



SECTION III: ENTRY GUIDELINES AND AWARDS

TEAM ENTRY GUIDELINES

1. School and all-star teams may compete in the following styles: Pom, Jazz, Hip Hop, Kick, Team Performance, Military, **Lyrical (subject to restrictions outlined below) and Open (subject to restrictions outlined below)**. DTU may choose, in its discretion, to offer School divisions in Contemporary, Prop or any other style of dance depending upon demand in a particular region. Additionally, at our Regional Competitions, members of teams may compete in solos, duos/trios, or (at Regional Competitions where an officer division is offered) as a group of officers. There is no limit to how many solo, duo/trio, or officer routines a team may enter at our Regional Competitions.
2. At our National competition, we will have a solo competition and a Spirit Showdown. Regional Competitions may have a Spirit Showdown division at DTU's discretion. If DTU does not have a Spirit Showdown division at a Regional Competition, then teams at that event may compete their Spirit Showdown routine in the Open division.
3. **Teams may not enter multiple routines of the same style in the same division when all of the dancers in both routines are the same. If a team wishes to enter multiple routines of the same style in the same division and all dancers are not the same in each routine, then the team must designate different team names (e.g. West HS Blue Team and West HS Gold Team), and the following shall apply:**
 - (a) **If there are one or more overlapping dancers in the routines, then only the highest scoring routine will advance to finals and receive a placement in the final awards.**
 - (b) **If there are no overlapping dancers in the routines, then all routines are eligible to advance to finals and receive a placement in the final awards.**

DTU reserves the right to disallow a team from entering multiple routines of the same style in the same division, or to move one or more of the multiple routines to another division for which the team/routine is qualified, in its sole discretion.

4. The following team size guidelines will apply:
 - (a) Team size will be determined as of the registration date.
 - (b) At least 5 dancers must be registered to perform in each team routine. A team will still be allowed to compete if they drop to fewer than 5 dancers at performance time, but at least 5 dancers must be registered and paid for in order for the routine to compete.
 - (c) At least 4 dancers must be registered to perform in each officer routine. An officer group will still be allowed to compete if they drop to fewer than 4 dancers at performance time, but at least 4 dancers must be registered and paid for in order for the routine to compete.



- (d) Teams may use a different number of dancers in each routine subject to the minimums above.

ELIGIBLE TEAMS

1. REGIONAL COMPETITIONS: College, Varsity, JV, Middle School, Elementary, and Studio/All-Star dance teams may compete.
2. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP: Varsity, JV, Middle School, Elementary and Studio/All-Star dance teams may compete.
3. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT SCHOOL TEAMS
 - (a) Each team must be an official school dance team at the team's school (or from the same cooperative school or group of schools if not disallowed by their state), either under athletics or as a club sport or fine arts program. Home school students may compete with a school team.
 - (b) A team is considered Varsity if the team's school recognizes the dancers as Varsity members, regardless of the ages of the dancers. A team is considered Junior Varsity if the team's school recognizes the dancers as Junior Varsity members or "B" Team members, regardless of the ages of the dancers. A team is considered Middle School if not more than 49% of the dancers on that team are in 9th grade and no dancers are in 10th grade or higher. If a team from a state-recognized middle school or junior high school has 50% or more 9th graders then they will compete in Junior Varsity or Varsity, depending on their preference.
 - (c) An All-Star team for which all performing dancers are from the same school (or from the same cooperative school or group of schools if not disallowed by their state) may choose to compete in either All-Star divisions or school divisions.
 - (d) A dancer will be allowed to compete on different school teams (such as in both the Middle School and the Junior Varsity divisions or the Middle School and Varsity division), if that is how the dancer is allowed to compete within the rules of the team's applicable state association.
 - (e) At Nationals:
 - (i) Unless otherwise determined by DTU in its discretion, DTU will place any school team's first contemporary, jazz or lyrical entry into the school Jazz division ("Jazz" = a broad category at DTU that encompasses all of these styles in one).
 - (ii) School teams may enter a routine in school Lyrical or All-Star Jazz only if they have already entered school Jazz in accordance with the previous sentence, and may not enter the All-Star Lyrical division .
 - (iii) School teams may enter a routine in school Open only if (1) the style of their routine is not offered as a school style (e.g., prop, novelty,



show production, character, etc.), or (2) they have already entered a routine in the school style and the Open routine is an additional routine of the same style (e.g., the school has already entered a routine in school Jazz, Pom, Hip Hop, Kick, Team Performance, Military or Lyrical and their school Open routine is one of those styles). DTU will ask all schools entering school Open to verify the style of dance they have entered in order to confirm compliance with these requirements. School teams may not enter the All-Star Open division.

(iv) For all other styles of dance, a school team will be placed in the school divisions for its entries to the extent school divisions are available, or All Star divisions otherwise.

(v) A school team may compete under any name - either its school name or any other name the school team chooses - and still compete in the school divisions.

(vi) A registered team will be permitted to change its number of competing dancers until the date of the live draw for performance order (generally mid-January prior to nationals). After the live draw, teams may change their number of performing dancers in any routine only in the case of documented injury or documented school disciplinary action, and DTU reserves the right to request written evidence sufficient to substantiate same to its satisfaction (in its sole discretion).

(f) Teams from outside the United States may compete in Regional or National events in the division at or above the division they would compete if their team was from the United States.

(g) In the event that DTU chooses to group teams at a regional or national competition by team size and there is an unanticipated change to the team size (e.g. due to illness or injury) for one or more routines after registration, the team must notify DTU in writing immediately. If the new number of dancers on the floor for a routine would qualify the team for a different division than its previously assigned division, then the following will apply:

(i) If it is at least 24 hours prior to the start of the competition, then DTU will notify all competing teams in writing of the change and the team will change divisions.

(ii) If it is less than 24 hours prior to the competition, then the team will not change divisions.

(iii) **In the interest of fairness to other teams who have prepared to compete based on the schedule and divisions published by DTU, we reserve the right to disqualify any team that fails to provide immediate written notice of size changes in accordance with this provision, or dances a different number of dancers than are registered to compete in a routine. Coaches are responsible for**



ensuring that the team's information (including how many dancers will perform in each routine) is accurate at the time of registration.

4. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT SOLOS/DUOS/TRIOS/ALL-STAR/STUDIO TEAMS
- (a) Subject to subsection (e) below, solos, duos and trios will compete in the following divisions based upon grade:
- Senior (grades 11 and 12)
 - Junior (grades 9 and 10)
 - Youth (grades 6, 7 and 8)
 - Mini (grades 3, 4 and 5)
 - Tiny (2nd grade and under)
- (b) All-Star/Studio teams will compete in the following divisions based upon age:
- Open (age 15 and over)
 - Senior (age 19 and under)
 - Junior (age 16 and under)
 - Youth (age 13 and under)
 - Mini (age 10 and under)
 - Tiny (age 7 and under)
- (c) The age/grade (as applicable) of the oldest dancer on the floor for a given duo, trio or group routine will determine which division the duo, trio or group competes in for that routine. Age/grade will be determined by birth year, as follows:
- Open – Born on or before December 31, 2008
 - Senior – June 1, 2003 and after
 - Junior - 2006 and after
 - Youth - 2009 and after
 - Mini - 2012 and after
 - Tiny - 2015 and after
- (d) An All-Star team for which all performing dancers are from the same school (or from the same cooperative school or group of schools if not disallowed by their state) may choose to compete in either the All-Star division or the school division for any style of dance in which it enters.
- (e) DTU may permit or require a dancer to compete in a different solo division if their age is different than the typical age range for the grades in any division, in DTU's sole and final discretion.



COMPETITION DIVISIONS

Teams may be grouped within each style into separate divisions (example: Small, Medium and Large Varsity), based on the number of dancers entered for each team competing in such style. Any split between divisions will be determined by DTU based upon the number of entries received for each competition. DTU may elect to have a semifinal round depending upon the number of entries.

At any event, DTU may choose to combine categories (such as Jazz and Lyrical or All-Star and school divisions), or add additional categories, in order to increase competitiveness or for any other reason in its discretion.

At our National events, DTU may also split a division into multiple preliminary groups at its sole discretion. DTU may elect to seed any or all divisions at its sole discretion, including (without limitation) where there are multiple preliminary groups and DTU determines seeding would increase fairness and competitiveness. Additional information about seeding procedures may be provided in advance of any event where seeding is utilized.

“COMPETING UP”

Any school or All-Star team may elect to compete in any more senior division of its choosing within a style of dance, for any one or more routines, in its discretion. For example, a Junior Varsity team may elect to compete in a Varsity division for one or more of its routines, or a Mini All-Star team may elect to compete in the Junior All-Star division for its Pom routine and the Youth All-Star division for its Hip Hop routine. The team need not make this choice for all of its routines - for example, a Middle School team may compete in Middle School Jazz but Junior Varsity Team Performance.

Teams may not move laterally across divisions within a style of dance. For example, a Small Varsity team may not choose to compete in Medium Varsity, or vice versa.

NO SINGLE TEAM DIVISIONS (NATIONALS)

At our National events, DTU will combine any division that contains only one team into any other division at its discretion. This may result in divisions that include multiple age groups in a single style (e.g. Middle School/Elementary Team Performance) or multiple styles in one or more age groups competing in an Open division. No single team divisions will be permitted at Nationals.

REGIONALS AWARDS

1. Trophies will be awarded to at least the top 50% of teams in each division for each style.
2. One Grand Champion award will be given to the most outstanding routine of the day, as determined by DTU in its discretion. The Grand Champion will receive a partial nationals bid (\$1,000 discount). A team may be selected as Grand



Champion at multiple competitions throughout the season; however, a team winning multiple Grand Champion awards in a single season will only receive one partial nationals bid for that season. Solos, Duos/Trios, Officer and Spirit Showdown entries are not eligible to be named Grand Champion.

3. Additional specialty awards may be awarded at the discretion of DTU.

NATIONALS AWARDS

1. Including teams advancing from any **Semifinal** pursuant to the next sentence, at least 50% of teams that compete in the preliminary round will ultimately advance to finals. If there is a **Semifinal**, selected teams with the next highest scores not advancing directly to finals out of the preliminary round will compete again, and the top scoring team(s) from the **Semifinal** will advance to finals. **Subject to the foregoing limitations, DTU in its sole discretion will decide how many of the top scoring teams from Semifinal advance to finals. Note that the determination of teams advancing directly to finals and teams who will advance to compete in the Semifinal will be made for each preliminary group independently of the other preliminary groups, since different judging panels may score different preliminary groups of the same division of dance (example: Small Varsity Pom A and Small Varsity Pom B).**
2. Finalists in categories with 4 or more finalists will compete figure skating-style (in sub-groupings with lowest scores competing first, based upon their scores from previous round, but within each sub-grouping, teams will draw for random order). Finalists in categories with 3 or fewer finalists will compete in reverse order of their preliminary scores.
3. All finalists will receive trophies. In addition, all national champions will receive banners, jackets, and rings. In recognition of the tremendous success of each national champion, no Grand Champion award(s) will be given at nationals, except that a Grand Champion award may be given in the Studio/All-Star division only.