

## **DANCE TEAM SHOWDOWN COMPETITION RULES**

**December 1, 2026**

The Dance Team Showdown is an independent dance event hosted by Dale and Tanya Curry, Event Directors of the World Dance Showdown. The purpose of this event is to provide dance teams with an opportunity to develop their dance skills, socialize with other dancers and perform in front of a supportive audience of their peers. Dancers of any experience level are invited to attend and participate in this social dance competition. Competitors will be judged fairly and earn valuable experience that will prepare them for other dance competitions.

The Dance Team Showdown is a dance event for dancers who enjoy line and partner (couples) dances and gather their friends to create routines and dance those routines as a team. Competitors are encouraged to utilize proper dance technique, dance positions, styling and recognizable lead and follow techniques in their dancing. The competitions offered at the Dance Team Showdown are for social dancers although professional dancers may participate in certain categories of the dance team competition.

Dance team unity and camaraderie are essential to a Dance Team competition. Although teams will be ranked and awards given to the top teams in each category, it is important to remember that we are one team, working together to promote line and partner dancing. We recommend that teams seek out and meet each other and support and cheer for each other during the dance competitions and after the event is over.

### **Competition Requirements:**

The Dance Team competitions at the Dance Team Showdown include line, solo and partner dances. Partner dances include Two-Step, Waltz, East and West Coast Swing, Country Swing, Night Club Two-Step, Polka, Pony, Cha Cha and Fixed Pattern Partner dances like the Schottische, 16-step, Cotton-Eyed Joe and the many other dances done with a partner that are not lead and follow dances. Safety is a priority when performing dance team routines. Because of this lifts, drops, aerials, stunts, acrobatic moves, throwing and carrying of dancers, splits, lying and sitting on the floor are only allowed in the Show-Stopper dance competition category and should be used with great caution. A spotter is required on the floor for each stunt group while performing this routine if these type of movements are being used. The spotter will not be judged.

Dancers should demonstrate basic step patterns and variations of those step patterns in their routines. Routines may include multiple line and partner dances and sections of solo dancing that match the phrasing of the music. The word "solo" refers to any dance steps or patterns that are not part of a line dance or partner dance. Dancers might add a section of steps to change formations, accent a tag in the music or play (act-out) sections of the music. Solo movements take the dancers out of their basic line dance or partner dance routine momentarily. Variations to

line dances steps can be used. The choreography should match the theme and lyrics of the song. Dancers are encouraged to change formations, use hand motions, vocals, poses and facials during their routine. Utilize these dance movements to emphasize segments of the song to entertain the audience. Dancers in line/solo dance routines may connect for up to 8 counts of music at a time. These periods of connection should be limited because the routine is primarily for dancers performing their individual role in the routine. Extended periods of connection in the line/solo dance routine could result in penalties on your score sheet. Dancers in partner dance routines may disconnect for up to 8 counts of music at a time. These periods of disconnections should be limited because the routine is primarily for dancers performing in partnership. Extended periods of disconnection in the partner/solo dance routine could result in penalties on your score sheet.

#### **Costumes:**

Dance Teams may choose to wear matching or non-matching custom or pre-made costumes of their choice. Elaborate costumes are not required. T-shirts and social dance attire are acceptable for the Dance Team competitions. Costumes should be tasteful and appropriate for the dance type and should match the theme of the dance routine. Dance Team costumes should match the style of dance you are performing.

Country dance styles for costumes should be used where country music is the primary music type. Costumes may be a blouse, skirt, shorts or slacks for women and shirt, pants and belt for men. If buttocks might be revealed during the dance, dance underpants should be worn for best coverage. Shirts may be tucked or untucked.

Cowboy hats and boots are not required for dancers in the Dance Team competition categories but they can be used if a team would like to wear them. Male and female dancers may wear hats. All hat styles are acceptable. If boots are worn, all boot styles are acceptable. Dance shoes, sneakers, sandals and tap shoes are allowed. Footwear is required.

Costume modifications such as tear away and reversible skirts and vests, costume changes and hat tricks may be used during the dance routine provided it does not compromise safety of the dancers while they are performing.

#### **Dance Music:**

Dance music selection may be country, non-country or a combination of both. Please see the individual competition category rules for more specifics about music choices. A dance team can use as many songs as they want in each dance routine provided the time limits are met. All music must be edited and combined into one mix for the competition. The DJ will not be able to change from one file to another during your performance.

### **Competition Logistics:**

Competitors will be notified of their performance time in advance. Dancers should be in the performance area 15 minutes prior to their schedule time. Music must be submitted in electronic format at least 10 days in advance of the competition. You will be notified in advance of the event where to submit the music. Please submit one file for each routine. Please label your music with the name of your dance team and the competition category for that routine. In addition, please bring a backup of your music to the event on a usb drive and keep it with you.

Team practice may be scheduled with the event director in advance. Practice time will be scheduled on a first come, first serve basis and may be limited to early morning or late evening time slots. We will try to accommodate everyone.

A sound check of your music will not be done by the DJ prior to the competition unless you request it. Please see the competition coordinator before the competition if you would like a sound check.

A competitors meeting will be held prior to the competition. Please check the event schedule prior to the event and have at least one representative from the team at this meeting.

## **TEAM COMPETITION**

### **CATEGORIES:**

Dance teams vary in size and complexity of routines they perform. All teams are encouraged to participate in the competition to entertain the audience and share their unique dance routines with other teams. Dance Teams may compete in any or all of the competition categories available using different dance routines. Dance Teams may enter one routine per Dance Team competition category. Dancers must be 55 years of age or older to perform in the Legacy Dance Team category. A limited number of dancers under the age of 18 may perform with adult teams with approval of the event director. Team members may perform with different dance teams.

Dance routines in all competition categories must be 3-5 minutes long. Routines should coincide with the music selection. Music may be country or non-country. Please refer to the rules for each competition category to determine the music type.

To determine the best category for your Dance Team, consider your team size, music choice (country or non-country) and dance style (line, partner, couples, or Show-Stopper). You may enter in all categories following the rules and guidelines of the category.

If you compete at other events and need help matching your existing dance routine to a category, please call Tanya Curry at 260-466-2484 or email [hellotanyacurry@gmail.com](mailto:hellotanyacurry@gmail.com).

**Duo Dance Teams Combination Routine:**

This Dance Team category is for two dancers only, same or mixed gender. The team may use country, non-country or a combination of music in their routine. The dance routine may be line, solo, partner dancing or a combination of each of these dance categories.

**Trio Dance Team Combination Routine:**

This Dance Team category is for three dancers only, same or mixed genders. The team may use country, non-country or a combination of music in their routine. The dance routine may be line, solo, partner dancing or a combination of each of these dance categories.

**Quad Dance Team Combination Routine:**

This Dance Team category is for four dancers only, same or mixed gender. The team may use country, non-country or a combination of music in their routine. The dance routine may be line, solo, partner dancing or a combination of each of these dance categories.

**Line/Solo Dance Team Routine Country Music**

Minimum of five dancers. Dance Team may perform to all country music or country music with up to 25% of their music being non country. Routines may be all line dancing or line dancing with solo dancing interspersed throughout the routine. (see competition requirements regarding solo dancing)

**Line/Solo Dance Team Routine Non-Country Music**

Minimum of five dancers. Dance Team may perform to all non-country music or non-country music with up to 25% of their music being country. Routines may be all line dancing or line dancing with solo dancing interspersed throughout the routine. (see competition requirements regarding solo dancing)

**Partner/Solo Dance Team Routine Country Music**

Minimum of five dancers. Dance Team may perform to all country music or country music with up to 25% of their music being non-country. Routines may be all partner/couples dancing or partner/couples dancing with a minimum number of solo segments interspersed throughout the routine. (see competition requirements regarding solo dancing)

### **Partner/Solo Dance Team Routine Non-Country Music**

Minimum of five dancers. Dance Team may perform to all non-country music or non-country music with up to 25% of their music being country. Routines may be all partner/couples dancing or partner/couples dancing with a minimum number of solo segments interspersed throughout the routine. (see competition requirements regarding solo dancing)

### **Combination Dance Team Routine (your choice of music)**

Minimum of five dancers. Dancer Team may perform to the music of their choice: country, non-country or mixed. Routines may be line, solo, partner, couples or mixed but at least one minute of the routine must be line dancing and at least one minute of the routine must be partner/couples dancing. Props and stage sets **may not** be used. Lifts, drops, aerials, stunts, acrobatic moves, throwing and carrying of dancers, splits, lying and sitting on the floor **are not** allowed in this category. This is not a theme related Show-Stopper or Cabaret category.

### **Show-Stopper Dance Team Routine (your choice of music)**

Minimum of three dancers. Dance Team may perform to the music of their choice: country, non-country or mixed. Routines may be line, solo, partner, couples or mixed and have a theme that inspires the performance. Teams may use costumes of their choice to accent the theme of the routine. Any and all styles of dancing may be incorporated in this routine. Props and stage sets may be used. Lifts, drops, aerials, stunts, acrobatic moves, throwing and carrying of dancers, splits, lying and sitting on the floor are allowed in the Show-Stopper dance competition category and should be used with great caution. A spotter is required on the floor for each stunt group. Teams will be given five minutes to set up and an additional five minutes to tear down before and after their performance if props are used.

Please discuss your Show-Stopper routine with the Event Director in advance to prepare staging and storage of props and sets. Please be aware that storage is limited at the event venue.

### **Legacy Dance Team Routine (your choice of music)**

Minimum of five dancers. All dancers must be at least 55 years of age. Dance Team may perform to the music of their choice: country, non-country or mixed. Routines may be line, solo, partner/couples or mixed.

### **Dance Team Showdown Grand Champion Team Award:**

A Grand Champion Dance Team will be selected. This award will be given to the dance team with the highest overall rating based on dance skills, performance ability, team spirit, interaction with other teams and contribution to their local area and dance community. To be considered, a

team will be asked to write a one page essay describing the team's origins, purpose, dance routines in use, practice and performance activities, unique or special events they are involved in and contributions they have made to the public. Team spirit and interaction with other teams and attendees at the event will be. The scores of each individual dance team category entered will be averaged and included in the overall rating to determine the Grand Champion Dance Team award recipient. The team must compete in at least one dance competition category at the Dance Team Showdown.

#### TEAM COMPETITION SCORING FORMAT:

1. CHOREOGRAPHY – 32 points
  - a) Variety, complexity and uniqueness of dance movements
  - b) Overall flow and combination of dance routines, use of transitions between dances, dance routines, entrances and exits.
  - c) Artistic interpretation of the dance music selected.
  - d) Use of floor space and available dancers.
2. EXECUTION – 32 points
  - a) Rhythm, timing and synchronization of dance steps
  - b) Proper execution of footwork, hand and body movements, skirt work/hat tricks, formation changes, tunnels, pinwheels, directional changes, contra lines execution, couples dance moves and maneuvers.
  - c) Line and circle spacing, alignment, placement and unity of dancers.
  - d) Dance styling featuring proper dance technique, dance positions, styling, and recognizable lead and follow techniques.
3. PRESENTATION/SHOWMANSHIP – 36 points
  - a) Entertainment Value—ability to capture and hold the audience attention.
  - b) Attitude—Team spirit and partnership, enthusiasm and pride of group, unification among dancers.
  - c) Appearance—Energy and excitement level, poise, body movements and facial expressions.
  - d) Costuming—Choice of outfits for style of dance, hats for men and boots/shoes for ladies and men. Costumes need not match. Elaborate costumes are not required. Costumes must be in good taste, clean, appropriate for performance and enhance the groups appearance.