

2010 ASPIRE DANCE COMPETITION RULES AND REGULATIONS

COMPETITION OVERVIEW

We value innovation and composition in your choreography! Since we view dance as an art form, we challenge our dance teachers and directors to ASPIRE to be different... Our judges and faculty award the technique you've worked so very hard to adopt in your students. Dancers without a studio affiliation (independents) are welcome and accepted.

2010 RULES AND REGULATIONS

THE FOLLOWING RULES MUST BE READ AND THE RULES AND REGULATIONS AGREEMENT NEEDS TO BE COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED WITH YOUR ENTRIES ALONG WITH THE DANCERS RELEASE FORM. THESE FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE 2010 ENTRY FORM SECTION OF THE WEBSITE at <http://www.aspiredancecompetition.com>.

Please Read Carefully.

TYPES OF ENTRIES

Solo, Duet/Trio, Small Group (4-9 performers), Large Group (10-18 performers), and Line (19+ performers). IN THE PRODUCTION CATEGORY ONLY, VOCAL IS ALLOWED. ASPIRE will not provide a microphone. The Production category in the Line division is limited to **8 MINUTES**, and must have a minimum of 19 performers. Should an act drop below the minimum number requirement for the group size during the competition of the particular division, the act will be awarded their award based on points, however, the act will not be eligible for Top 10 without the ASPIRE director's approval.

AGE DIVISIONS

Petite ages are from the youngest age to 8 years

Junior ages are 9-10 years

Pre-Teen ages are 11-12 years

Teen ages are 13-14 years

Senior ages are 15-17 years

Adult ages are 18 years and older

ALL AGE DIVISIONS ARE DETERMINED AS OF JAN 1, 2009.

The average age will determine the age group for Duet/Trio and Groups. Example: Average age 11.0 to 11.9 = 11. Full names and ages of all performers must appear legibly on the Official Entry Form. Dancers must be responsible for proof of age at the competition if necessary.

CATEGORIES OF COMPETITION

Gymnastic tricks are not counted in any dance categories (with the exception of Acro Dance); however, the routine must be dominant to the related category and tricks will not be considered in the score.

Arco Dance - acrobatic or gymnastic in nature, but must include choreography, dance steps, and dance moves.

Ballet - routine must consist of ballet technique & include classical steps.

Character - routine portraying an easily recognizable character such as a character from a Broadway show, movie, television, or stereotype.

Clogging - Clogging type shoes must be worn and routine consists of clogging moves incorporated with the rhythm of the music.

Drill Team/Pom-Pom - precision moves in military or dance style (No Solos).

Hip Hop - street style, free-style, or funk-style dance.

Jazz - Classic jazz emphasizing traditional jazz technique.

Lyrical - interpretive dance that expresses the lyrics of the music with an emphasis on extension, balance, and contemporary dance moves.

Modern - abstract style of dance that may be based on other disciplines and principles of dance involving the freedom of movement.

Musical Theater - any style of dance with music taken from a Broadway Musical.

Open - any category or style of dance.

Pointe - classical ballet technique performed on pointe

Student Choreography - The student must choreograph the entire routine of any style with no assistance from an instructor. No repetition of music or major dance combinations from other routines entered by your studio. May be performed as a solo, duo/trio, or group. Performance by the choreographer is at his/her discretion.

Tap - performed in tap shoes and containing tap technique and primarily tap work. No tap sounds on tape/CD or act will have a 9-point deduction.

ASPIRING DANCER DIVISION

ASPIRING DANCERS are ages 19 years or under who meet at least one of the following criteria: 1) Train 2 hours a week or less; 2) Have had a total of 2 years or less of dance training in any one or combination of dance forms; or 3) First year competitors. (A year is considered a season of 9 months or more.) Solos, duos and trios must be 100% ASPIRING DANCERS, and in the case of groups and lines, at least 66% of the dancers must be ASPIRING DANCERS. An ASPIRING DANCER routine may not include feature roles by non-ASPIRING dancers. ASPIRING DANCER soloists may not enter multiple divisions. The skill level of a typical ASPIRING DANCER is modest. Dancers with more advanced skills should enter the regular divisions. Routines will be adjudicated on a lower point scale. High Point ASPIRING DANCER awards will be presented. ASPIRING DANCER entries are based on the honor system. Please be fair and honest with your dancers' placement. Any routines found to be ineligible may be disqualified or bumped to the proper division at the Show Director's and/or Judges' discretion.

SPECIALTY CATEGORIES OF COMPETITION

Vocal* - Straight vocal performances of any variety. May include limited dance choreography, but must be at least 66% vocal. No pre-recorded vocal melody line is permitted on the music. However, backup vocalizations will be allowed. Microphones will be provided. Vocal category entries will be judged and awarded as a separate entity, and will not be competing with dance entries for overall awards. In order to tie outside audio equipment into the ASPIRE sound system, 2 weeks advance approval must be obtained from our Director and viability and quality is not guaranteed.

Parent* - (Groups Only) any group that consists of all parents or non-competitive adult performers. Regardless of the ages, sizes of the group, or the style of dance being performed, all parent groups will compete in one category.

Teacher* - A teacher is defined as a person age 20 years and older who receives financial gain or compensation for classroom services of any type, such as assisting, choreographing or instructing. The Teacher category is act that has a teacher performing 20 years of age and over. Studio Directors and Instructors 20 years and over may NOT compete in any division of competition other than the Teacher category. If discovered that a teacher 20 years or over is competing, the act will automatically be moved to the Teacher category.

*The Vocal, Parent, and Teacher categories are not eligible for Top 10 Awards.

TIME LIMITS

Solo and Duet/Trio entries are limited to 3 minutes, Small and Large Group entries are limited to 3 minutes, and the Line category is limited to 8 minutes. An automatic 5-point deduction per judge will be made for any act over the time limit without prior consent of the ASPIRE director.

2010 *ASPIRE* DANCE COMPETITION RULES AND REGULATIONS

METHOD OF ADJUDICATION

Only top qualified judges will be selected. The scores and comments reflect the opinions of the judges and not necessarily the opinions of the ASPIRE Directors and Staff.

Judges will score on:

Technique (15-35 Points)

Execution (15-30 Points)

Showmanship (5-25 Points), and

Choreography (5-10 Points).

The adjudicated scoring system is as follows:

Platinum (291-300 total score)

High Gold (282-290 total score)

Gold (273-281 total score)

High Silver (264-272 total score)

Silver (250 - 263 total score)

Bronze (249 and below total score).

Each act will be judged from an adjudicated point system. With this scoring system, there may be multiple Platinum, High Gold, Gold, High Silver, Silver, and Bronze awards for each category.

ADJUDICATION CRITIQUES/SCORE SHEETS

Individual audio-cassette tapes with judges' critiques will be given to the Studio Director. Each act will receive an individual cassette tape or CD per act per judge. All efforts will be made to ensure audio critiques will be ready to be released, along with the individual score sheets, at the end of each day. Judges score sheets and audio critiques will be returned to the STUDIO DIRECTOR ONLY unless our office is notified prior to the competition in writing.

ASPIRE TITLE COMPETITION

Age Groups for Male and Female Dancers (awarded separately)

Petite - age 7 – 8

Junior - age 9 – 10

Pre-Teen - age 11 – 12

Teen - age 13 – 14

Senior - age 15 – 17

Adult Miss - age 18 – 19

ASPIRE TITLE SCORING

A solo dance routine is competed in any category/division of the competition. Multiple solos by the same dancer may be entered for the ASPIRE Title for an additional fee. The total solo scores of 300 points possible is added to the Title score of 150 points possible (50 points per judge allocated such that 20 possible points may be obtained for the biography and 30 possible points may be obtained for the dance combination). When multiple solos are upgraded for the title, the highest of the upgraded solo scores is used. During the Title portion of the competition, each contestant will walk to the center stage and give a biographical statement that includes ONLY their name, age, city, state, studio and teacher. The dancer will then move downstage and perform their best dance combination in 15 seconds or less. No props are allowed for the dance combination. Upon completion of the dance combination, the dancer will return to the line-up. ASPIRE Title Competition Attire for the biographical statement and dance combination shall consist of active dancewear and any type of dance shoe. **NO COSTUMES are permitted to be worn during the biographical statement and dance combination.** Attire such as leotard and tights, jazz pants, or dance shorts, etc. are appropriate. Any infraction of the rules for attire, completing the biographical statement or the dance combination will result in a 5-point deduction per infraction.

TOP 10 AWARDS ** NEW **

There must be a minimum of 5 acts in each Petite, Junior, Pre-Teen, Teen, Senior, and Adult division to award the cash prizes. The same solo contestant cannot place more than once in the Top 10 High Point awards.

REGIONAL PRIZES AND AWARDS

Special awards will be awarded to each Platinum, High Gold, Gold, High Silver, Silver and Bronze solo and duet/trio winners. For all Small Groups, Large Groups and Lines, each member of the performing team will receive an appropriate award. All performers are automatically eligible for High Point with the exception of the Teacher and Parent categories. Each Petite, Junior, Pre-Teen, Teen, Senior and Adult Solo High Point winner will receive a CASH award. There must be a minimum of 5 acts in each Petite, Junior, Pre-Teen, Teen, Senior, and Adult division of competition to award the cash prizes. The Top Ten Finalists for each Petite, Junior, Pre-Teen, Teen, Senior, and Adult division will be announced and will receive a studio plaque. All CASH prizes are mailed to the studio director or teacher, unless entered as an independent. In the case of a tie for the Top Ten Finalists, the auditor will add the Technique scores together, followed by the Execution score. If the tie is still not broken, score sheets will be returned to the judges for a final decision. There are no ties for any High Point awards.

TRIPLE CROWN AWARDS

Compete for this prestigious title by upgrading 3 routines entered in three different dance categories. Same soloists are required for Triple Crown Solo entries. Same duo/trio dancers are required for Triple Crown Duo/Trio entries. However, groups of any size can be combined for the Triple Crown as long as 60% of the dancers in the smallest group are in the other two routines.

AWARDS CEREMONY

Dancers must be in costume or team uniform for the award ceremony. Choreography awards will be presented at each regional event.

2010 ENTRY FEES

\$75 per Solo

\$97 per ASPIRE Title Solo

\$87 per Duet/Trio act

\$30 person for Small Groups, Large Groups, and Lines

Triple Crown upgrade is \$7 per routine.

All entries and payments must be received in our office by the deadline stated on the website. Payments received after the stated deadline may be assessed a 10% late fee. If you have not paid your entry fees by the deadline date, we require payment by credit card, certified funds, or cash. We cannot accept checks for entries after the deadlines.

Entries are not guaranteed until full payment has been received.

NO CHANGES WILL BE ALLOWED ONCE THE SCHEDULE HAS BEEN POSTED EXCEPT WITH A MEDICAL DOCUMENTED INJURY. Any approved changes to entries after the schedule has been sent will be assessed a \$10.00 per entry charge.

ASPIRE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REFUSE ANY ENTRY.

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

MISCELLANEOUS

- Not more than 50% of any Duet/Trio or Group may be the same and compete against themselves in the same age group of the same category.
- Cassette Tapes and CDs should be turned in when you check-in at the dance competition. It is asked that all music be recorded at the proper speed. Speed control will NOT be adjusted at the competitions. ASPIRE will allow CDs, however we do ask that backup tapes be available. If you choose to use CDs, they must be labeled properly with the name of the CD performer for solos and the music title for groups on the CD and the CD Case. It is also requested that you have one CD per act. Soloists must have their name on the tape/cd label; Duet/Trio and Groups should have the name of the music clearly marked on the tape label. All performance tapes can be picked up with your score sheets. ASPIRE is not responsible for any cassette tapes or CDs that are not picked up at the event.
- Absolutely NO COACHING is allowed.
- Video Taping with a video recording device, including digital cameras and/or cellular phones, and Movie Cameras are strictly prohibited and may result in disqualification.
- Photography is ONLY ALLOWED during the awards ceremony portion of the competition, not during the competition. Failure to comply with this regulation will result in disqualification at the discretion of the Event Director.
- One studio manger, teacher, or studio representative is required to check-in backstage 3 acts prior to the scheduled performance. Failure to do so many result in the number being skipped and/or penalized.
- Out of respect for all dancers, spectators are expected to enter and exit the theater in-between performances only.
- Protests must be submitted in writing, signed, and delivered to the ASPIRE event director within 30 minutes following the act in question.
- No smoking or alcoholic beverages are allowed in any part of the competition area or venue property.
- By entering an ASPIRE Competition and/or Scholarship Convention, you release your performance for video and photographic reproduction.
- ASPIRE Dance Competition and Scholarship Convention, its directors, staff or associates, shall in no way assume any responsibility for accidents or theft.
- ASPIRE Dance Competition and Scholarship Convention reserves the right to cancel any competition due to an insufficient number of entries. In the event of a cancellation, all monies will be refunded.

Dancers, teachers and studio directors throughout the United States know they can depend on ASPIRE Dance Competitions and Scholarship Conventions for quality and professionalism. In order to provide clean-cut entertainment for our audiences, it is insisted that all ASPIRE entries are suitable for family viewing in theme, costuming, lyrics and choreography. Suggestive, sexual or violent content is not acceptable on the ASPIRE stage. At the discretion of the JUDGES, inappropriate dances will, at minimum, have points deducted and will NOT be eligible for Top 10 Awards. Please contact our National Headquarters if you need further clarification of our guidelines.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

EACH STUDIO SCHEDULE WILL BE SENT VIA EMAIL!

A time schedule will be posted on the ASPIRE Web Page at www.aspiredancecompetition.com. Schedules may vary from location to location, depending on the number of acts that are registered. We suggest that you block all days listed on the dates scheduled to guarantee your participation. Any act going out of the scheduled order (other than approved delays) will be subject to a 9-point total deduction.

PROPS

For safety measures, all props (free standing or hand held) are restricted to a maximum height of 12 feet. In addition, a dancer may not stand above 6 feet. The use of safety railings may be used, however, the total prop height with railings may not exceed 12 feet. No live animals are permitted on the stage. No dangerous props are allowed on stage. Examples include, but are not limited to: fire, swords, knives, or any items having sharp points or edges. In addition, no form of liquid or gel may be used that would affect the dancing surface. Absolutely no items may be thrown or shot off the front of the stage. Any violation of the above rules may result in the act not being eligible for the Top 10 and the awards will be announced for adjudication scores only. Please contact our National Headquarters if you need further clarification of prop guidelines. Props must be essential to the act and must be carried on stage by the performer or your own staff (instructor, parent, coach, etc.). The placement of props, mats, etc., must be completed within 2minutes. The timing of the act will begin after the 2-minute prep time. Performers must be prepared to completely clear the stage in the event of any loose items (feathers, streamers, etc.) Absolutely no littering of the stage is allowed.