

Bundaberg Combined Ballet Association

Festival of Dance – Competition Rules and Information 2021-22

Introduction

The 2022 Bundaberg Festival of Dance is organised by the Bundaberg Combined Ballet Association Incorporated (BCBA).

It is each person's responsibility to read the competition rules and information, which are subject to change at any time before entries officially open for the competition each year.

The competitor, parent, legal guardian, dance teacher and/or studio owner will need to accept they have read and understood all rules, conditions and information associated with the competition.

By submitting entry to the competition, the competitor acknowledges that they have read, understood, accept, and agree to abide by the conditions of the competition. If dissatisfied with the conditions of the competition in any way, they are not obliged to enter.

Rules, Terms and Conditions

Child Protection

BCBA is committed to upholding the highest standards of safety and wellbeing for its competitors. As such, the following recommendations are in place at all BCBA events:

1. A competitor's costuming is not to place them at any risk of exposing themselves (i.e. breast, buttock, genital area) to the audience.
2. Tights¹ are to be worn under any costume that does not have a defined leg sewn in. If there is any risk of buttock/genitalia being exposed, tights are recommended to be worn.
3. Choreography is to be age-appropriate, and not contain movements that could be widely interpreted as sexually promiscuous, explicit, or offensive.
4. Music choice is to be age-appropriate, and not contain explicit or subliminal sexual references, drug and alcohol references, or references to violence.
5. Choreography based around themes of a highly sensitive nature such as abuse, suicide, locally and globally traumatic events, etc. are to be avoided, or handled with extreme care and due diligence, as BCBA are not in the position to provide appropriate and timely content warnings to its audiences.
6. Props such as sand, water, powder, glitter, glass, mirror, porcelain, and electrical props or open flames, are not permitted to be used on the stage.

The Adjudicator will be made aware of these recommendations, and they may be used to determine outcomes for competitors in terms of scores and placings. In addition to the Adjudicator, the BCBA Executive Committee reserves the right to determine the appropriateness or inappropriateness of costume and choreographic choices in context with the family-friendly nature of the competition. We welcome any attendees to the event to bring their concerns to our attention, and routine footage will be reviewed upon request.

Studio Owners will be communicated with via email in the instance that a Child Protection concern has been raised, for them to then disseminate BCBA's concerns by following up with the relevant teacher, choreographer, or parent as to why certain decisions surrounding costuming, content or movement were made. Recurring concerns will be addressed accordingly.

¹ Tights may be of half, capri or full length; and may be footless, with a stirrup or fully contained.

Entry Process

1. This competition is open to amateur dancers only; if a dancer has previously been paid to perform as a dancer, they are ineligible to enter.
2. All entries must be made through the Comps-Online registration system. <https://www.comps-online.com.au/>
3. Entry fees are as follows^{2,3,4} :
 - \$15 per Solo
 - \$20 per Duo/Trio
 - \$20 per Championship; nomination is free, payment required only upon qualification.
 - \$8 per Improvisation
 - \$8 per Own Choreography
4. Payment is to be made in accordance with the information provided by Comps-Online during registration. Please use the Comps-Online invoice number (BUN_____) and the competitors full name as your reference. Entries will not be processed until payment is received⁵.
5. The age of the competitor will be taken as of the **1st January 2022**. If the age is subject to protest, a Birth Certificate may be requested.
 - a. In the case of a duo, trio or group entry, the age of the oldest competitor will dictate the appropriate section to enter.
6. Competitors may only enter once per section⁶, unless:
 - a. They are competing with a different partner/s in duo/trio sections, or
 - b. They are competing in multiple group routines.
7. Competitors may only enter in sections as dictated by their age and may not enter sections above or below their age bracket.
8. 'Novice' sections may only be entered by a competitor if:
 - a. They have not placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in the genre⁷ in any prior competition.

Any competitor who is eligible to enter a 'Novice' section is also permitted to enter an additional solo in the 'Open' section of the same genre.
9. 'Open' sections may be entered by any competitor.
- 10. Entries close Saturday 26th February, 11:59pm. NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED.**
11. A Running Order will be released as soon as is practicable after entries have closed. It will be available for download from www.bcbadance.org.au as soon as it is completed.

² A Registration Fee (\$20) will be automatically applied to each individual competitors' entry which includes a Competitors Pass (granting unlimited access to all sessions), a printed program, and other small surprise items to be confirmed. This also covers administration costs.

³ Comps-Online will charge a separate Booking Fee when processing competition entries and payments. Please ensure entry details are complete and correct before proceeding to payment to avoid risk of additional fees being charged by Comps-Online.

⁴ Refunds will not be granted unless extenuating circumstances prevent the Festival of Dance from running as normal.

⁵ Once payment is received, you will receive an email from the Secretary of BCBA with instructions on how to upload your music. Only .mp3 or .m4a files are accepted. It is recommended that competitors keep a back-up of their music on USB with them at the competition.

⁶ Sections will be separated by age as default. Sections may require age groups to be combined in the instance there are fewer than three (3) entries in a particular-aged section; this is to the discretion of the BCBA Executive Committee.

⁷ For example, if a competitor has previously placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in a Tap section, they are not eligible to enter 'Novice' in a Tap, Speed Tap, Waltz Tap or Character/Specialty Tap section.

Section Genres/Styles, Time Limits, Improvisations and Championships

1. Individual styles of dance will be allocated their own section⁸, where possible. Alternatively, they will be combined by genre.
 2. Where an individual style section is not available, whole of genre sections may include the following styles of dance:
 - a. **Acrobatics** – Acro Dance, Acro Balance, Tumbling, Contortion, and any other acrobatic discipline not requiring an aerial apparatus to be rigged.
 - b. **Ballet** – Classical Ballet, Demi-Character, National, Modern/Contemporary Ballet (where classical technique is shown i.e. ballet slipper, demi-pointe or pointe shoes worn, turnout, fixed placement of the feet and arms, pointed feet).
 - c. **Contemporary** – Modern, Post-Modern (where contemporary technique is shown i.e. parallel placement, contract-release, fall-recovery, floor work).
 - d. **Hip Hop** – Any street style established after 1960s i.e. Breakdance, Boogaloo, Popping, Locking, Tutting, Waacking, Vogue, Dancehall, House.
 - e. **Jazz** – Jazz, Broadway Jazz, Cabaret, Up-Tempo Modern, Commercial Jazz.
 - f. **Lyrical** – Slow Modern, Neo-Classical, Slow Jazz, Lyrical Hip Hop.
 - g. **Tap** – Tap, Speed Tap, Slow Tap, Street Tap, Waltz Tap (3/4 or 6/8 metre only), Commercial Tap, Acapella, Character Tap, Specialty Tap.
- * **Singing Permitted** – Song & Dance, Song & Tap, Entertainment, and all 6 Years & Under sections.

For the purpose of Championships, the following genres and their respective styles are included:

Classical Championship: Classical Ballet, Classical Improvisation, Character / Demi-Character, and National.

Modern Championship: Jazz, Jazz Improvisation, Lyrical, and Contemporary.

Tap Championship: Tap, Tap Improvisation, Waltz Tap, Speed Tap, and Character/Specialty Tap.

3. **Routine time limits⁹** are as follows:
 - a. Solos = maximum 3 minutes,
 - b. Duos/Trios = maximum 3 minutes,
 - c. Song and Dance = maximum 4 minutes.
4. **Improvisation and Own Choreography time limits^{10,11,12}** are as follows:
 - a. 12 Years & Under = approx. 45 to 60 seconds
 - b. 13 Years & Over = approx. 60 to 90 seconds.

⁸ The same routine must not be performed more than once by a competitor during the competition, except for Championship performances.

⁹ If a routine exceeds the time limit, any part of the routine goes beyond the maximum time will cease to be adjudicated.

¹⁰ Competitors in Improvisation and Own Choreography sections dance one at a time, and only basic examination wear or class wear is to be worn – no embellishments, adornments, or logos.

¹¹ There will be no access backstage prior to the Improvisation sections as all entrants will be in 'lockdown' to avoid any outside influences. Competitors are not permitted to have any property with them whilst in 'lockdown' including (but not limited to) electronic devices or personal bags.

¹² Only placings will be awarded for Improvisation sections; no adjudication will be given.

5. **Own Choreography**^{13,14,15} competitors will be given a selection of two predetermined pieces of music to choose from prior to deciding to enter the section/s. This is in aims to reduce the risk of potential infringement of copyright/intellectual property rights from existing works by other choreographers. These pieces will be available for perusal from the time entries open and can be obtained by contacting bundabergdance@outlook.com.
6. To be eligible to qualify to compete for a **Championship**¹⁶, the competitor **must**:
 - a. Nominate to enter a Championship at the time entry is submitted,
 - b. Enter and perform in a minimum of three (3) style sections¹⁷ available under the genre of the specific Championship they have selected, in the 'Open' category¹⁸,
 - c. Qualify with an aggregate score across their three (3) highest scoring sections competed in the specified genre¹⁹. The competitors with the top five (5) aggregate scores will qualify to move on to the Championship sections.
 - d. Qualifying Championships competitors will be required to perform 2 routines in the Championships section. The routines may be new routines or routines that have been performed already in the competition.

Competition and Stage Etiquette

1. Competitors are requested to wear suitable covering over their costumes when not on or beside the stage. Tap shoes must also be removed or covered at all times, until the competitor enters the side-stage area to perform.
2. Props²⁰ must be placed on/off stage in the shortest possible time and removed from the backstage area immediately after use. If the competitor requires assistance to load/place/remove/unload props, this must be arranged with a BCBA Committee Member or Volunteer prior to the start of the session in which the section takes place.
3. Competitors must compete in the order of the program, except in extenuating circumstances, when arrangements must be made with the BCBA Executive Committee.
4. It is the competitor's responsibility to report to the Backstage Marshall prior to the commencement of their section.
5. Strictly no rehearsing is permitted on the stage at any time during the competition.
6. The front of stage curtain is not available for use during the competition.
7. If a competitor runs off mid-performance:
 - a. Ages 10 & Under will be allowed to retry at the end of the section.
 - b. Ages 11 & Over will be allowed to retry at the end of the section, but will not be eligible for placing or receive adjudication²¹.

¹³ The Child Protection recommendations on Page 1 also apply to Own Choreography sections.

¹⁴ Routines must be vetted/approved/endorsed by a dance teacher prior to competition to ensure appropriateness and safety.

¹⁵ Own Choreography sections do not count towards Championships scores.

¹⁶ Championships are age-combined sections: 8 Years & Under, 10 Years & Under, 12 Years & Under, 14 Years & Under, 16 Years & Under, and Open.

¹⁷ Improvisations may be used as a section for a competitor to become eligible to qualify for a Championship, however, it cannot be used as one of the Championship routines if the competitor successfully qualifies.

¹⁸ 'Novice' sections are ineligible for Championships.

¹⁹ Improvisation and Own Choreography sections are included.

²⁰ Due to limited space at the venue, large and/or numerous props requiring more than 1 person are strongly discouraged.

²¹ This is to the discretion of the Adjudicator.

8. If there are errors with the music being played, the competitor may choose to retry immediately or at the end of the section²².
9. Dressing rooms²³ must be kept clean and tidy and in compliance with the restrictions of the competition venue. Male competitors will be allocated their own dressing room.
10. Filming and/or photography is strictly prohibited in the auditorium²⁴. BCBA reserves the right to appoint an official videographer and/or photographer from which footage can be purchased.
11. Communication with the Adjudicator either by competitors, parents, teachers, or other interested parties during the competition is not permitted.
12. The Adjudicator's decision is final and no public protest or correspondence against such a decision will be entered into. Any formal protest must be lodged in writing within 30 minutes of the cause of the protest arising and passed on to the Secretary of BCBA²⁵. The formal protest must be accompanied by a fee of \$50 which will be forfeited if the protest is considered frivolous or proved without merit by the BCBA Executive Committee.

Additional Information

1. The Festival of Dance runs from Monday 4th April to Friday 8th April 2022, and there is no guarantee that competitors will be performing on consecutive days²⁶.
2. BCBA reserves the right to appoint a substitute Adjudicator if deemed necessary.
3. BCBA Committee Members and Backstage Marshalls have the authority to remove unauthorised persons from the stage and backstage area.
4. Adjudication Reports will be available for collection from the BCBA Office in the foyer of the theatre as soon as possible at the half-way break of each session, at the end of each session, and at designated morning/afternoon/supper tea breaks.

Release and Indemnity

The competitor²⁷ agrees to, and affirms their understanding, that:

1. Participating in this competition involves inherent risk of injury which may be of a serious nature,
2. Property loss or damage may occur.
3. The competitor is not covered by any insurance policy while attending and/or participating in the competition,
4. The competitor enters the competition at their own risk and will satisfy themselves as to the safety of the competition area and surfaces to be used²⁸,
5. The competitor will follow all directions, rules and conditions stated by the competition organiser (BCBA) or persons authorised by them and waives any claims for liability against any other organiser, participant, official, steward, judge, visitor, employee or invitee, and releases the aforementioned from all liability that may arise out of the competition²⁹.

²² This is also to the discretion of the Adjudicator.

²³ No photography or videography is permitted in the dressing rooms.

²⁴ Photographs and video footage may be taken by media at this event, and as such it is their responsibility to seek permission for the public use of any footage they obtain.

²⁵ In the absence of the Secretary, documentation of a formal protest must be passed onto the BCBA President.

²⁶ The number of days may change dependent on the number of entries received. We are not able to fill individual requests with programming.

²⁷ And their parent, legal guardian, dance teacher and/or studio owner.

²⁸ If they are not satisfied in any way with the rules, standard of the competition area, facilities, or arrangements, they are not obliged to enter or compete.

²⁹ Such liability includes, but is not limited to, any personal injury, property loss or damage.

Code of Conduct

The competitor³⁰ will:

1. Display appropriate behaviour and conduct towards BCBA Committee Members, the Adjudicator, volunteers, and fellow competitors.
2. Be immediately disqualified for inappropriate behaviour and conduct³¹ towards BCBA Committee Members, the Adjudicator, volunteers, and fellow competitors.
3. Warrant they have read and understood the rules, conditions, release and indemnity, and code of conduct, and accepted them of their own free will.



³⁰ And relevant parent, legal guardian, dance teacher and/or studio owner.

³¹ Inappropriate behaviour and conduct in this instance are defined as unsportsmanlike actions through verbal or written comments, isolation, and/or bullying. This encompasses emotional and physical acts taken place both within and away from the venue, including all social media platforms.