

MA Dance Contest Guidelines

Dance Team Classifications & Divisions All Star/Studio Divisions

All-Star/Studio Divisions will be determined by the average age of the total team. Student ages will be based on the student's age as of **August 31, 2023**. All studio teams will be required to submit official rosters with student names, ages and birthdates two weeks prior to competition. In the event that a dancer's age is questioned or contested, studio owners/teachers need to be able to provide proof of age (birth certificate or government I.D.). Tiny, Mini, Youth and Junior age divisions have both Classic and Select options. The Classic Division is available for teams comprised of students with less experience. Classic and Select teams will not compete against each other in genre categories. Students who are members of a Select Team may NOT also compete on a Classic Team. Student crossovers may compete in multiple teams of the same Classic or Select Division in different age groups.

Tot Division	4 Years & Younger
Tiny Classic	6 Years & Younger
Tiny Select	6 Years & Younger
Mini Classic	9 Years & Younger
Mini Select	9 Years & Younger
Youth Classic	12 Years & Younger
Youth Select	12 Years & Younger
Junior Classic	15 Years & Younger
Junior Select	15 Years & Younger
Senior	18 Years & Younger
Collegiate	19+ Year Old

	Studio	Public
Classic	Students who are on a less competitive track with training. Students who take less than 4 hours of class per week (excluding rehearsal). Classic teams are not eligible for overall award placement.	Teams with little to no prior dance experience/training. Choreography focuses on traditional and foundational skills. (single/double pirouettes, grand jetes, chaines, etc.). Classic teams are not eligible for overall award placement.
Select	Students who are on a more competitive track with training. Students who take more than 4 hours of class per week (excluding rehearsal). The Select Division is our traditional competitive division.	Teams that are working at a more advanced technical level. Movement includes more advanced skills. (chaines into leaps, connected turn series, acrobatic skills). The Select Division is our traditional competitive division.

School Divisions

Public Elementary	All Elementary School Teams
Jr. High/Middle School Small	4-19 Students
Jr. High/Middle School Large	20 or More Students
Pep Squad	All Pep-Squads
Junior Varsity Small	4-15 Students
Junior Varsity Large	16+ or More Students
Small Classic	4-15 Students
Small Select	4-15 Students
Medium Classic	16-25 Students
Medium Select	16-25 Students
Large Classic	26-35 Students
Large Select	26-35 Students
Extra Large Classic	36-45 Students
Extra Large Select	36-45 Students
Super	46 or More Students
High School Elite	8-24 Students
Co-Ed	25% or more of the team is male
Jr. High All Male	All Jr. High All Male Teams
High School All Male	All High School All Male Teams
Private Schools	Private School Teams

School teams are divided primarily by team size with the divisions listed to the left.

Any routines performed with less than 70% of the total team size will be disqualified as a team routine and moved to the ensemble division.

High School Pep Squad and Junior Varsity team members may NOT also be a member of a Varsity Level team.

Private Schools may choose to either compete in the Private School Division or they can compete by team size.

Elementary Teams, Pep Squads, Elite Teams, Co-Ed Teams, All Male Teams and Private School Teams are not divided by team size.

The **Classic Division** is available for teams comprised of students with less experience. Classic and Select teams will not compete against each other in genre categories. Classic teams are not eligible to be in the top overall placements. Students who are members of a Select Team may NOT also compete on a Classic Team.

High School Elite Teams should be comprised of a portion of a High School Team with no less than 8 and no more than 24 performers. Elite Teams may not be solely comprised of a group of students also categorized as officers.

Co-Ed will only apply to public schools that contain 25% or more male performers who are school certified full-time members of the dance team. All other public school teams with less than 25% male members should register as a regular high school team by team size. Since Junior High & High School overlap the freshman year, 9th grade students may compete in either of these two divisions.

MA Dance Contest Guidelines

Dance Teams Dance Categories

All-Star/Studio and School Teams may enter any of the following dance categories:

Contemporary	Hip Hop	Jazz	Kick	Lyrical	Military	Modern
Novelty	Open	Pom	Prop	Show Production	Specialty	

In order to be eligible for overall awards, teams must compete at least three routines. It is recommended that teams do three different categories of routines, however it is allowed to do multiples of one category. Teams who do multiple routines in one category will be competing against themselves for category placement.

Officer Lines Officer Line Guidelines & Categories

The officer division is for students who hold leadership positions within your team. These students may elect to compete routines separate from the team. In order to be eligible for overall awards, teams must compete at least three routines.

It is recommended that teams do three different categories of routines, however it is allowed to do multiples of one category. Teams who do multiple routines in one category will be competing against themselves for category placement.

Officer Lines must compete in the same division as their team, whether their team is present at the competition or not.

Officer routines should be comprised of the same students for each routine competed. Special circumstances such as students with injuries being pulled from some but not all routines are accepted. Officer Lines with different dancers in each routine are not eligible for overall awards.

Officer Lines may enter any of the following dance categories:

Contemporary	Hip Hop	Jazz	Kick	Lyrical	Military
Modern	Novelty	Open	Pom	Prop	

Dance Teams and Officer Lines

Dance Team & Officer Line Routine Guidelines

Including set up, entrance, breakdowns and exits, teams have a total of 5 minutes of floor time per routine.

Show Productions are allotted 10 minutes total.

Entrances and exits are not a part of the scoring process.

A one point penalty per judge per minute will be assessed for exceeding routine time limits.

Music should be brought to the sound table at least three routines prior to your performance.

Music should be provided on an MP3 player (phone, tablet, laptop, etc.). View our music guidelines on page 5 for more information.

All props and backdrops should be taped to avoid damage to wooden floors and should be constructed to fit through a gymnasium 7' double door with a center crossbar removed. **ALL PROPS MUST BE APPROVED BY THE HOST SCHOOLS PRIOR TO PERFORMANCE.** Prop questions should be directed to the host school contact for each event.

Team performance venues will be a standard high school basketball court arena. Solo, officer and ensemble areas may vary from venue to venue and could range from a gymnasium floor, auditorium stage, to hotel ballroom. When possible, basketball and volleyball lines will be taped down in areas that do not have the generic gym markings.

MA Dance Contest Guidelines

Solos and Ensembles

Solos

All solos will be split between All-Star/Studio and Public Schools.

Awards will be announced for All-Star/Studio and for Public Schools separately.

Student Ages will be based on their age as of August 31, 2023. In the event that a dancer's age is questioned or contested, studio owners/teachers need to be able to provide proof of age (birth certificate or government I.D.).

Solos are not divided by genre of dance. Soloists may enter as many solo entries as they would like, however each dancer may only place one time in the overall rankings.

Solo Routines should be between 1.5 minutes and 2.5 minutes.

Tot	4 Years & Younger
Tiny	5-6 Years
Mini	7-9 Years
Youth	10-12 Years
Junior	13-14 Years
Senior 15-16	15-16 Years
Senior 17-18	17-18 Years
Collegiate	19 Years & Older

Ensembles

Duets	2 Performers
Trios	3 Performers
Small Ensembles	4 to 8 Performers
Large Ensembles	9 or more Performers

All ensembles will include dancers from All-Star/Studio and Public Schools together.

Ensembles include the following divisions:

Duets, Trios, Small Ensembles (4-8 performers) & Large Ensembles (9 or more performers)

Dancer Age Division is based on their age as of August 31, 2023. Age Divisions will be determined by the average age of the total group. Student ages will be based on the student's age as of August 31, 2022.

Ensembles routines should be between 1.5 minutes to 2.5 minutes..

Tot	4 Years & Younger
Tiny	5-6 Years
Mini	7-9 Years
Youth	10-12 Years
Junior	13-14 Years
Senior 15-16	15-16 Years
Senior 17-18	17-18 Years
Collegiate	19 Years & Older

Solo and Ensemble Guidelines

Music should be brought to the sound table at least three routines prior to your performance.

Music should be provided on an MP3 player (phone, tablet, laptop, etc.). View our music guidelines on page 5 for more information.

All props and backdrops should be taped to avoid damage to wooden floors and should be constructed to fit through a gymnasium 7' double door with a center crossbar removed. **ALL PROPS MUST BE APPROVED BY THE HOST SCHOOLS PRIOR TO PERFORMANCE.** Prop questions should be directed to the host school contact for each event.

Team performance venues will be a standard high school basketball court arena. Solo, officer and ensemble areas may vary from venue to venue and could range from a gymnasium floor, auditorium stage, to hotel ballroom. When possible, basketball and volleyball lines will be taped down in areas that do not have the generic gym markings.

MA Dance Contest Guidelines

Registration Information

Registration

All registrations must be complete a minimum of 14 days prior to the competition date.

Events do sell out, please be sure to register as early as possible in able to insure your ability to attend.

When completing registration be sure to complete additional forms including solo and ensemble names, studio age forms, team size forms, etc.

Late entries must call to confirm space and availability.

Confirmation packets and contest information will be emailed within the week prior to competition. MA will send a schedule to the registration email address for approval first. MA will post a final schedule online after directors have had 24-48 hours to approve the schedule or request changes. The final schedule will be posted online 48 hours prior to the contest beginning.

Fees

MA 2023	Regionals	Classics	State	Nationals
Team & Elite	\$310.00	\$240.00	\$317.00	\$405.00
Show Production	\$365.00	\$245.00	\$370.00	\$405.00
Officer	\$280.00	\$175.00	\$285.00	\$325.00
Large Ensemble	\$255.00	\$155.00	\$245.00	\$260.00
Small Ensemble	\$165.00	\$145.00	\$210.00	\$225.00
Duets/Trios	\$160.00	\$135.00	\$205.00	\$210.00
Solos	\$110.00	\$95.00	\$115.00	\$125.00
Team Aux	\$265.00	\$205.00	\$270.00	\$360.00
Aux Ens	\$200.00	\$135.00	\$205.00	\$210.00
Aux Solo	\$100.00	\$95.00	\$105.00	\$105.00

Fees are due two weeks prior to competition dates.

Entry fees may be paid by a P.O., check, money order or online via credit card through the registration system.

Checks may not be post-dated and must clear the bank in order to finalize registration.

Payments can be mailed to:

MA Dance

P.O. Box 940605

Plano, TX 75094

All regional contest fees paid in full by December 15, 2023 will automatically receive a 10% discount. Any routines (team, officer, ensemble or solo) that you list on your registration and pay for in full by this date will qualify for this bonus. Routines added or changed after this time will be charged the regular registration fee. (This offer applies to Regional and National Competitions Only).

Multi Contest Discount: Teams who attend more than one MA contest in the 2023-2024 competition season will receive 20% off each additional competition attended. (This offer applies to Regional and National Competitions Only). *Only one discount may apply per contest.

Refunds for cancellations must be requested in writing and received in our office at least 14 days prior to the competition date. Phone calls will not be accepted as formal requests for cancellation. Cancellations made less than 14 days prior to a competition date will not receive refunds. **No refunds are given due to weather unless the contest is cancelled.**

MA Dance Contest Guidelines

Music

Music Submission at Contest

Music should be brought to the sound table at least three routines prior to your performance.
Music should be provided on an MP3 player (phone, tablet, laptop, etc.).

Please ensure that all devices:

- Have passcodes turned off
 - Are on airplane mode
 - Do not have a case that blocks the aux cord plug
 - Are charged above 30 percent and not in low power mode
 - Have the lock screen mode at 5 minute or never
 - Have songs on their own separate playlist
 - Have the music downloaded to the device
- (not relying on wifi through Apps like dropbox or google doc)

It is recommended to have a team representative at the sound table to press play and operate the device for each performance, however this is not required.

Adapters are provided for Apple products.

Music can also be pulled from USB drives (please provide 30 minutes prior to your performance)
Please always have a backup device or method of music for each song at each contest.

Music that is deemed inappropriate by the judging panel will cause for a loss of points in either or both the choreography and overall impression categories of the scoresheets.

Music Time Limits

Type of Routine	Minimum Time Length	Maximum Time Length
Solo	1 minute and 30 seconds	2 minutes and 30 seconds
Duet/Trio	1 minute and 30 seconds	2 minutes and 30 seconds
Ensembles	1 minute and 30 seconds	2 minutes and 30 seconds
Officer Routines	1 minute and 45 seconds	5 minutes (including entrance/exit & Props)
Team Routines	1 minute and 45 seconds	5 minutes (including entrance/exit & Props)
Show Productions	1 minute and 45 seconds	10 minutes (including entrance/exit & Props)

All music utilized for performance should be legally purchased by the team or organization that is performing. If questions regarding music purchasing arise a director should be able to show proof of how they obtained the music being utilized.

MA Dance Contest Guidelines

Awards

Solos

Solo titles will be awarded for studio and school separately in each age division.

At the end of team competitions solo award placements will be announced.

Pending the size of the contest 3 to 5 placements will be given in each solo division.

Solo winners will perform in a parade of solo champions before awards ceremony.

Duets, Trios and Ensembles

Duet, Trio and Ensemble placements will be given out (3rd through 1st place) for each age division. Duets, Trios and Ensembles are eligible for judges' choice awards. Judges' choice awards will be awarded to routines the judges' believe have special merit.

Officers

Officer lines compete against other officer lines for awards similar to teams.

1 Superior Trophy - 1 routine with an 85 or higher from at least 2 judges.

2 Superior Trophy - 2 routines with an 85 or higher from at least 2 judges.

Sweepstakes Award - 3 routines in which all 3 judges have awarded a score of 85 or higher.

Super Sweepstakes Award - 3 routines in which all judges award a score of 90 or higher.

1st place will be announced for all routine categories broken by size division.

(i.e. 1st place Small Jazz, 1st Medium Jazz, etc.)

OVERALL TECHNIQUE: Teams who enter three or more routines, and have a total composite technique score of 255 or higher out of 270 will receive an outstanding technique banner.

OVERALL CHOREOGRAPHY: Teams who enter three or more routines, and have a total composite choreography score of 260 or higher out of 270 will receive an outstanding choreography honors banner.

FIRST PLACE DIVISION AWARDS: Teams will receive a banner for receiving first overall in their size division. (Formerly called Best In Class).

Judges' choice awards will be awarded to routines the judges' believe have special merit.

TOP OVERALL TROPHIES: Pending contest size, the top officer lines will be announced in scoring order. (Formerly called Winner's Circle).

Teams

1 Superior Trophy - 1 routine with an 85 or higher from at least 2 judges.

2 Superior Trophy - 2 routines with an 85 or higher from at least 2 judges.

Sweepstakes Award - 3 routines in which all 3 judges have awarded a score of 85 or higher

Super Sweepstakes Award - 3 routines in which all judges award a score of 90 or higher.

1st through 3rd place will be announced for all routine categories broken by size division.

(i.e. 1st, 2nd & 3rd: Small Jazz, 1st, 2nd & 3rd Medium Jazz, etc.)

OVERALL TECHNIQUE: Teams who enter three or more routines, and have a total composite technique score of 255 or higher out of 270 will receive an outstanding technique banner.

OVERALL CHOREOGRAPHY: Teams who enter three or more routines, and have a total composite choreography score of 260 or higher out of 270 will receive an outstanding choreography honors banner.

FIRST PLACE DIVISION AWARDS: Teams will receive a banner for receiving first overall in their size division. (Formerly called Best In Class).

Judges' choice awards will be awarded to routines the judges' believe have special merit.

TOP OVERALL TROPHIES: Pending contest size, the top teams will be announced in scoring order. (Formerly called Winner's Circle).

NEW* OVERALL HIGHEST SCORING TEAMS** in each category will be awarded.

MA Dance Contest Guidelines

Understanding Our Award Ceremonies

Solos

Solo winners will be announced during the final division of the contest. There will be no solo finals at classic and regional contests. After the final team performance, all solo winners will perform in the parade of champions. Up to 5 placements (5th through 1st place) will be awarded during the Awards Ceremony.

Duets, Trios & Ensembles

Following the final solo Awards, ensemble awards will be announced beginning with duets.

Duets, Trios and Ensembles will be divided by age division. Ensembles are not divided by category of dance.

All ensemble divisions will be awarded up to three placements (3rd place, 2nd place & 1st place).

Ensembles will be announced as follows:

Duets by age division, Trios by age division, Small Ensembles by age division and Large Ensembles by age division.

Officers

Following Ensemble awards, officer awards will be announced.

Category placements by division will be announced by announced by genre as follows:

Jazz, Novelty, Military, Modern, Lyrical, Contemporary, Prop, Kick, Hip Hop, & Pom. A first place winner for each category within each age division will be announced for Officer Lines.

Officer Line ratings of 1 Superior, 2 Superior, Sweepstakes and Super Sweepstakes will be announced.

Choreography and/or Technique Banner recipients will be announced at the same time as their Sweepstakes or Super Sweepstakes rating.

Following rating trophies, the Judges' Choice Award Banners for Officer Lines will be passed out.

First Place Division Banners will be awarded for officer lines who have the highest overall composite score out of 900 (3 Routines) for their division. (This award was formerly called Best in Class).

Top Overall Trophies will be awarded separately for studio and public school teams in rank order for the top officer lines regardless of team division. (Formerly Winner's Circle).

Team

Following officer awards, team awards will be announced.

Category placements by division will be announced. These will be announced by genre as follows:

Jazz, Novelty, Military, Modern, Lyrical, Contemporary, Prop, Kick, Hip Hop, Pom & Show Production. A third, second and first place winner for each category within each division will be announced for teams.

Team ratings of 1 Superior, 2 Superior, Sweepstakes and Super Sweepstakes will be announced.

Choreography and/or Technique Banner recipients will be announced at the same time as their Sweepstakes or Super Sweepstakes rating.

Following rating trophies, the Judges' Choice Award Banners for teams will be passed out.

First Place Division Banners will be awarded for teams who have the highest overall composite score out of 900 (3 Routines) for their division. (This award was formerly called Best in Class).

Top Overall Trophies will be awarded separately for studio and public school teams in rank order for the top teams regardless of team division. (Formerly Winner's Circle).

After the Contest

All Directors will receive a bag with medals if they had dancers or auxiliary solos and ensembles. Directors will be emailed

the full awards PDF document within 36 hours of the completion of the competition.

Results will be posted online at madance.com within 72 hours of the completion of the competition.