

DANCE COMPETITION

REGULATIONS, PROCEDURES, STANDARDS & ETIQUETTE

GENERAL DANCE REGULATIONS

1. **WORKING MANAGEMENT:** The activities and competition shall be under the working management of Festival Officers. Any questions not dealt with in these regulations, or in any other regulations pertaining to the Festival, shall be referred to those Festival Officials whose decisions on such matters shall be FINAL and BINDING to all concerned.
2. **DISCLAIMER:** Any individual partaking in physical activities such as dance competitions takes certain incumbent risks such as possible sprains, etc. By participating in the Festival Dance Competition, competitors and parents/guardians of young dancers are indicating acceptance of any and all risks involved in such an endeavour. Therefore, LFMA, its Officers, volunteers, and venue locations are not responsible or liable for any personal injury, damages, or losses of personal property that may occur while partaking or attending any activity connected with this competition.
3. **CODE OF CONDUCT:** All participants are expected to abide by and honour the Festival's Code of Conduct. A blank Code form can be obtained from the Festival website (www.tbmusicfestival.com). The studio director or teacher in charge may choose to accept full responsibility for the conduct of all participants from their studio by signing and handing in one form; or the studio may choose to have each dancer participating (and parent) sign an individual form.
4. **DANCE ENTRY DEADLINE:** Registration will take place on-line as follows: <http://registration.tbmusicfestival.com>. This can all be accessed through the Festival website by clicking on Festival and Dance Registration. Registration will open on December 1, 2023 and close Sunday, February 3, 2024. Cheques or e-Transfers will be due to the Festival Coordinator by **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2024**. All fields must be completed in order for the registration to be completed. All LFMA competitive events (Instrumental, Vocal and Dance) will be held in a 2-week time frame during the 2024 season therefore all entries must be turned in by the deadline set for each division, and no later.
5. **LATE ENTRIES:** A fee of \$50.00 per entry will be charged for any late entries received after the registration deadline of February 3, 2024. **LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER FEBRUARY 17, 2024!** Absolutely **no exceptions** will be made.
6. **PAYMENTS & REFUNDS:** **Total payment** of all entry fees **will be due by Sunday, February 17, 2024** preferably one cheque per studio. Once an entry has been received, it is automatically **NON-REFUNDABLE** regardless of the reasons for withdrawal. The current administration rate will be levied on NSF cheques. In the event of a miscalculation, all outstanding balances must be remitted promptly upon notification.
7. **AGE CATEGORIES:** The **age** of each competitor is determined **as of DECEMBER 31, 2023**. Age level is determined in the following manner: SOLO = participant's age as of December 31st. DUET/TRIO = age category entered must be according to the age of the eldest participant. GROUPS/LINES/PRODUCTIONS = age category is determined by calculating the average age of the participants (add all ages together & divide by the number of dancers involved and dropping the decimal point). The eldest participant in any group, line or production can only be 2 years older than the age category entered; however, there is no restriction preventing a younger dancer from competing in a higher age level.
8. **TIME LIMITS:** Performances should not be longer than the maximum time allotted in the Syllabus. Performances that exceed their time allotment will be subject to penalization. All decisions will be FINAL and BINDING. Any counter-complaint by the party found guilty of such an infraction will be deemed unethical and invalid. *Penalty: One mark will be deducted per 5 seconds over limit to a maximum of 30 seconds; over 30 seconds warrants automatic disqualification, however, an adjudication may still be obtained.* Timing begins as the first note of music is played and stops at the competitor's ending pose. Entrances, bows, and exits are excluded from the total time limit.
9. **UNDERSTUDIES/REPLACEMENTS:** Substitutes cannot be used for Solos, Duets or Trios. When a soloist is unable to perform, the entry will be cancelled. If one Duet partner is unable to perform, the remaining participant may compete as a Solo; and if one dancer in a Trio cannot perform, the entry may compete as a Duet. The dancers named on the original entry roster of a Group, Line or Production are the only competitors who should be performing the routine. However, if an understudy must replace an injured or ill participant, or if an addition or deletion to the original roster occurs after the entry has been delivered, the Festival Coordinator must be informed **immediately**.

10. **MUSIC:** The music for each performance will be uploaded into DanceComp Genie. The music deadline will be two weeks prior to the start of the Dance Competition.
11. **MUSIC TECHNICIAN:** All music will be played by the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium Technician.
12. **INSURANCE:** All studios must provide a Certificate of Insurance to the Coordinator prior to the start of the Dance Competition.
13. **PROPS:** All props should be free standing and easy to set up and remove. Construction should be solid and should not compromise the physical well-being of the competitor(s) in any way. The use of dangerous goods or materials like fire, swords, powders, fog machines, etc. is totally prohibited. The use of any unconventional or large props must be authorized by the Festival Coordinator prior to the competition.
14. **QUESTIONS/COMPLAINTS:** Questions, complaints, protests or concerns regarding any decisions, results, regulations or procedures that may arise **before, during or after** the competition must be made in writing exclusively by the studio owner/director (NOT a parent) and can only be submitted to the Festival Coordinator or festival Officials, and NOT the Adjudicators. All questions, complaints, challenges and concerns will be dealt with in a timely manner without causing any delay or disruption to the program sequence or order of events or administrative agenda.
15. **ADJUDICATORS' DECISIONS** are FINAL and BINDING to all concerned. **At no time, during or after the competition** can anyone other than the Coordinator or appointed Festival Executives approach the Adjudicators with any inquiries, concerns or complaints related to any competition results or Adjudicator's decision. Adjudicators will not be allowed to change their marks after the session has finished.
16. **CONTACT WITH ADJUDICATORS:** At no time during the dance competition, in or out of the auditorium, is anyone permitted to approach the Adjudicators except designated Festival Officers. Teachers, competitors, parents and relatives of participants who may like to converse and express their appreciation will be permitted to approach the Adjudicators after the final adjudication on the very last day of the competition.
17. **RECORDS & DOCUMENTS:** All records and documents used by the Adjudicators, the Coordinator and designated Festival Officers are considered **PRIVATE** and **CONFIDENTIAL**. Viewing of any official records is strictly prohibited.
18. **USE OF GREASE PAINT, LOTIONS AND OIL PRODUCTS:** The Festival **strictly prohibits** the use of any and all grease paint, lotions and oil products on the dancer's body; and the use of any spray products on the shoes such as "glue on shoes". If used, consequences are immediate disqualification of the studio and the cost of any damage to the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium will be incurred by the Studio.
19. **LITTER ON STAGE:** Debris from costumes or props such as feathers, etc. can be a serious safety hazard. Each studio is responsible and required to have someone ready to clean the stage immediately following any routine that litters the dance surface; or, must inform the Coordinator prior to the start of the session so an unsafe situation can be avoided.
20. **FLASH & NON-FLASH CAMERAS, DIGITAL or CELL PHONE CAMERAS:** The use of any type of photo equipment is **STRICTLY PROHIBITED** in the auditorium while competitors are performing their routines on stage. The flash of a camera can temporarily blind a performer and pose a **serious safety hazard**. Any and all photography taken during performances, with or without flash, can be a distraction for both the competitor/s and the Adjudicators. Photographs can be taken in the Lobby area or on the stage at the end of the session.
21. **VIDEO CAMERAS & OTHER RECORDING APPARATUS:** Visual or audio recording of any Festival performances or adjudication comments is **STRICTLY PROHIBITED**. Persons observed using or bringing in recording apparatus will run the risk of having their equipment confiscated for a period of time or will be asked to leave the premises immediately.
22. **CELL PHONES and PAGERS** must be turned off or set to vibrate while in the auditorium. Reminder: Cell phones **cannot** be used to take photographs or visually record routines while competitors are performing on stage.
23. **CONFISCATION OF UNAUTHORIZED EQUIPMENT:** The Festival reserves the right to temporarily confiscate any electronic equipment used to record or photograph any performance during the competition without official authorization from Festival Officials. Confiscated property will be returned to its owner/operator at the end of the session in question or when the owner/operator exits the auditorium.
24. **REHEARSING:** Stretching before a performance is encouraged to avoid injuries such as pulled muscles as long as it can be done safely, however, **rehearsing** any part of a performance in the Lobby, the Dressing Room or in the auditorium is **not permitted** at any time during the Dance Competition.
25. **SINGING:** Singing by competitors is not permitted in any category.

26. **AGE INQUIRIES:** Challenges of age eligibility must be made in writing to the Festival Coordinator within 3 days of the final day of competition. Entries found to have been entered in the wrong age category may lose their placement (1st Place, etc.); and will not be eligible for any awards or scholarships.
27. **ROUTINE CONTENT:** The LFMA Dance Competition is a family event. All performances must be suitable for family viewing. Costumes should be tasteful; music should be well-chosen and age appropriate; and objectionable lyrics must be edited. Suggestive movements, inappropriate gestures, displays of violence or social prejudice **MUST NOT** be part of any routine. Any contradiction to these recommendations could result in a reduction in score or a possible disqualification.
28. **FREE ADMISSION:** There will be free admission for all participants, Dance Studio owners, teachers and spectators.
29. **PUBLICATION OF RESULTS:** The Festival reserves the right to post names and photographs of competitors, award recipients and scholarships winners on the Festival website; also, the Festival will provide the local newspaper with competition results for publication; in addition, the Festival reserves the right to use photographs of participants for official or promotional purposes. Any objections to these claims for privacy reasons must be made in writing and sent to the Festival Coordinator at least one month prior to the start of the competition.
30. **DISQUALIFICATION:** Breach of any General Dance Regulations, Code of Conduct, or any action contrary to Dance Programming Procedures, Dance Awards and Scholarships Standards, or Dance Competition Etiquette could be deemed as grounds for disqualification of an entry or a competitor. Disqualification can be imposed by the Adjudicators or by the Festival Officials in charge of the event. Upon disqualification, all eligibility for awards or scholarships will automatically be nullified.
31. **REVIEWS:** The Festival Board of Directors reserves the right to review the eligibility of participants who do not abide by established Festival policies and procedures, and whose conduct may have been considered unbecoming or out of line. Also, the Festival Committee reserves the right to reconsider participation by these individuals at future Festival events.
32. **PROFESSIONAL DANCE SCHOOLS:** Dancers attending professional dance schools are not permitted to enter the Festival Dance Competition.

DANCE PROGRAMMING PROCEDURES:

1. **For ENTRY DEADLINE & INFO / AGE CATEGORIES / TIME LIMITS / ADMISSION:** Refer to General Dance Regulations.
2. **PROGRAM ORDER:** Each competitor/entry shall perform in the order in which their name appears in the Program.
3. **PROGRAM CHANGES:** Requests for changes in the Program due to timing conflicts must be given to the Festival Coordinator by the draft deadline and prior to the final printing of the Program. No changes shall be made to the Program once it has gone to print unless the circumstances are deemed a genuine emergency such as a serious illness or death in the family.
4. **CANCELLATION:** In the event of a cancellation before the event, the Festival Coordinator must be informed immediately.
5. **LAST MINUTE CANCELLATIONS:** Last minute cancellations should be given to the Coordinator one session ahead of the intended competition. **CHANGES WILL NOT BE MADE to the sequence DURING COMPETITION.**
6. **BACKSTAGE CALL:** Participant(s) must be ready in full costume and complete make-up for backstage call at least 30 minutes before their scheduled performance and must be in the Dressing Room on time to respond to the Backstage Monitor's call promptly and without delay.
7. **ADJUDICATOR'S SIGNAL:** Competitors shall not begin a routine until the signal is given by the Adjudicators. Participants failing to report within 5 minutes of being called run the risk of being disqualified.
8. **CALL-BACKS:** In categories with 8 or more entries, the Adjudicators may request a "Call-Back" at the conclusion of the category in order to review the final results. If requested, all competitors from the category will be required to line up on the stage in the order that they performed.
9. **TIE FOR 1ST PLACE:** In the event of a tie for 1st Place, the technique mark will break the tie and determine placement without changing the original mark assigned to each competitor's score sheet.
10. **ROUNDING MARKS:** Final marks with fractions will remain "as is" and will not be rounded up or down.
11. **COACHING:** Coaching from backstage, sidelines, back of the house, or anywhere else in the auditorium is not permitted. Anyone coaching a routine will be risking disqualification for that entry.

12. **INCOMPLETED ROUTINES:** Participant(s) must complete a routine in its entirety. Any routine that is not completed the first time due to stage fright, memory lapse, etc., will only be permitted a re-start if time permits and if both Adjudicators are in agreement. However, the 2nd attempt performance will be deemed "For Adjudication Only" and will not qualify for a placement in the category or be eligible for awards or scholarships allocated for this class.
13. **WRONG CATEGORY:** In the event that a routine is deemed by the Adjudicators as "Entered in the Wrong Category", the performance will receive a mark and achievement award (Silver, etc.) but will not qualify for a placement in any category. The performance could be considered eligible for awards or scholarships.
14. **AUDIO RECORDING:** Each studio will receive a CD of the Adjudicators' comments for each performance. These will be available within a short time after the conclusion of each session.
15. **VIDEOTAPING:** The Festival is retaining the professional services of a company to record all performances in the Dance Competition. Parents and teachers will have the opportunity to place orders for the DVD's of their child/student's performances.
16. **DANCE ARCHIVES:** For historical purposes, the Festival has recently started to accumulate an archival collection of Dance Competition performances. The DVDs are stored by the Festival's Executive Director. These preserved moments will only be used for Festival promotion purposes or as entertainment at events such as Award ceremonies or Festival anniversaries, etc. In order to respect the choreographer's copyright and/or privacy issues, no performance recorded on any archival DVD will be shown publicly without consent from the studio director.
17. **NON-COMPETITIVE ENTRIES:** This level may be entered by any dancer regardless of age. Dancers in this level may have less experience or confidence performing in front of an audience and may use this level as an introduction to a competition environment. Non-competitive entries are not eligible for Scholarships unless specified in the scholarship criteria.

DANCE AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIP STANDARDS:

1. The following AWARD SYSTEMS for competitive and non-competitive will take effect immediately:

COMPETITIVE:

HIGH SILVER: 85 – 86.99	PLATINUM: 93 – 95.99
GOLD: 87 – 89.99	DIAMOND: 96 – 100
HIGH GOLD: 90 – 92.99	

NON-COMPETITIVE:

HIGH SILVER: 80 – 82.99	PLATINUM: 90 – 95.99
GOLD: 83 – 85.99	DIAMOND: 96 – 100
HIGH GOLD: 86 – 89.99	

2. Achievement Awards (Silver, etc.) will be announced in random order or according to performance sequence. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place standings will be announced last.
3. If, in the opinion of the Adjudicators, a sufficiently high standard has not been obtained, no award or placement will be granted, however, an Adjudication will be provided.
4. A participant's individual performance marks are considered "CONFIDENTIAL" by Festival Officials, and marks will not be disclosed without explicit authorization from the entire Festival Committee.
5. The final selection of "Adjudicator's Choice" awards and scholarships cannot be contested.
6. The outcome of awards and scholarships not selected by the Adjudicators are dependent on numerous factors such as merit, criteria, limits, etc. Highest mark is the deciding factor only when specifications clearly dictate. Great efforts are made to recognize as many deserving competitors as possible for their achievements. Once announced, results are FINAL and will not be altered without valid reasons.
7. The recipients of some awards or scholarships may not necessarily be the competitors who received the highest mark in their category, however, all winners have demonstrated a high level of excellence, showed great promise and were deemed deserving of special recognition for their achievements.
8. All award and scholarship winners must be bona fide residents of Ontario or Northern Minnesota and must be under the age of 30. Residents include full-time students in attendance at post-secondary institutions.
9. Monetary scholarship payments will be issued to the winning competitor(s) only, and not to parents, teachers or studios.

10. The Festival reserves the right to withdraw or recall any award or scholarship that may have been granted by unintentional error or with incorrect information.
11. The “List of Winners” will be posted on the Festival website and copies will be sent to each participating studio as soon as results have been processed, scrutinized and approved by Festival Board Officials. All awards and monetary scholarships will be presented to the winners at a “Festival Gala & Scholarship Presentation” ceremony. In the event, that such a function is not possible, studio directors will be contacted so that alternate arrangements can be made.

DANCE COMPETITION ETIQUETTE:

1. Proper etiquette, good manners and consideration for others is expected from all participants at all times.
2. Competitors, parents and teachers are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship at all times and adopt a supportive attitude towards all fellow participants. Negative remarks or comments directed at or concerning any performance or person is highly inappropriate; and the use of foul or aggressive language will not be tolerated.
3. A dancer’s conduct as a spectator should be exemplary – shouting, yelling and whistling when another participant or group enters the stage is NOT PROPER CONDUCT. This behaviour can be very distracting for both the dancer(s) and the Adjudicators and could affect the quality of the performance. Reserve cheering and applause for the end of the performance.
4. The use of foul or vulgar language or inappropriate gestures is extremely offensive, and therefore, is NOT ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR at any time. Unseemly and improper conduct could result in immediate disqualification and/or may affect eligibility to compete in future Festival events.
5. All jewellery (unless it is part of the costume) must be removed and obvious distracting marks such as tattoos should be covered with make-up or a skin-tone bandage before going on stage.
6. **COSTUMES not yet worn on stage** for a performance **must be** partially **COVERED** with a jacket, sweater, cape/poncho or wrap when a participant is on stage in view of the Adjudicators.
7. The Backstage Monitor should be informed well in advance if a competitor has limited time between performances and requires a fast costume change.
8. Dancers waiting backstage for the Adjudicators’ signal to start should NOT be visible – NO PEEKING from behind the curtain!
9. If your performance starts “On Stage”, get into position immediately after the Adjudicators’ signal and wait for your music. If you start “Off Stage”, be ready to enter the stage as instructed by your teacher.
10. If props are being used, they should be quickly and quietly positioned on stage before the Adjudicators’ signal, and promptly removed following the performer’s bow without disrupting the Adjudication process.
11. Participants should quietly proceed to the “Reserved” seating area or return to their designated dressing room at the end of each performance to await the announcement of the next adjudication.
12. Only exit or enter the auditorium during breaks between performances.
13. Participants awaiting adjudication should be respectful to other competitors and Adjudicators by not carrying on loud conversations during performances and by keeping voices very low at all times.
14. When called up for adjudication, dancers need to proceed on stage in an orderly fashion; and line up in the order that you performed in. At the end of the adjudication, clear the stage and seating area as quickly and as quietly as possible.
15. While the Adjudicators are delivering their comments and presenting awards, participants need to be respectful by listening until all announcements are done. Chatting should be reserved for the Dressing Room or Lobby.
16. When receiving an award or placing, proper etiquette indicates that the competitor should acknowledge the Adjudicator/s with a handshake and an expression of gratitude (“Thank You”); and, if asked a question, provide a polite answer.
17. NO FOOD or DRINKS are permitted in the Auditorium’s Orchestra seating (main floor) or in the Mezzanine.
18. Participants should be considerate and **should not leave messes behind** in the Dressing Rooms, Washrooms or in the Auditorium. All participants are expected to pick up and discard their garbage in the trash cans provided, and take all personal belongings, costume parts and props home when leaving the venue. Lost items will only be held until the last day of competition.
19. Auditorium staff and Festival Volunteers are to be treated **with respect** at all times. When a staff member or volunteer intercepts an infraction in an attempt to implement Auditorium policies or Festival regulations, the person or group being addressed is expected to respond in a courteous manner and abide by the staff or volunteer’s instructions without controversy. **Uncomplimentary conduct will not be tolerated.**

DANCE FORMS:

ACRO

Routine should consist of controlled acrobatic, or gymnastics movements involving balance and flexibility and must include at least 50% dance choreography. **The use of mats or spotters is strictly prohibited.**

BALLET – POINTE

Routine must consist of classical pointe technique, however, classical or contemporary ballet movement may be incorporated. Pointe shoes must be worn by all dancers.

BALLET – DEMI-POINTE

Routine must consist of classical ballet (demi-pointe) technique, however, classical or contemporary ballet movement may be incorporated. Ballet slippers must be worn by all dancers.

CHARACTER

Dancers must portray an easily recognizable character from a play, movie, tv or stage show OR a stereotype. Any form of dance is acceptable.

CONTEMPORARY

Routine should demonstrate balance, control, and extensions. using various aspects of traditional dance technique fused with modern elements. **No more than 3 acrobatic or gymnastics tricks is permitted.**

DANCE TEAM

This category gives High School or University Dance Teams the option to enter and be scored at a competitive level, while allowing them to compete in the same genre with their home studio. **Any form of dance is acceptable and should be specified at the time of registration.**

HIP HOP

Dancers execute free form movement and styling characteristics of Contemporary dance styles. Funk, Hip-Hop, Break Dance, Street Dance and Free Style are permitted in this category. **The music and choreography must be appropriate for family viewing.**

JAZZ

Must consist primarily of traditional jazz movement and technique. **No more than 3 acrobatic or gymnastics tricks is permitted.**

LYRICAL

Dancers interpret lyrics, mood and content of the music using a combination of ballet and jazz technique while focusing on strength, fluidity, balance, extension, and emotion. **No more than 3 acrobatic or gymnastics tricks is permitted.**

MUSICAL THEATRE

Broadway or theatrical style dance interpreting a song from a movie, television show, or stage production OR a parody. Any form of dance is acceptable. **Lip syncing IS permitted but not required.**

NATIONAL / ETHNIC

A routine consisting of traditional dance steps or routine of a particular ethnic and/or heritage group. Costuming should be representative of the routine performed.

OPEN

Any routine that does not fit into any of our dance categories or is a combination of two or more dance styles.

PRODUCTION

A theme or story must be portrayed throughout the entire performance. Routine must be over 4 minutes in length and up to a maximum of 10 minutes. **Any form(s) of dance is acceptable and should be specified at the time of registration.**

TAP

Must consist primarily of tap technique. **No pre-recorded tap sounds are permitted.**

GENERAL CATEGORIES, TIME LIMITS AND PRICING:

SOLO - \$75.00

1 dancer – max. 3 minutes

DUET/TRIO - \$50.00 per dancer

2-3 dancers – max. 3 minutes

SMALL GROUP - \$35.00 per dancer

4-9 dancers – max. 4 minutes

LARGE GROUP - \$35.00 per dancer

10-19 dancers – max. 4 minutes

LINE - \$35.00 per dancer

20 + dancers – max. 4 minutes

***PRODUCTION - \$35.00 per dancer**

20 + dancers – 4 to 10 minutes

*A production can incorporate any style(s) of dance or acrobatics but **MUST** have a theme or story that is portrayed throughout the entire performance. Routine must be over 4 minutes in length and up to a maximum of 10 minutes.

AGE CATEGORIES (Refer to General Dance Regulations for age calculation):

6 years and under	14 years and under
8 years and under	16 years and under
10 years and under	18 years and under
12 years and under	19 years and over

PERFORMANCE LEVELS:

NON-COMPETITIVE: This level may be entered by any dancer regardless of age. Dancers in this level may have less experience or confidence performing in front of an audience and may use this level as an introduction to a competition environment. Non-competitive entries are not eligible for Scholarships unless specified in the scholarship criteria.

COMPETITIVE: This level may be entered by any dancer regardless of age or experience. Dancers in this level usually participate in several hours of regular weekly dance training and are comfortable in a competition environment. Competitive entries are eligible for Scholarships.