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Section 1: Age Groups, Divisions, Categories and Performance Levels

There are four classification segments. Entries will be divided as follows:

Section 1A: Age Groups

Each entry will be placed in one of the following age groups based on the average age of all competitors in the routine. Average age should be calculated by adding up the age of each competitor (**as of JANUARY 1**) and dividing by the total number of competitors in the routine using integer ages (**all decimals are dropped**). Proof of age may be requested on-site of an event if deemed necessary. Entries must compete within the age division that they qualify for; entries cannot be "bumped" to a different age division.

Age Groups	
Age Group	Ages
Mini	7 & Under
Petite	8-9
Junior	10-12
Teen	13-15
Senior	16-19
Adult	20+

*Any entry containing a dancer that is 20+ years in age will automatically compete no lower than the senior age division, regardless of the average age of the entry.

Section 1B: Divisions

Every entry will be placed in one of the following divisions based on the number of competitors in each routine:

Divisions	
Division	Number of Participants
Solo	1
Duet/Trio	2-3
Small Group	4-9
Large Group	10-19
Line	20+
Production	15+

Note: Upon registering, entries with 15 or more dancers will be given the opportunity to register as a large group or production. Entries with 20 or more dancers will be given the opportunity to register as a line or production. Productions will compete under the same level.

Section 1C: Categories

Every entry will be placed in one of the following categories based on the descriptions that follow:

Categories	
Category	Definition
Acro	A routine containing acrobatic movement/gymnastics; routine must contain 50% dance choreography
Ballroom	A routine consisting of classic or Latin ballroom technique and style
Ballet	A routine containing classical Ballet technique; no acrobatic/gymnastic tricks are allowed in this category
Baton	A routine using baton(s) containing Baton technique
Clogging	A routine containing Clogging technique
Contemporary	A routine combining Jazz and Lyrical technique to interpret the music
Folk/Ethnic	A routine incorporating one or more ethnic styles of dance
Hip Hop	A routine containing Hip Hop technique from at least one of the various styles; no Jazz technique
Improv	A routine consisting of completely improved choreography. Any style of improv is welcome in this category
Jazz	A routine containing Jazz technique
Lyrical	A routine in which dancers interpret the lyrics of the song
Modern	A routine containing Modern dance technique to interpret the music
Monologue	A composition performed by a single speaker
Musical Theater	A routine interpreting the music using song, dialogue and/or dance
Open	A routine consisting of multiple or unspecified styles of dance
Photogenic	A submission of a high resolution photo, judged on overall appearance
Pointe	A routine containing Pointe technique; no acrobatic/gymnastic tricks are allowed in this category (see "levels" section)
Pom/Drill	A drill/dance team style performance which may or may not include poms
Street Jazz/Fusion	A routine containing Jazz technique with Hip Hop influences
Student Choreography	A routine choreographed by students with minimal assistance from an instructor
Tap	A routine containing Tap technique; no pre-recorded Tap sounds in the music; Tap shoes must be worn
Vocal	A routine that is any type of vocal presentation; no lead vocals are allowed; backup vocals are permitted

**Note: Soloists may only perform ONE solo per category. Routines in the Jazz, Tap, Lyrical, Contemporary, Modern, Hip Hop, Street Jazz, Musical Theater, Baton, Clogging and Folk/Ethnic categories may not contain more than three acrobatic tricks. Routines exceeding this limit will be subject to a point deduction. An acrobatic trick is defined as one continuous pass where the performer(s) is completely inverted. Examples: round off back handspring back tuck, round off back hand spring, round off back layout, etc.*

The Pointe category can only be entered in the Intermediate and Competitive levels. It will be up to the studio to submit music for any entry entered in the Improv category

Section 1D: Performance Levels

Upon registering, performance level will be chosen per dancer by the studio director. Group entry levels will be averaged based on the registered dancers in said entry. Performance levels are defined as follows:

Competitive Levels	
Level	Classification
Novice	Dancers in the Novice level should train no more than 3 hours per week. Note: placement in the Novice level is left to the discretion of the instructor, however, our judging panel may move the entry up if deemed necessary.
Intermediate	Dancers in the Intermediate level should train 4-5 hours per week. Note: placement in the Intermediate level is left to the discretion of the instructor, however, our judging panel may move the entry up if deemed necessary.
Competitive	Dancers in the Competitive level should train for 6 or more hours per week.

**Note: If a soloist is registered in more than one solo at any one Groove competition, the lowest level of competition the competitor may be registered into is Intermediate. Group entries consisting of 50% or more competitive level dancers will automatically be registered for the Competitive level.*

Up to the top 10 scoring entries in each level, division and age group will be announced. If a division has 75 or more entries registered, Groove may award a top 15. Entries entered in the Novice and Intermediate divisions will not be eligible for cash prizes.

The Pointe category can only be entered in the Intermediate and Competitive levels. Productions will all compete under the same level.

Section 2: Scoring and Awards

Each entry will receive a total score out of 300 possible points. These scores will be used for adjudicated awards as well as overall awards. Each entry will be scored using three judges. Each judge will give each entry a score out of 100 possible points. The three scores will be added together to produce the total adjudication and overall score.

Section 2A: Scoring Criteria

Each dance will be adjudicated on the following three criteria weighted as follows:

Scoring	
Criteria	Points Awarded
Technique	1-45
Execution & Showmanship	1-45
Costume & Choreography	1-10

**Note: Scoring is calculated using one decimal place (e.g. 287.1). Video critiques will be accessible for up to three months after your event. If two entries competing in the same performance level, age group and division receive the same total score, the entry with the higher technique score will receive the higher overall placement. If these entries have identical technique scores, then this will result in a tie for overall placements.*

Section 2B: Scholarship Opportunities

Convention Scholarship: A Groove Convention Scholarship will cover a certain percentage of the dancer's convention tuition. This scholarship can be used at any Groove Conventions taking place that upcoming fall (Note: each scholarship has an expiration date, is non-transferable and holds no cash value). Registration is based on a first come, first serve basis.

Groove/Reverb Scholarship: A Groove/Reverb Scholarship will cover a certain dollar amount of a dancer's entry fees for a Groove or Reverb event. This scholarship can be used at any Groove or Reverb event taking place that upcoming year (Note: each scholarship has an expiration date, is non-transferable and holds no cash value). Registration is based on a first come, first serve basis.

Section 2C: Judges' Awards

At each competition, our judges will be selecting entries for Judges' Awards based on extraordinary attributes to a dance. Judges' Awards are not based on adjudicated scores. Entries of all ages, levels and divisions are eligible to be nominated for a Judges Award by our judges.

Section 2D: Adjudicated Scoring

Based on these total scores, each entry will receive an adjudicated award as follows:

Adjudicated Scoring Scale			
Adjudicated Medal	Total Score (Competitive)	Total Score (Intermediate)	Total Score (Novice)
GROOVE Perfection	300.0-293.0	N/A	N/A
Elite Diamond	292.9-286.0	300.0-284.0	300.0-282.0
Diamond	285.9-279.0	283.9-276.0	281.9-273.0
Elite Sapphire	278.9-272.0	275.9-268.0	272.9-264.0
Sapphire	271.9 and below	267.9 and below	263.9 and below

Section 2E: Category Placements

Groove will announce up to the top three placing entries of each category per age group and level at each of our of our competitions.

Section 2F: Photogenic

Groove's photogenic contest consists of two ages: 12 & under and 13 & over. Photogenic entries are submitted/registered for/paid for at the competition at the merchandise booth. Photogenic entries must be turned in at least three hours prior to the last group award ceremony of the weekend, which is the ceremony where photogenic winners will be announced. The top 12 & under and 13 & over winners at each Regional Competition will receive an invitation to apply for our National Model Search Contest where they will be required to e-mail their headshot by June 1, 2022. Groove will narrow each age down to a top five and host an Instagram contest where the winners will be voted upon. The National Model Search winners will win a flight to our headquarters if deemed necessary, as well as a full photo shoot and will be a 2023 Groove Apparel Model.

Section 2G: Opening Number Invitations

Opening Number Invitations are awarded to dancers placing in up to the top 10 of our junior, teen and senior solo and duo/trio competitive divisions. Opening Number Invitations invite the awarded dancer to participate in the Opening Number at any of our National Finals that same calendar year. Opening Number Invitations are only awarded at the competitive level and are non-transferable.

Section 2H: High Scores and Cash Prizes

In addition to adjudicated awards, the top scoring routines will be recognized. The number of top scores announced will be determined by the number of entries in each division and level. The top scoring entry in each competitive division will be awarded a cash prize as shown below:

Groove Cash Prizes	
Division	1 st Place Cash Prizes
Solo	\$100
Duet/Trio	\$100
Small Group	\$125
Large Group	\$150
Line	\$175
Production	\$200

**Note: The Solo and Duo/Trio Competitive divisions must have at least 15 entries in order for a cash prize to be awarded. All Competitive group divisions (including Productions) must have at least 10 entries in order for a cash prize to be awarded. All cash prizes will be issued to the studio the entry was registered with. No soloist may place more than twice in any single overall. In the event that a soloist places with more than two routines, only the two highest scoring solos will be announced. Cash prizes will not be awarded in the Novice and Intermediate levels. Entries in the Vocal and Monologue categories will not be eligible for overalls or cash prizes.*

Section 2I: Industry Dance Awards Outstanding Performances

Groove is a proud sponsor of the Industry Dance Awards, which is a multi-competition event and benefit show that helps raise money and awareness for Dancers Against Cancer. At each of our Regional Competitions, we will be announcing Outstanding Performances in the following categories: Jazz, Tap/Clogging, Acro/Ballet/Open, Musical Theatre, Hip Hop, Contemporary/Lyrical/Modern and People's Choice (which is a dance from any group competitive category hand-picked by the judges). Dances must compete at the competitive level to be eligible for IDA Outstanding Performances. All categories are chosen based on overall score with the exception of People's Choice. Groove will narrow down each category from all of our Regional Competitions to choose one dance per category to be our Overall Outstanding Performances representing Groove at the Industry Dance Awards.

Section 2J: Overall Studio Awards

Groove will award the following overall studio awards at each of our Regional Competitions and National Finals:

Studio Technique: Awarded to the studio with excellent technique

Studio Choreography: Awarded to the studio with excellent choreography

Professionalism Award – Awarded to a studio whose dancers and staff are extremely professional to work with throughout the duration of the event.

Inspired by Passion Award: Awarded to a studio whose passion shines through onstage and through their entire presence at the event.

ADCC Studio of Excellence: This award is sponsored by the ADCC (Association of Dance Conventions and Competitions). It is awarded to a studio that exemplifies the mission and the purpose of The ADCC which is to promote quality, integrity and opportunity in the dance competition world.

The Groove Award: The Groove Award is decided by a total studio score. The total studio score will be calculated by totaling the top five highest scoring routines from each studio (excluding solos, duets and trios and all adult divisions). The studio with the highest studio score will receive the Groove Award along with a \$500 cash prize at a Regional event and a \$1,000 cash prize at a National Finals. Group entries of all levels will be counted toward the Groove Award. **Note: The event must be hosting over 200 entries in order for a cash prize to be awarded.*

Section 2K: Groove Dancer of the Year

Groove only offers our Dancer of the Year competition at our National Finals! Groove will select one overall winner from the Mini/Petite, Junior, Teen and Senior age groups. Each Dancer of the Year winner will receive a Dancer of the Year trophy, a feature in our program the following season and an invitation to be a 2024 Groove Apparel Model. Each registered competitor may have no more than one solo entered in our Dancer of the Year division. Soloists registered for the Dancer of the Year division must compete at the Competitive level. Any solo used for the Dancer of the Year division will be exclusively for Dancer of the Year. Our Dancer of the Year division will be broken down into three (3) rounds: Round 1 (Solo Performances), Round 2 (Convention Classes) & Round 3 (Finals).

In Round 1, each Dancer of the Year participant will perform their exclusive solo. From there, the number of semi-finalists announced will be determined by the number of entries per each age division (not exceeding a top 10). These semi-finalists will still be in the running for our Dancer of the Year competition and continue to Round 2.

In Round 2, semi-finalists (from Round 1) will be required to be present in all the convention classes offered at the appropriate age level. Each semi-finalist will participate in a "closed audition" and will be scored by our convention teachers. A Top 3 (finalists) in each age division will be determined and continue to Round 3.

In Round 3, each finalist will re-perform their exclusive Dancer of the Year solo (from Round 1). We will award a 2nd Runner-Up, 1st Runner-Up and our Dancer of the Year winner in each age division.

Dancer of the Year contestants may compete in the solo division with additional entries that will not be competing for Dancer of the Year. All standard solo rules apply.

Section 2L: The JAM

During our National Finals, the judges will select multiple entries to compete in The JAM using adjudicated scores from the Intermediate and Competitive divisions. The selection will be made from the Mini/Petite Small Group and Large Group, Junior Small Group and Large Group, Teen Small Group and Large Group, Senior Small Group and Large Group, 12 & Under Line, 13+ Line, 12 & Under Production and 13+ Production divisions. Of these divisions, each studio may have no more than one entry in each division. We will announce the top entries in each division, as well as the overall winner of the 12 & under divisions and the overall winner of the 13 & over divisions. The overall 12 & under and overall 13 & over JAM winners will each receive a \$1,000 cash prize.

Section 3: Time Limits, Music and Props

Section 3A: Time Limits

The following list contains each division's time limit:

Time Limits	
Division	Time Limit (minutes:seconds)
Solo	2:45
Duet/Trio	2:45
Small Group	3:15
Large Group	4:00
Line	4:00
Production	8:00

**Note: Routines exceeding their time limits without previous approval may be subject to a point deduction for every 10 seconds the routine runs beyond the allotted time limit as stated above. Studio Directors :: Please contact us for information on extended time options.*

Section 3B: Music

All music must be cut, edited and of the correct pitch. Our staff is not capable of making music edits or alterations onsite. All tempos, pitches and keys must be correct on each track. Music containing inappropriate lyrics will be subject to a 5-point deduction. Music must be of a reasonable volume and uploaded 72 hours prior to the start of the event. Studio owners should have at least two backup copies of all music. One (1) wireless microphone and/or one (1) wired microphone can be provided by Groove for usage during an entry. Groove does not allow any outside microphones of any kind.

It will be up to the studio to submit music for any entry entered in the Improv category; Groove will not provide music for the Improv category.

Any entry featuring disturbing sound effects within their music may be subject to a point deduction based on our judge's discretion.

Section 3C: Mandatory Music Upload

Studio directors must submit their music electronically via our online music upload system located within your studio account at grooveregistration.com. The following formats will be accepted: MP3, OGG, M4A, WEBM, WAV, WMA and AIFF. Music may only be uploaded after your registration has been finalized for your event. Music must be uploaded no less than 72 hours prior to the start of your event. Music upload is mandatory. Please be sure to upload the correct version of your music as pitch and speed cannot be adjusted at the event. Please bring a backup copy of your music to your event in the form of i-Pod, i-Pad or USB.

Section 3D: Props

All props must be mobile and under the watch of someone from your studio at all times.

- Props must be brought on and off stage in a timely manner (1 minute maximum).
- Props may not be in the wings for more than a few numbers prior to the routine (based on the stage manager's discretion).
- Props must be removed from the wings immediately after the routine.
- Props must be stored away from pedestrian & vehicle traffic & NOT back stage, in the lobby or any inconvenient location.
- Fire, swords, knives, guns, live animals, powders, liquids, glitter, confetti, paint, sand, etc. are NOT allowed.
- Routines causing prop delay may be subject to a three point deduction.
- Prop coordinators are required to follow ALL instructions as per the Groove stage crew at ALL times.
- All props must fit through a standard 36 inch wide doorway.
- Props cannot be stored in the venue until the day of the performance.
- Props placing the dancer 12 feet or higher off of the ground are deemed unsafe and are prohibited.

Section 4: Sportsmanship, Entry Fees and Other Rules

Section 4A: Sportsmanship

All competitors, teachers, studios owners, family members and audience members are required to show respect, courtesy and sportsman-like behavior to all competitors, staff, teachers, etc. at all times during the competition. We aim to create a healthy competitive environment in which dancers can enjoy themselves while gaining valuable performance experience as well as learning the nature of healthy competition and enjoying their experience. We reserve the right to remove anyone from an event if he/she is hindering the achievement of any of the above goals. No air horns, bells, whistles or other noise making devices are allowed.

Section 4B: Payments

Studio Directors :: Please contact us for more information

All competition fees must be received in full no less than 15 days before the start of the event. Entries submitted after such time may not be eligible for the event. **Personal checks will only be accepted three weeks or more prior to the event.** Payments must be made by credit card, certified check or money order after the three-week mark. A bounced check will make the studio account holder subject to a \$35 bounced check fee. Credit card disputes will be subject to a \$45 charge back fee.

There is no additional fee to pay by credit card.

Studio credits are applicable towards the entry fees of all Groove events (excluding deposits). Studio credits must be used by the studio they were awarded to (Please see studio credit stipulations under Additional Rules).

Section 4C: Additional Rules

All attendees must be affiliated with a registered studio/independent in order to attend any and all of our events.

All attendees must abide by any state, local or venue mandates and rules set in place.

Smoking is prohibited in or around the competition area. We ask that all smokers stand at least 50 yards from the competition venue to preserve the well-being of our dancers, audience members and our staff members.

Soloists that choose to exit the stage prior to the conclusion of their solo will be eligible for adjudication only and will not be eligible for overall or category placement (this does NOT include music malfunction or costume malfunction).

Unless a piece of choreography has been copywritten, Groove cannot enforce ANY plagiarism policies.

Dancers may NOT exit or jump off the front of the Groove stage at ANY time during a Groove event (including performances).

No bystander may approach the judging table or the judges themselves during the competition. Bystanders include but are not limited to: studio directors, teachers, parents and dancers.

Lighting may NOT be adjusted during a performance including but not limited to stage and house lighting

We ask that all competitors and attendees alike please wear proper footwear at all times at all Groove events to ensure their safety.

No cash refunds will be issued under **ANY** circumstances. Account credits will be issued for entry/dancer removals if this is done prior to the event. No credits will be issued during or after the completion of the event. "Day-Of" scratches will not be issued credits. All credits will be issued to the account of which the dancer was registered. Credits may **ONLY** be used toward the entry fees /nationals fees of a Groove event; they are not valid at the merchandise booth or registration deposits.

Competitors may only compete with one studio per event.

Groove Productions LLC and host venue are not responsible for any personal injury/property loss before, during or after the event.

All competitors will be judged by a well-qualified panel of judges. All judging decisions are final.

A studio must have a minimum of five (5) group entries to receive a custom-studio plaque, custom-studio banner (National Finals only) or a studio-inclusive photoshoot (National Finals Only).

Video cameras and still cameras are prohibited inside all competition venues (this includes photo, video and social media use in the dressing rooms). In order to protect the choreographer's right and the safety and privacy of all competitors, we reserve the right to confiscate all recording devices used during an event and/or disqualify an entry. All competitors, teachers and studio owners consent to the use of video, audio and photographs for use in promotional material without royalty, fee or other compensation. By attending or competing in a Groove regional or national event you are agreeing to the use of your image and likeness by Groove Productions LLC, all partners and affiliates. Violation of this policy will result in ejection from the event.

All competitors, teachers, studios owners, family members and audience members are required to comply with rules and regulations set forth by our hosting venue. Those who do not may be removed from the event by either Groove's staff or the hosting venue's staff.

Competitors, teachers, studio owners and prop coordinators are the only persons allowed in the wings/backstage area. In order to minimize delay, we ask that all parents, family members and audience members remain in the main venue or the lobby.

If a routine cannot perform during their allotted time and award ceremony, the routine will be eligible for adjudication, but not an overall score or category placement.

No studio, group or independent may use ANY music owned by Kirbyko Music LLC. Violators of this rule will be subject to copyright fees.

All media is delivered in digital format; No DVDs will be issued.

Hallways may NOT be used for changing, makeup application, storage of personal items or for any other reasons other than traveling throughout the building.

Groove Productions LLC reserves the right to cancel any and all events due to lack of registration, inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances. Furthermore, Groove Productions LLC reserves the right to change an event's location, venue and/or date(s). Upon changing a location, venue and/or date(s), a representative from Groove Productions LLC will contact your studio if you are registered for the event. Groove will not be held liable for any costs endured for any type of travel arrangements made upon cancelling an event or an event selling out, including but not limited to: hotel fees, transportation fees or bank fees. We HIGHLY recommend registering for an event prior to making ANY travel arrangements.