

ENTRY GUIDELINES

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

All entries for Regional and National competitions will be registered on a first come, first served basis, and will be limited to the amount of performance time available. Some competitions **WILL** fill up more than 45 days before the competition date.

Entries are not considered "Registered" until full payment is received.

All entries must be registered online. Mailed, faxed or emailed entries will NOT be accepted.

We do not currently accept independent entries.

GENERAL ENTRY INFORMATION

Competition schedule, studio confirmation, along with directions to the competition venue will be e-mailed to the studio director at least 10 days prior to the competition.

Please be ready to perform at least 1 hour prior to your performance time. You must be prepared to perform when scheduled or slightly earlier if asked. Legitimate costume change issues of less than 4 routines will be accommodated. In the interest of running on time, Stage One reserves the right to modify the schedule. The wrongful holding of numbers may result in disqualification of the routine from High Point Awards.

Routines that compete at a Stage One Regional will qualify for the National Finals. All National Finals entries must qualify at a Regional event.

DIVISIONS, LEVELS AND CATEGORIES

AGE DIVISIONS

4 & under, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-15, 16-17, 18-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40 & over.

For Contemporary, Jazz, Lyrical, Musical Theater, Open and Tap categories, ages will be broken down as follows: 4 & under, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20-29, 30-39, 40 & over.

All age divisions at Regional competitions or at National Finals will be determined by the ages of the performers as of January 1, 2018.

To determine the age division, average the performers' ages and drop the decimal point. Example: 12.0-12.9 will compete in the 12-year-old age division.

The same group of performers cannot compete more than once in exactly the same division, category and age division. The group may compete in the exact division, category and age division with some variance in the group's members.

Soloists may perform a maximum of three solo routines (in three different categories). Stage One reserves the right to limit solo entries due to time constraints. Once the solo limit has been reached, no more solo entries will be accepted.

When there are five or more production routines in any age group; Petite, Junior, Teen or Senior will become its own Division for that age group. High Point awards including prize money will be awarded.

AGE GROUPS

Petite:	8 and under	Senior:	16-19
Junior:	9-12	Adult:	20 & Over
Teen:	13-15		

Bump Rule: Groups including dancers of different age groups will compete no more than one age group below the oldest dancer, regardless of the average age. For example: if a routine includes a dancer age 16

(Senior Age Group), but the average age is 11 (Junior Age Group), the routine will compete in the Teen Age Group. The Production category is the only exception to this rule.

Adult Rule: If any duet/trio, small group, large group or line has any dancer age 20 or over, they must compete in the Adult age group. This applies to even one dancer in a routine who is 20 or over. **No exceptions.**

PERFORMANCE LEVELS

Stage One will have 3 performance levels for all age groups (Petite, Junior, Teen, Senior and Adult).

RISING STAR: (*Recreational*) Recreational/Beginner dancers who receive limited weekly studio time and have had little, if any, stage time, other than at their annual recital. They have not had the time to master the technical skills that are required in the competition's higher levels.

SHOOTING STAR: (*Intermediate*) This level is for those dancers who may not be considered beginner because of previous dance experience but are training less than 5 hours per week. This level is not a place for elite dancers to place higher in the High Point Awards by gaining an unfair advantage.

ELITE STAR: (*Advanced*) Dancers who average several hours of technical dance training per week and are competing in several competition routines and have strong technical ability. This is also a place for a good dancer to become a great dancer and be challenged.

Teachers, please use fair judgment when placing groups into performance levels. The different levels are designed to give dancers a level playing field of competition, not to allow your best dancers to win more awards. Please refer to page two of Rules and Guidelines for a better explanation.

Some examples to consider: *If you feel you need to adjust your dancer's performance levels from Regionals to National Finals, please contact our office.*

1. A routine with dancers of different levels should be entered in the performance level that applies to more than 50% of the dancers.
2. If a mixed-level routine has more than 50% intermediate dancers, but you feel the overall level of the routine is elite, please be fair and enter the routine as Elite Star.
3. If your studio has multiple competition companies, please consider the placement of each company individually. It is possible that several companies should compete in the same level. Performance levels should not be used to keep dancers from competing against one another.

If you do not select a performance level, you will automatically be entered as an Elite Star. Soloists may only compete in one level.

PERFORMANCE CATEGORIES

For more specific information regarding categories, visit our website - www.stageonedance.com.

Gymnastics tricks are allowed in any category as long as the style of dance is predominantly that of the category entered.

MUSIC GUIDELINES

CDs will no longer be accepted. Music for each routine can be uploaded in the Director's Zone. Your routine title and uploaded song title must match.

Please have all your music, for the entire competition, uploaded one week prior to the competition. Stage One highly recommends bringing a backup copy of the music for your routines with you to the competition.

TIME LIMITS

Solo:	2:45 min	Large Group:	4:00 min
Duet/Trio:	2:45 min	Line:	5:00 min
Small Group:	3:00 min	Production:	6:00 min

EXTENDED TIME LIMITS

Extended time limit prices are \$3 additionally per routine for Solos and Duet/Trios, and \$3 additionally per person for all groups.

Solo:	3:15 min	Large Group:	4:30 min
Duet/Trio:	3:15 min	Line:	5:30 min
Small Group:	3:30 min	Production:	8:00 min

Failure to comply could result in a 15-point deduction.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

NO cameras of any kind allowed during a performance. This includes smart phones with video capabilities. Violation may result in disqualification of a routine from High Point Awards.

A First Place High Point winner at any Regional competition **MAY NOT** compete with the same routine at any other Regional competition in the same season.

High Point Award winners at any 2017 National Finals **MAY NOT** compete with the same routine at any of the 2018 Regional competitions.

No dangerous substances (including, but not limited to: water, gels, rosin, aerosols, glitter, confetti, etc) that might damage the integrity of the dance floor may be used during a routine.

A time schedule will be available at least 7 days prior to an event. Every Regional schedule is based on the breakdown of entries for that particular city. Since we cannot know this breakdown until all entries are processed, we will, at that time, set a schedule designed to accommodate the majority of entrants. It is our goal to have all days end at a reasonable time, especially Sundays, when students attend school the following day. We would rather go later on a Friday or a Saturday and let everyone leave earlier on Sunday. This would not necessarily be possible if we followed a predetermined format.

Stage One reserves the right to expand the dates of any competition due to number of entries, move the competition to a new location due to unforeseen circumstances, or cancel any event that does not qualify with a minimum number of acceptable entries. If cancellation occurs, all entry fees will be refunded.

Routines that compete at a Stage One Regional will qualify for the National Finals.

Absolutely no coaching from the audience or backstage.

Any teacher, parent, performer or participant displaying improper conduct, either through social media or at a competition, can result in a disqualification with the loss of entry fees.

Stage One National Dance Competitions shall in no way assume any responsibility for accidents or theft.

All protests must be in writing and made by a studio director prior to the awards ceremony for that particular division. All protests must be signed.

Absolutely no alcoholic beverages are allowed at any Stage One Competition.

Performers give permission to Stage One National Dance Competitions to use performers' photographs, likenesses and/or videos in connection with advertising, marketing, television broadcasts and social media.

For a complete list of the Rules and Regulations, and information regarding judging guidelines and awards, please visit us online at - www.stageonedance.com.

PERFORMANCE LEVELS / ABILITY LEVELS...

A competition has no way of knowing the experience level of each student. Our goal is for all dancers to compete with dancers of equal abilities. Stage experience, technical ability, and the choreography of each routine must be considered. Of course with only three levels there will be some variance of ability. We have listed several points to consider in the proper placement. For example: If a soloist is receiving many hours of individual training then they should be in a higher level for their solo, as well as duo/trio or small group. If the same soloist is in a group dance that has more students on the recreational level, that dance may be considered for a level more consistent with the majority of dancers in the group. **HOWEVER**, this does not apply if that soloist is highlighted as a soloist for much of the group dance and the less experienced dancers are receiving limited stage time. There are studios that only require a few hours a week from their students and there are those who require total dedication and do not allow their dancers to participate in other extracurricular activities. Some studios have required Master classes and conventions to allow for more training and some who do not require any at all. These variables should help you decide but throwing all of these considerations away for the sake of just simply "winning" does not serve our dancers well. We know that each studio is diverse so we will offer guidelines and hope that everyone will do their best to place their dancers in the appropriate performance level. Winning is great but educating young dancers is most important.

Please consider the following when determining which performance level fits your routine:

- How many years of dance experience do they have.
- Amount of competition experience.
- Technical ability
- Hours of technical dance training per week
- Past Scoring – for example: a dancer who consistently wins in the Shooting Star level is demonstrating that they have mastered that level and should move to the Elite Star. Likewise, a dancer who needs to strengthen their core or has not mastered the more difficult technical elements of the Elite level might try competing in Shooting Star until they are stronger.
- Place your dancer where they can be challenged but also gain confidence to become a better dancer.
- Choreography, if a dancer is executing quadruple turns and has the control to stop on a dime, they are too advanced for Shooting Star.

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- *High Point Awards will be presented to all three performance levels. However, cash awards are only presented to Shooting Star and Elite Star routines.*
- *If all judges ascertain that a dance is in the wrong Performance Level they may move a routine to their appropriate level. This could be moving a routine to a more difficult level or to a less difficult level.*
- *Any routine scoring below 278 points in the Elite Star Performance Level at a Regional event may move down to the Shooting Star Performance Level for National Finals competition. Please contact Stage One for assistance with this change before Nationals.*
- *For a complete list of the Rules and Regulations, and information regarding judging guidelines and awards, please visit us online at - www.stageonedance.com.*