

INDIANA STATE DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Now Allowing Costumes!

Our primary focus at ISDC is to provide students, teachers and parents a performance event full of artistry, camaraderie and a shared love of dance; while also giving useful feedback and education, professionally delivered. We want you to feel great while you strut your stuff. We understand how important costumes can be for that, and we appreciate the time and resources that go into them. Costuming will not be a consideration in scoring, so if the original black leotard format of ISDC works best for your studio or any one of your entries, for any reason, this option is still available and will be judged equally.

1. General Rules and Procedures:

- a. All entries and fees must be received **by the deadline, which is 21 days/3 weeks prior to the competition event date**. Entries will be accepted after that date only if competition time permits. Entry Fees must be paid by one studio check, to the ISDC Office: 6025 Madison Ave, Suite C. Indianapolis, IN 46227.
- b. The **Studio Information & Waiver of Liability** form must be completed and submitted with the studio Entries. An entry cannot be accepted unless **Waivers** are signed by the parents (not the teacher) for all dancers participating.
- c. **Communication** is conducted to the studio email provided with registration. Make sure it is complete and accurate.
- d. Each entry will be identified by a performance order number, followed by an assigned studio identification code. Performance schedules come approximately 2 weeks prior to the event. All requests for scheduling or needed changes should come via email, from Studio Directors/Representatives only. Scheduling requests cannot be guaranteed and must be made prior to release of the schedule to be adequately considered.
- e. **The auditorium and front desk will open** at least 30 minutes before the first scheduled performance. A limited number of event T-shirts will be available for purchase.
- f. A Studio Representative should check in at the Registration Table upon your arrival at the event to pick up your studio packet for the weekend.
- g. Competitors must be ready when their number is announced. Any undo delays will result in disqualification. Entries should be back stage five numbers before their own.
- h. If you will require a microphone for your performance, please contact the ISDC office to confirm availability at the venue. Availability is not guaranteed.

2. Music Submission: All music must be on a CD or digitally uploaded to ISDC via a shared folder on Dropbox.com. Bring a backup CD or Drive with you on competition day.

- a. **CDs:** Each CD should contain only one song and must be clearly labeled with the Title, Dancer, Entry Number and Studio Name. All music for the studio should be delivered by the Director or one representative, to the sound table **thirty minutes prior to the start of the event or one hour prior to your first scheduled performance time**.
- b. **Dropbox.com:** ISDC will share a Dropbox Folder with each studio email on file. Music files can simply be copied, or dropped into the shared folder. Files names should match: entry number_dance title.format. ie: 007_Dancing in the Streets.mp3. Make sure titles match the registration submission. Music should be uploaded by the Tuesday prior to the event. All standard music file formats are accepted.

3. Scoring will be as follows: High First Place (95-100 points), First Place (90-94 points), High Second Place (85-89 points), Second Place (80-84 points), High Third Place (75-79 points), Third Place (70-74 points), and Honorable Mention (60-69 points). Judges will give one overall impression score to each entry, using this scoring table. Scores are based 40% on performers technical proficiency, 40% on performance quality and 20% on composition, creativity and appropriateness of the work presented. The **decision of the judges will be final**. Complaints or suggestions must be made in writing and submitted to the director.

4. Critiques: Critiques and score sheets will be shared with the studio director in this same shared Dropbox folder for music submission. We aim to give all critiques at the completion of the event. Our mission is to provide helpful, insightful and encouraging feedback, gently delivered while being comprehensive and audible. Critiques will cover dancer's technique and performance quality as well as content's appropriateness and choreographic elements. Critiques should come for every entry, from all three vetted and highly qualified judges. Our systems include quality checks for any human or technological issues that may hinder your reception of the best critiques possible. In the event of extreme circumstances, paper critiques, or lost critiques may occur.

5. Props & Scenery: Handheld props and stage scenery are allowed. Not Allowed: the discharge or throwing of items on the stage that can affect the flooring surface, including, but not limited to glitter, sparkles, aerosols, powder, paint, fake snow, etc. Live animals are not allowed. Dangerous props such as swords, fireworks, guns, knives, etc are not allowed. All items and scenery must be fully placed and removed by studio/performer's staff/crew. Any debris left behind must be quickly removed. Set up and removal has a 2 minute time limit. Please contact ISDC prior to the event to request clearance on any special circumstances or situations for which you are unsure.

6. **Age categories** are as follows: 5 and under, 6-7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15, 16-17, 18-19 and 20+. Petite Division is age 7 and under. Junior Division is ages 8-11. Teen Division is ages 12-15 and Senior Division is age 16 and up. **All placements are determined by the participants' age on January 1 of the event year.** Group, duet and trio Age Group is determined by the **average age** of all the contestants. Ages and birth dates of the competitors must appear on the back of any paper submitted entry forms. To figure the average age, add all ages together and divide by the number of dancers in the group. If .5 or higher remains, the entry must go into the next highest Age Group.
7. **Competition Levels:** ISDC offers two performance levels. Competitive and Recreational.
- Competitive:** This is the expected level of entry for most entrants. This level is for any dancers who are part of your competition team and attend classes or extra rehearsals with an intention of competing. This distinction is not based on age, entry count or hours in the studio.
 - Recreational:** This level is for your classroom dancers who come weekly to your studio to take one or multiple once a week classes, for fun. These are dancers that are not part of a "team" or do not regularly engage in competition. These participants may only perform in an annual recital, or two. This level exists so that you may offer such students an additional, affordable opportunity to perform, or a friendly, no stress trial of the competitive experience.
8. **Dance Styles: Acrobatic routines** must incorporate acrobatic skills with dance movement and should not consist entirely of "gymnastic passes". **Lyric and Modern** category entries should demonstrate balance, extension, isolation, and control using contemporary lyrical or modern styles. A lyrical dance should relate to the feeling of, and tell the story of the music. In **Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Song and Dance, and Lyric and Modern** routines, any more than three gymnastic or acrobatic combo will result in a .5 point deduction. (Splits and deep arches are not considered acrobatic skills.) For the **Song & Dance** category, no voice recording is allowed on the music. ISDC does not guarantee a wireless microphone, please contact the office prior to the event to confirm availability. In the **Tap Category**, No pre-recorded taps are allowed. A .5 deduction will be taken for these infractions.
9. **Choreographer Category:** All rules also apply. In addition, all choreography must be the **exclusive work of the contestant only!** Choreographers are not required to perform their work themselves. They may use any number of dancers they wish. **The ability of the performers will not be judged.** Only the content of the choreography will be judged and scored. Contestants may wish to submit a report or notebook with information about why they chose the music, what they hoped to accomplish, costuming design they might have in mind, their goals as a choreographer and any other pertinent information they wish to share about their work with the judges. These will be submitted to the judges prior to the performance for their perusal. This is not required but does demonstrate organizational qualities necessary to the accomplished choreographer. Work must not be critiqued by anyone prior to the competition.
10. **Group Divisions & Time Limits**
- Solo: One (1) Dancer. (3 mins) A soloist may enter no more than **4 solos**, with no two entries in the same style. The **"choreographer"** style is considered a solo entry if the work is the sole effort of the entrant only. Individuals two or more solo entries will atomically be entered into the Title Competition, for no additional charge. (see section 9 below)
 - Duet/Trio: 2-3 Dancers. (3 mins)
 - Small Group: 4-7 Dancers. (3 mins)
 - Large Group: 8-12 Dancers. (5 mins)
 - Production Group: More than 12 dancers. (5 mins)
 - Maximum extended time limit is 8 minutes.
11. **Awards:**
- Adjudication Awards** will be presented to each participating entry.
 - Each Soloist entry will receive a participation trophy. Soloist wishing to do so, may elect to have \$5 donated to the charity of their studio's choosing in lieu of receiving a trophy by indicating so on the paper or digital entry form.
 - Groups will receive a coordinating award pin for each participant.
 - High Score Awards** will also be presented when there are four or more entries, in the following divisions and their corresponding level: Petite, Junior, Teen and Senior Solos & Duo/Trios; and Petite/Junior Small, Large & Production Groups and Teen/Senior Small, Large & Production Groups. A top score will be announced when there are at least 4 entries. A top three will be announced when there are at least 8 entries. When there are 14 or more entries a top five will be announced. If not enough entries exist for a High Score Award to be recognized, ISDC reserves the right to combine logical divisions to award a high score. Awards may be trophies, plaques, medals and/or certificates.
 - Special Awards** are also presented. Please feel free to recognize special accomplishments, regardless how small, by requesting that a "Special Award" be given. Special Awards are given during each awards ceremony. Please submit them to the sound table.
 - Each studio will be presented with a participation plaque to commemorate the event.

12. **Title Awards:** Contestants competing for a "Mr. or Miss Dance Title" must compete in at least 2 solo categories. All entrants with **2+ solos will automatically be entered into the Overall/Title competition.** Students entering more than 2 solos will have their lowest scores discarded and the remaining two scores averaged for their overall final score. If a competitor is the only one in the Title division, the title will only be awarded if the averaged score is 92 or higher. Titles are awarded to Petite (7 and under), Junior (8-11), Teen (12-15) and Senior (16-19) Ms. & Mr. Dance.
13. **No flash photography** will be allowed in the auditorium. **Videotaping** will be allowed if you have a special pass on your person at the time of taping. These passes are available through your instructor only and will be issued to instructors only at the front desk the day of the competition. Parents wishing to videotape must receive this pass from their teacher allowing them permission. Anyone taping another studio's routines will be asked to leave the auditorium.
14. **Food and Drink, other than water, is not allowed in the auditorium. Smoking in the building or property is prohibited. The ISDC expects all participants and observers to respect the space we borrow so we may continue to be welcome there. Those found not doing so may be asked to leave.**
15. The Indiana State Dance Championships requires that all performers and their parents read and agree to abide by these rules and regulations. **Please make these rules available to all participants.**

PLEASE NOTE: *Dance is a "PERFORMING ART" and requires performance opportunities for educational purposes, incentive to rehearse and to improve performance skills. It is our first priority to give each child a comfortable and successful learning experience regardless of their final placement. We hope that as teachers and parents you will discuss the importance of the "performance", not the "score". Only you know what that individual child has truly accomplished through their performance, the growth they have shown and the preparation that it required. We firmly believe DANCE IS NOT A SPORT but an ART! We at the ISDC do our very best to emphasize that everyone who gives their best performance is a WINNER!*

We must applaud the effort - not the outcome!