

# AXIS Dance Competition Rules and Regulations

## 2026

### Levels:

We understand that competing studios may have different skill levels, so AXIS is proud to offer five separate levels of competition. AXIS judges reserve the right to "bump up" a routine to a higher level that they feel has a more advanced skill set than the level they were entered in. All discussions are final. Routines that are moved by the judges or management are exempt from the level percentage rule.

### \*NEW\* Level Calculating System:

The new level system will use the average of dancer points to assign levels to all routines. When registering, all dancers including past dancers, must be assigned a skill level.

The level point system will be: Novice 1 - Novice Plus 2 - Intermediate 3 - AXIS 4

Average level calculation is the total number of level points divided by the number of dancers.

For Example: A routine has 2 intermediate level dancers and 3 AXIS level dancers ( $3+3+4+4+4=18$ ) ( $18 \text{ points} / 5 \text{ dancers} = 3.6$ ) The average level of 3.6 is closer to 4, which corresponds to the AXIS level. Therefore, this routine will be classified as AXIS level. If the average is even (.5) it will always round up to the higher level.

### NOVICE LEVEL:

Little or no competition experience.

This level is reserved for beginner dancers only.

Dancers in this level should be working on attempting skills such as single/ double pirouettes, grand jetes, grand battements, flexibility skills, and fouette sequences but show signs of unsteadiness and improper control.

Tap sounds in this level should be simple, needing improvement in clarity and definition.

Dancers in this level must not train more than 3 hours per week including dance / acrobatics. If a dancer competes in the Novice Level as a soloist, they must remain in the Novice Level for all solos.

In mixed level Duo/Trios, Groups, Lines, and Productions the higher percentage of the dancers will determine the level.

All Duo/Trio, Groups, Lines and Productions can always choose to compete at a higher level.

## NOVICE PLUS LEVEL:

Limited competition experience.

This level is reserved for beginner dancers only.

Dancers in this level should be working on attempting skills such as double pirouettes, grand jetes, grand battements, flexibility skills, and fouette sequences but only show minor signs of unsteadiness and improper control.

Tap sounds in this level should be basic.

Dancers in this level must not train more than 4 hours per week including dance / acrobatics. If a dancer competes in the Novice Plus Level as a soloist, they must remain in the Novice Plus Level for all solos.

In mixed level Duo/Trios, Groups, Lines, and Productions the higher percentage of the dancers will determine the level.

All Duo/Trio, Groups, Lines and Productions can always choose to compete at a higher level.

## INTERMEDIATE LEVEL:

This Level is for dancers on the rise between Novice Plus and AXIS.

Dancers in this level should have developing talent demonstrating moderate to average technique and polish.

Dancers in this level should show signs of starting to master skills such as double / triple pirouettes, grand jetes, grand battements, flexibility skills, and fouette sequences with only minor inconstancies.

Tap sounds in this level should demonstrate a moderate knowledge of dynamics, rhythm and timing.

Dancers in this level must not train more than 6 hours per week including dance / acrobatics. If a dancer competes in the Intermediate Level as a soloist, they must remain in the Intermediate Level for all solos.

In mixed level Duo/Trios, Groups, Lines, and Productions the higher percentage of the dancers will determine the level.

All Duo/Trio, Groups, Lines and Productions can always choose to compete at a higher level.

## AXIS LEVEL:

This level is the highest and most competitive.

Dancers in this level should demonstrate proficient to outstanding technique, choreography and performance skill.

Tap sounds in this level should show advanced dynamics, rhythm and timing.

If a dancer competes in the AXIS Level as a soloist, they must remain in the AXIS Level for all solos.

In mixed level Duo/Trios, Groups, Lines, and Productions the higher percentage of the dancers will determine the level.

## SPARKLE LEVEL:

This level is designed for dances with special needs.

The Sparkle Level will be its own complete level with high score awards.

When registering you will be able to let us know your specific dancer's challenges in our notes section.

## AGE CATEGORIES:

Tiny Tot 3 - 4 years old

Petite 5 – 6 years old

Mini 7 – 8 years old

Junior 9 – 11 years old Teen

12 – 14 years old

Senior 15 – 19 years old Adult

20 years & up

The average age of all performers in a Duo/Trio, Small Group, Large Group, Line or Production determines the appropriate age division. The dancer's age is determined as of January 1st. This also includes solos. To figure the average, add the ages of all the performers in a routine and then divide by the number of performers. DROP THE DECIMAL POINT. For example, if the average age is 12.9, this routine would compete in the 12 year old age division. Any routine is allowed to compete in one age division higher but must be approved by AXIS Dance Competition when entries are submitted. Additionally, if a protest arises regarding age, all competitors must be prepared to present proof of age. All protests must be presented in writing to the AXIS Dance Competition Director within one half hour of the incident. All protests must be signed. We require that proof of age be presented in the event of a protest.

## Bump Rule:

Duo/Trios, Groups, Lines and Productions including dancers of different age divisions will compete no more than one age division younger than the oldest dancer, regardless of average age. However, if a dancer 20 years of age or older (regardless of professional or amateur status) competes in a routine, the routine must be in the adult age division. There will be no cash award in the adult age division.

## Categories:

**Acro** - Contains a combination of dance technique and acro/gymnastic movements. Any number of acro/gymnastic tricks are permissible.

**Ballet** - Includes Classical or contemporary ballet movement and technique. Ballet shoes only.

**Ballroom** - Contains ballroom technique. Must be performed with ballroom heels or ballroom shoes.

**Contemporary** - Routine incorporating, lyrical or jazz movement fused with modern elements.

**Hip Hop** - Street dance, free-style, pop n' lock, etc.

**Jazz** - Contains tradition jazz movements and technique.

**Lyrical** - A combination of jazz and ballet technique that interprets the lyrics of the music.

**Modern** - Consists of modern technique and interpretive movement.

**Musical Theatre** - Styles of dance with music from any Broadway or Movie Musical.

**Open** - Includes those numbers that combine more than one style of dance and/or contain more than 3 acrobatic tricks.

**Pointe** - Classical or contemporary pointe technique. Pointe shoes only.

**Pom Pons** - Performed with Pom Pons for at least 75% of the routine.

**Tap** - Contains tap technique. Tap sounds on CD are strictly prohibited.

\* All categories except for Acro and Open are limited to 3 acrobatic tricks excluding: forward and backward rolls, handstands, round offs, headsprings, cartwheels, front and back walkovers and side aerials. If multiple students perform the same trick at the same time, it only counts as one trick. All passes with multiple tricks are counted as one trick.

\* We urge all studio owners, teachers and parents to keep performances, costumes and choreography age and themed appropriate. Any routine deemed to be inappropriate by the AXIS judges or management will be subjected to a deduction or disqualification.

## Divisions:

Solo (1 dancer)

Duo/Trio (2 - 3 dancers)

Small Group (4 - 9 dancers)

Large Group (10 - 15 dancers)

Line (16 - 24 dancers)

Production (25+ dancers)

**\*\*Please note that once a routine has competed and placed in the overall top ten at a regional event, it is no longer eligible for regional overall awards for future seasons. It is only eligible for adjudication awards.**

## **Divisions-Time Limits:**

There will be a 10 second "grace period" allowed for each routine. After a routine is 10 seconds over the time limit, 1 point will be deducted for each second past the "grace period."

**EXTENDED TIMES:** Solos, Duet/Trios, Groups & Lines may purchase an extended time of 30 seconds at \$3/per performer. To register for extended time, please check the box on the routine that indicates "Request Extended Time" on your online studio account.

<b>Divisions</b>	<b>Time Limits (minutes and seconds)</b>
Solo	2:45
Duo/Trio	2:45
Small Group	3:00
Large Group	4:00
Line	5:00
Production	8:00

## **Solo - Duo/Trio Only Competition:**

Routines that compete at any Solo and Duo/Trio only competition are eligible to compete at another regional competition within the same season. This rule is regardless of placement. Judges panels will vary from regional to regional.

## **Adjudication:**

One adjudication award will be given to every Solo, Duo/Trio, Small Group, Large Group, Line and Production routine. A corresponding medal will be given to each soloist. A corresponding pin will be given to each contestant in the Solo, Duo/Trios, Small Groups, Large Groups, Lines and Productions. All entries will be adjudicated by three (3) judges. Awards will be presented based on the combined scores listed below:

Diamond: 300 - 295

Elite Platinum: 294.9 - 289

Platinum: 288.9 - 279  
 High Gold: 278.9 - 264  
 Gold: 263.9 - 249  
 Silver: 248.9 - 234  
 Bronze: 233.9 - 200

\*All routines will be scored in .1 increments

## Point System:

Each Judge will be awarding up to 100 points based on the following criteria:

Technique - 50 points  
 Showmanship - 20 points  
 Choreography & Musicality - 20 points  
 Overall Execution - 10 points

All ties will be broken, first by technique score, second by showmanship score and third by a judges' poll.

In addition to the adjudication awards, a competitive 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Place Award will be given to the entries with the highest scores in the Tiny Tot, Petite, Mini, Junior, Teen, and Senior divisions.

AXIS Judges are made up of the highest caliber of sought after professionals in the performing arts, competition studio directors and teachers affiliated with major dance studios. Our Judges are all well trained in multiple genres of dance and because of that are easily able to take into consideration the various skill levels performed by the dancers' as well as differing ages to offer valuable feedback to our competitors.

## Music Requirements:

It is mandatory that all music is uploaded with your registration. All music must be uploaded no later than 10 days prior to the competition date. A \$20 Late Fee will be added if all music is not uploaded 10 days prior to the competition date. All uploads must be in either MP3 or M4A format. In addition to uploading your music - Please bring one USB Flash Drive (as a backup) with all music in order of scheduled competition.

## Registration:

Entries will be accepted on a first come, first served basis and registration will be closed once all time slots are filled. All registration must be entered in its entirety no later than 28 days prior to first day of competition. It is required to enter your estimated number of routines when

registering. In order to secure your spot a deposit must be made in accordance to your estimated routines. Deposits are 0-10 Routines \$50, 11-20 Routines \$100, 21-50 Routines \$200, 51 + Routines \$500. All deposits are non-refundable and non-transferable.

## Competition Schedule:

The competition schedule will be emailed two weeks prior to the first day of competition. All changes must be made no later than one week prior to the first day of competition. Any changes to the competition schedule made after 7 days prior to the first day of competition will incur a \$20 fee per change. AXIS cannot guarantee a specific day or time for dancers to compete. All dancers should be prepared to perform one hour prior to their scheduled performance time.

## Payment Options:

All entry fees can be paid on our online registration by credit card, as this is our preferred method of payment. All entry fees must be paid in full no later than 21 days prior to the event. If paying by check only studio checks, money orders or cashier checks are accepted and must be received no later than 21 days prior to the event. Refunds will only be issued up until 7 days prior to the event. No refunds will be issued after the 7 day deadline unless the competition is cancelled. Refunds will be issued in the form of a check addressed to the studio and mailed to the studio address. After the 7 day deadline only credits will be issued. Credits will be issued to the studio Dance Comp Genie account and can be used for any future event. Credit card processing fees, studio rebates and online registration fees (solos only) will be deducted in all refunds and credits. In the event that a competition is canceled due to unforeseen circumstances the competition will be rescheduled at a later date. If studios are unable to attend the rescheduled competition a credit will be issued to your account. In the event that a dancer is injured or a routine is deleted at the event a credit will be issued. In order to receive this credit the studio owner / teacher must fill out the "Credit Form" included in the studio welcome bag. This form MUST BE turned in to the registration booth before leaving the event. Credits are subject to approval and are at the sole discretion of AXIS Management. A representative from each studio must check in at the merchandise booth upon arrival to the competition to receive a welcome gift and resolve any payment disputes.

## Props:

General Props are allowed if used as part of the routine. No dangerous props may be used such as fire, knives or swords. Live animals are strictly prohibited. Props or objects of any kind cannot leave any residue on the stage such as liquids, gels, aerosols, glitters, or powders. All props must be labeled with studio name. If you are using a prop for your routine please remember to check the box when registering online. If the stage is "littered" during a routine, please be prepared to clean it up immediately after the routine is finished. All props must be set up within 5 minutes.

\*A dancer may never stand, kneel or lie down above 7 feet from the stage floor level.

## Award Categories:

One adjudication award will be given to every Solo, Duo/Trio, Small Group, Large Group, Line and Production routine. A corresponding medal will be given to each contestant in the Solo and Duo/Trio divisions. A corresponding pin will be given to each contestant in the Solo, Duo/Trio, Small Group, Large Group, Line and Production divisions. All entries will be adjudicated by three (3) judges. Awards will be presented based on the combined scores listed below.

Every routine will receive a **Diamond, Elite Platinum, Platinum, High Gold, Gold, Silver, or Bronze** recognition. In addition 1st-5th placement awards will be given in every category and division, dependent on number of entries. A trophy will be awarded to the 1st - 3rd place in all categories and divisions. Medals will be awarded to the 4th and 5th place routines. Overall Top 1, Top 3, Top 5, or Top 10 placements will be recognized based on the number of entries in the Solo, Duo/Trio, Small Group, Large Group, and Line and Production Categories. Number of entries will determine Overall Award Groupings.

## Photogenic Award:

This award will be presented to the solo contestant judged most photogenic in the Tiny Top/Petite, Mini/Junior and Teen/Senior age division. Each winner will receive a plaque. You must enter the Photogenic Contest on the day of the competition at the registration desk and must be a registered competitor during the current competition season to compete. Please bring a recent 5x7 or 8x10 photo in black & white or color. Please write contestant name, age and studio on the back of the photo. Contestants will be responsible for obtaining their photo from the registration desk after the photogenic awards are presented. AXIS Dance Competition is not responsible for loss or damages to any photograph submitted. There is a \$30 entry fee for our Photogenic Contest. Accepted form of payment will be cash or credit cards only.

## Specialty Awards:

**Specialty Award ribbons will be presented in the following categories (Judges choice)**

Technique on Fleek  
Happy Feet  
Pure Passion  
Smashin' The Fashion  
Super Sassy  
High Octane  
Broadway Bound  
Precision Award  
Sparkle Award



Artistry Award  
 Amazingly Adorable  
 Extraordinary Execution  
 Captivating Confidence  
 Smiles for Miles  
 Superb Style

**Wild Card Specialty Award Ribbons will be given out at the Judges discretion in the following categories:**

Powerful Performance  
 Conceptually Creative  
 Mesmerizing Moment  
 Spectacular Staging  
 Terrific Transitions  
 Sensational Storytelling

### **Spirit Award:**

This award is chosen by our backstage crew and is awarded to the studio they deem to have the most studio spirit. The recipient of this award will be presented with a plaque.

### **Most Entertaining Award:**

This award will be presented to the Group, Line or Production deemed most entertaining for the Novice, Novice Plus, Intermediate and AXIS Level. The recipient of this award will be presented with a banner.

### **Genre Award:**

The Genre Award will be presented to the studio with the highest average score of four routines. These routines will be the highest scoring routines in four different categories, taken from all age categories. This only includes Groups, Lines and Productions.

1. Jazz, Contemporary, Modern, Open, Musical Theatre
2. Ballet, Pointe, Lyrical
3. Tap
4. Hip Hop

### **Choreography Award:**

This award will be presented to the one routine whose choreography most stood out in the collective opinion of the judges. This award will be given to the Novice, Novice Plus, Intermediate and AXIS levels. The recipients of this award will be presented with a plaque.

### IDA Judges Choice:

This award will be presented to the dance that your judges felt made an impact on them through performance, execution or choreography. The recipient of this award will be presented with a plaque.

### High Point Award:

This award will be presented to the highest scoring Solo and Duo/Trio in the Novice, Novice Plus, Intermediate and AXIS Levels. All age divisions are eligible for this award. The recipients of this award will be presented with a plaque.

### Best Of Award:

This award will be presented to the highest scoring Group, Line or Production in the Novice, Novice Plus, Intermediate and AXIS Levels. All age divisions are eligible for this award. The recipients of this award will be presented with a plaque. The highest scoring AXIS Level Group, Line or Production will also be awarded with a \$200 check.

### Top Studio Award:

This award will be presented to the highest scoring studio in the Novice, Novice Plus, Intermediate and AXIS Levels. This award is determined by adding the top 5 Group, Line or Production scores from each studio. The recipients of this award will be presented with a plaque. The highest scoring AXIS Level Studio will also be awarded with a \$300 check.

### The ThrowDown:

If time permits AXIS is thrilled to offer The THROWDOWN, To help our AXIS Dancers grow in the industry we invite all our participants to join us on stage for the AXIS THROWDOWN. This master class doubles as an audition so dancers can show our AXIS Judges who they really are, while gaining valuable auditioning experience. Participants will be taught a high energy routine on the AXIS Stage. While they perform it, the AXIS Judges will be watching for the brightest stars! Dancers also have the opportunity to be awarded a variety of prizes. The AXIS THROWDOWN is only \$30 to join. Sign up and get your number at the AXIS merchandise booth in the lobby when you arrive to competition. If the competition is running ahead of

schedule the THROWDOWN will follow that time schedule. Every dancer who enters the THROWDOWN will receive a special gift. One champion and two runner ups will be selected from all age divisions. All THROWDOWN runner ups will receive a certificate. All THROWDOWN champions will receive a medal, certificate, and a \$40 credit to the merchandise booth.

## Improv Contest:

If time permits, AXIS is thrilled to offer an Improv Contest. This will be offered in the Petite, Mini, Junior, Teen and Senior age categories. Dancers will improv one at a time on stage for our AXIS Judges. Every dancer who enters the Improv Contest will receive a special gift. A winner in each age category will be chosen and will receive a certificate and a \$40 credit for the merchandise booth. Runner up winners will be awarded based on number of participants and will receive a certificate. The Improv Contest is only \$30 to join and you can sign up the day of the competition at the merchandise booth.

## Mr. and Miss AXIS ALL STAR:

The Mr. and Miss AXIS All Star competition will consist of three parts, solo, interview and improv. The interview will be short and simple such as name, age, studio and a random age appropriate question. Solo will be 70% of their score, interview will be 15% of their total score and improv will be 15% of their total score. If you wish to have your routine judged for Title, please check the appropriate box while registering your solo online. You may enter as many solos as you wish to be judged for Title. All entries will be judged for Title during the performance of their routine during the Regional Competition. ONLY AXIS AND INTERMEDIATE Level dancers are eligible for the Title Competition. All solos entered for Title are also eligible for overall awards.

There is a \$30.00 fee to enter in our Title Competition. At least 2 different contestants must be entered into one of the following age divisions to hold the Title Competition. If only 1 entry is submitted in a Title division, the contestant may choose to still compete, but must reach certain scores in order to be crowned. The appropriate attire for interview and improv is dance wear.

## Title Competition Age Categories:

- Miss Petite AXIS All Star 5 - 6 years old
- Miss Mini AXIS All Star 7 - 8 years old
- Miss Junior AXIS All Star 9 - 11 years old
- Miss Teen AXIS All Star 12 - 14 years old
- Miss Senior AXIS All Star 15 - 19 years old
- Mr Junior AXIS All Star 11 and under
- Mr Senior AXIS All Star 12 - 19 years old
- Miss AXIS All Star Winners will receive a crown, sash, trophy, and a free solo for the following season.

- Mr AXIS All Star Winners will receive a cap, trophy, and a free solo for the following season.

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