



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, **Spirit Showdown, Lyrical (at Nationals only, subject to restrictions outlined below) and Open (at Nationals only, subject to restrictions outlined below)**. DTU may choose, in its discretion, to offer School divisions in Lyrical, Open, Contemporary, Prop or any other style of dance at a regional competition depending upon demand or custom in a particular region.
2. 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. **We will also have a solo competition at our Nationals, and there is no limit to how many solo routines a team may enter at Nationals.**
3. Teams may enter one routine in each style. If a school or All-Star program wishes to enter multiple routines in a single style they must designate different teams (e.g. West HS Blue Team and West HS Gold Team), and the teams should have one or more dancers that do not overlap. If a school or All-Star program enters multiple routines in a single style, then only the highest scoring routine will advance to finals and receive a placement in the final awards.
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, **modern**, 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 Friday prior to 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.

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, 2004 and after
- Junior - 2007 and after
- Youth - 2010 and after
- Mini - 2013 and after
- Tiny - 2016 and after

If any team would be in a different division but for one dancer's birth date, and such birth date is within five (5) days of one of the cutoff dates above, then DTU may agree in its discretion to allow that team to compete in the other division. In such case, the coach should contact DTU and request permission, and be able to prove the birth date of the dancer in question.

(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 and/or Second Chance 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 Second Chance **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 Second Chance **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 Second Chance **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 Second Chance Semifinal advance to finals. Note that the determination of teams advancing directly to finals and teams who will advance to compete in the Second Chance 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.