



2021 Rules & Regulations

The Star Dance Alliance is a combined effort from the industries leaders in dance who strive to provide not only a high-quality experience, but ease in registration.

- Although each competition is run in its own way, all of the SDA competitions provide a quality competition arena to our customers in every aspect.
- A combined registration system that allows studios to enter/update their roster one time a year, and easily transfer routines from competition to competition.
- Streamlined Rules and Regulations that make it easier for studios to keep age divisions, group sizes and competition levels the same for each competition.
- Routines may qualify at any SDA Regional Competition for all of the Star Dance Alliance National Championships.
- SDA Star Dollars are awarded to Advanced Level Champions.
 - Regional winnings from 2021 may be redeemed for any SDA 2021 National Championship or for a 2022 Regional Competition from the issuing competition.
 - National winnings may be redeemed for a 2022 Regional Competition from the issuing competition.
 - Star Dollars may NOT be used for the World Dance Championships, World Dance Pageant, Power Pak or Wild Dance Intensive
- SDA Power Rankings
 - Every routine that competes at a SDA Regional Competition, and is awarded as the 'Regional Champion' in their division, is automatically entered into the POWER RANKINGS. Routines are entered into the rankings with the score that their routine was given at that regional event. You can track the Power Rankings weekly at www.stardancealliance.com
- Power Pak
 - Invitations & Scholarships are awarded at all of the SDA Regional Competitions.
- Wild Dance Intensive
 - Scholarships are awarded at all of the SDA Regional Competitions.
- World Dance Championships
 - Golden Ticket Invitations are given out at all SDA Regional and National Competitions to top scoring routines.
- World Dance Pageant
 - Scholarships are awarded at all of the SDA Regional Competitions.

GENERAL RULES

- PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEO RECORDING IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. Failure to abide by this rule can result in Disqualification for the studio. If anyone is found photographing or video recording in the competition auditorium, we reserve the right to delete the video footage. Teachers... it is your responsibility to inform your contestants and parents of this rule.
- NO SMOKING is permitted in any of our venues.
- If a dancer would like to compete at an event with two separate studios, that dancer must have written permission from BOTH studios prior to the event.
- No dancer may compete as an independent entry if their studio is registered.
- All dance divisions are permitted to have up to 25% acro/gymnastics tricks in them. *NOTE: The Cheer & Character divisions may contain up to 50% acro/gymnastics.*
- Special stage or house lighting will NOT be provided or changed by the SDA for any performance.
- Singing is permitted in the Song & Dance and Vocal categories ONLY. We will have two handheld/wireless microphones at each venue. We do not allow any additional equipment to be hooked into the sound system, therefore, no personal microphones, headsets, etc. will be permitted.
- A panel of well-qualified judges will score contestants. All decisions of the judges are final.
- By registering for a Star Dance Alliance event, all contestants grant permission to the Star Dance Alliance to use their photographs and/or videos for promotional reasons. In addition, the Star Dance Alliance reserves the right to communicate with you using the email provided in the registration system.
- Sportsmanlike behavior is expected from all contestants, teachers and families at all times. Failure to display proper decorum could result in immediate disqualification. This includes attempting to recruit students from other studios to attend yours at one of our events.
- The Star Dance Alliance and the hosting venue are not responsible for personal injury or property loss.
- Please note that every venue is unique and has its own set of rules concerning outside food & beverage, use of helium balloons, etc. For specifics, please contact the venue directly.

PROPS

- Props must be loaded in and out of the venue on the same day they are used. Storing props in the wings or backstage is not permitted.
- All props must be fire-proofed.
- Props must be set up and removed from the stage in a reasonable time frame.
- Props must be labeled with the studio name for identification purposes backstage.
- No dangerous props may be used on stage (such as fire, swords or knives). Live animals are also prohibited on stage.
- Please alert the backstage manager of any props that will be used before your performance time.

PROTESTS

A protest may only be initiated by a Studio Director/Teacher. It must be signed and submitted in writing to the director of the show within **30 minutes** of the incident involved. Protests may not be submitted after an awards ceremony.

MUSIC

Any music which contains profanity or racial slurs will result in a **5-POINT PENALTY**. *Note: If you are questioning if your music is ok, please send us your music in advance and we will check it.*

Contestants are required to provide their own music that must be recorded at the proper speed

- **UPLOAD** - Music can be uploaded through our registration system, and must be done at least 7 days prior to the competition.
- **CD'S** - There must be only **ONE** routine per CD. A back up of all music must be accessible in the event that it is needed. CD's must be labeled with the routine name, number and studio name.
- **IPODS** – These will **ONLY** be accepted if it is clearly labeled with the studio name, address and phone #. Each routine must be its own separate playlist. The playlist must be labeled with the entry number (four digits) and routine title in the following format: “0384- Party in the USA”. It is also important to make sure that the repeat function is not enabled. The device **MUST** be fully charged, and it is the responsibility of the studio to provide a charger. This example is clearly labeled as entry number 384, Party in the USA.
- **FLASH DRIVES** – These must be labeled with the studio name. Each routine must be labeled with the entry number and routine title in the following format: “384 – Party in the USA”.

REGISTRATION

- Entries will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis and will be limited to the amount of performance time available.
- All entries **MUST** be **PAID IN FULL** before they will be processed
- Payments must be made by Credit Card or E-Check. **NO CERTIFIED CHECKS, PERSONAL CHECKS, or MONEY ORDERS** will be accepted.
- **NO PHONE, FAXED or MAILED** entries will be accepted.
- All entries must include the correct names and ages of all contestants.
- The name of a routine may **NOT** be the same name as the dance studio.
- Be certain that you are entering your performers in the **CORRECT PERFORMANCE LEVEL** when inputting your registration data. This **WILL NOT** be able to be changed after the schedule is completed.
- After payment is made, you will receive a summary via email of all routines registered. It is imperative that you review this information including birth date and age division, and reply **IMMEDIATELY** with any corrections. **NO CHANGES WILL BE PERMITTED LESS THAN 10 DAYS PRIOR TO THE COMPETITION OR AT THE COMPETITION.**
- We reserve the right to add additional competition days/times, if deemed necessary, and also reserves the right to move the competition location if it becomes necessary due to circumstances beyond its control.
- We also reserve the right to limit solos to two (2) per dancer, depending on venue capability and space.

TIME SCHEDULE

A time schedule will be e-mailed (provided that an email address was clearly provided on your registration) no later than seven (7) days before the competition date to all entrants. There is NO general format. Every regional schedule is based solely on the breakdown of entries by solos, duet/trios, groups and lines in each age division for that particular city. This breakdown is not available until all of the entries have been processed. At that time, a schedule will be set to best accommodate the entrants at that competition. No time requests will be accepted.

ALL ENTRIES MUST COMPETE ON THE DAY AND TIME ASSIGNED. We understand that there are sometimes unforeseen events that can arise. Any entry, which is not able to compete at their assigned day and time, may request an alteration to the routine's performance time. If this is approved, this routine may be permitted to compete for AJUDICATION ONLY and may not be eligible for high score awards. Any change in competition days and/or times is at the sole discretion of the Director and will be determined by the time allowance at each Regional Competition.

The number in which each routine is assigned is for reference and identification purposes. Routines will perform in numerical order. If the backstage manager sees potential delays due to costume changes, you may be asked to compete out of sequence in order. Please be prepared to compete when we call your number, even though it may be a few numbers earlier than you anticipated.

Performers MUST be checked in with the Backstage Manager 1 HOUR prior to their scheduled performance time. Failure to do so may result in your routine being disqualified.

****NOTE**** If you determine that you do not have enough time between numbers to change costumes, it is imperative that you advise the backstage manager. If the backstage manager has not been notified of any problem, and you are not ready to compete when called, your routine may be disqualified.

GENERAL DIVISIONS / TIME LIMITS

IMPORTANT: Any person who is actively participating in a routine for ANY amount of time is counted as a performer and must be registered as such. This includes any person who can be seen by the judges for any amount of time, and any person who may be in a costume that covers their face.

Solo – (1) Performer

Time Limit - 2:45 minutes

Fashion Modeling & Compulsory Time Limit – 1:30 minutes

- **Solos MUST compete in the competition level in which the dancer is registered originally on the studio's roster.** (*The only exception is Compulsory, Fashion Modeling & Vocal Solos, which must compete in the Advanced Level.*)
- Advanced and Intermediate Soloists are limited to entering a maximum of three (3) solo performance categories and may not compete against themselves in any category. (*Soloists may compete in the Compulsory, Fashion Modeling and Vocal Category in addition to the dance categories.*)
- A contestant cannot place more than once for high score in the Solo division.
- We reserve the right to limit solos to two (2) per dancer, depending on the venue capability and space.

Duet/Trio - 2-3 Performers

Time Limit - 2:45 minutes

- *No Duet/Trio may compete against themselves in the same performance category with the same performers. There must be a 50% difference in performers to be in the same age group of the same category.*

Small Group – 4-9 Performers

Time Limit - 3:00 minutes

Large Group – 10-19 Performers

Time Limit - 4:00 minutes

Line - 20 or more Performers

Time Limit - 4:30 minutes

**A Maximum of 6:00 minutes extended time may be purchased. Any line over 6 minutes MUST be entered in the Grand Line Division.*

Addendum - Due to the late date of this rule change, and now the 2020 Covid Pandemic, Lines will be permitted to purchase extended time over 6 minutes without having to move to the Grand Line category for the 2021 competition season ONLY.

Grand Line – 20 or more Performers

Time Limit – 7:00 minutes

- Grand Lines compete in the *ADVANCED LEVEL ONLY*, and have NO specific performance category (*Jazz, Tap, Lyrical, etc.*).
- Average age will determine the age at which this routine competes. This division allows age 20 & over performers to compete and not be placed in the Adult Division.

At any Regional competition, if any act drops below the minimum number of performers required in the group they registered for, the act will be adjudicated, however, the act will not be eligible for High Score Awards. *EXAMPLE:* A group of 10 performers registered as a Large Group... if 1 performer is unable to perform, this will then drop the number in the group to 9. They can still be judged as a Large Group, so that all 10 can attend Championships, but they will not be eligible for the High Score Awards. If this routine changes to a Small Group, then they will be eligible for High Scores and will qualify for Nationals as a Small Group.

EXTENDED TIMES: Solos, Duet/Trios, Groups & Lines may purchase an extended time of 30 seconds at \$3/per performer. Grand Lines may purchase an extended time of 2 minutes at \$3/performer. To register for extended time, please check the box on the routine that indicates “Request Extended Time” on your online studio account. **Note:** Routines that are over the time limit will result in automatic point deduction of one point or a fraction thereof for every 5 seconds of overtime if extended time has not been registered for that routine.

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AGE DIVISIONS

AGES ARE DETERMINED BASED ON THE DANCERS AGE ON JANUARY 1ST, 2021.

DIVISIONS: 4 & Under; 5-6 Yrs; 7-8 yrs; 9-11yrs; 12-14 yrs; 15-16 yrs; 17-19 yrs; 20-29 yrs; 30-39 yrs; 40-49 yrs; 50 yrs and over. NOTE: JAZZ, TAP, LYRICAL, CONTEMPORARY AND OPEN CATEGORY CONTESTANTS WILL ENTER THE FOLLOWING SINGLE AGE DIVISIONS: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19.

DETERMINING AGE DIVISION: Duets/Trios, Groups and Lines will compete at the average age division determined by averaging the age of all members of the group. Do not use decimals or round up. Example: If the average comes to 11.8, they will compete in the 11-year old age division. NOTE: If there are any substitutions of any performers for National Championships, the ages must then be re-averaged and the group must then compete at the age division that the average is as of the first day of championships they are attending.

ADULT AGE DIVISION: Any routine with a performer 20 years or older will compete in the Adult Division (*with the exception of the Grand Line Division*). All adult performers MUST compete in the

Advanced performance level and are not eligible for High Score Awards. If enough routines are entered in the Adult Category, a special High Score Award may be awarded at that regional. Adult dancers may include Teachers, Professionals, Parents, etc.

PROOF OF AGE: All performers are required to have proof of ages on hand at every SDA competition. Failure to provide a birth certificate or drivers license if an age division is challenged will result in disqualification of that routine.

HIGH SCORE AGE DIVISIONS: High Score Awards will be given out in the Petite (8 & Under), Junior (9-11), Teen (12-14) and Senior (15-19) age divisions.

***AGE BUMP RULE** – The oldest performer in a duet/trio, small group, large group or line may only compete (1) age division lower than his/her age. Example: A routine with a 15 year old performer may only compete in the Teen (age 12-14) or Senior (age 15-19) divisions regardless of the average age. *Example: A 15 year old performer may never compete in the Petite (8 & Under) or Junior (9-11) age division.*

COMPETITION LEVELS

Studios are required to assign a competition level for EACH performer when they are entering their roster in the registration system. Please be certain that you are entering your performers in the CORRECT PERFORMANCE LEVEL. *NOTE: DANCERS MAY ONLY BE REGISTERED AT ONE LEVEL...Any dancer found to be registered in more than one level may be disqualified.*

Dancer's levels WILL NOT be able to be changed once entered.

SOLOS and DUET/TRIOS MUST COMPETE AT THE LEVEL IN WHICH THEY ARE REGISTERED ON YOUR ROSTER.

****IMPORTANT**** - It is at the judges discretion to move any routine that they feel is placed in a level below their ability to the level in which they feel is necessary. All judges decisions are FINAL. If the judges determine that a routine should be moved to a different level, and that level has already competed, the routine will then be eligible for adjudication only.

ANY ROUTINE THAT IS BUMPED TO A HIGHER COMPETITION LEVEL AT ANY SDA COMPETITION FOR ANY REASON WILL REMAIN IN THAT HIGHER LEVEL FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE SEASON THROUGHOUT ALL STAR DANCE ALLIANCE COMPETITIONS.

LEVEL ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES

The following guidelines are suggestions to be used in determining the appropriate level placement of each competitor. Because no competition can possibly know how many hours a child dances or for how many years they have danced, it is left to the teachers own sound judgement when entering level placement for their students.

ADVANCED Level: This competition level is for *top-level competitive* dancers who perform at an advanced technical level. All entries will be adjudicated, and will receive High Score Awards. ****This is the ONLY level that is eligible to compete for Title and receive Prize Monies. In addition, only advanced dancers are eligible to receive the Highest Level Adjudication.*

INTERMEDIATE Level: This competition level is for the *intermediate or 'on the rise'* dancers, and is recommended for dancers who have had approximately 2-5 years experience. Entries will be adjudicated, and will receive High Score Awards within this level.

NOVICE Level: This competition level division is for *beginning* dancers who have little or no experience competing. Dancers may only be considered 'novice' dancers for a **maximum of 3 years**.. Entries will be adjudicated, and will receive High Score Awards within this level.

Small Groups and Duet/Trios - The highest level of dancer in a routine will determine the level of the routine. *Example: One Advanced Dancer and 8 Intermediate Dancers will determine the routine to be in the Advanced Level. One Intermediate Level dancer and 8 novice dancers will determine the routine to be in the Intermediate Level.*

Large Groups and Lines - No more than 1/3 of the dancers in a routine may be a higher performance level than the level that the routine is entered. *Example: If a routine has 12 dancers - 4 advanced, 4 intermediate & 4 novice, the routine will be placed in the 'advanced' level because 1/3 or more of the dancers are advanced.*

IMPORTANT NOTES ON COMPETITION LEVELS –

*No dancer that is registered in the 'advanced' level will be permitted to dance in ANY 'novice' level routine.

*No level changes may be made at the door.

*No Solo may be bumped to a higher competition level than the level in which the performer is entered on the 2021 studio roster.

*Groups/Lines may be placed in a higher competition level than the average of the participants, but never a lower level. This must be done PRIOR to the competition. Note: Any routine that is bumped to a higher level at any SDA competition will remain in that higher level for the remainder of the season throughout ALL Star Dance Alliance Competitions.

*Groups/Lines may be placed in a higher competition level than the average of the participants, but never a lower level. This must be done PRIOR to the competition. Note: Any routine that is bumped to a higher level at any SDA competition will remain in that higher level for the remainder of the season throughout ALL Star Dance Alliance Competitions.

PERFORMANCE CATEGORIES

Acro/Gymnastics - A routine that contains primarily gymnastic tricks, including, but not limited to walkover, front/back limbers, handstands, headstands, cartwheels, etc. There should be a blend of gymnastics and dance together.

Ballet - A routine consisting of classical steps & ballet technique. Ballet shoes must be worn.

Baton - Routine using baton(s) and baton technique .

Character - A routine that portrays a character that is easily recognizable.

Cheerleading - A routine that has a combination of strong, sharp movements, vocal cheering and dance. May contain up to 50% acro/gymnastics.

Clogging - A routine which uses clogging technique.

Compulsory – (*Advanced Level/Solos Only*) A performance of pre-determined, specified dance techniques. (Please see details listed on next page)

Contemporary – A routine that combines both lyrical and modern movements.

Drill Team - A group performing military type moves with precision marching and may incorporate any type of dance.

Fashion Modeling – (*Advanced Level/Solos Only*) Must include Runway "T-style" Modeling Technique

- FORMAL- Any party dress or "After 5" attire.
- SPORTSWEAR- Casual skirts, pants, etc., select sport, skiing, tennis, horseback riding, etc.
- SWIMWEAR - Any swimwear or swimsuit & cover-up.

Folkloric - Routine incorporating ethnic styles of dance such as polkas, Hawaiian, Spanish, etc.

Hip Hop - A dance that consists of the latest street dance style, as seen in current dance videos.

Jazz - A routine that utilizes jazz technique such as splits, isolation, leaps, etc.

Lip Sync - A routine that utilizes pantomime techniques and mimics voices on pre-recorded music.

Lyrical - A routine that is performed to the lyrics or mood of the music.

Modern - A routine containing a contemporary style of dance.

Musical Theater - A routine performed to the music of a Broadway musical or a movie musical.

Open - A routine that is a combination of any of the other categories; a routine that does not exactly fit any of the definitions of any other category. (No Vocals permitted)

Photogenic Contest - Contestants should submit a 5x7 or larger photograph the FIRST DAY OF COMPETITION to the registration desk. The photo must be of only one person. Photogenic contestants must be a registered competitor in that competition and may register more than one photo.

Pointe - A routine that consists of ballet/pointe technique. Pointe shoes must be worn.

Pom Pon - A routine combining dance with the use of pom pons for at least 80% of the routine.

Production - This category may be entered ONLY in Line division and must have a minimum of 20 performers.

Song and Dance – A routine that combines dancing and singing. Both genres are expected to be present in this routine. Lead vocals may not be lip synched and may have back up vocal accompaniment only. We will provide two handheld, wireless microphones. No personal/studio microphones, headsets, etc. will be permitted.

Tap - A routine utilizing tap technique and must be performed with tap shoes only.

Vocal – (*Advanced Level Only*) A performance of any type of vocal presentation. Accompaniment must be pre-recorded. (No lead vocals may be recorded; backup voices only will be permitted). We will provide two handheld, wireless microphones. No personal/studio microphones, headsets, etc. will be permitted to be hooked into the sound system.

COMPULSORY SOLO REQUIREMENTS

This is a solo performance of specific dance techniques set forth by the list below. Dancers will be judged on the quality of execution regardless of the difficulty level. Choreography and/or transitional movements between each required technical element will not be judged, but is permitted.

Scoring Breakdown: Turns - 30 points, Control/Balance/Flexibility – 30 points,
 Leaps/Jumps - 30 points Bonus Section – 10 points

ATTIRE: Contestants MUST wear black, form-fitting dance apparel (NO Costumes). Hair must be pulled back away from face. No socks may be worn unless they are worn with shoes. Shoes are optional (must wear two).

MUSIC: Technical elements must be executed in time with the music of your choice (any genre may be used).

REQUIREMENTS: All 4 technical elements MUST be executed in each category IN THE ORDER in which they are listed below.

11 & Under Requirements:

1. FLEXIBILITY/CONTROL/BALANCE
 - a. Split (any side or center)
 - b. Leg Stretch (balance holding leg in any way you choose) *ex: heel stretch or scorpion*
 - c. Grande Battement (front or side)
 - d. Extension/Développé (front, side or arabesque)
2. TURNS
 - a. Right OR Left double pirouette turned out en Dehors (outside)
 - b. Piqué turn (turned out with coupé back en Dedans)
 - c. 3 Chaîné turns (in relevé)
 - d. Right or Left Inside Pirouette (in plié with parallel passé)
3. LEAPS/JUMPS (*Leaps may be executed Right OR Left*)
 - a. Échappé sauté (from 5th to 2nd)
 - b. Sauté arabesque
 - c. Grand Jeté (brushing front leg, straight jeté)
 - d. Saut de chat (grand jeté with front leg développé)
2. BONUS SECTION (2-3 of your own technical elements to showcase)

Examples: Acro passes or tricks (walkovers, valdez, back handsprings, chin/chest stands)
Advanced and exciting turn sections featuring multiple turns
Switch leaps, Turning Jeté, Men - Double tours

12 & Over Requirements:

1. FLEXIBILITY/CONTROL/BALANCE
 - a. Split (any side or center)
 - b. Leg Stretch (balance holding leg in any way you choose) *ex: heel stretch or scorpion*
 - c. Choose TWO of the following extensions:
 - i. Penché arabesque
 - ii. Écarté side extension
 - iii. Tilt (side extension, tilting back laterally)
 - iv. Forward layout - parallel side extension with flat back in forward position
2. TURNS
 - a. Double en Dehors (outside) - Right AND Left pirouette with passé turned out (Not into fouette turns)
 - b. Double inside - Pirouette en Dedans turned out with high passé
 - c. Attitude turn (front or back attitude) - Can be piqué attitude turn or plié relevé en Dehors, en Dedans
 - d. Females - (4) fouetté turns / Males - (4) turns in second (Pirouettes into our out of fouette turns do not count as double pirouettes en Dehors as stated above)
3. LEAPS/JUMPS (*Leaps may be executed Right OR Left*)
 - a. Sauté arabesque
 - b. Grand Jeté (brushing front leg, straight jeté)
 - c. Saut de chat (développé, passé to straight front leg grand jeté)
 - d. Leap in 2nd or Side jeté (développé or brush straight leg)
2. BONUS SECTION (2-3 of your own technical elements to showcase)

Examples: Acro passes or tricks (walkovers, valdez, back handsprings, chin/chest stands)
Advanced and exciting turn sections featuring multiple turns
Switch leaps, Turning Jeté, Men - Double tours

***NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

All Star Dance Alliance Competitions will present the following overall awards at their final showdown (*Battle, Big Show, No Limits, etc.*) at National Championships...

(4) Victory Cups – These will be awarded in the Advanced Level to the overall highest scoring routine in the Petite (8 & Under), Junior (9-11), Teen (12-14) and Senior (15-19) age divisions.

(2) Grand Line Champions – These will be awarded to the 1st place scoring Grand Line in the 11 & Under and 12 & Over divisions.

(2) Premier Cups – These will be awarded in the Intermediate Level to the overall highest scoring routine in the 11 & Under and 12 & Over age divisions.