



## THE COMPETITION *FOR DANCERS BY DANCERS*

### **2024 COMPETITION TOUR ENTRY INFORMATION**

Many events sell out in advance. To reserve your spot for our 2024 tour (no entry minimum required), submit our ONLINE PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT along with a non-refundable \$500 deposit. Studios that pre-register by submitting the Participation Agreement must submit entries and final payment 45 days in advance of the event. If entries and/or payment is not received by the 45-day deadline, your place may be released to accommodate other studios and any incentives will be forfeited.

#### **ENTRY FEES**

Available to studios only. To view entry fees, log into the studio registration account. To set-up an account, go to [reg.headlinersdance.com](http://reg.headlinersdance.com). New studio accounts must be approved by Headliners prior to registering for events.

#### **FREE PHOTO & VIDEO FOR STUDIOS AND DANCERS - NO ADDITIONAL FEES!**

Each Studio will receive UNLIMITED download access to ALL of their registered entries photos and videos. Approximately 5-7 *business days* after the event, each participants' media will be accessible via a link sent to the studio email provided in their online registration portal.

Headliners provides HIGH RESOLUTION photos and 1920x1080 FULL HD videos of all routines. Due to the size of these files, media will be hosted online for the duration of the current season. Anyone requiring a print release for their photos will be able to obtain the most recent version online or by emailing [media@headlinersdance.com](mailto:media@headlinersdance.com).

*THERE REMAINS ABSOLUTELY NO OUTSIDE PHOTOGRAPHY OR VIDEOTAPING ALLOWED DURING PERFORMANCES. THIS RULE WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED TO PROTECT THE DANCERS AND YOUR CHOREOGRAPHERS' WORK.*

#### **REGISTRATION AND ENTRY RULES**

Dancers may enter as many categories as desired. Soloists are limited to three solos per regional event and cannot compete more than once in the same category (jazz, tap, etc.). In duo/trios, groups, classes, and productions, there must be 50% or less of the same students when competing in the same age division and category.

**NEW for 2024:** The level of routines is automatically calculated as the average of the dancers' individual levels. Tied averages will compete in the higher level. Example: A competitive dancer and novice dancer would compete in an Intermediate level routine together.

#### **ENTRY DEADLINES**

**REGIONAL ENTRIES:** Submitted online 45 days or more prior to the start of the first day of competition.

#### **ENTRY CONFIRMATION**

Studios have 24/7 access to their online accounts to review entries and ensure all information is input properly. Headliners First Confirmations will be emailed at the entry deadline date and include instructions as well as an itemized list of all entries and dancers submitted by the studio. *PLEASE READ THE EMAILS AND REVIEW THE ATTACHMENTS WHEN THEY ARE RECEIVED.* A Final Confirmation will be emailed with performance schedules approximately 10-14 days prior to each event. All changes/corrections/omissions must be received prior to this time in order to avoid change fees.

**LATE ENTRIES AND CHANGES**

In order to best guarantee placement into our competition, entries should be submitted online 45 days prior to each event. To secure placement, we recommend submitting our 2024 PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT by NOVEMBER 1, 2023. Entries received after the 45 day deadline will be considered on a case-by-case basis and will be accepted only if time permits and if the schedule is not adversely affected. Late entries accepted will be subject to a **\$20 PER ENTRY LATE FEE**. Changes accepted after the final changes deadline, will be subject to a **\$35 PER CHANGE LATE FEE**. A credit card will be required for processing (a service fee will apply).

**PAYMENT OF FEES**

Once a studio creates entries in the online registration portal, they are liable for all entry fees associated with the entries in the studio/dancer account. Entry fees can be paid by studio check, money order, or credit card. Credit card payments are accepted directly through the studio account and will be assessed a service fee.. Any studios that pre-registered must submit final payment 45 days in advance or any incentives will be forfeited. All other balances must be paid in full 30 days prior to each event. Only certified checks or credit card payments will be accepted for balances due 30 -14 days prior to the event date. Only overnight certified checks or credit payments will be accepted for balances due 14-7 days prior to the event date. Credit card payments are required for balances due 7 days or less prior to the event date.

**NOTE:** A \$25 charge will be issued for checks returned. (If a studio, or entries, can no longer compete after entering in the studio portal, the studio **MUST** delete the entries and notify Headliners prior to the registration deadline to avoid being liable for fees.)

**REFUNDS**

Refunds will only be issued in the event that the dancer is injured with a doctor's note. There are no refunds should the location of an event change and/or if an event is rescheduled. All refunds will be processed and issued to the studio after the event has taken place in case of additional changes/injuries. All doctor's notes must be submitted via email to [info@headlinersdance.com](mailto:info@headlinersdance.com). No forms will be accepted at events.

**ABOUT OUR SCHEDULE****SCHEDULING**

HEADLINERS DOES NOT HAVE A SET SCHEDULE. Schedules are formulated based on the number and type of entries received, and takes into consideration scheduling requests and conflicts submitted during the registration process. Headliners events begin **NO EARLIER THAN 8:00AM** and **END NO LATER THAN 10:30PM**. Friday events will start after school hours. Headliners reserves the right to extend times if necessary.

Headliners is happy to try to accommodate scheduling requests. Please keep in mind that due to the number of requests we receive, scheduling requests are not guaranteed. Entries in which accommodations could not be met will not be issued a refund.

**SCHEDULING REQUESTS**

Scheduling requests and conflicts must be submitted in writing, and included in the comment box online when the entry is submitted. We do our best to accommodate all requests, but requests are not guaranteed. Once the Schedule is created and the Final Confirmation emailed, entries that have to be moved and do not perform before their respective award session will not be eligible for Overall Awards or Titles. These routines will still be eligible for adjudications and special awards. Studios must make note in the special request box during registration if there are large props or props that may take more than 30 seconds to set.

*We do our best to accommodate all requests, but please remember that not all requests are guaranteed.*

**ENTRY CONFIRMATIONS**

Studios will receive two confirmations via email:

A *First Confirmation* will be emailed once the entry deadline has passed. Please take this time to look over your entries and the competition rules included. If changes need to be made, please contact the Headliners office.

A *Final Confirmation* with performance time and a schedule of events will be emailed 10-14 days prior to each event. Changes made at this time will incur a fee.

Please be sure to review the confirmations carefully! Be sure that entries are in the correct levels, age divisions, and categories. Check that birthdates have been entered correctly. Any changes made after the specified deadline in your First Confirmation email will incur a \$35 per change fee. Changes made the week of an event will incur a \$50 per change fee. All late fees must be paid by either a Visa or Mastercard.

**COMPETITION LEVELS - NEW FOR 2024!**

LEVELS ARE BASED ON TECHNICAL ABILITY AND EXECUTION OF MOVEMENTS AS WELL AS CLASS TIME

**ROUTINE LEVELS - NEW FOR 2024!**

Routine levels are determined by the levels assigned to each dancer during registration. The level of the routine is automatically calculated as the average of the dancers' individual levels. Tied averages will compete in the higher level. Example: A competitive dancer and novice dancer would compete in an Intermediate level routine together.

**NOVICE (NON-COMPETITIVE):**

For dancers with limited technical training who want the experience of performing onstage without the pressure of competition, and also have no more than 3 technique classes in the major forms of dance (ie: ballet, tap, jazz, lyrical, contemporary, etc). Dancers may only compete in the Novice level for 2 years. Dancers/routines in this level will receive adjudicated awards (see trophy or charity option) and are eligible for special judge's awards. Overall awards will be presented.

Overall, choreography should be simple with dancers focusing on musicality and clean execution.

**INTERMEDIATE:**

Dancers in this level should be able to properly execute basic dance skills, begin some advanced movements, and have no more than 6 technique classes in the major forms of dance (ie: ballet, tap, jazz, lyrical, contemporary, etc). The Intermediate Level allows dancers to add small advances in technical application to the basics. Dancers in this level will receive adjudicated awards (see trophy or charity option), and are eligible for special judge's awards. Overall awards will be presented.

Dancers should have spatial awareness, clean lines and begin relating to their music and choreography. Dancers may choose to perform up in the Competitive Level to be considered for Scholarship Vouchers and Titles.

**COMPETITIVE:**

In this level, it is expected that the dancers are technically aware of everything they are performing, have original and creative choreography and have developed the necessary skills to compete and excel in their chosen discipline. Their performances should be well rehearsed, polished and dancers groomed and costumed appropriately. Dancers in this level receive adjudicated awards (see trophy or charity option), are eligible for special judge's awards, and are eligible for Regional and National Titles. Overalls will be presented and will include medals, banners, cash vouchers and more.

**ADULT:**

For routines with an average age of 21 or older. Routines in this division will be adjudicated, but are not eligible for Overall Awards.

*NOTE: Dancers must compete in the same competitive level for all routines regardless of experience in each style of dance. For example: A dancer cannot compete a lyrical solo in Intermediate and a tap solo in Competitive.*

*REGARDLESS OF LEVEL, DANCERS SHOULD BE ABLE TO PROPERLY EXECUTE THE MOVEMENTS PRESENTED. ROUTINES CONSISTING OF TECHNIQUE SUITED TO A HIGHER LEVEL MAY HAVE POINTS DEDUCTED OR BE MOVED TO THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL, PER THE JUDGES' DISCRETION.*

*ADVANCED MOVEMENTS AND COMBINATIONS ARE NOT NECESSARY TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE INTERMEDIATE AND COMPETITIVE LEVELS.*

**ROUTINE LEVELS**

Routine levels are determined by the levels assigned to each dancer during registration. The level of the routine is automatically calculated as the average of the dancers' individual levels. Tied averages will compete in the higher level. Example: A competitive dancer and novice dancer would compete in an Intermediate level routine together.

### **DANCE CATEGORIES**

**ACRO:** A combination of tumbling movements & passes incorporated with dance movements.

**BALLET:** Classical ballet style using ballet shoes.

**CHARACTER:** Dancers portray an easily recognized character.

**CLOGGING:** A routine showing clogging (or buck) technique using the full foot.

**CONTEMPORARY:** Inventive movements incorporating different styles with a classical foundation.

**CULTURAL:** A routine using ethnic style dance (i.e. Flamenco, Irish Jig, Hawaiian, Bollywood, etc.).

**HIP HOP:** A routine containing mostly hip hop or street style moves.

**JAZZ:** Classical jazz movements and technique.

**LYRICAL:** Dancers' movements should interpret the words and feelings of the song.

**MODERN:** Theatrical dance, not as restrictive as classical ballet; stylized, abstract movements.

**MUSICAL THEATER:** Portraying the feeling or character of a Broadway or movie musical song.

**OPEN:** Combines two or more forms of dance, or a second routine with 50% or more of the same dancers.

**POINTE:** Classical ballet technique wearing pointe shoes.

**POM POM:** The use of Pom Poms where dancers show patterns and uniform movements.

**SHOWDANCE:** A concept, story or theme. Can be any dance form or combination of dance forms, not including tap.

**TAP:** Characterized by rhythmic tapping of the toes and heels. (No pre-recorded tap sounds allowed on the tape.)

**TWIRLING:** Dancers incorporate batons into the routine.

**ACROBATIC TRICKS IN ROUTINES:** Acro is not allowed in ballet and pointe. Jazz, tap, and lyrical routines may have a maximum of three acro tricks. All other categories may include unlimited acro. A pass into an acro trick (i.e. round off back handspring) qualifies as a single acro movement.

### **JUDGING AND SCORING**

#### **SCORING**

Dancers compete within an adjudicated scoring system and awards are presented that correspond to the scores received. (See Trophy or Charity Option to donate your trophy to charity.) Three judges are each allocated 200 points (100 for Technique, 100 for Presentation) for a maximum of 600 points.

Elite Gold:	570-600 (95+ points)
High Gold:	552-569.9 (92-94.9 points)
Gold:	528-551.9 (88-91.9 points)
High Silver:	504-527.9 (84-87.9 points)
Silver:	480-503.9 (80-83.9 points)
High Bronze:	456-479.9 (76-79.9 points)

***THE DECISION OF THE JUDGES IS FINAL.***

**JUDGING CRITERIA**

Judges for Headliners are required to have extensive dance training and teaching experience. All judges receive a detailed written explanation of our expectations and go through an extensive review including pre-screened critiques.

We realize that most dancers will not pursue a dance career. Our goal is to provide events that are fun, while ensuring that our judges provide comments that are constructive and invite creativity, regardless of the dancers' level of experience. We strive to inspire a desire for personal growth.

**TECHNIQUE:** Regardless of level, dancers should be able to properly execute the movements presented in their routine. Balance, control, positioning, stretch, fluidity of movement, agility, and musicality are some of the components reviewed. Other factors taken into consideration include whether the technical level is within the reach of all dancers.

**PRESENTATION:** The dancers' ability to capture the audience. This includes personality, emotional execution, enthusiasm, and energy. Makeup and grooming are also considered.

**DEDUCTIONS:** The judges will have the ability to deduct points with regard to costume, age appropriate/unedited song lyrics, inappropriate/age appropriate dance movements.

**VIDEO CRITIQUES**

Judges verbally critique each routine on Technique and Presentation. They will also offer comments on a variety of subjects that may not pertain to the scoring to help the students, teachers, and choreographers.

Video critiques and scores will be accessible on your online registration account within 2-3 business days after your event. If you would like to pick up your video critiques and scores at the event they must be requested by reaching out to the director on site. Please contact [info@headlinersdance.com](mailto:info@headlinersdance.com) for more information.

**DIVISIONS & TIME LIMITS****AGE DIVISIONS**

Placement of dancers is based on their age as of January 1, 2024. Dancers/routines are listed in the program by the average age of the dancer(s) in the routine and are judged based on the age listed.

Mini: 6 & Under  
Child: 7-9  
Junior: 10-12  
Teen: 13-15  
Senior: 16-20  
Adult: 21+

Age division for placement of duo/trios, groups, classes, and productions is determined by the average age of the contestants. The average age is determined by adding all the ages of the dancers and dividing by the total number in the group. Decimal points are dropped.

*NOTE:* Confirmation of age should be available to verify should a challenge or question arise.

**TIME LIMITS**

Routines are randomly timed at all events. If a routine is found to be over time, the studio will be notified. A total of five points will be automatically deducted for every 10 seconds over time. Continued disregard of time limits may result in disqualification.

Solos:	up to 2:45 minutes
Duo/Trios:	up to 3:00 minutes
Small Groups (4-9 dancers):	up to 3:00 minutes
Large Groups (10-16 dancers):	up to 3:30 minutes
Classes (17+ dancers):	up to 4:00 minutes

Additional time options are available:

Production:	up to 6:00 minutes (Available for Small Groups, Large Groups, & Classes)
Extended:	up to 8:00 minutes (Available for Large Groups & Classes)



**REGIONAL AWARDS & RECOGNITION****TROPHY OR CHARITY**

During the registration process, participating studios have the option to generously donate the value of their adjudication award to one of six carefully selected charities. This charitable initiative allows studios to choose to donate for all entries or select specific ones. Choose the charity from the drop-down box prior to submitting each entry. For more information on the program and charities, please visit: [headlinersdance.com/charities](http://headlinersdance.com/charities)

**OVERALL AWARDS**

Novice, Intermediate, and Competitive routines will be presented with overall awards at each session during Regionals, per age group. (Mini, Child, Junior, Teen, and Senior)

**REGIONAL TITLES**

No additional fee is required to compete for Titles. To be considered, soloists must compete in the COMPETITIVE LEVEL and achieve a HIGH GOLD or ELITE GOLD score. Title winners are judges' choice and do not necessarily correlate to overall winners.

PETITE HEADLINER	AGES 7-9
JUNIOR HEADLINER	AGES 10-12
TEEN HEADLINER	AGES 13-15
SENIOR HEADLINER	AGES 16-20

**JUDGES AWARDS**

Judges' awards will be presented at all awards ceremonies. These awards recognize special qualities the judges see, regardless of score.

**STUDENT CHOREOGRAPHY**

Headliners recognizes routines choreographed by students at each regional. Please check the appropriate box and enter the student's name who choreographed the routine during registration. All recognized student choreographed routines are eligible to compete for Student Choreographer of the Year at Headliners Nationals.

**CHOREOGRAPHY AWARD**

This award is based on the Judges pick for choreography in recognition of innovative, imaginative and exciting choreography. Novice, Intermediate, and Competitive routines can qualify for this award.

**ENTERTAINMENT AWARD**

This award is based on the Judges' and Staff pick in recognition of outstanding emotional commitment, musicality, presentation, and staging. Novice, Intermediate, and Competitive routines can qualify for this award.





## THE COMPETITION *FOR DANCERS BY DANCERS*

### **HEADLINERS SPIRIT AWARD**

This award is based on the values of competition that we honor: good sportsmanship, kindness towards others, dedication toward education and overall excellence.

### **12 & UNDER / 13 & OVER OVERALL AWARDS**

This award will be presented at the end of the event to the highest scoring routine in each age category from the Competitive Level. The winner of the ADCC Studio of Excellence award is ineligible for consideration.

### **ADCC STUDIO OF EXCELLENCE**

Headliners is a member of the Association of Dance Competitions and Conventions (<https://www.theadcc.org/>). This award is presented to the studio with the highest scoring competitive level group routine (small group, large group and class) at each regional event. At the end of the regional tour, all Studio of Excellence winners will be put to a vote online for the Studio of the Year award. A cash prize and banner will be awarded. The winning studio will also be recognized in ADCC promotions in print and social media.

## **ADDITIONAL RULES AND INFORMATION**

### **RIGHT TO EXTEND**

Entries are accepted on a first come, first serve basis. To secure your place at any Headliners event, studios should submit the online 2024 PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT by November 1, 2023. Headliners reserves the right to extend any event to accommodate entries received. Headliners also reserves the right to close the competition prior to the deadline should the number of entries received exceed the time allotted. Headliners reserves the right to relocate or re-schedule any event.

### **SCHEDULE OF PERFORMANCE**

*REGIONALS:* Scheduling requests must be written in the comment box at the time the entry is submitted. Due to the amount of requests, it may not be possible to accommodate everyone.

### **PROPS**

Any prop requiring setup must be indicated in the comment box for that routine during registration, so time can be allocated appropriately. Small props such as hats, canes, chairs, etc. may be used and should be carried on by the performer. The use of props should never disturb the time constraints of the competition. Props essential to the choreography (ie: used throughout the performance) are permitted but must conform to the time limit of 30 seconds on/off. Deductions will apply for any props/sets that require extended setup/teardown time. Special lighting, knives, fire props, fog machines, etc. are prohibited. Props should have the ability to fit through standard doorways. Headliners cannot guarantee the accommodation of large props at all venues.

**MUSIC**

Music must be uploaded 2 weeks prior to the event as part of the registration process. A flash drive or iPad should be provided to the Emcee on site as a back-up. Tap routines should not have tap sounds in a piece of music.

**APPROPRIATENESS**

Dance, as any art is subjective. What may be offensive to one person can be completely harmless to another. However, inappropriate movements, costuming and/or music choice are subject to point deductions by our panel of judges.

**CHECK IN**

A studio representative should check in upon arrival at the merchandise table to pick up the teacher program and information. Dancers should be prepared to perform at least 30 minutes in advance of their scheduled times. Please check in backstage a minimum of 5 routines in advance.

**OVERALL AWARD PROTOCOL**

Any routine that wins a 1st place overall award at a regional may not win another 1st place overall award at another Headliners regional. Studios must advise Headliners in advance of any re-performing winning routine and should be indicated in the comment box for that routine during registration.

**REMOVAL OF CONTESTANTS/AUDIENCE**

The failure of performers or audience members to act appropriately or the continued breaking of rules will result in disqualification of the routine and/or ejection from the event. Contestants and audience members are responsible for adhering to venue policies and regulations. Any offender will be held liable for any damages or consequences incurred by the actions of the offender(s). No coaching from the wings or audience allowed. Dancers and audience members are restricted from sitting near the judges table.

**VIDEO AND PHOTOGRAPHY CAMERAS**

As a reminder, studios and dancers receive photo and video of all their performances for FREE. Recording of routines and photography of on-stage performances is prohibited at all Headliners events. A warning will be given to the individuals and second offenses will result in Headliners Event Director contacting the studio to discuss potential point deductions. At Nationals, routines will become ineligible for overalls.

**SMOKING/FOOD/DRINKS**

Smoking is prohibited on the premises of all schools. Food and drink should be confined to the lobby areas. Please use trash cans to properly dispose of food, drink or other garbage.

**QUESTIONS/CONCERNS DURING EVENTS**

Should anyone have any questions, we ask that they immediately seek out a Headliners staff member on site to have it addressed.

*Updated June 1, 2023*