

Dance Category Rules and Conditions of Entry



DREAM
PERFORM
ACHIEVE
INSPIRE

Event Terms

Classical Ballet

Incorporates classical ballet vocabulary and technique and is performed to a classical piece of music. Variations from classical repertoire are not permitted, except in Events 400 and 423 (Sydney Eisteddfod Ballet Scholarship and Sydney Eisteddfod Robert and Elizabeth Albert Junior Classical Ballet Scholarship).

Demi-Character

Based on classical ballet technique to a classical piece of music but must portray an age-appropriate story clearly transmitting an emotion and story. Variations from classical repertoire are not permitted. Title only (not a synopsis) must be provided when registering. Please be aware of what are considered suitable 'props'.

World Folk Dance

The presentation of a cultural or historical dance that reflects the life of the people of a certain country or region.

Lyrical Dance

Incorporates ballet, jazz and contemporary technique. Often uses music with lyrics to inspire the movement. The style focuses strongly on emotion and has an individual approach compared to other dance styles. The dancer's movements portray the emotion and story of the song with a precise nature.

Contemporary

Incorporates abstract and extreme concepts. Contemporary dance should explore the dancer's body and range of movement. Using classical ballet technique but employs the use of the torso, floor work, unpredictable change of rhythm, speed and direction. Choreography is physically intricate and versatile incorporating dynamic and expressive movement, strength and flexibility.

Jazz

Incorporates fast choreography to a variety of music from old to new. Current jazz technique should be shown including turns, kicks, jumps, floor work and arm and foot combinations. Acrobatic actions are performed at own risk. Selection of music should be suited to age of dancer.

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Musical Theatre

An item choreographed to music from a film musical or stage musical (Broadway Jazz or Musical Comedy style). Should not be an exact replication but should show the appropriate choreographic style. Does not involve any singing.

Hip Hop

Incorporates all styles of Hip Hop dance. Characterised as street/break dance style or evolved as part of Hip Hop culture. Often as seen in current dance/music videos. Must not be a commercial jazz routine, as this would be classed under the 'Jazz' style.

Tap

Any style or tempo of tapping. Should show important tapping techniques such as light and shade, musicality, rhythm and syncopation. Tap music accompaniment can include vocals. Recorded tap routines are not allowed.

The following rules and conditions are specific to the Dance Category. Please ensure you also read the *General Rules and Conditions of Entry*.

- 1 Events are for soloists unless otherwise specified.
- 2 Time Limits
 - > Time limits allow for the presentation of one item, except in scholarships and championships as indicated.
 - > Time limits are strictly monitored. Entrants exceeding 'Total Performance Time' will be eligible for 'comments only' - and not in contention for a prize or placing.
 - > Time limits are stated under 'Entry Information' of each event page on our website.
- 3 Repertoire Selection
 - > Entrants are encouraged to vary repertoire choices in order to develop their expressive and technical capabilities. However, there are no restrictions on the number of times a work can be repeated across multiple events, including Principal events.
 - > Items performed in a Heat must be repeated in the Final unless otherwise stipulated.
- 4 Tarkett
 - > No tarkett floor will be provided for Tap or Song and Dance events, and may not be provided for events for entrants aged 12 and Under.
 - > For all other events, including School Dance Events, tarkett will be provided.
 - > Where tarkett is provided, no tap shoes or footwear with metal will be allowed.
 - > For events held at Sydney Opera House, shoes with black soles (excluding black jazz shoes) are not permitted.

5 Propriety Standards

- > Make-up, costumes and choreography must be suitable to the age of the dancers and sexually explicit actions avoided.
- > It is incumbent on teachers and parents to ensure that all competitors dress age appropriately.
- > Not adhering to this may result in entrants being unable to participate in the festival. The decision made by any Sydney Eisteddfod representative is final in this matter.

6 Costumes

- > Costumes should reflect the style and music of the dance.
- > Costumes should not be culturally insensitive or considered any form of cultural appropriation.
- > Pointe shoes must not be worn by any entrant performing in an event for 12 years of age and under.
- > For Classical Ballet, any traditional classical costume is allowed.
- > For Lyrical and Contemporary Dance, entrants may perform barefoot or with ballet shoes (elastics only, no ribbons).
- > Foot Thongs are permitted.
- > All tap shoes must be covered whilst not on stage.
- > Further costume requirements for specific events will be clarified by the Eisteddfod.
- > Entrants should not dress or change in public areas.

7 Props

- > Simple hand-held props (basket, scarf, doll, flowers, etc) are permitted if used in the performance.
- > Free-standing props must be no larger than an average chair.
- > Props must be easily carried backstage by the entrant themselves without any assistance.
- > Each entrant is responsible for placing and removing their items on stage. Parents or teachers are not allowed to assist with this set-up.
- > Performers must not use fire, weapons (including replica weapons), sharp or sharp-edged implements, live animals, helium balloons, or props made of polystyrene.
- > There must be no debris, residue or substance from an entrant's performance or costume which may cause slipping hazards, require the stage to be cleaned, or cause delay to the event.
- > Rosin may not be used in any venue, dressing room or stage area.
- > The use of house curtains is not allowed unless authorised by Sydney Eisteddfod Officials.
- > Props on wheels or those mobile during the performance may not be permitted if their use is deemed dangerous by any representative of Sydney Eisteddfod.
- > Any electronic props being used as part of the routine must be cleared with Sydney Eisteddfod at least two weeks prior to the performance date.
- > Venue safety procedures override any decisions made by a Sydney Eisteddfod Officials.

8 Backstage Crossover

- > Backstage crossover during a performance is not permitted
- > Behind-stage access at the Concert Hall of The Concourse is only to be used at the start of the performance.
- > Dancers may be penalised if found running under-stage or behind the stage to gain access to the other side a during performance at any of the venues.

9 Music

- > Music is to be uploaded to the *Sydney Eisteddfod Entrant Portal* no later than 14 days prior to the event.
- > Files should be in MP3 format. Please use the following format when naming your file :
Event number_Entrant first and last name_Style.
(eg. Event 473 _Emily Jones_Classical).
- > Entrants who do not provide their music within this timeframe, will not be able to perform.
- > It is the entrant's responsibility to ensure their uploaded backing track is correct and of acceptable audio quality.
- > All entrants should bring copies of their music on a USB, labelled as per the above, for contingency purposes.

10 Finals

- > In solo events with 40 or more entrants, 'finals', if required will be scheduled as close to the heats as possible. If fewer than 40 register to perform, or if the adjudicator decides a final will not be required, the result will be announced.
- > Finalists must repeat their item/s from the heats in the same costume, unless otherwise indicated.

11 No parents or teachers are permitted back of house for Solo, Duo or Trio events.

12 Groups

- > Group sections are determined by the age of the eldest performer in the group.
- > The age of a performer will be taken as of 1 January 2025 for any group events which are categorised by age (events 498, 501- 518).
Note : This is for Group events only, with an entrant's age for Solo, Duo or Trio events being taken as of 31 December 2025.
- > Age parameters must be strictly adhered to. If it becomes known that an entrant is dancing in the incorrect age group, penalties will apply.
- > The minimum number in any group is 4 dancers, or as specified in each group event.
- > If a group item features a soloist or a duo, this should not be for more than approximately 8 bars of music or 45 seconds.
- > Studios and schools may enter more than 1 group into an event. Individuals are allowed to perform in more than one group in the same event, provided that a group contains no more than 20% of the same performers from another group in the same event.
- > A maximum of 3 helpers (including teachers) per group are permitted back of house. The names of helpers and teachers who will require back of house access must be advised via the *Sydney Eisteddfod Entrant Portal*, no later than 14 days prior to the event.
Helpers are to remain with the group at all times, including going with them to warm-up areas (if such spaces are available), settling the group prior to taking to the stage, assisting, and supervising the group after their performance.

13 School Dance Groups

- > These events are restricted to Infant, Primary and Secondary Schools only.
- > Age calculations will be determined on the majority of the students (eg. a group with 30 students, with 14 who are in Year 2 and 16 in Year 3, will enter a Stage 2 Event).
- > Cross elevation of advanced juniors is permitted.
- > A group may represent one school, or two schools combined. Participants must be bonafide students of either school. A group comprising students from three or more schools may be permitted, especially for regional and certain interstate schools, at the discretion of Sydney Eisteddfod. Combinations of more than two schools need to make written application to Sydney Eisteddfod for special consideration and the decision of the Eisteddfod will be final.
- > For equitable adjudication, professional dance academies and specialist performing arts schools with accreditation are excluded.
- > Pointe work is not compulsory.
- > Schools may also enter any of the other dance events.

14 Canvassing of students : Sydney Eisteddfod does not tolerate canvassing or poaching. Any attempt by studio owners, teachers, competitors or parents to change a competitor's place of enrolment is regarded as bad sportsmanship and an infringement of the competitors rights, and will be subject to penalty or disqualification.