

Rules and regulations DANCE UNIT

- Datum: 25.09.2026 -

The STAGE is YOURS

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 can 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 required.

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
TEENS:	aged 12 to 13 years
JUNIORS:	aged 14 to 15 years
SENIORS:	aged 16 to 18 years
ADULTS:	aged 19 and over
PARENTS DIVISION:	all parents are entitled

- 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.
- 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. **Dancers are not permitted to attend the Teachers' Meeting. Attendance is exclusively reserved for school management, trainers, and choreographers.**

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, TEENS, JUNIORS, SENIORS, ADULTS |
| b) CHOREOGRAPHY of the YEAR | MINIS, KIDS, TEENS, JUNIORS, SENIORS, ADULTS |
| c) DANCER of the YEAR | MINIS, KIDS, TEENS, 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.
- e) If your own National Qualifier is already fully booked, you may attend another Qualifier instead. It is also possible to participate in the Online Qualifier, provided that prior written approval has been obtained.

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) The Dance Unit FINALS are held under the title "World Championship."
- c) For the qualification, the respective routine must achieve at least **67 points** to qualify for the Dance Unit Finals.
- d) Participation in the Dance Unit FINALS must be confirmed and paid for online via the Contest Pro registration portal **no later than 20 days prior to the event**, following the qualifying competition. The date of the Dance Unit FINALS is also available on the Contest Pro portal.
- e) As part of the Dance Unit FINALS, additional program items such as auditions, workshops (GO-MASTERS), and an exhibition will take place. These offers are optional and 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 MINIS 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) Information on entry fees and participation fees can be found under Section 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) Entries that achieve a minimum score of **67 points** qualify to participate in the Dance Unit WORLD 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 registering studio or club is responsible for obtaining the required consent forms from the legal guardians and for communicating the Dance Unit guidelines accordingly.
- 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 place in the competition is only guaranteed once the participation fees and entry fees have been received in the Dance Unit account. These fees must be transferred within 28 days; otherwise, the reserved places will be automatically cancelled.
- h) If places are available, registration can be completed up to 28 days before the competition at the latest. Changes to the registration can be made through your account in the portal, up to 28 days before the start of the competition. Music can be uploaded or changed up to 10 days

before the start of the competition. Payment of the participation fees and entry fees must be completed no later than 28 days before the respective competition.

- i) Changes made after the registration deadline for the respective dance entries are subject to a fee. A fee of €60 is charged per change and per dance entry. Changes will only become effective once the change fee has been received in the Dance Unit account. Dance Unit reserves the right to review changes and, if necessary, reject them.
- j) All requests for changes — including changes to categories or the running order — must be submitted and paid for independently via the Contest Pro portal no later than 7 working days before the respective competition. Once this deadline has passed, no further changes can be accepted or processed. This regulation is intended to ensure reliable planning and minimize last-minute adjustments.
- k) At 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 €75 per additional dancer will be charged, or the entry may be disqualified. This decision will be made by the competition management.
- l) With your registration you agree to the competition rules.
- m) Dancers may compete once per discipline in the Solo category. No exceptions will be permitted. Example – “Dancer A” may compete with the following choreography: Discipline: Jazz, Category: Solo – one choreography only (two or more choreographies are not permitted).
- n) Dancers may compete a maximum of two times per discipline and category. (For Duo/Trio/Quartet, this is only permitted with different dance partners; the same applies to Small Group and Group.)
Example – “Dancer A” may compete with the following choreographies:
Discipline: Jazz, Category: Group – two choreographies (three or more choreographies are not permitted)
- o) Collaborations between multiple schools are only permitted in the PAIR/TRIO/QUARTET, SMALL GROUP, and GROUP categories. A separate account must be created in the “Contest Pro” portal for each collaboration. Only partial participation fees apply for the season. The photo/video fee and the administration fee are applicable.
- p) A dancer may be registered with a maximum of two different institutions and may compete a maximum of twice per discipline and category across the two schools.
Example: “Dancer 1” competes for School A in the PAIR/TRIO/QUARTET category in the Jazz discipline. “Dancer 1” may register for one additional dance with School B in the PAIR/TRIO/QUARTET category in the Jazz discipline.
“Dancer 1” may not register for two dances with School A in the PAIR/TRIO/QUARTET category, Jazz discipline, and then register for one or two additional PAIR/TRIO/QUARTET dances in the Jazz discipline with School B. the same rule applies to all other categories, such as SMALL GROUP and GROUP.

13) FEES (registration fee, entry fee)

- a) After registering for a Dance Unit competition, the “Contest Pro” portal will automatically calculate the applicable fees and provide an invoice as a download link.

The entry fees must be paid within 28 days. After this period, all registered entries and reserved places will be cancelled.

- b) The places for the registered entries are only guaranteed once both the registration fees and entry fees for the registered dancers and dances for the respective season have been received in the Dance Unit account.

- c) The registration fee of €48 per dancer is charged once per season and is a mandatory fee. The registration fee is non-refundable.

- d) The registration fee includes:

Photo/video fees for every dance of the entire season

Annual license per dancer per season

Administrative fees per dancer per season

- e) For participation in the WORLD FINALS, a one-time event fee of €10 per dancer applies. The event fee is only charged in the event of successful qualification and is only due if the qualified entry or the responsible person is actively registered for the WORLD FINALS via the Dance Unit Portal. Qualification alone therefore does not constitute an obligation to pay the event fee. If no registration for the WORLD FINALS takes place, no costs will be incurred.

- f) The event fee includes, among other things:

Free admission to the Dance Unit Gala. *Participation in the Gala is only free of charge for dancers participating in the WORLD FINALS. Prior registration by the school management via email is required.*

Participant or finalist badge for access to the designated WORLD FINALS areas.

Participation in the official WORLD FINALS supporting program and interactive activities, where provided for the respective event.

Eligibility to participate in the WORLD FINALS.

Further services and organizational details may be adjusted depending on the venue, category, and event. The terms and conditions of participation for the WORLD FINALS published at the time of registration shall apply.

- g) 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.
- h) The entry fee is charged per competition, per dancer and per routine.

	Qualification Competition	Online Competition	Dance Unit FINALS
SOLO	55.-€	33.-€	60.-€
PAIR/TRIO/QUARTET	40.-€	22.-€	50.-€
SMALL GROUP	25.-€	15.-€	30.-€
GROUP	19.-€	11.-€	25.-€
IMPROV (SOLO)	40.-€		40.-€

- i) 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 regarding theatre admission for teachers, parents, and spectators will be published after the registration deadline. All dance schools will be informed of the details via email.**
- c) Dancers and registered dance teachers from participating schools will have access to the theatre, access to the changing rooms, the audience area as well as 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 they 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 dancers' and the school's or studio/club's own risk. Dance Unit assumes no responsibility for the props used, including any damage or injuries caused during transportation.
- 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 are subject to a time limit of 20 seconds for each setup and removal. Failure to comply with this time limit will result in a deduction of 10 points for each violation.
The Open-Show GROUP discipline is excluded from this rule. A time limit of 30 seconds is permitted here.
Example:
If a trio takes 21 seconds to bring a stage set onto the stage and 21 seconds to remove it from the stage, this entry will receive a total deduction of 20 points.
- n) The following is not permitted in any routine during the competition:
 - o) Special lighting effects
 - p) Signs or assistance from coaches or supervisors during a performance contribution
 - q) Living props
 - r) Glass props (e.g. mirrors, vases, windows)
 - s) Flames or burning candles
 - t) Liquids or other substances (soap bubbles, water, etc. that could affect the stage)
 - u) Confetti or any object that requires cleaning/washing up the stage
 - v) Failure to comply with any of the listed rules will result in either a verbal warning, at least 10 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.