

THE DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS RULES

September 2026 Updated



Application

Schools must register online via our [competition page here](#)

Please complete the google form.

All competition entries to then be submitted to Ricia Taylor
admin@dancechampionships.co.uk

Payments & Invoicing will be managed by Sam Blackden
accounts@dancechampionships.co.uk

Deposit

We require a holding deposit of **£150** from each dance school to secure their place at The Championships.

This is payable upon application to the competition. This deposit will be taken off the final invoice amount. If groups withdraw from the competition the deposit becomes non-refundable. If entry fees do not reach the full amount of £150.00 a 50% deposit is payable.

Secondary Schools make a deposit for **£100** to secure their place.

Entry Fees

PRICES FOR DANCE SCHOOLS ENTRY 2026 - 2027

Solos	£22.00
Duo	£32.00 (£16.00 per dancer)
Trio	£48.00 (£16 per dancer)
Groups	£11.00 per dancer
Dance Challenges	£12.00 per dancer

PRICES FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS ENTRY 2026 - 2027

Solos	£12.00
Duo	£20.00 (£10 per dancer)
Trio	£33.00 (£11 per dancer)
Groups	£8.00 per dancer
Dance Challenges	£7.50 per dancer

Invoices

Invoices for the competition will be emailed upon application of entries. Once invoices are raised and emailed, **no further changes can be made**, and the invoice is fully payable.

Invoices must be paid within 21 days of receipt and groups will not be able to compete in the event, unless invoices are paid in full. We advise that schools check their entries thoroughly before applying. Invoices are raised on the original entry form and cannot be changed. All invoice enquiries should come to accounts@dancechampionships.co.uk

If invoices are outstanding post competition, groups will be unable to compete in any future Dance Championship events until their fees are paid.

Ages for Solo, Duos, Trios and Groups

Mini	4 – 6 years
Pre - Junior	7 – 8 years
Junior	9 – 10 years
Pre - Intermediate	11 - 12 years
Intermediate	13 – 14 years
Senior	15 years +

Routines are entered by the average age of the duos/trios/groups.

The age of the dancer is taken on the date of the competition, so please be aware of this on your entry form. Please note any birthdays of your dancers.

Groups

Groups will be split into different dance styles if there are enough entries.

If your dancers pull out of the competition and this affects the average age, leaders must contact us to discuss in detail, as this may change their section.

Depending on entry numbers, it's the organisers discretion to combine age groups where appropriate.

Styles

Contemporary	Lyrical, Contemporary
Ballet	Ballet, Pointe
Jazz	Jazz, Modern, Musical Theatre
Commercial	Street, Hip Hop
Open	Acro, Tap, Character

Please Note: We do not accept Song & Dance routines

Time Limits

Solos: 2 minutes maximum
Duo & Trio: 2 minutes 30 seconds
Groups: 4 minutes maximum

Times will be strictly monitored

Proof Of Age

In certain circumstances, we may require proof of age to avoid disqualification. This may happen during the competition if we feel dancers have been entered into the wrong section. This may also be challenged by the judges.

Categories

The organisers will strive to separate the styles in solos, duets, trios and groups. The organisers reserve the right to update/change rules and regulations including the age divisions at any time.

Number of Entries per School

We offer each school a maximum of **40 entries** for a two-day competition and **30 entries** for a 1-day event, per school. If there are any entries left over, we will offer these out to schools. Please contact the organised to arrange this, this is a first come first served basis.

Once the deadline has passed, we may be able to open more space to all schools if available. We must ensure a competition that is fair and rich with variety. Also, to ensure we have a range of dance schools present rather than just a few competing against themselves.

Secondary Schools

We provide a unique opportunity for dancers at secondary schools to compete at the Championships in solos, duos/trios and groups. These take place on a two-day event only, programmed on a Sunday. We cannot confirm the time of this until the running orders are created. Secondary Schools are provided their own section, so they are competing against other secondary students in their age bracket. We also offer standalone competitions for dance in education. [Find more here about Secondary Schools competitions](#)

Dancer Levels & Guidelines - Novice /Advanced Criteria

We offer both novice and advanced sections. The following guidelines are to be used in determining the appropriate level placement of each competitor. It is left to the **teachers' own sound judgement** when entering level placement for their students as they have the full information and background on their experience. We also understand that every competition has a different scoring system.

The judges have full discretion to move novice dancers into advanced if they feel the dancer is placed in the wrong category.

Novice Criteria

Dancers may only be considered 'novice' if they fall under one or more of the following:

- Dancer has been dancing for less than 2 years
- Dancer receives under 3 hours of training a week
- Dancer is brand new to performing on a stage

- The dancer's level of technique is at a foundation level and still developing

We do not accept Senior Novice dancers aged 17 or above. These dancers must be entered into the senior section as an advanced dancer.

Video Evidence

We now require **video evidence** of your novice dancer (solo, duo, trio & group dance). This is to ensure that dancers are assigned into the correct level prior to the competition. We must ensure that our competition is fair to all participants. This is to be sent to the organisers along with the entry forms. Please contact us directly when you submit your entries forms.

Advanced Criteria

Dancers are considered 'advanced' if they fall under one or more of the following:

- Dancers have been dancing for more than 3 years
- Dancers receive 4 or more hours of training a week
- Dancers has competed in competitions previously and have placed in 1st, 2nd or 3rd

Scoring

Our judges score each entry on the following:

Technique /20

Performance /20

Choreography /20

Rhythm & Musicality /20

Overall Presentation /20

Total score per judge is 100

Judge's Decision

The judges' decisions are final and have full discretion at the events. Judges are not to be approached by teachers, dancers, parents, or audience members as this is seen as unfair and breaching the competition rules and can lead to disqualification.

Performers who run over the time limit will be stopped. The judge's decision concerning the performance is final and no correspondence or communication can be entered. Any breach of this rule will result in instant disqualification of those concerned and no refunds will be given.

Times of Sections

Times of the sections will be arranged after the entry closing date. The running order of performances will be decided by the organisers once applications are received. You will be informed of the approximate times once the programme is finalised; *this could be the week before the competition.*

Running Orders

Running orders are subject to change up to **two days** before the competition.

The first draft of running orders will be sent once **all entries** have been received and only then can dance teachers send their amendments. The running order will be sent again once all amendments are submitted. After this, the only amendment we will accept will be to withdraw a number. Schools will be charged as per invoice information above. Please check all entries before applying.

Pre-Performance

Performers must perform in order of the programme. Performers are expected to be backstage at the commencement of their section. If performers are not available when called, they may forfeit their right to perform. Organisers will not be held responsible for any performer not reporting on time.

Performance Times

Performers are required to be at the competition at least **1 hour before their section** is due to start. Organisers have the right to continue the running of the competition up to 45 mins earlier.

Music Requirements

All music to be sent prior to the event date. Music to be sent via Dropbox/ WeTransfer or Google Drive in a MP3 format only. Please label each track with your *Dancer Name/Age/Section/Dance School*

Send music to admin@dancechampionships.co.uk

Music MUST be an MP3 music file. It must be an original file, brought or downloaded. Please do not send a ripped or corrupt file. This will not play on the theatre's boards.

Music Rules

Swear words or inappropriate song choices are not allowed. This choice could lead to disqualification. Please check your lyrics.

Inappropriate Movements

All dance pieces should be age appropriate, and the choice of movements should represent the theme and feel of the dance. Any movements deemed to be inappropriate could lead to disqualification.

Re-Dancing

Repeating dances is not permitted in any section with exception for technical issues at the discretion of the organisers.

Stage Information

Each competition is held in a different venue, and we strive to provide a large enough stage space for our competitors. Details of the space will be sent nearer the time of the event.

Loss or Damage

The competition organisers will not be held responsible for any injury, loss or damage to any person or property at the venue. The organisers accept no liability for theft or damages. We ask that all groups remain vigilant at the event and always keep all personal belongings with them. Our competitions are public events and even though we can safeguard who is allowed

backstage, we cannot prevent situations or theft that may arise within the backstage area and within the competition itself.

Risk Assessment

The organisers are not responsible for any injury caused backstage or during the performance of your act. Dangerous stunts, gymnastics, acrobatics etc are allowed but done so at the performers/teachers own risk.

Behaviour

Dancers must act appropriately at the event, this includes being silent when backstage, being respectful of other dancers and dance schools. Any behaviour deemed as inappropriate will be challenged.

We will not tolerate inappropriate behaviour towards our team members or any venue staff members. Any behaviour deemed as unacceptable could result in removal from the competition.

Refund / Credits

Once an invoice has been paid, we are unable to offer refunds for dancers who are unable to participate in our events. However, entry fees can be credited towards a future event, or principals may transfer the entry to another student to compete, subject to availability and the relevant entry requirements.

Venues

Our events take place in public theatres, community spaces and educational buildings. Please note, that whilst we hire these venues, we are unable to control aspects of these spaces including the management of the front of house which includes the audience and spectators. The box office deals with tickets and the arrangement of wristbands where appropriate.

We also ask that dance schools ensure that their children are chaperoned throughout the event, as spaces are open to the public.

Photography & Video Consent

We require a consent form be completed when taking part in the competition which includes consent for photography and filming of your dancers to take place. If you have children in your school which are not allowed to be filmed or photographed this needs to be made clear on the consent form so we can prohibit filming of that child or group / school.

Professional photographers will be present at the events and our social media channels will post clips of dancers throughout the event.

Tickets

These are sold through the venue's box office, unless stated otherwise. Wrist bands are issued for the competition, day and weekend passes available. The Dance Championships hold no responsibility for the management of tickets or refunds. This is dealt directly through the venues box office.

Organisation of Changing Areas

It is at the chaperones/ teacher's discretion to decide who will be allowed in the changing rooms and in their backstage area. It is also the responsibility of the chaperone/teacher to make sure the participants are always chaperoned.

Chaperone Information – Please Read

We require chaperones at this event to accompany their dancers / group / dance school. Please read the following information:

Chaperones must have a valid DBS or registered chaperone licence which they must bring with them to the event. We will need evidence of these prior to the event.

We require 12 students (under 16's) per chaperone.

Please do not provide too many chaperones backstage, ensure you have the correct amount, but do not exceed more than required. This limits space backstage for the performers.

The Dance Championships is a Kent based company however does hire venues in different counties and therefore entertainment rules fall under different authorities. To ensure we are covered, we must have every child's full name, DOB and address. We will also request chaperone information including their licence number and expiry date.

A notification of performers' (BOPA) form will be sent to all competing schools for them to complete. Parents will not be permitted backstage with dancers if they are not registered on the register as a chaperone. We advise that parents are either DBS checked OR hold a chaperones license.

If you have younger dancers that need changing and looking after, you must arrange suitable chaperones for your group and children and the list of names **MUST** be registered before entering the event.

We have every right to refuse entry to parents backstage if we do not have their information in advance. This falls as part of our safeguarding policy and for the protection of our young performers.

Only those who hold a chaperone licence or DBS will be permitted backstage.

Please contact us directly if you have any questions about The Dance Championships.

admin@dancechampionships.co.uk

We look forward to seeing you onstage!

Sam Blackden & Ricia Taylor

Directors, The Dance Championships