

PORT COLBORNE FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS



2027 DANCE SYLLABUS

SATURDAY, APRIL 16 & 17, 2027

ENTRIES CLOSE JANUARY 31, 2027

"Every day we spend without learning something is a day lost" – Beethoven

RULES & PROTOCOL FOR DANCE

Eligibility & Age Categories

- **Age Determination:** Competitor ages are calculated as of January 1, 2027. Dancers must provide proof of age immediately upon request by a Port Colborne Festival of the Arts (P.C.F.A.) Director.
- **Duets, Trios & Groups:** Age divisions are determined by calculating the average age of all group dancers (sum of ages divided by total dancers, dropping any decimal).
- **Division Rules:**
 - Routines may enter a higher age division to avoid competing against themselves within a category, but never a lower division.
 - A dancer may perform against themselves in group routines provided the majority of dancers in each group are different.
 - No dancer may perform the same routine twice across different age divisions.
- **Amateur Status:** Competition is open to amateur dancers only. Professional dancers and full-time dance teachers are ineligible to compete.
- **School Teams:** Elementary, Secondary, and Post-Secondary school teams are eligible and will compete in designated school divisions.

Performance & Music Standards

- **Arrival Times:**
 - Dancers scheduled during the first three (3) hours of competition must arrive 30 minutes prior to their scheduled time.
 - For all subsequent times, dancers must arrive 1 hour prior to their scheduled time.
- **Scheduling:** Dancers must perform at designated dates and times. P.C.F.A. reserves the right to expand competition schedules or change venues.
- **Music Requirements:** Music must be provided on a high-quality CD or played via an available auxiliary line (iPod connection). Teachers are responsible for retrieving their CDs; P.C.F.A. Directors are not liable for lost CDs.

Backstage Etiquette

- **Reporting:** Dancers must be accompanied by a dance teacher or adult.
- **Access Restrictions:** Due to space limitations, backstage access is strictly restricted to participating dancers, studio directors, and teachers.

***Note:** Backstage is a work and preparation area, not an auditorium.*

Adjudication & Deductions

- **Evaluation:** Routines are evaluated by a panel of two (2) qualified adjudicators on Technique, Presentation, and General Comments. Scores are averaged to two (2) decimal places.
- **Time Penalties:** Exceeding performance time limits incurs a penalty of **1 point per 10 seconds, per judge.**
- **Incomplete Routines:** Dancers who leave the stage mid-performance may not re-perform (unless due to music failure). Scoring will reflect the completed portion, minus a **15-point deduction.**

- **Content:** Routines containing harsh or graphic language will receive a **1-point deduction per judge**.
- **Finality & Inquiries:** The adjudicators' decision is final. Any formal concerns must be submitted directly by the studio teacher to the Festival Committee.

Dance Awards & Scoring Thresholds

Medals are awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place routines based on overall score placement, provided the following minimum grade thresholds are achieved:

Placement	Medal	Minimum Required Mark
1st Place	Gold Medal	85%
2nd Place	Silver Medal	80%
3rd Place	Bronze Medal	75%

- **Placement Allocation:** When multiple competitors meet or exceed the minimum threshold, medals are assigned strictly by placement order (highest score receives Gold, second highest receives Silver, third highest receives Bronze).
- **Gold Excellence:** Gold medalists scoring 90% or higher earn **GOLD EXCELLENCE** honors, accompanied by an official gold seal on their certificate.
- **Studio Deliverables:** All participating dance studios will receive adjudication sheets and certificates of participation.

Prohibited Actions & Items

- **Recording Devices:** Cameras, video equipment, cell phones, and pagers are strictly prohibited.
- **Auditorium Etiquette:** No smoking anywhere in the building; no eating or drinking in the auditorium. Rhythmic clapping, screaming, name-calling, or whistling during performances is forbidden.
- **Dangerous Props:** Props involving fire, pyrotechnics, swords, or knives are strictly prohibited.

Note: Non-compliance with prohibitions will result in immediate disqualification or removal from the competition venue.

Age Divisions

6 yrs.	11 & 12 yrs	17 & 18 yrs
7 & 8 yrs.	13 & 14 yrs	19 yrs & over
9 & 10 yrs.	15 & 16 yrs	Adult Fun

<u>PERFORMANCE CATEGORY</u>	<u>TIME ALLOWANCE</u>	<u>ENTRY FEE</u>
SOLO	3 MINUTES	\$35.00
DUET	3 MINUTES	\$50.00/duet (\$25.00/dancer)
TRIO	3 MINUTES	\$60.00/trio (\$20.00/dancer)
SMALL GROUP (4-9)	4 MINUTES	\$20.00/dancer
MEDIUM GROUP (10-16)	4 MINUTES	\$20.00/dancer
LARGE (17+)	4 MINUTES	\$20.00/dancer
PRODUCTION (15+)	8 MINUTES	\$20.00/dancer

DANCE CATEGORIES:

- ACRO:** Any routine that features gymnastics or tumbling moves.
- BALLET:** Routine must consist of ballet technique incorporating classical steps and movements.
- CONTEMPORARY:** Interpretive dance that embraces innovation, blending techniques from various genres including classical ballet, jazz, modern dance and lyrical dance.
- ETHNIC:** Routine utilizing any type of folkloric dances (Irish, Russian, African, Ukrainian, Scottish, etc.). Any type of shoes may be worn. Please indicate on the entry form which type of folkloric dance is being entered.
- HIP HOP:** Freestyle routine consisting of street dance, break dance and/or funk.
- JAZZ:** Routine must consist of jazz technique.
- LYRICAL:** Routine should use contemporary style to show extension, balance, as well as interpretation of the music and lyrics.
- MODERN:** Routine must display an imaginative style of choreography. Basic modern technique must be used.
- OPEN:** Routine to contain any combination of dance styles or Routine that does not meet guidelines of any other category, such as: musical comedy, mime, character, song/dance.
- POINTE:** Routine must consist of pointe technique incorporating classical steps and movements.
- PRODUCTION:** Routine utilizing at least 15 dancers and incorporating any style of dance and having a theme that is portrayed throughout the entire performance. Eight minutes will be scheduled for a Production number.
- TAP:** Routine must consist of tap technique.

NOVICE: This is a beginner category using any of the above Dance Categories. A **Novice** dancer is in his/her 1st year of competition and has never competed in a solo, duet or trio category in any dance competition prior to January 1st of the calendar year. A **Novice** group is comprised of 75% **Novice** dancers.