



Dance Masters of America, Inc.

National Performing Arts Scholarship Competition Preliminary, Competitive, & Elite Finals Rules 2023-2024



Please Note the rules in red and highlighted in yellow are new or revised for 2024.

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 for the dancers who study only a few hours a week and only enter one or two competitions a year. Elite competition is for the dancers who take 10 to 15 hours of class per week and enter several competitions each year.
- The second difference is where each competition ends.

	<u>COMPETITIVE</u>	<u>ELITE</u>
Preliminary medal standings and move to finals	Yes	Yes
Finals medal standings	Yes	Yes
High Score 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 Preliminary AND 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 Preliminary and 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.
- Entrant 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 Preliminary.
 - 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 Preliminary.
 - 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, Collaborative Teachers or pursuing professional endeavors. This privilege may not be extended beyond 24 months.
3. The Affiliated Chapter PASC form and/or the National Preliminary form must be signed/listed as the same Teacher of Record that signed/listed on the PASC finals form.
4. In the Collaboration Division all participating teachers must be listed and must be the same name that appears on the Affiliated Chapter PASC and/or the National Preliminary and Finals Form.
5. The Entrant, Teacher of Record, Teacher(s) of Recognition and Collaborative Teachers listed on the National Preliminary and 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.**
6. Reigning Title Holders and all Title Contestants in this year's Solo Title Competition may only participate in duo/trio, group, line, production, or extended routines entered into the Elite Division.
7. Reigning Title Holders and all Title Contestants in this year's Solo Title Competition may not compete in the PASC Solo Category.
8. A routine can only contain students from one studio, except for the Collaborative Division.
9. All entrants in the National Finals PASC in either Competitive, Elite, or Collaborative Divisions must have qualified with a minimum score of 80% at one of the following Events: The Affiliated Chapter PASC, the Affiliated Chapter Solo Title Competitions (except for the Chapter Title Winners), or the National Preliminary PASC. 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.

Section 2 – RESPONSIBILITIES

10. 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

11. 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 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 lowered one medal standing. These routines will be ineligible to receive High Score and Overall Awards.
 - C. Vulgar, profane, morally offensive, suggestive language, or not age-appropriate music will be evaluated, and lowered one medal standing. These routines will be ineligible to receive High Score and Overall Awards.

12. 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

13. 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

Please Note:

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. All participating Teachers must be listed on the registration form. 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 JUNE 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 for 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.

14. 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	4-8 dancers	3:30 minutes
Small Line	9-15 dancers	3:30 minutes

Large Line	16 or more dancers	3:30 minutes
Extended	4 or more dancers	6:00 minutes
Production	12 or more dancers	8:00 minutes

- B. 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 division may be adjusted.
- C. You may replace up to 25% of the original participants used in the qualifying performance at the Affiliated Chapter Competition. If you need to replace more than 25% you will be required to enter the routine into the National Preliminary Competition.

15. 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 THE FOLLOWING: There is no limit on the number of acrobatic skills in any routine.

16. 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. There is a three (3) minute time limit for props (group through production), scenery or stage sets to be set up and a three (3) minute time limit for tear down of same.
 2. There is a one (1) minute time limit for props (solo, duo/trio), scenery or stage sets to be set up and a one (1) minute time limit for tear down of same.
 3. There will be a five (5) point penalty for exceeding this time limit for both set up and tear down of props, scenery or stage sets unless the Extended Prop Set Up Time of an additional 10 minutes is purchased through Dance Comp Genie.
- 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, or paint.

17. 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.
- B. A backup copy of the music must be in the ballroom at the time of performance.
- C. There will be a one (1) point per-second penalty for routines over the allotted time. 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.
- D. Audible tap sounds recorded on them will not be permitted for Tap or Clogging routines.
- E. Any routine requiring a wireless microphone is responsible for providing their own equipment.

18. 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

19. 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.
20. 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.
21. The Teacher of Record, Collaborative Teachers, and/or Approved Chaperones are required to attend any and all PASC Meetings scheduled or called during the Convention.
22. 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 on the same day in the same 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.
23. Scores will be available;
 - A. Preliminary Scores, within twenty-four (24) hours on DanceComp Genie.
 - B. Finals Scores will be available within seven (7) days after the competition on DanceComp Genie.
24. Entrants must check-in not less than one hour before their scheduled dance time as published in the final PASC program.
25. All entries in DanceComp Genie must be submitted online by April 15th.
26. All fees including competition fees and pre-registration 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 15th.**

27. 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.
28. 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.
29. 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 – THE PRELIMINARY PASC COMPETITIVE, ELITE AND COLLABORATIVE DIVISIONS

30. The National Preliminary PASC is open to all Entries who have not qualified (or wish to re-qualify) for the National PASC Finals at their Chapter's competition.
31. Entering into the Preliminary PASC competition also requires PASC finals applications and fees to move onto the Finals.
32. Entries who do not qualify for advancement to the National Finals will be entitled to a refund of their National Finals fee. All refunds will be made after the conclusion of the National Convention.
33. All entries must contain the name of the routine and correct title of the song. TBA will not be scheduled.
34. Entries whose affiliated Chapter's PASC date prevented you from meeting the April 15th deadline date must qualify at the National Preliminaries.
35. Entries shall be adjudicated on their performance score only and awards shall be given as follows: Platinum, High Gold, Gold, High Silver, and Silver.
36. Entries with the same exact performers will not be permitted to compete against itself in the same subject of dance.
37. 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 injury or technical issues, may elect to re-dance, but will receive a zero (0) for the performance score. Anyone exiting due to injury or technical issues, may choose to re-dance for a new score. **The Teacher of Record must inform the Chairman of their decision.**
38. 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 injury or technical issues, may not re-dance. Anyone exiting due to injury or technical issues, may choose to re-dance for a new score. **The Teacher of Record must inform the Chairman of their decision.**

Section 7- PASC COMPETITIVE, ELITE, AND COLLABORATIVE FINALS

39. The National PASC Finals is open to all Entries who have qualified at an Affiliated Chapter or at the National Preliminary PASC (within the same fiscal year) with a Gold or higher with the exception of Chapter Title Winners who may not enter in the Solo category.
40. 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 or National Preliminary PASC.
41. Entries with exactly the same performers will not be permitted to compete against itself in the same subject of dance.
42. 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

43. High Score Awards will be given in the National Finals PASC in the Competitive, Elite or Collaborative divisions based on their **performance scores** only, **in each of the age divisions and categories scoring a gold or above.** The number of awards given shall be determined by the number of entries received. A minimum of three (3) entries shall be required to present an award. **The DMA National Advisory Committee may combine as necessary.**
44. Overall Awards will be given in the National Competitive, Elite or Collaborative Finals PASC, based on their cumulative scores in **performance and technique in the 12 and under and 13 and up** **age divisions and categories, scoring a gold or above.** A minimum of three (3) entries shall be required to present an award. **The DMA National Advisory Committee may combine as necessary.**
45. 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.
 - A. LARRAINE SUSA 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.
 - B. 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.
 - C. 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.

46. 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 the 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.**
47. 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 8 – THE PASC GRAND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

48. **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.**
49. **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.
50. 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
51. 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.

52. The PASC Grand National Championship entries must perform the same routine, using the same music.
53. 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, a Federal IRS Tax ID number will be required.
54. All entries into the Grand National Championship must have a photo taken by the official DMA Photographer.

Section 9 – THE CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS

55. 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.
56. The Champion of Champions will take place at the annual awards banquet.
57. 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.
58. The First Place overall winning routines of the Champion of Champions must be retired for a period of not less than five (5) years.

PLEASE NOTE EFFECTIVE FOR 2024:

Please know effective 2024 to observe the solo title performance/Champion of Champions you will be required to have a banquet ticket or purchase a \$20.00 observers pass which will be donated to Dancers Against Cancer. The observer pass will be standing room only in a designated area.