

SECONDARY SCHOOL COMPETITION

THE DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS RULES 2026



Entries and Fees

To take part schools must register via our google form

[Registration form here](#)

DEADLINE IS WEDNESDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER

Please note we must have at least 8 schools to allow this event to take place.

For all enquiries Ricia Taylor admin@dancechampionships.co.uk

Payments will be managed by Sam Blackden accounts@dancechampionships.co.uk

Deposit

We require a holding deposit of **£100** from each school to secure their place at the Championships.

This is payable upon application to the competition. This deposit will be taken off the final invoice amount. If groups withdraw from the competition the deposit becomes non-refundable.

Invoices

Invoices for the competition will be emailed upon application of entries. Once invoices are raised and emailed, **no further changes can be made**, and the invoice is fully payable.

Invoices must be paid within three weeks of receipt and groups will not be able to compete in the event, unless invoices are paid in full. We advise that schools check their entries thoroughly before applying. Invoices are raised on the original entry form and cannot be changed. All invoice enquiries should come to accounts@dancechampionships.co.uk

If invoices are outstanding post competition, groups will be unable to compete in any future Dance Championship events until their fees are paid.

Dancer Entry Fees

PRICES FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS ENTRY

Solos	£12.00
Duo	£20.00 (£10 per dancer)
Trio	£33.00 (£11 per dancer)
Groups	£8.00 per dancer
Dance Challenges	£7.50 per dancer

Number of Entries per School

We offer each school a maximum of **20 entries** per school and we need a **minimum of 4 entries per school**. This can be a mix of solo, trio, duo or groups.

Times of the Competition

The competition is expected to run from approximately **11.30am to 6.00pm**.

Performance times for each dance section will be scheduled once the entry deadline has passed. The running order will be determined by the organisers after all applications have been received.

An approximate timetable will be shared once the programme has been finalised, usually around **four weeks before the event**.

Please ensure that all participating dancers and their families are aware that competitors are expected to be available for the **entire day**. Unfortunately, we are unable to schedule performances around individual commitments.

Dance Styles

Contemporary	Lyrical, Contemporary
Classical	Ballet
Jazz	Jazz, Modern, Musical Theatre
Commercial	Street, Hip Hop
Open	Acro, Tap

We do not accept Song & Dance routines

Time Limits

Solos: 1.5 minutes maximum

Duo & Trio: 2 minutes 20 sec max

Groups: 4 minutes maximum

Times will be strictly monitored

Categories

The organisers will strive to separate the styles in solos, duets, trios and groups. The organisers reserve the right to update/change rules and regulations including the age divisions at any time.

Dancer Levels & Guidelines - Inter /Advanced Criteria

The entries are split into intermediate and advanced levels; this is across both KS3 and KS4 entries.

Video Evidence

We require **video evidence** of your Intermediate dancer (solo, duo, trio & group dance). This is to ensure that dancers are assigned into the correct level prior to the competition. We must ensure that our competition is fair to all participants. This is to be sent to the organisers along with the entry forms. (Please send a 45 second clip of each routine)

Scoring

Our judges will be scoring each entry on the following:

Technique /20
Performance /20
Choreography /20
Rhythm & Musicality /20
Overall Presentation /20

Total marks out of 100.

We have two judges for this competition, full marks out of 200.

Judge's Decision

The judges' decisions are final and have full discretion at the events. Judges are not to be approached by teachers, dancers, parents, or audience members as this is seen as unfair and breaching the competition rules and can lead to disqualification.

Performers who run over the time limit will be stopped. The judge's decision concerning the performance is final and no correspondence or communication can be entered. Any breach of this rule will result in instant disqualification of those concerned and no refunds will be given.

Running Orders

The first draft of running orders will be sent once **all entries** have been received and only then can dance teachers send their amendments. The running order will be sent again once all amendments are submitted. After this, the only amendment we will accept will be to withdraw a number. Schools will be charged as per invoice information above. Please check all entries before applying.

Running orders are subject to change up to **two days** before the competition.

Pre-Performance

Performers must perform in order of the programme. Performers are expected to be backstage at the commencement of their section. If performers are not available when called, they may forfeit their right to perform. Organisers will not be held responsible for any performer not reporting on time.

Performance Times

Performers are required to be at the competition at least **1 hour before their section** is due to start. Organisers have the right to continue the running of the competition up to 45 mins earlier.

Music Requirements

All music to be sent prior to the event date. Music to be sent via Dropbox/ WeTransfer or Google Drive in a MP3 format only. Please label each track with your *Dancer Name/Age/Section/ School*

Send music to admin@dancechampionships.co.uk

Music MUST be an MP3 music file. It must be an original file, brought or downloaded. Please do not send a ripped or corrupt file. This will not play on the theatre's boards.

Music Rules

Swear words or inappropriate song choices are not allowed. This choice could lead to disqualification. Please check your lyrics.

Inappropriate Movements

All dance pieces should be age appropriate, and the choice of movements should represent the theme and feel of the dance. Any movements deemed to be inappropriate could lead to disqualification.

Re-Dancing

Repeating dances is not permitted in any section with exception for technical issues at the discretion of the organisers.

Stage Information

Each competition is held in a different venue, and we strive to provide a large enough stage space for our competitors. Details of the space will be sent nearer the time of the event.

Loss or Damage

The competition organisers will not be held responsible for any injury, loss or damage to any person or property at the venue. The organisers accept no liability for theft or damages. We ask that all groups remain vigilant at the event and always keep all personal belongings with them. Our competitions are public events and even though we can safeguard who is allowed backstage, we cannot prevent situations or theft that may arise within the backstage area and within the competition itself.

Risk Assessment

The organisers are not responsible for any injury caused backstage or during the performance of your act. Dangerous stunts, gymnastics, acrobatics etc are allowed but done so at the performers/teachers own risk.

Behaviour

Dancers must act appropriately at the event, this includes being silent when backstage, being respectful of other dancers and dance schools. Any behaviour deemed as inappropriate will be challenged.

We will not tolerate inappropriate behaviour towards our team members or any venue staff members. Any behaviour deemed as unacceptable could result in removal from the competition.

Venues

Our events take place in public theatres, community spaces and educational buildings. Please note, that whilst we hire these venues, we are unable to control aspects of these spaces including the management of the front of house which includes the audience and spectators. The box office deals with tickets and the arrangement of wristbands where appropriate.

We also ask that dance schools ensure that their children are chaperoned throughout the event, as spaces are open to the public.

Photography & Video Consent

We require a consent form be completed when taking part in the competition which includes consent for photography and filming of your dancers to take place. If you have children in your school which are not allowed to be filmed or photographed this needs to be made clear on the consent form so we can prohibit filming of that child or group / school.

Professional photographers will be present at the events and our social media channels will post clips of dancers throughout the event.

Tickets

These are sold through the Dance Champs ticket provider. Wrist bands are issued for the competition, day and weekend passes available. The Dance Championships hold no responsibility for the management of tickets or refunds.

Organisation of Changing Areas

It is at the chaperones/ teacher's discretion to decide who will be allowed in the changing rooms and in their backstage area. It is also the responsibility of the chaperone/teacher to make sure the participants are always chaperoned.

Chaperone Information – Please Read

We require chaperones at this event to accompany their dancers / group / dance school. Please read the following information:

Chaperones must have a valid DBS or registered chaperone licence which they must bring with them to the event. We will need evidence of these prior to the event.

We require 15 students (under 16's) per chaperone.

Please do not provide too many chaperones backstage, ensure you have the correct amount, but do not exceed more than required. This limits space backstage for the performers.

The Dance Championships is a Kent based company however does hire venues in different counties and therefore entertainment rules fall under different authorities. To ensure we are covered, we must have every child's full name, DOB and address. We will also request chaperone information including their licence number and expiry date.

A notification of performers' BOPA form will be sent to all competing schools for them to complete. Parents will not be permitted backstage with dancers if they are not registered on the register as a chaperone. We advise that parents are either DBS checked OR hold a chaperones license.

If you have younger dancers that need changing and looking after, you must arrange suitable chaperones for your group and children and the list of names MUST be registered before entering the event.

We have every right to refuse entry to parents backstage if we do not have their information in advance. This falls as part of our safeguarding policy and for the protection of our young performers.

Only those who hold a chaperone licence or DBS will be permitted backstage