

2020 RULES & REGULATIONS

RECREATIONAL LEVEL (Beginner): dancers who study less than 3 hours per week at the studio. Recreational level dancers receive trophies/pins and are eligible for high score awards, if there are at least 10 entries within their division. Recreational top score recipients receive gift certificates instead of cash. Once a dancer has won 1st place in the recreational level (and remain in the same age division), they must move up to the intermediate level.

COMPETITIVE LEVEL (Intermediate): students who study more than 3 hours per week, but feel they are not up to the Elite level of competition. Once a dancer has won first place in the Competitive level (and remain in the same age division), they must move up to the elite level. All Competitive level dancers receive trophies/pins, and special awards.

ELITE LEVEL (Advanced): students who wish to be adjudicated based on an elite level. Top score recipients receive cash awards to be donated to [Project Manana](#) in their name.

PRO/AM: Adult dancers 19+ years old. Dancers in this classification are NOT eligible for "High Score" awards. This includes groups with as few as one professional within the group.

Special Performers: this category is for special needs dancers and will perform in the recreational category. They will be eligible for "high score" awards if there are at least 5 in their division. There is no entry fee for special performers performing solos.

AGE DIVISIONS: Petite: 8 and under; Junior: 9-12; Teen: 13-15; Senior: 16-18; Adults: 19 & over. The age is defined as the contestant's age on January 1st. The group's age is based on the average age of the performers. Drop decimals and round the age down. Groups are not permitted to compete in an age group more than one age level below the oldest dancer in the group. Routines competing at Nationals will enter the **same** age division as they did in the qualifying Regional competition. Proof of age may be requested. A deliberate attempt to enter the wrong age division will result in disqualification with no refund. Solos (1 dancer); Duets/Trios (2-3 dancers); Small Group (4-9) Large Group (10-16 dancers); Lines (maximum 20 dancers); Productions (unlimited). Title competitions are held only at our Nationals and there is no additional charge. Photography entries may be entered at the door at both regional and national competitions.

TIME LIMITS: A deduction of one point will be deducted for exceeding the time limit. Solos/Duets/Trios: (3 min.); Small Groups (3 min.); Large Groups & Lines (4 minutes); Productions (6 minutes). Additional time is \$5 per dancer.

ENTRY DEADLINES: The entry deadline date for all competitions is 15 days prior to the scheduled competition. Early bird discounts for studios are **automatically applied at the time of registration** but only if the entry fees are received and paid by the deadline. Entries received after the deadline are not guaranteed to be accepted however, if there is available time they are accepted with a \$5.00 late charge, per entry number. Late entries are not eligible for discounts. No entries will be accepted at the door (with the exception of Photogenic). Discounts apply to ONLINE registration only and to studios (not independents).

REFUNDS: Refunds will be issued only if a competition is canceled by ENCORE TALENT PRODUCTIONS. You will be notified in advance, if this should occur and the refund will be mailed immediately. No refunds will be given due to the contestant being unable to perform. A Gift Certificate may be issued (depending on reason for cancellation) to the studio to be used at a future competition within the same year.

CONFIRMATION: A tentative schedule will be sent to the studios approximately 10 days prior to the competition and will be updated as changes occur. A digital copy of the schedule will be posted for the dancers' families on our website approximately 3 days prior to the regional competitions. We do not sell programs at the competitions. ENCORE TALENT PRODUCTIONS reserves the right to change the location of the competition or the number of days, if necessary.

AWARDS:

A plaque will be awarded to each entry. We award Platinum, High Gold, Gold and High Silver. Each participant within the group entries will receive pins. Cash awards will be given (donated) if there are at least 10 in the division. All ties will be broken by the entry with the highest score in Technique, then Showmanship, then Choreography. At least one person from the studio must be present to accept the awards. JUDGES' CHOICE awards will be given to the most entertaining, best choreography, most original, future stars and various others. A trophy and gift certificate will be awarded to the **TEACHER OF THE DAY** for the teacher who has the most overall winners.

JUDGING: A qualified panel of three (3) judges will give their audio critiques and scores which will be available to the studio owners after the final awards ceremony on a flashdrive. Teachers/directors are to pick up their critiques following the awards. They will not be mailed. All decisions of the judges are final. Any act that is not completed, will not be eligible for top awards. Coaching during a performance is prohibited and will result in a penalty. This must be brought to the attention of the director at the time it is happening. To be eligible to compete at ENCORE TALENT PRODUCTIONS National Showcase, an entry must have received a minimum of a High Silver award. Any discrepancy in scores must be brought to the attention of the ENCORE TALENT PRODUCTIONS director on the day of the competition. No protest of score or age will be accepted after the day of the contest. Only teachers will be allowed to state a protest; not parents or performers.

CATEGORIES DEFINED: (a maximum of 4 gymnastic tricks are permitted unless in the acro category)

Tap: routines consisting primarily of tap technique. No tap sounds are allowed on the tape.

Jazz: routines consisting primarily of jazz technique.

Hip Hop: routines using hip hop technique. There are no restrictions on gymnastic tricks, shoes, etc.

Ballet: routines must contain ballet technique primarily using classical movement and steps. Using the proper shoes is required.

Pointe: routines consisting of pointe technique, using classical movements, performed in hard toe pointe shoes.

Lyrical: routines should tell a story and exhibit balance, extension and control.

Modern: routines should be an interpretation of the music, using balance, extension and control in a contemporary style.

Contemporary: routines should interpret music using balance, extension and control in a contemporary style.

Clogging: routines consisting primarily of clogging technique and style. Proper clogging shoes should be used.

Acro/Gymnastics: routine must incorporate controlled gymnastics with rhythm of music, using passes, continual flow from move to move, including a minimum of six (6) acro/gymnastic moves.

PomPon: routines consisting of the use of pompons. This has no restrictions on gymnastics but is only permitted in the group divisions.

Character: routines that demonstrate recognizable characters, with or without the use of music.

Ethnic: must reflect a particular ethnic style of dance. No restrictions on shoes.

Musical Theatre: routines that reflect a dramatized or musical/theatrical theme.

Open: routines that do not fit in any of the above categories. Performer may also enter this as an additional entry so they avoid competing twice in one category.

Student Choreography: dance must be choreographed by the student(s) with no help or coaching from the teacher. This is not included in the competitive division for overall awards, but will be eligible for a special award if there are at least 5 entries in student choreography.

Photogenic: Black/white or color photo; preferably not full length. This category is divided into age groups of 12 & under and 13 & over. This may be entered at the door. Do not send photos with entry form.

Encore's Mr./Miss Dance Titles will be judged at the **National Showcase** only. The top five scores in each division (Petite, Junior, Teen and Senior) will be asked to do an Encore Performance at which time they will be judged against each other and the winners will be presented with title awards. All male dancers (competitive and elite divisions) are invited to compete, however, cash awards will be awarded only if there is a minimum of 5 dancers in each age division. There will be no additional entry fee for this at the national showcase. **BEST OF THE BEST:** During our **National Showcase**, there will be a dance-off between the top 5 Duets/Trios; the top 5 Small Groups; the top 5 Large Groups and the top 5 Lines/Productions. This is in addition to the overall awards issued during each age division. The winners will receive trophies and cash awards. **NATIONAL CHAMPIONS** is the competition between the winners of the Best of the Best and will be awarded the National Champs Title.

GENERAL RULES: Contestants may enter as many categories as they like, however, they must not compete against themselves. A person cannot perform in the same category and age group. Dancers may not enter the same dance entered in a prior year's competition. Contestants must be ready to perform at least 30 minutes before their scheduled performance time. No one will be allowed to perform out of order except for costume changes, which must be verified by the director prior to their time slot. Contestants give their permission to ENCORE TALENT PRODUCTIONS to use their photographs in connection with any advertising. Any contestant or studio member that conducts themselves in an unsportsmanlike manner risks permanent disqualification and will be asked to leave the premises. This includes behavior in the dressing rooms. Props are allowed as long as they are used in the routine, with the exception of fire, swords, knives or other dangerous items. If the stage is littered by participants' props or costumes, please be prepared to clean the stage immediately after the routine has finished. Backup vocals on a tape in the Vocal or Song & Dance categories will result in a 3 point deduction. The only exception is backup vocals during the chorus of the song. Tap sounds on a tape used in the tap category will result in a 3 point deduction. Pre-labeled cd cases will be provided for music and must be used. Also, it is suggested that you bring a backup in case there is a problem with your master copy. All cameras are prohibited and can result in disqualification of routines and/or removal from the auditorium. Teachers please explain this to your parents as this will be strictly enforced. This is to protect the dancers from unwanted photos/videos appearing online as well as protection of the teachers' choreography. **Liability:** Contestants are understood to recognize the risks of physical injury inherent in dance and performances and be willing to assume those risks. It is agreed that participants and spectators, jointly and severally hereby forever release, discharge and acquit ENCORE TALENT PRODUCTIONS from any and all contracts, claims, suits, actions or liabilities both in law and in equity specifically arising from, relating to or otherwise described as and limited to participation in any Regional or National Finals Dance Competition including damages or injuries arising from or resulting from participation. **RETURNED CHECKS:** Personal checks are not accepted. Studios must remit a studio check, cashier's check or money order. There will be a service charge of \$25.00 for all checks returned by the bank. After a check has been returned by the bank, all future entries must be accompanied by a money order or a cashier's check. If payment has not been received on a returned check by the competition date, the contestant will not be allowed to perform. There will be a \$5.00 fee for each change (category, age group or music) made at the door. This can be avoided by double checking the confirmation information that is mailed to you. ENCORE TALENT PRODUCTIONS reserves the right to cancel any event that does not qualify with a minimum number of acceptable entries. In the event this occurs, all entry fees will be refunded promptly. **Encore does not refund entry fees for any other reason.**