

2012 Dance Showcase USA Guidelines

All entries must be entered into the ***NEW*** On-line registration system and payment must be postmarked 30 days prior to the competition date which is also the deadline date for all entries. **There will be a \$15 late fee per entry for any entries not paid by the deadline date which is 30 days prior to the competition.** We are offering a 5% rebate toward all Regional and National entry fees entered into the On-line registration system and payment must be ***NEW*** postmarked 40 days prior to the competition date. This incentive is for studios only (minimum \$1000); independent entries do not qualify. To receive this rebate, your entries and payment must be postmarked 40 days prior to the competition and paid in full. If payment is by debit/credit card, the charge must be for the full amount as one charge to receive the rebate and if any transaction denials occur, the rebate will not be given. Please do not take the rebate out when payment is submitted. The rebate will be mailed after the competition is completed. Please send one studio check or debit/credit card for all studio entries. If the studio does not have Internet access, please contact our office. No entries will be accepted by phone. All entries will be processed once payment is received. Mastercard, Visa and Discover are accepted. No Personal Checks accepted at any time. Studio checks will only be accepted when received by the deadline date. Gift certificates must accompany the entries for credit. *Late entries will be accepted as competition space permits.

All entries received after the deadline date must be paid for by cashier's check, money order or debit/credit card. No Studio Checks will be accepted after the deadline date. If debit/credit cards have limits, the studio director/owner is responsible for making sure that all amounts are available for processing prior to the 30 day payment deadline. There will be a fee of \$15 per entry for any changes made after the schedule has been posted including adding/substitutions/removal of dancers or requests to dance in another session for adjudication only. Once the schedule is posted, no refunds will be made for deletions/changes. In order to avoid this fee, studios should identify any possible conflicts when the entries are entered in the registration system (in the Comments area for each entry with a problem) and we will attempt to work around those conflicts when the schedule is being done, especially if there are drill team, prom, or other school conflicts. There will be a \$25.00 charge on all returned checks and all future payments will be required by cashier's check, money order or debit/credit card. Detailed schedules will be emailed to each studio or independent entry 1 week prior to the competition. A general schedule will be available on the **DANCE SHOWCASE USA** web site www.danceshowcaseusa.com.

*All entrants grant **DANCE SHOWCASE USA** permission to use their photographs/videos for promotional and advertising purposes. Admission is free. You may e-mail **DANCE SHOWCASE USA** at info@danceshowcaseusa.com. When emailing or faxing us, please call us if we have not responded within 72 hours to your email or fax confirming we received it. For emails, please be sure to provide a subject. If no subject is sent, we will not open the email.

Regional Entry Fees – Solo - \$77, Duet/Trio - \$87, Small Group, Large Group, and Line - \$32 per dancer.

Performance Levels - Each division will be divided into three levels: The **Star Level** (Competition) is open to anyone ***NEW*** (regardless of hours) and all contestants taking ***NEW*** more than 6 hours of dance per week. The **Diamond Level** (Intermediate) is only open to contestants currently ***NEW*** taking 6 hours or less of dance per week. The **Crystal Level** (Recreational) is only open to contestants currently taking 4 hours or less of dance per week. Hours of dance per week are all practices including class time, private lessons, and rehearsal time ***NEW*** (This includes any hours taken in a dance class at school). Overall awards will be awarded to all three levels, however, no cash awards will be available for the Crystal Level (Recreational) (only gift certificates). A routine with dancers of different levels will be entered in the Performance Level that applies to ***NEW*** 50% or more of the dancers. For the Mini Age Division, only the Crystal Level will be allowed. For the Petite Age Division, only the Crystal and Diamond Level will be allowed (There will be no Star Level for Petite Age Division). For Adult Age Division, all entries will compete in the Star level. ***NEW*** All Lines can now compete in all Age Divisions and all Levels.

NEW For independent entries, these entries will be entered in the Star level unless we have written confirmation from the director or instructor to verify the hours of dancing.

Division – Solo, Duet/Trio, Small Group (4-9 dancers), Large Group (10-17 dancers), and Line (18 or more dancers). Should a routine drop below the minimum number of performers for the group or line sizes during the competition, the routine will be awarded their adjudication award based on points, however, the routine will not be eligible for Overall Awards.

Age Division – Minis (4 & under), Petite (5-6, 7-8), Juniors (9-10, 11-12), Teens (13-14), Seniors (15-16, 17-19), Adults (20-29, 30 & over). For Solos & Duet/Trios, if more than three dances are entered in a combined age division in any category, the division will be split into single age groups. For Groups, if more than five dances are entered in a combined age division in any category, the division will be split into single age groups. For Duet/Trio, Small Group, Large Group and Line, the average age determines the age division into which you compete. To determine the average age: Add the age of each dancer together, then divide the total by the number of dancers. Drop the decimal point after the average age has been determined, i.e. average age 12.99 will compete in age 11-12. **ALL AGES FOR REGIONAL & NATIONAL COMPETITIONS WILL BE BASED ON THE DANCER'S AGE ON JANUARY 1, 2012. FOR NATIONALS, IF ANY ADDITIONS/SUBSTITUTIONS/DELETIONS ARE MADE TO THE ORIGINAL LIST OF DANCERS, THEN THE AVERAGE AGE WILL BE RECOMPUTED.** The instructor/parents will be responsible for providing proof of age, if requested.

Bump Rule - Duet/Trio, Small Group, and Large Group entries cannot compete in an age division more than one age division younger than the oldest dancer, regardless of the average age. An example would be a performer age 15 (Senior) dancing in a duet/trio or group with an average age of 10 (Junior), would be moved into the Teen Age Division and put into the lowest age group of the Teen Age Division (age 13). If a performer's age is 20 or older, the Duet/Trio or Group must compete in the Adult Age Division and the above rule does not apply. The Line Division is the only exception to these rules.

Acrobatic/Gymnastics – a routine using at least 50% gymnastic passes/moves and incorporates dance technique with definite choreography.

Auxiliary/Drill Team – a routine consisting of precision marching, jazz run or dance style. May use hoops, flags and/or hand props. Gymnastic/acrobatic passes should not consist of more than 50% of the dance.

Ballet – a routine consisting of ballet technique and classical steps. **(Ballet or similar shoes required. Non-compliance will result in a 5 point deduction from the total score).**

Baton – a routine using baton(s) and baton technique. Will be judged on both baton technique and dance.

Character – a routine choreographed to portray a character. The characters may be from movies, theater, TV, etc. Tap sounds are not permitted in music.

Clogging – a routine consisting of clogging technique.

Contemporary – a routine choreographed to interpret and portray emotions, consisting of a combination of lyrical, jazz, or modern techniques.

Folkloric – a routine consisting of ethnic styles of dance, such as African, Hawaiian, Polka, Spanish, etc.

Hip-Hop – a routine consisting of hip-hop or street style dance. Gymnastic/acrobatic passes should not consist of more than 50% of the dance.

Jazz – a routine consisting of jazz technique utilizing up-tempo music.

Lyrical – a routine utilizing the lyrics of the music incorporating balance, flexibility and control.

Modern – a routine of interpretive dance using balance and control; must be of modern technique, movement, and choreography.

Musical Theatre – a routine interpreting a song from a "Broadway" or movie musical through any style of dance. Tap sounds are not permitted in music.

Open – a routine consisting of a combination of different dance styles, or one that does not fall under any other **DANCE SHOWCASE USA** category. Gymnastic/acrobatic passes should not consist of more than 50% of the dance. Tap sounds are not permitted in music.

Pointe – a routine consisting of pointe technique. **(Pointe shoes required for all female contestants. Non-compliance will result in a 5 point deduction from the total score). If rosin is used, an automatic 5 point deduction will be applied to the total score.**

Pom Pon – a routine consisting of precise and definite dance technique with the use of pom pons. Pom pons must be used at least 50% of the dance. Gymnastic/acrobatic passes should not consist of more than 50% of the dance.

Production – (line only; 18 or more dancers) A routine which allows any dance performance category or combination of dance performance categories or dance styles. Tap sounds are not permitted in music.

Song & Dance – a routine consisting of both singing and any category of dance. Dance must be 50% of the routine. Accompaniment must be in music and back up voices only will be permitted. Personal (lavaliere type) microphones or sound equipment may not be hooked up. Only microphones furnished by **DANCE SHOWCASE USA** will be allowed.

Tap – a routine consisting of tap technique and primarily tap work. Tap sounds are not permitted in music.

*Gymnastic/acrobatic passes are defined as any movement(s) where the dancer is completely inverted without one foot on the stage. The only exceptions are forward, backward, and shoulder rolls which can be performed in any category. Lifts, leaps and splits are also permissible. A pass consists of any number of gymnastics/acrobatic tricks across the stage at one time. **No more than three gymnastic/acrobatic passes are permissible in any category except Acrobatic/Gymnastics, Auxiliary/Drill Team, Hip Hop, Open, Pom Pon, & Production. If more than three passes occur, an automatic 3 point deduction from the total score will occur.**

Time Limits – Solo and Duet/Trio – 3 minutes, Small Group – 3 minutes, Large Group – 4 minutes, Line – 5 minutes and Production Category – minimum 5 minutes and maximum 8 minutes.

Music – Each entrant will furnish their own music on a CD, cued, and ready to play (Only 1 routine song per CD will be permitted). Tapes are no longer permitted. **DANCE SHOWCASE USA** will provide labeled CD envelopes for each entry. CDs must be labeled with studio name, title of music, & entry number. We recommend that you bring a second CD as a back up and be marked with studio name, title of music, & entry number. Studio name cannot be used as a song title, name of routine, announced in the song, or during the song, Non-compliance will result in a 5 point deduction from the total score. ***NEW*** Music CDs will not be mailed. Please be sure to pick up your music.

Judges – A panel of experienced judges will judge the dance routines. All judges decisions are final. **DANCE SHOWCASE USA** expects all entries to be suitable for "family oriented entertainment." This means that all entries should not be suggestive, sexual or violent. This applies to costuming, lyrics, and choreography. Inappropriate dances will have 5 points per judge deducted and will not be eligible for any Overall Awards.

Score Sheets – Score sheets will **ONLY** be given to the studio director or the parent of the independent entries at the conclusion of each awards ceremony in the foyer unless the **DANCE SHOWCASE USA** office is notified in writing. ***NEW*** Score sheets will not be mailed.

Refunds – **There are no refunds for entry fees.** Gift certificates will be issued only for documented injuries or illnesses and must be used during the 2012 season. **DANCE SHOWCASE USA** has the right to cancel any event that does not qualify with a minimum number of entries. In the event of cancellation, all entry fees will be refunded in full.

\$500 Senior Scholarship – Open to all graduating Seniors competing in Regional/Nationals. Submit in writing an essay (no more than 500 words) describing how dance has been a positive influence in your life. (Please **DO NOT** use your name or studio information in your essay.) Return your essay with the scholarship application (found on our website www.danceshowcaseusa.com) by June 1, 2012.

General – **DANCE SHOWCASE USA** reserves the right to increase/decrease the number of competition dates and/or change locations as needed to meet our demands. All attempts are made in scheduling to avoid late night competition, and to allow the younger ages to compete earlier in the competition schedule. All entries are lined up in a random order to prevent any studio from always being first or last. However, once the random order is generated, then **DANCE SHOWCASE USA** reviews the order of dances to determine if any costume conflicts exist. If this occurs, the order will be re-arranged. Any apparent attempt to intentionally alter the scheduled order of the competition will result in a 5 point deduction from the total score.

*Entrants may not compete more than once in exactly the same division, category, and age group. If a routine has at least one different dancer, you may compete in the exact same division, category, and age group. If the contestant performs in more than one solo, the same contestant can only receive one overall cash award or trophy in the Solo division. Any Regional First Place Overall Winner may not compete the same routine at another Regional competition during the same season. Routines winning First Place Overall at the 2011 National Finals may not use the same routine at any 2012 **DANCE SHOWCASE USA** Regional competitions.

*If a dance routine does not perform during its applicable Division (Solo, Duet/Trio, Small Group, Large Group, or Line) and Age Division (Mini, Petite, Junior, Teen, Senior, or Adult), then it will not be eligible for any overall award or placement award and will be judged for adjudication only. If a dance routine competes during a different awards ceremony other than the one scheduled, then it will not be eligible for any overall award or placement award and will be judged for adjudication only.

*Talking, lip sync, and singing are acceptable, however the dance will be the only criteria for judging, unless the category entered is Song & Dance. No coaching is allowed for any age groups.

*The following are not permitted: Fire, Swords, Knives, Special Sound, Water, Gel, Paint, Aerosol, Glitter, Fireworks, Props requiring electrical hook-ups, any type of Liquid, Fog, or Smoke equipment and live animals on stage. No items are allowed to be thrown off the stage toward the audience or the judges. ***NEW*** No entry, leaving the stage during the dance, or exits from locations other than the stage wings. Scenery or backdrops requiring the use of theater fly system or special theater lighting may not be used. No Baby Powder or Rosin is allowed to be used for pointe or any other category. Noncompliance for any of the above will result in a 5 point deduction from the total score.

*Props are allowed, however, they must be free standing. All props must be carried & cannot be dragged across the floor before the routine starts or during the dance. All props must have the portion that touches the floor covered/padded to prevent damage to the marley floor. No names of the studio are allowed on props or on costumes nor shall be worn by those people assisting with the setup of the props. For safety measures, a dancer may not stand, sit, kneel, or dance above 6 feet from the stage floor on a prop. A 5 point deduction from the total score will occur if this safety measure is violated.

*Costuming is not judged unless deemed to be inappropriate.

*All protests must be made in writing and by the studio director prior to the awards ceremony for that age division. The instructor will be responsible for providing proof of age, if requested.

***DANCE SHOWCASE USA** and the hosting facility are not responsible for personal injury or property loss to either contestants or spectators.

NO CAMERAS OR PHONES OF ANY TYPE ARE ALLOWED TO VIDEO OR TAKE STILL PHOTOGRAPHY DURING ANY COMPETITION PERFORMANCE TIME. VIDEO AND STILL PHOTOGRAPHY IS ONLY ALLOWED DURING AWARD PRESENTATIONS. We no longer allow video taping or still photography for a number of reasons. In the past, it was always to protect the choreography of studio directors which still applies. However, in today's world of the internet, it is probably more important to protect our children. Since we do not necessarily know who is from which studio, some one could video or take pictures of children for other purposes than just personal family use. We would hate for someone to put a video on YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, or MySpace and represent those children in a demeaning manner. This has been a request of teachers and parents. Directors and teachers please explain this to your parents. If any one is seen holding a camera in the air or any accidental flash occurs, the routine will have an automatic 5 point deduction applied to the total score.

***A National entrant must have competed in a DANCE SHOWCASE USA Regional competition during the 2012 competition season to qualify for Nationals.** All regional entries are eligible to compete at the National Finals. An increase, reduction, or substitution from an original qualifying entry at Regionals is acceptable. Entries must remain in the same dance category which they qualified at Regionals. Regional entries cannot move down in Performance Level for Nationals.

A "LAST CALL" REGIONAL Competition is held at the start of the National Competition. Anyone not able to compete at one of the Regional Sites can qualify for Nationals at this preliminary "Last Call" competition. National Host Hotels – Details will be on the website.

A FREE CRUISE leaving from Galveston valued at no more than \$1500 will be awarded to a director or instructor. A drawing will be held during a Grand Showcase Finals Award Ceremony to determine the winner. Entries will be awarded for Regional & National competitions as follows: Solo/Duet/Trio – Two chances per entry, Small Group – Four chances per entry, Large Group – Six chances per entry, and Line – Ten chances per entry. The name of the instructor to be entered in the drawing will be taken from the registration system. The trip must be taken by July 2013.

CATEGORY AWARDS

Trophies and ribbons will be awarded to the **FIRST, SECOND, and THIRD PLACE** finalist in each age division of each dance category. In addition, all dancers will compete against an adjudicated scoring system. Each judge is allocated 100 points. Platinum, Gold, and Silver Medallions will be awarded based on the combined scores from three judges as follows: Elite Platinum – 293-300 points, Platinum – 285-292 points, Elite Gold – 279-284 points, Gold – 270-278 points, Elite Silver – 261-269 points, Silver – 260 points or lower. A medallion will be awarded for each adjudication placement and every contestant will receive a ribbon reflecting the adjudication placement.

REGIONAL OVERALL AWARDS AND SPECIAL SHOWCASE AWARDS

Overall Awards and Trophies will be given to entrants receiving the highest scores in their applicable Level as outlined below for the Mini, Petite, Junior, Teen, and Senior Age Divisions. Only trophies will be given to entrants receiving the highest scores in the Adult Age Division. In each of these Age Divisions, a minimum of five (5) entries must be entered in the Solo, Duet/Trio, Small Group, or Large Group in order for trophies, cash prizes or gift certificates to be awarded. ***NEW*** If an Age Division has less than 5 entries at one Performance Level, then we reserve the right to combine this Performance Level with another Performance Level, i.e. if there are 5 or more Junior Diamond Large Groups and only 4 Junior Star Level Large Groups, then we will combine these levels in order for everyone to be eligible for Overall Awards. When Performance Levels are combined, awards will be given based on the highest Level combined. The Line Division will be divided into Junior (12 & under) and Senior (13 & over) Age Divisions with a minimum of five (5) entries in order for cash prizes to be awarded. If there are 5 or more entries for the Line Division, the Line Division will be further divided into Line (less than 5 minutes) and Production (5-8 minutes) and Cash Prizes and Trophies awarded to each of these divisions. All cash prizes will be awarded to the studio director.

Overall Cash Awards

	Star	Diamond	Crystal
Solo	\$100	\$50 plus \$50 Gift Cert.	\$100 Gift Cert. to 2012 Nationals
Duet/Trio	\$100	\$50 plus \$50 Gift Cert.	\$100 Gift Cert. to 2012 Nationals
Small Group	\$150	\$75 plus \$75 Gift Cert.	\$150 Gift Cert. to 2012 Nationals
Large Group	\$200	\$100 plus \$100 Gift Cert.	\$200 Gift Cert. to 2012 Nationals
Line	\$250	\$125 plus \$125 Gift Cert.	\$250 Gift Cert. to 2012 Nationals

Special Showcase Awards

Outstanding Costume Plaque
 Entertainment Plaque
 Choreography Plaque

NATIONAL OVERALL AWARDS AND SPECIAL SHOWCASE AWARDS

Overall Awards and Trophies will be given to entrants receiving the highest scores in their applicable Level as outlined below for the Mini, Petite, Junior, Teen, and Senior Age Divisions. Only trophies will be given to entrants receiving the highest scores in the Adult Age Division. In each of these Age Divisions, a minimum of five (5) entries must be entered in the Solo, Duet/Trio, Small Group, Large Group, or Line in order for trophies, cash prizes or gift certificates to be awarded. ***NEW*** In order to make as many routines eligible for the Grand Showcase Finals, we reserve the right to combine Age Divisions as required to insure there are enough routines to qualify for the Grand Showcase Finals as applicable. If there are 5 or more entries for the Line Division, the Line Division will be further divided into Line (less than 5 minutes) and Production (5-8 minutes) and Cash Prizes and Trophies awarded to each of these divisions. All cash prizes will be awarded to the studio director.

Overall Cash Awards

	Star	Diamond	Crystal
Solo	\$150	\$75 plus \$75 Gift Cert.	\$150 Gift Cert. to 2013 Regionals
Duet/Trio	\$150	\$75 plus \$75 Gift Cert.	\$150 Gift Cert. to 2013 Regionals
Small Group	\$200	\$100 plus \$100 Gift Cert.	\$200 Gift Cert. to 2013 Regionals
Large Group	\$250	\$125 plus \$125 Gift Cert.	\$250 Gift Cert. to 2013 Regionals
Line	\$300	\$150 plus \$150 Gift Cert.	\$300 Gift Cert. to 2013 Regionals

Special Showcase Awards

Outstanding Costume Plaque
 Entertainment Plaque
 Choreography Plaque

***NEW* GRAND SHOWCASE FINAL RULES AND AWARDS**

The Grand Showcase Finals will consist of the Top 3 or Top 5 routine scores that competed in our National Finals during the previous week. The Grand Showcase Finals competition for solos and duet/trios will take place after all solos and duet/trios have been completed for the National finals competition. The Grand Showcase Finals competition for small groups, large groups, and lines will take place on the last day of competition (Sunday, June 24). The finals will be competed for all age groups and all levels or combination of age groups that have at least 10 routines in the National Finals competition. For example, if there are at least 10 routines for Junior Small Group Diamond, then the Top 3 group scores and any ties will compete at the Grand Showcase Finals. If there were at least 15 routines, then the Top 5 group scores and any ties will compete at the Grand Showcase Finals. The Top 3/5 scores are determined based on the actual score and not the placement, i.e. if the overall scores were 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and a 2 way tie for 4th place, then 5th place would not be included in the Grand Showcase Finals because the top 5 scores would have been above the 5th place overall score due to ties.

Solos and Duet/Trios will compete separately. There must be at least 10 Large Groups and at least 10 Lines in order for them to compete separately for a given Age Division/Level. If there are not 10 Large Groups and 10 Lines, then these scores will be combined in order to create a Large Group/Line combined competition. If there are not 10 Large Group/Lines, then they will be combined with the Small Groups. After the Small Groups/Large Groups/Lines have been combined, there must be at least 10 routines for this Age Division/Level to be selected for the Grand Showcase Finals. If necessary, we reserve the right to combine Age Divisions to reach the 10 routine minimum. Productions are included with Lines for determining the top scores for the Grand Showcase Finals. When groups are combined, awards will be given based on the highest group combined. Mini and Adult Age Divisions will not be eligible for the Dance Showcase Finals.

For Solos, a studio can have all dancers that qualify from that studio selected to participate in the Grand Showcase Finals, i.e. the studio can have more than one dancer qualify. For Duet/Trios, Small Groups, Large Groups, & Lines, a studio can only have more than one routine in a particular age division/level selected if the second routine is comprised of completely different dancers. Otherwise, only the highest scoring group from a studio will be selected in each age division/level. If a studio ties itself for the Grand Showcase Finals competition, then the tie will be broken by the judges. For Duet/Trios, Small Groups, Large Groups, & Lines, a studio cannot have more than two routines qualify for an Age Division/Level. Performance order is determined by random order.

There will be no scores and no judge's critiques for the Grand Showcase Finals. After the Top 3/5 numbers have been performed, the judges will confer to determine the placement of the dances for that Age Division/Level. The routines that will compete at the Grand Showcase Finals will be announced when the National Finals Overall awards are presented.

Star Level Grand Showcase Awards

	Solo	Duet/Trio	Small Group	Large Group	Line
1st Place	\$200	\$200	\$300	\$400	\$600
2nd Place	\$100	\$100	\$150	\$200	\$300
3rd Place	\$50	\$50	\$80	\$100	\$150

Diamond Level Grand Showcase Awards

	Solo	Duet/Trio	Small Group	Large Group	Line
1st Place	\$100 + \$100 GC	\$100 + \$100 GC	\$150 + \$150 GC	\$200 + \$200 GC	\$300 + \$300 GC
2nd Place	\$50 + \$50 GC	\$50 + \$50 GC	\$75 + \$75 GC	\$100 + \$100 GC	\$150 + \$150 GC
3rd Place	\$25 + \$25 GC	\$25 + \$25 GC	\$40 + \$40 GC	\$50 + \$50 GC	\$75 + \$75 GC

Crystal Level Grand Showcase Awards

	Solo	Duet/Trio	Small Group	Large Group	Line
1st Place	\$200 GC	\$200 GC	\$300 GC	\$400 GC	\$600 GC