



ROCKHAMPTON DANCE FESTIVAL

18-25 September 2026

P R E L I M I N A R Y *P R O G R A M*

Adjudicator: To Be Advised

Section Entry Fees

Improvisation Items	\$5.00
Student Choreography Items	\$10.00
Solo Items	\$15.00
Duo/Trio Items	\$20.00
Group Items	\$35.00
Championships.....	\$30.00
Elite Solo Item	\$15.00

Entries close: Groups - 17 May
All other entries close: 6 June
Entries will close if we reach capacity before the due dates.

NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

ALL TROPHIES MUST BE RETURNED by 1 August 2026
To Puls8 Studios, 160 Denison Street or, Prima Donna, Cnr Dean & High Streets

All payments are to be paid online for 2026. No cash payments will be accepted. Programs can also be ordered through the RDF website and will be emailed when completed. Dates subject to change with number of entries

**Subject to change. The RDF reserves the right to combine sections.*

ENTRIES: www.rockhamptondancefestival.org.au

ENQUIRIES: rockhamptondancefestival@hotmail.com

These rules are here for your safety and to ensure a fair and reasonable competition. Please take the time to read, understand and adhere to the rules. If all competitors, teachers, parents and friends abide by the competition regulations it will ensure the smooth and friendly operation of the Dance Festival.

Code of Conduct

Expectations for Behaviour

All contestants, parents, and supporters are expected to demonstrate **good sportsmanship** at all times. Any form of unsportsmanlike behaviour may result in **disqualification** or **removal from theatre property**.

Zero Tolerance Policy

The Rockhampton Dance Festival Incorporated (the committee) maintains a **zero-tolerance stance** toward unacceptable behaviour. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Verbal abuse of any person
- Obscene or offensive language
- Loud, aggressive, or disruptive behaviour
- Inappropriate conduct on social media relating to the Festival

Any behaviour deemed unacceptable by the committee may result in immediate action.

Compliance With Directives

Committee members and designated officials may issue directives at any time to ensure the smooth and efficient running of the Festival.

- Any person who refuses to follow a directive may be asked to leave the venue.
- Continued refusal may result in further action, including the involvement of police, to protect the Festival's operation.

Behaviour of Children

If a child behaves in a manner considered unacceptable by the committee or its representatives:

- The child may be removed from the venue.
- If the child is a competitor, they may be **disqualified** from the current section and potentially from additional sections.

Behaviour of Adults

Adults—whether audience members, teachers, parents, guardians, or volunteers—are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that supports the Festival's safe, fair, and respectful operation. Behaviour considered unacceptable by the committee or its representatives may result in the following actions:

- **The adult may be asked to leave the venue.**
This includes behaviour that is disruptive, aggressive, intimidating, or disrespectful toward competitors, volunteers, adjudicators, staff, or other attendees.
- **If the adult is associated with a competitor, the competitor may be disqualified.**
This applies when an adult's behaviour interferes with the fairness of competition, breaches rules, or creates an unsafe or hostile environment.
- **Further participation in the Festival may be restricted.**
The committee reserves the right to prohibit the adult—and any competitors they are

responsible for—from attending or participating in additional sections or future Festivals.

- **Reports may be escalated.**

In cases involving harassment, threats, or safety concerns, the matter may be referred to relevant authorities.

Definition of an Official

An **official** is any person appointed by the committee to assist with the running of the Annual Festival. This includes roles such as:

- Marshal
- Backstage worker
- Door keeper

Venue Rules

During the Festival, employees of the hired venue are to be obeyed at all times while within the venue complex. For the duration of the Festival, these employees are considered **designated officials**.

Entry Forms

All entry forms are considered part of the **rules and regulations** of the Rockhampton Dance Festival. By submitting an entry, participants agree to comply with all Festival rules, including this Code of Conduct.

2026 COMPETITION RULES & REGULATIONS - GENERAL

RULES OF COMPETITION

Infringement of any of the following rules will result in disqualification. The Festival Management Committee reserves the right to reject any entry.

1. Eligibility

Solo dance items are open sections for the 2026 Festival.

2. Entry Fees

Entry fees must be paid by the closing date to validate entries. Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the Committee subject to double fees. If entries are filled before the due date, those entries finalized and paid will be entered.

3. Entries

All entries must be submitted online. Responsibility for accuracy rests entirely with the entrant.

4. Age Eligibility

Competitors must meet the age limits as at 1 January 2026. Proof of age may be required and prizes withheld until provided.

5. Use of Names

Competitors must compete under their own name. Duo and Trio entries must list all competitors at the time of entry.

6. Amateur Status

The competition is open to amateurs only, as defined by the Rockhampton Dance Festival Committee. The Committee reserves final determination of status.

7. Child Protection, Appropriateness & Presentation

All selections, costumes, props, backing music, choreography, and dress **must be age-appropriate** and selected with the understanding that the Festival is a **family-friendly event** and that children will be present in the audience at all times.

If, in the opinion of the **Adjudicator**, any work or its presentation (including costuming) is deemed **unsuitable or unacceptable for family viewing**, the Adjudicator may, at their discretion:

- Deduct marks, or
- Refuse to mark the performance entirely.

The Adjudicator's decision in these matters shall be **final**.

Child Protection Commitment

The Rockhampton Dance Festival is committed to maintaining the **highest standards of safety, wellbeing, and child protection** for all competitors. To support this commitment, the following requirements and recommendations apply:

- Costuming must **not place a competitor at risk of exposing themselves** to the audience, whether intentionally or accidentally.
- **Tights must be worn** under any costume that does not incorporate a defined, sewn-in leg.
- Choreography must be **age-appropriate** and must not include movements or gestures that could reasonably be interpreted as **explicit, sexualised, or offensive**.
- Music selections must be **age-appropriate** and must not contain:
 - Explicit or subliminal sexual references
 - References to drugs or alcohol
 - References to violence

The Adjudicator will be made aware of these requirements and may take them into consideration when determining scores and placings.

In addition to the Adjudicator, the Rockhampton Dance Festival Executive Committee reserves the right to determine the appropriateness or inappropriateness of costuming, music, and choreography in alignment with the family-friendly nature of the competition. All such decisions are final.

8. Competing in Older Age Sections (Solo – Open Age Sections)

Dancers are not eligible to dance up in Open Solo age sections, except as outlined below:

- a. Dancers eligible for the Tiny Tots 4 Years and Under section may choose to compete either in the Tiny Tots 4 Years and Under **or** the Open 5 & 6 Years Solo sections, but not both.
- b. Dancers eligible to enter the Tiny Tots 6 Years and Under Improvisation section are not permitted to dance up into any other Improvisation section.

9. Restricted Sections

- a. Competitors entering the Adult Group (Any Dance) section must be 18 years or older as at 1 January 2026.

10. Duo & Trio Restrictions

Competitors in Duo and Trio sections may elect to compete in an older age group, but may then not compete in their own age group Duo or Trio sections in the same dance style.

11. Repetition of Items

A competitor shall not perform the same item more than once at any one Festival.

An exception applies to Championship events for 2026 only.

12. Dressing Rooms and Backstage Access

Information regarding dressing room allocations will be provided closer to the Festival date.

Where possible during Group Weekends, competitors are required to **arrive dressed** at the Pilbeam Theatre.

Parents and guardians will be permitted backstage during Group Weekends up to fifteen (15) minutes prior to the commencement of each session, unless prior approval has been granted by the Committee (e.g. for assistance with props).

Competitors are not permitted to remain in dressing rooms after completing their section and must vacate promptly.

Dressing rooms will be allocated to dance studios and rotated annually, taking into consideration group numbers and functional requirements.

For Solo, Duo, and Trio competitors, one (1) accompanying person per performer is permitted in the dressing room areas.

To minimise congestion during peak performance times, studios and families are respectfully requested to ensure that additional persons, including extended family members, wait away from dressing rooms, green rooms, and backstage areas.

Prams are not permitted in backstage or dressing room areas at any time.

Failure to comply with these requirements may result in restricted access as determined by Festival Staff or the Executive Committee.

13. Order of Appearance

The order of appearance for all competitors will be determined by the CompsOnline system, which randomly allocates performance order.

The order of appearance will be printed in the Official Festival Program.

Unless alternative arrangements have been approved in advance by the Festival Secretary, competitors must be ready to perform promptly when their number is called.

Competitor numbers printed in the Program are sequential, as required by both the CompsOnline and Music Uploads systems.

14. Cancellation, Combination, and Division of Sections

The Committee reserves the right to cancel or combine sections where there are insufficient entries. *This rule will be strictly enforced.*

The Committee also reserves the right to divide sections with a high number of competitors.

Where sections are split:

- Each split section will be adjudicated separately
- A trophy will be awarded to the competitor receiving the highest mark in each split section

Sections will be divided as follows:

- 12 Years & Under – split at 15 competitors, divided by year of birth
- 13 Years & Over – split at 20 competitors, divided by year of birth

15. Official Festival Program

The Official Festival Program will be emailed to entrants once finalised.

16. Authority of the Committee

The Festival Management Committee retains full control of the competition and reserves the right to amend, alter, or reschedule the program where it is deemed necessary in the best interests of the Festival. All decisions of the Committee are final.

17. Music Uploads and Responsibility

All accompanying music for the 2026 Festival must be submitted online via the designated Music Uploads system.

It is the sole responsibility of the competitor to ensure that their music is correctly uploaded. Detailed instructions for uploading music will be provided to competitors.

For Demi-Character sections and National sections, the name of the Demi-Character and/or National must be entered in the appropriate field during the music upload process.

Studios are advised to check rules for specific information regarding the use of curtains and tabs.

Music Requirements

- Music must be uploaded no later than ten (10) days prior to the commencement of the Festival.
- Music files must be in MP3 format.
- Competitors are responsible for ensuring:
 - The correct music file is uploaded for each routine
 - The file is complete, accurate, and playable

If a music file is corrupt, incomplete, or unplayable, efforts may be made to notify the competitor prior to the Festival. However, the Rockhampton Dance Festival (RDF) is unable to repair or edit music files and accepts no responsibility for music faults.

All music files remain the sole responsibility of the competitor.

Failure to upload music by the stated deadline will result in the entry being deemed withdrawn, with no refund of entry fees.

18. Protests and Objections

Any protest or objection of a technical nature must be referred to the Festival Executive Committee for determination. The Committee's decision shall be final and accepted without further appeal. **Any complaints must be submitted via email to the official Rockhampton Dance Festival email address.**

All protests must:

- Be made in writing
- Be lodged with the Secretary of the Festival Executive Committee
- Be submitted within one (1) hour of the conclusion of the section in which the matter arises

Adjudication decisions must not be discussed with the Adjudicator.

19. Adjudication Feedback

An audio adjudication for each performance will be provided via the competitor's Music Uploads account, excluding Improvisation sections.

20. Incomplete Performances

If a competitor leaves the stage resulting in an incomplete performance, due to emotional distress or forgetting the routine, the competitor may, at the Adjudicator's discretion, be invited to perform once only, after the final competitor in the section has completed their performance.

Such competitors will not be eligible for placings.

Technical problems will not be penalised.

21. Adjudicator Contact and Conflict of Interest

Parents, guardians, teachers, and competitors **must not**:

- Have communicated with
- Received tuition from
- Or had any professional or personal engagement with

the Adjudicator or the Adjudicator's school within six (6) months prior to, or during, the Festival. This prohibition includes all forms of communication, including social media.

Competitors, parents, guardians, and teachers must not approach or communicate with the Adjudicator during the Festival. Relatives of the Adjudicator are not eligible to enter the Festival.

The Committee reserves the right to disqualify any competitor where, in its opinion, this rule has been breached by the competitor or their parent, guardian, or teacher.

Please Note:

As some Festival Executive Committee members and volunteers may also be parents or teachers of competitors, they may be required to communicate with the Adjudicator **solely for Festival business purposes**.

22. Marking and Results

In each section, competitors will be awarded marks out of 100, with placing determined by the highest score.

For Championship sections, marks out of 100 will be awarded for each item, with the winner determined by the total combined score.

The release or announcement of marks is entirely at the discretion of the Adjudicator.

23. Equal Placings

The Adjudicator reserves the right to award shared placings where performances are deemed to be of equal merit.

24. Substitute Adjudicator

In the event that the appointed Adjudicator is unable to fulfil their duties due to unforeseen circumstances, the Committee reserves the right to appoint a substitute Adjudicator.

25. Certificates and Awards

Official certificates for First, Second, Third, Very Highly Commended, and Highly Commended will be presented to all place-getters.

All competitors in the following sections will receive a certificate:

- 5 Years & Under Group Sections
- 4 Years & Under Tiny Tots Solo
- Tiny Tots Duo/Trio

26. Perpetual Trophies

Perpetual trophies will be held by winners for nine (9) months, after which they must be returned to the Festival.

Trophy holders are responsible for:

- Safe custody of the trophy
- Return at their own expense
- Ensuring the trophy is cleaned and engraved prior to return

The Committee will not:

- Arrange or pay for engraving
- Accept responsibility for trophies once presented

27. External Awards

No additional trophies, prizes, or awards will be accepted or added to the Festival once the competition has commenced.

28. Rehearsals at Festival Venues

Competitors are **not permitted to rehearse** at any Festival venue once the Festival has commenced, including but not limited to:

- On stage
- Bar areas
- Any restricted public or backstage spaces

unless prior approval has been granted by the Executive Committee.

Marking through routines using earphones is permitted outside the theatre or backstage areas, provided this does not obstruct other venue users.

This rule will be strictly enforced, and disqualification may be considered where breaches are reported.

29. Group Helpers and Chaperones

Only one (1) helper per group is permitted backstage.

If more than one helper is required, written permission must be sought from the Festival Committee and submitted with the entry. While it is acknowledged that additional assistance may be required for 5 Years & Under and 7 Years & Under groups, this must still be requested in writing.

If more than the approved number of helpers are present backstage without permission, additional helpers will be required to leave the backstage area immediately.

Helpers may assist with:

- Moving props
- Setting stage positions
- Keeping passageways clear for runners

No prompting is permitted side-stage.

All group helpers must remain seated once the group performance has commenced, unless prior written approval has been granted by the Festival Committee.

All 9 Years & Under, 7 Years & Under, and 5 Years & Under groups must be accompanied by a designated chaperone.

Names of all helpers and chaperones must be provided together. Approved helpers/chaperones will be issued with a pass, which must be worn at all times backstage.

30. Solo, Duo & Trio Backstage Access (8 Years & Under)

For competitors 8 Years & Under, one (1) parent or guardian may accompany the competitor backstage or side-stage when:

- Assisting with props, and/or
- Supporting the competitor prior to performance

Only competitors performing in the current section are permitted side-stage.

This rule will be strictly enforced. Clarification may be provided by the Committee if required.

31. Prohibited Substances on Stage

The following substances and items are strictly prohibited on the stage and surrounding performance areas:

- Glass
- Sand
- Water or liquids of any kind
- Creams, powders, fog, dry ice
- Food
- Any item that may break apart on stage

Loose materials (e.g. straw) must be fully contained within fine mesh.

The use of chalk, body paint, powder, or any substance that may transfer onto the stage floor is not permitted.

No open flames are permitted, including but not limited to candles, sparklers, cigarettes, or lighters.

No foreign substances are to be left on stage at the completion of an item.

32. Use of Curtains/Back Curtain Positioning

Curtain use is restricted to Group Sections only.

All requests for curtain use must be clearly indicated via Music Uploads, including:

- Which group section requires curtain use
- In 2026, an RDF backdrop will be used. No changes to the backdrop will be permitted.

A separate written form or email outlining curtain requirements may be submitted by the studio teacher to the Festival Secretary for Committee approval prior to the commencement of the Festival.

Curtain use will not be permitted in any other sections, regardless of props or stage placement.

33. Curtain Operation and Venue Safety

All operation of stage curtains (front and back) at the Pilbeam Theatre must be carried out only by authorised Pilbeam Theatre employees.

In accordance with current Workplace Health & Safety legislation, no other persons are permitted to operate curtains within the Theatre complex.

A Pilbeam Theatre technician will be in attendance during all sections where curtain use has been approved under Rule 42.

34. Movement Behind Stage Curtains

For health and safety reasons, competitors are requested not to run or walk behind the stage back-drop or back curtain.

Designated passageways must be used. Any competitor who chooses to move behind back curtains does so entirely at their own risk.

If studio requirements necessitate this movement during a performance, written notification must be submitted with the entry.

35. Stage Lighting

No alterations to stage lighting will be permitted throughout the Festival.

36. Storage and Retrieval of Props

All props must be delivered backstage prior to the relevant session (morning, afternoon, or evening), during scheduled dock opening times.

Props must be collected immediately following the conclusion of the relevant session.

37. Responsibility for Props

While due care will be taken, the Festival Committee accepts no responsibility for props before, during, or after performances.

All props must comply with the Workplace Health & Safety regulations of the venue.

38. Footwear Protection

All footwear must remain fully covered until a competitor is ready to enter the side-stage area for performance.

This measure is in place to prevent the transfer of substances such as hair spray, glitter, or chemicals onto the stage floor.

39. Media Consent

By entering the Rockhampton Dance Festival, competitors (and their parents/guardians, where applicable) grant permission for the competitor to be interviewed, photographed, or video recorded during the Festival.

Such material may be used for promotional, advertising, and marketing purposes related to the Rockhampton Dance Festival, without compensation.

40. Auditorium Entry and Tickets

At the 2026 Dance Festival, entry to the auditorium will require a purchased ticket.

This requirement applies to all persons, including but not limited to:

- Parents and family members
- Teachers
- Competitors

No unauthorised entry to the auditorium will be permitted without a valid ticket.

41. Photography and Recording Prohibition

To protect competitor privacy and comply with applicable laws, the use of photographic or recording devices of any kind is strictly prohibited in the auditorium and side-stage areas.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Video cameras
- Cameras
- Mobile phones
- Tablets
- Audio or video recording devices

Official Festival photographers and videographers are exempt from this rule.

Failure to comply may result in:

- Disqualification of the competitor
- Removal from the venue
- Referral to authorities where the breach is considered serious

42. Programming Requests and Special Arrangements

The Rockhampton Dance Festival is unable to guarantee special scheduling arrangements on the grounds of:

- Travel or out-of-town commitments
- Religious considerations
- Conflicting competitions or personal plans

Requests for exceptional circumstances may be considered at the discretion of the Festival Committee.

All requests must:

- Be submitted in writing
- Be accompanied by a \$10 non-refundable administration fee

Payment of the fee does not guarantee approval. All decisions of the Festival Committee are final.

43. Errors and Omissions

All due care will be taken in compiling the Festival schedule and program. However, the Committee reserves the right to amend or rectify any errors or omissions as necessary.

44. Licensing and Copyright

Entry fees include coverage under APRA AMCOS, ARIA, and PPCA blanket licensing arrangements, permitting the use of copyright music and sound recordings during the Festival.

45. Festival Cancellation and Refunds

In the event that the Festival is cancelled due to catastrophic or unforeseen circumstances, refunds will be offered in accordance with CompsOnline policy.

Refunds will be issued less any applicable online booking fees and PayPal or credit card processing fees.

2026 COMPETITION RULES & REGULATIONS – DANCE

1. Special Definitions

Lyrical: Dance movements not constrained by classical ballet, demonstrating fluid interpretation of music.

Contemporary: Abstract, expressive theatrical dance not bound by classical ballet rules.

Hip Hop: Energetic movements derived from break-dancing, focusing on creativity and attitude.

Jazz: Energetic dance showcasing individual style, featuring leaps, turns and footwork.

National Dance: Traditional dances representing cultural heritage. Scottish and Irish dancing excluded.

Demi-Character: Classical-based dance with clear characterisation and emotional storyline.

Acro Dance: A fusion of classical dance technique and acrobatic elements.

Cabaret/Broadway Jazz: High-energy Broadway-style jazz; heels permitted from age 13 years and over.

Musical Theatre/Novelty: Theatrical routines from stage or screen musicals; singing or lip-syncing permitted.

Neo-Classical: Modern ballet-based choreography with clean lines; pointe permitted.

2. Choreography and Copyright

All choreography must be original. Any breach of copyright will result in immediate disqualification.

3. Time Limits

Strict time limits apply to all sections and include entry and exit music (tags).

The following maximum time limits apply:

- **Open Solo, Duo, Trio**
(All dance styles excluding Musical Theatre/Novelty, Song & Dance, and Demi-Character)
3 minutes
- **Open Solo, Duo, Trio**
(Musical Theatre/Novelty, Song & Dance, and Demi-Character only)
3 minutes 30 seconds
- **Student Choreography**
2 minutes
- **Group Sections**
5 minutes

4. Solo Aggregate Awards

Solo Aggregate Awards will be determined by summing the total points received across the relevant sections outlined below.

In the event of a tie, each winner will receive the trophy for an equal period of eight (8) months per year (e.g. two winners will hold the trophy for four (4) months each).

Ballet Aggregate

Junior – 12 Years & Under

Senior – 13 Years & Over

- Open Ballet Solo (No Pointe)
- Open Demi-Character Solo
- Open National Dance Solo

Jazz Aggregate

Junior – 12 Years & Under

Senior – 13 Years & Over

- Open Jazz Solo
- Open Contemporary Solo
- **One of the following:**
 - Open Hip Hop Solo **OR**

- Open Lyrical Solo

Points are calculated from the highest three (3) sections.

Tap Aggregate

Junior – 12 Years & Under

Senior – 13 Years & Over

- Open Tap Solo
- Open Waltz Tap Solo
- Open Speed Tap Solo

Most Versatile Dancer Aggregate (Any Age)

To be eligible for the Most Versatile Dancer award, competitors must perform six (6) Open Solo sections, including the following three compulsory sections:

Compulsory Sections:

- Open Ballet Solo (No Pointe)
- Open Jazz Solo
- Open Tap Solo

Plus any three (3) of the following:

- Open Demi-Character Solo
- Open National Dance Solo
- Open Lyrical Solo
- Open Contemporary Solo
- Open Hip Hop Solo
- Open Acro Solo
- Open Waltz Tap Solo
- Open Speed Tap Solo
- Open Song & Dance Solo
- Open Cabaret / Broadway Jazz Solo
- Open Musical Theatre / Novelty Solo
- Open Neo-Classical Solo

Points are calculated from:

- All **three compulsory sections**, plus
- The **highest scoring three** additional sections.

Musical Theatre Aggregate

Junior – 12 Years & Under

Senior – 13 Years & Over

- Open Song & Dance Solo
- Open Musical Theatre / Novelty Solo
- Open Cabaret / Broadway Jazz Solo (*13 Years & Over only*)

Improvisation Aggregate

Junior – 12 Years & Under

Senior – 13 Years & Over

The Adjudicator will select:

- Most Outstanding Junior Improvisation, and
- Most Outstanding Senior Improvisation

5. Championship Sections

To be eligible to compete in any Championship section, a competitor must have entered and performed in the relevant Open age sections listed below during the current Festival.

Championship performances must include at least one routine that has not been previously performed at the current year's Festival.

Championships will be conducted in two (2) age divisions for 2026:

- **Junior** – 12 Years & Under
- **Senior** – 13 Years & Over

Championship Eligibility Requirements

Classical Ballet Championship

- Open Classical Ballet Solo **OR** Open Classical Ballet Pointe Solo
AND
- Open Demi-Character Solo

Tap Championship

- Open Tap Solo **OR** Open Waltz Tap Solo
AND
- Open Speed Tap Solo

Jazz Championship

- Open Contemporary Solo **OR** Open Lyrical Solo
AND
- Open Jazz Solo

Entertainment Championship

- Open Musical Theatre / Novelty Solo
AND
- One (1) of the following:
 - Open Song & Dance Solo
 - Open Cabaret / Broadway Jazz Solo

- Open Acro Solo
- Open Hip Hop Solo

Failure to meet the stated eligibility requirements will result in **ineligibility** to compete in the relevant Championship section.

6. Elite Dancer Award

The Elite Dancer Award will be offered in two (2) sections for 2026:

- Elite Dancer Junior – 12 Years & Under
- Elite Dancer Senior – 13 Years & Over

Competitors enter this section in the same manner as a standard solo section, subject to the following mandatory prerequisites and conditions:

- a. The competitor must have entered and competed in a minimum of three (3) Solo sections, and one (1) Championship section (any facet), during the current Festival.
- b. Competitors may perform any style of dance. This is an Open section, adjudicated separately from all other sections and does not count towards aggregates or any other Festival awards.
- c. The routine must be unseen at the current year's Festival. A new routine is compulsory for this section.
- d. There will be **one (1) award only** per section:
 - Elite Dancer Junior
 - Elite Dancer Senior

Winners will receive:

- A Trophy
- A Prize Pack
- \$150 Prize Money

All decisions of the Adjudicator and Festival Committee in relation to eligibility, performance standards, and awards shall be final.

7. Group Sections

When competing in Group sections, competitors may elect to compete in:

- Their own age group, and/or
- Older age group sections.

For the 2026 Festival, competitors may dance with more than one group per section.

No time concessions will be made for costume changes, hair changes, or makeup changes. Studios must plan entries carefully to ensure competitors are prepared when called.

Multiple group entries from the same dancing studio may be entered in the same section. However, due to scheduling and time constraints, the Committee reserves the right to withdraw and refund entries if required. Any such decisions will be communicated as soon as practicable after entries close.

A Group must consist of four (4) or more competitors.

8. Group Aggregate Award

The Group Aggregate Award will be determined using the following points system:

- Non-place-getting performing group – 1 point
- Highly Commended – 2 points
- Third Place – 3 points
- Second Place – 4 points
- First Place – 5 points

The total accumulation of points across all group performances will determine the Group Aggregate Award recipient. The group with the highest total points will be declared the winner.

N.B.:

All groups will still receive a mark out of 100, as determined by the Adjudicator. The points system outlined above is used solely to determine the overall Group Aggregate Award.

All sections, choreography, costumes, props, backing music, and dress must remain age-appropriate and suitable for family viewing. If the Adjudicator determines that a performance or presentation (including costuming) is unsuitable or unacceptable, they may deduct marks or refuse to mark the performance entirely. The Adjudicator's decision shall be final.

It remains at the sole discretion of the Adjudicator whether marks are announced or released.

9. Improvisation Sections – Check-In and Numbering

For all Improvisation sections, competitors must be present in the designated waiting area *before* their section is announced.

Any competitor who checks in after the section has been announced will be disqualified.

Competitors will be allocated a number which must be pinned to a plain leotard and worn for the entire duration of all Improvisation sections they are participating in. These numbers will be supplied in the Competitor Packs.

10. Improvisation & Costume Requirements

All competitors in Improvisation sections must wear plain, basic, non-sequined costumes made from non-reflective materials, appropriate to the style of dance being performed.

Studio logos are not permitted on costumes for:

- Improvisation sections
- Solo, Duo, Trio sections
- Group sections

Failure to comply may result in penalties or disqualification at the discretion of the Adjudicator or Committee.

11. Props

The use of props must be kept to a minimum and is restricted to items that can be placed on stage within one (1) minute.

Competitors using a single prop may request the Convenor or Conductor to place the prop on stage.

A Pilbeam Theatre technician may also assist with placement and removal of props at any time.

12. Competitor Check-In and Withdrawals

Competitors must check in prior to their section being announced.

Any competitor who is not present when called for their section will be deemed a Withdrawal and may not be permitted to perform.

Rockhampton Dance Festival Awards and Bursaries

POINTS AWARDS *Recipients are selected based on points received during the Festival*

- Debra Parker Ballet Aggregate Award (Highest Total points) - Junior
- Debra Parker Ballet Aggregate Award (Highest Total points) - Senior
- Peregrine Video Jazz Aggregate Award (Highest Total points) - Junior
- Peregrine Video Jazz Aggregate Award (Highest Total points) - Senior
- Peregrine Video Tap Aggregate Award (Highest Total points) - Junior
- The Bridge Motor Inn Tap Aggregate Award (Highest Total points) - Senior
- Vicki Davis Academy of Dance & Performing Arts Musical Theatre Aggregate - Junior
- Vicki Davis Academy of Dance & Performing Arts Musical Theatre Aggregate - Senior
- Peregrine Video Most Versatile Dancer Bursary (Highest Total points)
- Peregrine Video Highest Points in Any Group (12 Years & Under)
- Peregrine Video Highest Points in Any Group (13 Years & Over)
- Lyndi Walley Group Aggregate Award (Highest Total points)
- Improvisation Aggregate Award (Highest Total Points) - Junior - Adjudicator will award most outstanding for 2026 due to limiting number of Improvisations
- Improvisation Aggregate Award (Highest Total Points) - Senior - Adjudicator will award most outstanding for 2026 due to limiting number of Improvisations

ADJUDICATORS AWARDS *Recipients are selected by the Adjudicator.*

- Narelle Aspinall Encouragement Award Ballet - Junior
- Belonogoff Family Encouragement Award Ballet - Senior
- Capricorn School of Dance Encouragement Award Jazz - Junior
- Emma & Caitlin Crawford Encouragement Award Jazz - Senior
- Mitchell Westcott Encouragement Award Tap - Junior
- Debbie Rule Encouragement Award Tap - Senior
- Donta Whitham Encouragement Award Contemporary - Junior
- Allegra Dance Academy Encouragement Award Contemporary – Senior
- DMTA RGS Encouragement Award Lyrical - Junior
- Kara-Lee Buckton Encouragement Award Lyrical - Senior
- Capricornia Drama Encouragement Award Musical Theatre – Junior
- Abby King Encouragement Award Musical Theatre - Senior
- PULS8 Studios Trophy Most Promising Performer in Tiny Tots
- Ann Loague Trophy Most Promising Performer in Ballet - Junior
- Ann Loague Trophy Most Promising Performer in Ballet - Senior
- RDF Most Promising Performer in Jazz - Junior
- Natalie Latimer's Dance Euphoria Most Promising Performer in Jazz - Senior
- Michael Robertson Studio of Dance & Musical Theatre - Most Promising Performer in Tap - Junior
- Michael Robertson Studio of Dance & Musical Theatre - Most Promising Performer in Tap - Senior
- Jane Veach Trophy Most Promising Performer in Contemporary - Junior
- Jane Veach Trophy Most Promising Performer in Contemporary - Senior
- Eliza Eather Most Promising Performer in Lyrical – Junior
- Eliza Eather Most Promising Performer in Lyrical – Senior
- Leissa on Oxley Trophy Most Promising Performer in Musical Theatre – Junior
- Millie O'Brien Most Promising Performer in Musical Theatre - Senior
- Alicia Marcy & Zane Melton Trophy - Most Outstanding Duo/Trio Item

- Heather Petersen Most Outstanding Student Choreography Award
- Tim Rule Trophy Most Outstanding Male Dancer
- Fiesta Legwear Trophy Most Outstanding Female Dancer
- RDF Adjudicators Award
- Fay Duke Memorial Trophy Decorative and Fine Arts Society Bursary Elite Dancer - Junior
- Rockhampton Dance Festival Bursary Elite Dancer - Senior
- Shellaan Valk Memorial Bursary Encouragement Award any Open Sections
- Scott Family Trophy Sportsmanship Award
- Rockhampton Dance Festival Trophy RDF Encouragement Award – all ages
- Lee Dawson President Award

COMPETITION SECTIONS

SOLOS

Tiny Tots Solo (Any Dance) – Time Limit 3:00 min

Section 1 4 Years & Under Ann Loague Trophy

OPEN Classical Ballet Solo (no pointe) – Time Limit 3:00 min

Section 2 5 & 6 Years Krystal & Jessica Davis Trophy
Section 3 7 & 8 Years Peregrine Video Trophy
Section 4 9 & 10 Years DC Motors Trophy
Section 5 11 & 12 Years Margot Durow & Coral Newsome Trophy
Section 6 13 & 14 Years Kristin Williams Trophy
Section 7 15 Years & Over Jacienta Hinton Trophy

OPEN Classical Ballet Pointe Solo – Time Limit 3:00 min

Section 8 14 Years & Under Vi Veretennikoff Memorial Trophy
Section 9 15 Years & Over Amelia & Erin Gottschleigh Trophy

OPEN Neo-Classical Ballet Solo – Time Limit 3:00 min

Section 10 14 Years & Under Eather Family Trophy
Section 11 15 Years & Over Eather Family Trophy

OPEN National Dance (excludes Irish & Scottish) – Time Limit 3:00 min

Section 12 5 & 6 Years Paige Gill Trophy
Section 13 7 & 8 Years Alexandra Family Trophy
Section 14 9 & 10 Years Janelle's Academy of Dancing Trophy
Section 15 11 & 12 Years Miadco Screen Printing Trophy
Section 16 13 & 14 Years McPhee Family Trophy
Section 17 15 Years & Over Michele Carolan Trophy

OPEN Demi-Character Solo – Time Limit 3:30 min

Section 18 5 & 6 Years Alexandra Davis Trophy
Section 19 7 & 8 Years Peregrine Video Trophy
Section 20 9 & 10 Years Peregrine Video Trophy
Section 21 11 & 12 Years DC Motors Trophy
Section 22 13 & 14 Years Deanna Carolan Trophy
Section 23 15 Years & Over Tantrum Fashions Trophy

OPEN Song and Dance Solo – Time Limit 3:30 min

Section 24 5 & 6 Years Puls8 Studios Trophy
Section 25 7 & 8 Years Reagan & Jordan L'Estrange Trophy
Section 26 9 & 10 Years Jessica Earle Trophy
Section 27 11 & 12 Years Catherine Schwarten Trophy
Section 28 13 & 14 Years Casey Davis Trophy
Section 29 15 Years & Over Fox Family Trophy

OPEN Tap Solo (traditional 4/4 rhythm) – Time Limit 3:00 min

Section 30 5 & 6 Years Rhythm Adikt Dance Studio Trophy
Section 31 7 & 8 Years Peregrine Video Trophy
Section 32 9 & 10 Years Hannah Butler Trophy
Section 33 11 & 12 Years Peregrine Video Trophy
Section 34 13 & 14 Years Fox Family Trophy

Section 35 15 Years & Over Breanna Rodgers Trophy

OPEN Waltz Tap Solo (3/4 rhythm) – Time Limit 3:00 min

Section 36 8 Years & Under Peregrine Video Trophy
Section 37 9 & 10 Years Rachael Valk Trophy
Section 38 11 & 12 Years Peregrine Video Trophy
Section 39 13 & 14 Years Krystal Davis Trophy
Section 40 15 Years & Over Tim Rule Trophy

OPEN Speed Tap Solo – Time Limit 3:00 min

Section 41 8 Years & Under Joelle Lynch & Frankie-Lee Duke Trophy
Section 42 9 & 10 Years Janelle’s Academy of Dancing Trophy
Section 43 11 & 12 Years Maureen Milne Trophy
Section 44 13 & 14 Years Jason Elliott Trophy
Section 45 15 Years & Over Michael Robertson Trophy

OPEN Jazz Solo – Time Limit 3:00 min

Section 46 5 & 6 Years Rhythm Adikt Dance Studio Trophy
Section 47 7 & 8 Years Jessica Davis Trophy
Section 48 9 & 10 Years Cullen Family Trophy
Section 49 11 & 12 Years The Svensen Family Trophy
Section 50 13 & 14 Years Vicki Davis Trophy
Section 51 15 Years & Over Jacienta Hinton Trophy

OPEN Hip Hop Solo (See Rule) – Time Limit 3:00 min

Section 52 9 Years & Under Petria Shuttleworth Trophy
Section 53 12 Years & Under Fox Family Trophy
Section 54 13 Years & Over Natalie Latimer’s Dance Euphoria Trophy

OPEN Contemporary Solo (See Rule) – Time Limit 3:00 min

Section 55 5 & 6 Years Caitlin Foden Trophy
Section 56 7 & 8 Years Emerald Academy of Dancing Trophy
Section 57 9 & 10 Years Knuth Family Trophy
Section 58 11 & 12 Years Petria Shuttleworth Trophy
Section 59 13 & 14 Years Stace Robinson Family Trophy
Section 60 15 Years & Over Karah Bailey Trophy

OPEN Lyrical Solo (See Rule) – Time Limit 3:00 min

Section 61 5 & 6 Years Emma Sullivan Trophy
Section 62 7 & 8 Years Alicia & Sheridan Marcy Trophy
Section 63 9 & 10 Years Peregrine Video Trophy
Section 64 11 & 12 Years Emma Taylor Trophy
Section 65 13 & 14 Years Peregrine Video Trophy
Section 66 15 Years & Over Karen Petersen Trophy

OPEN Musical Theatre or Novelty Solo – Time Limit 3:30 min

Section 67 5 & 6 Years Fox Family Trophy
Section 68 7 & 8 Years Amy & Thomas Weatherall Trophy
Section 69 9 & 10 Years Jessica Earle Trophy
Section 70 11 & 12 Years R & A Hair Trophy
Section 71 13 & 14 Years Miadco Screen Printing Trophy
Section 72 15 Years & Over Janelle's Academy of Dance Trophy

OPEN Acro Solo – Time Limit 3:00 min

Section 73	9 Years & Under	Tracy West Trophy
Section 74	12 Years & Under	Theatre Ghost Photography Video Design Trophy
Section 75	13 Years & Over	Theatre Ghost Photography Video Design Trophy

OPEN Cabaret/Broadway Jazz Solo – Time Limit 3:00 min

Section 76	13 & 14 Years	RGS DMTA Trophy
Section 77	15 Years & Over	Natalie Jahnke Trophy

IMPROVISATIONS

Tiny Tot Improvisation

Section 78	6 Years & Under	Rockhampton Dance Festival Trophy
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Jazz Improvisation

Section 79	9 Years & Under	Tracy Hardy Framing Trophy
Section 80	12 Years & Under	Peregrine Video Trophy
Section 81	13 Years & Over	Kate Sutton Trophy

Contemporary/Lyrical Improvisation

Section 82	9 Years & Under	Diane and Stuart Thistlethwaite Trophy
Section 83	12 Years & Under	Petria Shuttleworth Trophy
Section 84	13 Years & Over	Maddison King Trophy

Musical Theatre Improvisation (will be using Improvisation with a Prop trophy)

Section 85	12 Years & Under	Ailia Dow Trophy
Section 86	13 Years & Over	Zoe Gauci Trophy

STUDENT CHOREOGRAPHY

Student Choreography Solo – Time Limit 2:00 min

Section 87	9 Years & Under	Kirby Richardson Trophy
Section 88	12 Years & Under	Heather Petersen Trophy
Section 89	13 Years & Over	Dance Infusion Trophy

CHAMPIONSHIPS – (See requirements to enter Championships)

Classical Ballet Championship (Classical Ballet Solo and Demi-Character Solo)

Section 90	Junior (12 Years & Under)	Winner – Helen & Ross James Trophy Runner Up – Karah Bailey Trophy
Section 91	Senior (13 Years & Over)	Winner – Narelle Aspinall Trophy Runner Up – Centre De Danse Trophy

Tap Championship (Slow Tempo Tap Solo and Speed/Fast Tempo Tap Solo)

Section 92	Junior (12 Years & Under)	Winner – Shellaan Valk Memorial Trophy Runner Up – Karah Bailey Trophy
Section 93	Senior (13 Years & Over)	Winner – Melanie & Trent Dawon Trophy Runner Up – Centre De Dance Trophy

Jazz Championship (Slow Tempo Solo (eg Lyrical or Contemporary Solo) and Fast Tempo Solo (eg Jazz Solo)

Section 94	Junior (12 Years & Under)	Winner – Centre de Danse Boutique Trophy Runner Up – Karah Bailey Trophy
Section 95	Senior (13 Years & Over)	Winner – Centre de Dance Boutique Trophy Runner Up – Centre de Danse Trophy

Entertainment Championship (Musical Theatre/Novelty Solo AND Song and Dance Solo OR Cabaret/Broadway Jazz Solo OR Acro Solo OR Hip Hop Solo)

Section 96	Junior (12 Years & Under)	Winner – Kara-Lee Buckton Trophy Runner Up – Capricornia Drama Trophy
Section 97	Senior (13 Years & Over)	Winner – Millie O’Brien Trophy Runner Up – Terri Johnson Mortgage Broker Trophy

- To qualify for Championships, competitors are required to enter and perform in the relevant open age sections as specified in Rules.
- Competitors will be required to perform 2 routines of contrasting nature in the Championship section. One routine must be unseen at this year’s Rockhampton Dance Festival.

ELITE DANCER AWARD – (See requirements to enter Elite) – Only 1 prize awarded for this section

Section 132	12 Years & Under	Australian Decorative & Fine Arts Society Trophy Dance Festival Bursary & \$150 prize money
Section 133	13 Years & Over	Rockhampton Dance Festival Inc Trophy & Bursary \$150 prize money

DUOS/TRIOS

Tiny Tots Duo/Trio (Any Dance) – Time Limit 3:00 min

Section 98	6 Years & Under	Janelle's Academy of Dance Trophy
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Classical Ballet, Neo-Classical or Demi-Character Duo/Trio – Time Limit 3:30 min

Section 99	8 Years & Under	Prima Donna Trophy
Section 100	10 Years & Under	Karah Bailey & Ebony Bambrick Trophy
Section 101	14 Years & Under	Petria Shuttleworth & Sheridan Marcy Trophy
Section 102	15 Years & Over	Alexandra Davis Trophy

National Dance Duo/Trio (excludes Irish & Scottish) – Time limit 3:00min

Section 103	10 Years & Under	Sabaya Bellydance Trophy
Section 104	14 Years & Under	Sabaya Bellydance Trophy
Section 105	15 Years & Over	Sabaya Bellydance Trophy

Song and Dance/Cabaret/Novelty Dance Duo/Trio – Time Limit 3:30 min

Section 106	8 Years & Under	Prima Donna Trophy
Section 107	10 Years & Under	Abbi Chapman & Olivia Offord Trophy
Section 108	14 Years & Under	Janelle's Academy of Dance Trophy
Section 109	15 Years & Over	Krystal Davis & Jay Cowie Trophy

Tap Duo/Trio – Time Limit 3:00 min

Section 110	8 Years & Under	RGS Dance & Musical Theatre Academy Trophy
Section 111	10 Years & Under	Dance Star Studio Trophy
Section 112	14 Years & Under	Tim Rule Trophy
Section 113	15 Years & Over	Jay Cowie Trophy

Jazz Duo/Trio – Time Limit 3:00 min

Section 114	8 Years & Under	Rockhampton Academy of Dancing Trophy
Section 115	10 Years & Under	Vicki Davis Workshop Committee Trophy
Section 116	14 Years & Under	Hills All Hours Plumbing Trophy
Section 117	15 Years & Over	Sharron Telford Trophy

Hip Hop Duo/Trio – Time Limit 3:00 min

Section 118	10 Years & Under	Stace Robinson Family Trophy
Section 119	14 Years & Under	Stace Robinson Family Trophy
Section 120	15 Years & Over	Stace Robinson Family Trophy

Lyrical Duo/Trio – Time Limit 3:00 min

Section 121	8 Years & Under	Kathleen Watson Trophy
Section 122	10 Years & Under	Janelle's Academy of Dance Trophy
Section 123	14 Years & Under	Kathleen Watson Trophy
Section 124	15 Years & Over	Emerald Academy of Dance Trophy

Contemporary Duo/Trio – Time Limit 3:00 min

Section 125	8 Years & Under	Allegra Dance Academy Trophy
Section 126	10 Years & Under	Lorraine Sutton Memorial Trophy
Section 127	14 Years & Under	Emerald Academy of Dance Trophy
Section 128	15 Years & Over	Kaitlyn & Isaac Burton Trophy

GROUPS (Curtain permitted for all group sections) (Curtain use to be advised through musicuploads)**Tiny Tots Group (Any Dance – excluding Ballet and Jazz) – Time Limit 5:00 min**

Section 134 5 Years & Under Tanya Valk Trophy

Adult Group (Restricted) (Any Dance) – Time Limit 5:00 min

Section 135 18 Years & Over Peregrine Video Trophy

Classical Ballet Group – Time Limit 5:00 min

Section 136 5 Years & Under Capricorn School of Dancing Trophy
Section 137 7 Years & Under Capricorn School of Dancing Trophy
Section 138 9 Years & Under Sandra Breen Trophy
Section 139 12 Years & Under Amelia's Student of Dance P&C Trophy
Section 140 13 Years & Over Sonia York-Pryce Trophy

National Group (excludes Irish & Scottish) – Time Limit 5:00 min

Section 141 9 Years & Under Prima Donna Danse Boutique Trophy
Section 142 12 Years & Under Prima Donna Danse Boutique Trophy
Section 143 13 Years & Over Prima Donna Danse Boutique Trophy

Song and Dance Group – Time Limit 5:00 min

Section 144 7 Years & Under Capricorn School of Dancing Trophy
Section 145 9 Years & Under Rockhampton Academy of Dancing Trophy
Section 146 12 Years & Under Janelle's Academy of Dance Trophy
Section 147 13 Years & Over Chamberlain Family Trophy

Tap Group – Time Limit 5:00 min

Section 148 7 Years & Under Capricorn School of Dancing Trophy
Section 149 9 Years & Under Janelle's Academy of Dance Trophy
Section 150 12 Years & Under Peter Boodle's Quality Meats Trophy
Section 151 13 Years & Over Shellaan Valk Memorial Trophy

Jazz Group – Time Limit 5:00 min

Section 152 5 Years & Under Capricorn School of Dancing Trophy
Section 153 7 Years & Under Epic Studios Australia Trophy
Section 154 9 Years & Under Dance Star Studio Trophy
Section 155 12 Years & Under JJ's School of Dance Trophy
Section 156 13 Years & Over Nadine & Kirstin Richardson Trophy

Hip Hop Group – Time Limit 5:00 min

Section 157 9 Years & Under Capricorn School of Dancing Trophy
Section 158 12 Years & Under Stace Robinson Family Trophy
Section 159 13 Years & Over Jordan Dittmann Trophy

Contemporary Group – Time Limit 5:00 min

Section 160 9 Years & Under Jane Veach Trophy
Section 161 12 Years & Under Jane Veach Trophy
Section 162 13 Years & Over Jane Veach Trophy

Lyrical Group – Time Limit 5:00 min

Section 163	9 Years & Under	Janelle's Academy of Dance Trophy
Section 164	12 Years & Under	Jane Veach Trophy
Section 165	13 Years & Over	Jane Veach Trophy

Cabaret/Novelty Group – Time Limit 5:00 min

Section 166	7 Years & Under	Marj Tyres Trophy
Section 167	9 Years & Under	Karen Petersen Trophy
Section 168	12 Years & Under	JJ's School of Dance Trophy
Section 169	13 Years & Over	Joel Duffy Trophy

School Group (any dance) – Time Limit 5:00 min

Section 170	Primary School	Stace Robinson Family Trophy
Section 171	Secondary School	Gail Purdie Trophy

Acro Group – Time Limit 5:00 min

Section 172	9 Years & Under	
Section 173	12 Years & Under	Emerald Academy of Dance
Section 174	13 Years & Over	Emerald Academy of Dance