



# THE 2020 RULES

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Information</b>	<b>3</b>
Deadlines.....	3
Payment.....	3
General Information.....	3
Photo & Video.....	3
<b>Entries</b>	<b>3-7</b>
Categories.....	3-4
Photogenic.....	4
Type of Entries.....	4
Age Divisions.....	5
Level of Competition.....	5-6
Equal Chance “Bump” Rule.....	6
Time Limits.....	7
<b>Additional Competition Info</b>	<b>7-8</b>
Other.....	7
Props.....	8
Music.....	8
Digital Upload.....	8
<b>Awards</b>	<b>9-10</b>
Act 1 Elite Award.....	9
Costume Award.....	9
Entertainment Award.....	9
Choreography Award.....	9
Special Award.....	9
Weekend High Point.....	9
Act 1 Spirit Award.....	9
Overall Awards.....	10
Cash Awards.....	10
<b>More Info</b>	<b>10-12</b>
NEW! THE CALLBACK.....	10
NEW! ACT 1 ARTIST.....	10
ADJUDICATION ONLY.....	11
Scoring Breakdown.....	11
Critiques & Score Sheets.....	11
ACT 1 TALENT IS A FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT.....	12

**Deadlines:** All registrations must be submitted online 28 days prior to the competition date. All entries registered after the deadline will be charged a 10% late fee per entry. Entries are accepted on a first come first serve basis and will be limited to the performance time available. Late entries will be accepted up to and including the day of competition if time permits. Routines registered on the day of competition will be assessed an additional \$20 fee per routine. Changes will be accepted up to 14 days prior to the event. Any changes after that must be made at the event. Changes after the 14 day cut off are not guaranteed. Any approved changes made after the 14 day cut off will be charged a change fee of \$20 per change.

**Payment:** Full payment is required in order for any entry to be accepted and scheduled in a competition lineup. Payments made prior to the event can be made by studio check, cashier's check, money order, Visa, Mastercard, and American Express. Studio checks will not be accepted after the 28 day cut off. Payments made at the event can be made by cash, credit card, cashier's check, or money order. Personal checks will not be accepted at any time. Returned checks will be charged a \$30 returned check fee.

**General Information:** Studio directors must check the release clause on every entry submitted. Act 1 Talent reserves the right to add additional days of competition, move the competition venue due to unforeseen circumstances, and/or cancel the competition if the minimum number of entries has not been met. In the event of a competition cancellation, all entry fees will be refunded. Admission is free for competition participants and viewers. Doors will open at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the competition. Food, drink, and smoking are not permissible in the competition performance area nor anywhere inside the contracted venue area. Good sportsmanship is expected at all Act 1 Talent events from all teachers, directors, dancers, and spectators. Independent registrations are accepted with the approval of their studio, only. A director, designated teacher or representative from each registered studio or independent entry MUST check in at the Act 1 Talent booth prior to participating in any Act 1 Talent event.

**Photo & Video:** For the safety of our performers, choreographers, teachers, and parents, the taking of photographs and videos is strictly prohibited during all performances. Photography and videography are also prohibited in the dressing room areas. The use of photography and videography in these areas will result in disqualification and immediate removal from the performance venue. It is the responsibility of studios to inform their participants and their viewers of these rules. As a convenience to participants, professional photographs and videos will be available for purchase. If professional photos & videos are unavailable other arrangements will be made. Photography and videography will be allowed during our classes and awards ceremonies.

### **Categories**

**Acro** – Routines containing multiple gymnastic passes incorporating dance technique and choreography

**Ballet** – Classical ballet technique

**Character** – Novelty or theme based routines that portray easily recognizable characters

**Clogging** – Clogging technique

**Contemporary**– Routines combining ballet & modern techniques

**Folk**– Traditional routines incorporating ethnic styles of dance such as Hawaiian or Polka

**Hip Hop** – Street dance styles including traditional breaking, popping, and locking as well as newer styles

**Improv** – Non-choreographed, spontaneously created movement (see IMPROV details below)

**Jazz** – Classic jazz technique

**Lyrical** – Combination of ballet and jazz technique

**Modern** – Classic modern technique focusing on interpretive movements and breath

**Musical Theater** – Broadway style dancing

**Open** – Any routines combining more than one style

**Pointe** – Routines with classic ballet techniques performed on pointe

**PomPon/Drill** – Routines incorporating sharp movements, formation changes, marching, and can include the use of Pom Pons

**Production** – 15 or more dancers portraying a storyline

**Song & Dance** – Routines that contain singing and any style of dance (All accompaniments must be pre-recorded. Performers will be provided with one hand held microphone.)

**Tap** – Classic Tap technique

- Routines may not contain more than 3 gymnastic passes, unless placed in the Acro/Gymnastics category. Passes are multiple tricks strung together in a series.
- Lip-syncing is permitted.
- Improv Routines: must submit a selection of 3 song choices prior to the start of their scheduled session on a labeled USB. Music will be chosen at random by an Act 1 Talent representative. Dancers will not be aware of their song prior to their routine. All songs must meet time requirements. Only soloists may enter the improv category. Dancers must spontaneously create all movement during actual performance. Dancers may not choreograph improv routines prior to their performance.

**Photogenic:** Photogenic entries are accepted. Photogenic entries must be registered and will be required to submit an 8x10 color headshot of the registered contestant. Photos must be labeled with contestant's name, registered age, studio and contact email. Submitted headshots will not be returned. Photogenic winners will be announced with solo awards in their age division. One photogenic winner will be selected from each age division. Photos must be turned in at the beginning of competition. Photos submitted late will not be considered. Photogenic entries will receive a critique sheet, available for pick up following their awards ceremony.

### **Types of Entries**

Solo (1 dancer)

Duet/Trio (2-3 dancers)

Small Group (4-9 dancers)

Large Group (10-19 dancers)

Super Group (20+ dancers)

Production (15+ dancers, follows a storyline)

## **Age Divisions**

4 & under, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 & Adult. Age of entry is determined by adding all dancers' ages as of January 1 together, dividing by the number of dancers, and determining the average age. If the average age includes a decimal, drop the decimal for correct placement into Act 1 Talent age divisions. Ages and birth dates must appear on all entries. Overall age groups: Mini (5 & under), Petite (6-8), Junior (9-11), Teen (12-14), & Senior (15-18). Contestants will be responsible for showing proof of age to competition directors should a question arise. \*Adult entries are adjudicated only and are not eligible for overall awards, cash prizes, costume, choreography, entertainment or the Act 1 Elite awards.

## **Levels of Competition**

The placement of performers is at the discretion of the teacher.

### ***Preview: Beginning Level***

Suggested for dancers who take 3 hours of class per week or less or have little or no competition experience.

Dancers in the ***Preview*** level are focusing on basic technique including but not limited to; single pirouettes, basic shuffles and flaps, musicality and rhythm, and performance quality over multiple tricks. ***Preview*** level entries are eligible for "***Preview***" top score overall awards as well as costume, entertainment, choreography, Act 1 spirit, weekend high point and cash awards, should they meet all requirements. ***Preview*** level competitors are not eligible for the Act 1 Elite award. ***Preview*** entries can be moved into the next level of competition ***First Act***, if and when the entry's score qualifies high enough to receive the same placement in the next level of competition. A ***Preview*** entry must score 283 or higher to be moved to the ***First Act*** level. For more information on our Equal Chance/Bump Rule please see below.

### ***First Act: Intermediate Level***

Suggested for dancers taking 3-7 hours of dance class per week and have competition experience.

Dancers in the ***First Act*** level are performing multiple pirouettes, building upon shuffle and flap combinations as well as rhythmic tap concepts, various leap and turn combinations, focusing on transitions and flow of the dance, and an increased performance quality. ***First Act*** entries are eligible for "***First Act***" overall awards as well as costume, entertainment, choreography, Act 1 spirit, weekend high point and cash awards, should they meet all requirements. A ***First Act*** entry can be moved into the next level of competition ***Second Act*** if and when the entry's score qualifies high enough to receive the same placement in the next level of competition. A ***First Act*** must score 288 or higher to be moved to the ***Second Act*** level. For more information on our Equal Chance/Bump Rule please see below.

### ***Second Act: Advanced Level***

Suggested for dancers taking 6 or more hours of dance class per week and who have had extensive competition experience.

Performers in this category should be focused on expanding their choreographic repertoire as well as exploring the emotional commitment to each piece. Skills should be advanced and should show a solid technical foundation. **Second Act** entries are eligible for “**Second Act**” overall awards as well as costume, entertainment, choreography, Act 1 spirit, Act 1 elite, weekend high point and cash awards, should they meet all requirements. **Second Act** is the highest level of competition at Act 1 Talent.

### **Spotlight Level**

Act 1 Talent is here to provide dancers of all levels and abilities with a positive and fair environment to showcase their talent, hard work, and love of dance. Our **Spotlight** level is designed for dancers with disabilities to afford these dancers and their families the same opportunity to share our stage regardless of their age or ability. By joining us at Act 1 Talent we want to enrich the lives of these dancers and encourage them to achieve new possibilities in a fun and safe environment.

**Spotlight** entries will work in conjunction with Act 1 Talent so that proper accommodations can be met. To help accommodate **Spotlight** entries, rules will be subject to change as needed, but must be pre-approved by Act 1 Talent in writing prior to the event. **Spotlight** entries will not be bumped into any other level based on score. **Spotlight** entries are eligible for the following awards:

- Spotlight Overall Awards: A Top Overall will be awarded when there are a minimum of 3 routines entered. 1st-3rd Overall will be awarded when 5 or more routines are entered. 1st-5th Overall will be awarded when 10 or more routines are entered. 1st-10th Overall will be awarded when 15 or more routines are entered.
- Costume Awards
- Entertainment Awards
- Choreography Awards
- Special Judges Awards
- Act 1 Talent Spirit Award

We hope you join us in our **Spotlight** level and dance like EVERYONE is watching!

**Equal Chance “BUMP” Rule:** In order to help provide dancers of all levels with a fair competition experience, Act 1 Talent has created the Equal Chance “BUMP” Rule. Any entry is eligible to be bumped into the next level of competition if that routine scores high enough to receive the highest placement in the next level of competition. For example, a “Preview” entry can be bumped into “First Act” if that entry scores high enough to receive a Star Platinum in “First Act”, scoring a 283 or higher. “First Act” entries are also eligible to be bumped into “Second Act” if they receive a score of 288 or higher, earning them a Star Platinum in the “Second Act” level. If a soloist has entered more than one solo, all solos will be bumped into the next highest level if any solo scores high enough to be bumped. This rule is based solely on a point system and is not at the discretion of our judges.

## Time Limits

	Time Limit	Extended Time Limit	Extended Time Fee
Solo (1)	2:45	3:15	\$5
Duet/Trio (2-3)	2:45	3:15	\$3/dancer
Small Group (4-9)	3:00	3:30	\$3/dancer
Large Group (10-19)	4:00	4:30	\$3/dancer
Super Group (20+)	4:00	4:30	\$3/dancer
Production (15+)	6:00	8:00	\$3/dancer

### Other:

Dancers are expected to perform in the order of the published program, unless the competition director grants special permission, or a pre-approved change was accepted by the office prior to the start of the competition and it has been put in writing. Any unauthorized delay in the performance schedule will result in a 10 point deduction per judge for the specific entry making the delay. All entries are expected to perform once. Any entries needing to be re-performed on behalf of the performer or teacher are subject to a 3 point deduction per judge or be judged as an adjudication only routine. A tentative schedule with performance times of each act will be available online using our "Studio Center" one week prior to the competition. Dancers competing in the first 10 acts should arrive in full costume, including hair and make-up, ready to perform. All other competing dancers must be ready to perform a minimum of one hour prior to their scheduled performance time. If the competition is running ahead of schedule, dancers are expected to perform in order of the program and/or when called upon by the competition announcer. Dancers must check in with our backstage manager a minimum of 3 routines prior to their scheduled entry. If a registered studio or teacher would like to protest a performance for any reason, they must do so in writing within 30 minutes of the performance in question. Protest forms are available at the Act 1 Talent registration booth.

\*Dancers may not compete against themselves. \*Overall ties will be broken by the highest technical score. \*Contestants will be judged by a panel of judges selected by Act 1 Talent. \*All entries agree that the time, manner, and method of judging shall be solely within the discretion of the directors of Act 1 Talent. \*All decisions of the judges & directors are final. \*Contestants and teachers, by virtue of entering an Act 1 Talent event, give their permission and consent to the directors of Act 1 Talent to use their images, photographs, and videos within social media, advertisements, electronic media advertising, news, or any other commercial use of our events. \*ONLY teachers and performers are allowed backstage. \*Dancers may not jump on or off the stage. \*For safety reasons, dancers should stay at least 1 foot back from the edge of the marley floor. \*For their safety, dancers should never dance off the marley floor. \*Dancers are not allowed to touch or incorporate any part of the ACT 1 TALENT set in their routines, during classes, or at awards.

## Props

For the safety of the dancers, props are restricted to a maximum height of fifteen feet. Props must be set up and removed within a total time period of five minutes. The use of baby powder, un-weighted helium balloons, glitter, aerosol, gels, water, paint, and anything that would affect the dancing surface, is strictly prohibited; the floor must be in the same condition after each act. The use of live animals, knives, weapons, fire, or fog is strictly prohibited. Special lighting may not be used. Prop storage is limited therefore props must be loaded in and out of the venue on the same day they will be used and cannot be stored in the wings or backstage. Anything left on the stage after a routine is the responsibility of that routine to be taken off. Any routine not following the rules set forth will be subject to a deduction of points or disqualification at the director's discretion.

**Music:** All music must be at the appropriate speed and properly cued. Music cannot be adjusted at the event. Any music turned in at the event must be submitted by teachers at the registration booth upon check in. Music turned in at the event can be picked up at the conclusion of each awards presentation. Unclaimed USB's or CD's will be discarded at the end of competition. Music must be turned in prior to the start of any scheduled routine's session. Studios are required to have a backup of all music in one of Act 1 Talent's accepted forms of music. Only the following forms of music will be accepted:

**Digital Upload:** Upload your music online through your studio account. Music can only be uploaded once registration is submitted. All uploaded music will be assigned routine ID's by Act 1 Talent. Music must be uploaded 7 days prior to the event. Music not uploaded by this cut off date must be turned in at the event. Studios are responsible to check playback of all routines once uploaded through the online registration system. All uploaded music must be assigned to a routine.

**Music not assigned will not be available for digital playback at the event.**

**USB:** USB's must have individual music tracks labeled by RoutineID RoutineName – StudioName (i.e. 144 Firework – Katie's School of Dance). USB's must be clearly marked with the studio name.

**CD:** All CDs must contain only one song. Individual CDs must be marked with ROUTINE ID, ROUTINE NAME & STUDIO NAME. CDs must be submitted in individual CD sleeves.

**Backup Ipod/Ipad/Iphone:** Backup music will be accepted on iPods and iPads. Routines must be labeled with ROUTINE ID, ROUTINE NAME & STUDIO. Music must be individual tracks. All items must be unlocked, on airplane mode and sleep settings must be turned off.

iPhones/iPods/iPads will ONLY be accepted as backup music ONLY. These items must be picked up immediately following your routine's performance. Any of these items not picked up will be left at the venue.



## Awards

Star Platinum

Platinum

Star Gold

Gold

Star Silver

Categories with 3 or more routines entered will be awarded with a category 1st place trophy.

Categories containing less than three entries will be awarded with medal placements only.

**Act 1 Elite Award:** An entry will receive the Act 1 Elite award if it scores 290-300. Only entries entered in the “Second Act” level are eligible for the Act 1 Elite Award, or if a “First Act” level entry advances into the Second Act level scoring 290-300. Preview entries are not eligible for the Act 1 Elite Award.

**Costume Awards:** Awarded to 1-3 entries per overall age group: 5 & under, 6-8, 9-11, 12-14, & 15-18. Routines must be entered as a small group, large group, super group, or production in order to receive this award. Costume awards can be given in any level.

**Entertainment Awards:** Awarded to 1-3 entries per overall age group: 5 & under, 6-8, 9-11, 12-14, & 15-18. Routines must be entered as a small group, large group, super group, or production in order to receive this award. Entertainment awards can be given in any level.

**Choreography Awards:** Awarded to 1-3 entries per overall age group: 5 & under, 6-8, 9-11, 12-14, & 15-18. Routines must be entered as a small group, large group, super group, or production in order to receive this award. Choreography Awards can be given in any level.

**Special Awards:** Selected by the Act 1 Talent judging panel, directors or representatives. Awarded to a routine for displaying a unique quality. Special Awards will be given at the start of each awards ceremony.

**Weekend High Point:** Awarded to the highest scoring group routine of the weekend in every level. Must be a small group, large group, super group, or production to be considered, solos/duets/trios are not eligible. One group will receive the “Weekend High Point” award in Preview, First Act and Second Act. Weekend High Point winners will be announced during the last group routine award ceremony.

**Act 1 Spirit Award:** During the final group awards ceremony of each regional competition, we will award one studio with our Act 1 Spirit Award. This will be awarded to a studio displaying good sportsmanship, teamwork, positive attitude, and contributing to the overall positive experience received at Act 1 Talent events. This is including but not limited to dancers, teachers, directors, parents, family and friends. Act 1 Spirit Awards will be awarded by an Act 1 Director.

**Overall Awards:** Awarded to the top scoring Solos, Duet/Trio, Small Groups, Large Groups, Super Groups and Productions in the Preview, First Act, and Second Act levels. Routines must be performed during their scheduled session in order to be eligible for Overall Awards, unless otherwise approved in writing by a Director. Overall Groups will be awarded places 1-10 when there are 10 or more entries entered, 1-5 when 5 or more entries are entered, 1-3 when 3 or more entries are entered, and 1 when 2 or less entries are entered. A Top 15 will only be awarded if there are 50 or more eligible routines registered in a category. Soloists are only eligible to place once in Overall Awards. Spotlight entries are eligible for Overall Awards if 3 or more groups are registered; please see Spotlight Level information for more details.

**Cash Awards:** Cash Awards will be awarded to the TOP scoring Solo, Duet/Trio, Small Group, Large Group, Super Group and Production. A minimum of 5 eligible overall routines must be entered in any given overall category in order for cash prizes to be given. Cash prizes will be awarded in Preview, First Act and Second Act levels. Cash prizes will be given to the registered studio ONLY. All cash prizes can be picked up at the Act 1 Talent booth following your designated awards ceremony or at the end of the event by a studio director. Unclaimed cash awards will be given in the form of a credit to the registered studio's account, valid for one year.

**NEW! THE CALLBACK:** Soloists registered in the First Act or Second Act level are eligible to receive an invitation to be a part of The Callback at our National Finals 2020. The top 10 overall First Act & Second Act soloists in the Junior, Teen, & Senior age divisions will be invited to perform in The Callback. The Callback will be the opening number for the Grand Finale at National Finals 2020. Please see our National Final rules for more information on The Callback.

**NEW! ACT 1 ARTIST:** Soloists registered in the Second Act level are eligible to compete for the title Act 1 Artist of the Weekend. Artist of the Weekend is open to all genders. Only one Act 1 Artist of the Weekend will be awarded per age division. There must be a minimum of 2 contestants registered per age division in order for the division to be held. If only one contestant is received in any age division, the additional Artist fee will be refunded. Artist awards will be awarded in the following age categories: Mini, Petite, Junior, Teen & Senior. All previous Act 1 Talent Mr. & Miss & Artist of the Weekend winners must enter new routines for the following year's regional competition. Dancers registered to compete for Act 1 Talent Artist of the Weekend will receive an additional Artist score 1-50. This score will be based on overall performance, choreographic connection, technique & stage presence. The entry with the highest Artist score will be awarded Act 1 Artist of the Weekend. Winning dancers will receive a jacket, award and a cash prize. Dancers must be registered with a studio and in at least one group routine in order to compete for the Artist award. Acceptable group routines include small groups, large groups, super groups or Productions. Duets/Trios do not count as a group routine. Independent entries are not eligible to compete for Act 1 Artist of the Weekend. Dancers must be registered for the Artist category prior to competing their Artist routine. Artist of the Weekend is in addition to regular solo competition. Dancers registered for Artist of the Weekend are still eligible for overall awards, cash prizes and special awards in their age divisions.

**ADJUDICATION ONLY:** Routines entered as adjudication only will receive a video critique, score and medal placement only. These routines will not be eligible for overall awards or any other specialty awards. If a routine performs out of category and does not have written approval from an Act 1 Talent director, it will perform for adjudication only.

### Scoring Breakdown

	Preview	First Act	Second Act
Star Platinum	300 – 278	300 – 283	300 – 288
Platinum	277.9 – 265	282.9 – 270	287.9 – 275
Star Gold	264.9 – 251	269.9 – 256	274.9 – 261
Gold	250.9 – 235	255.9 – 240	260.9 – 245
Star Silver	234.9 – 205	239.9 – 210	244.9 – 215

Technique: 50 points

Execution of the Routine: 20

Overall Presentation: 20

Choreography & Age Appropriateness: 10

Artist of the Weekend (Additional Score): 1-50

**Critiques & Score Sheets:** All scores and judge’s critiques will be available to the registered studio within one week of the event. All scores and judge’s critiques can be found in the studio’s online account. In the case that a video critique is not available, Act 1 Talent will provide a written score sheet. Written score sheets can be picked up at the Act 1 Talent booth after the last awards session for that designated studio. Photogenic entries will receive a written critique and score, available for pickup following their designated award ceremony.

**ACT 1 TALENT IS A FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT:** Act 1 Talent strives to provide you with a family friendly event. Inappropriate behavior, language, or content will result in immediate disqualification or a point deduction and will be at the discretion of an Act 1 Talent Director. Please remember we are here to encourage you to continue to grow as performers as well as young adults. Sportsmanlike behavior is expected at all times. All areas of the competition venue are to be left in the same condition they were found. Food and drink are not permitted backstage, in the audience, in the dressing rooms, or any other areas designated by Act 1 Talent. Act 1 Talent reserves the right to excuse any viewers or participants who do not comply. Act 1 Talent reserves the right to refuse service to anyone for any reason deemed appropriate. Act 1 Talent is not responsible for any lost, stolen or damaged items. Act 1 Talent, its promoters, employees, directors, principals and agents are not liable for any injury, damage, or loss that may be caused by any act or omission of them.

*Any performer competing in dance competitions take certain inherent risks. These include, but are not limited to sprains, bruises, pulled muscles, and or broken bones. Participation in this competition indicates the acceptance of such risks by performers. Therefore, by virtue of entering this event, it is agreed that participants will not hold Act 1 Talent, its officers, directors, officials, staff or employees responsible for injuries sustained or illnesses contracted by them while in attendance and/or participation in any activity to an Act 1 Talent event. Act 1 Talent reserves the right to use photo and video footage from each event for promotional purposes including but not limited to printed advertisements, social media and video advertisements indefinitely. Act 1 Talent and the hosting facility are not responsible for personal injury to either contestants or spectators. By registering the official studio representative agrees that he/she has informed all parents, guardians, and guests of all rules & regulations. Act 1 Talent is not responsible for lost or stolen property. Act 1 Talent reserves the right to refuse service to anyone.*

**PLEASE NOTE:** Our rules are updated from time to time. You can always find our most current rules listed on our website.