



OFFICIAL RULES & REGULATIONS

Dance Team World's NATIONAL TITLE championship event isn't just another competition — it's a nonprofit-powered experience designed with coaches and dancers in mind. This set of rules and regulations is designed to help you prepare for the upcoming dance competition season. These guidelines apply to all School-age divisions as well as Studio/All-Star categories. Please read carefully — rules are subject to change. For questions or concerns, contact us at registration@danceteamworld.com

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SECTION 1: GENERAL RULES

General Questions & Concerns

We're here to help! If you have any questions before, during, or after the event, please follow the process below:

1. Rules & Procedures: Coaches or team advisors should reach out directly with any questions about rules, eligibility, or event regulations. You can contact us by email at: registration@danceteamworld.com
 2. Performance-Related Concerns: If you have questions about your team's routine or how it was handled during the event, please contact us — we're always open to a respectful conversation.
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General Safety Guidelines

1. Coaches are responsible for knowing their team's capabilities and should ensure routines reflect safe and age-appropriate choreography — even if a particular skill is not listed in our routine guidelines.
2. All teams should have an emergency plan in place in the event of an injury.
3. Technical skills should only be practiced with a coach or advisor present, and in a safe, appropriate space. Teams should never practice/perform on:
 - Concrete, asphalt, or hard surfaces without mats
 - Wet or slippery floors
 - Uneven or obstructed spaces
4. Proper warm-up and cool-down routines are essential and should be done before and after any performance.
5. All Dance Team World events will follow local health and safety laws, along with any additional safety protocols we establish. Coaches, teams, and spectators are expected to fully comply.
6. For more detailed safety expectations, refer to **Section 7: Safety & Logistics**.



Disqualification Policy

While this is extremely rare, teams that do not follow Dance Team World's rules and regulations may be subject to disqualification. If a team is disqualified, they will forfeit any awards or recognition from the event.

Dance Team World also reserves the right to remove or disallow any individual — including coaches, dancers, or spectators — from participating in or attending our events at our sole discretion if behavior is unsafe, disrespectful, or disrupts the competition environment.



SECTION 2: TEAM DIVISIONS

At **National Title Las Vegas**, we're all about giving every team the space to shine. Whether you are a School Team or Studio/All Star team, we've got a division for you!

School Teams (Group Routines)

Please use the following chart to determine appropriate registration of your team's group dance routines. For high school teams, **Varsity routines** are separated by team size. Team categories correspond to the size guidelines in the same row below, as some size divisions are limited to certain dance styles.

Note: JV, Middle School & Elementary school team divisions are NOT separated by size & will be grouped together in the same division (But still separated by dance style).





TEAM CATEGORIES			VARSITY ROUTINE SIZE GUIDELINES		
Contemporary	Varsity & JV		Small (5-10)	Medium (11-19)	Large (20+)
Hip Hop	Varsity & JV		Small (5-10)	Medium (11-19)	Large (20+)
Jazz	Varsity & JV		Small (5-10)	Medium (11-19)	Large (20+)
Lyrical	Varsity & JV		Small (5-10)	Medium (11-19)	Large (20+)
Pom	Varsity & JV		Small (5-10)	Medium (11-19)	Large (20+)
Kick	Varsity		Small (5-15)		Large (16+)
Military	Varsity		Small (5-15)		Large (16+)
Novelty/Open	Varsity		Small (5-15)		Large (16+)
Prop	Varsity		Small (5-15)		Large (16+)
Gameday	Varsity		Small (5-15)		Large (16+)
Student Choreo	Varsity		Small (5-15)		Large (16+)
Team Performance	Varsity		Small (5-15)		Large (16+)

Note: More JV divisions to be added pending interest and registration demand.



All-Star/Studio Teams (Group Routines)

Please use the following chart to determine appropriate registration of your All-Star or Studio team's group dance routines. Divisions are separated by age division. Group dances will compete in the age of the oldest dancer in the All-Star/Studio group routine.



ALL-STAR/STUDIO TEAM DIVISIONS	
 Mini	Age 8 & Under
 Junior	Age 9 - 11
 Teen	Age 12 - 14
 Senior	Age 15 - 19

Ensemble Divisions

We're not just about team routines — smaller ensemble groups and team leaders have their own moment in the spotlight, too! These routines can be in any dance style.

Here's how it works:

- There's **no limit** to how many Officer/Select or Duet/Trio routines your team can enter at our National Title event.
- Each routine is entered into either the **Gold Division** for intermediate to advanced dancers, *OR* the **Silver Division** for advanced-beginner to intermediate dancers — ensuring your ensembles routines are placed in a category that reflects your dancers' current experience level, skills, and growth.

ENSEMBLE DIVISIONS
 Officer/Select (4-5 dancers)
 Duet/Trio (2-3 dancers)

EXPERIENCE LEVELS
Gold
Silver



Multiple Entries/Dancers in the Same Division

To keep the competition fair and exciting for everyone, here's how we handle multiple entries in the **same style and division**:

- Teams **may not enter multiple routines in the same style and division** if the *exact same group of dancers* is performing in both.
- If you'd like to enter more than one routine in the same style and division — with **different dancers** — that's totally allowed! But you'll need to assign **distinct team names**:

Examples:

Southwest HS Dance Team & Southwest HS All-Male Team

American HS Red Team & American HS Blue Team

- If the routines **share any of the same dancers**, only the **highest-scoring routine** will be eligible to advance to finals and receive final placement.
- If the routines have **zero overlapping dancers**, both are eligible for finals and award placements. This also applies if a team enters different subdivisions in the same style — for example, one routine in **Medium Varsity Jazz** and another in **Large Varsity Jazz**.

Note: Dance Team World reserves the right to adjust or restrict multiple entries in the same style/division and may move routines to a more appropriate division if needed.

Team Size Regulations

The following guidelines apply to all **team division routines (excludes solos & ensemble routines)**:

- **Team size is locked at the time of registration submission.**
- Each routine must have a **minimum of 5 dancers registered and paid** in order to compete in a team division. If a team drops below 5 performers on the day of the event due to unforeseen circumstances, the routine may still perform — but 5 dancers must have been registered in advance.



NATIONAL TITLE
LAS VEGAS

- Teams can use a **different number of dancers for each group routine**, as long as they meet the minimum requirement.



SECTION 3: SOLO DIVISIONS

Our solo divisions are the core foundation of the Dance Team World Education Foundation's scholarship program. While we provide one of the most rigorous and rewarding experiences through our National Title Solo Championship division, we also offer entry-level and intermediate-advanced dance soloists the opportunity to shine in our **School Grade Level Solo** division and our **All-Star/Studio Solo** division.

School Grade Level Solos

SCHOOL GRADES	DANCE STYLES	EXPERIENCE LEVELS
Grade 12	Jazz	Gold
Grade 11	Hip Hop	Silver
Grade 10	Lyrical	
Grade 9	Contemporary	
Middle School (6-8)		
Youth (K-5)		

The **Grade Level Solo** division gives dancers the chance to shine in a solo performance that's tailored to their current experience level. It also allows students the option to compete in more than one solo category, if desired.

Dancers compete by school grade and choose from four dance styles:
Jazz, Lyrical, Contemporary, or Hip Hop.

Each routine is entered into either the **Gold Division** for intermediate to advanced dancers, *OR* the **Silver Division** for advanced-beginner to intermediate dancers — ensuring every performer is placed in a category that reflects their skills and growth.

In the performance schedule, grade solo dancers will compete by grade. But awards will be presented by grade level, dance style and also by experience level. This creates multiple opportunities for your dancers to receive national recognition for their talents.





Note: There are no Experience Level OR Dance Style separations for Middle School & Youth solos. Those age divisions shall compete together in the same grade division



All-Star/Studio Solos

Dancers compete by age division and choose from four dance styles:
Jazz, Lyrical, Contemporary, or Hip Hop.

Awards are presented by style and age division.

ALL-STAR/STUDIO SOLO DIVISIONS	
 Mini	Age 8 & Under
 Junior	Age 9 - 11
 Teen	Age 12 - 14
 Senior	Age 15 - 19



National Title Solo Championship

SENIOR DIVISIONS
Miss Dance Team (age 16-19)
Mr. Dance Team (age 16-19)
JUNIOR DIVISION
Teen National Title (age 13-15)



Dance Team World's **National Title Solo Championship** is the most rewarding dance team solo competition in the United States — inspired by the historic legacy of [Dr. Kay Teer Crawford \(1914-2001\)](#), inventor of the worldwide dance team competition industry. This division celebrates exceptional soloists while fostering camaraderie among dancers, coaches, directors & school-based programs from across the country.

Open to dancers ages 13–19 and divided by age group, this division showcases performers who have earned qualifying bids to represent their school and U.S. state at our Dance Team Nationals in Las Vegas.

Participants in this division are evaluated across (3) key areas:

Dance Routine | Skills Spotlight | Leadership Panel

Beyond competition, soloists connect with fellow qualifiers from other states, perform in a collaborative **Closing Show routine**, and attend our **Scholarship Awards Banquet** to celebrate their achievements both at home and on our national stage.

For coaches, this division offers a platform to spotlight your top students with an experience they'll never forget, elevate your program's visibility, and gain national recognition for the culture you're building within your team & your school community!

Participation in this division requires a qualifying bid from a Dance Team World-sanctioned regional event. Click below to explore state-affiliated qualifiers for our National Title Solo Championship... *or contact us to find out how to start your own!*

DANCE TEAM WORLD - SANCTIONED REGIONAL EVENTS			
California	Colorado	Iowa	Minnesota
South Carolina	Utah	Wisconsin	Start Your Own

SECTION 4: CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

At Dance Team World, we believe dance team is about more than just replication — it's about **celebration of originality, authenticity, and artistic expression**. We understand that the very idea of “dance team” varies from state-to-state, and also internationally.

We encourage teams to bring their own unique voice and creativity to the floor in every category. There is no specific “formula” or style we expect — we welcome innovation, risk-taking, and routines that reflect the identity of your team and your dancers.

Our judging panel is committed to providing feedback that is not only fair and thoughtful, but also **genuinely helpful to your growth throughout the season**. Whether you're refining a style, debuting a new concept, or building your team's confidence, our goal is to support your process through meaningful evaluation... and most importantly, friendly camaraderie!

Each team division has its own scoresheet that is specific to the style/genre. The scoring rubric for each division is designed to be clear, consistent, and centered on execution, performance quality, and choreography.

Explore the next pages for detailed descriptions of each category — and remember, your artistry and creativity are always welcome here!





SECTION 5: SCORES & JUDGING

How We Judge at Dance Team World

At Dance Team World, we take our judging process seriously. Judges are selected based on their qualifications, real-world experience in the dance industry, and the feedback we receive throughout the season. We aim to build a judging panel that's knowledgeable, fair, and reflective of the standards we uphold at both our regional and national events.

Scoring Format

For team routines, judges initially evaluate routines using a **100-point system**, depending on the specific score sheet for the division. **Solo and Ensemble divisions are scored slightly differently** (See Section 4: Category Descriptions for scoresheet breakdowns). Tie breaker for all rounds is the technique/execution score, followed by choreography/artistry, and then showmanship/performance.

Prelims: Total Point Scoring

In the preliminary round, each judge scores routines independently using our standard scoring rubric. Those scores are added together to create a **total point average** for each team. This traditional scoring model ensures all teams are evaluated fairly and helps us determine which teams advance to Finals.

Finals: Rank-Point Scoring

In Finals, we switch to a **rank-based system** to keep things as fair and balanced as possible. *Here's how it works:*

Each judge still scores routines independently, but instead of adding up point totals, we convert each judge's scores into ranks — for example, their 1st place, 2nd place, 3rd place, etc. Then, we combine the ranks from all judges.

The team with the **lowest total rank** is named the **National Champion**, followed by



2nd place, 3rd place, and so on. (Coaches & Directors will still be able to see their total point average scores from this round of competition on their recap spreadsheet)

Our rank point system during Finals helps protect against any one judge's scores having too much influence — and is viewed as an emerging **best-practice model** used by top-level dance team competitions across the country.

What to Expect from Our Judges

Each judge will complete an individual digital score sheet for every routine and provide constructive, helpful feedback by video critique to support your team's growth. We believe evaluations should do more than just identify obvious opportunities for improvement — they should also offer meaningful insight.

Score sheets will be released after each round or event, and full score rankings will be made available for review in the days following the event. Our goal is to provide as much transparency as possible, so you leave with a clear picture of how your performance was evaluated.

Judging Accountability & Feedback

Judges are held to high standards. After each event, we collect evaluations from participating teams as part of our ongoing quality review process. This feedback helps us make sure our judging stays consistent, fair, and professional across the board.

While judges' decisions are final, we welcome your input. If you have concerns or observations about scoring, we encourage you to reach out through our post-event evaluation form or contact us directly. Just as we ask judges to give your team honest, thoughtful feedback, we invite you to do the same for us — it helps us grow and improve the overall experience for everyone involved.



SECTION 6: MUSIC COPYRIGHT POLICY

Our Approach to Music Use

Dance Team World Education Foundation is committed to supporting teams' creative freedom while honoring the legal rights of music creators. We comply with all applicable copyright laws and obtain any necessary licenses to host our events. Teams attending our national competition are responsible for ensuring that the music they use complies with the law.

You may perform to **any music**—including original songs, covers, or independent artist tracks—as long as it is used in a legally appropriate way. We strongly recommend that teams **legally purchase their music** and evaluate whether additional permissions or licenses are required based on how the music is being used.

While we do not offer legal advice, we encourage teams to review relevant rulings such as *Tresona Multimedia v. Burbank High School Vocal Music Association* (2020), which found that some educational uses of music could qualify as fair use. Each team's situation is unique, so we encourage you to consult legal resources or advisors as needed. [Read the case here.](#)

FAQs About Our Music Policy

1. Do you have a list of approved or preferred music vendors?

No. We do not endorse a specific list of music vendors or producers. We believe that teams should have the creative freedom to choose music that best fits their vision—as long as it's legally compliant. Some vendors offer music that includes licenses or coverage, which can be useful, but we do not require or prefer one source over another.

2. Why don't you tell us exactly what music is or isn't allowed?

Because compliance depends on **how** the music is being used and by **whom**. Instead of providing a limited list of approved songs or vendors, we empower you to make informed decisions based on your team's specific circumstances. Only you know how your music was obtained, edited, or licensed. We urge you to educate yourself and ensure your selections follow copyright law.

3. What do you require for compliance?

During the registration process, you'll be asked to **confirm that you understand and agree** to follow our rules, including this music policy. We don't require you to upload



music licensing documents, but you should be prepared to provide details if a question arises from an independent copyright holder.

Resources for Teams

We highly recommend reviewing the **National Dance Coaches Association (NDCA) Copyright FAQ** to better understand copyright, music licensing, choreography rights, and performance broadcasting.

[Read the NDCA FAQ](#)

🎵 Final Note:

You may perform to any music that complies with the law. We do not dictate your creative choices, but we do expect you to make informed and responsible ones.



SECTION 7: SAFETY & LOGISTICS

General Safety Expectations

At Dance Team World, safety always comes first. Coaches and advisors are responsible for making sure that all movement, tricks, and choreography performed by their dancers are appropriate for the team's skill level and safe to execute.

Every element — including tumbling, lifts, or transitions — should be carefully evaluated by the coach before competition. If you're unsure about the safety of a skill, please reach out — we're happy to help.

Tumbling & Tricks

We expect all tumbling and weight-bearing movements to be executed with control and with dancer safety in mind. The following restrictions apply:

1. Aerials, cartwheels, or other movements where weight is fully supported on the **hands or head** should not be performed with poms in both hands unless using **hands-free poms**.
 2. **Direct drops** to the knee, back, seat, or head are not permitted — dancers must first absorb weight through their hands or feet.
 3. Jumping to a **push-up position** from a leap or front jump is not recommended due to risk of injury.
 4. **Landing directly on the head/neck** from an airborne skill is not allowed. Kip-up style movements must begin from the **shoulders/back**, not from direct neck/head contact with the floor.
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Lifts & Partnering

We love seeing innovative partnering work, but all lifts must be safe & technically sound:

1. The dancer performing the lift (Executing Dancer) must be **supported by another dancer in contact with the floor** for the entire skill. (*Exception: Kick line leaps.*)
 2. Hip-over-head rotations are allowed **if the Executing Dancer is safely returned to the floor** on their feet or hands with proper support.
 3. Simultaneous flipping/tumbling over or under another dancer that involves hip-over-head rotation **for both dancers** is not permitted.
 4. As noted above, **direct drops** to vulnerable areas without proper support are not considered safe.
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Release Skills

We allow supported tosses & dismounts as long as they meet the following guidelines:

1. A Supporting Dancer may release or assist a leap/lift as long as it's executed with control and the Executing Dancer maintains a **safe body position**.
 2. "Basket tosses" or cheer-style launches are not allowed. However, a **controlled release** into a dance lift or catch — with head above feet — may be permitted when performed safely.
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Routine Logistics & Floor Guidelines

1. **Substitutions** are allowed in case of injury, but any alternate performer must be listed on your official roster submitted at registration.
2. No **equipment or items** that could damage the floor are allowed (including floor markers)



3. **Planned floor dimensions are: 60' L x 50 W'.** Performance floor shall have a Marley covering, with 5' wide marley panels that run vertically from the perspective of the audience. The stage-right and stage-left sides shall have additional open space for routines that may need to stretch beyond the floor boundaries during the performance. The above dimensions are subject to change as needed to accommodate the event.
 4. If your routine exceeds 2 minutes and 30 seconds, you must notify Dance Team World **at least two weeks before competition so that we can accommodate extra time in the performance schedule.** While there is **NO strict time limit** for team, ensemble, or solo routines, we strongly recommend that you try to keep your routines as close as possible to the 2:30 time mark (or below).
 5. A **designated adult** must be present to assist with music playback.
 - Uploading music at least **2 weeks before competition** is recommended.
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Jewelry

Jewelry is allowed unless deemed unsafe by Dance Team World staff. We reserve the right to ask teams to remove any item considered hazardous.

Props

Props are allowed in all divisions as long as they are:

- Wearable, handheld, or freestanding
- Safely managed by performers
- Not causing any floor damage or obstruction (i.e. rubber wheels, non-marking)

Prohibited items include: dry ice, confetti, glitter, liquids, flammable materials, glass, pipe/drape backdrops that are not mounted upon rubber wheels, or anything else that can't be moved by a single performer.

If you have any prop questions, feel free to send us a photo **before competition**.

Note: Poms are only allowed in the Pom, Team Performance, and Gameday categories — acceptable in Novelty/Open Division, as long as all other entry requirements are met for that category.



Audience Involvement

We love a great crowd, and energy from the audience is always welcome! However, judges will only score what happens on the competition floor.

If you're competing in the **Gameday** category, you're allowed to incorporate additional "Fan Zone" performers, provided that:

1. All performers are registered and paid
2. Additional participants stay **within the Fan Zone** throughout the routine
3. All safety rules still apply to anyone involved in the performance

SECTION 8: SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

We understand that unexpected situations can arise during LIVE performance. Our priority is always safety, fairness, and professionalism. Here's how we'll handle it:

Performance Interruptions

If a routine is interrupted due to an unforeseen issue **outside the team's control** — such as a music malfunction or production equipment failure that impacts the performance — the team will be given the option to perform again.

- If the team chooses to re-perform, the **initial scores will be voided**, and judges will evaluate the **second performance only**.

If the interruption is caused by a **malfunction of the team's own equipment** (e.g. props, sets, etc.), a re-performance option may **not** be offered during that round.

Injury During Performance

If an injury occurs during a routine, the performance may be stopped by:

- An event official
- The team's coach or advisor
- The injured dancer themselves

At the discretion of Dance Team World officials, the team may be offered the opportunity to perform again later in the schedule. Exact timing will be determined by our event staff

If the **injured dancer wishes to rejoin their team** for a second performance, all of the following conditions must be met:

- **On-site medical personnel must approve** the return
- **Parental/guardian and coach approval** must also be obtained
- If the on-site medical team does **not** give approval, the dancer may only return with a **signed medical waiver** from a parent or legal guardian
- If **head injury or concussion** is suspected, the dancer **must** receive formal clearance from a licensed medical professional trained in head injuries before returning



SECTION 9: AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

At National Title Las Vegas, your dancers don't just compete—they get the chance to be recognized in big ways. Dance Team World Education Foundation awards team routines and top soloists based on final division placement. And we present monetary scholarships for standout performers who bring more than just great technique to the floor. Below, you'll find everything you need to know about how awards and scholarships work while your team is on the national stage.

Finals & Awards

1. Advancing to Team Finals

High scoring routines in the preliminary round will advance to Finals. In divisions separated into multiple groups due to a large amount of entries, the highest scoring routine in that group will automatically advance to finals. Additional teams will advance to finals based on score (this means some groups may send more teams to finals than other groups, based on total score). Finals announcements will be made during the event, as well as posted on our website.

2. Finals Performance Order

The lowest scoring routine from preliminaries will perform first (In the event of a "tie" between two or more teams in the preliminary round, the tie breaker for will be the technique score when determining who will perform first). The remaining team performance order shall be randomized for all other finalist teams in that division.

3. Awards for Finalists & Champions

Every finalist receives a trophy (Additional trophies may be presented in divisions with a large amount of competing teams). All **National Champions** are awarded a banner and trophy.

4. Special Awards

A variety of special awards will be presented at various moments during our awards ceremony program.



Scholarship Awards for College, Trade School & Beyond...

This event is unlike most other National Championship dance competitions, because making a profit is not our primary goal. Every dollar we receive goes back into scholarships, production quality, and meaningful opportunities for the dance team world. We're not here to profit off your dancers and their families—we're here to reinvest in them by growing a community that puts students and educators first.

The **Dance Team World Education Foundation** believes excellence extends beyond the performance floor. Through our non-profit organization, dancers become eligible for a variety of exclusive scholarships awarded throughout our National Title weekend.

These honors recognize more than just technical skill — they celebrate leadership, creativity, and the spirit of the dance team community. But most importantly, they help us build camaraderie within the dance team world.

From standout soloists to emerging leaders, we're proud to support the next generation of dance talent with meaningful opportunities that make a difference.

 **Learn more about available scholarships and how your dancers can qualify at:**

www.danceteamworld.com/scholarships