

BRITISH THEATRE DANCE ASSOCIATION



COMPETITION HANDBOOK JANUARY 2025

**BRITISH THEATRE DANCE ASSOCIATION GARDEN
STREET, LEICESTER, LE1 3UA**

BRITISH THEATRE DANCE ASSOCIATION

Competition

At:.....

On:.....

.....

Adjudicator:.....

Closing date for entries:

LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

Entry forms available from:.....

.....

Telephone:

Entry Fees:	Solos	£ 6.00
	Duets/Trios	£ 5.00 per candidate
	Groups/Troupes	£2.50 per candidate
	Championships	£7.00 per candidate

Cheques should be made payable to:

.....

Teachers must send entries en block

FEES MUST ACCOMPANY ENTRIES

SECTIONS

Solo Sections	Classical	Ballet, Greek, Character, National
	Cabaret	Acrobatic, Lyrical, Modern, Tap, Song & Dance. Solo Song (not applicable for Championships)
Duets and Trios	Classical	Ballet, Character, Greek, National
	Cabaret	Without song - Tap, Modern, Lyrical, Acrobatic With song - Song & Dance
Small Troupes		5 to 9 Performers (Cabaret sections)
Groups & Troupes		10 or more performers (Cabaret sections) Minimum of 6 performers (Classical Sections) Sections as above plus Production

All Group and Troupe sections will be separated into the subjects only if there are enough entries, therefore teachers should mark the entry forms with the subject.

In the case of Duets and Trios the organiser reserves the right to combine sections in which case children may dance more than once with the same partner, providing there is a change of subject.

AGE RATIOS

Solos (excluding Solo Song)	Baby	5 and under
	A	6 and 7 years
	B	8 and 9 years
	C	10 and 11 years
	D	12 and 13 years
	E	14 and 15 years
	F	16 and over
Solo Song	Junior	7 – 10 years
	Inter	11 -14 years
	Senior	15 years and over
Duets/Trios/Group & Troupes		
	Baby	up to and including 6 years
	Junior	7 to 10 years
	Inter	11 to 14 years
	Senior	15 to 21 years
	Adult	22 years and over (Groups and Troupes only)

Championships - Age by date of the National Finals

Junior	8 - 11 years
Inter	12 -14 years
Senior	15 - 19 years

- Students must be at least 8 years of age to enter a championship heat.
- Students must still be in full time education on the first day of the Championship Finals to enter a heat.
- Students should enter the appropriate age group according to their age at the Championship finals.

TIME LIMITS

Solos	Baby A & B	1 ½ minutes
	C D E & F	2 minutes
Solo Song	Junior & Inter	2 ½ minutes
	Senior	3 minutes
Duets		2 ½ minutes
Trios		3 minutes
Groups & Troupes		6 minutes
Championship solos		2 minutes

An extra ½ minute is allowed for Acrobatic, Character and Song and Dance subjects. Time limits must be strictly adhered to.

BURSARY

A bursary payment of £100.00 will be awarded at the end of an open competition (where finances allow). The recipient will be a senior student (F section) who demonstrates an **outstanding solo performance** at the event and will be nominated by the adjudicator.

CERTIFICATES

These are awarded to all competitors.

Those placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th will receive a placed certificate.

MEDALS

These are awarded to 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th places in solos, duets and trios. Group and Troupe medals are given for 1st and 2nd places only.

TROPHIES

At the end of the competition there will be a presentation of the awards and trophies, and these will be as follows:

Classical Aggregate

Baby, A, B, C, D, E and F

3 Dances

Classical ballet

Greek

National

Character

Cabaret Aggregate

Baby, A, B, C, D, E and F

3 Dances /Performances

Modern Jazz

Lyrical

Tap

Song & Dance

Acro

Solo Song (7 years & over)

Highest Mark

(Discipline)

Modern Jazz

Lyrical

Tap

Song & Dance

Acro

Classical ballet

Greek

National

Character

Solo Song

Highest Mark Solo

(Solo)

Most Promising Performer

Baby, Junior, Inter, Senior

(Solo)

Duets & Trios

Baby, Junior, Inter, Senior

Highest mark Classical

Classical ballet

Greek

National

Character

Duets & Trios

Baby, Junior, Inter, Senior

Highest mark Cabaret

Modern Jazz

Lyrical

Tap

Song & Dance

Acro

Groups & Troupes

All group / troupe sections must have a 1st & 2nd place trophy –

These trophies may be awarded at the end of the section at the organisers discretion

GENERAL RULES

THESE APPLY TO ALL COMPETITIONS

- 1 Fees must accompany entry forms with the names of the competitors in bloc from the teacher before the closing date.
- 2 No independent entries will be accepted.
- 3 The Organiser reserves the right to refuse entries which are not in the best interests of the competition.
- 4 Non BTDA schools may enter at the discretion of the organiser.
- 5 Organisers have the right to refuse late entries.
- 6 Timing must be strictly adhered to the music will be turned down at the end of the specified time or a bell will be used to signify the time limit. If the bell sounds the student must take a bow and leave the stage immediately, otherwise they will be disqualified.
- 7 No pointe work is permitted in any Novice sections, A and B in open competition and Junior Championships. It is compulsory that candidates are en pointe in Senior Championship sections, however candidates who are not proficient at pointe work should **NOT** enter.
- 8 Candidates may only enter once in any one solo section.
- 9 In duet and trios sections candidates may enter more than once with the same partner providing there is a change of subject.
- 10 A competitors age will be taken on the first day of the competition. In duets, trios, groups and troupes the eldest performer determines the age group of the routine.
- 11 When entering groups and troupes please write descriptive titles on the entry forms as these sections can also be split according to subjects at the organiser's discretion.
- 12 If a Solo/Duet/Trio are the only entry in a particular section, they can be combined with another section but they will be adjudicated separately and given a mark and a medal.
- 13 The organiser reserves the right to change, alter or combine parts of the programme as necessary.
- 14 The running order will not be changed, should candidates fail to appear at their specified time the entry could be forfeited.
- 15 Competitors are required to be at the competition at least one hour before their section is due to perform. Organisers have the right to continue the running of the competition up to one hour early.
- 16 Only competitors and Teachers with a current DBS are allowed on the side and back of the stage.
- 17 The Association can offer no guarantee as to the day or time at which a section will be presented, once the final programme has been drawn up this must be adhered to.
- 18 Classical music, either piano or instrumental must be used for Ballet solo, duet and trio sections. Music with vocals may be used for tap, providing the tone and sound quality of the performance is not compromised. Vocals are not allowed for song and dance. Singing and spoken word in National is allowed according to the authenticity of the country. Lyrical, Modern, and acrobatic sections have a freedom of choice of music.
- 19 A full and flowing skirt or circular culottes must be worn by female competitors in Lyrical solo sections.
- 20 Acrobatic work in Lyrical is not permitted, and the use of floor work should be discouraged. The use of Acrobatic work in Modern sections should be limited.
- 21 Character dances must be based on classical technique. Acrobatic work is not permitted.
- 22 Ballet groups must use instrumental music. Cabaret troupes have a freedom of choice of music and the use of playbacks is allowed.
- 23 Love songs must not be used for Baby and Junior competitors in all categories (Instrumental permitted).

- 24 Any entries that do not comply with the above will not be placed by the adjudicator.
- 25 Teachers are responsible for their own PPL and PRS licenses at any BTDA competition.
- 26 Titles of the National, Greek and Character dances are to be clearly written on the entry forms and are to be submitted in all sections.
- 27 No sequins are permitted on Greek Tunics/Costumes.
- 28 The Adjudicators decision is final, the organisers will not be drawn into any discussions regarding this.
- 29 No recording or photography will be permitted under any circumstances.
- 30 No fees are returnable (except where Rule 12 applies).
- 31 BTDA accepts no liability for any item of equipment or clothing etc. which may be damaged or stolen at any time during the competition.
- 32 Birth certificates may be asked for if the need arises.
- 33 Certificates may only be collected by the teacher or an assistant during the lunch and tea breaks or at the end of the day.
- 34 All entry forms require the signature of the Parent/Teacher, to abide by BTDA rules.
- 35 Any trophy collected by a pupil or teacher may be kept until the competition the following year and must be returned when requested. Teachers are responsible to ensure that parents abide by the rules they have signed.
- 36 Teachers are responsible for the return of trophies to the competition in which they were gained. Failure to do so will result in a charge per trophy payable to BTDA. All Championship trophies must have a sticker underneath to determine which Championship area they are from.
- 37 Teachers must ensure that any student who is likely to receive a trophy or award, is present at the presentations.
- 38 Students wearing personal jewellery will be penalized.
- 39 Students with body art must ensure that it is concealed.
- 40 Teachers are responsible for their students behaviour at all times. The teacher is responsible for checking the dressing rooms, to ensure everything is in order before leaving the premises.
- 41 A candidate cannot be entered into a section where the dance has been set by the person adjudicating the section. In cases where the adjudicator is not known at time of entry, it is the Teachers responsibility to withdraw that person if the aforementioned situation arises. A full refund will be given on these occasions.
- 42 Eating and drinking in the changing rooms is not allowed.
- 43 No visible coaching is allowed.
- 44 In the event of over subscribing, in sections with over 30 entries, BTDA reserves the right to split the sections.
- 45 BTDA encourages the use of electronic devices for music therefore the Teacher/representative/parent must ensure that the correct adaptor for their equipment is available. If a Teacher wishes to use CD's they must check with the Organiser that this is available and ensure that a separate CD with a bow is used for each dance. The adjudicator(s) will be marking the whole performance from entrance to exit.
- 46 Teachers are advised to have a backup device or CD available. Teachers if they wish may bring their own music system. If the Principal teachers prefer to use the organisers system, they must ensure that they, or e is a representative teacher, or a parent to represent the school are present in the sound box
The teacher if not in attendance must inform the organiser of the responsible person and they must sign in at reception on the days of the competition.
- 47 At the organisers discretion a candidate may dance out of section for a mark only. The performance cannot be held over to be included in the adjudication of the section.
- 48 Only the sections listed at the beginning of this book will be held at BTDA competitions.

- 49 Performances using music from shows in current production are subject to copyright law. Songs from shows in current production may be sung without copyright permission providing costumes and movements are not used.

ADDITIONAL RULES FOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 1 Championships are open to BTDA registered schools only.
- 2 A Candidate cannot enter a Championship Heat without first taking part in a BTDA competition. That competition must be in the same Championship year, which is defined as 01 January – 31 December.
- 3 The candidate can only enter a discipline in the Championship Heats that they have previously entered in a BTDA competition in solo form.
- 4 Only First and Second place will go through to the Championship Finals. In the event that either first or second cannot make the Final then the place will go to the next in line, (3rd or 4th). The students teacher will be informed by Head Office.
- 5 Each finalist will have to pay a £6.00 transfer fee for their first entry to the finals. A fee of £3.00 will be payable for each additional entry. This will be collected by their teacher on completion of the final programme.
- 6 If a student gains entry to the championship finals and then leaves his/her dancing school before the final their place will be forfeited.
- 7 If a student who has previously entered Championships with a school leaves that school, they will not be able to enter another heat with another teacher for 1 calendar year from the date they leave that school.
- 8 No less than 4 entries will be accepted for any section.
- 9 If an area cannot produce the amount of entries required for each section then the heat in that discipline will not take place.
- 10 The championship heats are to be treated independently of the rest of the competition and should be held on a separate day. No other sections are to be held on a championship day.
- 11 Area heats and National Finals competitors will receive special certificates. Heat competitors will gain a mark and a report sheet.
- 12 The results and presentation of awards for heats and for the National Finals will be given at the end of the event.
- 13 National Finals competitors must be present for the awards, failure to do so will result in forfeiting any award achieved.
Competitors entering Championship Heats must be present for the awards on the last evening. Special consideration will be looked at in the event any student cannot attend, but a request must be sent to the area organiser at least 4 weeks prior to the event.
- 14 At the Organisers discretion, a candidate may forfeit their place at the finals if they can not attend all of their qualifying sections.
- 15 Teachers must inform Head Office immediately if a student is unable to perform at the National Finals for any reason.
- 16 A championship student may, if he or she wishes and with their teachers approval, change their dance between the heat and the National Final.
- 17 Championship Finals - an official video recording will be made for the BTDA archives.
- 18 Candidates in Championship Heats and Finals are not permitted to dance out of turn except in exceptional circumstances. If the music fails to start, or stops during the dance due to a technical problem then the candidate can leave the stage and re-dance later in the section. They will not be penalised for this, but the teacher must sort this out as quickly as possible. All students must have a back up CD or music device.

ADDITIONAL RULES FOR NOVICE COMPETITIONS

- 1 A Novice is a dancer who has never gained a 1st or 2nd place in any festival reaching 83 marks. Therefore a dancer gaining a 1st or 2nd place with under 83 marks in a particular subject is still eligible to enter the novice section in that particular discipline.
- 2 A novice who gains a 1st or 2nd place in one section will not be restricted from entering other sections in a novice competition.
- 3 If a dancer enters a championship section in a particular discipline they lose their novice status in that subject only.
- 4 The novice status does not only apply to BTDA competitions but to other competitions as well.
- 5 In novice duets and trios all competitors must be novice as per solo entry.
- 6 In novice groups and troupes 75% of the competitors must be Novice as per their solo entry.
- 7 A baby retains their Novice status regardless of places gained in either Novice or Open competitions. When they proceed to A Section they retain their Novice status until such a time as they gain a 1st or 2nd place with 83 marks rule 1 (shown above) then applies.