



NATIONAL DANCE COMPETITION

Rules & Regulations

Updated August 4, 2021

SCORING

All entries will be scored by a panel of three judges, with a maximum score of 100 points per judge. Performance evaluation will take into consideration technique, execution, stage presence and choreography.

Each routine will receive one video/audio critique. Critiques, score sheets and judges notes will be available online through the studio account by 5:00 PM on the Tuesday after the competition.

All acts will receive one of the following placement awards:

UnMasked Elite	300-291 Points
Platinum	290-282 Points
High Gold	281-270 Points
Gold	269-260 Points
High Silver	259-250 Points
Silver	249-245 Points
Bronze	244 & Below



Every entry will receive placement pins for each participant in duos, trios and groups. Soloists will receive medals.

Any routine not completed will be adjudicated only and will receive a 10-point deduction. Routines will NOT be allowed to perform again. The only exception to this rule will be in the event of a technical malfunction which may be made at the discretion of the Competition Director.



AGE DIVISIONS

- Petite Ages 8 & Under
- Junior Ages 9-11
- Teen Ages 12-14
- Senior Ages 15 -19
- Adult Ages 20 & Over



- All ages are as of January 1st.
- For groups, round down or drop decimal.
- No more than 50% of any duo/trio or group can compete against themselves in the same age group within the same category.
- Any dancer age 21 or above placed in a group will automatically place the entire group in the adult division.

COMPETITIVE LEVELS

Please note when selecting levels for your dancers that these hours should include technique classes ONLY. Any rehearsal or choreography time should NOT be included.

GREEN

This level is for dancers that take no more than 3 hours of dance per week. Dancers can enter this category no matter how long they have been competing provided they do not exceed 3 hours of dance per week. No cash awards will be awarded in this division.

GOLD

This level is for dancers who take 3 to 5 hours of dance per week.

PURPLE

This level is for dancers who take more than 5 hours of dance per week.

In placing duets, trios, and groups, experience should be averaged. At the discretion of the judges, dancers may be moved into the appropriate level and/or category.

Example: In a small group, you have 4 dancers of Purple level and 2 dancers of Green level. This group should be placed in the Purple level.

If in a group, you have an equal amount of dancers from the Gold and Purple levels, the studio owner may place this group at their discretion.

TYPE OF ENTRY AND TIME LIMITS

Solo (1 Performer)	2:45 minutes
Duo/Trio (2-3 Performers)	2:45 minutes
Small Group (4-9 Performers)	3 minutes
Large Group (10-19 Performers)	4 minutes
Line (Over 20 Performers)	4 minutes
Production (Over 20 Performers)	8 minutes



Extended time may be purchased for group entries at a cost of \$2.00 per dancer for a 2 minute extension. Time limits will be strictly enforced. Any routine exceeding the time limit will be adjudicated only and will not be eligible for overall awards. Please check your time limits carefully!

MUSIC

Music must be submitted via studio account online by 5:00 PM by the Tuesday of the event week.

Studio owners should have backup copies of music files on a USB drive as there will not be a CD player available. Cell phones & iPods/iPads are not accepted. Any USB drive should be picked up at the registration table following the awards ceremony. Masquerade is not responsible for any music not claimed by the end of the competition.

SCHEDULE

The competition schedule will be emailed directly to the studio owners approximately 7-10 days prior to the event. **NO CHANGES** will be made after this time for any reason. The program will be posted to our App the Monday of the event.

REGISTRATION

You may register via our website: masqueradedance.com

All returned checks will be charged a \$25.00 returned check fee.

You are not considered registered until all entries all paid in full.

STYLE OF DANCE

Acro – Routine using acrobatics and tumbling moves (walkovers, handsprings, aerials, etc) incorporated with the rhythm of the music. It can contain passes and flexibility moves. Must contain 50% dance and 50% acrobatic.

Ballet – Ballet technique incorporating classical movements

Character – Routine portraying an easily recognizable character throughout. Character can be from a play, musical, movie, television, or Broadway. Acrobatic tricks are allowed provided that it is fitting to the character being portrayed.

Dance Team – Precision choreography that also incorporates dance technique.

General Variety – Can contain any style and/or combination of styles of dance.

Hip-Hop – Trendy style of today's dance techniques.

Jazz – Consists primarily of jazz technique.

Lyrical – Routine should demonstrate balance, extension, and control in performing contemporary lyrical moves. Dance should “tell the story” of the music.

Modern – Modern dance involves free movements of legs, arms, and body to create unusual and interesting effects.

Contemporary – Interpretive movements using contemporary technique.

Musical Theater – Any style or combination of styles of dance with music from any Broadway show past or present.

Novelty – Routine consists of any number of styles and combinations of dance.

Open – Any style of dance.

Pointe – Consists of pointe techniques with classical movements.

Pom – Routine using pom-poms with precision choreography and definite movements.

Tap – Contains tap technique. NO tap sounds can be used within the music.

Soloists in the Green level may enter one solo. Soloists in the Gold and Purple levels may enter up to three solos provided that they are in different style categories. They can only place with one solo in the Overall Awards. We do not count tricks.



PROPS

Props must be free standing and be essential to the performance. Fire and weapons will not be allowed along with confetti, glitter & dry ice. Full size trampolines are prohibited, however, mini tramps can be used. Balloons **MUST** be weighted. Liquids of any kind are not allowed on the stage. This includes excessively wet hair, body paint, bubbles or any other liquid that would create an unsafe dance surface. Foreign substances that would create an unsafe dance surface are not allowed on stage such as sand, charcoal, powders and dust of any kind. This includes any food-related products such as baking powder or frosting. The stage may **NOT** be covered with a tarp, cloth, etc. at any time in order to use the prohibited materials.

No special backdrops or lighting changes will be allowed. You may not use smoke or fog machines. No loose debris may be thrown from the stage. If the stage is littered (feathers, leaves, flowers etc.) at any point during the performance, dancers must be prepared to clean it up **IMMEDIATELY** following the performance.

If props are to be used, it must be stated on the entry form. Dancers may have help with the placement of heavy props. Props must be placed within a timely manner. If props are not organized and placed in an appropriate time, the routine will be adjudicated only and will not be eligible for overall awards. The competition director may allow extra time for placement of large props to be used for productions.

Please take care when placing props. If the prop crew damages Masquerade or theater property (marley, backdrop, wings, etc.), that routine will not be eligible for overall awards or special awards. Routine will be adjudicated only and charges for the damages may occur.

Appropriate spotters for tricks must be utilized. No performer may stand, lay or be **ABOVE 6 feet** from the stage at any time during the performance. This includes dancers supporting dancers unless spotters or mats are used. If at any time the performer is above 6 feet from the stage, the routine will be adjudicated only and will not be eligible for overall awards.

PHOTOGENIC AWARD

\$30.00 Entry Fee per photo/person

All Photogenic entries must be submitted online in advance. Information can be found on the Masquerade Dance website.



MASQUERADE REWARDS/LOYALTY PROGRAM

Studio Directors can earn up to 8% rebate on Regionals and Nationals entry fees.

IMPORTANT: All entries must be submitted and paid in full (or postmarked) by the rebate date.

YEARS ATTENDING	MEMBERSHIP LEVEL	PAY BY STUDIO CHECK
Less than 2	Entry Level	3%
2-3	Green	5%
4-5	Gold	7%
6 or more	Purple	8%

Entries received postmarked 45 days prior to the competition day will qualify for the loyalty rebate. Studios must spend a minimum of \$1,000 to be eligible for the rebate. Studios must attend Masquerade in sequential years to move up in rewards levels. Studios are allowed a one year grace period of non-attendance. If a studio does not attend for two or more years, their loyalty rewards will reset at entry level. Studios are responsible for picking up their rebate checks at the conclusion of the event. Rebate checks will not be mailed.

ENTRY FEES

Solos	\$120.00
Duo/Trios	\$130.00
All Groups	\$55.00 per person

Payment must be postmarked 30 days prior to the competition date to avoid any late fees. In order for programs to be printed, this deadline must be strictly adhered to. Entries will be accepted in the order that they are received.

TITLE COMPETITION

Dancers are only eligible for title if their solos are in the Purple level. Title will be awarded in each age division provided there are at least 5 title contestants. To be considered for title, contestants must enter 2 solos in different style categories. The dancer with the highest cumulative score will be awarded the title for that age division. In the event of a tie, judges will make the final decision. In the event that 5 contestants are not entered, title may be awarded to a contestant with a platinum average at the discretion of the competition director.



ENCORE

The judges will select certain entertaining entries to return for an Encore Performance at the conclusion of the competition group day. Judges will view these entries again and choose the winner of the Encore award. This award is chosen based on entertainment value. Only small groups, large groups & lines are eligible.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Contestants must be in the building and ready to perform one hour prior to their estimated performance time.
- At every venue Masquerade will set up a reserved seating hospitality section for studio owners. This section is reserved for their use only and is not open to any students or parents.
- Masquerade and the host facility are not held responsible for personal injury or property, loss/damage to contestants and spectators.
- All teachers and contestants agree that the manner and method of judging will be solely the discretion of the judging panel.
- Special microphones and sound equipment is not allowed. No lighting requests will be taken.
- **NO COACHING** from anywhere by anyone during the performance. This will be enforced and points will be deducted.
- Ties for overall scores will be broken by technique score and in the event of a tie judges will make the final decision.
- Any questions regarding the rules or judging should be brought to the attention of the director by the studio representative only.
- All dancers and teachers are expected to display good sportsmanship. Failure to do so will result in immediate disqualification.
- All cash awards will be awarded to the studio owner only.
- Cameras of **ANY** kind are **NOT** allowed inside the auditorium. If anyone from your studio is caught videotaping or taking photos, your entry is subject to disqualification. This rule is in place to protect the choreography of the teachers and the privacy of the performers.
- Dressing rooms are now electronic-free zones.
- Any questions will be brought to the attention of the director by the studio owner or representative only. The decision of the judging panel and competition director is final.
- Masquerade does not discriminate; however, we do reserve the right to refuse entry into the competition as 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 and no refunds will be issued.
- Masquerade Dance does not offer refunds, however, if a dancer suffers an injury, the studio owner may request a refund. The studio owner must email a copy of the doctor's note outlining the injury to info@masqueradedance.com **PRIOR** to the start of the event. If approved by Masquerade Dance, a refund will be provided to the studio owner.
- COVID Refunds: Should local conditions be bad enough that Masquerade is forced to cancel an event, we will work to find a suitable resolution. Should a solution not be found, 100% refunds will be made to the studios.

As we get closer to the 2022 season, we will update any COVID information as needed.