

**2015-2016**  
**USASF DANCE**  
**DIVISIONS AND CATEGORIES**

*Updated 10/1/2015*

**PRIMARY CATEGORIES**

*Category definitions are updated yearly (Oct/2015) as the Dance Worlds Scoresheets are finalized and available to all members.*

**JAZZ**

A jazz routine encompasses traditional or stylized hard-hitting, crisp and/or aggressive approach to movement and can include moments of softness while complementing musicality. Emphasis is placed on body alignment, extension, control, uniformity, communication and technical skills

**POM**

A Pom routine contains important characteristics such as strong pom technique (clean, precise and sharp motions), synchronization, visual effects and may incorporate Pom Skills (i.e. pom passes, jump sequences, leaps/turns, kick lines, etc). Poms must be used 80% of the routine.

**HIP HOP**

A Hip Hop routine can incorporate any street style movement with an emphasis on execution, style, creativity, body isolations and control, rhythm, uniformity and musical interpretation.

**LYRICAL/CONTEMPORARY (Worlds 2017)**

A contemporary or lyrical routine uses organic, pedestrian and/or traditional modern or ballet vocabulary as it complements the lyric and/or rhythmic value of the music. Emphasis is placed on control, sustained, expressive movement, body placement, contraction/release, use of breath, uniformity, communication and technical skills.

**OPEN STYLE**

A routine in this category may incorporate any one style or combination of styles outlined in the USASF category listings (i.e. Jazz, Pom, Hip Hop, Lyrical/Contemporary). All styles will be judged against each other in this category. The style of dance performed will determine which "category" rules a team will follow in the appropriate age division.

**PREP:** (Prep Jazz, Prep Pom, Prep Hip Hop)

The Prep Category is offered for emerging teams and dancers to prepare them for category specific rules. Unless a split is available the Prep Category will be parallel to the Open Category; all styles will be judged against each other in this category, unless the Prep splitting rule (Page 2, #6) applies. A dancer may not compete in a non-prep category and a Prep Category within the same style. *The USASF Dance Prep Rules must be followed in every Category.*

The chart on page 2 is a "menu" of divisions and categories that may be offered by an event producer.

PRIMARY AGE DIVISIONS

Division	Age	Team Size	Gender
Tiny	6 years & younger	4 or more dancers	na
Small Mini	9 years & younger	4 - 14 dancers	na
Large Mini	9 years & younger	15 or more dancers	na
Small Youth	12 years & younger	4 - 14 dancers	na
Large Youth	12 years & younger	15 or more dancers	na
Small Junior	15 years & younger	4 - 14 dancers	0 males
Large Junior	15 years & younger	15 or more dancers	0 males
Junior Coed	15 years & younger	4 or more dancers	male(s) and female(s)
<b>Junior Male</b>	<b>15 years &amp; younger</b>	<b>4 or more dancers</b>	<b>0 females</b>
Small Senior	18 years & younger	4 - 14 dancers	0 males
Large Senior	18 years & younger	15 or more dancers	0 males
Small Senior Coed	18 years & younger	4 - 14 dancers	male(s) and female(s)
Large Senior Coed	18 years & younger	15 or more dancers	male(s) and female(s)
<b>Senior Male</b>	<b>18 years &amp; younger</b>	<b>4 or more dancers</b>	<b>0 females</b>
Small Open	14 years & older	4 - 14 dancers	0 males
Large Open	14 years & older	15 or more dancers	0 males
Small Open Coed	14 years & older	4 - 14 dancers	male(s) and female(s)
Large Open Coed	14 years & older	15 or more dancers	male(s) and female(s)
Open Male	14 years & older	4 or more dancers	0 females

COMBINING and SPLITTING

Divisions will be combined first by size when applicable then by gender.

1. Divisions will not be combined if a program is registered in the same category. *(Example: Small Jazz and Large Jazz teams from the same program will not compete against each other. Choosing to register two Small Jazz teams from the same program will require said teams to compete against each other.)*

2. Small and Large: If there are not at least 3 teams in Small and 3 teams in Large in the Mini, Youth, Junior, Senior and/or Open Divisions within the same Category, Small and Large divisions must be combined *(Example: If there are 2 teams in Small Senior Pom and 5 teams in Large Senior Pom, the Event Producer will combine into Senior Pom. The Event Producer will not combine these if it means that a program will compete against itself.)*

- *If there are 10 or more teams in the “Small” or “Large” division, then event producers may split that division further by team size.*

3. Coed and Male Combining: If there is only one team entered in any Junior, Senior or Open Division within the same Category, Event Producers must combine (in this order):

- a. Jr. Coed with Jr. Male, Sr. Coed with Sr. Male and Open Coed with Open Male
- b. Jr. with Jr. Coed, Sr. with Sr. Coed and Open with Open Coed
- c. Jr. with Jr. Male, Sr. with Senior Male and Open with Open Male

4. Prep: Event Producers must split the Prep category into Jazz, Pom or Hip Hop if there are at least 3 teams in one Division Category and at least 2 teams in the remaining Open category. In the Prep category a program cannot compete against itself; in this instance a mandatory split would occur. *(However, programs that choose to register 2 teams in the same division category, will result in said teams competing against each other.)*

5. Tiny Division: Event Producers must split Tiny Divisions within the same category into Small and Large (as outlined in grid) 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.

AGE DIVISIONS: *(Age requirements for the 2016 Dance Worlds [www.usasf.net](http://www.usasf.net))*

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 31, 2015 will be the age used for competition purposes throughout the 2015/16 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.

*\*For all International Divisions (Open), the eligible age for the athletes will be determined by the "calendar year of the competition" (Dec. 31 of the same year that the competition occurs) for its age cut off date. Example: An athlete that is 13 turns 14 on December 12, 2015. If she is competing at a competition on November 7, 2015, she is permitted to compete in the Open division because she turns 14 within the same calendar year as the event in which she is competing. A calendar year is considered January 1st – December 31st. The USASF recognizes the concern with fielding teams of a broad age range and highly recommends that individual programs be vigilant in monitoring participants of various ages on the same team and that, whenever possible, a team's composition is made up of participants of similar ages.*

### 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. A dancer may not compete in a Non-Prep Category and a Prep Category within the same style.

### DIVISION CATEGORIES

1. Event Producers may offer the Open Style 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 Style instead of Tiny Jazz, Tiny Pom and Tiny Hip Hop. E.P.'s must only divide by USASF categories).
2. They may not further split or add **all-star** categories and/or divisions by style, level, skill, age or ability unless, prior written approval is received from the USASF.