



COFFS HARBOUR & DISTRICT
EISTEDDFOD SOCIETY

Arts | Performance | Community

Coffs Harbour and District Dance Eisteddfod

2026

Groups Weekend

Dance Rules & Regulations



DANCE COMMITTEE 2026

DANCE COORDINATOR:

Loren Hodgson, Vanessa Crossley

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
Social Media & Publicity Officer	Melissa McNally
Website Coordinator	Jodie Hodges
Dance Coordinator	Loren Hodgson

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?r=nametag
Entries	www.comps-online.com.au
Music/Critiques	www.musicuploads.com.au

Thank you to RJK Optometry for their continued support in 2026!

Your commitment to supporting the performing arts is deeply appreciated



EISTEDDFOD DATES 2026

Groups Weekend	Saturday 6 June – Monday 8 June 2026
Venue	The CHEC Theatre Coffs Harbour Education Campus (CHEC) D Block, 363 Hogbin Drive Coffs Harbour NSW 2450 https://chec.nsw.edu.au/chec-venues/the-chec-theatre/
Gala/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

Please note:

Dates to be determined and finalised once entries have closed.

ADJUDICATOR

Education Schools and Groups Weekend Amy Fitzpatrick

AGE REQUIREMENTS

Groups Age as at 1 January 2026

Note:

Studios may combine dancers of different ages but must enter the group in the age group of the oldest performer. **Proof of age** may be requested by the Committee.

ENTRIES

Closing date Tuesday 31 March 2026
Late entries Sunday 5 April 2026
Online entries only www.comps-online.com.au

All entries must be 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 finalizing. **No changes will be made after Sunday 5 April 2026**, unless the mistake is due to Committee error.

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

COMPETITOR ENTRY FEES

Studios	\$25 per entry (including music copyright fee)
Team Choreography	\$30 per entry

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

MUSIC ENTRIES

Closing date	TBA
Online upload only	www.musicuploads.com.au
Time limit per dance group	Under 6, 8, 10, 12 years – Maximum 4 minutes Under 14 years, Opens – Maximum 6 minutes

ADMISSION FEES PER SESSION

Groups Weekend	Adult: \$10.00	Concession/Child: \$5.00
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Please purchase tickets through Eventbrite via the CHDES website: <https://coffseisteddfod.org.au/dance/>

Ticket sales will be limited at the door.

PROGRAMS

No preprinted programs will be available. Groups Weekend programs will be available to download from the CHDES Dance website: <https://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.

A link to a live schedule with real-time updates will also be available on our social media and on the CHDES Dance website: <https://coffseisteddfod.org.au/dance/>

PROGRAM ADVERTISING

Our program is read by hundreds of dancers and their families from 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 Tuesday 31 March 2026.

SPONSORSHIP

Please consider supporting our not-for-profit event.

Donations can be made through Comps-Online and will be acknowledged in the program.

Sponsorship and advertising packages are also available.

Please contact community@coffseisteddfod.org.au for a Sponsorship Prospectus.

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.**
- **New Dance Rule 22 has been added regarding privacy and the use of images.** Please read carefully and contact the Committee if required.
- 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 or Groups Weekend program, depending on entries. Participants may enter up to three performances.
- We hope to incorporate **Community Multicultural Dance Showcases** in the Groups Weekend program in 2026. Please keep an eye on our website and social pages for announcements!
- All information in the 2026 Rules & Regulations is subject to NSW Health Guidelines at the time of the competition. Any changes that are required to comply with any directions will be made and refunds for entry fees provided to any affected parties minus any booking fees.

GENERAL RULES

- The CHDES Rules & Regulations have been updated and are available on the CHDES website at <https://coffseisteddfod.org.au/dance/>. 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.
- **Dressing rooms** are to be kept clean and free of rubbish. A cleaning fee of \$200 will be charged to offending studios if dressing rooms are left in an untidy state – please respect our venue.
- **NO large props allowed. Please take note of Dance Rule 15.**
- **Team choreography** rules have been updated (**refer to Dance Rule 13 for details**). The age limit for team members is 15 years and older. No videoing or copying of music during rehearsal or at the performance venue.

VOLUNTEERS

Our wonderful event is organised and run solely by volunteers.

If you can spare some time to help during the Eisteddfod,
please contact our Dance Coordinator at dance@coffseisteddfod.com.au

Experience is not necessary as you will be trained, and you will be warmly welcomed!

- Performance Schools are ineligible to enter.
- **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.
- Please minimise the need for dancers to run behind stage during their performances. Space backstage is very limited at the Groups Eisteddfod venue (refer to Dance Rule 19 for stage dimensions).
- **No teachers permitted backstage** except for Under 6 and Under 8 age groups (refer to Dance Rule 17).
- 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.**
- **Due to CHEC WHS**, all performers are to wear foot attire whilst at the Eisteddfod venue. They will be required to wear foot attire to and from backstage. There will be buckets available to put shoes in backstage.

GROUP SECTIONS

Any Style Baby Dance		All Abilities – participants may enter up to three performances	
500	6 years & under	709	Any Age – Any Style – Solos, Duos/Trios, Small Groups (4-9 competitors), Groups (10+ competitors)

Classical Ballet		Jazz		Jazz – Small Group (4–9 competitors)	
501	8 Years and Under	601	8 Years and Under	606	10 Years and Under
502	10 Years and Under	602	10 Years and Under	607	12 Years and Under
503	12 Years and Under	603	12 Years and Under	608	14 Years and Under
504	14 Years and Under	604	14 Years and Under	609	Open Age
505	Open Age	605	Open Age		

Musical Theatre		Variety		Street Dance	
611	12 Years and Under	616	10 Years and Under	622	10 Years and Under
612	14 Years and Under	617	12 Years and Under	623	12 Years and Under
613	Open Age	618	14 Years and Under	624	14 Years and Under
		619	Open Age	625	Open Age

Cabaret		Modern/Lyrical		Mature and Motivated	
614	14 Years and Under	701	8 Years and Under	706	19 years+ (any style)
615	Open Age	702	10 Years and Under		
		703	12 Years and Under		
Team Choreography		704	14 Years and Under	Teacher Feature	
707	Open Age (15yrs+)	705	Open Age	708	All Ages

Contemporary		Contemporary – Small Group (4–9 competitors)		Tap	
802	10 Years and Under	806	12 Years and Under	901	8 Years and Under
803	12 Years and Under	807	14 Years and Under	902	10 Years and Under
804	14 Years and Under	808	Open Age	903	12 Years and Under
805	Open Age			904	14 Years and Under
				905	Open Age

DANCE RULES: GROUPS WEEKEND

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 & 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, or Adult Dance sections (refer to rule 11).

2. **Full-time dance students** will not be permitted to compete at the Coffs Harbour & 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 Teacher Feature and Mature and Motivated) that group WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.
4. No individual can perform more than twice (2 times) in any one group section. If an individual performs more than twice in any section, all groups in which they have performed will be disqualified.

GROUP SECTIONS

5. **Groups** must consist of a minimum of 4 competitors.
6. **Small Groups** must include a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 9 competitors per group with a maximum of two (2) groups from the same Dance Studio per section. Routines that are entered in other Group sections may not be repeated in Small Group sections.
7. In the event of a section receiving fewer than three entrants, the committee reserves the right to merge age sections.
8. **Musical Theatre** (sections 611, 612, 613). No vocal backing allowed. Must contain at least 50% dancing.
9. **Variety** (sections 616, 617, 618, 619). Can be any dance style not already included in the list of sections, e.g. Comedy, Acro, National Character.

10. **Street Dance** (sections 622, 623, 624, 625). Any modern style including hip hop, funk and break. With relaxed arms and body, wearing street style shoes and clothing.
11. **Teacher Feature** (section 708). Teacher/s must be on stage for at least 50% of the dance and the performing teacher/s are to take an individual bow at the end of the dance for the benefit of the Adjudicator and audience. Teacher Feature may include any combination of students across all ages.
12. **Mature and Motivated** (section 706). The minimum age of dancers permitted to enter this section has been lowered to 19 years. Competitors in this section are prohibited from entering any other section in the Groups Eisteddfod, except for Teacher Feature (section 708) or All Abilities (section 709).
13. **Team Choreography** (section 707).
 - a. Teams to consist of a minimum of 4 and maximum of 10 dancers. **Each member of the team must perform in at least two other group dances, any style, at the Eisteddfod.**
 - b. All participants must be a senior and a minimum of 15 years of age.
 - c. Each team will be provided with a space to rehearse.
 - d. Teams will be given a piece of music, chosen by the Adjudicator, on the morning of Saturday 6 June 2026, prior to the commencement of Saturday's sections, and they will have approximately 3 hours (or as deemed by the Dance Committee) to choreograph a dance of any genre.
 - e. Studios may enter more than one team but participants must be different in each team and the first team entered must have the minimum number of 6 dancers before a second team is entered.
 - f. Each team is to dress in plain black dance pants or plain black dance shorts and plain black leotard or plain black t-shirt. No mesh or lace allowed. This will be monitored.
 - g. No team member is to have in their possession a mobile phone or any electronic device during the rehearsal. Discovery of any such device will mean the disqualification of the team.
 - h. The Dance Committee will provide any props deemed necessary. All teams will be provided with exactly the same props. The Adjudicator may take the use of props into account when making their decision if they felt it added to the performance.
 - i. Each team will be supervised by an independent adult volunteer at each rehearsal location. Each supervisor will be in attendance at their appointed studio with the music and props as deemed necessary at 8.45 am on Saturday 6 June 2026 for a 9.00 am start. Each Supervisor will be provided with the music and a copy of the competition rules. Teams will need to meet at their appointed location, which will be advised to the Dance Studio prior to the date of competition, ready for a 9.00am start. Local studios entering are asked to provide both an adult volunteer and a space for their groups and an additional space for visiting groups if possible.
 - j. Teams will be judged on:
 - Interpretation of the music
 - Teamwork
 - Choreography (to be team's own work)
 - Technique and presentation.
 - k. Teams are NOT allowed to enter or leave from the front of the stage area.
 - l. Teams must finish their dance at the same time as the music.
 - m. No phones or recording of music is allowed for practice after the rehearsal closing time.
 - n. On arrival at the performance venue, teams are to report to the lockdown room at 12:45 pm. Each team will be called in turn to the stage (no waiting backstage). Extra time will be allocated in the program to allow teams to walk from the lockdown room to the stage.

ON STAGE

14. **Appropriate costuming, language and choreography.** Please ensure that the content of 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.
15. **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.
16. **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.

Under 6, 8, 10, 12 – Maximum: 4 min

Under 14, Open Age – Maximum: 6 min
17. Prompting or assistance of any kind must not be given. Parents and Teachers must leave the stage area during an item except for Groups sections 8 Years and Under (one support person only) and Baby Dance (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.
18. The Adjudicator may abbreviate or stop a dance at their discretion. This does not mean disqualification.

VENUE

19. The stage is covered by Tarkett. PLEASE check tap shoes for protruding screws. The Groups Weekend venue DOES NOT have a sprung floor. Gymnastic/acro routines are performed at the competitors' 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:

Back – 6 metres wide
Front – 12.6 metres wide
Depth – 6 metres
Two wings



20. Curtains will not be used.
21. 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.

COPYRIGHT

22. Private videography and photography of performances is prohibited in the auditorium, on the outside screen and in the change rooms. The Coffs Harbour & 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 studio represented by the infringing parent/s or friends. Rules and regulations as set down by Australasian Performing Right Association (APRA). Compliance with

Copyright Law is the responsibility of the individual. Each competitor agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Coffs Harbour & District Eisteddfod Society Inc. against any breach of Copyright. Each Competitor is responsible for obtaining permission from the copyright owner. These rules are in accordance with the directions of APRA, the Australasian Mechanical Copyright Owners Society (AMCOS) and Copyright Agencies Limited (CAL). All entrants will be required to supply their studio's APRA registration number in their entry.

PRIVACY AND USE OF IMAGES

23. 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.

MUSIC

24. Competitors must upload their music to Music Uploads online (www.musicuploads.com.au) by the date specified by the Dance Committee. No other options will be given. This is a low-cost service that stores your music and voice critiques in one location and can be used at other participating competitions. Please refer to the Music Uploads website for full information. It is the responsibility of competitors to ensure that they have the correct music files uploaded to each routine. You can change your music files at any time before the cut-off dates (TBA).

AUDIENCE ETIQUETTE

25. Discourtesy to other competitors, volunteers, parents, or the Dance Committee will not be tolerated and may lead to disqualification of the 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.
26. All **mobile phones and electronic devices** must be turned off while in the auditorium.

PLEASE NOTE:

The above Rules & Regulations only pertain to Groups Weekend.
There are separate Dance Eisteddfod Rules and Regulations for Educations Schools and Solos Week.

Please refer to our website to download the correct Regulations.