would affect the dancing surface. No items may be thrown or shot off the front of the stage. Props should not be built backstage (see Stage manager for accommodations). Performers cannot stand above 6'6" on the prop. Props which exceed 10'6" in height cannot be guaranteed to fit on stage. Fusion will not supply power.

Coaching

*Coaching of performers from the wings is prohibited.

Sportsmanship

*Good sportsmanship is expected from performers, students, parents and the general audience at all times. Horns, whistles and other noisemakers are not allowed in the theatre. Failure to adhere to these rules may result in point deduction and/or disqualification. Fusion reserves the right to eject from the premises any spectator or participant deemed to be acting in an inappropriate or disruptive manner.

Food & Beverage

*Unless permission is posted by the theatre, no food or drinks are to be brought into the auditorium, dressing or backstage areas.

Family Environment

*This is a family event, sexually explicit dance or music will not be tolerated.

Routines

*Soloists may compete in up to three solos. Only the highest scoring solo will appear in the top overall scores. There is no limit to the number of group entries a studio may perform. However, if a studio enters a group routine containing the same performers in the same category, only the highest scoring routine will appear in the top scores. All routines will be adjudicated.

Re-Performance

*Except for technical difficulties on the part of Fusion, re-performance of any routine will be adjudicated only.

Video & Photography

*For the safety of the performers, no video cameras or photo/still cameras will be allowed during performances. Fusion contracts the services of a photographer and/or videographer as a convenience to parents, teachers and studio directors. The use of any type of camera or video camera during the competition may result in a point deductions or disqualification of a routine or studio in overalls. Please inform parents of this rule to avoid conflicts. You may use flash photography and video cameras during the awards ceremony only.

*All registered contestants grant permission to Fusion and its representatives to publish their photos/videos on local or national television, promo videos, marketing material, the internet or any other visual media as deemed fit by Fusion in an effort to promote its competitions and/or conventions.

*All photography/videos taken by Fusion Productions and/or any independent representative commissioned by Fusion become the property of Fusion. Fusion reserves the right to sell said photography/videos at competition events and online for purchase on dvd, usb or by download.

Liability

*Fusion, its staff, the hotel, theatre or site of the competition will not be responsible for any accident or injury that may occur to anyone participating or attending these events. Choosing to compete in a dance competition assumes inherent risks including but no limited to sprains, bruises, pulled and sore muscles and broken bones. In addition, Fusion cannot be held responsible of unforeseen flaws in the theatre stages that may inadvertently lead to the causing of an accident. Participants and Spectators agree not to hold Fusion Dance Competition, LLC, its officers or staff responsible for injuries, illnesses or damages sustained while participating in any activity related to a Fusion Dance Competition LLC event. It is the responsibility of the dance teacher and or person in charge of the participating entries to educate them and other attendees from their studio as to these rules and policies.

*Fusion reserves the right, when necessary, to relocate a competition site and/or make changes to competition days/times. Fusion reserves the right to cancel any event due to lack of registration, weather, or other unforeseen circumstance.

*Each studio must have on file with Fusion, a Parental Waiver Form. This form may be obtained from our website on the Registration Page as well as directly from your studio center with Dance Comp Genie. Forms should be submitted no later than the opening of the competition at the merchandise table. This form will remain active for each competition year.

Privacy and Security Policy

*We respect and are committed to protecting your privacy. As part of the registration process with Fusion National Dance Competition, we may collect information when you register through our website. We will never sell, give away or share this information with anyone. Our Registration Process is through DanceComp Genie, Inchol Solutions. FusionNDC is required to purchase an SSL Certificate each and every year as part of the requirement for secure online transactions. Your payment and personal information are always safe. Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) software is the industry standard and among the best software available today for secure commerce transactions. It encrypts all of your personal information, including credit card number, name, and address so that it cannot be read over the internet.

Marketing

*All performers and attendees consent to the use of photos and videos for marketing and advertising purposes including but not limited to print, web and other media outlets.

ENTRY ACCEPTANCE, REGISTRATION & PAYMENT

***All entries must be submitted and paid in full 30 days in advance of event via the DCG registration system.** Entries that are not paid 30 days prior may not be included in the final schedule. Late entries may be subject to a late fee. No entry is guaranteed until payment has been received and processed. In addition, should you have a registration with us that is not guaranteed (no deposit or payment), priority will be given to studios who make a deposit or payment to reserve their registration.

*Fusion does not accept independent entries. Dancers must be registered with a studio. Entries are accepted on a first come, first served basis and must be postmarked or submitted online by the entry deadline. Entries will be accepted until allotted competition time is filled. Entries will not be added to the schedule until payment has been made in full and received in the Fusion office 30 days in advance of the event. Entry fees may be paid via credit card, money order, certified checks or Fusion award certificates. If using Fusion award certificate as a form of payment, the original certificate must be received in the Fusion office 30 calendar days before the event; photocopies will not be honored. No personal checks will be accepted. Returned checks will be assessed a \$35 fee. Award certificates credited against entry fees via online system must also be postmarked no more than 3 business days after entries are submitted.

*Award certificates credited against entry fees but not received in our office by stated deadline are deemed invalid and any amounts previously credited will become due immediately. Award certificates (including the dollar value of certificates to be applied) not submitted with entries will not be honored. Award certificates credited against entry fees but not received in the Fusion office 10 calendar days before the event are overdue and any amounts previously credited will become due immediately.

*Under no circumstances will refunds be issued for submitted entries. In the event one is unable to perform due to a documented injury or illness, Fusion may issue an award certificate to be used at the 2020 Nationals or a 2021 Regional competition. The decision to issue an award certificate for unused entry fees is solely at the discretion of the Director.

*Fusion reserves the right to expand an event, move a location, or cancel an event as necessary. In the event that it becomes necessary for Fusion to cancel a regional due to low participation a full refund for entry fees paid will be issued within 10 business days of the cancellation. If cancellation of an event is due to fire, floods, strikes, embargoes, acts of public enemy, unusually severe weather, outbreak of war, restraint of government, riots, civil commotion, force majeure, and beyond control of Fusion, Fusion will issue an alternative date and/or location if possible. If an alternative date and/or location is not possible, credit will of fees will be applied to another current year or next year Fusion event.

***Fusion does not accept personal or studio checks.** Cashier's checks or money orders are appreciated but must be received no later than 15 days in advance of the event date. Fees may also be paid by credit card (MasterCard or Visa is accepted). A 1.5% service charge will be added to all credit card payments. No payments will be accepted at the event and any unpaid entries will not be allowed to perform.

*All studio registrations must include payment.

*FusionNDC reserves the right to alter or make adjustments to the rules and regulations as deemed necessary.

*Loyalty Discount: Please register for a Studio Center Account for information regarding discounts or Studio Director may contact Fusion management at info@FusionNDC.com.