

## 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'.

### *National Character* ( Dance groups / Schools )

A stylized representation of a traditional folk or national dance using movements and music which have been adapted for the theatre. Dance costume and music should be authentic of the country portrayed.

### *World Folk Dance* ( for Community Groups )

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.

### *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.

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### *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.

### *Song and Dance*

No microphones provided. May include pop/rock/jazz/tap/musical theatre. Selection of song should be suited to age of dancer. Musical accompaniment must be music only without any vocals.

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 an event indicates otherwise.
- 2 It is the responsibility of all entrants, parents, and teachers to stay up to date of live changes to the events they have entered by viewing their entrant dashboard.
- 3 Time limits allow for the presentation of one item except in scholarships and championships as indicated. Limits are strictly monitored and entrants exceeding them will be eligible for 'comments only' - and not for a prize or placing.
- 4 A different item is required for each event unless repeats are specifically allowed. Items performed in a Heat must be repeated in the Final unless otherwise stipulated.
- 5 If it is specifically indicated that an item may be repeated, it may be repeated only once except when progressing to a Final. An entrant found repeating an item other than where allowed will be eligible for 'comments only' - not for a prize or placing.
- 6 Age groups must be strictly adhered to. If it becomes known that an entrant is dancing in the incorrect age group, penalties will apply.
- 7 No parents or teachers allowed backstage except for one nominated supervisor for group events only.
- 8 Tarkett : no tarkett floor provided for Tap, Song and Dance, or potentially 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.

- 9 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 the 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.
  
- 10 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.
  
- 11 Costumes :
  - > Costumes should reflect the style and music of the dance.
  - > Costumes must be age appropriate, the decision made by any Sydney Eisteddfod representative is final in this matter.
  - > All tap shoes must be covered whilst not on stage.
  - > Pointe shoes must not be worn by any Entrant who is 12 years of age and under. Competitors over the age of 13 may perform in pointe shoes at the discretion of their teacher, and will be at no disadvantage if they are not en pointe.
  - > For Classical Ballet, any Traditional Classical costume is allowed.  
For Modern Expressive Lyrical and Contemporary Dance, entrants may perform barefoot or with ballet shoes ( elastics only, no ribbons ). Foot Thongs are permitted.  
Costumes should not be culturally insensitive or considered any form of cultural appropriation.
  - > Further costume requirements for specific events will be clarified by the Eisteddfod.  
Entrants should not be getting ready in public areas.
  
- 12
  - > Props :  
Entrants, particularly in the Demi-Character events, are requested to note that no freestanding scenery is allowed. Simple hand-held props ( basket, scarf, doll, flowers, etc ) are permitted only if actually used in the routine. A single chair (not on wheels) is permissible. Each entrant is responsible for placing and removing their items on stage. Parents or teachers are not allowed to assist with this set-up.  
The use of props in groups is not desirable. If they are essential to the dance, they should be small enough to be hand-held ( ie : flower garlands or a small box ).  
Props may not be assembled anywhere on site at the venue. Props must be easily carried backstage by the entrant themselves without assistance.  
Entrants must not use fire, sharp or sharp-edged implements, live animals or props of polystyrene components as well as helium balloons on stage at any time.  
Props of a height of 1 metre or more that will be performed on in any manner ( eg, for standing, walking, etc ) must include a hand-rail. This is a safety and insurance requirement and cannot be waived. All such props must not exceed a height of 1.7 metres.  
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 venue safety procedures override any decisions made.  
Any electronic props being used as part of the routine must be cleared with Sydney Eisteddfod due to venue security reasons at least two weeks prior to the performance date.

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- > There must be no debris, residue or substance from an entrant's performance or costume requiring the stage to be cleaned and causing delay to the event. Penalties may apply. No liquids, soap bubbles, glitter or excessive body talc should be used, and the surface of the stage must not be coated.
- > 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.

13 Backstage crossover during a performance is not allowed :

- > Behind-stage access at the Concert Hall of The Concourse, Chatswood 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 during performance at any of the venues.

14 Music :

Music is to be uploaded to the Sydney Eisteddfod Entrant Portal no later than 10 days prior to the event. Files should be in MP3 format. Please use the following format when naming your file:  
Event number\_Entrant number\_ Entrant first and last name\_Style.  
( eg : Event 473 \_entrant 8\_Emily Jones\_Classical ).

All entrants should bring copies of backing music on a USB, labelled as per the above, for contingency purposes.

15 Groups:

- > Group sections are determined by the age of the eldest competitor in the group.
- > The minimum number in any group is 4 dancers, or as specified in each group event.
- > A dance school may enter more than once in an event, but dancers may not perform in multiple groups in the same event.
- > If a group item should feature a soloist or a duo this should not be for more than approximately 8 bars of music or 45 seconds.

16 School Dance Groups :

- > An entrant is permitted to perform only once in an event.
- > No tap shoes allowed or footwear with metal in events 517-531.
- > Cross elevation of advanced juniors is allowed.
- > These events are restricted to Infant, Primary and Secondary Schools only.
- > 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 is not allowed. However, other combinations may be allowed, especially for regional and certain interstate schools, at the discretion of Sydney Eisteddfod. Different combinations 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.

- 17 Applicants will be prompted to complete additional information, via the Sydney Eisteddfod Entrant Portal, in the lead up to their event:
  - > Entrant lists with the first and last names of all dancers and their date of birth
  - > Number of performers
  - > Names of helpers and teachers who will require venue back of house access
- \* *Helpers need 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.*
- 18 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.

*Important notice : Sydney Eisteddfod's mission continues to promote 'live' performances in our annual Festival. However, should a pandemic preclude this, it reserves the right to ask all entrants to send in videos to continue to be able to perform their works. We will continue to monitor the health advice of the Australian Government and work closely with all, staff, teachers, parents, and entrants, so that all our performers can continue to get back on stage safely.*