

MEET IN YXE

March 11th-14th, 2026

RULES, REGULATIONS & ENTRY INFORMATION

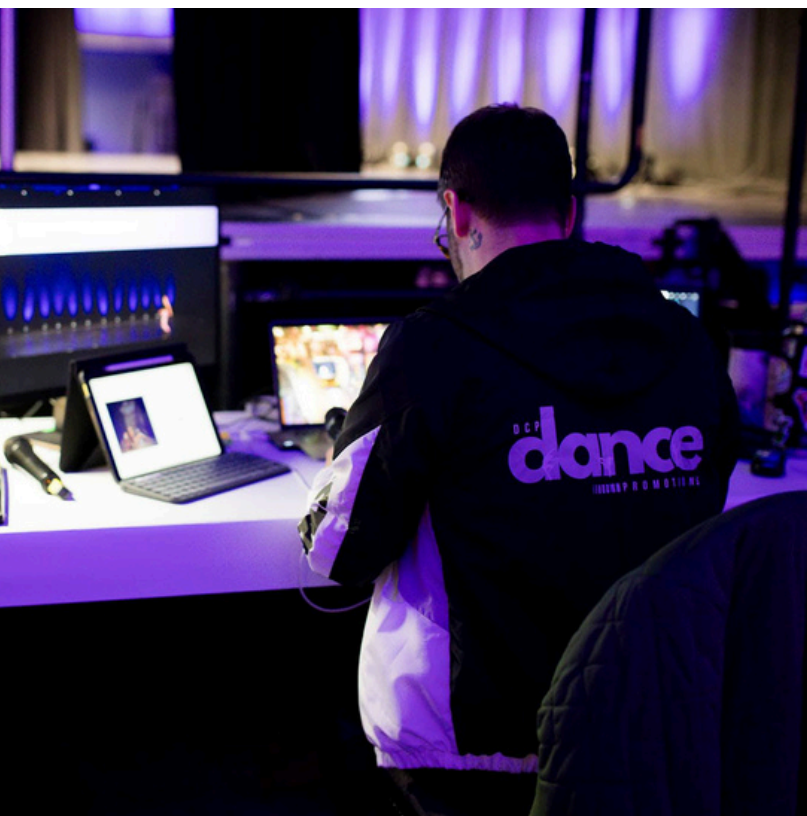
Prepared by:
DCP Dance Promotions

dcpdancepromotions.ca





WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT



Fair and Unbiased Judging

- Two adjudicators mark each routine to ensure thorough and impartial evaluations.

2 Video Adjudications per routine

- Each routine receives **TWO** video adjudications filled with positive and constructive feedback, enhancing the learning experience for performers and teachers alike.

On-Time Competition

- Rarely exceeding 12-13 hours per day, ensuring a timely and manageable schedule.
- Four breaks strategically scheduled throughout the day to alleviate stress and provide time for nourishment, rest and rejuvenation.

Community and Support

- Emphasis on fostering a sense of community and support among participants, teachers, and families.

Celebrating Success

- Recognition and celebration of individual and collective achievements through cash prizes and scholarships.

Innovative Challenges

- Introducing unique challenges that push dancers to showcase their versatility and creativity.

ENTRIES:

To register your entries for the 2026 competition season, please send an email to info@dcpdancepromotions.ca, and we will respond with instructions on how to do so online.

To ensure a smooth and organized process, new studios can secure their spot in our competition by reserving it on a first-come, first-served basis. This helps us avoid any last-minute surprises like reaching full capacity and being unable to accommodate studios. After accommodating returning studios, we'll open the remaining spots to new studios without requiring deposits. It's worth noting that studios who withdraw after being added to the participant list may face consequences in future years, such as not being invited back to the competition.

We will be using an online registration platform for the competition, with the registration period beginning on October 22nd, 2025 for returning studios and November 5th, 2025 for new studios. Please note that late registration starts December 1st, 2025 and will be subject to an additional fee per routine and will not be accepted beyond December 22nd, 2025.

All fees or arrangements must be made by January 15th, 2026, to ensure that everything is in order for the competition. Schedules will NOT be released without full payment.

DCP Dance Promotions reserves the right to refuse entries. Entries are received on a first-come-first-served basis. Please enter early to avoid being turned away. Late entries will be accepted only if scheduling permits and at the late entry pricing/admin charge.

DIVISIONS & AGE CATEGORIES

There is no differentiation in levels for dancers, all participants will compete at the same level. However, we do offer a **Novice** category specifically designed for students who dance less than 2 hours a week or are in their first year of competitive dance.

Dancers' age categories will be determined by their average age as of December 31, 2025. Birthdays between January 1, 2026, and the competition date will be ignored.

Age categories may be combined, with a maximum of two age groups per category. If there are 12 or more contestants in a single age group, we will split them by age. For instance, if there are 18 contemporary solos in the 15-16 age range, we will split them into separate age groups for 15-year-olds and 16-year-olds. If there are 12 or more routines in the 15-year-old age group, we will announce the Top 5 placements.

STYLES

Limit of Acro tricks in styles that are not Acro

3 trick limit.

What constitutes an “Acro” trick? Any Acro basics held for 4 seconds or less. Cartwheels, walkovers, aerials, ect. Jazz/modern style elements that pass through acro elements would be allowed and not count toward ex) veldez, needle to front roll with hands, shoulder stand transitions, shoulder roll, ect...

JAZZ

Routine incorporating over 75% of jazz technique.

TAP

No pre-recorded sounds

CLASSICAL BALLET

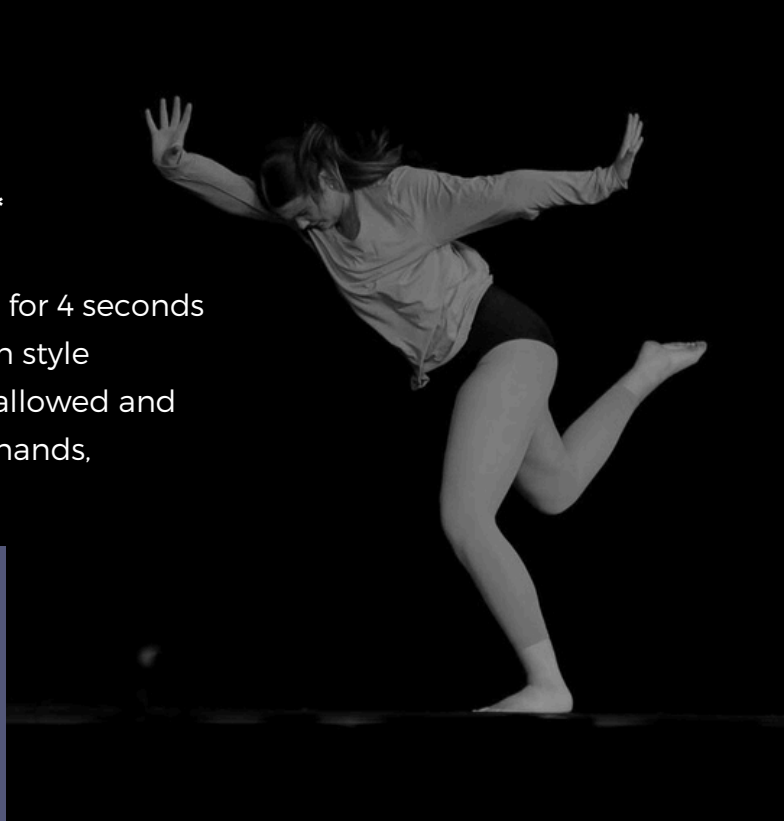
Routine 100% classical ballet technique head to toe. No lyrics in music. A traditional and highly formalized style of ballet that adheres to strict technique, precision, and grace. It follows structured positions, set movements, and often includes pas de deux, solos, and corps de ballet formations. Examples include Swan Lake, The Sleeping Beauty, and Giselle.

DEMI/CHARACTER BALLET

Can have props or lyrics. Variations must have proper titling. A style that blends elements of classical ballet with expressive storytelling and character-driven movement. It requires strong ballet technique but allows for more freedom in expression, often incorporating elements of folk dance or mime. Dancers portray specific roles, such as playful or dramatic characters, while maintaining classical ballet technique. Examples include flamigos, Party goes, the Mazurka and Czardas in Swan Lake or the Spanish, Russian, and Arabian dances in The Nutcracker.

POINTE

A routine where 50% or more of the dancers are on pointe or 50% or more of the routine is performed on pointe.



LYRICAL

Routine utilizing primarily jazz and ballet technique to express emotion or conveying the lyrics of the music. Balance, control and extension should be demonstrated.

CONTEMPORARY/MODERN

Routine that pushes traditional boundaries, fluidity, strength, and emotion. Fusing multiple styles together, such as Lyrical and traditional Modern, telling a story but using pictures, flexed lines and grounding work. Rooted in pioneers like Graham and Cunningham, it combines diverse movement styles and individual interpretation.

ACRO

Routines that prominently feature acrobatic techniques and tricks. This category is suitable for routines that include more than 3 acro tricks. Acro can be seamlessly blended with various styles like lyrical, jazz, or modern, allowing for a diverse range of creative possibilities.



STYLES CONT

*****Limit of Acro tricks in styles that are not Acro*****

3 trick limit.

What constitutes an "Acro" trick? Any Acro basics held for 4 seconds or less. Cartwheels, walkovers, aerials, ect. Jazz/modern style elements that pass through acro elements would be allowed and not count toward ex) veldez, needle to front roll with hands, shoulder stand transitions, shoulder roll, ect...

OPEN

This category is for any routine that does not seem appropriate in any of the above listed categories. Ie) Improv, National, ect. These are eligible for placements, adjudication and awards with the exception of improv winning overall or most innovative choreography award. For routines with combined disciplines such as - Jazz/HipHop routine, Tap/Pointe routine. **Style and reasoning for being an open solo must be supplied.**

*STUDENT CHOREOGRAPHY

This is for any routine that has been choreographed by a competing student. ONLY getting feedback on choreography and a mark based on dance performance and ability. These are eligible for placements and adjudication, Awards not eligible for overalls. Style of entry must be supplied.

*PRODUCTION

Productions may include any number or combination of dance and variety disciplines. Each production will be allotted a five-minute set-up period and a five-minute take-down period.

If a production requires more than 10 minutes total for set-up and take-down, an additional \$50 fee will apply. Please note: there are no age or division categories for productions.

Productions must include a minimum of 20 dancers. If fewer than 20 dancers are participating, studios will be required to pay the equivalent fee of 20 dancers to cover the extended stage time allotment.

VARIETY

A routine that uses theatrical characterization performance and may include the use of body expression, acting, and LIP-SYNCING. Anything containing more than 16 counts of the mentioned above should be placed in this category.

BROADWAY/THEATRE

A routine that uses theatrical performance and includes the use of LIVE VOCALS, spoken dialogue, acting, and dance. Anything containing more than 16ct of the mentioned above should be placed in this category. Broadway combines character with voice and dance to create a triple threat artist.

HIPHOP/COMMERCIAL/STREET

Routines consisting primarily of hip-hop, commercial and street dance technique.

* These numbers do not qualify for cash prizes.

GROUP CATEGORIES

Including Sizes and Times

GROUP CATEGORY	NUMBER OF DANCERS	TIME ALLOTTED
SOLOS	1	2.5 MIN
DUETS	2	3 MIN
TRIOS	3	3 MIN
SMALL GROUP	4-9	4 MIN
LARGE GROUP	10-19	4 MIN
LINE GROUP	20	5 MIN
PRODUCTIONS	20 - UNLIMITED	25 MIN

REPEATING/ADDITION OF DANCERS

If there is a group competing against itself with more than 50% of the dancers in both groups they must dance out of category or in open.

If the number of dancers in a routine happens to change from the time of entry, to the event, you must contact our office to inform us of the changes immediately. We will do our best to accommodate the change if it moves you out of category.

MEDALS / AWARDS

MEDALS WILL BE AWARDED TO 1ST, 2ND, AND 3RD PLACE. IF A CATEGORY HAS MORE THAN 12 ROUTINES, TOP 5 WILL BE ANNOUNCED.

THERE WILL BE ONLY 1 GOLD MEDAL AWARDED IN EACH GROUPING. TIES FOR 2ND AND 3RD ARE ALLOWED.

- The Adjudicator's decision is final on all marks/awards during the competition.
- Scholarships, trophies and awards will be handed out at the end of the competition to the participating dancers.
- Notify competition coordinator via email within 2 weeks of the completion of competition if the scholarship awarded will not be used.
- Awards are not transferable to other School of Dance dancers, sibling/friends or instructor.

INDEPENDENT ENTRIES

Independent entries will NOT be accepted. However we have the right to allow previous Maximum Elite Performer Winners to attend without their studio as long as a studio representative is assigned to their account.

ADJUDICATION ONLY

If a dancer performs a routine outside their designated category, it will be considered for adjudication purposes only. While they will still receive feedback and adjudication videos, they will not be eligible for medals, awards, or placements.

GROUP ELEVATION CHALLENGE



Participating studios have the opportunity to showcase their talent and compete in the Group Elevation Challenge. Open to all studios attending the event (with 5 groups or more), each studio can select **one group routine** to enter into the challenge, with any age group, genre, and group size eligible, except for productions.

Studios must declare their intent to enter the challenge during the registration process and specify the chosen routine. During the competition, the selected group routines will be removed from the regular schedule and judged head-to-head by the panel of adjudicators. The routines will be evaluated based on criteria such as technique, choreography, execution, musicality, and overall performance quality. The routine with the highest cumulative score will be crowned the Group Elevation Champions, earning the winning studio a cash prize of \$1,000 in addition to the title.

**Adjudicators' decisions are final, and any ties will be broken by the adjudicators. Throughout the competition, studios and participants are expected to maintain the highest standards of sportsmanship and respect. DCP Dance Promotions reserves the right to amend the rules of the Group Elevation Challenge if necessary, with any changes communicated to participating studios promptly. By entering the challenge, studios agree to abide by these rules and any decisions made by DCP Dance Promotions and the adjudication panel.

MAXIMUM ELITE PERFORMER

DCP Dance Promotions offers soloists the chance to showcase their skills in the Maximum Elite Performer.

Soloists with three or more registered solos can opt to enter this challenge. During registration, soloists must indicate their interest in participating in the Maximum Elite Performer. Out of their registered solos, soloists will choose two to compete in the regular competition. For these two solos, 25% of each solo's score will contribute to the soloist's final mark.



MEP

The third solo will be designated for the Maximum Elite Performer (MEP) and will not be entered into regular competition. Instead, MEP solos will be performed at the end of the event in a head-to-head showdown with other MEP soloists. In this category, 50% of the MEP solo's score will be added to the combined score of the two solos from the regular competition. The soloist with the highest combined score will be crowned the Maximum Elite Performer, earning a cash prize of \$250 in addition to the title.

****Adjudicators' decisions are final, and any ties will be resolved by the adjudicators. Throughout the competition, soloists are expected to exhibit sportsmanship and respect. Any conduct deemed unsportsmanlike may lead to disqualification from the Maximum Elite Performer. DCP Dance Promotions reserves the right to amend the rules of the challenge if necessary, with any changes communicated to participants promptly. By entering the Maximum Elite Performer, soloists agree to adhere to these rules and decisions made by DCP Dance Promotions and the adjudication panel.**

DCP DANCE PROMOTIONS DIRECTORS AND STAFF ALONGSIDE THE VENUE

- Reserves the right to video record events.
- Will not be responsible for lost or stolen articles.
- Will not be responsible for any personal injuries occurring during the competition.
- Will accept written concerns, which have been signed and submitted to a DCP director.
- A practice room will be provided with a music system. This music system will be Electronic Device compatible.
- DCP is NOT assuming responsibility for dancers who miss their performance BE EARLY. We reserve the right to run up to 30 minutes ahead of schedule. Performers must wait in the backstage area until their category is called and remain there once finished to return for sessional adjudication. Be ready for your performance or you could miss your time slot
- No parents or siblings are allowed backstage (schools please remind your parents of this) – DCP employees, venue staff/ Instructors and Performers ONLY.
- NO CAMERAS AND NO VIDEOS / ALL CELLULAR PHONES ARE TO BE SWITCHED OFF IN THE AUDITORIUM.
- Any damage done to the venue will be billed to the appropriate school (i.e. damage done to the floor by use of props, etc.).

- Students and Teachers must refrain from wearing school insignias on stage. This includes taking props on and off stage.
- Please notify the backstage manager of any props used in routines, ensuring they are placed on and removed from the stage within 1 minute. Note that exceeding the time limit may incur a fee. You may purchase addition prop time on the portal when registering.
- Placement and removal of props is the responsibility of the studio.
- Props may be brought into the holding area prior to the beginning of the day or scheduled breaks that they are needed in. (Arrangements can be made to use the back loading doors).
- Please note that unsportsmanlike behavior or bullying of any kind will result in immediate disqualification from the competition and removal of awards. We strive to maintain a positive and respectful environment for all participants.

**ANY DECISION OF DCP DANCE
PROMOTIONS REGARDING
ALL MATTERS ARISING FROM
AND NOT INCLUDED IN THESE
REGULATIONS SHALL BE
FINAL.**

MARCH 11TH - 14TH
2026 SEASON

WE CAN'T WAIT TO #MEET YOU!

ANY QUESTIONS?



Contact us at info@dcpdancepromotions.ca