



## 2026 Official Rules & Regulations

### A FEW QUICK NOTES.....

\*All dancers must be registered under a studio. We do NOT accept independent dancers. Each studio must have a minimum of (3) routines registered for each event.

\*To guarantee registration, a non-refundable \$250 deposit is encouraged which will be applied to your registration fees. Should a deposit not be made please note that registration is not guaranteed.

\*Please be prepared to compete Friday/Saturday/Sunday for Regional events. We are unable to take time/day requests. If you have extenuating circumstances with a dancer(s) being able to compete during their "like" session, please note that the routine will only be adjudicated and not considered for overall awards.

\*We award several overall and outstanding awards during the last session of the event. We do NOT ship awards, and a studio representative must be available at the end of the event in order to obtain awards.

\*Based upon conditions at the time of your event, we may require masks, temperature checks and/or limited attendance. We will provide the policies in advance of the event.

\*At each event, Studio Owners, Directors & Teachers will be provided a VIP lanyard. Parents are not allowed backstage unless the studio has requested their presence for prop or dancer assistance. Studio Owners, Directors and/or Teachers must advise our Backstage staff if a non-VIP person is present backstage.

\*Fusion is providing in most dressing rooms an intercom to assist in notifying studios of routines that need to be checked in backstage. Please do not allow anyone within your dance family to disturb these devices. This is being offered at our events to assist everyone in keeping the event on schedule.

\*When the judges unanimously agree that dancers are placed incorrectly in a performance level division, the routine will be moved up to the appropriate level regardless of whether the overall award has already been given. Should this occur, Judges will complete the *Bump Up Notice* that will be provided to the Studio Owner/Director.

\*Re-performance (re-do) of a routine is prohibited unless the incompleteness of the performance is related to a sound or venue technical error. If a re-performance is requested, a form must be completed by the Studio Owner, Director or Teacher and submitted within 10 minutes to the Fusion Backstage Staff of the request to have a routine re-perform. The *Re-Performance Forms* will be available backstage with the Fusion Backstage Staff. Fusion Director(s) will make the final decision to approve or disapprove of the re-performance request.

\*A *Fusion Flag* will be given when a rule break occurs. Rule breaks include, but are not limited to, the use of illegal props (baby powder, liquid, glitter, hairspray, paint, confetti smaller than 1/2 inch, fog machines, and/or strobe lights), offensive music, coaching, prop assembly exceeding a timely fashion and/or extensive clean up. Judges are granted the right to Fusion Flag any routine they deem necessary. **A Fusion Flag will result in an automatic 2-point deduction from the total score.** The Studio Director will be notified when a dance has been given a *Fusion Flag*.

\*A *Content Awareness Notice* will be given to a studio director when a judge believes the content of a routine is offensive or culturally insensitive. Cultural or racial appropriate and over-sexualization for an age division are examples that could receive a content awareness notice. Content Awareness notices have been created to provide judges the opportunity to explain their point of view. There is no point deduction accompanying a content awareness note.

\*We understand that sometimes changes are forgotten and needed per the event arrival. There will be an assessed

\*The media package is **optional** and available for parents to purchase after the event. Information on how to purchase is available at the Fusion merchandise kiosk and on our website.

\*Recording or taking pictures during the competition is strictly prohibited. Recording and taking pictures is ONLY allowed during the improvisation session and each awards session. Failure to comply with this policy will result in the removal of said person from the event.

\*Livestream will NOT be available during our Regional events. Livestream will be made available during our National event only free of charge.

**\*A waiver is required from each studio for each dancer acknowledging our policies and is accessible via your DCG account. The waiver MUST BE completed prior to the Studio Director checking in for the event. The waiver may be submitted to Fusion Staff at the merchandise kiosk OR emailed PRIOR TO the event to [Abigail@FusionNDC.com](mailto:Abigail@FusionNDC.com).**

\*If a routine is choreographed by a scheduled judge, that judge will sit out during said routine and another qualified Fusion Team member will judge that routine. We do try to schedule Judges that have zero affiliation with studios in attendance, but should this situation arise, our policy is to substitute the one Judge with the conflict with another available Fusion personnel with judging experience.

\*Courtesy block hotels may **NOT** be available for every city. For cities with a courtesy block, we advise you to book early as rooms will be limited.

## LEVELS / PERFORMANCE DIVISIONS / AGES

Please read carefully. Failure to comply could lead to disqualification.

\*It is up to the discretion of the Studio Director to determine the division placement of their dancers. Routines that are obviously under-placed may be elevated by the Judges or Management with a Bump Up Form. All decisions are final.

\*In a mixed Recreational/Intermediate/Elite/Spectacular S.T.A.R. duo/trio group routine, at least 50% of the dancers must be from the division they are competing in. Routines that are moved to the Elite Division by Judges or Management will be exempt from this rule.

### LEVEL DIVISIONS

The following specifics regarding division levels are a guide. The spirit and intent of our Division Levels is to provide dancers with the opportunity to compete against other dancers with similar experience and training. During competition, if all three judges nominate a dance to be promoted to a higher level, it will be moved up after the completion of the Bump Up Form, and notification to the Studio Director. The decisions of Fusion and Judges are final.

**RECREATIONAL DIVISION** – For dancers with little or no competition experience who take 1-3 hours per week. There will be no redeemable gift certificates or cash awards in this division. There will be a presentation of top scores.

**INTERMEDIATE DIVISION** – For dancers who take 4-6 hours of class per week and have participated in competitions for 3-4 years.

**ELITE DIVISION** – For dancers who take 7+ hours of class per week and have 5+ years of competition experience.

**SPECTACULAR S.T.A.R. (Special Talents Are Recognized) DIVISION** – For dancers with special needs and/or development disabilities who want to share in the joy of dance in a welcoming environment. All Spectacular S.T.A.R. routines will receive an adjudication award and overall awards. These routines are also eligible for all Specialty Awards and Judge's Choice Awards. Please email us at [Abigail@FusionNDC.com](mailto:Abigail@FusionNDC.com) with any needed accommodations to help foster confidence in the performance of these dancers.

**PROAM DIVISION** – For teachers and professional dancers. A professional or teacher is defined as any individual that is being compensated for classes or choreography that is over the age of 18. If a professional dancer or teacher competes in a routine, their routine must be in the Pro/Am division. The Pro/Am division will be adjudicated only. If there are 5 or more Pro/Am entries, a high score will be presented. There will be no redeemable gift certificates in this division. This division will be scored on the Elite Level Scoring system.

### PERFORMANCE DIVISIONS

| TYPE               | TIME LIMIT                                                                                                                                        | MAX # DANCERS |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>SOLO</b>        | 3:00<br>*Limit 3 solos per dancer<br>*Solos must be in different performance categories<br>*Only highest scoring solo will appear in the overalls | 1 Dancer      |
| <b>DUO/TRIO</b>    | 3:00                                                                                                                                              | 2-3 Dancers   |
| <b>SMALL GROUP</b> | 3:00                                                                                                                                              | 4-8 Dancers   |
| <b>LARGE GROUP</b> | 4:00                                                                                                                                              | 9-15 Dancers  |
| <b>LINE</b>        | 5:00                                                                                                                                              | 16+ Dancers   |
| <b>PRODUCTION</b>  | 8:00                                                                                                                                              | 16+ Dancers   |
|                    |                                                                                                                                                   |               |

\*Add'l minutes may be purchased if time exceeds limit. Each additional minute is \$5/minute/entry.

\*Line Performances should portray a theme or a style of dance but it should not portray a storyline, plot or narrative.

\*Production Performances must portray a storyline, plot or narrative throughout the performance resembling that of film, book, play or musical. Props are not mandatory but when used must be held or freestanding.

**New** \*No changes (Division, Age or Group) will be allowed after the Final Schedule is released without a Change Fee Charge being assessed. Should a change be required prior to the event beginning, and Fusion Directors approve, a Change Form must be completed at the Merchandise table PRIOR TO the event beginning with an added charge that must also be paid at that time.

### AGE DIVISIONS

Determined by using the average age of the dancer(s) as of January 1, 2026. Do NOT round up. Dancers maintain their Regional Age at the Nationals. The registration system will recalculate the average age of a routine for Nationals if any of the dancers in a routine change.

|               |                                                                           |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>MINI</b>   | 5 & Under                                                                 |
| <b>PETITE</b> | 6-8                                                                       |
| <b>JUNIOR</b> | 9-12                                                                      |
| <b>TEEN</b>   | 13-15                                                                     |
| <b>SENIOR</b> | 16-19                                                                     |
| <b>ADULT</b>  | 20+<br>*May compete as Recreational, Intermediate or Spectacular S.T.A.R. |

## ADJUDICATION CRITERIA & SCORING SCALE

All solos, duet/trios and groups will be judged on a point system. Each studio will receive a score and video critique of their studio's routines. The video critique will be accessible for up to 90 days after the event via the DCG online studio center. Should technical difficulties occur during an event that compromises the ability to capture the video critique, a written critique will be provided by all (3) Judges.

### SCORING CRITERIA

Each routine will receive up to 100 points per judge on the following criteria:

|                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| TECHNIQUE            | 35 points |
| EXECUTION            | 25 points |
| STAGE PRESENCE       | 25 points |
| CHOREOGRAPHY/STAGING | 10 points |
| OVERALL IMPRESSION   | 5 points  |

### SCORING SCALE

|               | ELITE DIVISION | INTERMEDIATE DIVISION | RECREATIONAL DIVISION | SPECTACULAR S.T.A.R. DIVISION |
|---------------|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| SHOOTING STAR | 294 - 300      | 290 - 300             | N/A                   | N/A                           |
| PLATINUM STAR | 288 – 293.9    | 285 – 289.9           | 280 – 300             | 275 - 300                     |
| PLATINUM      | 273 – 287.9    | 269 – 284.9           | 264 – 279.9           | 260 – 274.9                   |
| HIGH GOLD     | 258 – 272.9    | 253 – 268.9           | 247 – 263.9           | 244 – 259.9                   |
| GOLD          | 257.9 & Below  | 252.9 & Below         | 246.9 & Below         | 243.9 & Below                 |

## TITLE COMPETITION

### REGIONAL TITLE COMPETITION

(Recreational & Spectacular S.T.A.R. and Mini Division solos are **NOT** eligible)

\*Participants must be from the Intermediate or Elite division and from the Petite, Junior, Teen, and Senior age divisions.

\*Regional Title fee is \$50.

\*There must be at least two contestants up for Title per age division for each Title Division to be held. If only one entry is submitted per age division, entry fee will be refunded.

\*Title competition will be gender neutral and both males and females will compete together based upon their age division.

\*Any soloist wishing to compete in the Regional Title competition must **pre-register** during the **TENTATIVE** phase of scheduling for their respective Regional Competition. Title registration requests may be accepted up until the Tuesday prior to the event after the **FINAL** schedule has been released at a charge of \$60 for the Regional event and \$65 for the National event. **Title requests received AFTER the Tuesday prior to the event weekend will NOT be included.**

\*Soloists may enter only **ONE** solo for consideration per Regional competition.

\*All 2026 Regional Title **WINNERS** will be eligible to compete for the 2026 Dancer of The Year Title Competition at no additional charge to their title registration fee.

\*Any dancer interested in participating in the National Title Competition (Dancer of The Year) may do so at a cost of \$50.

### REGIONAL TITLE AWARDS

Winners will receive a crown or hat, custom trophy and a waiver for their National Title registration fee.

### REGIONAL TITLE SCORING CRITERIA

#### What is the Regional Improvisation Challenge?

\*Title contenders will receive backstage, prior to their solo session, a title improvisation number. Dancer will improv at the beginning of the dancer's solo session. They will appear on stage by age and in the numerical order of their title audition number. Title contenders will be required to improv to (2-3) different songs. They will improv for 20 seconds or so by themselves during the first and/or second song and then as a group they will improv together during the final song.

\*Title contenders will improv at the beginning of their solo session.

\*Title contenders will be divided based upon their age division.

\*Music will NOT be released prior to the competition.

\*Dancers may perform their desired style of dance during the improvisation and their preferred dance attire.

#### How is the title winner determined?

\*Dancer's noted title solo score is added to their improvisation score. The highest score determines the Winner, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> runner-ups.

\*Improv scores will be determined as follows based on a 100 point scale:

|             |           |
|-------------|-----------|
| TECHNIQUE   | 25 points |
| SHOWMANSHIP | 25 points |
| ORIGINALITY | 25 points |
| MUSICALITY  | 25 points |

\*The announcement of the winners and runners up will occur during the Title Competition session or upon the completion of all solo entries, whichever occurs first.

### **DANCER OF THE YEAR (NATIONAL TITLE COMPETITION)**

(Recreational & Spectacular S.T.A.R. and Mini Division soloists are NOT eligible)

\*Participants must be from the Intermediate or Elite division and from the Petite, Junior, Teen and Senior age divisions.

\*National Title fee is \$50.

\*There must be at least two contestants up for Title per age division in order for each Title Division to be held. If only one entry is submitted per age division, entry fee will be refunded.

\*Title competition will be gender neutral and both males and females will compete together based upon their age division.

\*Any soloist wishing to compete in the National Title competition must **pre-register** during the **TENTATIVE** phase of scheduling. Title registration requests after the **FINAL** schedule has been released will may be accepted up until the Tuesday PRIOR TO the event at a national cost of \$65. Title requests received the 5 business days prior to the event will NOT be included.

\*Soloists may enter only **ONE** solo for consideration per Regional competition.

\*All 2026 Regional Title **WINNERS** will be eligible to compete for the 2026 Dancer of The Year Title Competition at no additional charge to their title registration fee.

\*Any dancer interested in participating in the National Title Competition (Dancer of The Year) may do so at a cost of \$50.

### **DANCER OF THE YEAR AWARDS**

Winners will receive: Crown or Hat, Sash, Trophy, Fusion Star Buck or Cash, Feature on the Fusion website, and Fusion solo certificate to be used during one regional event in the next season's tour.

### **What is the Improvisation Challenge for Nationals?**

\*Title contenders will be required to improv to (3) different songs. They will improv for 20 seconds or so by themselves during the first and second songs and then as a group will improv together during the third song.

\*Title contenders will receive backstage prior to their solo session a title improvisation number. Improv at the beginning of the dancer's solo session. They will appear on stage by age and in the numerical order of their title audition number. If based upon age division, up to (5) title contenders moving on to The Dancer of The Year Challenge will be announced at the end of their solo session. Title contenders that do **NOT** move on to The Dancer of The Year Challenge, will be eligible to move on to their respective Performance Division (Elite or Intermediate) in the 12 & Under or 13 & Over Solo Challenge.

\*Music will NOT be released prior to the competition.

\*Dancers may perform their desired style of dance during the improvisation and their preferred dance attire.

### **What is the Dancer of The Year Challenge?**

\*The Dancer of The Year Challenge is typically held on the last day of Nationals as a separate Challenge Session.

\*All Dancer's of The Year finalists will:

- 1 – answer an onstage question
- 2 – re-perform their noted title solo
- 3 – encouraged to attend a minimum of (2) master classes during the National event

### **How is The Dancer of The Year determined?**

\*Title finalists will re-compete their noted title solo during the Dancer of The Year Challenge Session and (3) Judges will rank each dancer from 1-5, using decimals. The highest scoring dancer wins. Each finalist will receive placement and award(s).

## **THE STARS OF FUSION DANCE CHALLENGE (THE NATIONAL EVENT)**

**NEW** \*Please note: As space is available, studios who do not attend a Fusion regional event in the same tour season, will be considered for National registration. However, available space will be prioritized with studios who do attend a Fusion regional event no matter date of registration or deposit. If a non-regional studio registers for a Fusion National event with a deposit and space does not allow their participation at the National event, the deposit under this circumstance will be refunded within 30 days of notification of National event exclusion.

### **What occurs at the Stars of Fusion Dance Challenge?**

\*Free Master Classes are provided to all registered dancers

**NEW** \*Please Note: Parents may purchase an observer band to attend these classes at a cost of \$20/each from the Fusion merchandise kiosk. Children under 2 are free. The observer band will need to be worn at all times while attending the master classes. Studio Owners/Directors/Teachers have free access with their VIP lanyard.

\*Free Parent/Teacher Class

\*Dancer's welcome party hosted by Fusion to all registered dancers and their families

\*Studio Owners/Teachers provided a breakroom during the competition complemented with water and snacks

\*Studio Owners/Teachers provided a VIP 'Pit Stop' reception

\*Reserved seating for Owners/Directors/Studio Teachers

\*(2) opportunities to perform on the National Stage

## Round 1 “The Preliminary Competition”

\*Every routine competes during this round, receiving a video critique, adjudication, and overall awards.

\*Upon the completion of “like” routine types, performance and age division, half or half plus one routine (up to 5) based upon the highest score will be announced as moving forward to re-compete during The Challenge.

\*Studios are limited to (2) routines in for each challenge performance and age division at which time the next highest scoring routine from a different studio will be included.

**NEW** \*For each performance division, there will be a grouping among 12 & Under and then 13 & Over combining Small and Large Groups, Lines and Productions. If, there are 15+ routines registered in any one Performance Division, that Performance Division will have its own challenge. For example, for there to be an intermediate small group 12 & under challenge, there must be at least 15 intermediate small groups in the 12 & under divisions. In addition, if there are 20+ routines registered in any one **Performance Level**, that Performance Level will have its own challenge. For example, for there to be a Junior Intermediate Small Group Challenge, there must be at least 20 routines registered in the Intermediate Junior Small Group division.

## Round 2 “The Challenge”

\*The finalist routines will re-compete during the noted Challenge session.

\*Each routine must denote a dancer from the routine as their spokesperson as answering an onstage question will be required of every routine.

\*(3) Judges will rank each routine from 1-5, using decimals, and the highest scoring routine will be declared as the winner receiving a trophy and cash or Fusion Star Buck, based upon registration numbers.

\*Runner-up routines will receive their placement and receive a trophy.

## AWARDS

### General Awards

Each entry will be adjudicated and receive an award indicating their entry’s achievement based on the scoring system for each level of competition.

### Overall Top Awards

Overall Awards will be presented to the TOP scoring entries in each level of competition. It will be determined by Fusion if the Top 10, Top 5, Top 3 or the Top Overall 1<sup>st</sup> place entry will be recognized during the Overall Awards. This will be based on the number of entries at the regional and national competitions. Title contenders may still place in the Overall Top Awards.

The **Top Score Star Session Award** will be presented to the highest-scoring routine per performance division per Session. This Award applies to solos, duos-trios and all groups. The Winner of the Top Score Star Session Award will receive a beautiful plaque or trophy.

The **Top Score Star Overall Award** will be presented to the highest-scoring routine per performance division (Recreational, Intermediate and Elite) out of the entire competition. This award applies to solos, duos-trios and groups (small, large, line and production). The Winner of the Top Score Star Overall Award will receive a beautiful trophy and a \$100 Fusion Star Buck. This award is announced and presented during the last session of the Regional event or the last session of the National preliminary event (Round 1).

The **Shining Star Award (Best In Category)** will be provided to the highest scoring routine based upon each genre per performance division from the entire event and will be awarded during the last award session of each regional event. The winners of this award will receive a banner acknowledging their routine being the highest score in their division per their genre. For the National event, this award will be presented during the last preliminary session during Round 1.

### Regional Cash Award Chart (Intermediate & Elite Divisions)

The top overall placements are eligible for cash or certificate voucher awards. For regional competitions with 450+ routines, overall awards will be monetary, under 450 routines, overall awards will be Fusion Star Buck certificates. There must also be a minimum of 15 entries per performance/age/type division for solos/duos/trios and 10 entries for groups in order for cash **or** Fusion Star Buck to be issued.

#### Regional Award Amount

|                   |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| <b>SOLO</b>       | \$50  |
| <b>DUO / TRIO</b> | \$75  |
| <b>GROUPS</b>     | \$100 |

### National Cash Award Chart for Preliminary Competition – ROUND 1 (Intermediate & Elite Divisions)

The top overall placements are eligible for cash or certificate voucher awards. With 650+ routines, overall awards will be monetary, under 650 routines, overall awards will be voucher certificates. There must also be a minimum of 20 entries per performance/age/type division for solos/duos/trios and 15 entries for groups in order for cash or certificate vouchers to be issued.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Place Award Amount

|                   |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| <b>SOLO</b>       | \$50  |
| <b>DUO / TRIO</b> | \$75  |
| <b>GROUPS</b>     | \$100 |

## National Cash Award Chart for The Challenge – ROUND 2 (All Performance Divisions)

### 1<sup>st</sup> Place Award Amount

|                    |       |
|--------------------|-------|
| DANCER OF THE YEAR | \$50  |
| SOLO               | \$50  |
| DUO / TRIO         | \$75  |
| GROUPS             | \$100 |

### Achievement Awards

Our judges will select certain outstanding performances for achievement awards for each session.

### Studio & Dancer Awards

#### Creative Artist Award (Applicable to Regional and National events)

The Creative Artist Award is presented to a routine that our judges deem as being a standout performance based on the choreography and creativity of the dance. The winner chosen for this award will receive a beautiful Fusion Creative Artist acrylic plaque.

#### The Total Commitment Award (Applicable to Regional and National events)

Judges will select a routine per competitive session that they have seen a total commitment from the creativity, costuming, execution, and stage performance. The winner of this award will receive a beautiful Fusion Total Commitment award.

#### The Terrific Technique Award (Applicable to Regional and National events)

Judges will select a routine per competitive session that they consider to have exhibited Terrific Technique! The winner of this award will receive a beautiful Fusion Terrific Technique award.

#### Fusion Spirit Award (Applicable to Regional and National events)

Fusion Staff and Judges will select a studio per group session that exhibits excitement, kindness and a supportive team both among themselves and with other studios. The winner of this award will receive a beautiful Fusion Total Spirit award.

#### Show Stopper Award (Applicable to Regional and National events)

Fusion Judges may instantaneously award a routine upon the conclusion of their performance with the Show Stopper Award. This award is given to a routine that provides the "WOW" factor to one of the three judges in which that particular judge will explain their selection to the dancers upon the receipt of this award.

#### New \*Director's Choice Award (Applicable to Regional and National events)

Fusion Director's may select, during each event session, a routine that makes a unique, memorable, or personally inspiring impression on the Director. The winner is not necessarily the highest scoring routine, but one that stands out for specific qualities to a Fusion Director such as emotional expression, exceptional potential, unique style, outstanding showmanship.

#### ADCC Studio of Excellence Award (Applicable to Regional and National events)

The ADCC Studio of Excellence Award is presented on behalf of the Association of Dance Competitions and Conventions to a studio that shows versatility by entering routines in many categories of dance. This award goes to a studio that takes on the challenge of offering its students the opportunity to experience and excel in all areas of dance. The winner of this award will receive a banner. The National ADCC Studio Winner will receive a \$100 FSB in addition to the National banner.

### Fusion Show Star

**New** \*At each regional event, up to (3) group routines will be chosen as a Fusion Show Star, non-dependent upon age or division categories. These winning routines will receive a beautiful Regional Show Star banner and half-off entry fees for the Regional Show Star routine to compete at our 2026 Nationals. During the National event, there will be a separate Challenge Session for ALL Regional Show Star routines to compete against other Regional Show Stars for the opportunity to win the National Show Star Title. The Winner will receive a National Show Star Banner and a \$500 Fusion Star Buck! \*Studios must register their Regional Show Star routine and dancers for the National event via our registration system with DCG and notify Fusion at [Info@FusionNDC.com](mailto:Info@FusionNDC.com) with the following information **PRIOR TO** the final payment of your National registration fees in order for your routine credit to be applied.

**New** \*In addition, any Regional Show Star planning to compete at the National event must notify Fusion at [Abigail@FusionNDC.com](mailto:Abigail@FusionNDC.com) **(4) weeks PRIOR TO the National event** to be included. Show Star routines applying to compete at the National event will **NOT** be excepted. Regional Regional Show Star Winners MUST notify [Abigail@FusionNDC.com](mailto:Abigail@FusionNDC.com) prior to attending the following:

**Email Subject: Regional Show Star / Email Body: Studio Name / Routine Name**

#### Star Power Studio Award (Applicable to Regional and National events)

Every competing studio's Top 3 highest scores from the group segment (small group, large group and line) of the competition for all three performance divisions (Recreational, Intermediate, Elite) will be tabulated. During the final group awards session, the one studio with the highest point total from the Recreational, Intermediate and Elite group performance divisions will be named as a Star Power Studio Winner. In the event of a tie, we will add in succession, each studio's next highest-scoring group entry until the tie is broken. In the case of the same Studio being eligible for 2 or 3 performance divisions, only one of the divisions will be awarded providing the opportunity for the next highest-scoring studio in one of the other performance divisions to be recognized. The Star Power award winners (Intermediate and Elite) will receive a beautiful trophy with either a \$100 cash award or certificate voucher based on the Cash Award Chart provisions. The Recreational Star Power Studio will receive a beautiful trophy.

### Fusion Stars

In every Regional city, judges will select certain outstanding Elite and Intermediate soloists from the Petite, Junior, Teen and Senior age divisions to be a part of the Fusion Star Team based upon their solo scores. Fusion Stars will perform a production number choreographed by our industry professionals which will provide the Nationals Opening Number for each Challenge Session. Please note: Studios attending Nationals that do not have solo performers may nominate (2) performers each in the Petite, Junior, Teen, and Senior age divisions to participate as a Fusion Star who are considered to be intermediate or elite dancers.



## Fusion Ambassadors

In every **Regional** city, judges will select outstanding Elite and Intermediate soloists from the Junior, Teen and Senior age divisions to be a Fusion Ambassador Finalist. Finalists may go on to APPLY (based upon directions provided to Ambassador finalists on their Ambassador Finalist Certificate) to become a National Ambassador for our Nationals. National Fusion Ambassadors will be a representative of FNDC during Nationals by being featured in the Opening Number, assisting in master classes alongside our industry professionals, assisting with awards and also during our Gala of The Stars Dancer's Welcome Party. Ambassadors will also participate in a photoshoot during the Nationals events. In addition, National Ambassadors will be invited to assist during our Fall Performance/Convention event.

## Lifetime Ambassadors

A Lifetime Ambassador is a dancer chosen who has served as a National Ambassador and has attended Fusion events consecutively for at least 3 years. This dancer continues to show and support Fusion through their assistance at events they attend as well as positive promotion of Fusion during the event as well as positive promotion throughout the year via social media. Lifetime Ambassadors receive automatic inclusion to perform in the National Opening Number and to attend Nationals as a Lifetime Ambassador. Lifetime Ambassadors are selected at the discretion of the Fusion Director and staff.

## Face of Fusion Photogenic Award *(Applicable to Regional events)*

**New** \*Photogenic entries are to be entered the day of competition **ONLY**. Photograph size is a color 5x7 or 8x10 **HEADSHOTS ONLY PLEASE**. Parents or studios may submit photo(s) and entry fees to the merchandise table at the beginning of the competition. Fees may be paid via cash, certified check or credit card only. No personal checks will be accepted for photogenic entries. Entries will be judged in the *12 and under* and *13 and over* age categories. Judged photos may be picked up by parents or studio directors after the photogenic competition is complete. Winning photos will NOT be returned as they will be used for marketing of winning entries. Fusion is not responsible for photos that are left behind. An entry form will be filled out at the merchandise table when you check in the day of competition. Cost is \$25/entry. A portion of the proceeds will be donated in 2026 to the efforts of #RiseUp and its scholarship program for disadvantaged dancers. Regional event photogenic winners will appear in the National program and be featured on the Fusion website.

## PERFORMANCE CATEGORIES

### BALLET

Includes classical or contemporary ballet technique. Ballet slippers only.

### POINTE

Includes classical or contemporary pointe technique and steps. Pointe shoes only.

### LYRICAL

Routine should demonstrate balance, extension, isolations and control using contemporary lyrical moves set to the mood or lyrics of the music.

### CONTEMPORARY

Routine incorporates lyrical or jazz movement fused with modern elements.

### MODERN

Includes modern technique movements.

### JAZZ

Routine consists of traditional jazz movements and technique.

### TAP

Routine must contain tap technique.

### CLOGGING

Routine utilizes either traditional or contemporary clogging technique and style.

### PARENT

Recreational parent category.

**\*In the above performance categories, only (3) acro/gymnastic tricks are permissible. A deduction of (1) point per Judge will result for routines that do not comply. Minimum lip syncing and talking are permitted if a character is not portrayed.**

### **What "tricks" are considered to be acro or gymnastics?**

Examples include: Back Layout, Back Tuck, Back Walkover, Cartwheel, Chest Stand, Front Tuck, Handstand, Nip-Up, Front Aerial, Side Aerial

### HIP HOP

Includes street or jazz funk technique. No suggestive moves or inappropriate music allowed.

### OPEN

Routine consisting of any of our listed categories or combinations of listed category styles.

### MUSICAL THEATRE

A routine interpreting a song from a Broadway or Movie Musical.

### ACRO-DANCE

Routine combining gymnastics and dance choreography. Must contain at least 50% dance choreography.

### POM PON

Routine is performed with pom pons for at least 75% of the routine.

### PRODUCTION

A routine that consists of 16 or more dancers utilizing props, sets and a main theme.

## MUSIC

### Required/Mandatory Music Upload

Fusion uses an electronic music file upload system via your Dance Comp Genie account.

- Music can only be uploaded AFTER entries have been registered.
- The online music manager will assign the file names automatically once upload is complete. However, please label the file with the name of each routine.
- Please upload the exact version of your performance music as pitch/speed cannot be adjusted at the event.
- Music uploads should be in the form of MP3 or MP4 files.
- Music must be uploaded **NO LATER THAN** the Monday prior to the competition weekend.
- A late fee of \$50 will be applied to your account if the music has not been received by the deadline.
- Fusion requires that all studios bring a backup USB for all performances in the event of a malfunction of the original music submitted. Music can be picked up at the Judges table at the conclusion of each awards session.
- Electronic devices such as phones, laptops, ipads are **NOT** acceptable forms of backup music. For 1-2 songs **ONLY**, we will gladly accept the airdrop of a song.

## GENERAL RULES

### Competition Schedule & Critiques

A confirmation of your studio's entries will be accessible through your online studio center. Please review and ensure entries are in the proper categories, performance levels and age divisions. Once the final schedule is completed, the ability to make changes and/or corrections is considerably limited, if not impossible. If changes are requested once the final schedule has been released, a \$5/change fee will be assessed. This fee must be paid by credit card at the time the change(s) is made. All changes must be submitted in writing via email.

**New** \*Changes at the event are subject to be reviewed by Fusion Directors. Should a change at the event be approved, the change must be made prior to the beginning of the event by completing a Change Request Form at the merchandise kiosk and an additional charge will be assessed for the change payable at that time.

**New** \*When possible, every Regional & National schedule is based on the breakdown of entries by division level and type (solo, duet/trio, groups, lines, and productions) for that particular city. Dancers must be ready to perform **1.5 hours** before their scheduled time.

Performers must compete on the designated day, time, and in scheduled order, unless a schedule change has been pre-arranged with the Fusion office. Routines that compete outside of their scheduled day, time, or order will be eligible for **Adjudication Only**.

A final schedule will be available via the online studio center to each studio 3 days (or before if available) prior to the first day of competition.

Critiques are provided in the form of videos with an overall report providing a Judges score for each routine. The video critiques and score sheets will be available online via each studio's DCG registration account in a timely manner following the conclusion of the competition.

At times, technology fails. Should technology fail in capturing verbal critiques and media footage, Judges will provide a written critique in lieu of the video critique. Any written critiques created, will be emailed to the studio the week following the event.

### Props

The placement and removal of props, mats, etc., must be completed within **4 minutes**. No items may be thrown or shot off the front of the stage. Props should not be built backstage (see Stage Manager for accommodations). Performers cannot stand above 6'6" on the prop. Props that exceed 10'6" in height cannot be guaranteed to fit on stage. Fusion will not supply power.

No substances of any kind are allowed on stage. This includes, but is not limited to: baby powder, flour, sand, glitter, powdered rosin, lotion, confetti, water, hairspray and paint. This rule applies even if you have a clean-up team. No helium or haze of any kind is allowed on stage.

### Coaching

Coaching of performers from the wings by teachers, parents, dancers is prohibited.

### Sportsmanship

Good sportsmanship is expected from performers, students, parents and the general audience at all times. Horns, whistles and other noisemakers are not allowed in the theatre. Failure to adhere to these rules may result in point deduction and/or disqualification. Fusion reserves the right to eject from the premises any spectator or participant deemed to be acting in an inappropriate or disruptive manner.

### Incorrect Dancer Level Placement

When the judges unanimously agree that dancers are placed incorrectly, the routine will be moved up to the appropriate level upon completion of signatures on the Bump Up form by all judges. The Studio Director will be notified prior to the Awards Session.

### Fusion Flag

Fusion Flag will be given when a rule break occurs. Rule breaks include, but are not limited to, the use of illegal props (baby powder, liquid, glitter, hairspray, paint, confetti smaller than ½ inch, fog machines, and/or strobe lights), offensive music, coaching, prop assembly exceeding a timely fashion and/or extensive clean up. Judges are granted the right to Fusion Flag any routine they deem necessary. A Fusion Flag will result in an automatic 2-point deduction from the total score. The Studio Director will be notified when a dance Fusion Flagged.

### Content Awareness Notice

A Content Awareness notice will be given to a studio director when a judge believes the content of a routine is offensive or culturally insensitive. Cultural or racial appropriate and over-sexualization for an age division are examples that could receive a content awareness notice. Content Awareness notices have been created to provide judges the opportunity to explain their point of view to studio teachers. There is no point deduction accompanying a content awareness note.

### Food & Beverage

Unless permission is posted by the theatre, no food or drinks are to be brought into the auditorium, dressing or backstage areas.

### Family Environment

This is a family event, sexually explicit dance or music will not be tolerated. Fusion reserves the right at its discretion to deduct 5 points from a performance that contains inappropriate content or profanity.

### Dressing Rooms & Auditorium Seating

Dressing rooms will be assigned at most venues and each Director will be provided this information upon check in at the event. Fusion cannot be held liable for any items left in the dressing rooms during or after the event. Males **ARE NOT** allowed in the female dressing rooms. There will be dressing spaces designated for male dancers.

At each event, there will be reserved seating noted for Studio Owners, Directors and Teachers.

### Routines

A minimum of (3) routines must be registered to compete at a Regional or National event by a studio.

Soloists may compete in up to three solos. Only the highest scoring solo will appear in the top overall scores. There are no limits to the number of group entries a studio may perform.



### Deposits

In order to reserve your registration, a \$250 deposit is required. You are *NOT* required to make a deposit, but should the event fill with studios who make a deposit, studios without a deposit will be placed on the waitlist and notified accordingly.

### Independent Entries

Fusion **DOES NOT** accept independent entries. Dancers must be registered with a studio. Entries are accepted on a first come, first served basis and must be submitted online by the entry deadline. Entries will be accepted until allotted competition time is filled and based upon deposits.

### Re-Performance

Re-performance (re-do) of a routine is prohibited unless the incompleteness of the performance is related to a sound or venue technical error. If a re-performance is requested, a form must be completed by the Studio Owner, Director or Teacher and **submitted within 10 minutes** to the Fusion Backstage Staff of the request to have a routine re-perform. The Re-Performance Forms will be available backstage with the Fusion Backstage Staff. Fusion Director(s) will make the final decision to approve or disapprove of the re-performance request.

### Intercoms & Dressing Space Communication

Fusion is providing to most dressing rooms an intercom to assist in notifying studios of routines that need to be checked in backstage. Please do not allow anyone within your dance family to disturb these devices. This is being offered at our events to assist everyone to keep the event on schedule.

### Video & Photography

For the safety of the performers, no video cameras or photo/still cameras will be allowed during performances. Fusion pays for the services of equipment and staff for photography and videography as a convenience to dancers, parents, teachers and studio directors. The use of any type of camera or video camera during the competition is **STRICTLY PROHIBITED**. Please inform parents of this rule to avoid conflicts. You may use flash photography and video cameras during the awards ceremony and Improvisation of Title contenders **ONLY**. Any spectator that fails to comply with our No Photo/No Video rule may be escorted and removed from the event. It is the responsibility of the Studio Owner/Director to inform their students and parents of the No Photo/No Video rule and enforce this rule.

All registered contestants grant permission to Fusion and its representatives to publish their photos/videos on local or national television, promo videos, marketing material, the internet or any other visual media as deemed fit by Fusion in an effort to promote its competitions and/or conventions.

All photography/videos taken by Fusion Productions and/or any independent representative commissioned by Fusion become the property of Fusion. Fusion reserves the right to sell said photography/videos at competition events and online for purchase on dvd, usb or by download.

Media will be available for purchase after the event by parents.

### Safety & Liability

Fusion, its staff, the hotel, theatre or site of the competition will not be responsible for any accident, injury or illness that may occur to anyone participating or attending these events. Choosing to compete in a dance competition assumes inherent risks including but not limited to sprains, bruises, pulled and sore muscles, broken bones and illnesses such as COVID19. In addition, Fusion cannot be held responsible of unforeseen flaws in theatre stages that may inadvertently lead to the causing of an accident. Participants and Spectators agree not to hold Fusion Dance Competition, LLC, its officers or staff responsible for injuries, illnesses or damages sustained while in attendance and/or performing in any activity related to a Fusion Dance Competition LLC event. Fusion Dance Competition, LLC and the hosting facility are not responsible for personal injury, illness or property loss to either performers or spectators. It is the responsibility of the Studio Owner/Director of the participating entries to educate their dance families and other attendees from their studio as to these rules and policies.

Fusion reserves the right, when necessary, to relocate a competition site and/or make changes to competition days/times. Fusion reserves the right to cancel any event due to lack of registration, weather, or other unforeseen circumstance.

Each studio must have on file with Fusion, a Parental Waiver Form. This form may be obtained from our website on the Registration Page as well as directly from your studio center with Dance Comp Genie. Forms should be submitted no later than the opening of the competition at the merchandise table. This form will remain active for each competition year.

### Privacy and Security Policy

We respect and are committed to protecting your privacy. As part of the registration process with Fusion National Dance Competition, we may collect information when you register through our website and/or live stream. We will never sell, give away or share this information with anyone. Our Registration Process is through DanceComp Genie, Incho Solutions. FusionNDC is required to purchase an SSL Certificate each and every year as part of the requirement for secure online transactions. Your payment and personal information are always safe. Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) software is the industry standard and among the best software available today for secure commerce transactions. It encrypts all of your personal information, including credit card number, name, and address so that it cannot be read over the internet.

### Marketing

All performers and attendees consent to the use of photos and videos for marketing and advertising purposes including but not limited to print, web and other media outlets.

## REGISTRATION & PAYMENT

### Rates

Once a Studio Director creates a DCG account, the 2026 rates are available as a PDF download from the DCG account. To take advantage of the Early Bird Rates, fees are due 90 days in advance of the event. If payment has not been received at that time, Regular Rates apply and are due 30 days in advance of the event.

### Payment

**Fusion does not accept personal or studio checks.** Cashier's checks or money orders are appreciated but must be received *no later than 20 days* in advance of the event date. Fees may also be paid via credit card (MasterCard or Visa is accepted). A 4% service charge will be added to all credit card payments. All studio registrations must include payment. No payments will be accepted at the event and any unpaid entries will not be allowed to perform. **Payments may be mailed to: 111 Serenoa Drive Brunswick Ga 31523.**

### Fusion Star Bucks and/or Certificates

Award certificates credited against entry fees but not received in our office by the stated deadline are deemed invalid and any amounts previously credited will become due immediately. Award certificates (including the dollar value of certificates to be applied) not submitted with entries will not be honored. Award certificates credited against entry fees but not received in the Fusion office 10 calendar days before the event are overdue and any amounts previously credited will become due immediately.

### Refunds

Refunds Due To Low Participation:

Fusion reserves the right to expand or decrease an event, move a location and/or date or cancel an event as necessary. In the event that it becomes necessary for Fusion to cancel due to low participation, a full refund for entry fees paid will be issued within 15 business days of the cancellation.

### Refunds Related to COVID19

If an event is cancelled due to CDC, local, state or federal government mandates, then the studio director will be provided two options based on the date of the event cancellation. The Studio Director must notify Fusion 24 hours from the date of notice of the event cancellation of your election, in writing to [Info@FusionNDC.com](mailto:Info@FusionNDC.com).

1 – Events cancelled before 3 weeks prior to event date – Studios will be eligible for a full refund of registration fees. Refunds will be provided 30 business days from the first day of the original event date upon written request.

2– Events cancelled within 3 weeks of the event date – Studios will receive 75% of registration fees and 25% of paid registration fees will remain as a credit with Fusion to be used in the next two years. \*When possible events will be rescheduled during the same season tour.

### Dancer Injuries

Refunds are not provided. However, with a doctor's note provided within 30 days of the event, a credit is provided for dancers unable to perform due to an injury and the credit will remain on the studio's account for up to one year.

All written notifications should be emailed to: [Info@FusionNDC.com](mailto:Info@FusionNDC.com) **RIGHTS**

Fusion Dance Competition (dba Fusion National Dance Competition) reserves the right to alter or make adjustments to the rules and regulations as deemed necessary.