ON CUE
NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD

SPECIALTY EVENT

2026 SPECIAL EVENT HANDBOOK

SOLO/DUO/TRIO/QUAD

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SOLO/DUO/TRIO/QUAD EVENT

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AGE - SOLO/DUO/TRIO

- A competitor's age is determined as at 1 January of the calendar year in which the competition is held.
- Duos , Trios & Quads must be entered in the age category applicable to the oldest dancer.
- Dancers may opt to dance up age groups, but dancing down age groups will result in disqualification.
- Proof of age must be available upon request. If we request to see a birth certificate and you are unable to produce one, this may result in disqualification.
- Incorrect age information may result in disqualification. Deliberate falsification of a competitor's age or documentation may result in a ban from future On Cue events.

SECTION RULES - SOLO/DUO/TRIO

- A maximum of 2 entries per section, per dancer, is permitted unless additional entries are required as a result of On Cue programming. **Variety sections are exempt from this rule.**
- On Cue reserves the right to combine sections based on entries.

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CASH PRIZES

✨ A SPECIAL SOMETHING FOR YOUR SOCIALS ✨

Cash prize winner?
We've got the photo op covered! 📸

If you take home a cash prize, you'll get the chance to pose with our giant On Cue winner's cheque — the perfect way to celebrate your achievement and share your win on your socials! 🏆💵

CASH PRIZES

Overall Highest Score - Solos

Heart & Soul

Up & Comer

Overall Highest Score - D/T/Q

For sections with 15 or more competitors, a

$50 cash prize

will be awarded to the 1st Place winner.

Please find a description of awards on the next page

AWARDS - SOLO/DUO/TRIO/QUAD

- Award Ceremonies will be included in the program.
- If a dancer is awarded a cash prize, but is not present to claim the prize at the award ceremony, the cash prize will be forfeited.
- 1st, 2nd & 3rd places may be awarded in each section at the discretion of the adjudicator. The adjudicator is under no obligation to award every placing where they believe the required standard has not been met.
- We believe in creating a positive environment. Please see our placement rules below.

In sections with:

3 or less competitors	1st place will be awarded
4 competitors	1st & 2nd is awarded
5 or more competitors	1st , 2nd and 3rd place will be awarded.

We believe in not singling out just one dancer as a 'no placement' competitor. This rule is strictly enforced to protect the emotional well being of all dancers.

- Highly commended will be awarded to those who score 88 or above or at the discretion of the judge.
- A score will be provided alongside critiques, allowing competitors to clearly understand where points were gained and where opportunities for improvement were identified.

Specialty Awards **may** be given out
(at the discretion of the adjudicator) including:

AWARDS - SOLO/DUO/TRIO/QUAD

"Heart & Soul" Award - CASH PRIZE $50
for a performance bursting with genuine emotion.

"Choreographic Brilliance" Award
for choreography that wows with creativity and detail.

Visual Masterpiece" Award
for stunning formations, pictures, and transitions.

"Precision Plus" Award
for flawless timing and synchronization.

"Powerhouse" Award
for unmatched strength and projection.

"Up & Comer" Award - CASH PRIZE $50
Presented to a competitor or team showing exceptional potential, growth and promise. Their dedication, talent and hunger to improve make them one to watch in seasons to come.

"Overall Highest Score" Award — CASH PRIZE $100
Awarded to the competitor achieving the highest overall score in each age category. This award will always be presented, with the cash prize amount determined by the size of the event.

SPECIALTY CASH PRIZES HIGHLIGHTED IN RED WILL ALWAYS BE AWARDED. OTHER AWARDS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE ADJUDICATOR AND ON CUE STAFF. CASH PRIZE AMOUNTS ARE DETERMINED BY THE SIZE OF THE EVENT

NATIONALS

- All 1st, 2nd & 3rd place recipients will qualify for Nationals when a full season of competition is offered.
- Nationals will be held in Sydney, Australia.
- Cash prizes will be increased for National Title holders.

PRICING

Solos - $50

Duos - $25 per person

Trios - $25 per person

Quads - $25 per person

Spectator Fees: $20 per person
(under 2 FREE)

1 TEACHER FREE PER STUDIO
A valid employee WWCC number must be provided.
Volunteer WWCCs will not be accepted.

TIME LIMITS

A strict 3.5 minute time limit is in place for all SDT entries.

Once a routine exceeds the time limit by 15 seconds, the music will be faded out.

All props must be able to be placed on and removed from the stage within 20 seconds.

MUSIC

For most On Cue competitions, music will be submitted via our designated music upload platform.

Music must be uploaded by the advertised cut-off date. Failure to upload music by this deadline may result in the entry being unable to perform and entry fees being forfeited.

Competitors must also have a backup copy of their music available on USB at the event.

On Cue is not responsible for music that has been uploaded incorrectly, is corrupted, or is otherwise unable to be played due to an issue with the file supplied.

CRITIQUES

At On Cue, we believe feedback should give dancers and teachers a clear understanding of both their performance and their result. Where music uploads are used, competitors will receive a score with a voice critique from the adjudicator.

Where music uploads are not used, competitors will receive a detailed score sheet together with a written critique.
Scores are designed to provide greater transparency by showing where points were gained and where there is opportunity for improvement.

REFUNDS AND CANCELLATIONS

Entry fees are non-refundable and non-transferable for any withdrawal or cancellation initiated by the entrant, including illness, injury, change of circumstances or non-attendance.
If On Cue cancels an event and no alternative date, venue or event format is offered, entry fees will be refunded less any applicable booking or processing fees.
Where an alternative date, venue or event format is offered, the event will not be considered cancelled and refunds will not be issued.
Full refund and cancellation conditions are outlined within the Terms & Conditions of this Rule Book.

AGE CATEGORIES

Minis
5 years & under

Petites
7 years & under

Pre-Juniors
9 years & under

Juniors
11 years & under

Intermediates
13 years & under

Teens
15 years & under

Opens
16 years & over

We reserve the right to combine age groups OR divisions where appropriate and pending entries, however we will always exhaust all other options prior to taking this step.

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Divisions

RESTRICTED	OPEN	GRAVITY
For all dancers who have placed 1st nomore than once ever for that style. (max 3 acro tricks)	For all dancers who have placed 1st twice or more for that style. (max 3 acro tricks)	For all dancers who wish to showcase 4 or more acro tricks within a single routine.

We will have an allocated staff member to count acro tricks and enforce rules at every comp. For sections with large numbers a specially restricted section will be available for dancers that have never placed.

GRAVITY DIVISION

Restricted and Open routines are permitted a maximum of 3 acro tricks per routine.

EXCLUDING BASIC FORWARD & BACKWARD ROLLS & STANDARD ONE OR TWO HANDED CARTWHEELS

Any routine containing 4 or more acro tricks must be entered into the corresponding Gravity division.

An allocated On Cue staff member will count acro tricks during each performance.

If a routine entered in Restricted or Open performs 4 or more acro tricks, the competitor will not be disqualified. Their score sheet will instead be transferred to the corresponding Gravity section and they will be judged and placed within that division, where applicable.

For the purpose of this rule, each individual acrobatic skill will count as one trick, including when multiple skills are performed consecutively or connected as a combination.

For example, a round-off → back handspring → back tuck will be counted as 3 acro tricks, not one combination.

On Cue's determination of the number of acro tricks performed is final.

SPECIALLY RESTRICTED DIVISION

For sections with large entry numbers, a Specially Restricted division may be offered for dancers who have **never** placed.

DEFINITION OF SECTIONS – PART 1

CLASSICAL BALLET – A routine that adheres to the traditional vocabulary and technique of classical ballet. Dancers may perform in flat ballet shoes or pointe shoes.

DEMI CHARACTER – Ballet choreography that tells a clear narrative or portrays a defined character. Strong storytelling and performance quality are equally important as technical execution.

COMMERCIAL JAZZ – A high-energy jazz routine with strong technical foundations, incorporating movements such as kicks, splits, isolations, and stylistic commercial flair.

TRADITIONAL JAZZ – A jazz performance focused on classic style and technique, featuring movements like kicks, splits, and isolations.

LYRICAL – A style that merges technical dance with expressive storytelling, using fluid, sustained movements to create an emotional connection with the audience. Often performed to slower-tempo music, this style focuses on control, extension, and musical interpretation, allowing the choreography to reflect the atmosphere or meaning of the chosen piece.

FAST/SPEED TAP – A tap routine in 4/4 timing, performed to music with a fast tempo, maintaining continuous and rhythmic footwork.

SLOW TAP – A slower-paced tap routine in 4/4 timing, with controlled rhythm and clear articulation of sounds.

ANY STYLE TAP – A tap routine of any genre, rhythm, or musical style, without restriction to a specific tempo or time signature.

HIP HOP – A street-style performance rooted in authentic hip hop technique, showcasing groove, rhythm, and stylistic execution true to the style’s foundations.

DEFINITION OF SECTIONS – PART 2

BROADWAY JAZZ/MUSICAL THEATRE – A performance-style jazz routine inspired by the theatre stage, musicals, or film. This style is energetic, engaging, and often character-driven. Any performance footwear may be worn to complete the theatrical look.

ACRO – A style that integrates classical dance technique with gymnastic and acrobatic elements. Dancers may transition seamlessly between turns, leaps, extensions, balances, tumbling skills, and contortion, with an emphasis on fluidity and artistry. **Acro does not have a Gravity division.**

VARIETY – Open to all styles and performance genres that don't fit within other categories. May also be used to accommodate additional entries in a style when limits have been reached. **Variety does not have a Gravity division.**

SONG & DANCE – A routine that blends live singing with dance in any style, where both elements are integral to the overall performance.

TRADITIONAL CONTEMPORARY – A contemporary routine that explores control, balance, and expressive movement. Often features angular lines, abstract shapes, natural flow, and a connection to the music's dynamics and mood, regardless of tempo.

ALL ABILITIES – Open to performers with a variety of access needs, including (but not limited to) autism spectrum disorder, physical disabilities, complex medical needs, intellectual disabilities, vision impairment, and deaf or hard-of-hearing dancers.

On Cue may run events where only core styles are available.

TERMS & CONDITIONS – 1 OF 4

1. Entries & Registration

All entries must be submitted and paid in full via the official On Cue entry platform at the time of registration.
Phone entries will not be accepted.
Entries are processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Competitions may sell out before the advertised closing date, and entries may close early once capacity is reached.
Entries paid through a dance studio or parent are non-refundable and non-transferable if the competitor changes studios. On Cue will not mediate disputes between studios, parents, or competitors regarding entries or payments.
A 100% cancellation fee applies for withdrawals at any time after registration.
No refunds or transfers will be issued for non-attendance ("no-shows") or withdrawals for any reason, including illness, injury, COVID-19, isolation requirements, or personal circumstances.
Spectator door charges apply.

2. Event Dates & Schedule

Projected dates will be provided; however, competitors should keep all potential dates free until the draft program is released. Dates may change based on entry numbers.
On Cue reserves the right to:
Add or remove competition days.
Change dates or venues due to cancellations, double bookings, or other unforeseen circumstances.
Move to an online video submission format if required.
Reschedule or relocate events in the case of natural disasters, venue closures, or other circumstances beyond our control.
No refunds will be issued if an alternative format, date, or location is offered.

3. Arrival & Performance

Performers must arrive at least 1 hour before their scheduled performance time.
Sections may run up to 45 minutes earlier than the advertised time.
Live schedule updates may be available.
Performers must compete at their scheduled time/day. Performing out of order is not permitted, except for pre-approved quick-change situations flagged at the draft program stage.
Prompting is permitted only for Minis. Prompting for any other age group will result in disqualification.

TERMS & CONDITIONS – 2 OF 4

4. Adjudication

On Cue engages highly respected and experienced adjudicators from across the dance industry. Adjudicators will be announced once the final program is confirmed. If an adjudicator cannot fulfil their duties, On Cue may appoint a replacement without notice.
All judging decisions are final. No protest or appeal system is offered.
No one may approach an adjudicator during the event or breaks.
Voice critiques will be uploaded to Music Uploads within 10 business days after the event. Written critiques (when utilised) and score sheets are available on the day after adjudication. If a competitor has a close personal or professional connection to the adjudicator (e.g., immediate family or having trained with them in the past 12 months), they will receive feedback but will be ineligible for awards to ensure fairness.

5. Awards & Presentations

All performers are expected to attend awards and adjudication. If unavailable, cash prizes will be forfeited and awards may be posted at the recipient's expense.
After receiving an award, performers should join the official group photo on stage. Where applicable, competitors are encouraged to wear their studio jacket.
If two competitors tie in overall points, the highest Technique score will determine the placing. If the Technique score is also tied, the Overall Impression score will determine the placing. In the unlikely event that these scores are also tied, the adjudicator will determine the final placing. The adjudicator's decision is final.

6. Props & Stage Safety

All props must be stored in the designated prop area, clearly labelled.
Performers or their helpers must bring props on/off stage — On Cue staff will not assist.
Props must be assembled offstage and carried (not dragged) onto the stage.
Freestanding props are allowed with a maximum 20 second setup time.
All props must be removed immediately after the performance.
Any debris left on stage (e.g., petals, feathers, paper) must be cleared within 20 seconds after the routine. Forgotten props may need to be discarded. Please remember to take your props home.
The following are strictly prohibited: powder, rosin, glitter, confetti, water, glass, porcelain, or other hazardous/messy substances.
Tap shoes must have protective covers when offstage.

7. Footwear

Correct shoes must be worn for each style:
Jazz → Jazz shoes Hip Hop → Sneakers
Ballet → Ballet shoes Tap → Tap shoes
Lyrical/Contemporary → Barefoot, turning shoes, or half-soles
Performing in one shoe is not permitted in any style and will result in a 3 point deduction.Exceptions may be made for Gravity. Tap shoes must not be worn without covers.

TERMS & CONDITIONS – 3 OF 4

8. Music

All music must be legally licensed for live performance use.
It is the entrant's responsibility to secure the necessary performance rights for their music.
By entering, participants, parents/guardians, and teachers agree to indemnify On Cue against any claims related to the use of their music.
Music must be age-appropriate and free from explicit language. Any track containing explicit language will be stopped immediately, and the performer(s) will be removed from the stage and disqualified from that section.

9. First Aid

Competitors and studios must bring their own first aid supplies, including ice/heat packs.
Not all venues have first aid facilities available.
On Cue staff are not responsible for providing first aid supplies or treatments.

10. Liability & Indemnity

By registering or attending, all participants and attendees — including dancers, singers, parents/guardians, teachers, directors, volunteers, and patrons — agree to indemnify On Cue, its staff, and volunteers against all claims, costs, or liabilities arising from participation or attendance.
Attendance is at the individual's own risk.
On Cue is not responsible for loss of property, personal injury, illness, or death occurring before, during, or after the event.
While full care is taken, no responsibility will be accepted for injury, illness, or loss of belongings.

11. Media Consent

By entering, participants consent to the use of their name and/or image for promotional, media, and public relations purposes (including print and social media).
Consent remains in place unless written notice is provided to withdraw it.

12. Videography

Personal recording of performances is not permitted. On Cue will always endeavour to provide a professional videographer for our events.
In the rare instance that a videographer is unavailable, a designated "recording zone" will be provided. Only one authorised person may stand in this area at a time to record their own performer. This measure helps protect the privacy of all participants and ensures that no one records children who are not in their care.

TERMS & CONDITIONS – 4 OF 4

13. Conduct and Sportsmanship

On Cue is committed to providing a positive and respectful competition environment. Competitors, parents, teachers and spectators are expected to treat fellow competitors, staff, adjudicators and venue personnel with respect at all times. Abusive, threatening, intimidating or unsportsmanlike behaviour will not be tolerated and may result in removal from the venue and/or exclusion from future On Cue events.

14. Establishment Period & Rule Amendments

As a new competition, On Cue is committed to continually reviewing and improving the way our events operate. Our first two years of competition will be considered an Establishment and Development Period, allowing us to learn from each event and refine our rules, procedures and event structure based on practical experience.

On Cue reserves the right to review, amend, add to or clarify these rules following any event during this two-year period.

Where circumstances arise during an event that are not adequately addressed by the current Rule Book, or where an amendment is reasonably considered necessary for the safety, fairness, efficient operation or best interests of the majority of competitors, teachers, staff and attendees, On Cue also reserves the right to introduce, clarify or amend a rule during the event.

Any changes made during an event will be communicated as clearly and promptly as reasonably possible to those affected and will be applied consistently from the point of introduction.

Rules will not be retrospectively changed for the purpose of altering results, scores, placings or penalties that occurred prior to the amendment.

At the conclusion of the two-year Establishment and Development Period, this provision will be reviewed alongside the complete On Cue Rule Book.