

2025 COMPETITION TOUR ENTRY INFORMATION

Many events sell out in advance. To reserve your spot for our 2025 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. 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 2-5 *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. The studio is responsible for distributing the link and password to the dance families.

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.

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, and classes, there must be 50% or less of the same students when competing in the same age division and category.

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 **via email** to info@headlinersdance.com 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 2025 PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT by NOVEMBER 1, 2025. 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**. Changes made the week of the event, will be subject to a **\$50 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. 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 performances 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.

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 LATE FEE**. Changes made the week of an event will incur a **\$50 PER CHANGE LATE FEE**. All late fees must be paid by either a Visa, Mastercard or American Express.

COMPETITION LEVELS

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

ROUTINE LEVELS

Routine levels are determined by the levels assigned to each dancer during registration. The level of routines is automatically calculated as the average of the dancers' individual levels. Novice dancers are assigned a 1, Intermediate a 2, and Competitive a 3. Routines with an average of 1.2 or higher will dance in the Intermediate level. Routines with a level of 2.2 or higher will compete in the Competitive level. Example: A competitive dancer and novice dancer would compete in an Intermediate level routine together.

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.

NOVICE:

12 & Under dancers only. For dancers with limited technical training with a focus on basic foundational movements. No more than 3 technique classes in the major forms of dance per week (ie: ballet, tap, jazz, lyrical, contemporary, hip hop, etc). Dancers may only compete in the Novice level for 2 years. Novice dancers are limited to one solo. Dancers/routines in this level will receive adjudicated awards and are eligible for special judge's awards. Novice dancers are limited to one solo. Overall awards will be presented.

Skill Recommendations: Novice level dancers execute BEGINNER movements, phrases, and transitions in choreography. Dancers have LIMITED technical knowledge in their movement. The choreography contains SIMPLE rhythms and understanding of musicality. Dancers are LEARNING the use of dynamics and BEGINNING to explore artistry in relation to emotion, energy, and approach. Headliners considers the following as examples of Novice level skills: single pirouette, chaine turns, pique turns, dancing on balls of feet in tap, simple leaps, pivot turns, 3 step turns, and grapevines.

INTERMEDIATE:

Dancers in this level should be able to properly execute basic dance skills, begin some advanced movements, and take no more than 5 technique classes in the major forms of dance per week (ie: ballet, tap, jazz, lyrical, contemporary, hip hop, etc). The Intermediate Level allows dancers to add small advances in technical application to the basics. Dancers in this level will receive adjudicated awards, and are eligible for special judge's awards. Overall awards will be presented. Dancers may choose to perform up in the Competitive Level to be considered for Scholarship Vouchers and Titles.

Skill Recommendations: Intermediate level dancers execute MODERATE movement, phrases, and transitions in choreography. Dancers have DEVELOPING technical knowledge that is presented in their movement. The choreography contains some COMPLEX rhythms and understanding of musicality. Dancers have an AVERAGE level of dynamics and display GROWING artistry in relation to emotion, energy, and approach. Headliners considers the following as examples of Intermediate level skills: double pirouettes, grand jetes, maxi ford turns, double stag leaps, an arabesque pitch, and attitude positioning.

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.

Competitive level routines can be as simple or complex at the choice of the choreographer. Dancers have a HIGH level of dynamics and display ADVANCED artistry in relation to emotion, energy, and approach. Headliners considers the following as examples of competitive level skills: triple pirouettes, leg hold turns, switch leaps, fouette turns, turns a la seconde, calypsos, illusions, etc.

ADULT:

For routines with an average age of 20 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 with a lyrical solo in Intermediate and a tap solo in Competitive.

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: 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)

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. Headliners judges are all scouted and reviewed internally, no third parties are used.

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.

BUMP RULES

Headliners allows our Judges to move routines as necessary to a higher level. All three judges must unanimously agree in order for a move to take place. A studio representative will be notified of any bumps that occur. If a soloist is moved up a level, all of their already competed and remaining solos will move to the new level. All judge decisions are final, Headliners Directors and Studios are not permitted to switch judge decided level placements.

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 for more information.

DIVISIONS & TIME LIMITS

AGE DIVISIONS

Placement of dancers is based on their age as of January 1, 2025. 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: 16-19
Adult: 20+

Age division for placement of duo/trios, groups, and classes 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

In order to stay on time we request adherence to the designated time limits.

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)

Extra time can be provided to solos and duo/trios on a case by case basis. For every 15 seconds over, there will be an additional charge of \$25.

REGIONAL AWARDS, RECOGNITION, & PARTNERSHIPS

TROPHY OR CHARITY

During the registration process, participating studios have the option to generously donate the value of their adjudication award to one of eight 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

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)

The amount of entries in each category and division will determine how many placements of overalls we present.

Competitive Overalls: Up to 10th place for soloists when there are 20 or more competing dancers, and 5th place for all other routines will be awarded.

Intermediate Overalls: Up to 5th place will be awarded. There must be 10 or more routines in the category and division in order to award all 5 places. Less than 10 routines will be awarded a Top 3.

Novice Overalls: Up to 3rd place will be awarded.

We encourage dancers to dance up a level in order to be considered for more overalls. Only dancers in the Competitive level will be eligible for scholarships including Headliners Regionals, Conventions, Nationals, Peridance NYC, Norwalk Conservatory of the Arts, AMDA and more.

In order to receive Overalls in the Competitive level, routines must earn an Elite Gold or High Gold. Intermediate routines must earn Elite Gold, High Gold, or Gold. All Novice routines are eligible, regardless of score, for Overalls.

REGIONAL TITLES

No additional fee is required to compete for Titles. To be considered, soloists must compete in the COMPETITIVE LEVEL and achieve an ELITE GOLD or HIGH 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 16-19

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' and Staff 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 Staff's pick in recognition of outstanding emotional commitment, musicality, presentation, and staging. Novice, Intermediate, and Competitive routines can qualify for this award.

12 & UNDER / 13 & OVER OVERALL AWARDS

This award will be presented at the end of the event to the highest scoring Group routine in each age category from the Competitive Level. There must be at least 5 routines in each division in order to award at events. The winner of the ADCC Studio of Excellence award is ineligible for consideration. If there are not enough qualifying routines, at the discretion of Headliners, levels may be combined to award a winner.

ADCC STUDIO OF EXCELLENCE

Headliners is a member of the Association of Dance Competitions and Conventions (www.theadcc.org). This award is staff choice and based on the values of competition that we honor: good sportsmanship, kindness towards others, dedication toward education and overall excellence. 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.

LIGHTNING ELITE

Dancers will travel to Disney World in Florida OR Disneyland in California to work with industry professionals and perform a choreographed set for park attendees. Scholarship includes hotel accommodations, private workshops with Disney cast members, park passes, Lightning Elite swag, VIP viewing for the Disney Spectacular, VIP Character breakfast, Farewell dinner and more! \$750 Scholarship for each dancer.

NORWALK CONSERVATORY OF THE ARTS

Headliners is proud to partner with The Norwalk Conservatory of the Arts whose programs are designed to challenge and prepare students with the skills and tools needed for a career in the performing arts. Undergraduate degrees are available in 3 areas: Musical Theatre Performance, Musical Theatre Dance Performance and Television/Film Performance. In 2025 Norwalk Conservatory of the Arts representatives will once again be scouting at select Regionals and Nationals.

PERIDANCE CENTER

Headliners has partnered with Peridance, a premier dance training facility in the heart of NYC to provide dancers attending our events even more opportunities to work with professionals from Broadway, TV and film.

AMDA

With campuses in New York City and Los Angeles, AMDA is ranked as one of the top 5 colleges in the US for the Performing Arts. As a partner, Headliners will be offering scholarships to senior level dancers at select events.

For more information on all of our partners, please visit headlinersdance.com/partners

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 2025 PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT by November 1, 2024. 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

Studios are permitted 30 seconds on, and 30 seconds off of prop set up time. Any additional time must be discussed with our registration team prior to the event. Additional fees will apply.

Any prop requiring additional setup or teardown time must be indicated in your registration portal in order for time to be allocated properly. 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. Deductions will apply for any props/sets that require UNEXPECTED extended setup/teardown time (that was not indicated or paid for in advance during registration) or that require extended time by Headliners staff to stop the show for cleaning. Props should have the ability to fit through standard doorways. Headliners cannot guarantee the accommodation of large props at all venues. ***Special lighting, knives, fire props, fog machines, aerosol sprays, baby powder, liquid, glitter, paint, confetti smaller than 1 inch, chalk, gel, helium balloons, live animals, etc. are prohibited.*** Deductions are at the discretion of Headliners Event Directors. Headliners equipment will not move for props or performances.

MUSIC

Music must be uploaded 3 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 arrive 1-2 hours before their scheduled performance time. 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. Moving of routines onsite will only be considered due to injury or illness. Performances that require movement for any other reason will incur point deductions.

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 studios and second offenses will result in Headliners Event Director discussing potential point deductions. At Nationals, routines will become ineligible for overalls.

Studios are responsible for advising their dance families and enforcing this rule on site. Photo and Video of routines by audience members may result in deductions.

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, 2024