



# Competitions

## Contest Rules & Regulations

It is our desire to present a first class contest for dance/drill teams. Below we have listed contest rules and regulations. If you have any additional questions, please call the American Office at **254-947-0613** or email us at **[contact@danceadts.com](mailto:contact@danceadts.com)**.

- **Teams**

- Competition will be divided into the following areas provided there are at least 5 teams entering each division. Private High School teams may be separated if multiple groups are registered in team events.
- **All Star and Private Studio Teams:**
  - *Mascot* (6 and under)
  - *Elementary* (7-9 on Aug. 31)
  - *Intermediate* (10-12 on Aug. 31)
  - *Junior* (13-15 on Aug. 31)
  - *Senior* (16-18 on Aug. 31)
- **Public Elementary Schools:** Will be divided off from All Star/Studio Teams to their own division.
- **Junior High and Middle Schools:**
  - *Junior High/Middle School* (6th-9th grade)
  - May be separated based on size if 5 or more teams are registered in team events.
- **Classic High School Varsity:** *New!* [Click here](#) for the description of the classic division.
  - Teams with minimal dance experience and studio training looking to compete against other teams of comparable ability and skill level could be considered for the **Classic** division.
- **High School Teams** (based on team size currently enrolled on the school roster, excluding managers):
  - *Junior Varsity/Pep Squad* (any size)
  - *Extra Small* (4-15 members)

- *Small Team* (16-25 members)
  - *Medium Team* (26-35 members)
  - *Large Team* (36-45 members)
  - *Super Team* (46+ members; if 3 or more teams of 55+, will add XL Division)
  - *Elite* (small specialized portion of your team, ex., Jazz Company, Kick Co., etc.)
- **Specialty Dance Company:** *New!* These would be specialty performance groups from your school, such as Folkorico, Hip Hop, Step Team, or Ballroom groups. These would compete in a separate division from the traditional dance/drill teams, regardless of their team size.
- High School team size cannot change within 7 days of the competition
- High school teams must perform at least 70% of the members on their roster in each team event. This means that 70% of your team must be visibly dancing and participating in the routine. In the circumstance that there is noticeably less than 70% of the team visible on the floor, the routine must be placed in the Elite division. Contact our office for any clarification.
- **Officers**
  - If less than five officer groups are entered into a category, an officer group must earn an average score of at least 93 to win that category.
  - Officer groups may wear team uniforms or costumes, but may not perform any team routines in the officer categories.
  - Officers consist of the leaders of your team and are a portion of that team. Officers cannot be considered as a 'team' in team events if they are entered in officer events as officers.
  - Scoresheets and audio/video judges critiques on USB flash drives will be included in your officer packet and may be picked up by the director following the awards ceremony.
- **Ensembles/Duets**
  - **Do not** enter Team routines in the Ensemble category. Ensembles are "extra" routines and do not count towards team divisional ratings and do not earn team trophies.
    - *Duets* (2 performers)
    - *Small Ensembles* (3-5 performers)
    - *Medium Ensembles* (6-12 performers)
    - *Large Ensembles* (13-20 performers)
  - Duets and Ensembles must be numbered to be identified for scores/awards ceremony (ex., Duet #1, Duet #2, etc.). Ensembles are considered a portion of your team.

- Duets and Ensembles may be divided by grade divisions for all star/private studio teams and team size for high school classifications at larger contests provided there are a minimum of 5 in that classification.
- Individuals entering the ensemble category will earn Divisional ratings and may receive “*Division I*” lapel pins.
- *Best In Class* ensembles will receive special awards. If less than five ensembles are entered into a category, an ensemble must earn a score of at least 93 from every judge to win that category.
- Ensembles may wear team uniforms or costumes, but will not be allowed to duplicate those routines used in team or officer categories.
- Duets will go by the last name of each performer. Ensembles will go by a nickname (ex., "Jewels" or "Golden Girls", etc.) that will distinguish each ensemble from the others. This is how they will be recognized at the awards ceremony.

- **Solos**

- Soloists may perform any style of dance, but tap solos are not allowed due to restrictions on the dance surface at most venues.
- High School Solos will be separated into classifications:
  - *Jr Varsity/Pep Squad* (any size)
  - *Classic*
  - *X-Small Team* (1-15)
  - *Small Team* (16-25)
  - *Medium Team* (26-35)
  - *Large Team* (36-45)
  - *Super Team* (46+)
- If there are 5 or less solos in a division, we may combine them with another division.
- All Star/Private Studio solos will be broken down into classifications *provided* there are at least 5 soloists in each age group.
- The breakdown will be:
  - *Mascot* (6 years and under),
  - *Elementary* (7-9 years by Aug. 31),
  - *Intermediate* (10-12 years by Aug. 31),
  - *Junior* (13-15 years by Aug. 31),
  - *Senior* (16-18 years by Aug. 31).
- If there are 5 or less solos in a division, we may combine them with another division.
- Soloists who have graduated from high school and are active on a college dance team may compete in the Collegiate category. No soloists can compete if they are currently a member of a professional dance squad (ie: NBA or NFL or semi pro team dancers).

- Soloists need to be prepared to perform in an area that may be as small as 30' x 40' and could have a variety of surfaces and performance areas. See Contest Profile for performance areas and surfaces.
- Any soloist entering more than one solo may only final with the highest scoring routine in one division.
- Solo finalists will not dance again. Solo finalists and winners will be announced at the beginning of the awards ceremony. The Solo Winners Circle will also be announced, but will not perform again.
- In order for any solos to participate in a competition representing their high school (or middle school) team, your team or officers must be entered in at least one event at the competition. Otherwise, the solos will be placed in the Senior Private all star division as an independent solo.
- Soloists must be registered and paid at least 2 weeks in advance of the competition. We will no longer accept payment on the contest day.
- All solos will receive divisional ratings. Solos receiving an overall *Division I* or *Division II* rating will receive a medallion pin. All will receive 2 scoresheets and 2 judges audio/video comments on USB flash drive.
- Individual solos that pay the individual fee will receive two flash drives each. Solos representing a team will have all solo audio/video comments on one USB flash drive that the director will receive in their results packets. Packets may be picked up following the awards ceremony by the director.
  - Individual soloists must pick up their results packets at the Awards Table immediately following the solo awards ceremony as we can no longer mail the results packets.
  - Please confirm all soloists names with the American office no later than Monday prior to the competition.

● **Music**

- We are excited to continue offering music uploads in advance of each contest this season! We hope this added convenience of your music being uploaded in advance will take away some of your contest-day stress.
- Registered directors will receive instructions on how to upload 2-3 weeks prior to each event.
- Please be prepared to upload your music in MP3 or MP4 format.
- We ask that you bring a back-up of all music to each event just in case (smart phone, ipad, laptop, etc... we will NOT have CD capabilities).
- Please know that *American Dance/Drill Team®* will *not* be penalizing any team for violations of music copyright laws as we are not qualified to know every piece of music that has ever been created. We do hold the proper licensing from ASCAP, BMI and SESAC that will allow for music to be played for public performance. If you have questions about the music

copyright laws, please visit our website that will explain this in simple terms.

- Any profane words or implications of violence will not be tolerated in performance music. Teams will be penalized or disqualified for inappropriate content under the discretion of the contest administrator.
- Please make sure you have the highest quality recording possible for your music. Months are spent in preparation for your contest routines, so don't let it fall short because of poor sound quality. Keep in mind the time and money you spend on costumes and other aspects of your performance and put the same forethought and effort into your music.

- ***Discouraged or Not Permitted***

- *No Special Effects!* This includes, but is not limited to: smoke, hay, raffia, pyrotechnics, confetti, baby powder, any form of liquid, etc. Please call our office if you need more clarification. Any damages done to the facility will be solely the responsibility of the violating team. Penalties and/or disqualification will be issued to teams violating these special effects rules under the discretion of the contest administrator.
- Please do not use any glass, mirrors, or other breakable items as props; if something were to break on the performance floor, we must stop the contest to clean up. For the safety of all participants, please do not use breakable props.
- No metal swords, guns with bayonets, or any other sharp objects may be used in routines. Any object that might cause harm or endangerment to the performers or audience may not be used in any routine.
- All routines should be in good taste as not to offend any individual or group by its theme, movements or costuming. Any team that has a routine that is not in good taste, nor politically correct, may be penalized, under the discretion of the contest administrator.
- We do not encourage tap routines as tap shoes are not allowed on the gym floor (and not safe to tap on concrete surfaces that are in some of the convention center locations). If you plan to have a tap section in any portion of your routine, please contact the office to advise how you plan to present the tap segment. Keep in mind that there are time constraints for setup and break down of staging.
  - Tap solos are not allowed due to surface and time constraints.
- **Stunts and Tumbling:** *American Dance/Drill Team®* focuses on the dance elements and presentation of routines and does not encourage the over-use of tumbling or stunts. *ADTS®* will not provide spotters for routines during contest season. Floor surfaces may vary from concrete, carpet, wood floors or terrazzo finishing. Please plan your stunts

accordingly. Please follow the guidelines listed below or your team may be disqualified.

- All pyramids and stunts should be limited to 1 ½ persons high. The base should be considered one person with at least one foot on the ground.
- Any jumping, flipping, or falling off of pyramids, props or dangerous stunts are prohibited.
- If you have a question regarding any of the above issues, please contact the office for clarification.

- **Penalties**

- Penalties may be issued, at the Judges/Contest Administrators discretion, for teams using inappropriate moves, music or costuming. Please be mindful in all of your routine choices to avoid penalties.
- It is important to be on time to report for each scheduled performance. If for any reason you may be late, please report to the announcer in the performance area. If another area is running behind, your performance will be rescheduled. If for any reason that a team is abusing the timeliness of the schedule, *American Dance/Drill Team®* reserves the right to penalize that team or performance at the discretion of the contest administrator.
- **Video Taping**
  - Spectators are welcome to video with their phone, tablet, or camera, but will not be allowed to plug in to electrical outlets or use tripods due to safety and liability reasons. If you are using cords or tripods, you will be asked to remove them.
  - Due to music copyright laws, we will not be able to have professional videography vendors to sell DVD's/videos at our competitions.
- **Dressing Areas**
  - Teams will be assigned specific dressing areas at each contest either by the host school, facility or an *ADTS®* representative. Some venues will have 'shared' dressing space designated for female dancers and a 'shared' dressing space for male dancers. Please extend courtesy to other teams and share space.
  - Teams will be required to follow specific guidelines in the dressing areas. All locations will offer alternate dressing space for both males and females.
    - *Under no circumstance will male and female dancers be allowed to dress together in 'shared' dressing space that other teams dress.*

- Please indicate if you have males on your team in your comments box when you register so that we can make sure to accommodate their dressing spaces near the rest of your team.
- No food will be allowed in the dressing areas; Teams will be held responsible for any damages.
- No sectioning off ballrooms or dressing room space. Please show courtesy to all teams in a shared space.
- **Schedules**
  - A preliminary contest schedule will be sent via e-mail to each director approximately 10-12 days prior to the event. A final schedule will be posted to our website on Monday afternoon the week of the contest.
  - Performances may run as much as 15 minutes ahead or behind schedule. Please advise spectators and parents to allow time to park, enter the contest, and find a seat with ample time prior to their team's scheduled performance.
  - After receiving the preliminary schedule, please notify the office immediately of any changes that need to be made, indicating a specific time request. All changes must be made with our office no later than noon on Monday (the week of the contest) so that the schedule can be uploaded to the web site and sent to the printer.
  - Any cancellations or drops from the schedule within 7 days of the competition will not be issued refunds or credits.