



2021 COMPETITION INFORMATION AND RULES

*(Updated information from previous years is highlighted in **RED**)*

Registration is completed online by visiting our website, www.DanceForceXpress.com. Online registration will open on November 1st, 2020. **We have joined forces with Dance Comp Genie, the leader in dance competition software, to make registering simple! If you currently, or have ever, used Dance Comp Genie to register your studio for any competitions, you will use that same account. By accessing your studio account, all of your previously entered information will be accessible on your Dance Force Xpress registration! Otherwise, you will create a new studio account. Please visit our homepage for a direct link to Dance Comp Genie.** Registered routines must be affiliated with a studio. 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). We are proud to offer some of the lowest registration rates in the area! **Request:** 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)	(4-8 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 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.

Clarification of Lines vs. Productions: Lines must be under 4 minutes in length. Lines should be category specific i.e. Hip Hop, Jazz, Tap, etc. Productions must be 4-8 minutes in length. Productions should include a common theme, and feature a variety of styles.

Soloists may only perform two solos at any competition, but may attend more than one DFX competition per season.

***BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!** * ½ PRICE Grad Solos – Reward your 2021 graduating seniors with a half price solo! We proudly offer one half price solo per person. **Please be sure to include the name(s) of all eligible graduating seniors with a registered solo in the 'Notes' section of your registration. This amount will be adjusted on your Dance Comp Genie account prior to final payment.**

'OVERALL' AGE GROUPS

MINI: 6 and Under
PETITE: 7-9 Years
JUNIOR: 10-12 Years
TEEN: 13-15 Years
SENIOR: 16-20 Years



Ages are determined by the average age of the group **as of January 1st, 2021** 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.

The Mini age division is for your youngest dancers. Please note that there are no levels in this division (Beginner, Competitive, Advanced) and that all routines will compete in one general level. With the addition of the MINI division in 2020, the ages for the Petite and Junior divisions changed slightly.

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. **Any group routine that has ELITE level soloists must compete in the Advanced Competitive level.** Please note that this information is highlighted to bring additional attention; please ensure you are following this rule if you have Elite soloists.

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.

BEGINNER – Designed for those who are **brand new** to competing.

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.

Clarification on acro/gymnastic tricks: There is not a set number of acro/gymnastic tricks or passes that would move a routine to the open category. We ask that if the focus of a routine is gymnastics, acro, or contortion, that the routine is registered in the 'Open' category. Routines in any category may include these elements.

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 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 routine.

“Rising S.T.A.R!” 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 scores or be eligible for Overall Awards. The routine is FREE for any participating studio.

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 and the dancers relate to the music. 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 outlets such as social media or YouTube, there may be deductions in points. **(NOTE – Due to the 2020 season being cut short, routines that competed at the Dance Force Xpress 2020 Swartz Creek competition are eligible to compete again in the 2021 season.)**
- **Technique (10 points):** Performer(s) have proper placement and posture. Leaps with full extension and height may score more points in the technique category. Judges will look for proper execution of turns.
- **Skill level (10 points):** **(NOTE – explanation has been updated per Director requests from previous years, but the point value is the same)** Skills should be appropriate for the registered level of the dancer(s). Correctly executing advanced skills may earn more points in this category. For example, those properly executing triple pirouettes may receive more points than those performing doubles. Advanced and Elite level routines should include skills and technique that is more difficult for the dancer(s). Beginner and Competitive level routines should include skills that challenge the dancer(s), but are able to be executed properly and safely.
- **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 scores from each judge, as well as video critiques of the routine.
 - *Studios will be sent scores and video critiques electronically via your Dance Comp Genie account.*
- 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.).
- **Overall Awards** will be announced for routines in **every** level/age division/size division. In divisions with 5 or more registered routines, 1st-3rd place will be announced. Additional placings (4th, 5th, 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 1st place will be announced. **NEW for 2021 – All Productions will be placed. A minimum of 5 routines is not required in the Production category. For example; if there are 4 Productions, we will place them 1st-4th.** 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 1st place performer in a group routine will receive a medal, and each 2nd and 3rd 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.

	First Place	Second Place	Third Place
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.

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, and directors do not need register dancers for consideration.** 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 generated through Dance Comp Genie. **Dance Force Xpress is using Dance Comp Genie software for the first time; credits that you currently have on file will be entered into your Dance Comp Genie account after we receive your registration, and will be deducted from your final balance due.**
- 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 40 days prior to the competition.** After the registration deadline, please contact Dance Force Xpress directly for information on availability of space and fees for late registrations. 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 email as a reminder to submit payment. After the registration deadline, there are late fees for any unpaid registrations. **Late fees for solo, duo/trios are \$10 per routine. Groups, Lines, and Productions will incur a \$2 per person late fee. 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. **If the event is cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions, full refunds will be issued.**
- 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. **Music must be uploaded to your Dance Comp Genie account.** 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.
- Every 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 participants, their guests or spectators, and their parents/guardians. Dance Force Xpress assumes no responsibility for personal injury or property loss at these events. Participants are asked to have a signed waiver on file in order to perform, however, participation in any event indicates understanding and agreement to all rules and policies, and releases Dance Force Xpress and the host venue from liability. Waivers should be handed in at the competition Director Check-In Area. **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, **with the exception of the Rising S.T.A. R. division**. Violations may be subject to point deduction. (Ages 6 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. **This includes female parents/studio staff assisting young male dancers. Females are not allowed in the male dressing room under any circumstances. Please connect with DFX staff prior to the event if this may be an issue for your studio.** 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 6:30 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 in prohibited areas, 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. **(NOTE – In the event of studio block scheduling due to Covid-19, specifics will be forwarded about when and where to deliver and pick up props.)**

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.

COVID-19; POSSIBLE RESTRICTIONS AND INFORMATION

Dance Force Xpress, along with the venue directors, will determine event specifics depending on local restrictions and requirements that might be in place **30 days prior** to the competition. By registering for the 2021 season, it is understood that your studio staff, dancers, and family members understand that restrictions may be in place that must be followed.

This may include:

- Limits to the number of spectators and studio staff members allowed in the facility.
- Reduced capacity in regards to the total number of registered routines per competition.
- Scheduling of the competition in studio blocks, by age, or in a way that will work best with any restrictions that are currently in place.
- Restrictions on food and beverage purchases at the event.
- Limits to the number of people on stage or in the auditorium for awards.

In order to prepare for and present an organized and safe event for everyone involved, it is agreed and understood that after the 45 day registration deadline, refunds will not be given in the event studio staff members or dance families do not agree with the event specifics that are determined.

We thank you in advance for working together with Dance Force Xpress in regards to these restrictions; while things may look different – we know that we are ***better together!***

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

By checking the 'I agree to the competition rules' box on the online registration checkout, the Studio Director is acknowledging that they have read this entire document, and agree to the following:

Your order will be submitted to Dance Force Xpress to review all rates, discounts, and credits. Please note that credits that were on file prior to 2021 will be added to your studio account after you submit your registration. In the future, credits will automatically be added to your studio account.

A payment equal to approx. 10% of your registration fees will hold your spot. In order to be eligible for discounted rates, registrations must be submitted by the stated deadlines. In addition, payment must be received by the deadline as well. If payment by check is preferred, please plan accordingly to have payment arrive by the deadline. Please send to: P.O. Box 339 Washington, MI 48094. Balances will update on midnight on registration due dates; rates will change from Early to Regular, or Regular to Late if you miss the deadline. Deadlines can be found on our website, or on your Dance Comp Genie account.

Returned checks are subject to a \$30 fee. The option to pay by credit card through your Dance Comp Genie account, or by phone, is available with a 2% processing fee.

By registering for this event, you are confirming that you have read and agree with the competition rules and guidelines. It is understood that each participant is required to have a signed waiver on file each season. It is also understood that there may be additional restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic that will need to be followed as determined by event coordinators 30 days prior to the event. Please see 'Covid-19 Information' (above) or contact Dance Force Xpress for more information.



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