



COMPETITION OVERVIEW

2026

UNDERSTANDING THE SCHEDULE

Approximately 14–10 days before competition, we will receive the official Final Schedule. We've attached an example schedule so families can get used to reading what you'll see. We may receive a 'draft schedule' a month prior, if we do, we will share all info!

What the schedule includes. Your dancer's crew, routine title, arrival time, performance time, adjudication time (awards).

Each studio attending a competition is assigned a **studio code**, represented by a letter (A–Z). This code is used in the program and during awards to help keep things running on time.

During awards, you may hear something like:

"Entry number 001, Hip Hop Small Group, Studio Code 'O', Hip Hop Hooray — Gold Award!"

We will always include our studio code on the schedule we share with families so you know exactly what to listen for during awards.

ARRIVAL TIMES

Competitions often run ahead or **behind schedule** (more often behind).

For this reason, dancers are required to **arrive 2 hours prior** to their scheduled performance time. This allows time for warm-up and preparation.

When you arrive, our coaches can let you know if the competition is currently ahead or behind.

SPECTATORS & ADMISSION

Most competitions offer free admission for parents, though some venues may charge an admission fee. If admission is required, we will always let families know well in advance.

Event Programs are always **available for purchase** at these competitions (typically \$15-\$20). Programs contain the full event schedule, studio codes, scoring breakdowns, judges bios and other event info.

Photos and Videos

Photography and videography are not permitted during routines. Videos are available for purchase following the event. In many cases, we are also able to download our videos and share them with families via Google Drive.

COSTUMES, HAIR & MAKEUP

A costume pick-up day will be scheduled closer to our first competition. Families will receive a checklist outlining:

- What costume pieces are provided per routine
- Required hairstyle
- Required makeup look

Hair is typically a low, slick-back bun or braids pulled back off the face. Traditional stage makeup is required, including bronzer, blush, eyeliner, mascara, and a deep lip color.

The studio will be purchasing costumes for all group routines, Solo/Duo/Trio dancers are welcome to choose their own, or work with the studio for costumes! To compete, we ask that dancers have all white indoor sneakers - any brand. As well as a pair of plain black sweatpants!

Dancers are responsible to remember their own costumes unless otherwise instructed by their coaches. Dancers must arrive at competition in their first costume with hair and makeup completed. Parents are not permitted backstage, so please arrive ready to dance.



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AWARDS & JUDGING

Dancers perform their routine for a panel of judges. There is an award ceremony (**adjudication**) every few hours for the routines in that session. Every routine receives a score, and every dancer receives a medal.

Example scoring:

Routine: Hip Hop Hooray

Judge A: 90/100
Judge B: 95/100
Judge C: 90/100

Average Score: 91.67/100

MEDALS & SCORING

Medal ranges may look like this:

- Bronze: 80–85
- Silver: 86–90
- Gold: 91–95
- High Gold: 96–100

In our example, Hip Hop Hooray would receive a Gold Award.

Each competition has its own scoring system. Our coaches will always post the scoring breakdown for each event.

FINALS & FEEDBACK VIDEOS

Top-scoring routines may be invited back for Finals. Every routine is also eligible for **Special Awards**, which are chosen by judges to highlight routines they found especially impressive or entertaining.

Judges' Feedback:

While dancers are performing, judges take verbal notes. This commentary is later laid over the performance videos and sent to us after the competition. Dancers are encouraged to listen to this feedback to review corrections and continue improving!

COMPETITION DAYS

For many of our families, competition season is brand new. Below is a simple breakdown of what you can expect during a typical competition weekend.

Competition start days vary. Start days depend on the venue and event size. Most competitions begin on Thursday evenings, though not every team will be scheduled on the first day.

Solo, Duo, and Trio routines usually go first. Occasionally, group routines may be scheduled on Thursday or Friday, but more often solo, duo, and trio routines are scheduled earlier in the weekend.

Group routines take place on the weekend. The majority of group routines and productions are scheduled on Saturday and Sunday.

Finals happen on Sunday. Finals are typically held Sunday afternoon or evening. Each competition selects finalists differently, and sometimes we won't know if a routine has made finals until the very last adjudication.

Competition days are long. Days can start as early as 6:15am and may run as late as 11:00pm. Our staff will be present all day for questions and assistance! While we encourage dancers to support their teammates, we also want them to take breaks to eat, rest, and clear their heads.

We recommend dancers bring:

- All costume pieces (please refer to your checklist)
- A large water bottle
- A lunch bag with snacks
- Comfortable clothes to change into between routines
- Slippers to wear backstage
- Homework, a book, or something quiet to stay busy

Please avoid bringing valuables, as dressing rooms are left unlocked while dancers are backstage.

**** EXAMPLE SCHEDULE**

COMP. DATES | COMP. NAME | COMP. LOCATION | STUDIO CODE: X

ENTRY #	ROUTINE TITLE	CREW/ DANCERS	ARRIVAL TIME	PERFORMANCE TIME
THURSDAY APRIL 00				
001	SPEED	STUDIO PRODUCTION	6:30AM	8:30AM
012	WELCOME TO THE SOUTH	VARSITY CREW	7:00AM	9:00AM
042	PASS THE MIC	ELITE CREW	8:00AM	10:10AM
ADJUDICATION: 12:30PM				
068	YOU CAN DO IT	ELITE LRG GROUP	11:00AM	1:00PM
081	WHERE THEM GIRLS AT	ELITE SMALL GROUP	11:00AM	1:05PM
096	MAKE IT HOT	VARSITY LRG GROUP	12:00PM	2:00PM
103	DO MY THING	VARSITY SMALL GROUP	12:30PM	2:30PM
ADJUDICATION: 5:00PM				
117	WEST COAST	LINDSAY, BIANCA, GRACIE	6:00PM	8:00PM
149	SO CLEAN	MANDY, ALLIE, ISSY	6:00PM	8:10PM
ADJUDICATION: 9:30PM				