



## **2019 COMPETITION INFORMATION AND RULES**

Registration is completed online by visiting the '**REGISTRATION**' tab on our website, [www.DanceForceXpress.com](http://www.DanceForceXpress.com). Online registration will open on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018. A password and login can be requested by contacting Dance Force Xpress by phone or email. Independent Registration Rates are listed on our website. Studio Registration Rates are listed in our brochure and in email correspondence with studio directors. Brochures can be requested to be mailed to any studio, or can be emailed to a verifiable owner's email address (must be able to verify through your website). Studio Registration Rates are available to groups registering 5 or more routines at a single event. We are proud to offer some of the lowest registration rates in the area! **Request:** [Info@DanceForceXpress.com](mailto:Info@DanceForceXpress.com)

### **SIZE DIVISION – (Time Limits)**

Solo	(2 minutes and 45 seconds)
Duo/Trio	(2 minutes and 45 seconds)
Small Group (4-9 performers)	(3 minutes)
Large Group (10-19 performers)	(4 minutes)
Line (20+ performers)	(4 minutes)
Production (20+ performers)	(8 minutes)

***Production routines compete in one general category in either the JUNIOR (12 and under) or SENIOR (13 and over) age division, at either the COMPETITIVE or ADVANCED COMPETITIVE level. The routine must be a minimum of 4 minutes and a maximum of 8 minutes, and must have a story line or common theme throughout the routine.***

Soloists may only perform two solos at any competition.

**\*BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!** \* ½ PRICE Grad Solos – Reward your 2019 graduating seniors with a half price solo! Only one half price solo per person. Please be sure to select 'Graduating Senior Solo' as the routine size when registering online to receive the discounted rate.

### **'OVERALL' AGE GROUPS**

PETITE: 8 and younger  
JUNIOR: 9-12 Years  
TEEN: 13-15 Years  
SENIOR: 16-20 Years

Ages are determined by the average age of the group **as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019** in whole numbers, and do not round up or down. For example, the average age of 10.9 would compete as 10 years old. Performers must be able to produce proof of age if requested.

Those over 20 years of age are eligible to compete in group routines and duo/trios as long as the **average age** of the group is below 20. Soloists over the age of 20 may enter the 'ADULT' age category, which is for adjudication only.

## **LEVELS**

Four levels of competition allow performers to compete with those closest to their own skill level. The studio owner, choreographer, or instructor will determine the level of the routine according to the performers' experience level. Individuals may be registered in different levels at the same event, **but may only register their solo or duo/trio routine(s) ONE level lower**. For example, an individual may be a COMPETITIVE soloist or duo/trio performer if they have little experience as a soloist or duo/trio performer, while performing in ADVANCED COMPETITIVE groups if the majority of the group performers are at the advanced level. A dancer who performs in Advanced Competitive group routines **may not** compete in the Beginner level in solos and duo/trios, as that is a change of TWO levels. As a general rule of thumb, Beginner and Competitive level dancers should either be new to the competition scene, or have **less than four hours per week** of dance training.

We encourage and expect all studio directors to register their routines at the appropriate level. The competition levels should not be used as a tool to win top awards or to keep your groups or dancers from competing against one another - each routine placement should be based upon the experience and level of training of the performers in that specific routine. In fairness to all competitors, routines that have been registered at one level, and belong in a more advanced level, will be moved to the advanced level. Please take into consideration the number of routines performed by each of your dancers. The placement of routines at the competitive level may be challenged if individual dancers are competing in six or more routines, as it could be assumed that they are receiving more than 4 hours of training per week to accomplish this.

Dancers who place 1<sup>st</sup> in the 'Beginner' or 'Competitive' level in Overall Awards in the previous year in SOLOS and DUO/TRIOS must register at the next level in the SOLO and DUO/TRIO division. It is the responsibility of the studio to register these dancers according to this policy.

**BEGINNER** – Designed for those who are **brand new** to competing. *If dancers competed in this division with Dance Force Xpress in 2018, they should **not** be in this division in 2019.*

**COMPETITIVE** – Dancers have experience competing, and are working to improve elements of their performance.

**ADVANCED COMPETITIVE** – Dancers are comfortable with all aspects of the competition scene and excel in judging areas.

**ELITE**; \*Junior, Teen, and Senior Solo Categories **ONLY\*** - Due to the high enrollment in these divisions, this level was introduced to continue to allow dancers to excel. Dancers in this level should have extensive competitive experience, consistently placing in Overall Awards at regional competitions. There must be at least 5 Elite level solos registered; if there are less than 5, those dancers will compete in the ADVANCED COMPETITIVE level.

Routines registered in the Advanced and Elite levels will compete for Overall High Score awards and cash prizes. Routines registered in the Beginner and Competitive levels will compete for Overall High Score awards and future credit certificates. The Beginner, Competitive, and Advanced Competitive levels will have Petite, Junior, Teen, and Senior divisions for Overall High Score awards.

## **PERFORMANCE CATEGORIES**

**Ballet / Pointe** - Must include classical steps and ballet technique. Ballet slippers or pointe shoes only.

**Character/Music Theater** - Routine portraying an easily recognizable character, movie, musical, etc, throughout with music, costume and dance. Can incorporate any form of dance.

**Hip Hop** - A precision dance which consists of the latest street dance style.

**Jazz** - Routine using jazz technique with such moves as turns, kicks, leaps, extensions, etc.

**Lyrical** - Routine encompassing the use of balance, flexibility and control utilizing the lyrics or mood of the music.

**Modern /Contemporary** - Consists of modern technique, movement and choreography.

**Open** –This category is for any routine that does not fall into one of our performance categories. Routines can be any dance style, or any combination thereof.

**Tap** - Routine comprised of tap technique.

Each participating studio is invited to bring one Parent Routine FREE of charge! Parent routines are just-for-fun; score sheets and video critiques will not be provided, and parents will not receive awards. A completed online registration must be included by the competition deadline for all Parent Routines. An adult/parent group routine may also register to be adjudicated. The routine will receive score sheets, a video critique, and ribbons, but are not eligible for overall awards. There is a flat fee for an adjudicated adult/parent routine.

Rising S.T.A.R.I!" Division – **S**pecial **T**alents **A**re **R**emarkable! This is a non-competitive performance division for groups with special needs. The routine will receive a comment video and recognition during the awards presentation with an award for each performer. The routine will not receive score sheets or be eligible for Overall Awards. The routine is FREE when registering 10 or more group routines, or a flat rate of \$75 if registering less than 10 group routines.

### **JUDGING CATEGORIES**

- **Music and Costume (5 points):** Music is age appropriate and fits the style of the performance. Submitted music is of high quality. Costuming is age appropriate, non-constricting, and compliments the music and skills of the performers. Performers have matching/coordinating shoes, hair styles, make up, etc.
- **Stage Presence (10 points):** Facial expressions relate to the music and movement. Performer(s) have eye contact with audience. Performer(s) look comfortable on stage. Performer(s) use the space of the stage in it's entirety. Showmanship is unified throughout the entire group.
- **Choreography (10 points):** Movements are done to the music. Music cues or specific words in the song are used for certain moves or skills. Routine has a nice flow from beginning to end and keeps the audience entertained. The routine is age appropriate. Skills and technique demonstrated matches the performer(s) ability. The routine features new and unique choreography. If large portions of the routine are clearly recognizable from past performances by your studio or other studios, or outlets such as social media or YouTube, there may be deductions in points.
- **Technique (10 points):** Performer(s) have proper placement, posture, and pointed toes. Leaps with full extension and height will score more points in the technique category.
- **Skill level (10 points):** Performing advanced skills will earn more points in this category. In example, those performing triple pirouettes will receive more points than those performing doubles.
- **Overall Impression (5 points):** The judges' final impression, taking all aspects of the routine into consideration. Included in this score are the judges' personal opinions on the music and costume choice. This category is very subjective, and scores can vary between judges according to their personal preference.

### **SCORING AND AWARDS**

- There are 150 points possible for each routine; three judges scoring a maximum of 50 points. All decisions by the judges are final.
- Studio directors will receive score sheets from each judge, as well as one video critique of the routine.
  - *Studios will be sent video critiques electronically via Dropbox within 48 hours of the completion of the competition. Videos can be saved on your personal device for future reference.*
- Each performer will receive a placement ribbon for their performance:
  - **Platinum (127-150 points)**
  - **High Gold (112-126.5 points)**
  - **Gold (97-111.5 points)**
  - **Silver (82.5-96.5 points)**
  - **Bronze (Less than 82 points)**
- Scores are NOT rounded up. Performers must receive the actual number of points noted to receive that placing.
- **Division High Point award** will be given to those scoring highest in their age division/size division/performance category. For example, a First Place Division award will be awarded to the highest routine in Junior Solo **Tap**, Junior Solo **Jazz**, Junior Solo **Lyrical**, etc. **NOTE:** If an age division/size division/performance category only has one registered routine, that routine must receive a PLATINUM placement in order to receive a First Place

Division award. There are no Division High Point awards for Productions, as there are no divisions of performance categories (jazz, hip hop, lyrical, etc.).

**PLEASE NOTE CHANGES FOR THE 2019 SEASON:**

- **Overall Awards** will be announced for routines in **every** level/age division/size division. In divisions with **5 or more** registered routines, 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> place will be announced. Additional placings (4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, etc) may be announced depending on the size of the division, and will also receive the appropriate awards. In divisions with **less than 5** registered routines, a 1<sup>st</sup> place will be announced. Overall soloists receive a trophy. Each member of an Overall Duo/Trio receives a trophy. For group routines, the studio will receive a banner, plaque, or trophy depending on the placement. Each 1<sup>st</sup> place performer in a group routine will receive a medal, and each 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place performer will receive a ribbon. These are Overall Awards for the age division (Petite, Junior, Teen or Senior) and size division (Solo, Duo/Trio, Small Group, Large Group, Line, Production). All performance categories (Jazz, Lyrical/Ballet, Hip Hop, Tap, etc) are eligible.
  - In addition, if there are FIVE routines registered in the Level/Age Division/Size, routines will receive future credit at the Beginner and Competitive levels, and cash awards at the Advanced Competitive and Elite levels.

	<b>First Place</b>	<b>Second Place</b>	<b>Third Place</b>
Solo	\$75	\$50	\$25
Duo/Trio	\$75	\$50	\$25
Small Group	\$100	\$75	\$50
Large Group	\$100	\$75	\$50
Line	\$150	\$100	\$50
Production	\$150	\$100	\$50

*“Cash Awards” are presented in the form of a check following the competition. All checks are written to the studio as a refund of registration fees. Under no circumstance will a check be presented to an individual dancer unless they have registered as an independent.*

## **Special Awards**

Special awards are awarded at each competition and are at the sole discretion of the judges, not necessarily based on scores. Ribbons for each performer will be awarded for routines that receive Special Awards.

**PLEASE NOTE CHANGES FOR THE 2019 SEASON:** Titles of ‘Miss Dance Force’ and/or ‘Mr. Dance Force’ will be awarded in the Advanced and Elite divisions. Titles will be awarded in the Petite, Junior, Teen, and Senior age divisions. There are no additional registration fees for this title, however, dancers **MUST** be registered for this title on the online registration. **NEW:** Eligible dancers must perform in a solo, a duo/trio, and at least one group routine. The highest scoring solo out of all eligible dancers in each age group will take the title.

Cash prizes and future credit will be awarded to the studio, not individuals. Future Credits are good for the following competitive season only. THOUSANDS of dollars in prizes will be awarded at each competition; higher than nearly any other Regional dance competition!

## **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

- There are no minimum or maximum number of routines allowed per studio or group.
- Once online registration is complete, an invoice will be sent by email within 2 business days and will include all credits and discount offers that you have on file.
- Discounted Early Registration – online registration **and** full payment are due 75 days prior to the competition date in order to receive 10% off of your total fees due. Registration deadlines are listed on our website.



- Registrations will be accepted up to 21 days prior to the competition. After the registration deadline, please contact Dance Force Xpress directly for information on availability of space for late registrations.  
**Late registrations will incur a 5% late fee.** Once the event schedule is posted online, registration is CLOSED.
- Registration fees must be paid by Studio Check, Money Order, or Certified Check. Credit Card payments are accepted with a 2% processing fee. If a studio is registered by the registration deadline but has not submitted payment, they will be contacted by phone or email as a reminder to submit payment. After the 21 day deadline, there is a **5% late fee** for any unpaid registrations. Routines will not be put on the schedule unless payment has been received.
- Registration fees are non-refundable and non-transferable unless a Refund Request form (obtainable by email request) is submitted at least two weeks prior to the first day of the event.
- Final edits of music must be submitted at least one week prior to the competition. Music will be played from a computerized sound system to avoid music issues, skipping, etc. **A single USB containing all tracks in .Mp3 format or the use of Dropbox (online) is preferred.** If mailing a CD, **one disc** per studio should be mailed with a list of the routine titles for each track on the CD. Routines that do not have music submitted at least one week prior to the competition will be **assessed a \$10 late fee per routine.** Routines that do not have music submitted at least 24 hours prior to the START of the competition will be disqualified and will be removed from the competition order. Refunds will not be issued if routines are disqualified.
- Music and/or performances that are considered to be offensive or objectionable may be disqualified from the competition.
- Questions or concerns during the competition should be addressed with the backstage managers, not the judging panel. This includes performance order, music or technical concerns, injuries, etc.
- **A schedule is sent to studio directors at least 10 days prior to the event asking for confirmation of any costume conflicts. If we do not receive a response at that time, we will assume that your studio has no conflicts, and your dancers will be required to perform as assigned.** Dancers with 3 or more routines between their performances are expected to be ready to perform as scheduled. A quick change area will be provided. Studio owners are asked to stress this policy with their dancers in order to keep the competition moving as scheduled.
- Re-starting of a performance; if there are technical difficulties, the routine will be rescheduled to compete at the end of the division, and judging will be on the complete later performance. If there is an injury, the performer(s) will exit the stage, and will discuss with the stage manager if they will be able to perform at the end of the division, or if they will not be able to re-perform. Judges will take into consideration the first performance as they judge the later performance. Issues such as mistakes or missed choreography are not reasons to re-start the routine. The music will be stopped at the discretion of the event director, in which case, the performance will be rescheduled.
- Timing begins with the first note of the music for routines starting onstage, **OR**, the entrance of the routine after the announcement of the group for those performances entering with music. If the routine starts on stage, please take the stage as the announcer is announcing your routine. If performers do not enter the stage during the announcement of the routine, the music will begin immediately following the announcement. Timing ends with the exit of the majority of the group from the stage with fading music, or the last note of the music if ending onstage. Performances that exceed the maximum time limit are automatically ineligible for Overall High Point placings and prizes.
- Any participant in a Dance Force Xpress event is understood to recognize the risks inherent in dance and dance performances. Participation in this event indicates the acceptance of such risks by contestants, their guests or spectators, and their parents/guardians. Dance Force Xpress assumes no responsibility for personal injury or property loss at these events. Participants must have a signed waiver on file in order to perform, however, participation in any event indicates understanding and agreement to all rules and policies. Waivers should be handed in at the competition Director Check-In Area. **NEW FOR 2019: Any waiver form(s) that require special attention, such as, but not limited to, food allergies that would limit the concession items sold at the event or photo/video restrictions are required to be submitted by mail or email at least two weeks prior to the event. Submitting these waivers will allow all parties the appropriate time to handle these specific situations.**

- Acrobatic elements; acrobatic/tumbling elements are allowed in routines. In any partnering stunts/lifts, the flyer must be supported at all times (i.e. no basket tosses). Directors are to keep in mind that there are not mats available, as well as our safety guideline, *“Dance Force Xpress stresses the importance of safety and requires participants to execute only those skills, techniques and practices that will not cause harm or injury to performers, spectators, or the facility.”*
- Teachers may not enter the stage or prompt dancers during their performance. Violations may be subject to point deduction. (Ages 8 and under may be assisted with on-stage lineup only.)
- Smoking or drinking are prohibited on any part of venue property.
- Solicitation or advertising of any kind is prohibited.
- Only teachers and performers are allowed backstage. Only same gender parents and teachers that are essential to the dancers’ needs are allowed in dressing rooms. Dressing areas are provided. Participants must keep areas clean, as well as respect property belonging to the host facility. ***If at any time the actions of participants are deemed unacceptable, a studio representative may be required to remain in the dressing area to supervise for the duration of the event.***
- One studio representative is required to check-in with the Stage Manager at least 3 routines prior to their performance. Failure to do so may result in the number being skipped. The studio representative is to stay with the Stage Manager to cue the music.
- Spectators are to enter and exit the theater in between routines only.
- Performances will not be scheduled any earlier than 7:00 am. Additionally, every effort will be made to schedule the last entry to perform no later than 10:00 pm.
- Dance Force Xpress reserves the right to add additional days, cancel, or extend any competition as a result of the number of entries received, or to make any changes in the event of circumstances beyond our control. The event, or categories of the event, will close when registration is full. In the event of cancellation, entry fees will be refunded to the payer, or transferred to another competition site if desired by the studio owner. DFX may combine OR divide divisions or categories in order to create a competitive atmosphere for those registered in categories where there are no other registrations.
- Dance Force Xpress reserves the right to refuse service to anyone, refuse any performance, or remove individuals from the premises for any reason deemed appropriate.
- Dance Force Xpress is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged items, and is not responsible for injury, damage or loss to any person or property during participation in any event, nor is their promoters, directors, principals, agents and employees. They are not liable for injury, damage, or loss that may be caused by any act or omission of any of them.
- Photographs, recordings or filming of participants by any and all Dance Force Xpress staff members or members of the press become the property of Dance Force Xpress and may be used for future publicity. Participating in any event, or attending as a spectator, is an acknowledgement that the performer or spectator may be used in promotional materials.
- Food, beverage, or gum is not allowed in the performing areas, dressing rooms, workshop areas or audience. Dressing rooms, performing areas, and audience areas are to be left in the same condition after the competition as before. If food/drink is found on the premise, we reserve the right to excuse spectators and competitors from the event.
- Good sportsmanship is expected from all participants, teachers, and spectators. Applause and cheering are encouraged! Poor conduct in this area may result in disqualification.
- Admission is free of charge. Concessions, merchandise, programs, souvenirs, trophies, and awards may be available for purchase.
- ***SPORTSMANSHIP EXPECTATIONS: It is the belief of Dance Force Express that every performer should be rewarded with positive reinforcement for each and every performance. Any adult, including parents, instructors, and studio owners, who takes part in behavior that is emotionally or physically harmful to performers will be asked to immediately leave the event venue.***

### **SAFETY and PROPS**

The safety of the dancers and spectators is essential at all Dance Force Xpress events. A stage manager and back stage manager are available for assistance at every event. Dance Force Xpress stresses the importance of safety and requires participants to execute only those skills, techniques and practices that will not cause harm or injury to performers, spectators, or the facility. Do not use or throw props on or off stage that might cause damage or leave a residue, such as liquids, gels, aerosols, glitters, powders, etc. Stage must be returned to its original pre-performance condition within 30 seconds.



All props must be free standing and may not be attached to any apparatus or stage rigging. Choreography and/or props that allow any dancer to be physically placed more than 6 feet off the ground of any scenic piece or prop could be considered hazardous. Props must be able to be placed on stage in no more than 60 seconds prior to the routine, as well as removed from the stage within 60 seconds of the completion of the routine. Studio representatives are responsible for ensuring that the stage is clear of all props, costume pieces, feathers, nails (from sets/props), etc. Excessive time limits due to props will result in a 5 point deduction. Productions are allowed additional time for set up and removal of props/scenery.

Routines that are scheduled during the AM session may place their props in the backstage area prior to the start of competition, and must remove them following the first awards session. Routines that are scheduled in the PM session may place their props in the backstage area during the first awards session, and may remove them following the final awards session, or after their performance if it is not distracting to other performers.

All choreography must be performed within the boundaries of the provided stage area. Dancing in aisles, on or around the judges table, jumping off the stage, and/or performing in any other part of the auditorium aside from the stage is strictly prohibited and may be subject to disqualification.

The Dance Force Xpress staff is available to assist with any questions that you have!  
Please connect with us at any time.



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