



Event Rules

Registration

- Entries are accepted on a first come basis and are limited by the overall performance time available.
- All entries must be associated with and registered by a Studio and must use the registration link found at danceilluminated.com
- Registrations will fill up and Studios are encouraged, but not required, to reserve their spots at least 90 days in advance.
- Studios may reserve any number of entries through the registration portal by providing an estimate for total number of entries (split into 1. Solos / Duos / Trios and 2. Group Routines) and paying an associated deposit.
- Reservations are not considered Registrations until specific details for each Routine have been provided, including Division, Category, and Routine titles, and all entry fees have been paid
- Studio Directors are responsible for determining the skill level of each Dancer. This skill level will determine the Division for each Routine. Additional details can be found in the "Divisions" section below.
- Registrations, regardless of whether they were previously reserved, must be made and paid at least 30 days prior to the Event.
- Discounts may apply to Reservations made more than 90 days in advance and Registrations made more than 30 days in advance. Details can be found in the registration portal.
- Pending available performance time, late Registrations, those made within 30 days of an Event, may be accepted at the discretion of the Illuminate Dance Championships ("IDC") Events Team.
- Deposits and fees are refundable per the "Refunds" section below.

Divisions

- Each Routine shall be registered into a Division for the purposes of Overall Awards and Championships.
- Divisions consist of three elements: Entry Type, Age Group, and Performance Level.

Entry Type and Time Limits

- Entry Type and associated Time Limits are as follows:
 - Solo (1 Dancer), 3 minutes
 - Duet / Trio (2 - 3 Dancers), 3 minutes
 - Small Group (4 - 9 Dancers), 3 minutes
 - Large Group (10 - 19 Dancers), 4 minutes
 - Production (20+ Dancers), 8 minutes
- Dancers are limited to 3 total Solo Routines per Event and the overall number of Solos available may be limited at a given Event. More information for specific Events can be found at the registration portal on danceilluminated.com
- Large Group and Production numbers may exceed these Time Limits with prior approval and the purchase of additional time allotment.
- Failure to comply with Time Limits may result in a 15 point deduction.

Age Group

- Age Group are as follows:
 - Mini (Under 7)
 - Petite (7 - 9)
 - Junior (10 - 12)
 - Teen (13 - 15)
 - Senior (16 - 19)
 - Adult (20+)
- A Dancer's age is determined by their age as of January, 1st on the year in which an Event begins.
 - e.g. A Dancer born on June 13, 2009 would be considered age 12 for an Event beginning in 2022.
- A Routine's Age Group shall be determined by the average age of all registered Dancers, whether present day of or not, rounded down to the nearest whole age.
- Misrepresentation of age may result in deductions and/or reclassification
- Routines with Dancers of different Age Group must compete in the Age Group no younger than one Age Group below the oldest Dancer, regardless of average.
- Routines with any Adult Dancers (20+) must compete in the Adult Age Group regardless of average.
- Studio Directors are encouraged to have an electronic copy of all Dancers' birth certificates should a protest arise.

Performance Level

Performance Levels are intended to provide Dancer's the opportunity to grow through a challenging and fair field of competitors and not a chance for Dancers or Studios to unfairly win or have an undue "moment in the spotlight". Victory means much more when it is earned.

- Studios are to register their Routines into a Performance Level based on the following guidelines:
 - **Novice** - Beginner Dancers or Dancers who receive limited Studio instruction (~3.5 hours or less) and have had little or no competitive experience. Novice dancers are not permitted to perform in more than 5 Routines in any one Event.

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- **Advanced** - Intermediate Dancers or those who spend several hours receiving Studio instruction each week (~4 - 5.5 hours) and may have several years of stage experience, especially competitive experience.
- **Elite** - Highly Experienced Dancers or those Dancers that spend several hours and several nights in their Studio each week (~6+ hours), often taking supplemental technique courses, and competing in several Routines.
- Routines should enter the performance level that applies to 50% or more of the Dancers in that Routine.
- Performance Level elections are at the discretion of the Studios, but intentional and egregious misrepresentation of a Routine's skill level may result in reclassification and / or scoring deductions with unanimous agreement of the judges.
- Dancers may compete in multiple Performance Levels in an Event given each Routine, including Solos, meets the guidelines above.
 - e.g. A Dancer can perform with more advanced Dancers in an Advanced Small Group Routine and then perform a Novice Solo based on her / his personal skill level and experience.
 - However, a Dancer must compete in the same Performance Level for all Solos in a given Event.

Performance Categories

- Routines must enter under one of the following categories:
 - Acro - Only available to performances entered in the Advanced Performance Level or higher
 - Ballet
 - Contemporary / Modern
 - Hip Hop
 - Jazz
 - Lyrical
 - Musical Theater / Character
 - Open
 - Pointe - Only available at Teen Age Group and older and only to performances entered in the Advanced Performance Level or higher
 - Tap
- Soloists may only enter any Performance Category once per Event.

Scheduling

- Event Schedules will be released at least 10 days prior to an Event.
- The default schedule for Regional and State Championship Events will be Friday afternoon through Sunday early evening, though it may be necessary to lengthen or shorten to accommodate the number of Routines.
- In some circumstances, the IDC Events Team may need to move venues to accommodate the number of Routines. Venues will be final 10 days in advance of an Event and changes will be communicated promptly. The IDC Events Team will work with Studios that may need Schedule adjustments as a result of a venue change.
- Reasonable time for costume changes will be incorporated into the schedule for Dancers performing in multiple Routines. However, if Studio Directors feel there is inadequate time allotted, Studio Directors may request a Schedule Change with the IDC Events Team.
- Requests for Schedule Changes must be made at least 7 days prior to an Event and are not guaranteed. It is, however, the IDC Events Team's priority that Dancers have adequate time to prepare for their Routines.
- The IDC Events Team will strive to incorporate Schedule Changes to address special circumstances for a specific Dancer as long as those changes are requested as soon as possible. A Routine performing after their associated Awards Ceremony will not be eligible for Division Overall Awards, but still contributes to Studio Championships and is still considered for eligible Titles.
- Routines must check-in with the Backstage Manager at least 5 numbers (~15 min) prior to their scheduled performance. Currently performing Routine number can be found in the app, in the lobby, backstage, and by communicating with your Event Host.
- Day-of schedule changes may be required due to unforeseen circumstances. These will be kept to an absolute minimum and will be communicated as soon as and as widely as possible.
- Any one Routine significantly pulled forward out of scheduled order will only be done so with the expressed consent of the Studio Director and/or a Routine's Instructor. This does not apply if the entire Event is running in order ahead of schedule, though Studio Directors will be regularly informed of the pace of the Event against the schedule.
- In the interest of executing an Event as an enjoyable experience for all, breaks may be moved, shortened, lengthened, or skipped entirely, but only upon agreement of a majority of the Studio Directors, Judges, and IDC Events Team.
- Any changes to breaks or major deviations from the schedule will be communicated as soon as and as widely as possible, including directly with all Studio Directors.

Music Guidelines

- All music is to be uploaded electronically via the registration portal. Illuminate Dance Championships does not accept music on CD.
- Final music is to be uploaded at least 7 days in advance of the Event.
- Studio Directors are encouraged to have a backup copy of all music on a flash drive at the Event.
- Day of music changes may be provided to accommodate special circumstances, but are not guaranteed. These changes must be completed electronically, via upload, email, or flash drive. IDC has no ability to receive or play music from CDs.

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- Technical difficulties with music will result in a nullified performance and the Routine will be given the opportunity to perform again without penalty at the earliest convenient time as agreed by the IDC Events Team and the Studio.
- Please be considerate with music choices. Inappropriate subject matter, lyrics, and vulgar language may be subject to scoring deductions or disqualification at the judges' discretion.
- Though Studios are expected to express their artistic visions through their Routines, they are encouraged to be mindful of the themes and messaging of Routines as all Illuminate Dance Championship Events are family friendly.

Costume Guidelines

- Glitter, Rhinestones, Feathers, and other adornments to costumes are permitted, as long as they are reasonably affixed to the costumes.
- Costumes deemed inappropriate for an age division, determined at the sole discretion of the judges, may be subject to points deductions or disqualification.

Props

- Within reason, props are permitted at Illuminate Dance Championships.
- Props should not require more than one minute for set-up and tear-down. Excessive time for set-up and tear-down may result in deductions from the associated Routine, with the specific exception of Production Routines that have made prior arrangements with the IDC Events Team.
- Props may not exceed 10 ft in overall height and at no point are Dancers to be more than 6 ft above the stage.
- Studios will be held responsible for any damage caused to the flooring or stage area by props from their Routines.
- It is expected that small props, for example flower petals, confetti, tissue paper, shall be cleaned off of the stage with the assistance of Studio staff and shall be complete within the one minute tear-down allotment. Loose glitter (not part of a costume) is not permitted as a prop.
- Dangerous props, including but not limited to: water, gels, sand, fog, projectiles, blades, gas motors, animals, and flammables, are strictly prohibited. Any use of these items may be subject to deductions or disqualification at the judges' discretion.
- Props are not to be brought backstage more than 5 Routines (~15 min) prior to their associated Routine and must be removed immediately following the completion of the associated Routine. Special arrangements may be made with the IDC Events Team.

Checking-In

- Studio Directors or an authorized Instructor must check in at the Event Registration Table at least 60 minutes prior to their Studio's first performance of the Event.
- Any Welcome Gifts will only be presented to the Studio Directors upon their arrival to the venue and will not be given to authorized Instructors without prior arrangement between the Studio Director and the IDC Events Team.
- Event Programs will be provided to Studio Directors or authorized Instructors at check in, up to the total number of Instructors (plus the Director) as requested by the individual checking-in, additional programs will be provided to the Studio Director as requested.
- Event Hosts are assigned to each Studio and are intended to be the first point of contact for the Studio Director and their team for any needs and questions throughout the Event.
- Studio Directors and/or authorized Instructors will be greeted by their assigned Event Host at Check-In and escorted to their assigned Studio location in the dressing room.
- Event Hosts will share the best means of communication with Studio Directors, but Studio Directors, their teams, Dancers, and Dance Families may reach out to any Event Host at any time throughout the weekend for assistance with their needs.

Judging

- Routines will be adjudicated by a panel of 3-4 qualified judges according to their Age and Performance Divisions.
 - If four judges are present, only the 3 highest scores for a Routine will be counted.
- At Events with 4 judges, in order to ensure a timely event and reduce judges fatigue, judges may step in and out throughout the Event. However, in order to promote fairness the judging panel for any one division will be the same, barring exceptional circumstances.
 - E.g. Were a judge to step out for a Junior Elite Small Group, the other 3 judges must remain for the entire division and that fourth judge's scores will not count for any of the Junior Elite Small Group.
- Judges will evaluate Routines on a 100 point scale, divided into the following considerations:
 - Technique (30 Points)
 - Performance (30 Points)
 - Stage Presence (20 Points)
 - Choreography (10 Points)
 - Overall Impression (10 Points)
- Judges may make deductions based on any rules violations as previously stated.
- The three highest total scores (less any deductions) are then added together to give an Overall Routine Score.
- Overall Routine Scores are then conferred Awards based on the following scale:

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Novice

- Diamond: 280 - 300
- Platinum: 260 - 279
- High Gold: 240 - 259
- Gold: 200 - 239

Advanced / Elite

- Diamond: 285 - 300
- Platinum: 270 - 284
- High Gold: 255 - 269
- Gold: 200 - 254
- Video Critiques from each judge, for each Routine will be provided to Studio Directors within 7 days of the conclusion of the Event.

Awards, Titles, & Championships

- Awards Ceremonies will be held at several points throughout the Event where logical breaks in the schedule allow.
- Dancers are highly encouraged to attend their Awards ceremonies to be recognized for their accomplishments, but should a situation arise, a representative may accept Awards on behalf of a Routine. The exception to this rule is the Titles awarded at the completion of the Event, Dancers must be present to receive individual recognition.
- No food or beverage is permitted on stage during Awards Ceremonies and Dancers are discouraged from having phones on stage.
- Prizes with monetary value won by all Routines are the property of the Studio that registered the Routine and are distributed at the Studio Director's discretion.

Routine Awards & Championships

- Each Routine will receive a token of recognition (pins, ribbons, medals, etc.) for each Dancer for the adjudicated award.
- Overall Awards will be conferred for each Division (the combination of Entry Type, Age Group, and Performance Level) based on the Overall Routine Score.
- The First Place Overall winner for each Division will be conferred the title of "Champion" for that given Event, e.g. "2021 Cincinnati Regional Elite Junior Small Group Champion".
- Additionally, if a Category within a Division has at least three entries, a Category Championship will be awarded.
- Routines must perform prior to the associated Awards Ceremony in order to be eligible for Routine Overalls & Championship. However, the delayed Routine's score will count for the Studio Championship and they will still receive their token of recognition and their score announced at the following Awards Ceremony.
 - i.e. a Routine delayed a day for special circumstances will be adjudicated at the next Awards Ceremony, however will not be eligible to win the Division Overall.
- Solos, Duos, and Trios with identical Dancers may only place in Division overalls with their highest scoring Routine.

Studio Championships

- Each Regional & State Championship Event will determine a single Studio that has earned the title of Overall Champion.
- Regional and State Champions will be announced at the final Awards Ceremony of that Event based on the following criteria:
 - To be eligible, a Studio must enter at least 16 Group or Production entries. Improv and Dance Royal performances do not count as Routines for any Studio Championship purpose.
 - Scores for all Routines will be aggregated and divided by the total number of Routines to create an Overall Studio Average Score.
 - The Overall Champion will be the Studio with the highest Overall Studio Average Score.
 - Ties will be settled between Studios with the same highest Overall Studio Average Score by:
 - Most total Routines, then
 - Most Group and Production entries
 - Studios are not required to attend a Regional Championship in order to compete in a State Championship.
 - Studios are permitted to attend Regional and / or State Championships in Regions and States in which they are not located, e.g. a Studio located in Northern Kentucky may attend a Regional Dance Championship in Grand Rapids, MI and/or the Ohio State Championship in Columbus, OH.
- The Champion will be conferred the title of that respective Event's Champion for the year in which the Event takes place, e.g. "2022 Cleveland Regional Illuminate Dance Champions"
 - Overall Champions will be recognized in future Programs and IDC marketing materials.
 - Studios are not required to be geographically located in a given State to be that State's Champion, e.g. a Studio from Cleveland, OH may attend the Indiana State Championship held in Indianapolis, IN and win the title of "2022 Indiana State Illuminate Dance Champions".

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Titles

- In addition to Awards and Championships based on Overall Routine Scores and Overall Studio Score additional Titles will be awarded to Dancers, Routines, and Studios.
- These Titles, any associated gift certificates, and additional prizes will be conferred at the final Awards Ceremony of the Event. Score sheets will not be provided for any Titles awarded.
- The List below includes examples of and any additional information or criteria for Titles that may be awarded. This list is not exhaustive and each of these Titles may not be awarded at each Illuminate Dance Championship Event:
 - **Judges Choice** - Presented to one or several Routines most favored by the Judges throughout the entire Event (may be awarded at each Awards Ceremony).
 - **Directors Choice** - The Event Director's personal favorite Routine (may be awarded at each Awards Ceremony).
 - **Audience Choice** - Spectators and Participants will be able to vote for their favorite Routines throughout the weekend via the Event App.
 - ****Glimmer & Glow (Photogenic Traditional)** - Studios may submit a photograph electronically or a hard copy of at least 5"x7" of an individual Dancer in either a dance pose or headshot with the Dancer's face clearly visible. Please submit the Dancer's name and Studio Name with each entry. Hard Copies will be returned at the conclusion of the Event.
 - ****Light the Spark (Photogenic Artistic)** - Studios may submit a photograph electronically or a hard copy of at least 5"x7" of an individual or group of Dancers from their Studio, shot in an artistic manner (framing, lighting, and posing are all considered). Please submit the Group / Individuals name and Studio Name with each entry. Hard Copies will be returned at the conclusion of the Event.
 - **Glitz & Glam** - Most Illuminating Costumes
 - **Sparkler** - Most Illuminating Soloist
 - **Firecrackers** - Most Illuminating Group
 - **Fireworks Show** - Most Illuminating Studio
 - **Most Illuminating [Category] Titles** - e.g. "Most Illuminating Tap Performance"
 - ****Ms. / Mr. Illuminate** - This Title is conferred to a single Dancer whose entire body of work for the Event, including Solos and contributions to group Routines across all Categories and Divisions, is deemed the most illuminating and best overall. In order to be eligible a Dancer must compete in at least three events, including a Solo, Duo, or Trio of at least Advanced Level and two Group Routines. The winning dancer will be awarded a sash and the Title jacket.
 - ****Ms. / Mr. Junior Illuminate** - This Title is conferred to a single Dancer, in Age Division Junior or younger, whose entire body of work for the Event, including Solos and contributions to group Routines across all Categories and Divisions, is deemed the most illuminating and best overall. In order to be eligible a Dancer must compete in at least three events, including a Solo, Duo, or Trio of at least Advanced Level and two Group Routines. The winning dancer will be awarded a sash and the Title jacket.

***denotes an additional fee applies for consideration*

Improv & Dance Royale

- Time and schedule permitting, Illuminate Dance Championships Events may choose to include the opportunity for Improv performances and / or Dances Royale.
- Improv performances and spots in a Dance Royale will be offered at check-in for an additional fee and any unfilled spots may be purchased at any time prior to the start of the performance.
- Studios do not need to register for their Dancers for these specific performances. Dancers and Dance Families are permitted to register on their own, but it is expected this is with the consent of their Studio.
- Each Dancer may register for a single Improv performance and a single spot in a Dance Royale.
- Critiques will not be provided for Improv or Dance Royale performances. Score sheets, however, will be provided for Improv performances, but not participation in Dances Royale.

Improv Performances

- Improv performances will be solo performances to be held during designated times at the start and end of each day, prior to awards, and at the start and end of scheduled breaks.
- Improv performances are 30 seconds in length, set to a random song in the genre of the Dancers choice from the following selections:
 - Jazz / Tap
 - Lyrical
 - Hip Hop / Modern
- Improv performances will be scored on an overall 30 point scale for the following three categories:
 - Musicality (10 Points)
 - Creativity (10 Points)
 - Overall (10 Points)
- Costume choices will not be evaluated.
- Improv performances are scored by 1 - 4 judges. Only the single highest score will be retained.
- All Improv performances will be adjudicated together, regardless of age or skill level though judges will consider these factors when scoring.
- Improv performances will not count for Overall Studio Championship scoring, though Improv Overalls will be recognized during an Awards Ceremony.

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Dance Royale

- Dances Royale are mass dancing performances with several Dancers on stage simultaneously.
- Dancers begin dancing when the music starts and continue dancing until they have been eliminated or the competition has completed.
- A single judge will walk amongst the Dancers notifying them when they have been eliminated based on that judge's overall perception of the dancing.
- When a Dancer is eliminated, they are to immediately leave the stage to the nearest side, using caution so as not to impact other Dancers.
- All Dancers are to be mindful of other Dancers around them to ensure they do not come into contact with others.
- When a sole Dancer remains, they are the Dance Royale Champion and entitled to any associated prizes.

Photo and Video

- Flash photography and video with light are strictly prohibited for the safety of the Dancers.
- Professional photography and video will be available for purchase immediately following each Routine.
- Optional media packages will be made available for purchase to Studios that will include all photos and videos from an Event.
- Photos, videos, and media packages purchased by Studios may be shared with Dance Families at the Studios' will and may be used by Studios for their own marketing purposes, provided any IDC logos, branding, and/or watermarks remain intact.
- All photos and videos taken by Illuminate Dance LTD and its contractors at the Events may be used in future Illuminate Dance Championships marketing materials. Participation in the Event is assumed consent of Studios and Dance Families. If a Studio would like to opt-out of this consent, they should contact IDC Events Team or speak with their Event Host.

Additional Information

Spectators

- Dance Families are welcome and encouraged at all Illuminate Dance Championship Events and all Events will have free unticketed entry.
- Spectators and Participants in the audience are reminded to be respectful of the performing Dancers. Please enter and exit the auditorium between Routines, keep distracting noise to a minimum, and booing / heckling will not be tolerated (this extends to social media posts).
- Flash photography and video with light are strictly prohibited. Violators may be asked to leave the audience.

Food and Beverage

- Illuminate Dance Championships rents venues for each Event. Studios, Dancers, and Spectators are all asked to respect the rules of the venues especially as it relates to food and beverage in the auditorium.
- Rules will be posted throughout the venue and may vary between different areas within the facility
- Food and beverage are never permitted on stage, including during Awards Ceremonies.
- Absolutely no alcohol is permitted at any Illuminate Dance Championship Event. Any violation of this may result in the immediate disqualification, removal, and subsequent banning of offending Studios.

Refunds

- Illuminate Dance Championships will offer 100% refunds to each Studio should an Event ever not take place and a suitable alternative arrangement cannot be found.
- Illuminate Dance Championships does not offer refunds for voluntary registration cancellations made by the Studios. However, if such cancellations are requested at least 60 days prior to an Event, Illuminate Dance LTD at their sole discretion may offer an alternative solution, including: moving entries to another Event, moving entries to a subsequent year, providing credit for use at a future Illuminate Dance Championship Event.

Safety

- Only Dancers, Instructors, Studio Directors, and Dance parents of the same gender are permitted in dressing rooms. Family dressing space is available upon request. Please see your Event Host for any accommodations requests.
- Only Instructors and Dancers are permitted backstage. All spectators and participants not performing or checking-in are to view performances from the audience.
- Weapons and dangerous objects of any kind are strictly prohibited at Illuminate Dance Championship Events. Weapons discovered backstage will be reported to local authorities and may result in the immediate disqualification, dismissal, and subsequent banning of offending parties.
- 100% of all choreography must be performed within the boundaries of the stage area. Dancing in aisles, on or around the judges table, jumping from the stage, and performing in any other part of the venue is prohibited.
- Dancing, just as any physical activity, carries inherent risk of injury. Participation in an Illuminate Dance Championship Event indicates acceptance of these risks. It is agreed that all participants and spectators hold blameless Illuminate Dance LTD, its subsidiaries, staff, and contractors for any accidents, injuries, damage, or theft of any kind. Studio Directors will be required to review and accept a waiver on behalf of their Studio upon initial check in and maintain all liability for their Dancers and Staff throughout the event.

Feedback

- Illuminate Dance Championships is committed to a philosophy of Continuous Improvement. Studio Directors, Instructors, Dance Families, and Dancers are encouraged to provide any comments, suggestions, or criticisms at any time. The IDC Events Team will actively seek feedback following each event to understand what went well, what didn't, and what opportunities and ideas participants might have.
- As a part of that commitment to Continuous Improvement, Studio Directors are encouraged to review the entirety of these rules in detail and provide any suggestions to this document and the policies of Illuminate Dance Championships.