

2012-2013 USASF Dance Divisions and Categories

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BOLD font: Please read these carefully as anything **bold** is a deliberate change to the guidelines.
Please contact USASF Dance Chair Catherine Morris (cmorris@usasf.net) or Director of Dance: Tegan Reeves (treeves@usasf.net) for further explanation with regards to any of these topics.

AGE DIVISIONS and GUIDELINES

Divisions	Age	Categories	Minimum Time Limit	Maximum Time Limit
Tiny	6 years & younger	Jazz, Pom, Hip Hop	1 minute 45 sec	2 minutes 30 sec
Mini	9 years & younger	Jazz, Pom, Hip Hop	1 minute 45 sec	2 minutes 30 sec
Youth	12 years & younger	Jazz, Pom, Hip Hop	1 minute 45 sec	2 minutes 30 sec
Junior	15 years & younger	Jazz, Pom, Hip Hop***	1 minute 45 sec	2 minutes 30 sec
Senior	18 years & younger	Jazz, Pom, Hip Hop***	1 minute 45 sec	2 minutes 30 sec
Senior Coed*	18 years & younger	Jazz, Pom, Hip Hop***	1 minute 45 sec	2 minutes 30 sec
Open	14 years & older	Jazz, Pom, Hip Hop***	1 minute 45 sec	2 minutes 30 sec
Open Coed*	14 years & older	Jazz, Pom, Hip Hop***	1 minute 45 sec	2 minutes 30 sec
Male**	14 years & older	Jazz, Pom, Hip Hop***	1 minute 45 sec	2 minutes 30 sec

*Coed is defined as 1 or more males.

** Male is defined as 0 females.

*** These divisions may follow the Expanded Hip Hop Rules.

The list above is a “menu” of divisions that may be offered by an event producer. An event producer does not have to offer every division listed above. However, a USASF member event producer may only offer divisions from the grid above or the optional categories below, or combine/split divisions based upon the guidelines below. The information below is associated with the Division Chart above.

COMBINING AND SPLITTING

1. **Event producers will split a division into Small and Large if there are 10 or more teams in the division before the split occurs. There must be at least 3 teams in each division once the split occurs.**

Small	Jazz, Pom and Hip Hop	4 -14 performers
Large	Jazz, Pom and Hip Hop	15 and up performers

2. * Event producers must combine Senior/Open with Senior/Open Coed and/or Senior/Open **Male**, if there is only one team entered in either division/category. Event producers may not combine the Senior Division with the Open Division.
3. **Event producers may further split the Prep Category by style if there are least 3 teams in each Category/Division.**

AGE DIVISIONS

1. The Division Age of a team is determined by the age of the oldest competitor.
2. The age of the competitor as of August 31st, 2012 will be the age used for competition purposes throughout the 2012/13 season for all divisions.
3. Any team, from any country may enter any USASF division as long as they abide by the age restrictions of that division.
4. Event producers may offer any USASF optional category as listed below in any age division.

CROSSOVERS

1. Dancer(s) may compete in more than one division and/or category as long as they abide by the age restrictions in all divisions in which they compete.
2. Dancers may not compete in more than one routine in the same category and division.
(*Example: A dancer may not compete in 2 Senior Jazz routines.*)
 - a. Exception: If a dancer is on a **Coed and Non-Coed** team and the event producer combines the divisions, this rule does not apply (*Example: A dancer may not compete in Senior Small Jazz and Senior Large Jazz, but a dancer may compete in Senior Jazz and Senior Coed Jazz.*)
 - b. **Exception: The Prep Category.**

DIVISION CATEGORIES

1. Event Producers may offer an Open Category (any style) instead of separate categories, i.e. Jazz, Pom, Hip Hop, at any age division. (*Example: An event producer may offer Tiny Open instead of Tiny Jazz, Tiny Pom and Tiny Hip Hop.*)
2. Event producers may also offer separate categories in Open Division (14 years & older). (*Example: An Event Producer may offer Open Jazz, Open Pom.*)
3. Event producers must only split or divide by categories listed above. They may not further split or add categories and/or divisions by style, level, skill, age or ability. (*Examples: Event producers cannot offer a Stylized Jazz category and a Character Jazz category*)

CATEGORIES

JAZZ

A jazz routine incorporates stylized dance movements and combinations, formation changes, group work, leaps and turns. Emphasis is placed on proper technical execution, extension, control, body placement and team uniformity.

POM

Poms must be used 80% of the routine. Characteristics of a pom routine include synchronization and visual effect, clean and precise motions, strong pom technique, and incorporate dance technical elements. Visual effect includes level changes, group work, formation changes, the use of different color poms, etc.

HIP HOP

Routines can incorporate street style movements with an emphasis on execution, style, creativity, body isolations and control, rhythm, uniformity and musical interpretation. Teams may also put an additional focus on athletic incorporations such as jumps, jump variations, combo jumps and other tricks. (*Examples: dance crew, krumping, breaking, stepping, etc.*)

OPEN

An Open category will be offered only when separate dance categories are not offered in an age division. A routine in this category may incorporate any one style or combination of styles outlined in the USASF category listings. All styles will be judged against each other in this category.

OPTIONAL CATEGORIES

USASF Event Producers may choose, but are not required to, add the following categories:

PREP

The Prep Category is offered for emerging teams. *Event Producers may offer the Prep Category in the OPEN CATEGORY.* All styles will be judged against each other in this category, unless the splitting rule applies. A dancer may not compete in a non-prep category and a Prep Category within the same style. ***Please see USASF Dance Rules for Skill restrictions in the Prep Category.***

VARIETY

Routines will incorporate a blend of jazz, pom and hip hop styles. Emphasis should be placed on overall creativity and flow of routine and successful technical execution of the dance styles performed. Expanded Hip Hop Guidelines apply to Junior, Senior and Open divisions in the hip hop section of the performance.

LYRICAL

Routines combine the principles of jazz and ballet and emphasize proper technical execution, the use of flexibility, balance and mood. Routines are fluid in movement and focus on emotion that compliments the musical selection.

KICK

Routines emphasize control, height uniformity, extension, toe points, timing and creativity of a variety of kick series. Fifty kicks must be performed in the routine. For a kick to be counted, at least half of the team must perform the kick. A kick is defined as one foot remaining on the floor while the other foot lifts with force at least one inch from the floor.

PROP

Routines emphasize the use of props or a variety of props. The manipulation of the prop must be the main focal point of the routine. Each team will be given 2 minutes to set up and 2 minutes to take down their props before and after the performance if necessary.

PRODUCTION

Production teams must have at least 20 members, and routines must emphasize a theme or a storyline. Routines may be any style of dance that is outlined in the USASF category listing. Production routines will have a maximum of 5 minutes to complete their routine.

MODERN/CONTEMPORARY

Routines implement the principles of fall and recovery and/or contraction and release and weight sharing to express inner feeling as related to the musical or narrative piece.