

**2014-2015
USASF DANCE
DIVISIONS AND CATEGORIES**

Updated 09/30/2014

PRIMARY 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. Important characteristics of a pom routine include strong pom technique: clean/precise and sharp motions, synchronization and visual effect, and may incorporate tricks (i.e. leaps/turns, pom passes, jump sequences, kick lines etc). 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.

OPEN STYLE

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. **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 this Category.

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
Junior Coed	15 years & younger	4 or more dancers	male(s) and female(s)
Small Junior	15 years & younger	4 - 14 dancers	0 males
Large Junior	15 years & younger	15 or more dancers	0 males
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)
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

The list above is a “menu” of divisions and categories that may be offered by an event producer. Page two is associated with the division chart above. Page three outlines optional categories and the age divisions and rules that apply.



2014-2015
USASF DANCE
DIVISIONS AND CATEGORIES

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 less than 3 teams in Mini, Youth, Junior, Senior or Open Divisions within the same Category, Event Producers will combine Small and Large within the Age Division only.** *(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.)*

3. **Senior Coed:** If there is only one team entered in any Senior division, Event Producers must combine Senior and Senior Coed.

4. **Junior Coed: If there is only one team entered in any Junior division, Event Producers must combine Junior and Junior Coed.**

5. **Open Coed:** If there is only one team entered in any Open Division within the same category, Event Producers must combine (in this order):

- a. **Open Coed with Open Male**
- b. **Open with Open Coed**
- c. **Open with Open Male**

6. **Prep: Event Producers must split the Prep Category into Jazz, Pom or Hip Hop if there are at least 3 teams in one Category Division 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.)**

7. **Tiny Division and Optional Categories:** Event Producers must split Tiny Divisions within the same category and the Optional Categories 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 2015 Dance Worlds may be found at <http://usASF.net/worlds/danceworlds/info/>)*

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, 2014 will be the age used for competition purposes throughout the 2014/15 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.

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.)*
2. Event Producers must only divide by categories listed. They may not further split or add categories and/or divisions by style, level, skill, age or ability unless, prior written approval is received from the USASF.

2014-2015
USASF DANCE
DIVISIONS AND CATEGORIES

OPTIONAL CATEGORIES and DIVISIONS

USASF Event Producers may choose, but are not required to, offer optional categories listed below. The Age Divisions for optional categories are listed below. **Teams competing in the Prep category would still follow Prep rules for these optional categories and divisions.**

Divisions	Age	Size
Tiny	6 years & younger	4 or more dancers
Mini	9 years & younger	4 or more dancers
Youth	12 years & younger	4 or more dancers
Junior	15 years & younger	4 or more dancers
Senior	18 years & younger	4 or more dancers
Open	14 years & older	4 or more dancers

VARIETY

Also known as Team Performance. Routines **must** incorporate 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.

The USASF Dance General, Hip Hop, Pom and Jazz Rules, all three category sets, are to be followed within the proper section of the routine and proper age division.

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. A kick is defined as one foot remaining on the floor while the other foot lifts with force.

The USASF Dance General and Jazz Rules are to be followed within the proper age division.

LYRICAL

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

The USASF Dance General and Jazz Rules are to be followed within the proper age division.

MODERN/CONTEMPORARY

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

The USASF Dance General and Jazz Rules are to be followed within the proper age division.

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.

The USASF Dance General and Jazz Rules must be followed in this Category with the exception of the Prop section. Props may not be used to bear the weight of a performer who is executing a tumbling skill or involved in a lift.

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.

The USASF Dance General and Jazz Rules must be followed in this Category with the exception of the Props section. Props may not be used to bear weight of a performer who is executing a tumbling skill or involved in a lift.