

Please read carefully. Failure to comply with these rules could result in disqualification.

REGISTRATION

Entries must be e-mailed, faxed or mailed, accompanied by full payment. No phone entries will be accepted.

All Entry Fees must be paid by certified check, money order or credit card. Personal and studio checks will not be accepted.

Entries are NON-REFUNDABLE.

Entries must be received in the RDF office 30 days prior to the event date.

Any entries received after the 30 day deadline will be assessed a 10% late fee. Please be certain to enter the proper performance and age division. There will be a fee of **\$5.00 per change** for all changes made less than 14 days prior to the competition. This fee must be paid by credit card at the time the change(s) is made.

NO CHANGES WILL BE PERMITTED LESS THAN 10 DAYS PRIOR TO THE COMPETITION.

No changes will be permitted at the competition.

Entries will be accepted on a first come, first served basis and will be limited to the amount of performance time available. Reaction Dance Force reserves the right to add additional competition days or move the competition location due to unforeseen circumstances.

GENERAL DIVISIONS / ENTRY FEES - Exclusive to Studio Directors (Please contact us for costs.)

SOLO (single performer)

DUET/TRIO (2-3 performers)

SMALL GROUP (4-9 performers)

LARGE GROUP (10-19 performers)

LINE (20 or more performers)

Photogenic	\$25 per entry
Costume Entry	\$25 per entry
Title Entry	\$25 per entry
Fashion Print	\$25 per entry
Commercial Print	\$25 per entry

Soloists are limited to entering a maximum of three (3) solo dance categories.

TIME LIMITS

Solos – 2 min 45 sec

Duets/Trios – 2 min 45 sec

Small Group (4-9 performers) – 3 min

Large Group (10-19 performers) – 4 min

Lines (20+ performers) – 4 min. Production only – 6 min.

Note: Overtime will result in automatic point deduction of .5 for every 5 seconds overtime.

MUSIC

The majority of our regionals require an mp3 version of the music emailed to info@reactiondancforce.com or the director of the event. Directors/Teachers are advised to also bring a CD for back-up. In some cases, contestants will be required to provide their music on a CD. There must be one routine per CD. Each CD must be clearly marked with the name of the division, performance category, and studio name - using RDF's pre-printed labels. Labeled music must be turned in to the M.C. prior to the start of the competition. Speed control WILL NOT be adjusted for either format.

A confirmation packet will be emailed upon registering for each event and will contain further details.

SCHEDULE

A time schedule will be mailed and e-mailed to all entrants, one week prior to the competition date. Every regional schedule is set up based solely on the breakdown of entries by solos, duets/trios, groups and lines for that particular city. We will not have this breakdown until all of the entries have been processed.

All entries are expected to compete on the day and time assigned. Entries which do compete on their assigned day and time will be adjudicated only and will not be eligible for high score awards.

Each entry will be assigned a number. The competition will run in numerical order. You may be asked to compete out of sequence in order to avoid a delay due to costume changes. Please be prepared to compete when we call your number, even though it may be a few numbers earlier than anticipated. A .5 deduction may be assessed if contestants do not perform in scheduled sequence, without prior permission from the stage manager at the competition. Any studio that delays the show because they are rehearsing, will be assessed a .5 deduction from their total score.

NOVICE LEVEL

Any dance entries consisting primarily of beginning dancers who are new to the competition world may enter the NOVICE level of competition. These entries will still receive adjudications (based on their level) and be eligible for special awards but will not be eligible for competitive High Score Awards. Novice High Score Awards may be given out if there are at least 3 entries in a general division.

DANCE PERFORMANCE CATEGORIES:

Acrobatic/Gymnastics Dance - Routine which may contain gymnastic passes, walkovers, limbers, headstands, chest rolls, etc. Choreography should be used to blend gymnastics and dance.

Ballet – Routine focused on the classical dance form characterized by grace and precision of movement and by elaborate formal gestures, steps, and poses. Ballet slippers required.

Pointe – Routine which must include classical steps and ballet technique. Pointe shoes required.

Baton - Routine using baton(s) and baton technique.

Character - Routine portraying an easily recognizable character throughout, such as a cat, clown, etc. with music, costume and dance. Can incorporate any form of dance. Routine may include 50% acrobatics/gymnastics.

Clogging –A routine in which the dancer's footwear is used musically by striking the heel, the toe, or both in unison against a floor or each other to create audible percussive rhythms. Clogging shoes must be worn.

Contemporary - A routine that combines both lyrical and modern movements.

Hip Hop - Routine composed of street style movements with an emphasis on execution, style, creativity, body isolations and control, rhythm, uniformity and musical interpretation.

Jazz – A routine incorporating stylized dance movements and combinations with an emphasis on proper technical execution, extension, control and body placement.

Lyrical – A fusion of ballet and jazz, a routine encompassing the use of balance, flexibility and control while utilizing the lyrics or mood of the music.

Modern - Interpretive Dance using balance and control that rejects the limitations of classical ballet and favors movement deriving from the expression of inner feeling.

Musical Theater - A routine featuring any style of dance interpreting a song from a “Broadway” or movie musical. Singing is permitted. Routine may include 50% acrobatics/gymnastics.

Open - This category is for any style of dance or combination thereof, including but not limited to the styles listed in this section. Routine may include 50% acrobatics/gymnastics.

Pantomime/Lip Sync - A portrayal of a stereotype or impersonation through pantomime and costume; mimicking the voice on a tape.

Pom –A routine with strong emphasis on synchronization and visual effect, clean/precise motions, and strong motion technique. Poms must be used 80% of the routine.

Production (Line division only) - A routine which is a maximum of 6 minutes. Any combination of dance styles. THERE MUST BE AT LEAST 20 PERFORMERS IN THIS CATEGORY.

Song & Dance - A routine that combines singing and dancing of any style. Music may have back up vocal accompaniment only. Two wireless microphones will be provided.

Tap - A dance in which the rhythm is sounded out by the clicking taps on the heels and toes of a dancer's shoes. Tap shoes required.

The same combination of performers in a duet/trio or solo may never compete against themselves in the same age division in the same performance category.

MODELING PERFORMANCE CATEGORIES:

Fashion Modeling Formal - (solos only) - Any formal or “After 5” attire should be worn. Runway (T-style) modeling will be judged. Models will use the dance stage to perform, not a runway.

Fashion Modeling Sportswear - (solos only) - Casual skirts, pants, etc., are acceptable. Models may choose to represent a sport such as: skiing, tennis, horseback riding, etc. Runway (T-style) modeling will be judged. Models will use the dance stage to perform, not a runway.

SCENE AND HEARD PERFORMANCE CATEGORIES:

Monologue – (solos only) A dramatic or comedic acting piece for a single performer, usually taken from a play or film.

Vocal - Routine may be any type of vocal presentation. Accompaniment must be on CD. No lead vocals permitted on CD; backup voices are permitted.

NON-PERFORMANCE CATEGORIES:

Costume – Any routine can add a costume entry. Costumes will be judged based on design, overall impression and fit.

Commercial Print – 5x7 or larger photograph (color or black & white) depicting the contestant selling a product.

Fashion Print - 5x7 or larger photo (color or black & white) depicting the contestant modeling fashions of their choice.

Photogenic – Contestants must submit a recent 5x7 or 8x10 (color or black & white) headshot to be judged. Photos can be picked up when the teacher picks up score sheets.

Title – The Title competition will be incorporated into the solo competition. All entries will be judged for Title during the performance of their routine.

†	Ages 8 & Under - <i>“Mini Miss Dance Force”</i>	“Mini Mr. Dance Force”
†	Ages 9 – 11 - <i>“Junior Miss Dance Force”</i>	“Junior Mr. Dance Force”
†	Ages 12 – 14 - <i>“Miss Teen Dance Force”</i>	“Mr. Teen Dance Force”
†	Ages 15 – 19 - <i>“Miss Dance Force”</i>	“Mr. Dance Force”

The winning title routine in each division will receive an award and a certificate for a *free* registration at an RDF convention of their choice.

AGE DIVISIONS

Participants will compete in the following age divisions:

4-6, 7-8, 9-11, 12-14, 15-16, 17-19, Adult (20 & over)

All ages are as of **January 1st** of the competition year.

For Duet/Trios, Groups and Lines, the average age determines the age division in which you will compete. Add the ages of all the contestants then divide by the number of contestants. Drop the decimal point. Ex: an age average of 12.8 would compete in the 12 year old division. You must compete in the proper age division, determined by this average.

No dancer, age 20 or older, is allowed to compete in any division other than Adult, **EVEN** if they are part of a group averaging a lower age. (The entire group must then compete in the adult division.)

Names, ages, and birthdates of all contestants must appear on the official entry form or it will not be accepted. The youngest performer in a routine must remain on stage for at least 25% of the routine.

AWARDS

Every performance will receive **adjudication**, based on the following point system:

PLATINUM 9.0-10.0

ELITE GOLD 8.0-8.9

GOLD 7.0-7.9

ELITE SILVER 6.0-6.9

SILVER 5.0-5.9

BRONZE 4.0-4.9

It is possible to have multiple routines with the same adjudication within each age division and performance category.

Ribbons will be awarded to all individuals when their adjudication is announced. A 1st Place Trophy will be awarded to the highest scoring routine in each division and category, which has at least 2 entries. If there are fewer than 2 entries, only **adjudication** will be given.

High Score Awards: All solos, duets/trios, small groups, large groups, and lines entered in **DANCE** performance divisions (excluding Adult) are automatically eligible for **High Score Awards**. Overall High Score Awards will be given in four age divisions: “**Mini**” **8 & under**, “**Jr**” **9-11**, “**Teen**” **12-14** and “**Sr**” **15-19**.

The same contestant cannot place more than once for high score in the Solo division.

The exact same performers may not place more than once for High Score in the Duet/Trio Division.

High Scoring participants will receive team **Plaques**. The Highest scoring act in each division will receive the following **cash credits** toward future RDF events:

- † Solo - **\$50**
- † Duet/Trio - **\$75**
- † Small Group - **\$100**
- † Large Group - **\$100**
- † Line - **\$100**

All cash credits will be awarded to the teacher or director. If there are fewer than 5 entries in a General Division, there will be no cash credit awarded. If any act drops below the minimum number of performers required in that division, they will still compete as registered, but will not be eligible for an overall high score.

Non-Dance Categories are not eligible for Title Divisions or High Score but will receive the following top awards:

In the **Vocal Category**, we will be awarding a “**SUPERIOR VOCALIST AWARD.**”

In the **Modeling Categories**, we will be awarding a “**TOP MODEL AWARD.**”

In the **Monologue Category**, we will be awarding an “**ACCOMPLISHED ACTOR AWARD.**”

For **Costume Entries**, a “**STYLE ICON AWARD**” will be awarded in the 11 & under and the 12 & Over age divisions.

For **Photogenic Entries**, a “**PICTURE PERFECT AWARD**” will be awarded in the 11 & under, and the 12 and Over age divisions.

Additional “Judges' Choice” Awards will be given out specific to each regional, recognizing participants in the areas of choreography, sportsmanship and performance.

Contestants will be judged by a panel of judges, and all decisions are FINAL.

SAFETY GUIDELINES

Dance divisions can contain acrobatic/gymnastics tricks as long as it does not exceed 25% of the routine. Tumbling passes and Dance Lifts are permissible. OPEN, MUSICAL THEATRE and CHARACTER Divisions, may contain up to 50% Acrobatics/ Gymnastics. Singing is permitted only in the VOCAL and MUSICAL THEATER Divisions. No dangerous props may be used on stage such as fire, swords, knives or live animals at any time. General props and gymnastics mats are allowed. No form of liquids (including water), gels, aerosols, glitter, or confetti, etc. which may affect the stage surface, may be used during a routine. (All props are expected to be in place within 2 MINUTES as timing of the routine will begin at the end of these 2 minutes.) A dancer may not be physically placed on a prop/scenic piece more than 6 feet off the ground while on top of any prop/scenic piece. No additional sound equipment or microphones may be used or connected to the sound system.

INTERRUPTION OF PERFORMANCE

In the event a technical error causes a routine's music to be interrupted, the teacher will have the opportunity to stop the performance and begin again immediately. Judging and timing will resume from the point at which the malfunction occurred as determined by the Judges.

In the event that an injury causes a routine to be interrupted the dancers will have 30 minutes to regroup before performing their routine again from the beginning. Judging will resume from the point at which the injury/interruption occurred as determined by the Judges but the routine will not be eligible for High Score Awards. If an entry prefers not to re-work the routine, they may take the score they have received up to that point.

Routines will NOT be stopped to accommodate costume malfunctions. Each performer is required to take the necessary steps to avoid inappropriate exposure prior to the performance. If a performer leaves the floor to adjust a costume, the routine may continue but a penalty may result.

Any SOLO routine which is not completed the first time, and is attempted a second time, will be adjudicated only and will not be eligible for High Score Awards. (Exception: if it was stopped due to a technical error. See above.)

INAPPROPRIATE CHOREOGRAPHY/COSTUMING

Suggestive, offensive, or vulgar choreography and/or music is inappropriate for family audiences and therefore lacks audience appeal. Routine choreography should be appropriate and entertaining for all audience members. Vulgar or suggestive material is defined as any movement or choreography implying something improper or indecent, appearing offensive or sexual in content, and/or relaying lewd or profane gestures or implications. In addition, use of themes such as rape, suicide, murder, sex, domestic violence, anorexia, and dark undertones chosen and/or presented to competition audiences with a lack of "artistic discretion" is considered inappropriate. Inappropriate choreography and costuming affects the judges' overall impression of the routine. Please make sure that all choreography and costuming is age appropriate.

Inappropriate choreography and/or costuming will be at the sole discretion of the RDF judges and officials. An entry that is ultimately deemed inappropriate will be adjudicated only.

RDF RELEASE

All contestants grant permission to Reaction Dance Force to use their photographs and/or video for advertising and promotional purposes. Sportsmanlike behavior is expected at all times from participants, parents, studio directors and teaching staff. Failure to comply could result in immediate disqualification.

Reaction Dance Force, LLC and the hosting facility are not responsible for personal injury or property loss.

VIDEO TAPING, MOVIE CAMERAS AND ALL STILL CAMERAS ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED. If video cameras are found in the competition auditorium, RDF reserves the right to take the footage being used and disqualification could result. It is the Studio's responsibility to relay this information to their participants and spectators. (Exception: Specific events where professional photography or videography is not offered by RDF.)

QUESTIONS and DISPUTES

At an event, questions or concerns regarding score sheets, legalities and other issues should be addressed exclusively by the studio director. Please direct such inquiries to the Event Registration Table. The appropriate competition official will be contacted to discuss any questions or concerns.

RDF has the authority to make a decision on any issue, protest, and penalty or rule that is unclear or not specifically addressed in these guidelines. The RDF rules will be evaluated and enforced on an individual basis, taking into account what is best for all parties involved.

Please read carefully. Failure to comply with these rules could result in disqualification.

REGISTRATION

Entries must be e-mailed, faxed or mailed, accompanied by full payment. No phone entries will be accepted.

All Entry Fees must be paid by certified check, money order or credit card. Personal and studio checks will not be accepted.

Entries are NON-REFUNDABLE.

Payment must be received in the RDF office 30 days prior to the event date.

Any entries received after the 30 day deadline will be assessed a 10% late fee. Please be certain to enter the proper performance and age division. There will be a fee of **\$5.00 per change** for all changes made less than 14 days prior to the competition. This fee must be paid by credit card at the time the change(s) is made.

NO CHANGES WILL BE PERMITTED LESS THAN 10 DAYS PRIOR TO THE COMPETITION.

No changes will be permitted at the competition.

Entries will be accepted on a first come, first served basis and will be limited to the amount of performance time available.

Reaction Dance Force reserves the right to add additional competition days or move the competition location due to unforeseen circumstances.

GENERAL DIVISIONS / ENTRY FEES

SOLO (single performer)	\$40 per performer
DUET (2 performers)	\$50 per entry
TEAM LEADER (2-6 performers)	\$60 per entry
TEAM* (6 or more performers)	\$40 per performer (includes 2 categories)
ADDITIONAL TEAM ROUTINES	\$115 per entry
*Long Island Dance Challenge	\$250 per routine (\$125 for 4th routine)

Soloists are limited to entering a maximum of one (1) solo dance category for School/All-Star Challenges.

TIME LIMITS

Solo – 1 min 15 sec

Duet – 1 min 30 sec

Team Leaders (2-6 performers) – 1 min 30 sec

Team Routines (5 or more performers) – 2 min 15 sec

Note: Overtime will result in automatic point deduction of .5 for every FE seconds overtime.

AGE/GRADE DIVISIONS

TEAMS will compete in the following age/grade divisions:

Tiny All-Star - 6 yrs & younger (write-in on registration form)

Mini All-Star - 9 yrs & younger

Elem/Youth All-Star - 12 yrs & younger

JR High/JR All-Star - 15 yrs & younger

SR All-Star - 18 yrs & younger

Junior Varsity (JV) - 9th -12th grade

Varsity - 9th-12th grade

College - 19 yrs & older

TEAM LEADERS will compete in the following age/grade divisions:

Elem/JR High - 15 yrs & younger

Junior Varsity (JV) - 9th -12th grade

Varsity - 9th-12th grade

SOLOS & DUETS* will compete in the following age/grade divisions:

Elem - 6th grade & younger

JR/Teen - 7th-9th grade

SR - 10th-12th grade

**Division is determined by Duet's oldest member.*

The age of the competitor as of **August 31, 2017** will be the age used for competition purposes throughout the 2017-2018 season for all divisions. Names, ages, and birthdates of all contestants must appear on the official entry form or it will not be accepted.

The same combination of performers in a duet or solo may never compete against themselves in the same age division in the same performance category. Dancers may compete in both School and All-Star divisions except in the Elem and Jr. High/Jr. All-Star Division, as no dancer can compete against themselves in the same division and performance category.

DANCE PERFORMANCE CATEGORIES:

Pom - A routine with strong emphasis on synchronization and visual effect, clean/precise motions, and strong motion technique. Poms must be used 80% of the routine.

Jazz - A routine incorporating stylized dance movements and combinations with an emphasis on proper technical execution, extension, control and body placement.

Hip Hop - Routine composed of street style movements with an emphasis on execution, style, creativity, body isolations and control, rhythm, uniformity and musical interpretation.

Kick - A routine composed of high kicks/kick combinations. Emphasis on stamina, posture, timing, technique and variety.

Drill - Traditional/military dance style focusing on precision. Poms may be used.

Open - This category is for any style of dance or combination thereof, including but not limited to the styles listed in this section, as well as any of the following:

- † **Contemporary** - A style that combines both lyrical and modern movements.
- † **Lyrical** - A fusion of ballet and jazz, a routine encompassing the use of balance, flexibility and control while utilizing the lyrics or mood of the music.
- † **Modern** - Interpretive Dance using balance and control that rejects the limitations of classical ballet and favors movement deriving from the expression of inner feeling.

NON-PERFORMANCE CATEGORIES:

Photogenic - Contestants must submit a recent 5x7 or 8x10 (color or black & white) headshot to be judged. Photos can be picked up when the coach picks up score sheets.

Title - All Soloists will be automatically entered in the Title competition at School & All-Star Challenges. The following Titles will be used:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| † Elem - "Mini Miss Dance Force" ! | "Mini Mr. Dance Force" |
| † Jr/Teen - "Miss Teen Dance Force" ! | "Mr. Teen Dance Force" |
| † Sr - "Miss Dance Force" | "Mr. Dance Force" |

The winning title routine in each division will receive an award and a certificate for a *free* registration at an RDF convention of their choice.

MUSIC

The majority of our Challenges require an mp3 version of the music emailed to info@reactiondancforce.com or the director of the event. Directors/Coaches are advised to also bring a CD for back-up. In some cases, contestants will be required to provide their music on a CD. There must be one routine per CD. Each CD must be clearly marked with the name of the division, performance category, and school name - using RDF's pre-printed labels. Labeled music must be turned in to the M.C. prior to the start of the competition. Speed control WILL NOT be adjusted for either format.

A confirmation packet will be emailed upon registering for each event and will contain further details.

SCHEDULE

A time schedule will be e-mailed to all entrants, one week prior to the competition date. Every regional schedule is set up based solely on the breakdown of entries by solos, duets, team leader groups and team routines for that particular city. We will not have this breakdown until all of the entries have been processed.

All entries are expected to compete during the time assigned. Entries which do not compete at their assigned time will be scored only and will not be eligible for place trophies.

You may be asked to compete out of sequence in order to avoid a delay due to costume changes. Please be prepared to compete when you are called, even though it may be a few numbers earlier than anticipated. A .5 deduction may be assessed if contestants do not perform in scheduled sequence, without prior permission from the competition director. Any studio that delays the event because they are rehearsing, will be assessed a .5 deduction from their total score.

AWARDS

Place trophies will be awarded to every TEAM in every category and division.

A Platinum, Gold & Silver medallion will be awarded to the top three dancers in each SOLO division.

Place plaques will be awarded to the top three routines in each DUET division.

Place trophies will be awarded to the top three groups in each TEAM LEADER division.

SCORES: Use the following breakdown to understand each section of your scoresheet:

9.0-10.0 - Superior execution

8.0-8.9 - Above average execution

7.0-7.9 - Average execution

6.0-5.0 - Below average execution

4.9 and below - Poor execution

Additional "Judges Choice" Awards will be given out specific to each Challenge, as well as plaques recognizing participants in the areas of choreography, sportsmanship and performance.

Contestants will be judged by a panel of judges, and all decisions are FINAL.

Reaction Dance Force, LLC reserves the right to be the arbitrator and interpreter of all rules and regulations covered in these guidelines.

SAFETY GUIDELINES

Dance divisions can contain no more than 4 acrobatic/gymnastics tricks. Exception: Hip Hop is unlimited. A .5 total point deduction may be assessed if this rule is violated. A tumbling pass is considered one trick. (Dance Lifts are permissible.) Only handheld props may be used for School/All-Star Challenges and no dangerous props such as fire, swords, knives or live animals may be used. Props may be used in the OPEN division with prior approval from competition director. No form of liquids (including water), gels, aerosols, glitter, or confetti, etc. which may affect the performance surface, may be used during a routine. No additional sound equipment or microphones may be used or connected to the sound system.

INTERRUPTION OF PERFORMANCE

In the event a technical error causes a routine's music to be interrupted, the coach will have the opportunity to stop the performance and begin again immediately. Judging and timing will resume from the point at which the malfunction occurred as determined by the Judges.

In the event that an injury causes a routine to be interrupted the dancers will have 30 minutes to regroup before performing their routine again from the beginning. Judging will resume from the point at which the injury/interruption occurred as determined by the Judges. If an entry prefers not to re-work the routine, they may take the score they have received up to that point. Routines will NOT be stopped to accommodate costume malfunctions. Each performer is required to take the necessary steps to avoid inappropriate exposure prior to the performance. If a performer leaves the floor to adjust a costume, the routine may continue but a penalty may result.

Any SOLO routine which is not completed the first time, and is attempted a second time, will be scored only and will not be eligible for a Platinum, Gold or Silver Medallion or Title. (Exception: if it was stopped due to a technical error. See above.)

INAPPROPRIATE CHOREOGRAPHY/COSTUMING

Suggestive, offensive, or vulgar choreography and/or music is inappropriate for family audiences and therefore lacks audience appeal. Routine choreography should be appropriate and entertaining for all audience members. Vulgar or suggestive material is defined as any movement or choreography implying something improper or indecent, appearing offensive or sexual in content, and/or relaying lewd or profane gestures or implications. In addition, use of themes such as rape, suicide, murder, sex, domestic violence, anorexia, and dark undertones chosen and/or presented to competition audiences with a lack of "artistic discretion" is considered inappropriate. Inappropriate choreography and costuming affects the judges' overall impression of the routine. Please make sure that all choreography and costuming is age appropriate. Inappropriate choreography and/or costuming will be at the sole discretion of the RDF judges and officials. An entry that is ultimately deemed inappropriate will be adjudicated only.

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QUESTIONS and DISPUTES

At an event, questions or concerns regarding score sheets, legalities and other issues should be addressed exclusively by the coach or director. Please direct such inquiries to the Event Registration Table. The appropriate competition official will be contacted to discuss any questions or concerns.

RDF has the authority to make a decision on any issue, protest, and penalty or rule that is unclear or not specifically addressed in these guidelines. The RDF rules will be evaluated and enforced on an individual basis, taking into account what is best for all parties involved.