



# 2024 Inspire National Dance Competition Official Rules & Regulations

Please read carefully. Failure to comply with the rules below  
could result in disqualification.

## Free videos are offered to all registered dancers!

For studios and dancers - no additional fees!

Each dancer will receive UNLIMITED download access to ALL of their videos

## DIVISION LEVELS

\*The following guidelines are suggestions to be used in determining the appropriate level placement for each routine. Because no competition can possibly know how many hours a child dances or for how many years they have danced, 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 Inspire Management. All decisions are final.

- All solos performed by the same dancer must be registered in the same division. Example: a dancer taking 3 hours of Lyrical and 2 hours of Acro per week, the dancer should be placed in the Competitive level, regardless of the number of hours in each genre.
- Petites (7-8) may only be registered in the Recreational or Competitive division, not Elite. Minis (6 and under) may only be registered as Recreational.
- In a mixed Recreational/Competition/Competition Elite group routine, the division for the performance should be the level that applies to at least 50% of the dancers. For Duo/Trios with dancers from a variety of levels, at least 2/3rd of the dancers should be from the level. If you have a mixed-level routine with 50% Competitive dancers, but you feel the overall level of the routine is elite, please challenge your dancers by placing them in the Elite division.

## Technical Specifics & Guidelines

**Recreational Division:** For dancers with little or no competition experience who take 3 hours or less of class per week. Recreational dancers should have minimal competition experience (less than 2 years). There will be no redeemable gift certificates in this division and Inspire All Stars will not be selected from the Recreational Division. There will be a presentation of top scores. Groups may be placed in the recreational division only if that group is made-up of at least 50% recreational dancers.

**Competition Division:** For dancers who take 3-6 hours of class per week and/or have participated in competitions for 3-5 years.

**Competition Elite Division:** For dancers who take 7+ hours of class per week and/or have 6+ years of competition experience.

**Inspiring Gems:** This division is designed for dancers with physical, cognitive or intellectual disabilities to share their love of dance. Dancers in this division may dance to be adjudicated or for performance only. Directors may elect to opt in or out of feedback from the judges. Note: this division does not include high scores or overall top scores, but dancers are eligible for Judges' Choice Awards, adjudications, and additional awards.

**Pro/Am Division:** Any act in which a teacher 20 years of age and above performs. All Pro/Am performances are ineligible for Top Score of the Day Awards or Cash prizes. Student teachers ages 19 and under are permitted to compete in other competitive levels. The Pro/Am division will be scored on the Competition Elite Level Scoring system.

Type	Time Limit	Max # of Dancers
<b>Solo</b>	3:00	1 dancer
<b>Duo/Trio</b>	3:00	2-3 dancers
<b>Small Group</b>	3:30	4-8 dancers
<b>Large Group</b>	4:00	9-15 dancers
<b>Super Line*</b>	5:30	16+ dancers
<b>Production**</b>	8:00	16+ dancers

### Entry Fees

Please register for a Studio Center Account for information on Entry Fees or Studio Director may contact Inspire Management at [info@inspirendc.com](mailto:info@inspirendc.com)

*There is a fee to exceed the maximum allowed time limit.*

*No entries longer than 10 minutes will be accepted.*

*No changes (Division, Age or Group) will be permitted after the MONDAY the week of the competition.*

*\*Super Line - performances can portray a theme or style of dance, but should not portray a storyline, plot or narrative.*

*\*\*Production - performances must portray a storyline, plot or narrative throughout, resembling that of a film, book, play, musical, etc. Props are mandatory and must be hand-held or free standing.*

## Ages

Determined by using average age of the dancer(s) as of January 1, 2024. Do NOT round up. Dancers maintain their Regional Age at the Nationals event. The registration system will automatically recalculate the average age of a routine for Nationals if any of the dancers in the routine changes.

Mini: 6 & under    Petite: 7-8    Junior: 9-11    Teen: 12-14    Senior: 15-19    Adult: 20+

## ADJUDICATION CRITERIA & AWARDS

All solos, duet/trios and groups will be judged on a point system. In the case of a tie, the Judges will select the high score winner. Each studio will receive a digital video recording of the judges' critique of their studio's entries. Judges scores may also be accessed online. All scoring is completed electronically. In the event of technical malfunctioning, judge scores and feedback may be provided in a written format.

### Criteria

- Technical Ability: 35%
- Synchronization/Execution: 25%
- Choreography/Routine: 20%
- Presentation/Performance: 20%



### Scoring Scale

	Competition Elite	Competition	Recreational
Flawless Gem	295-300	292-300	N/A
Crystal Diamond	282-294.9	278-291.9	275-300
Diamond	268-281.9	258-277.9	250-274.9
Sapphire	253-267.9	238-257.9	225-249.9
Emerald	238-252.9	218-237.9	200-224.9
Ruby	225-237.9	200-217.9	175-199.9

Only Competition and Competition Elite routines are eligible for the Flawless Gem. This award is for near perfect routines.

### 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. Inspire will determine whether the Top 12, 10, 8, 5, 3 or overall 1st place entry will be recognized during the Overall Awards, based on the number of total entries at the regional competition. Soloists are allowed to enter as many solos as they wish, however only the top scoring solo from any individual dancer may place in the Overall Award category.

## Achievement & Choreography Awards

Our judges will select certain outstanding performances for achievement awards.

## Top Performers – by Age and Genre

Top Performance awards will be given to solo performances with the highest overall total points in each category and age group (when there are 5 or more entries).

The 8 Top Performance Awards for categories are as follows:

- Top Jazz Performance
- Top Tap /Clogging Performance
- Top Hip-Hop / Pom Pon Performance
- Top Lyrical Performance
- Top Contemporary Performance
- Top Character/ Musical Theatre/ Vocal Performance
- Top Ballet/ Pointe Performance
- Top Open/ Modern/ Acro Performance

Each Top Performance solo will be given an award.



## Inspire All Stars

Dancers competing in the Competition and Competition Elite Divisions will be eligible to be selected for the Inspire All Stars. These dancers will be invited to perform in one of the Inspire All Star Opening Numbers at our 2024 Nationals Event.

## Studio Awards

Inspire will award the INSPIRE Studio of Excellence Award to the studio with the highest average score of their top 10 scoring routines. Studios must have 10 routines registered to be eligible for this award. This award will be presented during the final group session of the event using the scores from that point and before.

Inspire will also award the Most Entertaining Studio Award, Studio Spirit Award, and Studio Sportsmanship Award based on the principles of competition and family values that we honor.

## Golden Egg Award

Our three judges will each be given "Golden Egg Award" trophies to hand out during each group session. They can at any point stop the competition, let the ducks loose and award the Golden Egg. This award is for any group who has stood out to them as an inspirational dance!

# 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/ 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.

**Musical Theatre** A routine interpreting a song from Broadway or cinematic musical.

**Character** A routine portraying an easily recognizable character throughout. It can be from a play, film, TV, Broadway or a stereotype such as a soldier, chef, firefighter, etc.

*In the above performance categories, only three gymnastic tricks are permissible. A gymnastic trick is generally considered any movement in which the performer's feet make one full rotation over the head. Performances may be moved to the correct category if applicable. Minimum lip syncing and talking are permitted if a character is not being portrayed.*

**Vocal** Routine may be any type of vocal presentation. Accompaniment must be on tape. Lead vocals are not allowed to be on said tape; backup vocals only.

*Inspire is predominately a dance competition, we do offer the vocal category for those performers who are cross trained in this skill.*

*This category has its own overall awards.*

*Vocal Performers are not eligible for the Title competition with a vocal solo.*

**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.

**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.

## “TITLE” (REGIONAL & NATIONAL)

Soloists have the opportunity to compete in a “Title Competition”. It is available to all levels of dancers: Recreational, Competition & Competition Elite. Soloists may enter one or more routines for the “Title” division, and this will need to be indicated when registering. Studio Owners can register their dancers through their DanceComp Genie Account. Regional Title winners will receive a Trophy, Tiara (Miss) and Scholarships (for specific age groups). Males will compete separately from female contestants. The cost for the Regional Title Competition is \$50. All Regional Title winners will also be eligible to compete in our Nationals Title competition. The cost for National Title competition is \$90.

**Regional Title Competition** will consist of 2 scores. One for the solo routine and one for the on-stage introduction.

**On Stage Introduction (30%)**: Participants will check-in with the Backstage Manager to pick-up the microphone for their on-stage presentation. They will be announced, walk out on stage, and prepare for the questions. The announcer will ask for their Name and Studio. Then the announcer will ask them ONE question from a bank of questions, based on their age division:

**Minis and Petites:** (All dancers 8 and under will have the same question)

- What inspires you when you are dancing?

**Juniors:**

- Who do you think is the best dancer in the world?
- What do you want to be when you grow up?
- Why do you enjoy dancing?
- What is your favorite thing to do when you are not dancing?

**Teens:**

- Who is your role model?
- If you could take a trip to anywhere in the world, where would it be and why?
- What is one of the biggest challenges you have faces so far as a dancer?
- What inspired you to become a dancer?

**Seniors:**

- Some people say that dancing is not a sport – what would your response be to them?
- What has been your greatest strength as a dancer?
- How do you balance your academics, dance and other extracurricular activities?
- Why should we select you as the title winner for Inspire National Dance Competition?



Contestants will respond, then exit the stage towards the backstage manager to return the microphone. They will then be re-introduced for their dance. If a title participant has chosen to enter more than one solo in the title competition, they will have a choice for title scoring. They can re-introduce themselves and respond to the questions each time, or they can choose to have their initial score replicated for each additional title entry.

**Solo Routine (70%):** This is your selected solo routine(s). Your dance will be scored by the judging panel. If you choose to select more than one solo to be scored as a title consideration, the highest of your selected solos will be selected for final title decisions.

**National Title Competition** will be available for all dancers who receive a Title award at a Regional, or Pre-Qualifying event. The National Title competition will consist of 2 scores. One for the solo routine and one for improv audition.

**Improv Audition (30%):** Participant will meet with the audition panel and be asked to introduce themselves. Then they will dance to a 45 second selection of music.

**Solo Routine (70%):** This is your selected solo routine. Your dance will be scored by the judging panel during round one of the Nationals event. The dance that you won your Regional title with is the dance that will be eligible for Nationals consideration.

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## GENERAL RULES

### Photogenic Entry

Photogenic entries are to be entered on the day of competition only. Studio representatives or parents will fill out a digital form at the merchandise table when scanning the QR code the day of competition. Photographs MUST be digital. In addition to the award, the winning entries will appear online and in the Nationals Program Book. Cost is \$50/entry. We also offer a separate Online Photogenic Competition for the 2024 "Face of Inspire". The Online Photogenic Competition is \$50. If you enter the regional photogenic competition, at that time you may be entered in the online competition for an additional \$40 fee. This is a \$10 discount.

### Independent Entries

We do not accept independent entries. A dance studio attending the competition must register each entry within the DanceComp Genie platform. Each studio is required to bring a minimum of TWO (2) performing individuals. This rule does not apply to soloists that qualify for Nationals. Independent dancers can register for INSPIRE Intensive Conventions. Please contact Inspire Management for questions regarding this.

## Music

Advanced submission of **music** must be submitted online through the DanceComp Genie Studio Center as an mp3. Please verify that all music uploads are the correct versions of the song. These must be submitted **4 DAYS PRIOR to the date of the competition.**

**Studios must bring a backup for ALL music. We do require backup music in the form of USB to be brought to the event.** Please label your USB with your studio name. USB files must be labeled with the three-digit entry number and Routine Title.

For Example: **007 Pretty Ladies**

**Please do NOT bring CDs to the event.**

All music must be recorded at the proper speed and should be a good high-quality recording. No Tap sounds are allowed on recordings for entries in the Tap category. INSPIRE is not responsible for music left at the show.

**Any music or performances which contain inappropriate content or profanity will result in at least a 5-Point Penalty.** Note: If you are questioning if your music is appropriate, please send us your music in advance and we will check it.

## Props

The placement and removal of props, mats, etc., must be completed by representative(s) from your studio within 1 minute. If the prop set-up will exceed the 1-minute time limit, please speak to the backstage manager. Additional fees and/or a point deduction may apply if set-up exceeds the time limit. \*\*Productions will be allocated additional time based on need. This will be decided by the backstage manager. No form of liquid, gel, glitter or other substance may be used that would affect the dancing surface. No items may be thrown or shot off the front of the stage. Props should not be built backstage (see Stage Manager for accommodations). For safety measures, performers cannot stand above 6'6" on the prop. Props which exceed 10'6" in height cannot be guaranteed to fit on stage. Inspire will not supply power. Inspire is not responsible for props left overnight or unattended during the event.

## Dressing Rooms

Dressing rooms will be assigned. All studio representatives, parents, dancers and items must remain in your assigned dressing room space. Inspire cannot be responsible for any items left in the dressing room during or after the event. Men are not allowed in the assigned dressing rooms. There will be spaces designated for boys and men dressing. We ask that all studio owners check their dressing rooms at the end of each day to ensure that the space is neat, orderly and that all personal items are collected.

## Studio Hospitality Suite and Reserved Seating

At each event, studio directors and teachers will have a space to enjoy a quiet moment, some refreshments and coffee. There will also be 1-2 rows reserved at the front of the auditorium specified for our studio directors and teachers.

## **Family Environment**

This is a family event; any sexually explicit dance, costume or music will not be tolerated. Any music or performances that contain inappropriate content or profanity will result in AT LEAST a 5-point penalty. This will be determined by Inspire Management. If there is a routine with subject of a sensitive nature that may not be appropriate for all audiences, please inform the event Director to proceed cautiously.

## **Routines**

There is no limit to the number of entries a studio may perform. All routines will be adjudicated.

## **Re-Performance**

Except for issues caused by technical difficulties on the part of Inspire NDC, re-performance of any routine will be adjudicated only. Please see backstage manager for additional information.

## **Video & Photography**

No cameras of any kind will be allowed during performances. The use of any type of camera or video camera during the competition will result in a point deduction, the disqualification of a number, or the disqualification of a studio. Please inform parents of this rule to avoid conflicts. You may use flash photography and video cameras during the awards ceremony.

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# **SCHEDULING**

## **Competition Schedule**

A confirmation of your studio's entries will be sent through the email address which is associated with your DanceComp Genie Account. 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.

When possible, every Regional 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 ½ hours before their scheduled time.

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

## **Scheduling**

INSPIRE does not have a set schedule. Schedules are formulated based on the number and type of entries received to best serve the majority of participants. INSPIRE will attempt to accommodate scheduling requests, however, due to the number of requests received, it is not always possible to accommodate everyone.

# REGISTRATION

All entries must be submitted online through DanceComp Genie. We **DO NOT** accept independent entries. Registration is accepted on a first come, first served basis and is limited to the amount of competition time available. This varies from city to city. Many of our events reach capacity well before the deadline and any entries exceeding the limit will be placed on a waiting list until it is determined that there is space available or they must be turned away. If an event reaches SOLD OUT status, a deposit of \$500 will be requested to hold your space in the event at that time.

## Early Bird Discount

This year we have a few different discounts due to our 10-year Anniversary. In order to receive the Inspire Early Bird 1 Discount, payment for all entries must be submitted online and PAID 90 days prior to the competition starting date. To receive the Inspire Early Bird 2 Discount, payment for all entries must be submitted online and PAID 45 days prior to the competition starting date. To receive our Decade Discount, payment for all entries must be submitted online and PAID 30 days prior to the competition start date.

## Full payment

Payment by check is appreciated and can be mailed to: **3002 Hawks Ridge Drive, Statesboro, GA 30461**. Studio directors may also send a cashier's check. Payment may be made by credit card through the registration system only. We **CANNOT** accept credit card payment over the phone. Only VISA & Mastercard will be accepted. We **DO NOT** accept American Express. A 3% service charge will be added to all credit card payments.

A 50% deposit must be received 30 days prior to the event. Full payment must be received at least 15 days prior to the competition date or a late charge per entry will be assessed. A \$35 fee will apply to all returned checks. Returned checks will automatically be turned over to an outside Collections Agency and/or the Solicitor's Office. **Absolutely no personal checks or credit card payments will be taken at the event, and any unpaid entries will not be allowed to perform.**

**No refunds of fees will be given after the deadline date (14 days prior to the event).** Credit for another regional competition or nationals for the current or following year will be issued to the studio in the event that a dancer is unable to perform.

**Once a competition is announced as SOLD OUT, a \$500.00 deposit will be required for studios to guarantee their entries. If your balance due is less than the \$500.00 required deposit, please contact the office.**

## LIABILITY

Inspire NDC, its staff, the hotel, the theatre or site of the competition will not be responsible for any accident or injury that may occur to anyone participating in or attending these events. Inspire cannot be held responsible for unforeseen flaws in theatre stages that may inadvertently lead to the causing of an accident. Persons entering the competition and/or participating as a spectator or in any other aspect MUST assume the responsibility for any unforeseen injury. It is the responsibility of the dance teacher and/or person in charge of the participating entries to educate them and other attendees from their studio as to these rules and policies.

*INSPIRE NDC reserves the right to alter or make adjustments to these rules and guidelines as they deem necessary.*

*Thank You!*

