



COFFS HARBOUR & DISTRICT
EISTEDDFOD SOCIETY
Arts | Performance | Community

Coffs Harbour and District Dance Eisteddfod

2026

Education Schools Rules & Regulations



DANCE COMMITTEE 2026

COORDINATORS:

Vanessa Crossley, Loren Hodgson

COMMITTEE:

*Ruth Harrison, Jodie Hodges, Peter Hodges, Ben Hodgson, Simone Lewis,
Melissa McNally, Nicole Nealand, Linda Swain, Vanessa Veitch*



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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Peter Hodges
Vice President	Louise Ray
Secretary	Ben Hodgson
Treasurer	Sandra Goodby
Website Coordinator	Jodie Hodges
Social Media & Publicity Officer	Melissa McNally
Dance Coordinators	Loren Hodgson and Vanessa Crossley

CONTACT US

Website	www.coffseisteddfod.org.au/dance/
Email	dance@coffseisteddfod.org.au
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/CoffsHarbourDistrictDanceEisteddfod/
Instagram	https://www.instagram.com/coffsharbourdanceeisteddfod
Entries	www.comps-online.com.au

Thank you to RJK Optometry for your incredible continued support in 2026!

Your commitment to supporting the performing arts is deeply appreciated



EDUCATION SCHOOLS DANCE EISTEDDFOD DATES 2026

Schools Days Thursday 4 June 2026 and Friday 5 June 2026

Venue Wiigulga Multipurpose Centre
Solitary Islands Way
Woolgoolga NSW 2456
[Wiigulga Sports Complex](#)

Gala and Major Awards

Junior 1.30 pm Sunday 21 June 2026

Senior 5.30 pm Sunday 21 June 2026

Venue Jetty Memorial Theatre
Harbour Drive
Coffs Harbour NSW 2450
[Jetty Theatre](#)

Please note:

Dates to be determined and finalised once entries have closed.

ADJUDICATOR Amy Fitzpatrick

AGE REQUIREMENTS Class enrolled at 1 January 2026

Note:

Schools may combine dancers from different year groups but must enter the group according to the age of the oldest performer. Proof of age may be requested by the Committee.

COMPETITOR ENTRY FEES

School Groups \$30 per entry

HSC Dance \$10 per entry

Note: Comps-Online charges a \$5.00 online entry fee per invoice.

ONLINE ENTRIES

Closing date Tuesday 31 March 2026

Closing of late entries Sunday 5 April 2026

Online entries only www.comps-online.com.au

All entries must be submitted through Comps-Online.

If you are having difficulty with an entry, please email dance@coffseisteddfod.org.au. Please do not leave it to the last minute to enter.

Note:

We strongly advise you to check your entry carefully before finalising. No changes will be made after Sunday 5 April 2026, unless the mistake is due to committee error.

Late entries and payments after Tuesday 31 March 2026 will incur a \$25 fee.

EDUCATION SCHOOLS SECTIONS

891	Infants (K-2)	894	High School
892	Primary (3-4)	896	High School: Restricted*
893	Primary (5-6)	897	HSC Dance – Core Composition
895	Small Schools Primary	898	HSC Dance – Major Study – Performance
		899	HSC Dance – Major Study – Composition
709	All Abilities (Any Age) – Any Style Participants may enter up to three performances – Solos, Duos/Trios, Small Groups (4-9 competitors), Groups (10+ competitors)		

*Restricted to High Schools within 75km of Coffs Harbour CBD.

MUSIC

Time limit per school dance group Maximum of 5 minutes

Music must be provided on a USB stick, clearly marked with the section and competitor number.

The CHDES Dance Eisteddfod WILL NOT be using Music Uploads for Education Schools in 2026. Teachers are asked to provide one USB for each entry. Written adjudicator critiques will be available.

ADMISSION FEES PER SESSION

Education Schools Days Adult: \$8.00 Concession/Child: \$5.00
Children 5 years and under may sit on an adult's lap

Tickets will be available for online purchase through Eventbrite. Schools will be notified by email when tickets go on sale. A link will also be available on the CHDES Dance website: www.coffseisteddfod.org.au/dance/
Ticket sales will be limited at the door.

Note:

To accommodate bus travel, the Education Schools Dance Eisteddfod will run over 2 days in 2026. High School and HSC Dance sections will run on Thursday 4 June and Infants, Primary and Small Schools sections will run on Friday 5 June. Approximate timing each day will be 9:30 am – 3:00 pm. The schedule will be released as soon as possible after entries close.

PROGRAMS

No preprinted programs will be available. The Education Schools Dance Eisteddfod program will be available to download from the CHDES Dance website: www.coffseisteddfod.org.au/dance/

Please check our website and social media regularly as the final published program (available approximately 6 weeks before the Eisteddfod starts) may be different to earlier drafts.

Each Education Schools section will be allocated a start time in our program to give parents and carers the opportunity to attend. A link to a live schedule with real-time updates will also be available on our social media and on the CHDES Dance website: www.coffseisteddfod.org.au/dance/

PROGRAM ADVERTISING

Our program is read by hundreds of dancers and their families across a huge area of NSW and SE Queensland. If you would like to advertise in the program, please contact the Sponsorship Coordinator at community@coffseisteddfod.org.au.

Advertising needs to be finalised by 31 March 2026.

2026 UPDATES AND REMINDERS

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Entries close Tuesday 31 March 2026. **Late entries close Sunday 5 April 2026 and will incur a \$25 fee.**
- To allow time for bus travel, the **Education Schools Dance Eisteddfod will be held at Wiigulga Multipurpose Centre, Woolgoolga, and will run over 2 days.** Each session will have a designated start time, to allow as many parents and friends as possible to enjoy the entertainment on stage.
- **New Dance Rule 14 has been added regarding privacy and the use of images.** Please read carefully and contact the Committee if required.
- We are very proud to announce that **HSC Dance sections** will return in 2026, following a hugely successful re-introduction last year. These sections are non-competitive. Performers will receive critiques and written feedback from our adjudicator along with an informal group discussion. The sections are designed for performers to have the space and opportunity to practice their HSC dances in a formal setting and receive professional feedback before their final HSC examinations. The students may also view their compositions and self-reflect after seeing them performed on stage.
- An **All Abilities** section will be introduced in 2026 for dancers with special needs. The section is open to soloists, duos/trios, and groups, and may be incorporated into the Education Schools program, depending on entries. Participants may enter up to three performances.
- We hope to incorporate **Community Multicultural Dance Showcases** in the Education Schools program in 2026. Please keep an eye on our website and social pages for announcements!
- To minimise confusion and cost, we will not be using an online music and critique service for the Education Schools program. **Teachers are to provide music on USB**, to be dropped to the front desk on arrival at the venue. Written (not voice recorded) adjudicator critiques will be available for collection at the end of each session.

GENERAL RULES

- The CHDES Rules & Regulations have been updated and are available on the CHDES website at <https://coffseisteddfod.org.au>. Please ensure you are familiar with the rules before the competition.

REMINDERS:

- **Dance tights or shorts are compulsory.** In the spirit of our family-orientated event, and in the interests of child protection, please ensure that all dancers wear tights *or* mid length shorts during their performances.
- **Appropriate costuming, language and choreography.** Please ensure that the content of all performances is appropriate for all age groups. A reminder that routines that include bad language and/or adult costuming or themes are not appropriate for our event. Competitors may be stopped and disqualified at the discretion of the Adjudicator or Committee.
- **Entrants must leave the stage surface unaltered.** If the performance requires extensive clean-up (e.g. petals, confetti, or feathers), please contact the Dance Coordinator for further information. Please contact the Dance Coordinator if performers intend to use body paint.
- **No large props are allowed.** Please see Dance Rule 5.
- **Number of performers per group** – minimum of 4. Costuming is encouraged but not necessary.
- The **High School: Restricted** section is limited to schools within 75 km of Coffs Harbour CBD.
- **No teachers permitted backstage** except for Infants (K–2) class groups (refer to Dance Rule 6).
- Please do not risk disqualification by including a Teacher in your performance (not Student Teacher – refer to Dance Rules 1 and 3)
- No competitor is permitted to **leave or enter the stage area from the front.**

DANCE RULES: EDUCATION SCHOOLS

To be read in conjunction with the CHDES General Eisteddfod Rules 2026,
available on the CHDES website: www.coffseisteddfod.org.au

COMPETITORS

1. All Group sections are open to AMATEURS only. Professional dancers and teachers who derive a living from dance are not permitted to compete at the Coffs Harbour and District Dance Eisteddfod, except for the sections specified below.

Professional Dancer Defined: Any person who has ever been a cast member and received payment for any professional dance, TV, Musical or Theatre production with a running time of four weeks or more is considered a professional and may not compete in the Coffs Harbour & District Eisteddfod.

Teacher Defined: A person who is or has ever been employed to teach dance professionally, e.g., has teaching qualifications or has been listed as teaching staff of a dance school on a full time or part time basis.

A person who owns, manages, or is the principal teacher of a Performing Arts, Musical, or Dance studio shall not be eligible to enter any section of the Eisteddfod, unless it is Mature and Motivated, Teacher Feature, All Abilities or Adult Dance sections.

2. **Full-time dance students** will not be permitted to compete at the Coffs Harbour and District Dance Eisteddfod. The definition of 'full-time dance students' for the purpose of competing in this Eisteddfod is any dancer enrolled in a full-time education dance course in any dance discipline regardless of actual hours involved (e.g. Certificate IV, Diploma or Bachelor of Dance). This includes dancers enrolled in correspondence schooling to train for dance full time.
3. **Student teachers.** Any student who teaches dance part-time at the dance school or schools they currently attend are considered amateurs and as such are eligible to dance in all open sections of the Coffs Harbour & District Dance Eisteddfod. Full-time students attending Performance Schools are ineligible to enter. Where it is identified that a Teacher (not Student Teacher) is participating in a Group section (other than Mature and Motivated, Teacher Feature or All Abilities) that group WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.

ON STAGE

4. **Appropriate costuming, language and choreography.** Please ensure that the content of all performances is appropriate for all audience age groups. Offensive language and adult costuming and themes are considered inappropriate for Eisteddfods. Disqualification is at the discretion of the Adjudicator or Committee.
5. **No large props allowed.** Due to very limited room backstage and minimal stage access, no props larger than 750 mm wide x 1800 mm high are allowed, and they must be able to be carried backstage without assistance. No props requiring assembly on site will be permitted for safety reasons. Due to WHS requirements, props are to be brought backstage at the start of the section and removed at the end of the section.
6. Prompting or assistance of any kind must not be given. Parents and Teachers must leave the backstage area during an item except for Infants (K–2) school groups and students requiring extra support (up to two support persons). Backstage Assistants will help with props as required, i.e. if a prop needs to be handed to a dancer.

7. Curtains will not be used.
8. The Adjudicator may abbreviate or stop a dance at their discretion. This does not mean disqualification.
9. **Time limits will be enforced.** The Adjudicator is entitled to ring off any competitor who does not adhere to the time limits as described in the schedule. Please choose your music accordingly.
10. In the event of a section receiving fewer than three entrants, the committee reserves the right to merge age sections.

VENUE

11. The Workcover Authority requires that all electrical equipment used at our dance venues, e.g. hairdryers, hair straighteners etc., be inspected by an authorised electrician and be tagged as required.
12. The stage is covered by Tarkett. PLEASE check tap shoes for protruding screws. The Schools Day venue is NOT a sprung floor. Gymnastic/acro routines are performed at the competitor's own risk. Performers are also to take duty of care for their own performance to reduce risk and injury. Entrants are responsible for their own property and belongings.
Stage performance dimensions are approximately:
 - Width – 12.8 metres
 - Depth – 6.4 metres + an additional 2.8m depth from the stage curtain to the front of the stage
 - Two wings.

COPYRIGHT

13. **Private videography and photography of performances is prohibited in the auditorium and on the outside screen.** The Coffs Harbour and District Eisteddfod Society has engaged professionals who have sole rights and comply with the Information Privacy Act. Breaches of this rule may cause disqualification of the school represented by the infringing parent/s or friends.

PRIVACY AND USE OF IMAGES

14. By submitting an entry to the Coffs Harbour & District Eisteddfod, you **acknowledge and consent to the recording, use and publication of images and/or footage** for promotional, marketing and media purposes, including on social media and in media releases. If you do not consent to this use, you must notify the event coordinators or the Executive Committee in writing prior to participation.

AUDIENCE ETIQUETTE

15. Discourtesy to other competitors, volunteers, parents, or the Dance Committee will not be tolerated and may lead to disqualification of the performer or their Group. The Committee reserves the right to ask someone to leave who is causing disruption or refusing to follow the direction of the Committee or an official in the Auditorium. The Committee's decision is final.
16. All **mobile phones and electronic devices** must be turned off while in the auditorium.

PLEASE NOTE:

The above pertain to the Education Schools Dance Eisteddfod.
There are separate Dance Eisteddfod Rules and Regulations for Groups Weekend and Solos Week.

Please refer to our website to download the correct Regulations.