

16th
Annual

Aberdeen Dance Festival Registration Handbook



April 24, 25 and 26th, 2025

Hosted @ Lakeview Church

Located on the corner of Highway 16
and Boychuk Drive, Saskatoon,
Saskatchewan

About Us...

The Dance Aberdeen Festival is an annual event that takes place in Saskatoon and was created to allow dancers from small rural communities and regional cities to come together for a fun and positive experience.

There are many benefits to our festival:

- professional video adjudication to assist and encourage all dancers at any level to grow and improve.
- A lovely venue for friends and family to enjoy seeing their favorite dancers on stage.
- Dancers make friends and memories that last a lifetime.
- fair, constructive and positive adjudicators that appreciate and admire the dancer's love of dance and the innovative and artist choreography of the teachers. Dance Adjudicators are different every year so as to invite new ideas and different perspectives for our dancers.

Dance Aberdeen Annual Festival is organized and ran by parent volunteers of the Dance Aberdeen Club, a non-profit organization that runs the festival to support our yearly operations.

Dance Aberdeen truly appreciates your past attendance and we love seeing all the beautiful dance numbers your studios provide.

Mandate...

Dance Aberdeen Festival provides an opportunity for recreational, non-professional schools of dance to attend a competition that provides positive and educational experience. Our festival encourages and supports all dancers, while also recognizing teamwork, leadership, individual excellence and hard work.

Please read over our rules and regulations. We have attached the entry Package to be filled out as soon as you are ready.

Studios registered on first come, first serve basis.

Entry package deadline Dec 1st, 2024

Dance Aberdeen reserves the right to chose clubs based on the remaining spots available and can terminate an invitation to festival at any time,

Return the excel spreadsheet to the email address

aberdeendancefestival@gmail.com

Your forms will be processed upon arrival of your fees!

Send e-transfer

danceaberdeentreasurer@gmail.com

Fees (cheques payable to Dance Aberdeen) are to be submitted to:

Aberdeen Dance Festival

c/o Stephanie Gray and Andrea Behrens

P.O. Box 386

Aberdeen, Sask.

SOK 0A0

No refund on cancellations. Changes to entries must be submitted on excel spread sheet. There will be an additional fee to any additions added after the December 1st deadline.

DATES TO REMEMBER...

August

Invites to clubs will be emailed

September 30th

Deadline to RSVP spot via email

October 1st

Registration Packages emailed to clubs. Registration will be accepted at any time. Payment in Full Required at time of registration

November 15th

Deadline for registration at Midnight

December

First Draft of Schedule will be sent for review

January

Final draft will be out.

March 1st

MUSIC DEADLINE

April 24, 25, 26th, 2025

Festival

Terms of Participation

1. Definition of recreational, non–professional: max 1 hr/discipline (instruction) per week per discipline not including exam or technique classes
2. Clubs are taken on a first come first serve basis with all clubs who have received an invite
3. Dance Clubs cannot register exclusively solo, duet and trios. Clubs cannot have more than a 2 (solos) to 1 (groups) ratio. (Some exceptions may be made at Dance Aberdeen discretion, please contact our Festival Coordinator with any questions/exception required).
4. All dancers entered must attend with their primary dance studio. Exception: if you have an outside dancer that does a duet or trio with a dancer from one of our registered clubs, they can dance for adjudication and medals but are not eligible for awards or dance off. (Ensure a note is made with your registration)
5. Award winning dances, from a previous year, containing the same choreography and same music will not be permitted.
6. No dancer/s can compete in two or more groups (large or small) in the same genre group (this includes if they are in two separate age categories).
7. A dancer can do a duet or trio in one genre but cannot do multiple duets or trios with different combination of dancers in one genre in the same age category.
8. Undesirable conduct demonstrated by dance participants, parents, teachers or audience would mean expulsion from the festival.
9. Parents are not to contact the festival coordinator directly and will be expected to communicate through their club.
10. There will be NO teacher feature
11. 19+ dancer will not be eligible for awards or Dance Off.
12. We will need signed permission to use previously used Choreo from another Choreographed Dance. The signed permission will need to be in by March 1. Failure to do so will result in disqualification from awards and Dance Off, it may also result in not being invited by back next year.
13. In the event the festival is cancelled (ie; Fire, Flood or Pandemic) The Aberdeen Dance Festival will hold back a 10% administration fee of your registration and refund the remainder.

***** Club Clothing or names of dancers are NOT ALLOWED ON STAGE. This includes during dancing, the setting up/removing of props etc.*****

*****Songs that mention names of the dancers or teachers are not allowed*****

Registrations...

A maximum of 580 spots are available, so please have your pre registration in early. An Email will be sent indicating acceptance into the festival!

There will be NO REFUNDS In the event that your club has to pull from festival and the Festival is going forward,

Registrations, via excel forms, are due by November 30th at midnight. Please read all instruction in full as many things have changed on the new registration form.

1. Props on and off (this is to add time to the session to avoid going over in time)
2. Fixed cells: many of the cells will not be able to change and there is a drop-down menu that you can pick from. Please use all boxes even if it is not applicable.
3. Your name of your dance at registration submitted is the name of your dance. There will be a \$5 fee if you need to change the name of your dances.
4. Check to make sure you are entering your dance in the correct genre. If we have to change later you will be asked to resubmit your dances and will have to pay again for the new genre. We have a syllabus in this document, for all of the genre's so please double check your entering correctly. You may be disqualified from awards if the adjudicators feel you have been entered in the wrong category.
5. **Please do not**; type in information in Caps Lock, or put the last name in the first name column, or use last name in title of a dance. If we have to convert there will be a \$30 + charge to the club. You will be given a deadline to make corrections to avoid charges.
6. Do not leave blank lines in your roster.
7. No DANCER last names are to be used in the title of a song.
8. When entering you enter the dancer's names, please make sure that each dancer's name is entered the same way throughout the registration.
9. When entering, make sure you are starting at the top of the file page.
10. We will only accept registrations completed using Microsoft Excel. Do not use any free version (Numbers or Open) as they will corrupt our files.

Costs:

Before December 1st

Solos \$32 per dancer

Duets and Trios \$30 per dancer

Groups \$26 per dancer

E-transfer \$5 (this is if you wish your award money sent thru e-transfer. This amount is per transfer)

After December 1st:

Solos \$37 per dancer

Duets and Trios \$34 per dancer

Groups \$30 per dancer

(Please note that if you switch dancers to a new club or genre you will have to pay these fees as there are several changes that will need to be made)

****Corrections**

\$30 + for correcting incorrectly entered information

\$10 per song we have to convert or name

Group timing:

Solos 2 1/2min

Duets 2 1/2min

Trio 2 1/2min

Small group (4-8 dancers) 4 minutes

Large group (9-19 dancers) 4 minutes

Open/Stage (> 20 dancers) 4 minutes

Production (12 or more dancers) 10 minutes plus 5 minutes for set up and take down

Please note that if you need more time, it will disqualify your dance from awards

Genres and categories:

Novice

N No child in the group has performed on stage

Special Considerations

S one or more dancers with special considerations

Student Choreography

C

(Note there will no longer be teacher feature allowed at competition)

Age Categories...

- Age is determined as of December 31 of year applying
- For duets oldest dancer determines age category
- For groups and trios, it is the average age of all dancers in the group. Calculate age for decimals as such .45 round down, .5 round up.
- Should any competitor be an artistic director, instructor or assistant instructor (who has completed high school) they will not be eligible for awards OR Dance Off.
- Each category may be split after 8 entries
- Anyone 19 and older is not eligible for awards or Dance Off

Music...

1. Music must be submitted no later than March 1st.
2. We will send you a Dropbox folder to add your music to.
3. Your music must be formatted as requested (your music will not work otherwise)
4. **All music must be in a mp3 OR m4a format NO EXCEPTIONS will be made (This is at the request of our sound technician.)**

Any music not submitted by March 1st, needing to be replaced by another song or reformatted may be subjected to a \$10 fee per song. Anything not received by April 1st will be removed from festival with NO REFUND. Please note if there are any issues with music please contact the office, we will take it to our sound technician.

Format of music

Session number, dash, dance number, dash, title, dash, genre, dash, starting on or off stage, dot, mp3.

Single digit numbers need a zero put in front of it for a total of a 4-digit number.

Group Example **212-NewYork-tap-on.m4a** (session 2 number 12 New York starts tap on mp3 or m4a format)

Solo Duets Example **1005-Jodi-ballet-off.m4a** (session 10 number 5 Jodi ballet starts off mp3 or m4a format)

If music is not formatted as above it will be sent back for you to be corrected or a \$10 fee for each song.

Adjudicators

Dance Aberdeen contracts 2 adjudicators. Our adjudicators are experienced and qualified. We will post on our Facebook page: **Dance Aberdeen Invitational Festival** as soon as we receive their current bio and picture. Dance Aberdeen will be providing video adjudication by Fragment Media.

We are very careful to ensure that our adjudicators only receive the information necessary to adjudicate. Their programs only contain club codes and first names. We ensure they have a separate room from our office to take breaks and have meals. All our Dance Aberdeen club members are instructed to not talk about their dancers or any other dancers with the adjudicators. We ensure that our dancers are not with us when we need to converse with the adjudicators.

****Club clothing/names of dancer or instructor etc. are not allowed on stage or in the use of songs****

Adjudicators are changed every year to provide varied feedback and ensure impartiality.

Marks Awards and Scholarships

Session awards are posted as quickly as possible following the end of the session

Dance off winners is chosen after each session, one per adjudicator and are the adjudicators choice. (a dancer can only be entered twice as a solo)

Overall awards are chosen after the last session that includes that genre and are the adjudicator's choice, the dancers who are eligible for overall awards will have danced in groups as well as their solos or duets. A dancer is still eligible even if they only danced in groups.

All award envelopes will be placed in the club boxes for the teacher to pick up.

No one will be permitted into the office after the last session until dance off starts. Please make arrangements to pick up your packages ahead of time if you will be leaving early.

MARKS

Gold with Distinction	90 & over
Gold	85-89
Sliver	80-84
Bronze	<79

Office Etiquette:

Office Rules

- Instructors all must sign in when they arrive at festival and let the office know the following;
 - If you club has any major changes
 - If you have any dancers that will not be participating in dance off
- Instructors are only allowed in the office to inform the office staff of changes and/or cancellations
- If the door is closed it means you are NOT allowed in
- Marks and awards will be available no sooner than 1hr after each session NO exceptions.
- Office bathroom is only allowed to be used for dancers who are under the age of 6 or need a quick costume change in between dances (costume changes need to be prearranged with office staff ahead of time)

Dance Off

Dance off is judged by 3 or 4 Judges that are not involved with Dance Aberdeen. They are not dancers and are judging upon entertainment value only.

NO substitutions for dancers in Dance Off

At the end of each session, we will post who made it into dance off, we will post the schedule for dance off shortly after final session is over. If your club does not intend on staying for Dance Off please let the office know at the start of festival so we can let our adjudicators know.

Dance off Placements

- 1st place Solo or Duet
- 1st place Group
- 2nd place over all
- 3rd Place over all

Stage...

Stage is 30 X 45 feet with large backstage wings.

Dancers must be ready in line for backstage only 2 groups allowed backstage waiting at a time.
Please note: We will not come looking for you in the gym, we simply do not have enough volunteers

Once the dancers are done dancing, please leave the backstage immediately.

Instructors are only allowed backstage if they have a dance number on stage.

The cement floor in the church can be scratched so DO NOT drag props etc.

Tap shoes only to be worn on stage. If your dancers start on stage left tap shoes need to be removed or tap covers worn while walking to the other side of the stage; this is so we do not distract the dancers on stage performance.

Any damages caused to the church is the responsibility of the studio whose dancer was involved.

No glitter will be allowed in the church. The use of glitter will be cause for disqualification of group or dancer.

Sessions can run up to 45 minutes ahead

Your responsibility to watch the tv for session numbers

Performers need to be back stage 4 dances before they need to be on stage. WE WILL NOT LOOK FOR YOU IF YOU ARE NOT THERE WHEN THE BELL RINGS YOU WILL SCRATCHED

Auditorium...

No food or drink allowed in Auditorium

The auditorium has comfortable seating for 700

No Photos and/or Videos will be Allowed.

Failure to comply will result in removal of offender to protect our dancers and the instructor's choreography. If the offender is a parent of the dancer on stage, the dance/dancer will be disqualified.

**Prices for entry into Auditorium will be announced and posted closer to the date of Festival
Payment can be made via Cash or Debit Card**

Change area...

**Food and drinks NOT are allowed with the exception of water in sealable containers.
Please keep interactions between clubs positive and respectful.**

Each dance club will have a designated change area in the gym, with each area having a power source

When sharing an area please respect each other. Do not move other dancers' items. If you are sharing try stay one club on one side and try to keep a clear walk way through the area.

Please leave your change area clean and tidy each day.

Boys change area located across from gym next to Adjudicators Lounge

Bathrooms are NOT to be used as change area.

If you have a dancer that needs help from a member of the opposite gender, or require gender neutral change areas, please inform the festival committee ahead of time and we will make arrangements.

Practice Area...

There is ample practice area space make sure to share the space.

Keep your music at a reasonable level as several clubs practice at the same time.

You may run through once then move to the side for the next group

No tap shoes in practice area.

General

Any issues please contact office staff at festival located in the green room.

No verbal abuse will be tolerated by students, instructors or parents.

We are all volunteers and will try our best to make the festival a great experience.

Lakeview Church Site 510 Saskatoon, SK, south of HWY 16 and Boychuck intersection.
A concession is provided by the Church's youth group, all proceeds from concession remain with them.

Door will open daily at 8am we ask that you leave promptly after last session is completed
Marks and awards will be posted on our dance Aberdeen Invitational festival Facebook page and on the bulletin board in the front Foyer

The church does not allow inappropriate moves, music or costumes failure to comply may result in clubs not being invited the following year

We reserve the right to run 45 minutes ahead. First session of the day will always start at the posted time.

PLEASE inform parents that communication is to go through you the club and not to contact Dance Aberdeen directly for schedule times and refunds. We will be sending you a parent package this year to email to your parents and will be on our website also.

Dance Syllabus/Genre Definitions

Please review definitions as we have updated them on the advice of past adjudicators of our festival. This will insure you have entered your dancers accordingly (emphasis is more on the difference of Demi Character and Character also Modern.)

Acrobatic Dance

This category is for a dance routine that demonstrates controlled movements and acrobatic tricks along with dance. The majority of the routine must consist of acrobatic moves and tricks

Song and Dance

This category is a performance that includes signing (NO LIP SYNCING) to the instrumental music. NO TRACK VOCALS ARE ALLOWED. If utilizing track vocals dancers are to be entered into the OPEN category.

Musical Theatre

Any dance medium portraying a theme through acting, lip syncing, dramatization, and /or mime. LIP SYNCING IS REQUIRED and routines must contain at least 30% dance steps.

Classical Ballet

Dance that uses and recognized classical technique) R.A.D. Cicchetti, Vaganova, etc.) and classical steps and is interpretive of the music. This can be done either in ballet Slipper, Pointe, or Demi-Pointe and is categorized accordingly.

Character Ballet

Character dance is a style of ballet deriving inspiration from national or folk dances from around the world. Character dances have a strong rhythm, which reflects their folk origin. Movements tend to be less stylized than in classical ballet, allowing greater individual expression and diversity. Some examples of character dance adaptations, that would be registered in this category are: the national dances from Russia, Poland, Spain, etc. (ie flamenco style and German Folk dancing)

Demi-Character Ballet

Routines that have a strong classical base but portrays a character or tells a story and develops the character through dance. Pointe or Ballet slippers may be worn and are categorized accordingly. Use of Props must be noted in your registration application.

Hip-Hop

*This category is for dance that consists of street style dancing using styles like, hip-hop, street, funk, house, breaking, popping, locking, krumping, stepping, social dancing etc. **Lyrics that contains language of a sexual nature will not be permitted, nor will any inappropriate gestures-This may result in disqualification from awards and/or Dance Off at the adjudicator's and festival coordinator's discretion.***

Jazz

Modern or classical jazz dance. A Maximum of 3 acrobatic moves allowed in this category (this means any move that where the HIPS pass over the shoulders. Illusions, front and back rolls are NOT considered Acro trick and are allowed). Anything else will result in a ineligibility for awards and/or Dance off.

Examples:

Two dancers do a walkover at the same time = one trick

Three dancers perform three different tricks at the same time (walkover, backflip and aerials = 3 tricks)

Contemporary

Contemporary dance is a fusion of dance genres and grew out of classical and jazz techniques. Instead of rejecting classical style, which is detached from a more traditional style. This style retains elements of lightness and fluidity: often about unchoreographed movements as influenced by philosophy: has a strong emphasis on understanding music, rhythm, and space while recreating the technical and classical lines: it conceptualizes a theme, less about narrative and more about educating, provoking and exploring different movements. A dance in this category should ask the following questions; is it dancer-centric (allows personal exploration through music); is there a specific visual or internal theme; does it include classical lines that are distorted in a way that is new and different; and does it use techniques from the classical syllabuses.

Modern

Modern dance emerged in the 20th century as a rejection to classical ballet. Technique has been developed under the influences of Graham, Limon, Horton, etc. It is derived from inner emotions and gives accent to mood there is a deliberate use of gravity, is free in form, uses contract/ release movements as will as use of floor work, fall and recovery and improvisation.

Tap

This category is for a dance that produces varying rhythmic patterns. Emphasis in this category is on tap technique and not character, jazz and acrobatics. Dance must contain at least 80% tap steps. No pre-recorded tap sound is permitted

Open

Dance routine styles that do not fit into a defined category, and typically contains dance steps from two or more categories.

Production

Restricted to one entry per studio. Production number are typically large choreographies that tell a story or are built around a theme.

***NEW* Student Choreography**

This genre is new and is as follows:

- *All students participating MUST Choreograph the ENTIRE dance on their own.*
- *ANY genre of the student's choice*
- *Will be placed as one entire group within the festival, there will be no separation of Age or Genre, DEPENDING on enrollment/registration numbers*

- *Anyone 19+ (not a teacher) can place a choreography in festival HOWEVER they are not eligible for awards OR dance off*