

# Official Rules and Regulations

All entries must be submitted with payment in full, using credit card, bank check (cashier's check) or money order only for all entries from one studio. Studio checks or individual checks from parents will not be accepted. Entries will not be processed without full payment.

## GENERAL RULES & GUIDELINES:

- There is no limit to the number of entries a studio may have.
- All routines, including the choreography, music, and costuming, must be appropriate for family viewing. Routines deemed inappropriate by the Platinum Competition Staff will be stopped, disqualified, or face a deduction from the Judges.
- Participants may compete in more than one city.
- Limit of three (3) solos per performer at each Regional Competition. If you choose to enter the title category, only one solo can be entered per regional for title.
- A performer is not allowed to compete against himself/herself in the same age division or category. If any entry places in the TOP overalls at Nationals, then the studio/dancer is not permitted to compete the same routine during the regional tour the next season.
- No use of live animals or live people as props.
- No use of dangerous/destructive props such as knives, fire, glass, swords, water, paint, etc.
- The stage must be left clean by the performers.
- Props are permitted in all categories; however, there is a 2 minute time limit in setting up and removing props for each entry.
- Competitors must perform in the order in which they are scheduled in the program book. Special considerations will be made for costume changes and must be approved by the backstage manager. Those who request to perform on another day or time will NOT be eligible for Title or Top Overall Awards.
- No changes in category, entry participants, levels or ages will be made on the day of the regional competition; unless special permission is granted by the Platinum Directors. All changes permitted by the Platinum Directors are subject to a \$25.00 change fee. No changes will be permitted on the day of competition for our Nationals Finals.
- Upon receipt of your studio's competition schedule, directors must make all corrections and/or changes to entries before the stated **DEADLINE** determined by the Platinum Staff. These changes must be emailed or faxed to the Platinum office. Changes will not be accepted via telephone or voicemail. Each regional program book must go to print in a timely fashion, so your prompt attention to confirming your studio's schedule is required. A \$25.00 change fee will be charged for all changes to entries made after the **DEADLINE** and those changes will most likely not appear in the printed program.
- No coaching from the audience or sides of the stage. This may result in disqualification and/or point deduction.
- All competitors must be able to provide proof of their age at a Platinum competition if a protest regarding age occurs. Such protest must be presented in writing to the director of Platinum Dance within one-half hour of the performance of the entry in question. Only a Studio Director can initiate a protest. All regional ages are as of January 1 of the current competition year.
- No refunds will be made for competition entry fees.**
- All competitors, teachers, and audience members should conduct themselves in an appropriate manner at all times. This includes the dressing rooms, backstage, and in the audience.
- Teachers/Studio Directors are responsible for categorizing their entries based on Platinum's categories of competition. They are also responsible for placing the dancer in the correct level, recreational, intermediate and elite. If an entry at a Platinum regional competition is mis-categorized, the Judges will place the entry in the appropriate category of competition without a deduction. However, there will be a deduction for entries mis-categorized at Nationals. You must compete in the same level at nationals that you competed in at regionals. There will be no changes of levels at nationals. Please contact Platinum if you have any questions concerning categorizing your entries.
- Studio owners are to have their performers ready to perform one hour prior to their scheduled time. Delaying of the show may result in a point deduction. Therefore, practicing, excessive costume change time, or delays such as this may result in a point deduction due to failure to perform as scheduled.
- No additional sound equipment or microphones may be used or connected to the Platinum sound system.
- All photographs for the Platinum Photogenic category are to be submitted on the day of competition. Please submit a photograph that can be kept by the Platinum staff to be used in future programs.
- Any solo routine which is not completed the first time, and is attempted a second time, will be adjudicated only and not eligible for the top score awards or title division.
- Score sheets will be available online within 48 hours of the competition. Video Critiques will be available online in a timely fashion. Access your score sheets and video critiques through your DanceComp Genie account.
- Seven (7) days prior to the competition, you will receive final confirmation and a time schedule.

## PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOTAPING:

- Video recording and photography of any kind is STRICTLY PROHIBITED. Photography and video is only allowed during awards presentations. We have put this rule in place to protect studio choreography and costuming rights. More importantly we enforce this rule to protect children from having their images used inappropriately and without consent. We urge all studio owners, teachers, and parents to keep our performers photographically safe. Platinum reserves the right to remove the media being used or those using it from the event. Failure to comply to these rules could result in the disqualification of dancer(s) and/or studio(s). Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

## MUSIC:

- All music must be turned in for the entire competition day upon registration
- There must be only one routine per CD. Speed control will not be adjusted.
- Music must be recorded at the proper speed and should be a good quality recording.
- It is advisable that all music have a duplicate CD available for backup.
- All music must be labeled with the Studio Name, Entry # and Song Title.
- No Tap sounds are allowed on master CD recording for entries entered in the Tap category.
- Music must be properly cued at the beginning of the CD.

## ENTRIES:

- All entries must be postmarked **21 days** in advance of the first day of competition. Late entries will be accepted after the 21 day deadline subject to a \$10.00 per late entry fee, per number, until competition has been "sold out".
- No phone entries will be accepted.
- All entries must be submitted with payment in full, using a credit card, bank check (cashier's check) or money order for all entries from one studio. Studio checks, post-dated checks and individual checks from parents will not be accepted.
- All entries must be accompanied by payment in full in order to be processed.**

## TYPES OF ENTRIES:

**Solo** (1 performer) ★ **Duet** (2 performers) ★ **Trio** (3 performers) ★ **Small Group** (4 - 9 performers) **Large Group** (10 - 19 performers) ★ **Line/Production** (20 + performers)

## AGE DIVISIONS:

- Participants will be divided into the following age divisions:
  - Petite:** Ages 8 and under
  - ★ **Junior:** 9-11
  - ★ **Teen:** Ages 12-14
  - ★ **Senior:** Ages 15-19
  - Adult:** Ages 20 and up and for teachers who wish to compete.

## PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

### FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THESE RULES COULD RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION

## AGE GUIDELINES:

- Ages of performers will be determined as of January 1. When determining the age division for an entry, please average the ages of the participants in an entry, and then drop the decimal point. Therefore, 6.5 would be age division 5-6, not 7-8.

## 50% RULE:

- No more than **50%** of any duet/trio, group, or line may be the same dancers and may not compete against themselves in the same age group, performance level, and category.

## TEACHER RULE:

- Teachers are only allowed to compete in the Adult Category. **A "teacher" is defined as any individual that is being compensated for classes or choreography and/or teaches 3 or more hours per week.**

## ADULT RULE:

- Adult Division** includes the following: Teachers, Professionals, and Parents. Any routine solo, duet/trio, group or line that has a performer **20 years or older** will automatically be placed in the Adult age division, regardless of average age of participants.

## LEVELS OF COMPETITION:

- New** All solos performed by the same dancer must be entered in the same level. For example, a dancer may take 4 hours of Jazz and 1 hour of Tap per week, the dancer would be considered an Intermediate dancer, regardless of the breakdown on disciplines.
- New** Petites (8 & Under) can only be entered as Recreational or Intermediate, not Elite.
- Platinum offers three competitive levels that allow all students the opportunity to participate in the unique Platinum competition experience.
- In a group routine with dancers of different performance levels(REC/INT/ELITE), the entry should be entered in the level that applies to at least 50% of the dancers. In a Duet/Trio with dancers of different levels, at least 2/3 of the dancers must be from the level they are competing in. Violation of these rules will result in disqualification of the routine from the top ten. If a mixed-level routine has more than 50% INT dancers, but you feel the overall level of the routine is elite, please be fair and consider challenging your dancers by placing them in the ELITE performance level.

**NOTE:** Please be advised that these rules are offered as guidelines only for studio owners in the placement of their dancers in the level of competition they feel appropriate for their dancers. Platinum National Dance understands that as a studio owner, you are aware of the abilities of your dancers. We trust that you will be fair in placing your dancers in the level you feel best reflects their ability of dance. Because no competition can possibly know how many hours a child dances or for how many years they have danced, teachers are left to their own sound judgment when entering routines. The Judges may elevate routines or lower routines that are obviously placed in the wrong level. All decisions are final.

## Here are some additional situations to consider:

- The spirit and intent of our Performance Levels is to provide dancers with the opportunity to compete against other dancers with similar experience and training. It is NOT designed so that your studio will place in the overalls more often.
- Our performance levels should not be used as a tool to simply keep your groups from competing against one another. Each group placement should be based only upon the qualifications of that team.
- If a group is a mixed level of dancers, simply because you meet the 50% requirement, does not mean that a dance should be entered in the INT level. For example, if a studio puts together its five top INT dancers with 5 Elite level dancers, just because there are 50% INT level, does not mean it is an INT routine.
- If you have any questions regarding placement or any other rule, please feel free to email or call us, we are always happy to help.

## RECREATIONAL LEVEL:

- This level is for students new to competitions who take 3 hours or less of class per week. These students should have limited competition experience of only 1-2 years. Overall Top Cash Awards are not awarded in the RECREATIONAL level. Adult acts may be entered in the recreational level.

## INTERMEDIATE LEVEL:

- Students who take 3-6 hours of class per week and have participated in competitions for 3-4 years.

## ELITE LEVEL:

- This level is designed for more advanced students who take 7+ hours of class per week and have at least 5+ years of competition experience.
- Petites (8 & Under) cannot compete at the Elite Level, they must be entered as Recreational or Intermediate.

## TIME LIMITS:

Solo: 3 minutes • Duet/Trio: 3 minutes • Groups: 3 minutes • Lines: 5 minutes • Production: 7 minutes

Entries exceeding the given time limit may choose to purchase extended time at \$5.00 per minute per entry. Entries that exceed the time requirement may result in a point deduction if "extra minutes" were not purchased.

## TITLE DIVISION:

A soloist may enter ONE routine for the regional title. Title participants must be from the Intermediate or Elite Level. Title entries MUST be received by the entry deadline. Title entries will NOT be accepted on the day of the competition. NO EXCEPTIONS. The cost to enter a soloist's routine in the title division is \$25.00 for regionals and \$30.00 for nationals. There must be at least two contestants up for Title per age division in order for the Title division to be held. If only one entry is submitted per age division, the fee will be refunded.

## Title Age Divisions

Miss Petite Platinum/Mr. Petite Platinum	Ages 8 and under
Miss Junior Platinum/Mr. Junior Platinum	Ages 9-11
Miss Teen Platinum/Mr. Teen Platinum	Ages 12-14
Miss Platinum/Mr. Platinum	Ages 15-19

## 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.

## RECREATIONAL LEVEL:

Platinum Plus: 300-275 ★ Platinum: 274-249 ★ Gold: 248-223 ★ Silver: 222-197 ★ Bronze: 196 and under

## INTERMEDIATE LEVEL:

Platinum Plus: 300-280 ★ Platinum: 279-259 ★ Gold: 258-238 ★ Silver: 237-217 ★ Bronze: 216 and under

## ELITE LEVEL:

Platinum Plus: 300-285 ★ Platinum: 284-269 ★ Gold: 268-253 ★ Silver: 252-237 ★ Bronze: 236 and under

- One award will be given to the studio for their entry's achievement: Platinum Plus, Platinum, Gold, Silver, or Bronze. Individual placement ribbons indicating the entry's achievement will be given to each participant in the group, line.
- The "Champion of the Category" will be announced for all categories in which there are two or more entries per age division and category.

## OVERALL TOP AWARDS:

- Overall Awards will be presented to the TOP scoring entries in each level of competition. If there are 100+ entries at a regional competition, then Platinum will award the TOP scoring entries in the Petite (8 and under); Junior (9-11); Teen (12-14) and Senior (15-19) age divisions for each level of competition. Cash awards will only be awarded in the INTERMEDIATE and ELITE levels.
- One award will be given to the studio of the TOP Overall scoring solo, duet/trio, small group, large group, or line/production in each level of competition. OVERALL Winners from small groups, large groups, lines/productions will receive a ribbon for each entry participant recognizing their OVERALL placement.
- There must be a minimum of 10 entries per age division (petite, junior, teen and senior) in solos, duet/trios, small groups, large groups; and there must be at least 5 entries per age division for Lines/Productions in order for Cash Awards to be presented to studios. Cash awards will only be given out in the INTERMEDIATE and ELITE levels.
- New** Only one (1) solo per dancer is eligible for Overall Awards.
- Platinum National Dance Competition will determine if the Top 10, Top 5, Top 3, or the Top Overall 1st place entry will be recognized during the Overall Awards. This will be based on the number of entries at the regional competition.
- All ties will be broken; first by technique score, second by showmanship/presentation score, and third by a Judge's poll.
- All cash awards are given to the studio director.

## VOCAL, COSTUME, PHOTOGENIC COMPETITION:

- All contestants entered in vocal, adult, costume, and/or photogenic will be eligible for their own Top Overall Awards.
- Vocal & Adult contestants are not eligible for Title.
- Vocal & Adult contestants are not eligible for the National Finals Grand Championship.

## VOCAL CATEGORY:

- Please understand that Platinum is primarily a dance competition. We have, however, included the vocal category as a performance opportunity for those dance competitors who are involved in vocal instruction as part of a well-rounded performance education. The vocal category stands alone and has it's own over all awards. Note also that time limits in the vocal category are exactly the same as those in all other categories (3 minutes for solos) and will be deducted accordingly if over time.

## PHOTOGENIC AND COSTUME ENTRIES:

- Photogenic and costume entries are to be entered in the day of competition only. Please do not send these in with your entries.
- The photograph can be any size, color or black and white. You will fill out an entry form at the registration table when you check in the day of competition.
- Please submit a photograph that can be kept by the Platinum Directors. If the photograph wins, it will be used in the Nationals Program Books.

## REGIONAL AWARDS:

Adjudication ★ Overall Top Awards ★ Title Category ★ Vocal Category ★ Adult Category ★ Special Judges Awards ★ Top Scoring Recreational Act, Top Scoring Intermediate Act and Top Scoring Elite Act at Regionals and Nationals ★ Photogenic – Petite, Junior, Teen and Senior age divisions ★ Costume – Petite, Junior, Teen and Senior age divisions ★ Choreography Awards – Jazz, Lyrical, Tap, All-Around ★ Sportsmanship Award – chosen by backstage managers ★ 4 Day Caribbean Cruise – highest scoring studio ★ "Platinum Power" is the entry deemed the most entertaining group or line of the entire competition.

## REGIONAL CASH AWARDS:

- Top Overall Solo** - \$50.00 will be awarded to the Soloist who receives the highest score in the Petite, Junior, Teen, and Senior age groups.
- Top Overall Duet/Trio** - \$75.00 will be awarded to the Duet/Trio that receives the highest score in the Petite, Junior, Teen, and Senior age groups.
- Top Overall Small Group** - \$100.00 will be awarded to the Small Group that receives the highest score in the Petite, Junior, Teen, and Senior age groups.
- Top Overall Large Group** - \$100.00 will be awarded to the Large Group that receives the highest score in the Petite, Junior, Teen, and Senior age groups.
- Top Overall Line** - \$150.00 will be awarded to the Line that receives the highest score in the Petite, Junior, Teen, and Senior age groups.
- Cruise Award** - To qualify for the cruise, a studio must have a minimum of 25 entries; of those 10 must be groups. There must be at least 2 eligible studios for a cruise to be awarded. We will average the scores of all group routines regardless of level or age. The highest scoring studio is the winner.
- Cash Awards will only be awarded in the INTERMEDIATE and ELITE Levels.

## CATEGORIES OF COMPETITION:

**New** All categories of competition may contain up to 3 acro tricks. Entries that are primarily acro/gymnastics in nature or contain more than 3 acro tricks should be placed in the "acro/gymnastics" category or the "open" category.

**ACRO-GYMNASTICS** - A routine consisting of controlled moves such as walkovers, limbers, handstands, chest rolls, etc. Majority of routine must be acrobatic moves. Must contain some dance moves, steps and choreography. **BALLET** - Routine which must include classical steps and ballet technique. **BATON** - Routine using baton(s) and baton technique. **CHARACTER** - A routine portraying an easily recognizable character throughout. It can be from a play, movie, television, Broadway, or a stereotype such as a lawyer, law enforcement officer, etc. **CLOGGING** - A routine utilizing either traditional or contemporary clogging technique and style. **CONTEMPORARY** - Routine incorporating lyrical or jazz movement fused with modern elements. **DRILL TEAM** - Precision marching in military or dance styles. **FOLK/ETHNIC** - A routine incorporating ethnic styles of dance such as polkas, Hawaiian and Spanish, etc. **HIP HOP** - Routine must consist primarily of hip hop technique. No suggestive moves or inappropriate music. **JAZZ** - Routine must consist of primarily jazz technique. **LYRICAL** - Routine should demonstrate balance, extension, isolations and control using contemporary lyrical moves set to the mood or lyrics of the music. **MODERN** - Interpretive dance using balance and control. **MUSICAL THEATRE** - Routine featuring any style of dance interpreting a song from a Broadway show or movie musical. **OPEN** - Routine consisting of any of our listed categories or combinations of listed category styles. May contain an unlimited number of acro/gymnastics elements. **POINTE** - Routine must consist of pointe/toe technique. **POM PON** - Routine which must include such elements as marching, clean, sharp arm movements, kicks, leaps, jumps and splits. The routine must incorporate pom pons. Up to 3 acrobatic tricks allowed, but no stunts or tosses. **PRODUCTION** - A routine utilizing a group of at least 20 dancers incorporating any of our performance categories or a combination thereof. It has a time limit of 7 minutes in length. **SONG & DANCE** - Routine must contain both singing and any listed category of dance (tap, jazz, ballet, etc.). Accompaniment must be on tape and backup voices only will be permitted. **TAP** - Routine must contain tap technique. **VOCAL** - Routine may be any type of vocal presentation. Accompaniment must be on cassette tape or CD. No lead vocals permitted on tape, backup voices only will be permitted.

## ADJUDICATION:

- Platinum will provide only competent Judges. Our panel will consist of teachers, choreographers, and working professionals that are well versed in the categories of competition. They will also have an understanding of what it takes to choreograph for children and what skills are attainable for performers at various ages. All decisions of the Judges are final.
- Routines will be given a numerical score from each Judge.
- Judging Criteria is as follows:

- Technique** - 35 points
- **Choreography** - 15 points
- **Showmanship/Presentation** - 15 points
- **Execution of Choreography** (musicality/unison/rhythm) - 20 points
- **Costume** - 5 points
- **Overall Impression** - 10 points

## JUDGES CRITIQUES:

- Platinum provides verbal critiques to each studio owner online from all three judges for each routine in a timely fashion following the conclusion of the competition.

## ENTRY CONFIRMATIONS AND SCHEDULING:

- As a general rule, dancers are allowed 4 acts between numbers to change costumes. The backstage manager will collaborate with teachers and performers to allow performers 4 acts to change, even if their entries are back to back. However, the competition cannot be held up due to performers taking longer than the allotted 4 acts to change and will result in a deduction.

- A confirmation of your studio's entries will be emailed to the studio owner once these entries are received. Please take time to review your entries and make sure they are in the proper categories, performance levels and, age divisions. Changes should be emailed back to the office immediately after receiving your confirmations. Once the final schedule is done, the ability to make changes and/or corrections is considerably limited, if not impossible. A final schedule will be emailed to the studios 7 days (or before if available) prior to the first day of competition. An order of events will be posted to the website as soon as they become available.

- Please note that each show is scheduled independently based on the number of acts and how those acts break down among solos, duet/trios, and groups. As such there is no "standard schedule" we can share prior to the schedule being emailed. It is impossible to even guess when an act or group of acts will perform prior to the final schedule. Please note that it is generally very difficult to accommodate individual schedule requests given that multiple such requests from multiple studios almost always conflict with one another. Finally, don't make assumptions about the current schedule based on a prior year's schedule.

## STUDIO REBATES:

A rebate of 5% of entry fees is available to qualifying studios. To qualify, register online 45 days prior to the first day of competition and your entries must contain the following: Total entries paid in full via a cashier's check, money order or credit card along with the completed Rebate Form which is available on our website at danceplatinum.com. Rebates will be made out to the studio name and given to the studio owner when they check-in at retail the day of the competition.

## STUDIO REFUNDS:

No refunds will be made for competition entry fees. In the unlikely event that it is necessary to cancel a competition all entry fees will be returned in full.

## POSSIBLE DEDUCTIONS:

- Any studio/entry who delays the competition because they are rehearsing;
- Any studio/entry who delays the competition due to costume changes taking more than the allotted four acts to change;
- Coaching from the audience or sides of the stage (verbal cues or demonstrating is strictly prohibited);
- Over time limit (10 second grace will be given to a routine before deduction);
- Inappropriate music or performance content as deemed by the Judges or Platinum staff;
- Use of restricted items as outlines in the rules;
- Videotaping or photography of any routine.

## NATIONALS FINALS:

- Entries must receive a Platinum Plus, Platinum, Gold, or Silver achievement to qualify for Platinum National Finals.
- Studios who do not attend a regional, may be selected for Platinum National Finals if they submit a video entry of each entry they wish to enter. Platinum must receive all video entries for Nationals 45 days before the Finals to be considered.
- Cash prizes along with scholarships will be some of the awards up for grabs at the Platinum National Finals.
- Special events will be planned for participants during the Nationals week, along with FREE workshops.
- Platinum Grand Championship is a gala event that occurs on the final day of National Finals. The top scoring entries from the Petite, Junior, Teen, Senior age divisions and the Recreational, Intermediate and Elite levels will be given the opportunity to re-compete for the title BEST OF THE BEST. Adult and Vocal entries are not eligible to compete in the Grand Championship. An 11 & Under and 12 & Over BEST OF THE BEST Champion will be awarded in each level, Recreational, Intermediate, and Elite at the end of the Grand Championship.

## MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION:

- All contestants grant permission to the Directors of Platinum National Dance Competition to use their names, photographs, or to appear on local and/or national television, brochures, and/or the Platinum website to promote its competitions.
- Smoking, eating, and drinking are prohibited in the competition area and dressing room.
- Photography and videotaping are not allowed at a Platinum Competiiton. Use of photography or videotaping could result in disqualification of the routine in question
- Platinum reserves the right to cancel any competition due to weather, number of entries, or any other circumstances deemed necessary. In case of cancellation, all registration fees will be promptly refunded. Platinum reserves the right to move the competition location due to unforeseen circumstances.
- Sportsmanlike behavior is expected at all times.
- Studios may not reserve seats or dressing rooms.
- Platinum National Dance Competition and the hosting facility are not responsible for personal injury to contestants or spectators or property loss. By entering this event, it is agreed that participants or spectators will not hold Platinum National Dance Competition, LLC or its officers, directors, staff or employees responsible for injuries sustained or illnesses contracted by them while in attendance of one of their competitions.

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