

Dance Champs 2022 Rules and Regulations

“Where Dancers Shine Like Stars”

Please read carefully! Failure to comply with our rules and regulations could result in point deductions, extra fees and possibly disqualification.

SOME OF OUR RULES HAVE CHANGED FOR 2022. THESE ARE HIGHLIGHTED IN YELLOW FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE.

REGISTRATION PROCESS:

ENTRIES must be entered on our online registration form 30 days before the respected competition city. Entries will be accepted on a first come first serve basis. Any entries received after the deadline date will be assessed a late fee of \$20 per entry. This fee will automatically be added to your total amount to be paid in full. Entries ARE NOT accepted the day of the competition. Entries are not guaranteed acceptance until payment is received. Emailed, faxed or phone entries ARE NOT accepted. Dance Champs has the right to refuse any entry at any time. Dance Champs reserves the right to change competition dates and locations due to any unforeseen circumstances.

PAYMENTS can be made by credit card, cashier’s check, or studio check. Outstanding fees after the deadline date must be paid by credit card and will incur the late fee. **Studio checks WILL NOT be accepted after the deadline date.**

RETURNED CHECKS and/or declined credit cards will be charged a \$35 returned fee.

REFUNDS WILL NOT be offered for any reason after the deadline date. No Exceptions. Credits for future DC Events will be given in the event of injuries. Day of scratches will result in forfeit of entry fees. If an event has reached the minimum required number of performances, and it has been confirmed, no refunds will be issued. Credit card disputes will be subject to a \$50 charge back fee. In the event a competition is cancelled due to circumstances out of the DC Management’s control, a refund may be issued.

CHANGES/CORRECTIONS can be made via your DCG Studio Account up until 10 days before the respected competition at no charge. If changes need to be made after the deadline, a \$5 fee per change will be added to your entry fee total.

Entry Types and Pricing		
Entry Type	# of Performers	Time Limits
Solo	1 Dancer	3:00 Minutes
Duet/Trio	2-3 Dancers	3:00 Minutes
Small Group	4-9 Dancers	4:00 Minutes
Large Group	10-19 Dancers	4:00 Minutes
Line	20+ Dancers	5:00 Minutes
Production (storyline)	20+ Dancers	8:00 Minutes

DC TITLE COMPETITION

*Solo Title Competition is available for Shooting Star and Shining Star levels only. This is in addition to the regular Solo competition. There is a \$50 fee in addition to the solo entry fee. Each Solo Titlist participant in each age group and level will be awarded a crown/hat; Title winners will be awarded a crown/hat, sash and plaque.

5 STAR REGIONAL DISCOUNT is only valid if all fees are paid in full 60 days prior to the first day of the respected competition. Cannot be combined with any other promotion.

Regional entry fees up to the amount of \$7,500 will receive 10% off
Regional entry fees over the amount of \$7,500 will receive 15% off
Regional entry fees over the amount of \$19,000 will receive 20% off
Regional entry fees over the amount of \$25,000 will receive 25% off

EXTENDED TIME may be purchased to accommodate longer routines. There will be a \$10 fee for an additional minute per routine with a maximum of 2 minutes. Time limits are strictly enforced.

CATEGORIES:

Acrobat – Combines gymnastic and dance choreography.

Ballet – Consists of ballet technique, classical steps, and movement.

Clogging – Performed in clogging shoes using clogging technique.

Contemporary – A routine combining Jazz and Lyrical technique to interpret the music.

Hip Hop – Street or contemporary jazz-funk. Must have appropriate lyrics.

Jazz – A routine consisting of jazz movements and technique.

Lyrical – Dancers interpret the lyrics, mood, and content of the music.

Modern – Interpret dance using balance, control, and contemporary modern style.

Musical Theatre – Any style of dance interpreting a song from Broadway/Movie Musical.

Open – Any style of dance.

Pointe – Classical or contemporary pointe technique and steps –pointe shoes only.

Tap – Uses Tap technique and steps. No tap sounds in music.

AGE DIVISIONS

Age Group Breakdown	
Age Group	Ages
Mini	5 & Under
Petite	6-8
Junior	9-11
Teen	12-14
Senior	15-18
Adult	19 & Older

AGE DIVISIONS are divided into five divisions. Age divisions for all routines will be the average age of all the performers as of January 1st, of the competition year. To determine the age group, average the ages of the performers, then drop the decimal. If age division protests arise, the studio must be prepared to present proof of age (birth certificate, driver's license, etc.). Failure to provide proof of age may result in disqualification of that routine. Protests must be in writing, signed by the studio director, and presented to the Dance Champs Director one hour prior to respected awards ceremony.

ADULT AGE DIVISION performances will be for adjudication only. All adult performances must compete in the Shining Star level. Any performance that has an adult aged performer must be placed in the Adult Division regardless of the average age. Cash Awards and Overall Awards will not be presented.

BUMP RULE – Duet/Trios and groups that consist of dancers from multiple age divisions will only be able to compete one age division lower than the oldest dancer in the routine. If you have a senior age dancer in a group which the average age is 10, that routine must compete in the teen division regardless of the average age.

COMPETITION LEVELS:

COMPETITION LEVELS are divided into four levels; Sparkle Star, Rising Star, Shooting Star and Shining Star.

Sparkle Star – This level is strictly for special needs performances. Studios may enter one solo or duet/trio routine FREE OF CHARGE with a minimum of five regular priced routines.

Rising Star – This level is for the beginner dancer that has less than 2 years in the competitive world of dance. Dancers in this level may only compete one solo to be eligible to be in Rising Star. Overall DC Cash Awards will NOT be presented. Overall Awards will be announced if there are more than 3 in a category.

Shooting Star – This level is for the beginner/intermediate dancers in the competitive world of dance. Overall and DC Cash Awards will be presented. ** **Shooting Star** level performances must have two or three of the criteria listed below. If a performance only has one of the criteria listed below, they must be placed in the Shining Star level. Dancers in this level may only compete a maximum of two solos to be eligible to be in the Shooting Star level.

- 3 or less years of dance classes
- 4 or less hours of studio time a week
- 4 or less routines at one competition

Shining Star – This level is for the advanced dancers who have competed in the competitive world of dance. Overall and Cash Awards will be presented. ** If a performer has 2 or more of the criteria listed below, they must compete in the **Shining Star** level.

- 3 or more years of dance classes
- 4 or more hours of studio time a week
- 5 or more routines at one competition

If a group is made up of Shooting and Shining Star dancers, at least 51% of the dancers must be from the level they are competing in. A dancer must compete all of their solos in the same competition level. All performances may choose to compete in a higher level if desired. If you have any questions about this rule, please contact our office.

AWARDS:

GENERAL NOTES AND AWARDS

Each performance will receive a Star Platinum, Platinum, Star Gold or Gold award based on the score given for their performance.

SHOOTING & SHINING STAR LEVEL OVERALL AWARDS**

Top Mini, Petite, Junior, Teen, Senior Solo	\$100 DC Cash Award
Top Mini, Petite, Junior, Teen, Senior Duet/Trio	\$125 DC Cash Award
Top Mini, Petite, Junior, Teen, Senior Small Group	\$150 DC Cash Award
Top Mini, Petite, Junior, Teen, Senior Large Group	\$200 DC Cash Award
Top Mini, Petite, Junior, Teen, Senior Production	\$250 DC Cash Award

**There must be a minimum of five performances in a category for DC Cash to be awarded.

DC Cash is credited to your studio account to use at the current year's DC Nationals towards studio entry fees.

Bright Star Top 5 Award – Dance Champs will announce the Top 5 overall routines in the Shining and Shooting Star levels of the entire competition. This will be a combination of all Solo, Duet/Trio, and Group routines.

All-Star Team (formerly Dancer of the Year) – The judges will select up to five soloists in the petite, junior, teen and senior age divisions as their All-Star Team. Those selected will have the opportunity to compete for National All-Star Dancer at our DC National Competition. Each participant must compete their solo at our DC National Competition and participate in the opening number of the DC Challenge. There is a \$40 fee to participate in the All-Star Dancer. You must register and pay online prior to the deadline date to participate. Registration can be completed on the event page under Opening Number category. Each participant will receive a commentative shirt and certificate as well as instruction from

a highly accredited choreographer. The winner of each age group (petite, junior, teen, senior) will receive a \$250 cash scholarship to either your current studio or towards DC entry fees for the following season.

Star Choreography Awards – Choreography awards will be presented to group routines with outstanding work in the area of choreography, selected by our panel of judges.

Star Studio Award – The top three studios that have the highest scoring routines (based on their top 25 scoring routines) will be awarded the Star Studio Award. A studio must compete 25 routines or more to be eligible for this award.

1st Place – \$500 DC Cash Award

2nd Place – \$250 DC Cash Award

3rd Place – \$100 DC Cash Award

Judges Choice Awards – At the beginning of each awards ceremony, the judges will each select a performance that they feel deserved special recognition. This award is not based on adjudication scores.

Most Entertaining Award – This award will be given out each day to the performance the judges select as the most entertaining routine. This will be awarded to a Petite/Junior and Teen/Senior group performance exhibiting entertainment elements.

Star Spirit Award – This award will be chosen by our Dance Champs Staff. It will be awarded to the studio who we feel embodies the true meaning of sportsmanship throughout the competition both on and off the stage.

Photogenic Award – These awards will be presented to the contestants judged to be most photogenic based on the following criteria: visual appeal, expressiveness of the dancer, age appropriateness, composition, lighting and quality of the photo. For each Regional competition, there will be one Junior Most Photogenic winner (age 11 & Under) and one Senior Most Photogenic winner (age 12 & Above). All entries must submit a recent photo with their online registration. Only registered contestants can enter the Most Photogenic competition. Each winner will be announced and presented with a plaque and \$25 cash award.

SCHEDULING AND PERFORMANCE TIMES:

SCHEDULING - Dance Champs does not follow a general format. Each regional competition schedule may vary. Every regional schedule is set up based solely on the breakdown of entries by solos, duet/trios and groups received for the designated city. A time schedule with assigned performance numbers will be emailed to all studios and an overview schedule will be posted to our website at least one week prior to the competition date.

PERFORMANCE TIMES will be determined from the regional competition schedule. Each performance is assigned a number used for reference and identification purposes. Dance Champs runs in numerical order. All performers must be prepared to perform at their scheduled time. Legitimate costume changes of less than 3 routines will be accommodated. In the interest of running on time, Dance Champs reserves the right to modify the schedule. Doors to the venue will open 30 minutes prior to the start of the competition. Performers must be prepared to dance in order up to one hour ahead of their scheduled performance time. The first 10 scheduled performances are asked to arrive ready to perform in full costume, hair and makeup. Performances must check in with our Back-Stage Ambassador at least four numbers prior to their performance. The wrongful holding of performances may result in disqualification or point reduction. Incomplete performances will be adjudicated, and not eligible for High Point Awards. No reperformances will be allowed unless there are unforeseen technical difficulties, or the judges request the performance to compete again.

MUSIC:

All Music must be uploaded to your DGC account at least one week prior to the competition. An accessible backup for each performance is required to be in a studio representative's possession during the competition. This must be in the form of a Flash Drive, iPod, or iPhone. Laptops and CD's WILL NOT be accepted. Sound Systems vary at each location; we cannot adjust the speed of the music, make cuts in the music or download music. The Dance Champs staff will not make edits or alterations onsite. Music must not have any inappropriate language. Any song containing inappropriate language is subject to a 5-point deduction. By signing and competing at Dance Champs, studios acknowledge and assure that all music has been legally bought or covered under the studio's music licensing rights that they hold.

JUDGING & CRITIQUES:

JUDGING- Our panel of well-qualified judges critique each performance against a pre-set point system. (100 points per judge). Our scoring system allows for multiples of STAR PLATINUM, PLATINUM, STAR GOLD, and GOLD. The decisions of the judges are final, and represent their professional opinions, not those of the DC management or staff. If the judges feel that a performance's choreography, costume, or song lyrics are inappropriate, points will be deducted, and they will not be eligible for high point awards.

Adjudicated Scoring Breakdown			
Award	Total Score – Shining Star	Total Score – Shooting Star	Total Score – Rising Star
Super Nova	289.5 – 300	N/A	N/A
Star Platinum	269.5 – 289.4	269.5 – 300	269.5 – 300
Platinum	249.5 – 269.4	249.5 – 269.4	249.5 – 269.4
Star Gold	229.5 – 249.4	229.5 – 249.4	229.5 – 249.4
Gold	209.5 – 239.4	209.5 – 229.4	209.5 – 229.4

Scoring Breakdown	
Criteria	Points Allowed
Technique	1-30
Execution	1-30
Presentation	1-20
Choreography	1-10
Overall	1-10

AUDIO/VIDEO JUDGES CRITIQUES – Each performance will receive three video/audio critiques. Critiques may be accessed by teachers the Tuesday after the competition. Studio Directors will receive an email with access codes to log into their DCG Studio Account to view their critiques.

APPROPRIATE PERFORMANCES is one of the most controversial concerns in the dance industry. Dance Champs is a family-oriented dance competition that is dedicated to providing a safe, positive environment for our dancers and our audience. Points will be deducted, at the judges' discretion for routines with inappropriate or suggestive music, costumes, and/or dance moves. Opinions concerning what is suitable vary. Dance Champs disallows and will disqualify any act for any reason, including those that may be considered inappropriate by the general viewing public. Performances displaying highly charged issues reflecting a lack of discretion and awareness of the age and nature of a competition audience will be deemed inappropriate and adjudicated only.

PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEO

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOING of any kind is strictly prohibited. If this should occur, your studio entries will be disqualified. Dance Champs reserves the right to confiscate any form of video/audio being used. Please inform your studio parents of this rule. We urge all studio owners, teachers and parents to keep our performers photographically safe by reporting suspected photographic violations. Dance Champs will have a professional photographer and videographer at each competition. Studio directors will receive all photos and videos for each of their regional performances.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

GRADUATING SENIOR SPOTLIGHT is new to the 2022 season. We want to spotlight all your graduating seniors. Studios can submit a photograph and a short bio of each graduating senior performer that will be showcased in our program book to pay tribute to all the graduating seniors that are moving on to their next chapter in life.

GENERAL NOTES

PROPS are permissible and must be essential to the routine. Props are such things as ropes, balls, chairs, benches, and free-standing scenery. We encourage you to use discretion in the size and quantity of props, keeping in mind that venue space is limited. We have limited space at our venues and transporting them thru doors may not be accessible. Props must be in place within 2 minutes and cleared from the stage within 2 minutes. A deduction of 2 points will be taken for each 30 seconds over the time limit. Backdrops, hanging pieces or special lights are prohibited. These safety measures must be adhered to. All props must be labeled with the studio name. If you have questions concerning props, please call our office. The use of fire, smoke, fog machines, knives, electricity and live animals are prohibited. Liquids of any kind, gel, aerosol, helium balloons and throwing of glitter is prohibited. Props cannot exceed 10 feet high and performers cannot stand above 6' on the prop. Free standing props need to be carried on and off the stage. Props need to have buffers/wheels at the bottom. Mats are permitted but adhere to the same rules. Performers must completely clear off the stage in the event of loose feathers, streamers, hairpieces, etc. or points will be deducted. No items may be thrown or shot into the audience. Studio owners/teachers will be held liable for any damage to the stage, (as a result of props damaging the stage), dressing rooms, or any part of the venue as a result of the action of your studio. If you cannot set up your props within the designated time limits, please reconsider your props. PROPS not adhering to the time allotted for set up add delays and overextends the competition schedule making us run over our scheduled time.

PERFORMERS cannot enter, exit, or jump off the front of the stage during or after their performance. Dancing in the aisles or near the judges is also prohibited. This is for the safety of the performers, judges and our audience. Deductions will occur, and routines may not qualify for high point awards.

SPORTSMANLIKE conduct is expected from all participants including teachers, dancers, and parents. Dance Champs reserves the right to disqualify routines/studios for obstructing this rule. DANCE CHAMPS reserves the right to refuse entry into the competition to a competitor or spectator to any group or individual who has been deemed unsportsmanlike by our staff. Anyone displaying unsportsmanlike behavior during the event will immediately be asked to leave the facility with loss of entry fees, awards and future performances and disqualification of routines.

SOLICITATION or advertising of any kind is prohibited and will be asked to leave immediately.

DRESSING ROOMS will be provided for all performers. Dressing rooms are only for performers and parents who are assisting with costume changes. Only same gender parents and teachers are allowed in dressing rooms

ADMISSION is free to the general public. Doors will open 30 minutes prior to the first scheduled act. **NO FOOD, DRINK OR SMOKING** is allowed in the competition performance area or inside the contracted venue.

SAFETY is a top priority at Dance Champs. We highly encourage all those attending to be responsible for their personal belongs, beware of surroundings and supervise children at all times. Stay safe and have fun while attending Dance Champs competitions.

DISCLAIMER – Dance Champs and the hosting venue are not responsible for any kind of damage, loss or injury by participants or spectators or their property while attending any area of the venue premise. Any performer competing in a dance competition takes certain inherent risks. These include but are not limited to sprains, bruises, pulled muscles, and broken bones. Dance Champs participants and spectators indicate the acceptance of such risks. Therefore by virtue of entering and performing on stage, it is agreed that participants will not hold Dance Champs, its officers, directors, staff, employees or hosting facility responsible for injuries sustained or illnesses contracted by them while in attendance and/or participating in any activity related to a Dance Champs competition. Dance Champs and the hosting facility are not responsible for personal injury to contestants, spectators, or property loss. All participants, teachers, dancers, spectators grant permission/consent to the directors of Dance Champs the use of their photographs, videos, or other electronic media to appear in advertising, news coverage, DC website, or any other commercial use of our event to promote Dance Champs. No one may approach the judging table or the judges during the competition. This includes, but not limited to spectators, dancers, parents, teachers, and studio directors. Any legal actions taken against Dance Champs must be filed in Kansas City, MO. All legal/attorney fees incurred from legal actions taken against Dance Champs will be the sole responsibility of the prosecutor. Dance Champs reserves the right to cancel any events due to lack of registration, weather, and/or any unforeseen circumstances. Dance Champs also reserves the right to change locations, venue, dates at any time deemed necessary. Dance Champs will not be held responsible for any additional costs endured for any type of travel arrangements. Dance Champs, their officers, and the host venue and staff will not be responsible for any injury, illness, damage/stolen to property to anyone in attendance of the event.

DANCE CHAMPS SOLO CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION

Dance Champs invites all soloists to compete in our Solo championship competition. Our competition will be held February 4-6, 2022, at the Liberty Performing Arts Theatre in Liberty, MO. All subtitles listed below will follow the current Dance Champs Regional Rules and Regulations with the exceptions listed under them.

REGISTRATION PROCESS

Each soloist may compete up to three solos in different categories

Compete the same solo at any DC Regional competition in the same year and receive a 50% discount. Cannot be combined with any other discount or promotion

COMPETITION LEVELS

Four levels of competition: Shining Star, Shooting Star, Rising Star and Sparkle Star

AWARDS

Each performance will receive placement awards in the form of Super Nova (Shining Star Level only), Star Platinum, Platinum, Star Gold, Gold.

Overall Awards will be presented in each age division depending on the number of routines.

Top soloist in each age division will receive \$100 and a professional photoshoot. Minimum of 8 in a category for cash prizes. If minimum is not reached, winners will receive \$50 and a professional photoshoot.

Bright Star Top 5 Award – Dance Champs will announce the Top 5 overall routines in the Shining and Shooting Star levels of the entire competition. This will be a combination of all Solo, Duet/Trio, and Group routines.

Judges Choice Awards – Each judge will choose a soloist per awards ceremony for a special recognition award.

Awards excluded from this event – DC Champion Top 5 Award, Mr/Miss Dance Champs Title, All-Star Team Award, Choreography Award, Star Studio Award, Most Entertaining Award, Star Spirit Award, and Senior Spotlight

PHOTOGENIC

This award will be presented to the contestants judged to be the most photogenic based on visual appeal, expressiveness, age appropriateness, composition, light and quality of the photo. We will select on Junior, 11 years of age and under and a Senior, 12 years of age and older. All entries must submit a recent photo with their online registration. Only registered dancers can enter. Each winner will be announced and presented an award.

SCHEDULING & PERFORMANCE TIMES

MUSIC

JUDGING AND CRITIQUES

Audio and Video critiques by three experienced, qualified judges for each routine

PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEO

Photos and Videos will be available for purchase only at this event

DANCE CHAMPS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

In addition to the Dance Champs Regional Rules and Regulations
the following rules are added for the National Championship.

National Entry Types		
Entry Type	# of Performers	Time Limits
Solo	1 Dancer	3:00 Minutes
Duet/Trio	2-3 Dancers	3:00 Minutes
Small Group	4-9 Dancers	4:00 Minutes
Large Group	10-19 Dancers	4:00 Minutes
Line	20+ Dancers	5:00 Minutes
Production (storyline)	20+ Dancers	8:00 Minutes
Photogenic	1 Photo	N/A

DC CHALLENGE - The top five performances in each of the Shooting and Shining Star Levels – (Solo, Duet/Trio, Small Group, Large Group, and Productions) for Petites, Juniors, Teens and Seniors, will have the opportunity to re-compete for title of National Champions. One studio per entry category will be invited back to compete in the DC Challenge. **Solos will be allowed to have multiple solos from the same studio re-compete in the DC Challenge.** There must be at least eight routines in each entry category to take part in our DC Challenge. In the event our DC Challenge cannot be held, the national performance scores will stand as the final overall awards.

DC CHALLENGE AWARDS

	<u>First Place</u>	<u>Second Place</u>	<u>Third Place</u>
Solos	\$250/Trophy*	Trophy/\$100 GC*	Trophy/\$50 GC*
Duet/Trios	\$250/Trophy*	Trophy/\$125 GC*	Trophy/\$75 GC*
Small Groups	\$300/Trophy*	Trophy/\$175 GC*	Trophy/\$100 GC*
Large Groups	\$400/Trophy*	Trophy/\$225 GC*	Trophy/\$175 GC*
Productions	\$500/Trophy*	Trophy/\$275 GC*	Trophy/\$200 GC*

*A minimum of eight routines in each category for the cash awards to be presented. If less than eight routines, cash awards/Gift Certificates may be prorated. This is for the Shining Star and Shooting Star Level only.

OPENING NUMBER – All Regional Top 5 Soloists in the Junior, Teen, and Senior age group in both Shooting Star and Shining Star Levels are invited to participate in our Opening Number of the DC Challenge. **You must register and pay online prior to the deadline date to participate. Registration can be completed on the event page under Opening Number category. Each participant will receive a commemorative shirt and certificate as well as instruction from a highly accredited choreographer.**