

Rules and regulations DANCE UNIT

- Date: 24.08.2025 -

Born to PERFORM

1) PARTICIPATION

- a) The official rules and regulations of Dance Unit contain the conditions of participation, rules and regulations for participation in Dance Unit competitions and the Dance Unit Gala.
- b) Dance Unit offers a platform where dancers have the opportunity to showcase their art and their skills in various dance styles on a national and international level. Dance Unit also offers the chance to receive funding, scholarships, and engagements with leading professional dance companies. The participants show their best skills and performance in a choreographed piece.
- c) All nationalities can register to take part in the Dance Unit competitions.
- d) All competitions are open, i.e. a membership at a dance school, studio or club is not a mandatory.

2) AGE CATEGORIES

- a) The age groups for Dance Unit competitions are as follows:

MINIS:	aged 5 to 8 years
KIDS:	aged 9 to 11 years
JUNIORS:	aged 12 to 15 years
SENIORS:	aged 16 to 24 years
ADULTS:	aged 25 and over

- b) The age of a participant is determined on 1st January of the competition year.
- c) In the Duo/Trio/Quartet, the age of the oldest participant determines the age category.
- d) In the Small Group and Group category, the average determines the age group of all dancers competing in the respective routine.
- e) All age categories may perform together in one routine.
- f) In all solo classes, participants must dance in the class that corresponds to their age.
- g) Dance Unit reserves the right to request proof of age in the form of a valid passport or identity card at check-in on site. Copies—whether in paper or digital form (e.g. on a cell phone)—will not be accepted.
- h) The age group classification is automatically calculated in the "Contest Pro" portal

3) CATEGORIES

SOLO:	1 dancer
PAIR/TRIO/QUARTET:	2 - 4 dancers
SMALL GROUP:	5 - 10 dancers
GROUP:	from 11 dancers

4) MUSIC/TIME LIMITS

SOLO, PAIR/TRIO/QUARTET:	1:00 - 2:00 minutes
SMALL GROUP:	2:00 - 3:00 minutes
GROUP:	2:00 - 3:30 minutes
OPEN-SHOW, SING PERFORMANCE GROUP:	2:00 - 4:30 minutes
SOLO-IMPROV:	1:00 minute.

Exception: Ballet discipline, here the music can be shorter or longer according to the original choreographies.

- Time limits apply to all dances and competitions of the Dance Unit.
- The "Contest Pro" registration system does not allow the submission of music that exceeds or falls short of the time limit.**
- If the music contains "Explicit Lyrics" (= offensive, racist or sexist text content), the dance will be disqualified by the competition tournament management.
- The music must be submitted as an mp3 file via the "Contest Pro" online registration system. All music must be uploaded at the latest 10 days before the respective competition. The school/club is responsible for selecting the music and providing the track in time.
- For all registered dances, a backup USB must be brought to the competition and presented at the instruction of the tournament management. (Several titles can also be saved on one USB stick).

5) SCORING SYSTEM

- A qualified, international, and recognized jury is present at each Dance Unit competition who have experience and knowledge in different dance styles.
- Each juror can award 10 points per evaluation criteria (see point 5.h) – so a maximum of 40 points per judge can be achieved.
- Each dance can receive a maximum number of 120 points.
- The total number of points is determined according to the skating system. The highest and lowest scores of the five judges are cancelled. In the situation of a tie, all scores are taken into. If two dances have the exact same number of points after all scores have been considered, a shared place will be awarded. Exception for the discipline Improvisation: Here there is a scoring system consisting of 3 jurors without a skating system.
- It is not permitted to ask the judges for feedback during the competition. The decision of the jury is final and cannot be changed.

- f) In the SOLO and PAIR/TRIO/QUARTET categories there are two scoring classes:

AmaD (Amateur Dancer): Hobby/recreational dancers compete in this class, regardless of the number of training hours per week. Dancers who attend on additional classes or assist in workshops to expand their knowledge must be assigned to this class. Trainers who teach mini's/children's dance classes but have not completed specific dance training also compete in this class.

ProD (Professional Dancer): This is where students in dance training (Bachelor/Diploma dance, dance pedagogy, dance choreography etc.) and professionals in all age groups and disciplines. Applicable only in the SOLO and PAIR/TRIO/QUARTET categories.

- g) In the SMALL GROUP and GROUP categories there is one evaluation class (here Professional Dancer and Amateur Dancer are judged together).
h) The following evaluation criteria are applied:

Technique = placement of head, arms, legs and body, footwork, and synchronization of the dancer's synchronization of the dancers - depending on the technical requirements of the respective discipline. Throughout the dance, the dancers must maintain control over speed, direction, dynamics, and body placement.

Level = technical difficulty, execution, and precision. The level of performance should correspond to the technical abilities of the dancers.

Choreography = choreographic variety and/or originality and innovative work. Elements such as the complete and creative use of the stage and floor, innovative movements, transitions, and the interpretation of music (if used) are recognized as a fundamental part of outstanding choreography.

Overall impression = energy, expression, and personality of the dancers as well as the entertainment value of the performance. The clothing, accessories and props worn (if used) should represent and reflect the chosen theme.

6) COMPETITION PROCEDURE

- a) Depending on the number of starting numbers in a discipline and category, either one round (standard scenario) or two rounds (additional final round) would be danced.
- b) For all disciplines and categories with up to 20 starting numbers, one round will be danced.
- c) In all disciplines and categories with more than 20 starting numbers, the jury may decide to hold a second round or final round with the top 5–10 entries.
- d) In the solo category, male dancers will be judged separately if there are at least three male entrants. If there are fewer than three, all participants will be judged together.
- e) The dancers must present themselves backstage (with the backstage team) at least five pieces before their own performance.
- f) If necessary, changes to the starting order are only possible with the prior authorization of the competition management.
- g) Current topics, suggestions, proposals etc. will be discussed at a teachers' meeting. A contact person from the dance school, studio/club must be present.

- h) Further information on these points will be available in due time.

7) SPECIAL AWARDS

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| a) OVERALL WINNER | highest score MINIS, KIDS, JUNIORS, SENIORS, ADULTS |
| b) CHOREOGRAPHY of the YEAR | MINIS, KIDS, JUNIORS, SENIORS, ADULTS |
| c) DANCER of the YEAR | MINIS, KIDS, JUNIORS, SENIORS, ADULTS |
| d) OUTSTANDING AWARD | Special award for routines that have scored at least 105 points |

8) DANCE UNIT Qualifier

- a) To take part in the Dance Unit FINALS, you must qualify via an official Dance Unit Qualifier.
- b) The Dance Unit Qualifiers take place in different countries and usually last 1-3 days.
- c) If a country does not have a qualifier, it is possible to take part in one of the listed qualifiers or to register for the "Online Competition".
- d) Additional events such as workshops, auditions and scholarships vary from qualifier to qualifier.

9) DANCE UNIT FINALS

- a) A qualification is required for participation in the Dance Unit Finals. This must be achieved at a national Dance Unit Qualifier or via the Dance Unit Online Competition.
- b) For the qualification, the respective routine must achieve at least **66 points** in order to qualify for the Dance Unit Finals.
- c) Participation in the Dance Unit Finals must be confirmed online via the Contest Pro registration portal no later than **25 days before the event**, following the qualifying competition. The date of the Dance Unit Finals is also available on the Contest Pro portal.
- d) Auditions, workshops (GO-MASTERS) and a trade fair will take place during the Dance Unit Finals. These are all additional options and are not mandatory.

10) DANCE UNIT – GALA

- a) The jury and Dance Unit have the final decision on which choreographies will be invited to the Gala and in which order they will dance.
- b) A dance school or studio/club can enter a maximum of 3 routines in the gala, even if it has received several nominations from the jury.
- c) Routines can only be invited to the Gala if they participate in a Qualifier (also online) and in the Dance Unit Finals.
- d) Routines may be invited to the gala even if they have not won the first place.

- e) The jury decides on the winners of the grants awarded at the gala. The jury's judgement is final. The total amount of funding will be published on the respective website.
- f) A nomination for the Gala must achieve at least 90 points in a Dance Unit Qualifier or Dance Unit Online Competition.
- g) Entries that achieve the required number of points will be officially nominated for the Dance Unit GALA during the qualifiers. The nomination will be announced after all qualifiers have been completed. The final selection of Gala entries will be announced during the Dance Unit FINALS.
- h) Participation in the gala is possible from the KIDS age category onwards.

11) DANCE UNIT ONLINE COMPETITION

- a) Participation in the Dance Unit ONLINE COMPETITION is only permitted for the respective nations that do not have their own national competition.
- b) Registration takes place via the Contest Pro registration portal.
- c) Entry fees and participation fees can be found under point 13.
- d) The recording/file of the submitted pieces must be uncut and visible in good lighting. Submitted videos that do not meet the requirements will not be considered. A file may be filmed in the school/studio or from a performance/competition.
- e) The evaluation will be carried out by 5 judges and determined using the skating system (further information under point 5).
- f) Qualified routines (minimum 66 points) will then have the opportunity to participate in the Dance Unit Finals.

12) REGISTRATION/APPLICATION

- a) By registering for a Dance Unit competition, all dancers agree that Dance Unit and its current partners may film, photograph, and record them at any time during the competition, including during their performances, in and around the venue. Upon registration, all rights of use are transferred to Dance Unit. This concerns all film, television and photo recordings made during the competitions. An unlimited right of use in all respects for any number of media uses (in particular in the form of television programs and through exploitation on audio-visual media as well as online via on-demand services) and other interactive may be used.
- b) For underage participants, the respective registered school/studio/club is responsible for obtaining them and familiarizing them with the guidelines of the Dance Unit.
- c) To register, a free account must be set up in our "Contest PRO" portal.
- d) A minimum age of 18 years is required to open an account.
- e) The account creator / the person registering (e.g. the school headmaster) is responsible for submitting the correct information in the "Contest Pro" registration portal.
- f) The information submitted will be used for all competition documents, e.g. for the certificates, the program booklet, etc..
- g) A starting place is only guaranteed once the entry fees and the starting fees have been



received in the Dance Unit account.

- h) If starting places are available, but no later than 28 days before a competition registration can be made. Changes to the registration can be made in the portal with your account (up to 28 days before the start of the competition at the latest). Music can be uploaded/changed up to 10 days before the start of the competition.
- i) Changes after the registration deadline for the respective dance routines are subject to a fee. Per change a fee of 40.- € will be charged. Dance Unit reserves the right to review changes and reject them if necessary. Changes will only take effect after the change fee has been credited to the Dance Unit account.
- j) All change requests—including changes to categories or procedures—must be officially received by Dance Unit via email no later than 7 business days before the respective competition. After this deadline, no further changes can be accepted or processed. This rule serves to ensure planning security and is intended to minimize last-minute adjustments.
- k) For each competition, the number of dancers performing on stage in the SMALL GROUP or GROUP category will be routinely checked and compared with the number of dancers registered in the "Contest Pro" portal. If the number of dancers performing on stage exceeds the number registered in the system, a fee of €55 per dancer will be charged or the entry will be disqualified. This will be decided by the tournament management on site.
- l) With your registration you agree to the competition rules.
- m) Dancers may compete a maximum of two times per discipline and category.
Example - "Dancer A" may compete with the following choreographies:
Discipline Jazz, category Solo - two choreographies (*three or more choreographies not possible*)
Discipline Jazz, Group category - two choreographies (*three or more choreographies not possible*)
- n) Co-operations between several schools are only possible in the categories PAIR/TRIO/QUARTET, SMALL GROUP and GROUP. A separate account must be created for a co-operation in the "Contest Pro" portal. The participation fees for the season apply.
- o) A dancer may be registered for a maximum of two different institutions and may compete a maximum of twice per discipline and category for two schools.
Example:
"Dancer 1" competes for School A in the PAIR/TRIO/QUARTET category in the jazz discipline. "Dancer 1" may perform another dance with school B in the category PAIR/TRIO/QUARTET in the jazz discipline.
"Dancer 1" may not enter two dances with school A in the category PAIR/TRIO/QUARTET, discipline jazz and with school B one or two more PAIR/TRIO/QUARTET dances in the jazz discipline.
The same applies to all other categories such as SMALL GROUP or GROUP.

13) FEES (registration fee, entry fee)

- a) After registration and application for a Dance Unit competition, the "Contest Pro" portal will automatically calculate the upcoming fees and provide an invoice for download an invoice.

- b) The starting places of the registered routines are only guaranteed when the registration fees as and entry fees of the registered dancers and dances of the respective season have been received on the Dance Unit account.
- c) The registration fee of 45.-€ per dancer is charged once per season and is a *compulsory* fee. A refund is excluded.
- d) The registration fee includes:
- Photo/video fees for each dance (sent via e-mail as a link to the registered school)
 - Annual license per dancer per season
 - Administration fees per dancer per season
 - Free access to the Dance Unit Gala (advance registration by email required)
- e) The Dance Unit season starts in September and ends in August of the following year. After payment of the registration fee the dancer has the right to participate in all Dance Unit competitions of the season. The registration fee is non-refundable.
- f) The entry fee is charged per competition, per dancer and per routine.

	QUALIFICATION COMPETITION	ONLINE COMPETITION	DANCE UNIT FINLAS
SOLO	45.-€	30.-€	50.-€
PAIR/TRIO/QUARTET	35.-€	20.-€	40.-€
SMALL GROUP	22.-€	12.-€	27.-€
GROUP	17.-€	9.-€	22.-€
IMPROV (SOLO)	35.-€		35.-€

- g) The entry fees must be paid after the registration deadline. A refund is generally excluded. More detailed information under point 13.

14) STAGE/THEATRE/BACKSTAGE

- a) Information on the stage dimensions of the respective competitions can be found on the website www.dance-unit.org
- b) Details on theatre admission for teachers, parents and public will be published after the registration deadline. All dance schools will be informed of the details by email.
- c) Dancers and registered dance teachers from participating schools will have access to the theatre, access to the changing rooms and the audience area as well as to the Dance Unit Gala.
- d) Visitors and parents do not have access to the changing rooms or backstage. Exceptions are the selected carers of the respective school management.

Additional wristbands for supervisors per registered dancer per competition:

- 11 - 20 dancers: one supervisor wristband
- 21 - 30 dancers: two supervisor wristbands
- 31 - 40 dancers: three supervisor e wristbands
- 41 - 50 dancers: four supervisor wristbands
- 51 - 90 dancers: five supervisor wristbands
- from 91 dancers and over: six supervisor wristbands.

- e) The coach/school leader/supervisor must accompany all dancers to the stage. They are responsible for ensuring that the dancers appear on time for the performance. If a starting number is not present on time, the routine cannot be made up.
- f) Dance Unit reserves the right to change the venue of the competition or to use more than one venue if necessary.

15) PERFORMANCE CONDITIONS

- a) All participating schools/studios/clubs take the risk of accidents for their active participants during Dance Unit competitions. Dance Unit is not liable for injuries to persons, including participants, teachers, or spectators, while the stay at the entire venue (e.g. in the changing rooms, backstage or on stage, in the foyer or audience area etc.). It is the own responsibility to take out insurance from their school for the Dance Unit competition days.
- b) Unsportsmanlike behavior during the competition may lead to disqualification and, in particularly serious cases, suspension for the coming years.
- c) Dance Unit is not responsible for choreographies in any discipline that are protected by copyright. If an illegal use of copyrighted choreography has been performed at a Dance Unit competition, it is the sole responsibility of the registered person/institution to pay the associated fines. It is the individual's responsibility to ensure that the appropriate authorization for the use of protected choreographies has been authorized in advance. This also applies to the copyright to choreographies from television and theatre productions.
- d) During a dance performance, no assistance or signs may be given by trainers and/or coaches and/or supervisors during a dance performance.
- e) The choreography should be adapted to the abilities/possibilities of the dancers.
- f) Dancers under the age of 12 (on 1 January of the year in which the competition takes place) may not wear pointe shoes in the competitions under any circumstances.
- g) It is not compulsory for all JUNIORS or ADULTS dancers to dance on pointe, in small or large groups.
- h) All props used must fulfil fire protection class B1 "flame retardant" according to the applicable fire protection standard fire protection standard DIN 4102-1.
- i) Dance Unit is not responsible for the storage of props during the competition days.
- j) All props are used at the risk of the dancers and the school/studio/club. Dance Unit accepts no responsibility for the props used, nor for any damage or injury caused during transport.
- k) Props must be an integral part of the performance.
- l) The props must be carried onto the stage by the dancers themselves (except for the MINIS age group, who may be assisted by up to two dance teachers/supervisors).
- m) Props that are placed on the stage and removed from the stage have a time limit of 20 seconds per set-up and dismantling. Failure to comply with this time limit will result in a deduction of 10 points for each offence.
Except for the Open-Show GROUP discipline. Here a time limit of 30 seconds is permitted.

Example:

If a trio takes 21 seconds to set on stage and 21 seconds to remove it from the stage, this routine will receive 20 penalty points.

- n) The following is not permitted in any routine during the competition:
- n) Special lighting effects
- o) Signs or assistance from coaches or supervisors during a performance contribution
- p) Living props
- q) Glass props (e.g. mirrors, vases, windows)
- r) Flames or burning candles
- s) Liquids or other substances (soap bubbles, water, etc. that could affect the stage)
- t) Confetti or any object that requires cleaning/washing up the stage
- u) Failure to comply with any of the listed rules will result in either a verbal warning, at least 10
- v) penalty points or disqualification of the respective dance routine. The decision lies with the tournament management on site.

16) REFUNDS AND CANCELLATIONS

- a) If a registration is cancelled for a reason other than a medical reason or serious personal circumstances (e.g. bereavement in the family or similar), no money will be refunded to the dance schools. Registration at one of the Dance Unit competitions confirms that our nonrefund policy has been read and understood.
- b) If a dancer is unable to participate in a competition for medical or serious personal reasons, an application for a refund of the entry fee will be considered at the discretion of the Dance Unit upon presentation of evidence.
- c) Should Dance Unit have to cancel an event for any reason, each dance school/club/studio will be issued with a credit note for paid entry fees and these will be automatically transferred to the next competition. This credit note can be applied to the entry fees for future Dance Unit competitions.
- d) All disputes arising against the Dance Unit company are subject to German law. Essen, Germany, is agreed as the exclusive place of jurisdiction.