



Dance Masters of America, Inc.

National Performing Arts Scholarship Competition

Competitive & Elite Finals Rules 2026



Please Note the rules in red and highlighted in yellow are new or revised for 2026.

You must register using DanceComp Genie through the National website <https://www.dmanational.org/> by April 15th.

All fees must be sent to the National Treasurer's Office and **POSTMARKED by April 15th**.

What is the difference between the National Competitive and National Elite classifications?

- The most significant difference between the two competitions is the manner in which the entrants will be adjudicated. Competitive competition is recommended for the dancers who study less than 10 hours a week. Elite competition is recommended for the dancers who study more than 10 hours of class per week.
- The second difference is where each competition ends.

	<u>COMPETITIVE</u>	<u>ELITE</u>
Finals medal standings	Yes	Yes
High Score Performance Awards	Yes	Yes
Category Awards	Yes	Yes
Overall Awards	Yes	Yes
Advancement to the GNC (if qualified)	No	Yes
Championship Award (if qualified)	No	Yes
Cash Scholarship Awards (if qualified)	No	Yes
Choreography Awards (if qualified)	No	Yes

PLEASE NOTE:

The choice of which competition to enter is the responsibility of the Teacher of Record. Teachers, please remember to select the drop down on the National Finals Competition entry forms - IF LEFT BLANK - THEY WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE PUT INTO THE ELITE COMPETITION.

- There can be no changing from competitive to elite or elite to competitive once the final schedule has been published.
- Reigning Title Holders and Solo Title Contestants may only participate in routines entered into the elite division.

Section 1 – ELIGIBILITY

- Only members in good standing or a student of a member in good standing of Dance Masters of America (hereafter listed as DMA) may enter the National Finals PASC in either the Competitive or Elite Divisions provided that the DMA member Teacher of Record, DMA member(s) Teacher(s) of Recognition, and Approved Chaperone have complied with all the rules and requirements of the National Organization.
- The Teacher of Recognition is permitted to perform the duties of the Teacher of Record during the National Convention, with notice of the change being given to the Advisory Committee prior to their arrival, with no extra fees or limitations and without requiring the Teacher of Record to be on site, providing that the Teacher of Recognition is a DMA member in good standing and listed on the registration jot form. Both the Teacher of Record and the Teacher of Recognition must be paid registrants of the National Convention.
- Entrants in PASC solo, duo/trio categories must be enrolled and attending in-person classes on a weekly basis as a student of the Teacher of Record or Collaborative Teachers.
 - CURRENT STUDENTS: For a minimum period of not less than ten (10) months prior to the DMA PASC National Finals.
 - STUDENTS WITH LESS THAN 10 MONTHS
 - Must have written permission from the former teacher if the student has studied with the

Teacher of Record, or Collaborative Teachers for a period of less than ten (10) months prior to the PASC National Finals.

2. Without written permission from the former teacher if he/she does not or will not continue to offer dance education to the student on a weekly basis.

C. STUDENTS NOT STUDYING ON A WEEKLY BASIS:

1. Has studied with the Teacher of Record, or Collaborative Teachers for a period of not less than three (3) years.
 2. Has studied with the Teacher of Record, or Collaborative Teachers within the past twelve (12) months and is now in a position that does not permit the entrant to study with Teacher of Record, or Collaborative Teachers, on a regular basis due to their pursuit of higher education in an area that is more than 100 miles from the Teacher of Record or Collaborative Teachers or is pursuing professional endeavors. This privilege may not be extended beyond 24 months.
4. The Affiliated Chapter PASC form must be signed/listed as the same Teacher of Record who signed/listed on the PASC finals form.
 5. In the Collaboration Division, all participating teachers must be listed and must be the same name that appears on the Affiliated Chapter PASC Finals Form.
 6. The Entrant, Teacher of Record, Teacher(s) of Recognition, and Collaborative Teachers listed on the National Finals PASC entry form must be:
 - A. Registered for the full National Convention.
 - B. Teacher of Record or Collaborative Teachers must be in attendance at all times from the date of arrival to date of departure of the Entrants.
 - C. All fees must be sent to the National Treasurer's Office and **POSTMARKED by April 15th**.
 7. Reigning Title Holders and all Title Contestants in the current year's Solo Title Competition may only participate in duo/trio, group, line, production, or extended routines entered in the Elite Division.
 8. Reigning Title Holders and all Title Contestants in the current year's Solo Title Competition may not compete in the PASC Solo Category.
 9. A routine can only contain students from one studio, except for the Collaborative Division.
 10. All entrants in the National Finals PASC in Competitive, Elite, or Collaborative Divisions, must have qualified with a minimum score of 80% at one of the following Events: The Affiliated Chapter PASC or the Affiliated Chapter Solo Title Competitions (except for the Chapter Title Winners). NO ENTRY WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT THE CHAPTER'S VERIFICATION OF SCORES. This information must be verified by the Chapter Secretary or Chapter Treasurer and forwarded to the Chapter's National Area Director within one week of the completion of the competition.
 11. All entrants that did not qualify at their Chapters PASC must register in the non-qualifying location and final's location, in Dance Comp Genie.

Section 2 – RESPONSIBILITIES

12. The Teacher of Record and Collaborative Teachers shall be responsible for their registered student's behavior, safety, and well-being. They shall ensure that their students are attending classes and are in compliance with the rules and regulations of the competition.

Section 3 – REGULATIONS

13. All entries will adhere to the Standards of DMA as follows:
 - A. Inappropriate or sexually suggestive movements should not be part of any performance in any DMA competition. Such movements will be evaluated, and the routine will be lowered one medal standing. These routines will be ineligible to receive High Score and Overall Awards.
 - B. Costuming such as thongs, bikini bottoms, or tops that allow exposure of private body parts, or that is not age appropriate, will be evaluated, and the routine will be lowered one medal standing. These routines will be ineligible to receive High Score and Overall Awards.
 - C. Vulgar, profane, morally offensive, suggestive language, or non-age-appropriate music will be evaluated,

and the routine will lowered one medal standing. These routines will be ineligible to receive High Score and Overall Awards.

14. Teacher of Record, Teacher(s) of Recognition and Collaborative Teachers found guilty of violating the rules of this competition are subject to having their routines penalized.

Section 4 - COMPETITION

15. AGE DIVISION

A. The Age Divisions of this Competition shall be:

- a) Division 0: 6 Years of Age or Younger
- b) Division 1: 7-8 Years of Age
- c) Division 2: 9-10 Years of Age
- d) Division 3: 11-12 Years of Age
- e) Division 4: 13-14 Years of Age
- f) Division 5: 15-16 Years of Age
- g) Division 6: 17 and Over
- h) Division 7: Pro-Am
- i) Division 8: Parent
- j) Division 9: Collaboration

Pro-Am Division:

- 1. A staff member employed by a dance studio to teach making 50% of their livable wage.
- 2. A student who receives more than \$10,000.00 per year as a teacher or professional dancer.
- 3. Holding membership in a professional dance teachers' organization.
- 4. Routines in this division are not eligible for Grand National Championships but are eligible for overall awards if there are 3 more routines entered in the division.

Parent Division:

- 1. Does not need to be registered for the DMA National Convention.
- 2. Routines in this division are not eligible for Grand National Championships but are eligible for overall awards if there are 3 or more routines entered in the division.

Collaboration Division:

- 1. Students from various members and chapters may compete in the same routine.
- 2. All participating Teachers must be listed on the registration form.
- 3. Routines in this division are not eligible for Grand National Championships but are eligible for overall awards if there are 3 or more routines entered in the division.

- B. Date for determining contestants' age for the National PASC shall be **January 1st**. Birth certificates should be available upon request.
- C. Determining the age of a duo/trio, group, small line, large line, and extended routines shall be determined by averaging the ages of all dancers in the routine and dropping the decimal point.
- D. A dancer may not compete in any age division that is more than one (1) age division lower than his or her own age division except in the production category.
- E. In all production routines, the age division will be the average age of the group, dropping the decimal point.
- F. Routines eligible for overall awards (if there are 3 or more routines entered in the division), and not eligible for Grand National Championships, are Pro-am, Parents, and Collaboration.

16. CATEGORIES - REQUIRED NUMBER OF DANCERS – TIME LIMITS

A. The following categories, number of dancers and time limits shall be:

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>NUMBER OF DANCERS</u>	<u>TIME LIMITS</u>
Non-Titled Solo	1 dancer	2:50 minutes
Duo/Trio	2-3 dancers	2:50 minutes

Group	4-9 dancers	3:30 minutes
Small Line	10-15 dancers	3:30 minutes
Large Line	16 or more dancers	3:30 minutes
Production	12 or more dancers	8:00 minutes

- B. Routines (Groups and Lines only) needing additional time (up to 6 minutes) will purchase through Dance Comp Genie at the time of uploading music.
- C. In consideration for those teachers who cannot get all their students to attend the National Convention to participate in the National PASC, categories and age divisions may be adjusted.

17. SUBJECTS

The following subjects of dance will be permitted:

- Acrobatics - a form of dance that combines dance technique with acrobatic elements.
- Ballet - classical ballet movements usually telling a story.
- Contemporary - ballet and modern technique combined reaching beyond jazz.
- Ethnic - a performance of historical movements representing various ethnic cultures.
- Hip-Hop - today's contemporary street, funk movements incorporating some jazz technique.
- Jazz - classical or contemporary jazz movements usually performed to upbeat music.
- Lyrical - a combination of ballet and jazz technique and movements, usually an interpretation of the lyrics of a song or the lyrical quality of the music.
- Modern - interpretive dance using balance and control incorporating modern dance techniques.
- Musical Theatre - a dance style based on Broadway or movie musicals, may denote comedy, depict a character, relay a story, or create a theatrical mood. Pantomime, lip-sync and singing are permitted.
- Open - any routine that does not meet the descriptions of the other subjects listed or incorporates more than one dance form.
- Pointe - classical ballet or contemporary movements performed in pointe shoes.
- Tap - rhythmic patterns and sounds created by the taps attached to the bottom of the shoes.

PLEASE NOTE: There is no limit on the number of acrobatic skills in any routine.

18. PROPS

Props, scenery, and stage sets will only be permitted if they are functional and are an integral part of the choreography.

- A. Smoke or props that are connected to an electrical outlet may not be used.
- B. Fire, swords, knives, or live animals on stage are prohibited.
- C. Contained dry ice is acceptable.
- D. Prop Set up and tear down:
 1. Solo/Duo/Trio – There is a total time limit of two (2) minutes for prop set up and tear down.
 2. Groups/Lines – There is a total time limit of six (6) minutes for prop set up and tear down.
 3. Production – There is a total time limit of ten (10) minutes for prop set up and tear down.
 4. There will be a five (5) point penalty for exceeding this time limit for both set up and tear down of props unless the Extended Prop Set Up/Tear Down Time of an additional 10 minutes is purchased through Dance Comp Genie. (The additional 10 minutes includes both set up and tear down.)
- E. Studios are responsible for getting props on and off the stage. Check with the Stage Manager about where to leave the props backstage.
- F. All props must be stored away from the stage area.
- G. Prop storage depends on hotel availability and cost.
- H. Any routine that causes a hazard to any student or the facility/stage is not permitted, such as but not limited to, liquid, gel, aerosol, glitter, powder, paint, or rosin.

19. MUSIC

- A. The Teacher of Record is required to upload music via DanceComp Genie by the deadline date of June 1st. After this date, DanceComp Genie music upload will be locked, and no further music will be accepted. If music is not uploaded by June 1st, those routines will not be allowed for advancement to the Grand National Championships.
- B. A backup copy of the music must be in the ballroom at the time of performance.
- C. Entrances and exits must be brief to avoid further penalties. All timing will begin with the first beat of music and will terminate with the last beat of music. If the routine is performed acapella (without music), timing will begin with the first step of the routine or danced entry step and will be terminated with the last step performed. If any routine is over time, they will be dropped one medal standing.
- D. Audible tap sounds recorded on music will not be permitted for Tap or Clogging routines.
- E. Any routine requiring a wireless microphone is responsible for providing their own equipment.

20. BREAKING TIES

HIGH-SCORE AWARDS FOR THE NATIONALS COMPETITIVE AND ELITE FINALS: The awards for the National Finals PASC shall be presented based on the entrant's performance scores only. Ties shall be broken in the following manner:

- A. Performance scores of 5 scoring Adjudicators
- B. Technique scores of 3 Adjudicators
- C. Technique scores of all 5 Adjudicators
- D. The decision of the Adjudicators by secret ballot.

Section 5 - GENERAL INFORMATION

- 21. All other DMA member teachers to be recognized must be registered by April 15th for the National Convention and be listed on the National Finals PASC entry forms in either the Competitive, Elite, or Collaborative Divisions as the Teacher(s) of Recognition.
- 22. All choreographers to be recognized must be registered by April 15th for the National Convention and be listed on the National Finals PASC entry forms in either the Competitive, Elite, or Collaborative Divisions as the Choreographer(s) and shall receive recognition. However, only a DMA Member or student of a DMA Member is eligible for choreography award.
- 23. The Teacher of Record, Collaborative Teachers, and/or Approved Chaperones are required to attend all PASC Meetings scheduled or called during the Convention.
- 24. There will be no special accommodations with the exception of:
 - A. Costume, hair, and make-up changes. These conflicts must be submitted to the PASC Chair within one week of receiving the rough draft of schedule. ALL ROUTINES must dance in their assigned position. Any changes will incur a \$50 surcharge and only be eligible for High Score Awards.
 - B. Scheduling conflicts due to open scholarship auditions or onsite educational events. These conflicts must be submitted to the PASC Chair 30 minutes prior to the beginning of each session. These routines must be performed in their scheduled session.
 - C. Scheduling conflicts due to injuries or proof of travel interruptions. These conflicts must be submitted to the PASC Chair 30 minutes prior to the beginning of each session. PASC Chair will reschedule these routines.
 - D. After the final schedule has been sent to all participating members, ALL ROUTINES must dance in their assigned position. Any changes will incur a \$50 surcharge and only be eligible for High Score Awards.
- 25. Finals Scores will be available within seven (7) days after the competition on DanceComp Genie.
- 26. Entrants must check-in not less than one hour before their scheduled dance time as published in the final PASC program.
- 27. A \$10 deposit per routine is required to reserve your space. There is no limit on the number of routines a studio may bring. This deposit is **non-refundable** and non-transferable. During final registration, studios should come within 10 routines (plus or minus) of their requested amount to avoid an additional charge of \$20 per routine.

You must request permission to exceed your estimated number of routines. (Availability will be on a first-come, first-served basis.) Deposits must be sent to the National Treasurer's Office and postmarked by December 1st.

28. All entries in DanceComp Genie must be submitted online by April 15th.
29. All fees, including registration and competition fees for the students, Teacher of Record, Collaboration Teachers, and Teacher(s) of Recognition for the National Convention, must be made payable to Dance Masters of America and must be sent to the National Treasurer's Office and **POSTMARKED by April 30th**. If payment is not postmarked by April 30th, your registration will be deleted.
30. All payments must be in United States currency drawn on a United States bank. Only Member Teacher's and Studio checks will be accepted. Parents/students checks will be returned with the possible result of missing the deadline date.
31. No rosin may be used at the National Convention.
32. Wrist bands must be worn by all contestants while on stage.
33. Dance Masters of America reserves the right to expel from competition and convention any student who does not abide by the rules as stated or as announced thereafter, without refund of any fees.
34. Teachers of Record, Teachers of Recognition, and Entrants will comply with the Official Rules of Dance Masters of America, Inc. Performing Arts Scholarship Competition now in effect or as announced thereafter.

Section 6 – PASC COMPETITIVE, ELITE, AND COLLABORATIVE FINALS

35. The National PASC Finals is open to all Entries who have qualified at an Affiliated Chapter (within the same fiscal year) with a Gold or higher, except for Chapter Title Winners who may not enter in the Solo category.
36. All entrants that did not qualify at their Chapters PASC must register in the non-qualifying location and final's location, in Dance Comp Genie.
37. The subject of dance, the choreographic style, and music (edits permitted) performed at the National PASC Finals must be the same that was presented in the Affiliated Chapter PASC. (Exception: Those registering as a non-qualifying routine.)
38. Entries with exactly the same performers will not be permitted to compete against itself in the same subject of dance.
39. Entries in the National PASC finals divisions shall be adjudicated on their performance only and awards shall be as follows: Platinum, High Gold, Gold, High Silver, and Silver.

Platinum	282 - 300
High Gold	273 – 281.99
Gold	264 – 272.99
High Silver	255 – 263.99
Silver	240 – 254.99

40. AWARDS

A. Category Awards

1. Will be announced daily.
2. Must have a minimum of three (3) entries for an award to be given.
3. Use the **performance score** only.
4. Are awarded based on age, subject, and category (example: 7-8 lyrical solo, 7-8 jazz duo/trio).
5. Are an acknowledgment only.

B. High Score Performance Awards

1. Will be awarded daily, or as completed, in the Competitive, Elite, and Collaborative divisions based on **performance and technique scores** only, scoring a high gold or above.
2. Are awarded based on age, division, and category (example: 7-8 all solos, 7-8 all groups).
3. The number of awards given shall be determined according to percentages of entries.
4. Must have a minimum of three (3) entries for an award to be given.
5. May be combined as necessary by The DMA National Advisory Committee.
6. Will include medal presentation.

C. Overall Awards

1. Will be given in the National Competitive, Elite or Collaborative Finals PASC, based on their cumulative scores in **performance, technique, and choreography, in the 12 and under and 13 and up** age divisions, scoring a high gold or above.
2. The number of awards given shall be determined according to percentages of entries.
3. Must have a minimum of three (3) entries for an award to be given.
4. May be combined as necessary by The DMA National Advisory Committee.

D. Choreography Awards: The selection of the Choreography Awards shall be determined by the adjudicators during the National Elite Finals PASC. Division 7, 8, and 9 are not eligible for Choreography Awards. The following Choreography Awards will be presented:

1. LARRAINE SUSAN CHOREOGRAPHY AWARDS – One (1) award shall be presented to the Entry with the highest choreography score (duo through production) in both the 12 and under and the 13 and over age divisions of the National Elite Finals PASC. Choreographer shall be recognized. Award presentations will only be made to DMA members or students of DMA members.
2. GLENDA MOSS MEMORIAL CHOREOGRAPHY AWARDS – One (1) award shall be presented to the Entrant with the highest choreography score in a solo category in both the 12 and under and the 13 and over age divisions of the National Elite Finals PASC. Choreographer shall be recognized. Award presentations will only be made to DMA members or students of DMA members.
3. GEORGE LON MEMORIAL CHOREOGRAPHY AWARDS – One (1) award shall be presented to the Entry with the 2nd highest choreography score (duo through production) in both the 12 and under and the 13 and over age divisions of the National Elite Finals PASC. Choreographer shall be recognized. Award presentations will only be made to DMA members or students of DMA members.

PLEASE NOTE: The National Finals are complete at this point of the competition. A list of entries, from the Elite Finals only, who have qualified for the Grand National Championship will be announced.

41. Any contestant in the 12 & under solo or duet/trio division exiting the stage prior to the completion of their dance for any reason other than technical or injury, may elect to re-dance, but will receive a zero (0) for their performance score. Anyone exiting due to technical or injury problems, may choose to re-dance for a new score. The Teacher of Record must inform the Chairman of their decision.
42. Any contestant in the 13 & over solo or duet/trio division exiting the stage prior to the completion of their dance for any reason other than technical or injury, may not re-dance. Anyone exiting due to technical or injury problems, may choose to re-dance for a new score. The Teacher of Record must inform the Chairman of their decision.

Section 7 – THE PASC GRAND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

43. Depending on the number of entries, categories may be combined by the Advisory Committee to achieve the minimum of five (5) entries in the PASC Grand National Championship.
44. Each studio will only be allowed to have their 2 highest scoring routines in each division advance to the PASC Grand National Championship. Entries with the same exact performers will not be permitted to compete against themselves.
45. Ties in the selection of those entries advancing into the PASC Grand National Championship shall be broken in the following manner:
 - A. Performance scores of three (3) scoring adjudicators
 - B. Technique scores of three (3) adjudicators
 - C. Performance scores of five (5) scoring adjudicators
 - D. Technique scores of all five (5) adjudicators
 - E. Decision of the adjudicators by secret ballot
46. The PASC Grand National Finals overall winners shall be determined by their combined performance, technique,

and choreography scores. First and Second Place will be awarded in each category for both 12 and under and 13 and over age divisions.

- 47. The PASC Grand National Championship entries must perform the same routine, using the same music.
- 48. Cash Scholarships – Cash scholarships will be awarded to all Grand National Championship PASC First and Second Place Winners. All checks will be made payable to the Teacher of Record, and a Federal IRS Tax ID number will be required.
- 49. All entries into the Grand National Championship must have a photo taken by the official DMA Photographer.

Section 8 – THE CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS

- 50. The Champion of Champions is open to all First Place Grand National Championship winners. If the 1st place winner is unable to compete, the 2nd place winner will be invited.
- 51. The Champion of Champions will take place at the annual awards banquet.
- 52. There will be a Champion of Champions Awards in both the 12 and under and 13 and over age divisions. The selection of these winners will be by adjudicators' choice and will receive a cash scholarship and banner.
- 53. The First Place overall winning routines of the Champion of Champions must be retired for a period of not less than five (5) years.