



RULES AND GUIDELINES

JUNE 1, 2024 to MAY 31, 2026

(2025 Updates)

I. GENERAL GUIDELINES

Showcase America is unique and different from other competition circuits as we are a non-profit organization that provides an opportunity for teams to host competitions as a fundraising event. Therefore, every contest venue is unique and has its own set of rules that must be followed.

By registering for a Showcase America event, all registered contestants do hereby grant permission to Showcase America to publish their photographs and/or videos for promotional reasons. This includes social media, local television, national television, promotional videos, the web or in any other publication to promote its competitions. In addition, Showcase America reserves the right to communicate one on one, or through our mailing list, with each team using the email provided in the registration system.

Showcase America and the hosting venue are not responsible for personal injury or property loss.

There is to be NO ALCOHOL, TOBACCO/MARIJUANA or DRUG USE at any event that is hosted at a school property or any of our competition venues.

II. CODE OF CONDUCT

A. Performers

All Performers are expected to conduct themselves in a professional, responsible and respectful manner at all times, and are expected to abide by all venue or campus rules, established fire & safety rules and common safety practices as well as the items outlined below. Failure to do so may result in disqualification and/or removal from an event.

- Dressing rooms should be kept neat and orderly. All trash should be put in the trash receptacle.
- No one is permitted to touch or move anyone else's property without their permission.
- Performers may not engage in any threatening behavior, including any derogatory comments to others.
- Performers may not engage in any aggressive, hostile, intimidating, or disrespectful acts, such as shouting, excessive arguing, verbally or physically assaulting or harassing others
- Performers may not engage in trespassing, vandalism, or property damage

B. Audience

Showcase America is committed to creating a safe and enjoyable experience for all. Anyone not performing is considered an Audience Member. It is expected that all Showcase America Members conduct themselves in a professional, responsible and respectful manner at all times, and are expected to abide by all venue or campus rules, established fire & safety rules and common safety practices.

- No smoking or vaping of any substance is permitted.
- No consumption of alcohol is permitted.
- Impaired guests will be required to leave the premises.
- All guests must comply with the rules set forth by each individual venue. Please be aware that bag searches may be conducted by select venues.

- Audience Members should be respectful of the performers on stage, and those who are there to watch them. Guests are expected to sit in their seats during a performance, and may exit only after the performance is over. In addition, guests are expected to wait until a performance is completed before walking in to find a seat.
- Behavior that is harmful to others or disruptive to our communal sense of belonging for all will not be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to the following:
 - Verbal or physical harassment, including abusive language and gestures, sexual language, or threats directed at others.
 - The carrying of firearms or other dangerous weapons.
 - Behavior that is in violation of government laws and regulations, including health and safety guidelines. Anyone found to be in violation may be removed from the premises and/or prohibited from returning in the future.

III. ELIGIBILITY

Any school, studio, community-sponsored, or college dance team is eligible to compete.

IV. AGE DIVISIONS

Age divisions for all solos, ensembles, and teams are determined by the grade of the dancer at the time of the competition. Directors must be able to provide proof of grade level upon request.

Note: Ensemble age division is determined by the highest age division in the group.

- Tiny: Pre-School or Pre-Kindergarten
- Primary: Kindergarten to 3rd grade
- Elementary: 4th through 6th grade
- Junior: 7th through 9th grade
- Senior: 10th through 12th grade (eligibility ends when High School graduation occurs)
- Adult/College: Post-high school

Dancing Down Rule: Teams may have no more than 10% (rounded up) of their members in a younger age category. Dancers are not permitted to dance down more than 1 age level.

Example: If a team in the Elementary age division has 30 dancers – 27 of those dancers must fall in the Elementary age division according to the outline above. A maximum of 3 dancers can be in a Junior age division. Dancers in a Senior age division are not permitted to dance on an Elementary age division team.

V. COMPETITIVE DIVISIONS (Senior Age Division Only)

A. All-Star

This competitive division is often organized as clubs or studios and is open to all dancers in an area. All-Star teams are formed based on ability level, and teams can range from novice to advanced. All-Star teams typically consist of teams who have a primary purpose of competing.

B. High School

This competitive division should consist of high school dance teams that are made up of dancers from the same high school or school district. Dancers on these teams must be officially recognized by the competing school's administration as a member of the competing school's dance team. High

School dance teams perform for particularly organized sports at their school, as well as the option for competition.

VI. COMPETITIVE LEVELS

Age Division	Competitive Levels Offered	Competitive Divisions Offered
Tiny	Tiny; Superstar	Not Available
Primary	Nova*; Classic; Select; Superstar	Not Available
Elementary	Nova*; Classic; Select; Superstar	Not Available
Junior	Nova; Classic; Select; Superstar	Not Available
Senior	Nova; Classic; Select; Superstar	All-Star; High School

*The Nova competitive level is not eligible for team competitions held from February to April.

Our competitive levels are designed to allow dancers to compete fairly against other dancers at the same level. This allows dancers to build confidence and self-esteem, as we are always striving to keep every dancer's competition experience positive and inspirational. Level placement is at the discretion of coaches/studio directors and Showcase America encourages coaches/studio directors to use their best judgment when choosing the competitive level for a dancer or team. Read each level description carefully and be fair and honest with placement. Please also keep in mind the skill of the dancer/team and the execution and level of the choreography.

Level changes cannot be changed after the performance schedule has been released/completed and/or after trophies are ordered.

Based on judges' discretion and preliminary competition results, the head judge may move a soloist, an ensemble, or a team up a competitive level for a preliminary, solo or team contest, Pageant, or Nationals.

Consider the following when determining a level:

- How many hours of dance training per week?
- How many years of dance experience?
- How many years of competition experience?
- What are their technical skill abilities (see skills below)?
- How was their past Scoring? Example: a dancer who consistently wins in the Classic level is demonstrating that they have mastered that level and should move to the Select level. Likewise, a dancer who needs to strengthen their core or has not mastered the more difficult technical elements of the Select level might try competing in the Classic level until they are stronger. Choose a level where the dancer/team can be challenged but also gain confidence.
- Choreography - if a dancer/team is executing a continuous turn sequence and has the control to stop on a dime, they are too advanced for Classic.

A. Nova Competitive Level (Novice/Recreational Dancers)

This competitive level is offered at ALL age divisions and is eligible to receive the following: scores, ratings (up to a Showcase Diamond), placements, judge's choice awards, and for teams - judge's elite awards, and grand champion. Note: Primary/Elementary age levels - This level is only available for

Primary/Elementary solos/ensembles during the Fall Solo Preliminary events and the Showcase of Stars pageant.

This level is designed for our dancers/teams who are just beginning their dance training and competitive journey and to get a feel for competitions, stage performances, judges, audiences, etc. This level is intended to provide a non-intimidating experience and encourage a healthy introduction to competitions.

A dancer/team at this level:

- Has little to no competition experience
- Trains a maximum of 3 hours per week
- Demonstrates simple choreography with beginning-level performance quality
- Is learning proper posture, core strength, visual lines, and expression through movement without the ability to display complete alignment, expression, or maintain posture throughout all skills and movements
- Demonstrates understanding of the music but does not express clearly in all movements

Skill sets that could be performed at this level:

- Basic skills such as a pivot turn, fan kick, split, straddle, or ball change
- Simple leaps, extensions, calypso, tilt, turns (maximum of a double)
- Basic tumbling skills such as forward/backward rolls, cartwheels, round-offs, back-bends or walkovers
- 2 footed turn (chaine) into a NOVA LEVEL leap/skill

Skill sets NOT available at this level:

- Consecutive turns/leaps or combinations or any type where the dancer turns on one foot and moves directly into a leap/skill
- Back handsprings or airborne tumbling movements

B. Classic Competitive Level (Intermediate Dancers)

This competitive level is offered at ALL age divisions and is eligible to receive the following: scores, ratings (up to a Showcase Diamond), placements, judge's choice awards, and for teams - judge's elite awards, and grand champion.

This level is designed for our intermediate dancers/teams that are "on the rise" dancers/teams who may not be considered Nova because of previous dance experience but are starting to demonstrate moderate to average technique and execution.

A dancer/team at this level:

- Has some competition experience
- Trains a maximum of 6 hours per week
- Demonstrates choreography with moderate difficulty and clean performance quality
- Executes skills with minor inconsistencies in steadiness and control
- Has learned proper posture, core strength, visual lines, and expression through movement displaying alignment, expression, and maintaining posture throughout all skills and movements
- Demonstrates understanding of music and connection to the rhythm, message, and overall style

Skill sets that could be performed at this level:

- Any skills listed in the Nova Competitive Level
- Intermediate skills such as a leg extension, reverse, turning disc, switch leaps, or turns (maximum of a triple)
- Turn combinations including simple fouettés and/or turns in second combinations (maximum of 6 rotations in a combination) - ***See information below regarding level and spot changes***
- Intermediate tumbling skills such as side aerial, multiple back handsprings or a chin stand

Skill sets NOT available at this level:

- Consecutive turn combinations or sequences using any of the following as they all add additional difficulty that requires more control and skill than an intermediate dancer.
 - Changing spots
 - Arm variations - If arm position changes (i.e., high V, pushed down, crossed at chest) from the traditional first and second arms while doing turns in second or fouettés.
 - Level variations - Classic dancers must stay in the traditional a la seconde position or perform the fouetté motion for the sequence. Leg positions should not move throughout the sequence. For example, if a dancer completes rotations in an attitude and then immediately moves the legs into a coupe, or a traditional passe position into a coupe.
- Layouts, full, tucks, and front aerials

C. Select Competitive Level (Advanced Dancers)

This competitive level is offered at ALL age divisions and is eligible to receive the following: scores, ratings, placements, judge's choice awards, and for teams - judge's elite awards, and grand champion.

This level is designed for our advanced dancers/teams that have multiple years of competition experience.

A dancer/team at this level:

- Has extensive competition experience
- Trains several hours per week
- Demonstrates more complex choreography with clean performance quality
- Skills are executed with little to no inconsistencies in steadiness, control, or precision
- Displays proper posture, core strength, visual lines, and expression through movement in all skills
- Has mastered a connection to the music and uses movement to express all artistic elements within the performance.

Skill sets that could be performed at this level:

- Any skills listed in the Nova or Classic Competitive Levels
- Advanced skills such as switch center/tilt/arabesque leaps, double attitude turns, multiple leg hold turns
- More complex turn combinations including fouettés and/or turns in second combinations using arm and level variations
- Advanced tumbling skills such as side layouts, full, tucks, and front aerials

D. Superstar Competitive Level (Special Needs Dancers)

This competition level is offered at ALL age divisions and is designed for our dancers who experience mental, social, and/or physical delays. Typically, abled dancers may join as coaching partners, leaders, etc.

VII. CATEGORIES

A. Pom

A pom routine should showcase the dancers' precision, synchronization, and showmanship. Clean arm motions, sharp formations, and seamless transitions between movements are key components of a successful pom routine. Dancers should utilize poms in their hands for the majority of the routine. The choreography in this routine is typically fast-paced, visually appealing, and filled with high-energy movements.

B. Jazz

The style of a routine in this category can vary greatly and offer a diverse range of themes and moods. Some jazz routines might be more serious and contemporary, exploring introspective themes and emotions. These routines often incorporate fluid and lyrical movements, showcasing the emotional depth of the dancers. Other jazz routines can also be upbeat and energetic, featuring high-energy jumps, turns, and intricate footwork. These routines are characterized by their infectious rhythm, infectious spirit, and showmanship.

C. Kick

A kick routine should emphasize kicks, and is often characterized by precision, timing, and uniformity. The routine should also consist of a variety of kicks that are creative and incorporate visual effects. A focus should also be placed on height uniformity, control and technique of the kicks. A kick routine requires a minimum of 50 kicks for Classic and Select Levels; 25 for Nova that is performed by at least half of the dancers. Not available for Tiny or Primary age divisions.

D. Lyrical/Contemporary

Lyrical and contemporary routines should focus on emotions and storytelling that involve free and fluid motions. A lyrical routine focuses more on the flow of movement as it relates to the music and lyrics, while a contemporary routine focuses more on big movements and feeling the emotion of the music. Not available for Tiny or Primary age divisions.

E. Hip Hop

A hip hop routine should focus on execution, synchronization, body control, distinct moves and rhythm. The routine should use body movement to create rhythm and may encompass the following styles of movement: hip hop, break dancing, pop-lock, krump, etc. Special care should be taken in this category to evaluate lyrics and movements for appropriateness for the age and audience. Simply eliminating words often does not dilute an inappropriate meaning.

F. Open

This type of a routine should be a creative piece that is undefinable or blends multiple categories/genres of dance. The routine could include, but is not limited to: gameday, musical theatre, tap (with floor protection), flag and rifle, acro, or production. The time limit is increased to 5 minutes in this category. Other categories offered in section VII. are not permitted in their entirety in this category (e.g. a pom routine cannot be entered into the open category).

G. Solos, Duets/Trios & Ensembles

Some contests will offer solo and ensembles as part of their regular team competition. Routines may be of any genre. Participants will have a total of 3 minutes in the performance area.

1. Solos - 1 dancer
2. Duet/Trios - 2-3 dancers
3. Ensembles - 4-5 dancers

VII. GENERAL GUIDELINES

A. Safety

SCAU and Contest Directors demand that shows be designed with dancers' and spectators' safety in mind. Injurious moves should be omitted. SCAU score sheets do not include points for any show design which may endanger performers or spectators. Directors take responsibility for stunts not monitored by a spotter. Props must be constructed with safety in mind. A maximum height of 8 feet should be considered. Backdrops must be built to enter a regular door (32" x 78") without the center bar being removed. Special effects such as smoke, and balloons, need to be approved by the contest director and/or local fire marshal (if necessary). Glitter may not be used. Footwear must be safe and appropriate for use on the gymnasium floor and is subject to each contest's restrictions.

B. Time Limits

Solo/Ensemble Performances – 3 minutes

Team Performances (excluding Open) – 4 minutes

Open Performances (Teams Only) – 5 minutes

These time limits include entrance and exit; clearing of all props; and the entire performance.

Team setups and entrances/exits are not judged. Walls, spectators, bleachers, and steps are out of bounds. No other boundaries are in effect.

C. Order of Categories

The suggested order of performance is as follows but will be determined by the contest hosts based on the number and type of entries: Jazz; Lyrical/Contemporary; Pom; Kick; Open; Hip Hop.

D. Music

All performances must use the electronic music file upload option when registering. Please be sure to upload the exact version of your performance music, because pitch/speed of music cannot be adjusted at the competition. All music will be downloaded by Showcase 5 days before the start of the competition. New versions of music files will not be accepted at the competition. Backup media formats will only be used if there are technical difficulties. Music files submitted on-site will incur a \$5 fee per performance.

E. Coaching

Advisors or other adults shall not coach or prompt team members (exception: Tinys, Primary teams, and the Nova Level).

F. Rule Changes

All suggested rule changes must be presented in writing to the Board of Directors by March 1st for review and discussion.

VIII. PENALTIES

The following items can result in progressive penalty action: Delay of the contest; touching walls, bleachers, or spectators; throwing items into the audience; time block violation; adult coaching; failure to meet kick minimum; inappropriate lyrics or moves; unauthorized videotaping; flash photography.

All penalties will be addressed by the head judge at each competition and tracked from week to week.

1st Offense – A warning will be issued to the director/coach

2nd Offense – A 5-point deduction will be issued

3rd Offense – Immediate disqualification

The following items will result in immediate disqualification: Failing to meet category rules; live music; profanity; poor sportsmanship; gestures in poor taste; damage to contest floor; use of unauthorized special effects; teams using the flag of the United States and not adhering to all guidelines of the U.S. Flag Code (<http://www.legion.org/flag/code>)

IX. JUDGING

A minimum of 3 or more judges will evaluate all routines. The decisions of the judges are final. Only Showcase America judges will be used for tabulation. Only the director/coach of a team is permitted to contact a Showcase America official or judge regarding questions or suggestions.

X. AWARDS

A. Ratings

All performances will earn a rating for each performance.

Note: Only Select-level performances can receive the highest rating of Showcase Platinum.

RATING	NOVA/CLASSIC LEVEL	SELECT LEVEL
Superior Star	84.9 or below	84.9 or below
Ultimate Star	85 - 89.9	85 - 89.9
Showcase Star	90 - 94.9	90 - 94.9
Showcase Diamond	95 - 100	95 - 97.9
Showcase Platinum	N/A	98 – 100

B. Grand Championships

A Grand Championship (GC) will be awarded to the team in each age division who has the highest AVERAGE score of the top 3 (top 2 scores for Elementary/Primary teams) scoring routines performed that day. Tiny teams are not eligible. Primary/Elementary teams must compete in 2 categories; Junior/Senior/Adult teams must compete in 3 categories. The top 3 routines (Junior/Senior) or 2 routines (Elementary/Primary) will be used for GC calculation and must be in different categories. If a team divides its routines between Classic and Select, in order to be eligible, it would need to have 3 routines in Classic and/or 3 routines in Select. The routines considered for the GC trophy must be in different categories (3 for Junior/Senior) (2 for Primary/Elementary).

Example: Senior Team does routines in jazz, kick, and two hip hop routines

The tabulators will count the three highest scores in 3 different categories (jazz, kick and highest of the two hip hop scores)

C. Elite Awards

At each contest, the highest-scoring routine in each age division and competitive level will receive an Elite Award:

- Primary Classic
- Primary Select
- Elementary Classic
- Elementary Select
- Junior Nova
- Junior Classic
- Junior Select
- Senior Nova
- Senior Classic
- Senior Select

Judges' Choice Awards: Trophies may be awarded for additional judges' choice awards.

D. Solo Awards

There are three main solo events during the SCAU season: Fall preliminaries, Showcase of Stars Pageant, and Solo/Ensemble Nationals. Fall preliminaries lead to the crowning of Miss/Mr. Showcase of Stars. Pageant winners **may not** hold the same title twice (age and level) or compete at a lower level. If a dancer is a pageant winner, he/she/they must compete up a level for any future SCAU contests (including Solo/Ensemble Nationals). The only exception would be Senior Select Pageant Winners – they may compete in the preliminary events in the Fall but may not compete at Pageant or Nationals again.

Examples:

- * Junior Classic Pageant winner must compete in Junior Select
- * Elementary Select Pageant winner must complete in Junior Classic
- * Senior Select Pageant winner can compete in the Fall but will not be able to compete for the Senior Select Pageant title again or Nationals

Solos competed at Solo/Ensemble Nationals are an open event. Because the National Championships are the final event of the SCAU season, winners of National Championship titles of any division are not restricted in competing for future seasons at pageant or fall preliminaries.

Showcase of Stars Pageant - Cash Awards may be offered to the Top 3 performances in the SELECT LEVEL ONLY

- Senior Select \$1000, \$300, \$200
- Junior Select \$500, credit *, credit*
- Elementary Select \$250, credit*, credit*

- Primary Select \$200, credit*, credit*
- Tiny \$100

*Credit will be for future solo contest entry at Solo Nationals or a Fall preliminary competition

XI. MEMBERSHIP FEE STRUCTURE

Membership rates will run from the first competition hosted through Nationals (typically September through April)

Note: A 5% service charge should be added for any electronic payment (Paypal, Venmo, credit cards, etc....)

A. Annual Membership Fees (Per Team, Per Season)

Introductory rate (first season only) \$0

Early bird rate (by November 1st) - \$200

Regular rate (after November 1st) - \$250

Organizational rate (4 or more teams) - \$550

XII. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS/SHOWCASE OF STARS PAGEANT

A. Judging

Judges will not use audio at the following events: Showcase of Stars Pageant; Solo Nationals; Team Nationals. The same judges will be assigned to all categories within an age/division/level.

B. Competition Requirements

a. Showcase of Stars

All pageant participants must have competed in a minimum of 1 fall solo preliminary event.

No video entries will be accepted.

b. Nationals – Solos/Ensembles

There are no requirements to compete at this event.

c. Nationals – Teams

All teams must have competed in a minimum of 2 winter team competitions including its state competition, if offered.

C. Nationals Solos

Solos competed at Nationals are an open event. Because the National Championships are the final event of the SCAU season, winners of National Championship titles of any division are not restricted in competing for future seasons at pageant or fall preliminaries.

D. Dancers of the Year

The judges will select a minimum of one dancer per age division at each contest (except Nationals) to receive a “Dancer of the Year” nomination. Dancer of the Year Nominees will all be invited to perform at Nationals during an awards session. No overall winner will be selected.

E. Captain of the Year

If a team presents a captain, he/she will be scored in the first category in which the captain appears. Only one captain will be scored per team. The penalty judge will provide comments, a score, and a rating for any team that wishes to present a captain. A maximum of one captain in each age category will be recognized at each contest as a Captain of the Day. At Nationals, those individuals will be invited to perform at Nationals during an awards session. No overall winner will be selected.