



# SHOWCASE AMERICA UNLIMITED RULES AND GUIDELINES

JUNE 1, 2020 to MAY 31, 2022

(2021 REVISIONS IN RED)

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## I. ELIGIBILITY

Any college, school, studio or community sponsored dance team will be eligible to compete. Directors must be able to provide proof of grade level upon request. Teams may have no more than 10% (rounded up) of its members in a younger age category.

## II. AGE DIVISIONS

- \* Tinys: Pre-Kindergarten (up to age 6)
- \* Primary Teams: Grades K-3
- \* Elementary Teams: Grades 4-6
- \* Junior Teams: Grades 7-9
- \* Senior Teams: Grades 10-12
- \* Adult/College Teams: High School Graduates

## III. COMPETITIVE LEVELS

All age divisions will always be divided Classic and Select  
Teams may choose to place some routines in Classic and some routines in Select.

### A. Nova (Recreational /community teams): Offered for JUNIOR AND SENIOR ONLY

This competition level is for beginning dancers who have little or no experience competing. Teams who have one of more of these characteristics should consider placing themselves in this category:

- \* *Fairly newly formed or a majority of new members*
- \* *Rehearse 1-2 times per week*
- \* *Emerging talent*
- \* *Less technical dancers*
- \* *Less floor patterns and emphasis on show design*
- \* *Little audition requirements, if any*
- \* *Will receive scores, rating ribbons and placements*

### B. Classic (Intermediate teams)

This competition level is for the intermediate or “on the rise” dancers, and is recommended for dancers who have had approximately 2-5 years’ experience:

- \* *Fairly new to competition*
- \* *Showing great potential*
- \* *Some advanced dancers mixed with average and novice dancers*
- \* *Mixed levels of abilities*
- \* *Some audition requirements*
- \* *Will receive scores, rating ribbons and placements*

**Nova and Classic Category: It is suggested that gymnastics and stunts need to be an accessory to the dance, and not the FOCUS of the dance. Judges will use this as ONE of the criteria to move a team up to select. Gymnastics/acrobatic/tumbling elements must enhance, not define the routine.**

### C. Select (Advanced teams)

This competition level is for top-level competitive dancers performing at an advanced technical level. Teams who have one of more of these characteristics should consider placing themselves in the Select Category:

- \* *Experienced, competitive team*
- \* *Concentrated rehearsal every week*
- \* *Experienced dancers*
- \* *Technically trained dancers*

- \* *More emphasis on floor patterns and show design*
- \* *Emphasis on unique choreography and stylistic movement*
- \* *Will receive scores, rating ribbons and placements*

#### D. Superstar Category (Only 1 category - All ages)

Teams which consist of a number of dancers who experience mental, social, and/or physical delays. Typically abled dancers may join as coaching partners, leaders, etc.

**Teams may not change levels after the performance schedule has been completed and/or after trophies are ordered.**

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

## IV. CATEGORIES

### A. Pom Category

Any routine which exclusively uses poms in the majority of the routine. Emphasis on color, patterns, total picture, audience appeal and energy.

### B. Jazz Category

Any routine using mostly dance moves, such as turns, leaps and jazz combinations.

### C. Kick Category

Any routine which is primarily choreographed to feature a variety of kick sequences. A minimum of 35 kicks for Select Level; 25 for Nova and Classic, and all competitive levels of Elementary. Teams must use a minimum of 3 types of kicks. Not available to primary or tiny teams.

### D. Lyrical/Modern/Contemporary Category

Any routine which focuses on the emotional interpretation of the music. Emphasis on constant flow of movement using balletic or modern styles. Not available to Primary or Tiny teams.

### E. Hip Hop Category

Any routine which focuses on execution, synchronization, body control, rhythm. May include hip hop, break dancing, pop-lock, crump, 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 Category

This category is open to all teams. There is no restriction on type of routine or number of props. The category could include, but is not limited to musical theatre, a second routine in a category already performed, tap (with floor protection), Flag and rifle, acro, Production. The time limit is increased in this category to 5 minutes.

### G. Officer Category

The officer line must have at least 2 participants and not more than 50% of the total team size. Any style or category may be performed. Officer category teams are only divided by age divisions (no Nova, Classic, Select divisions). Officer scores are not included in the Grand Champion calculations.

### H. Solo and Ensemble Categories

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. Ensembles may not compete as officer lines at the same competition and vice-versa.

1. **Mini Ensemble – 2 - 3 dancers**
2. **Ensemble – 4 to 8 dancers**
3. **Super Ensemble – 9 or more dancers**

**During Winter team competitions, only Mini Ensembles are offered.  
The contest director will combine ensemble sizes if there are not at least two in each size category.**

## V. 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 scores 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. 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, 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 are subject to each contest's restrictions.

### B. Time Limits

Each team will be given a block of 4 minutes (5 minutes for Open; 3 minutes for Solo/Ensembles) in which to complete the following: entrance and exit (which are not judged); clearing of all props; the routine.

### C. Order of Categories

The order of performance categories will be: Jazz; Lyrical/Modern/Contemporary; Pom; Kick; Open; Hip Hop; Officer.

### D. Music

All music must be recorded on a quality CD or in whatever mode the contest requires. ONE routine should be on a single CD. CD's need to be clearly marked with team name; division; age; and category. **At certain events music may be required to be submitted via email.** Music must be appropriate for a general audience. No live music is permitted unless created by the performers with props. It is suggested that teams provide a representative at the DJ location in order to supervise issues with music. A team will be penalized if there is a music issue and there is not a representative there to immediately rectify the situation and the team runs into overtime.

### E. Coaching

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

### F. Rule Changes

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

### G. Election of Officers

Officers and Board of Directors shall be elected every two years on the even years. Persons interested in running for an office position should be nominated to the vice-president before August 1st of each even year. Officers are: Chief Operating Officer; Vice- President; Treasurer; Secretary; Nationals Coordinator; Ways and Means Coordinator; Board of Directors; Directors' Advisory Panel (no voting ability, consultation only).

**Team set ups and entrances/exits are not judged. Walls, spectators, bleachers, steps are out of bounds. No other boundaries are in effect. Teams will enter from the judges' left and exit to their right.**

## VI. PENALTIES

### A. National Colors

Teams using the flag of the United States must adhere to all guidelines of the U.S. Flag Code (<http://www.legion.org/flag/code>)

### B. 1/10 point

Memory; conduct; prop or costume failure or drop; missing prop or costume

### C. 1 point

Second and subsequent 30 seconds over time block

#### D. 2 points

Delay of contest; no music representative; touching walls, bleachers, spectators

#### E. 5 points

Time block violation; adult coaching

#### F. 10 points

Failure to meet kick minimum; inappropriate lyrics or moves; unauthorized videotaping; flash photography

#### G. Disqualification

Failing to meet category rules; live music; profanity; poor sportsmanship; gestures in poor taste; damage to contest floor; use of unauthorized special effects; parent or other than coach contacting an SCAU official regarding contest results

### VII. JUDGING

A minimum of 2 judges + a floor manager will evaluate all routines. At contests where there are more than 2 judges, the lowest judge’s score will be dropped. The decisions of the judges are final. In case of a tabulation error where placement or rating is involved, such errors will be corrected if notified within 24 hours. Only SCAU judges will be used for tabulation. Only the director/coach of a team is permitted to contact an SCAU official or judge regarding questions or suggestions.

### VIII. AWARDS

All Divisions: A rating system is used for all contests. Each team will receive a ribbon award for each rating:

#### A. Nova and Classic Team Ratings

RATING	RIBBON COLOR	TOTAL SCORE
Outstanding	White	55 – 74.9%
Excellent	Red	75 – 78.9%
High Excellent	Pink	79 – 82.9%
Superior	Blue	83 – 86.9%
High Superior	Light Blue	87 – 91.9%
Ultimate Star	Silver/Teal	92 – 94.9%
Showcase Star	Red, White and Blue	95 – 97.99%

#### B. Select Team Ratings

All of the above awards, PLUS

RATING	RIBBON COLOR	TOTAL SCORE
Showcase Diamond	Gold	98 – 100%

#### C. Trophies/Rosettes

At regular, regional and State contests, a team will receive either rosette ribbons or trophies for placements of at least 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in each age/category/competitive level—if applicable. If there are more than 6 teams in an age/category/competitive level, the rosettes and/or trophies awarded will be 50% (rounding up—so if there are 7 teams in an age/category/competitive level, 4 trophies/rosettes will be awarded) Rosettes will be phased out after June 1, 2022.

#### D. 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

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)**

### E. Judges' Elite Awards

At each contest, **at least** 10 Judges' Elite Awards will be awarded in the following categories:

- \* Best Technique (2—1 from each set of judges)
- \* Best Show Design (2—1 from each set of judges)
- \* Best Choreography (2—1 from each set of judges)
- \* Best Showmanship (2—1 from each set of judges)
- \* Most Entertaining (2—1 from each set of judges)

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

### F. Awards/Superstar Division

At regular contests, a team will each receive one trophy (24" minimum height) for Judges' Choice Awards—To be determined by the judges for areas such as showmanship, energy, show design, special performances, etc.

## IX. FEE STRUCTURE

### A. Membership Fees

Initial membership fee per team is \$200; renewal fee is \$100. Memberships postmarked after November 1st of each year will be charged \$400 and \$200 respectively. A 5% service charge will be charged for credit card payments.

### B. Fees/Teams

The entry fee for regular contests will be \$100 for SCAU members (\$125 for non-members) per category entered. In addition, a \$45 PER TEAM entry will be collected for medic fee, awards, and rosette placement ribbons/trophies. The fees for Regional and State Championships will be \$150 for SCAU members and \$200 for non-members.

### C. Fees/Solo and Ensembles at all Team Contests (Except Nationals)

\$60 for SCAU Members; \$70 for non-members; \$90 for ensembles.

### D. Fees/Fall Preliminary, Stand-Alone Solo/Ensemble Contests

The cost per performance is \$70.

## X. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

### A. Eligibility

Teams must compete at a minimum of two contests, including its State Championship, if available, to be eligible for Nationals.

### B. Judging

Judges will not use audio at Nationals. The same judges will be assigned to all categories within a size/age bracket.

### C. Fees/Nationals

Age Division/Category	Members	Non-Members
Primary (3 routines)	\$570	\$880
Elementary (3 routines)	\$725	\$1,035
Junior (3 routines)	\$725	\$1,035
Senior (3 routines)	\$725	\$1,035

Adult/College (3 routines)	\$725	\$1,035
Officer (not competing in other team categories)	\$210	\$440
Solos	\$105	\$130
Ensembles	\$155	\$180
Each Additional routine in all age divisions	\$155	\$155

#### D. Nationals Daily Format

- \* **Friday Late Afternoon/Evening:** Solos and Ensembles
- \* **Saturday:** Juniors and Seniors including Junior and Senior Officers
- \* **Sunday Morning:** Tinys, Primary, and Elementary including Tiny, Primary, and Elementary Officers
- \* **Sunday Afternoon:** Best of the Best—see below

**Tiny, Primary, Elementary, and Officer Lines will only perform once for National titles.**

#### E. Grand Champion (GC)

1. **Tiny Teams** - Not eligible
2. **Primary/Elementary** – Teams must compete in at least 2 categories (excluding officer). The top 2 routines from **Saturday's performances** will be used for the Grand Champion calculation.
3. **Junior/Senior** - Teams must compete in at least 3 categories (excluding officer). The top 3 routines from **Saturday's performances** will be used for the Grand Champion calculation.

**The routines considered for the GC trophy must be in different categories (3 for Junior/Senior) (2 for Primary/Elementary). 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.**

**Grand National Championships will be awarded in Primary Classic; Primary Select; Elementary Classic; Elementary Select; Junior Classic; Junior Select; Senior Classic; and Senior Select.**

#### F. Best of the Best (Junior and Senior Teams Only)

1. Tabulators will select the top routines from both Classic and Select (Junior and Senior) teams to re-compete in the Best of the Best. **Classic teams will re-compete their ONE highest scoring routine only;** Select teams may place a maximum of 3 routines.
  - a. Judges at their discretion, may select one or more Wild Card teams (teams who have reached their maximum or have not otherwise placed that routine in by scores) to move forward to Best of the Best based on entertainment factor, audience appeal, etc.6
  - b. Scores will be wiped cleaned after Saturday's announcement. The Best of the Best competition is a stand-alone score on Sunday.
  - c. Best of the Best **rosettes and/or** trophies will be given to the Top Ten scoring INDIVIDUAL routines, based on Sunday scores only.

#### G. Dancers of the Year

The judges will select a maximum 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 following the Best of the Best performances. No overall winner will be selected.

#### H. Captain of the Year

The penalty judge will provide comments and a rating for any team which wishes to present a captain. While a captain may choose to do a salute and a team entrance, it is not necessary and is not scored in any way. The penalty judge will give comments for improvement and commendation and will award a rating ribbon. 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. A maximum of one captain in each age category will be recognized at each contest as a Captain of the Year Nominee. At Nationals, those nominees will be invited to perform at Sunday's Best of the Best performance. No overall winner will be selected.

## I. Nationals Award Structure

### 1. Friday

#### Solos and Ensembles:

- \* Placements by age division and competitive levels: Tinys; Primary Classic and Select; Elementary Classic and Select; Junior Nova, Classic and Select; Senior Nova, Classic and Select

### 2. Saturday

#### Junior Teams:

- \* Junior Nova, Classic, Select: All Category Awards (Classic Pom; Select Pom, etc.)
- \* 5 Judges' Elite Awards (Technique; Show Design; Choreography; Showmanship; Entertainment)
- \* **Grand Champion in Junior Classic; Junior Select**
- \* Announcement of routines moving forward to Best of the Best on Sunday

#### Senior Teams:

- \* Senior Nova, Classic, Select: All Category Awards (Classic Pom; Select Pom, etc.)
- \* 5 Judges' Elite Awards (Technique; Show Design; Choreography; Showmanship; Entertainment)
- \* **Grand Champion in Senior Classic; Senior Select**
- \* Announcement of routines moving forward to Best of the Best on Sunday

**NO MEDALS will be awarded for Saturday's routines**

### 3. Sunday

#### Tiny, Primary and Elementary Teams:

- \* Placements in each category
- \* Medals for 3 highest scoring routines in each AGE category
- \* Grand Champion in Primary Classic and Select; Elementary Classic and Select
- \* 5 Judges' Elite Awards (Technique; Show Design; Choreography; Showmanship; Entertainment)

#### Junior Teams:

- \* Best of the Best – Top 10 Junior Classic; Top 10 Junior Select
- \* Medals for the highest scoring routines of the day in Junior Classic; Junior Select

#### Senior Teams:

- \* Best of the Best – Top 10 Senior Classic; Top 10 Senior Select
- \* Medals for the highest scoring routines of the day in Senior Classic; Senior Select

**Medals will only be awarded on Sunday to the 3 highest scoring routings of the day in Primary Classic; Primary Select; Elementary Classic; Elementary Select; Junior Classic; Junior Select; Senior Classic; Senior Select**

**Best of the Best winners will receive an individual award (Pin, patch, etc.)**

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# SOLO AND ENSEMBLE COMPETITIONS

1. **Awards:** Team award guidelines are to be observed in solo competitions. (minimum 1st-3rd place for trophies; 50% guideline) SEE VII A-C.
2. **Competitive Levels:** Nova, Classic and Select guidelines as well as judges' discretion guidelines apply to solo/ensembles as well. SEE II AND III.
  - a. Nova Dancers---limited to 1 routine per contest.
  - b. Soloists cannot compete in more than one competitive level.
3. **Eligibility:** See Team Guidelines I and II.
4. **Guideline for Age/Level Winners:** There are two main solo events during the SCAU season: Pageant and fall preliminaries. Fall preliminaries lead to the crowning of Miss/Mr. Showcase of Stars. The 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 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 compete 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

5. **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.**
6. **Pageant:**
  - a. All pageant participants must have competed in a minimum of 1 fall/winter solo preliminary event. No video entries will be accepted.
  - b. All contestants will compete in preliminary competition and model their evening wear.
  - c. Pageant Scoring:
    - \* Gown Modeling (Friday evening; all contestants)
    - \* Preliminary Competition (Saturday morning/afternoon; all contestants)

**Saturday finalists are announced at the beginning of the evening finale and will re-compete their solos on Saturday night. All ages' evening wear score from Friday will be added to their Saturday preliminary score.**

**All Categories: Saturday's preliminary TOTAL score (minus the low score) will be added to Saturday's final scores (minus the low score) for a final total.**

- d. Pageant Awards: These awards may be given on Saturday night at the pageant:
  - \* Winners in each age/competitive level: Crown, Sash, Trophy
  - \* 1st through 4th runners up: Trophy
  - \* Special Awards for Congeniality; Production Dancer; Evening Wear/Gown
  - \* If there are male and female dancers in an age category, a Mr and a Miss award will be given

Cash Awards in the Select Category: Cash Awards may be offered to Top 3 in SELECT ONLY

- \* Overall Senior Select \$1000, \$300, \$200
- \* Overall Junior Select \$500, credit \*, credit\*
- \* Overall Elementary Select \$250, credit\*, credit\*
- \* Overall Primary Select \$200, credit\*, credit\*
- \* Overall Tiny \$100\*

**\*Credit will be for future solo contest entry at Nationals or Fall preliminary**

e. Responsibilities of Pageant Age/Level Winners

- \* Reign at following year's pageant (not compete)
- \* Exhibition performance and awards at Nationals
- \* Exhibition performance and awards at regional contests by request
- \* Other special events by request and availability