

PASC Liaison Report

Thursday July 4, 2024

What a great week it has been!!!!

We had 942 entries in Finals representing 48 member teachers. New this year were the NON-qualifying entries that did not pre-qualify in their Chapter. This did cause a few questions when the schedule went out about what the difference was between Solo and Non-Qualifying Solo for example. **We recommend for next year all entries to be labeled Solo, Duet/Trio, Groups, Small Line, Large Line, Production and have an add-on section to calculate non qualifying.** That was all the scheduling will match and hopefully cause less confusion as the difference is truly pricing, not qualifications. We took 27 - 12 and under and 31 - 13 and over entries to Grand Finals on Saturday July 5. Officially, LOVED having Grand Finals on Saturday morning and announcements on Friday early enough for families to enjoy the 4th of July celebrations.

During our scheduling time it does get cumbersome checking text messages, DMA email, personal email and every FB message for changes/corrections to the schedule. **We purpose a Google form or Microsoft form for corrections next year that way we have a better check off system to make sure nothing gets overlooked.** Since scheduling is during a busy season, we want to provide the best form of communication and truly don't want to miss anything.

Not only our committee, but several members and parents voiced positive feedback on the schedule. They enjoyed how the schedule for the whole convention fluctuated with 12 & under in the morning a few days and 13 & over in the morning some days and vice versa. It made it nice to have a few days to "sleep in" for families and a few days to have the evening to do family events as well. **In next year's planning please keep in mind there are usually more 13 and older registrations than 12 & under.** This year in the 12 and under age group, there were 357 entries and 13 and older had 585 entries registered.

I realize that the board passed to change the registration date to Jan 1, 2026. Please remember that two years ago there were MULTIPLE conflicts with Open Scholarships and PASC not having the same age cutoff date to cause conflicts with 12 and under routines as they had turned 13 by the day of convention. Making a now 13-year-old in open scholarships but still 12 for PASC. **Please consider making all age cut off dates the same for consistency for all events held during convention.**

Is there any way to bring up looking into the cost of DCG to be where members register for convention along with competition? That way every child that is in PASC would be required to register in convention. Cross referencing solo title contestants entered in competitive routines I believe can be done through DCG. (I would have to do research to double check this process.) We did have a situation this year where one studio registered 4 of their title holders in competitive duets. If all registrations were through DCG or if there was a way that title holders could be flagged by DCG and not allowed in anything lower than Elite. But I believe that it would be if all registration went through DCG. DCG has a Webex coming up in August I plan to attend and could send this as a suggestion to them as well to see if they can implement it for all DCG.

We are aware of the many changes that occurred to make a 6-day convention and the times allotted for all the events that are held within one week that are also overlapping. **For planning next year can we have more access earlier to these major changes?** We are very appreciative of being given early access

to scheduling (I believe April 20th) but after creating a schedule based off the online posted schedule of events to be told that was not correct was devastating to have to go back to the drawing board feeling very confident of being ahead of the timeline we created and presented the year before. It then became a time crunch feeling to get a finalized schedule out in a matter of about 3 days. Thank goodness the studios with the major conflicts contacted us immediately, but we were nervous. We appreciate that the board has agreed to do a second year of 6-day convention and that makes us feel confident about producing the same amazing event we held this year in Connecticut.

Also, thank you for making Open Scholarships not overlap PASC. That truly helped with a LOT of conflicts we have usually encountered over the past few years.

AWARDS:

Truly we were concerned about all the new awards. But we pulled it off!!!! The Standout awards were AMAZING and awesome to see the instant reaction of the dancers. Even though it was suggested 8 per session, I know one day the 12 & under judges got excited and gave out 14. **They were well deserved but could we possibly set the limit next year to 10 since there are 5 judges?** That way each judge can give 2 awards each. Could the judges be charged with descriptive words to think of when they are choosing the Standout awarded routine. Examples: Amazing, Brave, Confident so that hopefully some of those routines that we all know will not be receiving a Platinum or moving on to Grand Finals can have some love. Also maybe touch them with how many to give competitive verse elite routines. A spreadsheet was emailed early of the Standout Awards for Charleen to have for registration next year.

We want to implement next year that with the finalized email a High Score of the day timeline for teachers as well. Specifically for the solo room as dancers were not aware of which day their age division was finished to hear the High Score awards, and several had to pick up their awards and were not present in the awards session at the end of that day.

Running DCG online we were able to pull awards from each room simultaneously making the last day possible to pull Category, High Score and Overall awards at the same time. We were not aware of how quick everything was happening in the solo room of its High Score Day and the D/T-Production was also on an awards ceremony at the same time. **For next year we purpose, if possible, to try and not have awards at the exact same time to be able to give the main tabulator a swinger to help pull and pack all the pins necessary for the awards session.** We also realized we could prepare better by printing 3 sets of routine labels and stuff all the solo High Score and Overall pin bags and label as we go instead of waiting to get closer to the awards session.

We recommend also looking at Adjudication, Category, High Score & Overall Score calculations. It has been in the past that a tiered calculation of Adjudication is based off performance, High Score is performance & technique, and Overall Score is all three scores of performances, technique and choreography. In the past many have been confused if my student received a Platinum, they might receive a High Score. And if they received a High Score definitely, they should receive an Overall. Here are a few things that members don't take into consideration and had more confusion over this year. 1. High Score is your age group 13-14 yr old. 2. Overalls are 13 & over & 12 & under. At least in the past by adding in the technique score for High Score it gave students, teachers and parents a deeper look into could they make it to Overalls and then Grand Finals. Here is an example from this year. X student received a standout award, a 6th category award, a platinum award and 6th High Score.....why were they

not even at all in Overalls?!?!?! In the past this same student would have received a standout award, a 6th category award, a platinum award, and a 15th high score letting everyone know they may not make that Overall cut. **Therefore, we believe it is wise to reinstate the scoring system from years past considering the added Category and Stand Out awards that were added this year.** We feel it gives a bigger picture of where the routines stand as the “move on” from just competing against their own age group to 12 & under & 13 & over.

If there are special instructions to the host hotel can that be privileged prior to arriving to nationals?

This year with the practice space for example... It's not a big deal but a nice small detail that I'm sure members would have liked to have known prior to attending. **Also, can we receive contact information for the sound and lights to be able to establish a relationship with this person?** At banquet I spoke with a different employee from Pearson Technology (John Scalera, General Manager 689-345-4733) He told me there was an employee onsite the whole time but when we had issues for us he was MIA and after getting Mr Donald to contact him he would maybe show up HOURS later. Sound, lights and power are very important. We were lucky that it didn't knock out too much time to get us behind.

We have a wish list being made on Amazon of supplies we didn't know we needed. Simple things like stapler, staples, folders, office supply type things. We do not have our “own” printer anymore. We used Solo Title and Mrs Ruby's. I feel that was okay, but please check with the others on how to proceed next year. If we have two rooms, we will need two printers. And preferably one that uses the same ink of one of the printers DMA already owns. We will share the Amazon list once it is finalized.

Thank you for creating the onsite Awards committee to get the throw outs ready, Kristen stepping up for announcing and solo titlist ready to pass out awards. Those small things made the awards process much smoother and more polished feeling. Any new members looking for things to do or honorees would be greatly helpful at awards to pass out awards, get the table ready and on stage. Anyone you think will be helpful.

Wristband rule is officially not in the PASC rules. It is in the convention section, but we did have a LOT of situations until after the second night of titles with students not wearing their armbands and we were told because they were allowed to take them off for titles. Also, they lost time in the pool.

Food stipend: we are aware that a few years ago with a different liaison that Door Dashing was completely out of budget. This committee tries hard to eat from the grocery store but this year with the times that judges were with us the judges were not provided with any food or a lunch break on the first day. **Can we just be told what/who is expected to eat and would it be easier for us to turn in our receipts or be told what that budget is?**

Thank you all for this opportunity,

Leslie Ingram
DMA PASC Liaison