



PANAMA OPEN
★ DANCE-FEST ★

Competition Rules
(Version 01)

Effective date: March 2022

PANAMA OPEN DANCE FEST | 2
Regulations and Policies

1) General Participation.....	3
2) Levels.....	4
3) Divisions	5
4) Age Divisions	5
5) Dance Styles of Competition	5
6) Competition Unit.....	6
7) Music Requirements.....	6
8) Scenic Elements.....	8
9) Costume	8
10) Prohibited Activities	8
11) Scoring and Judging.....	9
12) Awards	10
13) Cancellation or Refund of Registration	11

1) General Participation

1. To register for the competition. the director or legal representative of the competitor, institution, or team will carry out this process.
 - a. Underage participants must have the authorization of their parents or legal representatives.
 - b. Representatives of legal age will participate by their own rights or register by the institution or team to which they belong.
2. To participate in the PANAMÁ OPEN DANCE FEST, dancers must be registered with complete documents including a signed liability waiver & release by the deadline **FEBRUARY 27th, 2023**.
 - a. EMAIL ENTRIES TO: inscripcion@panamaodf.com
 - b. COMPLETING REGISTRATION: Send via email:
 - i. Completed and signed all registration forms and Release & Waiver Forms.
 - ii. Email forms
 - iii. Once we have received your registration forms, we will send you an invoice to the email you have provided on your registration forms. This invoice will include a link so that you may pay by credit card or Paypal.
3. Participants must also be paid in full prior to the start of competition. Day of competition entries will not be accepted. Registrants not paid in full prior to event will not be permitted to compete.
 - a. **PAYMENT:** You must make the participation payment on dates established by the event organization. Payments after the deadline are not guaranteed acceptance of registration.
4. The Panamá Open Dance Fest has the power to decide whether to accept registrations received after the deadlines. Registrations sent any other way than the official one (email) are not accepted. Late entries and payments will not be taken into account for the Teacher of the year and Studio of the year awards.
5. While on the competition premises, competitors, coaches, teachers, and parent/guardians shall conduct themselves in a civil sportsmanlike manner at all times. Anyone not comporting themselves in such a manner will be removed from competition.
6. An adult studio representative (teacher, dance director, or owner) is responsible for all minors from their school while on the competition premises.
 - a. All directors and / or instructors must know the medical history of the members of their delegation and have an emergency plan in case of eventualities during the event process, they must sign the release from the organization. Minors release form must be signed by parent or guardian.
7. It is the competitor's responsibility to be in attendance and ready to dance up to 45 minutes in advance of the posted time scheduled for their event. Not being present when your event is called will lead to point deductions or disqualification.
 - a. The organization can advance or delay the times according to needs and without prior notice.
 - b. The organization reserves the right to modify the order of participation without prior notice.
8. It is the competitor's responsibility to be in attendance and ready to dance up to 45 minutes

- inadvance of the posted time scheduled for their event. Not being present when your event is called will lead to point deductions or disqualification.
- a. The organization can advance or delay the times according to needs and without priornotice.
 - b. The organization reserves the right to modify the order of participation without priornotice.
9. Competitors participating in the Panamá Open Dance Fest will accept as final the individual markings of the Adjudicators, no competitor shall harass or question a judge about their personal reasons for their scores.
 10. **SUBSTITUTES:** A maximum of two substitutes are allowed in small and large groups. The substitution of a member for a substitute will have to be communicated to the Chairperson and the reason for which the change is made. The only allowed reasons are for injury or for any reasonthat does not allow them to continue in competition. Substitutions will not be allowed as a sportstactic.
 - a. In singles, duos and trios, substitutes are not allowed.
 11. **LOSS OR THEFT:** Neither the competition organization nor the representatives of the facilities, areresponsible for loss or theft of any belongings of the participants and the general public.
 12. All competitors agree to abide by all the regulations and policies set forth by the competition.

2) Levels

1. **AMATEUR:** Student or dancer who is not an Instructor, Artist, Competitor or Dance Judge and who never earns money for these activities. They are represented by an institution or director of an academy or dance school.
2. **PROFESSIONAL:** It is defined as a dancer who works as instructor, artist, competitor or judge in the Dance Industry, and who makes most or all of his income from these activities. The professional dancer must be at least 19 years old. Dancers registered at the Professional level cannot be changed to the Amateur level.
3. **PRO-AM:** It is defined as a professional dancer (instructor), who dances with an amateur dancer(student).
4. **RISING STAR:** Defined as a person who receives financial compensation as a dance instructor, performer, competitor or adjudicator of dance, but who performs these activities part-time and earns the majority of their income from another profession.
5. **BALLROOM:** A full list of proficiency levels for this dance style can be found on the ballroom registration forms. In Pro/Am and Amateur Couple single dance divisions participants may compete in their proficiency level plus challenge up to two levels up (dancers may not dance proficiency levels down). For Scholarship divisions participants must enter the same proficiency level as their highest single dance proficiency for that style.
6. **WHEEL CHAIR:** In this category a single level is maintained for all participants.

3) Divisions

1. **CONCURRENT:** (this division includes: Social Salsa, Social Bachata, Ballroom single and multi dance, Tango Salon, Tango Milonga, and Country/Western): It is defined as a category, where all couples dance together at the same time on the dance floor and where the music is selected by the organization. Lifts are not allowed.
2. **SHOWDANCE:** It is defined as a category, where the couple, soloist, team or groups, dance a routine prepared with their own music.
3. **CABARET / EXHIBITION:** It is defined as a category, where it is allowed to use lifts.
4. **SHINES:** In the Shines category, the steps and movements are danced without a partner, it is the moment in the dance where the athlete dances his individual interpretation of the music. In this category two or more athletes are dancing. They can be mixed genders or same gender.
5. **OPEN:** Refers to that category in which registration is open to styles within the discipline, sometimes despite age, level, gender and / or another type of categorization.

4) Age Divisions

1. Specific age divisions for each dance style can be found on the registration form.
2. A participant may only enter the age division they qualify for based on the age division they will have reached at the time of Panamá Open Dance Fest date, unless specified by the dance style registration form.
 - a. **BALLROOM PRO-AM:** Pro-Am Single Dance, Multi Dance, & Showdance. Adult dancers may dance their age group plus one age group down.
 - b. **BALLROOM AMATEUR COUPLES:** Adult dancers may dance their age group plus one age group down. Age is determined by the oldest person in the couple's age group.
3. **AGE GROUPING:** If there is not a minimum of three competitors from each age group, the organization could group different ages and / or categories in order to guarantee the competition.
4. **PROFESSIONAL AGE:** a professional will meet the qualifications stated under "Levels" in this document in addition to being 19+ years old.
5. **DIFFERENT AGES IN DUO / TRIO, TEAM AND GROUPS:**
 - a. For Duo or Trios the oldest participant will determine the age division of the Duo/Couple or Trio.
 - b. For groups or teams the average age of the group will determine the age division. Add all of the ages together and divide by the number of group/team participants (if a decimal occurs drop the decimal). This will determine the age division for the group/team. The average age of the group should NOT be more than 1 age division lower than the oldest member of the group or team, unless specified as an all ages combined event.

5) Dance Styles of Competition

1. **BALLET REPERTOIRE OR FRAGMENT:** Repertoires and / or classic fragments of world-renowned companies.
2. **FREE STYLE BALLET:** Free repertoires of steps and classical Ballet technique.
3. **NEOCLASSIC:** Unlike the Classical Ballet, where the movement is totally codified, the Neoclassical breaks with this creative-corset.
4. **LYRICAL:** Combination of Jazz and Ballet techniques.
5. **ACRODANCE:** It is a dance style that combines the technique of classical dance with acrobatic elements. It is defined by its sporty character and unique choreography, which perfectly combines dance and acrobatics.
6. **SHOWDANCE:** Any dance discipline, where you can mix different disciplines or dance just one discipline or any Latin Rhythm.

PANAMA OPEN DANCE FEST | 6

Regulations and Policies

7. URBAN DANCES: Hip-Hop, Locking, Popping, Waacking, Krump, House, Vogue (with each own style).
8. SALSA: Salsa in 1 and 2, Cabaret Salsa, Traditional Salsa and Salsa in Line.
9. BACHATA: Classic, Cabaret and Sensual.
10. JAZZ: It carries technical elements of Modern Dance and Ballet without leaving its own technical and statistical work. Abdominal contractions, work on the ground, and the particular way of getting in and out of the ground are fundamental characteristics of this discipline. It covers the different styles of Jazz, such as: Broadway, Funk, Modern, Contemporary, etc.
11. LATIN JAZZ: Jazz, with some mixed Latin Rhythm.
12. CONTEMPORARY: It is a dance that express an idea, feeling or an emotion, like the Classical Ballet, but mixing its own body movements.
13. ETHNIC DANCES: These are traditional dances with their characteristic costumes and steps.
14. SOCIALS (SALSA, BACHATA): Dances in the social style, the music comes from the organization and Lifts are not allowed.
15. BELLY DANCE: They are Dances originating from the Middle East.
16. TAP: All forms of Tap Dance will compete with each other. The quality of the hits against the floor must be clear, rhythmical and in harmony with the music.
17. LATIN: Cha Cha, Samba, Rumba, Paso Doble and Jive.
18. RHYTHM: Cha Cha, Rumba, American Swing, Bolero and Mambo.
19. STANDARD: Waltz, Int. Tango, V. Waltz, Foxtrot and Quickstep.
20. SMOOTH: Waltz, Int. Tango, Foxtrot, V. Waltz.
21. SPANISH DANCE: Dances of Spanish origin. According to region and represent the most important cultural events in each locality.
22. ARGENTINE TANGO: Salon, Escenario and Milonga.
23. WHEELCHAIR: It consists of the following dance modalities.
 - a. Individuals: Waltz, Tango, Samba, Rumba and Jive.
 - b. Standard: Waltz, Tango, Viennese Waltz, Slow Foxtrot and Quickstep.
 - c. Latin Style Dance: Samba, Cha Cha, Rumba, Paso Doble and Jive.
 - d. Exhibition: Open style.

6) Competition Unit

1. SOLO or SOLOIST: a single athlete competing.
2. COUPLE or DUO: two athletes competing.
3. TRIO: three athletes competing.
4. TEAM or GROUP: four or more athletes competing.
5. SAME GENDER: a specific competition unit found in Salsa and Bachata competitions.
6. COMBI: a category found in Wheelchair competition events.

7) Music Requirements

1. Make sure the contact email you provide is correct as you will receive an email from Panamá Open Dance Fest with your specific upload link for all of your music. This will be the official way to provide us your music. We must receive your music BEFORE the day of competition.
2. We highly recommend you bring a back up of your music on a USB drive/flash drive, as a precaution. Mistakes do happen. If providing a USB/flash drive it must only be in MP3, WAV, MP4a, and AIF formats and under 50MB each.
3. We recommend MP3 format, but also will accept WAV, MP4a, and AIF formats only.
4. The music must be in accordance with the routine, it may not have inappropriate language (obscene, offensive or discriminatory).

PANAMA OPEN DANCE FEST | 7

Regulations and Policies

5. The duration of the musical track must not exceed the choreographic time indicated in the regulations.
6. TAP DANCES: Music should not contain prerecorded tap sound. Personal amplification devices are not.
7. Problems with Musical Tracks at competition. Only in the event of a technical failures of the competition in the event's audio, the participants may start over or may appear at the end of the corresponding competition block.
8. The competition will do its best to contact any participant ahead of the competition if we should find that their provided music does not meet the time limit restrictions to allow for correction. If the music is extended beyond allowed time limit day of the competition the Panamá Open Dance Fest has the powerto cut it, otherwise, the participating choreography will be sanctioned with disqualification from the event.
9. COMPETITOR PROVIDED MUSIC EVENTS – TIME LIMITS

Soloist	1.30 minutes minimum – 2.30 minutes maximum
Duo/Trio (2-3 dancers)	1.30 minutes minimum – 2.30 minutes maximum
Team - Group (4+ dancers)	2.30 minutes minimum – 3.00 minutes maximum
Salsa, Bachata, and Ethnic Small Group	2.00 minutes minimum – 3.00 minutes maximum
Salsa, Bachata, and Ethnic Large Group	2.00 minute minimum – 5 minutes maximum (if competition separates group category into small and large)
Argentine Tango Stage	Entire song allowed up to 5.0 minutes maximum
Ballet Repertoire	3.0 minutes maximum
Belly Dance	Entire song allowed up to 5.0 minutes maximum

10. COMPETITON PROVIDED MUSIC EVENTS – TIME LIMITS

Argentine Tango Solon & Milonga	3 full songs selected by competition
Social Salsa & Bachata	1.30 minutes maximum
Ballroom, Latin, Smooth & Rhythm	1.30 minutes maximum

11. BALLROOM MUSIC TEMPI – MUSIC PROVIDED BY COMPETITION

Rhythms:	International	American	Pro/Am
			Bronze
Waltz	28-31	28-30	30-32
Viennese Waltz	56-60	54-56	54-58
Tango	32-34	30-32	30-32
Foxtrot	28-30	30-32	30-34
Quickstep	50-52		
Cha Cha	32-34	28-30	30-32
Samba	48-50	54-56	54-56
Paso Doble	60-62	58-60	58-60
Rumba	27-29	32	32-36

PANAMA OPEN DANCE FEST | 8

Regulations and Policies

Bolero		24	24-26
Mambo		47	48-51
Jive	44-52		
East Coast Swing		34-36	
West Coast Swing		28-32	

- The organization of the Competition has the authority to make decisions different from the previous ones, in relation to music without this leading to legal or image problems.

8) Scenic Elements

- The use of scenic elements is allowed for showdance entries as long as they are assembled and disassembled within the indicated times. The floor must be completely clean within the time allotted for assembly and disassembly. Competition staff cannot help assemble or disassemble any scenic elements.

	Assembly time	Disassembly time
Individual, Duo, Trio	20 seconds	20 seconds
Group small	30 seconds	30 seconds
Group big	40 seconds	40 seconds

- Items that could damage the floor or that could be a danger to athletes, for example, any type of liquid, glitter, etc., are not allowed.
- The use of any type of live animal is not allowed.

9) Costume

- THE GENERAL RULES OF DRESS FOR ALL DISCIPLINES ARE THE FOLLOWING: The decoration of the costumes or accessories that use symbols with religious, political or offensive references to public morals is not allowed, except in disciplines in which religious symbols are historically necessary, and as long as they are used without offending or damaging to someone.
- The clothing must cover the intimate parts of the athlete. Therefore, the following garments are prohibited: hot culottes, thongs and transparent inserts in intimate garments.
- If a problem occurs that totally or partially invalidates the dress for the competition, the athlete must inform the chairman of judges of the need to replace it and be authorized by him or her, before making any replacement.
- The chairman of judges may require an athlete or athletes to change all or part of any costume or accessory if he considers that such costume or accessory is contrary to the rules.
- An "accessory" is a decorative object that is integrated into the wardrobe (jewelry, gloves, bags, hats, belts, scarves, watches, sunglasses, pins, ties, warmers and braces).
- During the competition, nothing in the presentation, costumes, music or choreography can be changed. These elements must be kept unchanged throughout the competition to ensure equality between all competitors.

10) Prohibited Activities

- The registration of the same dancer, couple or team in more than one choreography of the same category is prohibited. You cannot compete against yourself.
- The directors, choreographers, parents/legal guardians, and participants are prohibited from

- verbal contact with the judges during the competition.
3. Directors, choreographers or any member of the school are prohibited from going on stage before, during or after the participating choreography (They will only go up when called for the award ceremony).
 4. Filming, it will not be allowed to record personal videos, film or photograph during the event, professional cameramen and photographers will be available at the event. This rule is in place to help protect choreography rights and our minors at this event.
 5. Athletes and participants in general are prohibited from using items that put people's health at risk and the order and cleanliness of the facilities, such as: paint, powders, liquids, fire, stones, balloons inflated with helium without weights, sharp tools, firearms, among others.
 6. **ACROBATICS:** An acrobatic movement is one in which the body turns around the sagittal or frontal axis, for example, somersaults or wheels.
 - a. Acrobatics are permitted except for disciplines in which they are expressly prohibited.
 - b. Acrobatics must never be gymnastic elements.
 - c. An acrobatics will never improve the score as an element of difficulty, on the contrary, elements that are poorly executed technically can harm the overall performance of the group.
 7. **LOADS:** A clean is a movement in which an athlete has both feet without contact with the ground and using the support of the partner or another athlete.
 - a. The Chairperson may disqualify any group if a clean is performed, which is not typical of the dance represented, during the performance of that group.

11) Scoring and Judging

1. At Panamá Open Dance Fest the evaluation systems and metrics are totally different and exclusive, so the jury, regardless of its expertise, is fully capable of evaluating the styles and genres for which it was summoned.
2. Panamá Open Dance Fest has the total freedom to choose the jury for each heat as it sees fit, if in any heat the jury is directly or indirectly part of the dancers we will do our best to substitute that adjudicator with the chairman of judges. It is taken for granted that the athlete or athletes who appear should not be affected by a single note from a jury when the table is made up of several members and each one issues an independent evaluation.
3. Panamá Open Dance Fest has different elements to consider and evaluate according to each genre and level of performance. These elements are:
 1. Technical qualities:
 - 1.1 Stance/poise
 - 1.2 Holds
 - 1.3 Balancing
 - 1.4 Footwork
 - 1.5 Elements of movement
 - 1.6 Body actions
 - 1.7 Spins
 - 1.8 Isolations and coordination
 - 1.9 Dynamics
 - 1.10 Lines and extensions
 2. Movement with music:
 - 2.1 Timming-shuffle timing
 - 2.2 Rhythm
 - 2.3 Musical structure

3. Partner/group skills:
 - 3.1 Physical communication
 - 3.2 Overbalance/ counter balance / holds / drops
 - 3.3 Space utilization
 - 3.4 Synchronization
 - 3.5 Consistency

4. Artistic qualities:
 - 4.1 Choreography and presentation
 - 4.2 Non-verbal communication
 - 4.3 Position in space
 - 4.4 Representation
 - 4.5 Characterization
 - 4.6 Interpretation
 - 4.7 Use of energy
 - 4.8 Atmosphere
 - 4.9 Musicality
 - 4.10 Intention

4. Scoring and qualification is the responsibility of the judges who have sufficient technical knowledge to evaluate any dancer in their different styles. The organization of the competition is the only existing authority to be able to see, together with the jury, any problem in this regard, thus leaving out of them, any external person, be it the academy or dancer.
5. The final results are processed by a software which returns the data faithful to the scores entered by the jury.
6. For no reason can the results be shown to external persons or persons not directly or indirectly involved in the competition, this data is of a legal nature and is controlled and in custody of Panamá Open Dance Fest.
7. POINT DEDUCTIONS
 - a. Panamá Open Dance Fest will deduct points from the dancer or group who registers for the wrong age and / or performs a different dance style than the one they registered for.
 - b. In case of not being present at the time of calling for participation, the organization reserves the right to disqualify the participant and will not accept any claim.
 - c. All athletes must behave in a responsible manner and with good sportsmanship. Including respecting other athletes, with no offensive or threatening behavior whatsoever.
8. The results will be published on the competition webpage 3 weeks after the same, as a maximum time. The organization is entitled to make these publications after this time when some circumstance of force majeure so requires and this does not give rise to claims or sanctions by competitors, teachers, judges or people outside the organization.
9. Claims from parents of families are not accepted during and after the competition, they are only accepted from the directors and directly with the Chairman of the competition, the organization or the Chairman can sanction the dancer for claims made by parents of family. From 24 hours after the results are published and a maximum of 7 days, claims are accepted under no exception.

12) Awards

- 1) The organization of the Panamá Open Dance Fest reserves the right to advance or delay the awards of the event according to needs, so the athletes must have the commitment to be present for their awards during the day of their competition.
- 2) If for any reason the athlete (s) are not present at the time of the award ceremony, they can still claim their award by written request. Their award will be mailed to the address given on the registration forms.
- 3) Under no circumstances are prizes awarded to third parties. If they are minors, they must be

accompanied by an adult who signs a document for any cash scholarship monies. If it is a group, the winner can be awarded to the teacher.

- 4) Awarding these prizes is at the sole and exclusive discretion of the competition organization, according to a score prior to the aforementioned items, therefore, there is no room or validity for any type of claim by persons outside the members of the organization.
- 5) Awards Include:
 - a) PARTICIPATION: an award acknowledging the participation of all dancers in the Panamá Open Dance Fest.
 - b) PLACEMENT AWARDS: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th Place Awards will be given in the Solo, Duo, Trio, and Team/Group divisions in each age category for each dance style.
 - c) DANCER OF THE YEAR: Award is given to the top scoring student. This award is an overall style award and is based on the top score (regardless of level or age). There is only one winner.
 - d) TEACHER OF THE YEAR: Based on majority students participation.
 - e) STUDIO OF THE YEAR: Beautiful Awards you will be proud to display given to the academies or studios that have accumulated the most points in each style.
 - f) PRO/AM BALLROOM SCHOLARSHIP EVENTS:
 - i) A monetary prize awarded to the amateur of the pro/am couple.
 - ii) Competition may reduce prize money by ½ if there are less than 3 competitors in entered.

13) Cancellation or Refund of Registration

MONEY RETURNS/REFUNDS: Once the registration has been made, the organization DOES NOT MAKE ANY REFUNDS, you will be credited for the following year's event.

In the event that the Panamá Open Dance Fest must be cancelled do to unforeseen circumstances or events, monies will be credited toward the following year's event.

The authority over these Regulations corresponds to the organization of the competition. This authority involves carrying out the following tasks:

- a) Take care of the periodic review of this Regulation and make it active. Therefore, it will be adapted to the needs of the moment.
- b) Issue supplementary rules and authorize exceptions whenever it deems appropriate.
- c) Ensure its application.
- d) Appreciate possible infractions and impose the corresponding sanctions.

The dancers implicitly agree that their personal data and image use are automatically incorporated into a database of the competition organization. Therefore, they release the organization from any responsibility for the use of this data in different advertising media, social networks and any type of communication.

The organization of the Panamá Open Dance Fest reserves the right to allow or not the participation of any dancer or academy, this under its own criteria, without this having any repercussions in legal channels or in the media. If for this reason the affected person or academy makes a comment or fact that, in the opinion of the organization, is dangerous and / or offensive to the image of the organization or the competition, it proceeds to exercise its relevant legal right.