



RULES & REGULATIONS

The following are rules and regulations that all studios must follow in order to compete. Failure to comply with these rules can result in point deductions or disqualification from the competition. As a reminder, this is a friendly competition. Please show respect for all competition staff, performers, directors, judges, and Walt Disney World® Resort Cast Members.

Age Requirements

All performers must be at least seven (7) years old at the time of competition. Divisions are determined based on a performer's age as of July 9, 2026. Copies of birth certificates must be provided. The average age of the group performing onstage will determine the age group where they will compete. All fractions will be rounded down to the nearest whole number. For example, if the average age of a group is 15½, the group would fall into the 13-15 age group.

Age Divisions

Petite: 7-9 years of age
Junior: 10-12 years of age
Teen: 13-15 years of age
Senior: 16-22 years of age

Levels

Intermediate: dancers train for less than five (5) hours a week

Advanced: dancers train for five (5) or more hours a week

Levels will be assigned for EACH PERFORMER when registering. Solos will compete at the level in which the performer is registered. Duos/trios will compete at the highest level of the registered performers. For example, if one performer is registered as advanced and one performer is registered as intermediate, the duo/trio will compete in the advanced level. The level of group routines is determined by the average level of registered dancers. Placement of performers' levels is at the discretion of the director; however, the judging panel may move an entry level if deemed necessary.

Entries and Registration

Directors can reserve entries as soon as they sign a contract, securing their studio's spot in the competition. Reserving entries is on a first-come, first-serve basis. If entries are not reserved, availability will be limited to what remains. Registration opens on December 1, 2025. Payment and registration is due by April 1, 2026 and all fees are non-refundable after this date. Music files must be submitted by May 31, 2026. **No changes can be made to registrations after May 31, 2026.**

Groups and productions will compete in the same division. Studios may register one (1) solo per dancer and one (1) duo/trio with identical dancers. Additional solos/duos/trios may be registered if time and space allows after all initial registrations are received. A new registration date will be provided for additional solos/duos/trios, which would be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Entries

Entry Type	Performers	Time Limit
Solo	1	3 minutes
Duo/Trio	2-3	3 minutes
Group	4+	3 minutes
Production	16+	6 minutes

Entry Fees

*All fees are released to
studio owners or
competition directors only*

Costumes, Props, & Music

Props are allowed, however, large props are HIGHLY DISCOURAGED due the Disney venues. Any props that could be deemed a weapon are not permitted (swords, toy guns, axes, etc.). Trampolines or mats are not permitted at any time.

Transportation will be provided for costumes and props TO the competition venue at a designated time at your resort. At the END of the competition, a designated time at your resort will be scheduled for costume and prop pick up. If you do not wish to utilize this costume transportation option, costumes and props will be your responsibility and may need to be carried through the main security gate at a park. **For finals, only small hand-held props are permitted at the venue.**

Please keep music, costumes, and choreography family friendly. All music will be reviewed by the WDC staff prior to competition date.

Character depiction of any kind is not permitted. This includes all animated and non-animated Disney characters, as well as non-Disney characters such as Mascots, Elvis, Santa, and Dorothy. While full character costumes may not be worn, "bounding" outfits inspired by characters is permitted (e.g. piecing together traditional clothing items that when worn together, serve as a recognizable tribute to a character). Lip syncing to any Disney character voices within songs is not permitted. Do not use dialogue from any movie or show as part of your recorded track, and lip sync to that dialogue.

Any character costumes being used will need to be submitted to nicole@wcv.com or abby@wcv.com for approval

Categories

Jazz:	routine consisting of jazz technique
Ballet:	routine consisting of ballet technique and the use of ballet shoes
Lyrical:	routine including jazz and ballet techniques where dancers' movements interpret the lyrics of the song
Contemporary:	routine combining contemporary, jazz, and lyrical technique
Hip Hop:	routine consisting of hip hop technique; street dance, free style, funk, break dancing, etc.
Tap:	routine containing tap technique and the use of tap shoes
Musical Theater:	routine interpreting the song from a Broadway or movie musical
Cultural/Ethnic:	routine using movement native to a particular culture or nationality
Ballroom:	routines including traditional and social styles of ballroom dance, such as Cha Cha, Rumba, Paso Doble, Quickstep, etc.
Pom:	routines incorporating the use of pom poms, and emphasizing precision, rhythm and coordination
Acro:	routine combining dance technique with acrobatic skills, showcasing strength, flexibility, and tumbling
Open/Variety:	any style of dance that does not fit into the other listed categories or combination of listed category styles

Finals

The top five intermediate 12 & under group/production entries, top five intermediate 13 & over group/production entries, top five advanced 12 & under group/production entries, the top five advanced 13 & over group/production entries, top three intermediate solos, top three advanced solos, top three intermediate duo/trios, and top 3 advanced duo/trios will be invited to the finals. Within each of these divisions, a studio may only qualify one dance. Judges may also invite "wild card" routines to the finals. Finals overall awards will be given in each division. If a fourth judge is added, the lowest score will be dropped. **Due to requirements of the finals venue, Theater of the Stars, tap shoes or any props/items that may puncture, scratch, or generally damage the stage surface are strictly prohibited and will not be allowed on the stage.** However if a tap entry is chosen for the finals, they can choose to perform in other shoes.

Scoring

Judging will be based on the criteria listed below. Changes at the door, tardiness, running over time, tap-like sounds recorded in the song of any act entered in the tap category, littering of the stage, and coaching during performance will be subject to a 5 point deduction each.

Scoring

Criteria	Point Total
Technique	40 points
Stage Presence	30 points
Choreography	20 points
Costumes & Music	10 points
TOTAL	100 points

Awards

All awards will be given during the Gala Celebration and Awards Ceremony. All performers in the competition will be awarded the World Dance Competition Medallion for their participation.

Adjudicated Awards: Each entry will receive an award based on its individual score

Overall Awards: Top 3, Top 5 and Top 10 will be awarded based on the number of entries per level, age division, and entry type (solo, duo/trio, & group/production). Solos and duo/trios with identical dancers may only place with their highest scoring routine

Highest Scoring Entries: Awards for the highest scoring group/production of the intermediate level and advanced level, highest scoring solo of the intermediate level and advanced level, and highest scoring duo/trio of the intermediate level and advanced level

World Class Studio Award: Decided by totaling the top three highest scoring group routines from each studio

Judges Awards: Each judge will present a special award to an entry of their choice

Finals Awards: Overall awards will be given for the finals placements in each division

Adjudicated Awards

Award	Advanced	Intermediate
World Class Diamond	285 - 300	285 - 300
Platinum	275 - 284.9	270 - 284.9
High Gold	265 - 274.9	255 - 269.9
Gold	255 - 264.9	240 - 254.9
High Silver	254.9 - below	239.9 - below

Judges can adjust scale after adjudication if deemed necessary

Cash Prizes

World Class Studio Award	\$2000
Highest Scoring Group/Production	\$1000
Highest Scoring Solo	\$500
Highest Scoring Duo/Trio	\$500