



THE DANCE WORLDS 2012



The United States All Star Federation (USASF) and International All Star Federation (IASF) only host two competitions a year – The Cheerleading Worlds and The Dance Worlds. The event producers of premier championship events sponsor their best teams to compete at these competitions. Cheer and dance teams from all over the world may qualify to compete in the applicable Senior, Junior or International Open Divisions.

In 2012, each partially-paid bid to The Worlds cost the sponsoring event producer \$3,500 for each team they send. Given this, and the fact that many event producers are giving multiple bids, it is easy to see that these event producers are allocating substantial resources to support the teams that participate in their respective competitions. These event producers feel so strongly about the caliber of the teams in these divisions at their nationals that they want them to have the opportunity to compete at The Dance Worlds.

Dates

NEW DAY: Friday April 27, 2012 Semi-Finals & U.S. Worlds Trials:

Teams entered in the following divisions will compete on **Friday April 27, 2012:**

Semi-Finals: Senior Pom

Senior Jazz

Junior Dance

U.S. Worlds Trials: International Open Coed Hip Hop (**ONLY USA teams entered this Category**)

Saturday April 28, 2012 Semi-Finals and Junior Finals

Sunday, April 29, 2012 Finals

Location

The Walt Disney World ® Resort
Orlando, Florida, USA



Tentative Schedule of Events

NOTE: Event details and venues are subject to change.

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

- Teams arrive at The Worlds Village and register with the Worlds staff to receive tickets, Worlds credentials, room keys and other information concerning the weekend's events.

Thursday, April 26, 2012

- Teams arrive at The Worlds Village and register with the Worlds staff to receive tickets, Worlds credentials, room keys and other information concerning the weekend's events.
- International Cheer Union (ICU) opening ceremonies and competition at ESPN Wide World of Sports® Complex
- **NEW DAY:** 6:00 pm – VIP Gala (MANDATORY - 2 Gym Owners/ Coaches per team)

Friday, April 27, 2012

- Teams arrive at The Worlds Village and register with the Worlds staff to receive tickets, Worlds credentials, room keys and other information concerning the weekend's events.
- **NEW:** Dance Worlds Semi-Final Competition and U.S. Worlds Trials at Epcot's World Showplace Pavilion
 - **Semi-Finals:** Senior Pom
Senior Jazz
Junior Dance
 - **U.S. Worlds Trials:** International Open Coed Hip Hop (**ONLY USA teams entered this Category**)
- **NEW:** Cheer Worlds Preliminary Competition and U.S. Worlds Trials at a location TBD.
- ICU World Cheer & Dance Championships held at ESPN Wide World of Sports® Complex

Saturday, April 28, 2012

- Dance Worlds Semi-Final and Junior Final Competition at Epcot's World Showplace Pavilion
- Cheer Worlds Semi-Final Competition at ESPN Wide World of Sports® Complex

Sunday, April 29, 2012

- Dance Worlds Final Competition and Awards at Epcot's World Showplace Pavilion
- Cheer Worlds Final Competition and Awards at ESPN Wide World of Sports® Complex
- Private Block Party at a Disneyworld Theme Park location TBD

Monday, April 30, 2012

- Teams Depart

NOTE: Event details and venues are subject to change.



General Information

NEW DAY: 2012 VIP Gala (Coaches Reception and Awards Ceremony)

The IASF & USASF will host this very special and exclusive function on Thursday, April 26, 2012. It is MANDATORY for two representatives (gym/studio owners and/or coaches) from each team participating in either The Cheerleading or Dance Worlds to attend. The event is hosted at no cost for the two representatives from each team. Transportation will be provided from the host hotels to Epcot's World Showplace and is scheduled to begin at approximately 6:00 p.m. Please make travel arrangements to Orlando accordingly to ensure your representatives are there on time.

Note: If you have additional coaches and/or gym owners that would like to attend, additional tickets for this function will be available on a first come/first served basis. See the Ticket Order Form in The Cheerleading and Dance Worlds Information and Registration Packet.

Online Coverage on IASFWorlds.org

Be sure to tell all of your friends and family that there will be coverage on Saturday and Sunday of The Cheerleading and Dance Worlds on www.IASFWorlds.org. Results will be posted throughout the weekend, as well as behind-the-scenes photos capturing the event.

Video On Demand

Let the rest of your "Gym Family" watch you compete at Worlds! The 2012 Cheerleading and Dance Worlds Video On Demand is a one year subscription service that allows access to video on demand of the event for one low price for the year. Watch all of the routines in all three venues from both days of competition as many times as you like for an entire year! Be sure to tell all of your friends and family to watch your team compete against the best teams from around the world. Coverage begins on Friday, April 27th on www.IASFWorlds.org.

FREE Action Moments Photography (AMP)

AMP will have FOUR Cameras on every Worlds stage capturing over 300 action shots of your athletes during each performance. Every Worlds athlete and coach will receive a FREE Photo Disc of all pictures taken during their performance(s) following the conclusion of their division. Coaches or Gym owners will receive them when they pick up and sign for their score sheets.

Competition Structure

Senior Dance - All teams entering the Senior Dance categories must compete in the Semi-Finals on Friday, April 27th (Jazz, Pom and US Trials for International Open Hip Hop) and /or Saturday, April 28th. There will be a minimum of 50% of the teams from each of the Senior Dance divisions will progress to the Finals on Sunday, April 29th at Epcot's World Showplace Pavilion.

International Dance – NEW: US Worlds Trials: All USA teams entering the **International Open Coed Hip Hop** category must compete in the US Worlds Trials Friday, April 27th. The top 10 U.S. teams in the U.S. Worlds Trials will progress to The Worlds **International Open Coed Hip Hop** division's Semi-Finals round, with all teams from non-U.S. countries, held Saturday, April 28, 2012. **NEW:** Following the completion of the U.S. Worlds Trials divisions the USASF will award trophies to the top 4th – 10th place teams, US Worlds Trials Gold, Silver and Bronze trophies and medallions to the top 3 teams. All teams entering the International Dance categories must compete in the Semi-Finals on Saturday, April 28th. A maximum of three (3) of the highest scoring teams from "each country" in each International category will progress from Semi-Finals to Finals on Sunday, April 29th at Epcot's World Showplace Pavilion.

Junior Dance - All teams accepted into the Junior Dance category will compete in the Semi-Finals on Friday, April 27th. A maximum of three (3) of the highest scoring teams from "each country" in the Junior Dance category will progress from Semi-Finals to Finals on Saturday, April 28th at Epcot's World Showplace Pavilion.

2012 Dance Worlds Divisions:

Senior Dance:

Senior Jazz: 18 years and younger

Senior Pom: 18 years and younger

Senior Hip Hop: 18 years and younger

Senior Coed Hip Hop: 18 years and younger, 2 or more males

Senior Division Awards – The USASF/IASF will award the top 10 teams in all 6 Senior divisions at The Dance Worlds.

NEW 2012 WORLDS CHANGES: International Open Dance Divisions / Categories

Over the past 7 years international participation at The Cheerleading and Dance Worlds has grown from 3 non-U.S. based teams representing 2 countries, to over 120 teams representing over 40 countries outside of the U.S. The combined efforts of all involved in the USASF/IASF over the last few years have brought much needed change and opportunity for industry growth, both in the United States and across the globe. It is an understatement that "The Cheerleading and Dance Worlds" would exist in name only without the participation of international member event producers and all star gyms/teams from dozens of countries. An important component to ensure continued involvement from non-U.S. teams at the Cheerleading and Dance Worlds is to increase, and make more equitable, their voice in the governance of International divisions.

Most of the participants at Worlds from countries other than the United States also compete on National teams the day before the Worlds event at the International Cheer Union (ICU) Cheerleading and Dance World Championships. However, due to differences in the rules between the two events, these National teams have to remove, change out or alter their routines to be compliant with The Worlds rules for its International divisions. These changes, with less than 24 hours between performances, have been determined to be a potential safety concern. After significant discussion and input of the IASF members and the ICU's national governing bodies (representing over 100 countries), the following

"NEW" guidelines for The 2012 Dance Worlds International divisions / categories will be followed:

- **NEW: Competitor's Age - "Year of the Competition"** - ALL International Divisions / Categories will follow the ICU Cheerleading World Championships age requirement (known as the "International Standard") for determining the required age of a competitor. This standard is followed in most sports around the globe. The age of a competitor will be determined based on the date of birth falling during the **"year of the competition."** **Example:** A competitor who turns 14 up until December 31, 2012 will be eligible to compete at the 2012 Worlds in an International Open Coed Hip Hop Division.

NOTE: The USASF/IASF recognizes that teams and event producers from the U.S.A. must follow the current 2011-12 USASF Dance Guidelines at all Worlds Bid Qualifiers. However teams from the U.S.A. receiving Dance Worlds bids and attending the 2012 Dance Worlds may use substitution/alternate athletes to form a team that matches the new guidelines listed above for the 2012 Dance Worlds for these select divisions. Of course, those athletes would have to follow the same eligibility, substitution and alternate guidelines for The Worlds, including the guidelines requiring a Release Waiver. Again these

new guidelines only impact those teams competing in the 2012 Dance Worlds in the all International divisions and categories.

International Dance:

The age of a competitor will be determined based on the date of birth falling during the "**year of the competition.**" (see explanation above)

Open Jazz: 14 years and older

Open Pom: 14 years and older

Open Hip Hop: 14 years and older

Open Coed Hip Hop: 14 years and older, 2 or more males

Junior Dance: 14 years and younger

International Division Awards – The USASF/IASF will award the top 10 teams in all four International divisions at The Dance Worlds.

NEW: IASF Nations Cup Championship: – In addition to the USASF/IASF awarding the top 10 in each of the International divisions, the IASF will award the top 5 countries (ranking of nations) in each of those divisions as well. This will be determined by ranking each country's highest scoring team in the division's finals.

Description of Categories:

IAZZ

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 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.)

JUNIOR DANCE will compete in the OPEN CATEGORY: Category may incorporate any one style or combination of styles. All styles will be judged against each other in this category. Emphasis placed on choreography, proper technical execution, visual effect, creativity, staging and team uniformity.

Score Sheets:

Senior and International division score sheets will be available on the usasf.net or usasfdance.net website by November 15, 2011.

US JUNIOR DANCE TEAMS VIDEO QUALIFICATION -

For Junior International Open Dance Team's Worlds Bids:

Any U.S. Junior Dance team that would like to receive a 2012 Dance Worlds bid to compete in the Junior International Open Dance may do so only by video submission. Teams can send in up to two routines, but are only eligible to receive one Bid.

NEW: The USASF Selection Committee will select a Worlds caliber judging panel to select and award the top 6 U.S. teams "At Large" bids in the Junior International Open Dance Division to represent the U.S. at the 2012 Dance Worlds. Bids will be limited to 1 per studio/gym.

Video Qualification Process:

1. The team must send in an unedited video copy (wide angle only, no split screens, freeze frames, graphics, voiceovers or speed altering allowed) of a performance filmed at a USASF Member Event Producer's Event. These events are located and listed on the usasf.net website.
2. REQUIRED and included with the video must be a copy of that team's competition registration and squad roster turned in at that same event where the video was produced.
3. All teams submitting videos must follow all 2012 Worlds guidelines just as if they were competing for a Worlds Bids at a Worlds Bid Qualifying Event.
4. Only VHS or DVD are acceptable for video qualification. Electronically submitted routines will not be acceptable. (No 8mm or mini DVD)
5. VHS and DVD must be clean with the routine recorded at the beginning. The VHS or DVD must be "clearly labeled" with the following information:
 - a. Team Name/Division
 - b. Team Representative's Name
 - c. Team Representative's E-Mail Address and Phone Contact
6. Complete a **2011 Junior Dance Worlds Bid Qualification Registration Form** located on the www.USASFDance.net or www.USASF.net websites.
7. VHS or DVD and the **2011 Junior Dance Worlds Bid Qualification Registration Form** are due and must be received by the USASF on or before January 27, 2012 and must be mailed to the following address:

Attention: 2011 Junior Dance Worlds Bid Qualification
USASF
6745 Lenox Center Court, Suite 300
Memphis, TN 38115

All bid winners will be notified by February 15, 2012.

The Dance Worlds Travel Package and Registration

All team registration packets and required documents must be received in the USASF/IASF office by the noted deadlines in The Dance Worlds Information and Registration Packets. PLEASE READ the Registration Deadlines and Payment Policies page. These packets include all of the information, package pricing, forms, and deadlines necessary for the Worlds registration. Extra copies of Dance Worlds Information and Registration Packets for spectators may be downloaded and printed from the [USASF.net](http://usasf.net) website.

International Teams - All visa requests will be cut off on February 15, 2012 and team registration packets and required documents must be received in the USASF/IASF office by the noted deadlines in The Dance Worlds Information and Registration Packets. PLEASE READ the Registration Deadlines and Payment Policies page.

Copies of all participants' birth certificates or passports must be with the team's coach/representative at all times and readily available upon request from a Worlds official. Copies of your athlete's birth certificates on a USB/Zip drive is acceptable (certificates should be .pdf, .jpg or .doc).

The Dance Worlds "PARTIALLY Paid" Bids

"Partially Paid" bids are awarded to the best teams in one or more of the Worlds Divisions at The Dance Worlds qualifying events. Each event producer that hosts a Worlds qualifying event has the discretion to select the process by which the bids are awarded. Invitation includes \$3,500 awarded by the sponsoring Event Producer to a Dance World's qualifying division winner. "Partial Paid" checks will be made out to the USASF/IASF and mailed directly to the gym. That check must be used towards the team's accommodation packages and must be enclosed with the team's registration. The gym is responsible for the balance of the team's competition packages and must be enclosed with the registration as well. The package includes room accommodations for four days and three nights, April 27-May 1 at Disney's All Star Resort. If you would like additional rooms/additional nights, those expenses will be the responsibility of the gym. Each additional room night will be an additional amount with a maximum quad occupancy. All "Partially Paid" teams must compete in the Semi-Finals on Friday, April 27th or Saturday, April 28th to qualify to compete in Finals on Sunday, April 29, 2012.

The Dance Worlds "At Large" Bids

"At Large" bids are generally awarded to runner-up teams or the next highest scoring teams to the "Partially Paid" bid-winning team. Each event producer that hosts a Worlds qualifying event has the discretion to select the divisions and the process by which the bids are awarded. Recipients of "At Large" bids are eligible to compete at The Worlds, however they must:

- Pay for their own Worlds Travel Packages and all of their related expenses.

All "At Large" teams must compete in the Semi-Finals on Friday, April 27th or Saturday, April 28th to qualify to compete in Finals on Sunday, April 29, 2012.

Bid Limitations

The Dance Worlds: A studio/gym may receive no more than one bid to The Dance Worlds, "Partial Paid" or "At Large", in the same division and category. Example; A gym/studio cannot have 2 teams in the Senior Pom category. Should a team already have been awarded a bid to The Worlds, decline acceptance of a "Partial Paid"/"At Large" bid, or fail to accept the "Partial Paid"/"At Large" bid by the deadline noted, the bid may be transferred to an alternate team at the sponsoring event producer's discretion. The sponsoring event producer may not transfer ("hand down") any "At Large" bids or declined "At Large" bids after 96 hours from the end of their qualifying event. If a team has already accepted an "At Large" bid and opts to compete for another bid, they will be eligible only for "Partial Paid" bid. They will not be eligible for another "At Large" bid unless they decline the first "At Large" bid they were awarded, BEFORE competing for another "At Large" bid. Accepting or declining bids must be done in writing to the sponsoring event producer and the USASF.

Bid Receiving Requirements

- There is no maximum number of team members; the minimum number of participants is 4.
- A team that receives and accepts any type of Worlds bid must compete at the Worlds in the same division they competed in at the qualifying event where their bid was awarded.
- The number of participants that "performed" on the competition floor at the qualifying event where the team received their bid may not be exceeded by the number of participants competing in that same division at The Dance Worlds.

- USA Teams Attending Worlds Requirements:
 - must represent a **USASF Dance** Member Gym/Studio/Organization
 - must have **USASF Dance** Member Athletes (Registered & Paid)

NEW: Athlete Membership Timeline Requirement

All “DANCE” participants (original team members, alternates, substitutes) must be a USASF Member Athlete in order to join the team in the warm-up room/area and compete at The Dance Worlds. Athletes who have registered and paid their membership (\$25 per athlete) prior to being awarded a bid will have met the athlete requirement and no additional fees associated with processing athlete membership will be incurred.

Programs that did not enroll their athletes as full members (\$25 per athlete) prior to receiving their bid will be charged a processing fee of \$15 per athlete for not meeting this requirement. All membership and processing fees must be paid prior to March 31, 2012. Starting April 1 programs will be assessed an additional \$10.00 late fee.

IMPORTANT: Each participant’s name and USASF Membership ID# will be required on The Dance Worlds team roster form due by the team’s required Worlds Registration deadline. For more information about USASF Athlete Membership, please contact your USASF Regional Director. USASF/IASF Regional Directors’ contact information is located on the USASF.net website.

Timing Requirements for Bid Acceptance

“Partial Paid” and “At Large” bid winners must accept the bid and complete and return the Bid Winners Acceptance Form to the sponsoring event producer that awarded the bid. The form must be faxed within 72 hours after the last day of the event where the bid was received. This means each team will need to have made up their minds prior to the Worlds qualifying event about whether they are going to accept the bid should they receive one. And if so, who will be going and what the travel specifics will be. The purpose of this tight timing is to control last minute changes that increase costs and make the entire travel experience disorganized. Any “Partial Paid” bid not accepted and returned within 72 hours may be transferred to an alternate team at the sponsoring event producer’s discretion. Any “At Large” bids not accepted and returned within 72 hours may be considered declined.

The sponsoring event producer may not transfer (“hand down”) any “At Large” bids or declined “At Large” bids after 96 hours from the end of their qualifying event. If a team has already accepted an “At Large” bid and opts to compete for another bid, they will be eligible only for a “Partial Paid” bid. They will not be eligible for another “At Large” bid unless they decline the first “At Large” bid they were awarded, BEFORE competing for another “At Large” bid. Accepting or declining bids must be done in writing to the sponsoring event producer and the USASF.

Once a team accepts their bid, the team needs to register by the listed deadline in The USASF/IASF Cheerleading and Dance Worlds Information and Registration Packet. Any team holding their registration in hopes of receiving a “Partial Paid” bid at a later Worlds bid qualifier but who are unsuccessful in achieving this, will be charged a late registration fee based upon the listed competition registration deadlines.

Coaches/Directors

- Cannot send a team to compete in the “same division” at The Dance Worlds and also at a 2012 “end of season, multi-brand event”. (i.e. International All-Levels Championships, U.S. Finals, etc.)
- Each competing studio/gym must be a member of the USASF/IASF and in good standing with the USASF/IASF.

- Must be listed as a director/advisor/coach of the performing team on all paperwork received by the USASF/IASF.
- Must be a coach in good standing at the gym they are representing.
- Must agree to act with complete respect, sportsmanship, and graciousness at all times.

Eligible Athletes, Substitutions and Alternates

NEW: Dancers may not compete in more than one routine in the same category and division. Example: A dancer cannot compete in 2 Senior Jazz routines. **UPDATED:** All dancers participating on a team at The 2012 Worlds, must be a registered member of that team's gym/studio during the 2011 – 2012 competition season.

UPDATED - GYM RELEASE WAIVER:

Any dancer that has competed on the floor with a team in any category from a gym (Primary Gym), during the Worlds competition season (November 1, 2011 – May 1, 2012), will have to have a USASF Gym Release Waiver signed by the owner of that gym (Primary Gym) before that athlete is eligible to compete with another gym (Secondary Gym) at the 2012 Dance Worlds. The USASF Gym Release Waiver is located on the www.USASF.net website. On The Dance Worlds Roster, each dancer's name will have to be identified as either an original participant of the team that was on the floor where the bid was received, a substitution or an alternate. All names on the team rosters will be verified by the event producer who awarded the Worlds bid.

The rule that applies to substitutions is as follows:

- A Maximum of 10 substitutions will be allowed per team for The Dance Worlds Championship.
- A substitute must be a regular paid participant from another team at the same gym/ studio and must have competed "on the floor" with that team from that gym/studio at the same event where the bid was awarded. All substitutes must meet the same eligibility requirements as the original team that was awarded a bid (i.e. age, etc.).

UPDATED - WORLDS ALTERNATES: Of the 10 possible substitutes, one to three of those 10 may be alternates. Alternates are registered members of the same team's gym / studio where the bid was received. Alternates do not have to be rostered or in attendance at the Worlds bid qualifying event where the bid was received.

UPDATED - GYM RELEASE WAIVER: Any dancer that has competed on the floor with a team in any category from a gym (Primary Gym), during the Worlds competition season (November 1, 2011 – May 1, 2012), must possess a USASF Gym Release Waiver signed by the owner of that gym (Primary Gym) before that athlete is eligible to compete with another gym (Secondary Gym) at the 2012 Dance Worlds. The USASF Gym Release Waiver is located on the www.USASF.net website. If a team is found to have made an improper substitution or alternate, this team may:

- Be disqualified.
- Be responsible for repaying the total cost of any funds received through a "Partial Paid" bid.
- Be prevented (along with the entire program from that gym) to The Cheerleading or Dance Worlds for the following year.

The USASF/IASF sponsored "partial paid" bids are for team members and two coaches. All sponsored team members must be on the floor during the team's performance at The Dance Worlds. Alternates and/or additional dancers /coaches brought to substitute for unplanned occurrences are not covered under "Partial Paid" bids, will not be funded by the sponsoring event producer and must be eligible for substitution under the aforementioned substitution rules. Should a substitute and or an alternate become necessary after submission of your team's registered roster and after travel plans have been approved and confirmed, any additional costs associated with those substitution(s) must be paid by the gym / studio.

Crossovers

At The Dance Worlds, a participant may not perform more than three times and must represent the same studio/gym. Crossovers of participants from other studios/gyms will not be permitted. Crossovers of participants between cheer and dance teams from the same or other studios/gyms are not permitted. No dancers may compete in the Cheerleading Worlds and the Dance Worlds.

If teams are found to have a crossover, those teams may:

- Be disqualified.
- Be responsible for repaying the total cost of any funds received through a "Partial Paid" bid.
- Be prevented (along with the entire program from that gym) from being eligible for any type of bid to The Cheerleading or Dance Worlds for the following year.

Reminder: Dancers may not compete in more than one routine in the same category and division.

Example: A dancer cannot compete in 2 Senior Jazz routines.

Rules

The Dance Worlds follows USASF/IASF Dance Rules and Guidelines. They are listed on the www.usasfdance.net or the www.USASF.net website.

Submitting Videotape/DVD for Legality Review

In an effort to ensure a penalty-free competition, all teams for The Dance Worlds are encouraged to submit a videotape or DVD of the routine they will perform at the Worlds competition. This videotape or DVD should clearly show the routine so that it may be reviewed for legality purposes. Routines will be reviewed by an independent, neutral judging panel and the USASF/IASF Rules Committee. To secure confidentiality, the results of this review will be communicated only to the participating studio/gym and will not be shared with any other studio/gym or with The Dance Worlds judging panel. Only videotapes or DVDs are acceptable for review. Electronically submitted routines will not be reviewed.

Videotapes must be a clean VHS tape or DVD (No 8MM) with the routine at the beginning of the tape. It should be clearly labeled with the following information:

- Team Name/Division
- Team Representative's Name
- Team Representative's E-Mail Address and Phone Number

Videotapes or DVDs are due by April 10, 2012 and must be mailed to the following address:

USASF/IASF Dance Rules Committee
6745 Lenox Center Court, Suite 300
Memphis, TN 38115

You will be notified by April 20, 2012 as to the results of the videotape/DVD review.

Note: Although routines will be reviewed for potential penalties prior to the competition via video submission, this does not preclude a team from being assessed a penalty while at the Worlds competition. The USASF/IASF will have rules judges in the warm-up area and on the performance floor at The Worlds competition to ensure that all rules regarding the competition are followed.

GENERAL COMPETITION RULES

The Dance Worlds competition will follow the most recent version of the USASF Dance General Rules and Age Chart. Refer to the www.USASFDance.net or www.USASF.net website for details.

DANCE GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. All teams must be supervised during all official functions by a qualified director/advisor/coach.
2. All participants agree to conduct themselves in a manner displaying good sportsmanship throughout the event. The director/advisor/coach of each team is responsible for seeing that team members, coaches, parents, and any other person affiliated with the team conduct themselves accordingly. Severe demonstrations of unsportsmanlike conduct are grounds for disqualification.
3. All directors, advisors and coaches should have an emergency action plan in the event of an injury.
4. Teams must have at least 4 members. There is no maximum limit.
5. Each team will have a maximum of 2 minutes and 30 seconds (2:30) to demonstrate their style and expertise. Timing will begin with the first choreographed movement or note of the music. Timing will end with the last choreographed movement or note of the music, whichever comes last.
6. Teams may not use Disney themes nor may they have costumes that resemble a Disney character. However, Disney music that is ASCAP, BMI or SESAC licensed is acceptable.
7. Participants may compete in more than one dance division and/or category as long as they abide by the age restrictions in all divisions in which they compete. Dancers may not compete in more than one routine in the same category and division. Example: A dancer cannot compete in 2 Senior Jazz routines
8. Substitutions may be made in the event of any injury or other serious circumstance. Substitutes must also abide by the age restrictions in all divisions in which they compete.
9. Any team proven to be in violation of the age restrictions will be automatically disqualified from the event.
10. Footwear is recommended but not required. Wearing socks and/or footed tights only is prohibited.
11. Jewelry as a part of a costume is allowed.
12. The competition area will be determined by the tournament Director, according to the size of the facility being used. Approximate floor size will be a minimum of 42 feet wide x 42 feet deep and the floor surface will be a Marley floor. There will be a center line from the front of the floor to the back.

II. FOR TEAMS COMPETING IN THE CHEERLEADING WORLDS

Refer to The Cheerleading Worlds Information and Registration Packet or the usasf.net website!

III. INTERRUPTION OF PERFORMANCE

A. UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES

If, in the opinion of the competition officials, a team's routine is interrupted because of failure of the competition equipment, facilities, or other factors attributable to the competition rather than the team, the team affected or competition officials may stop the routine.

The degree and effect of the interruption will be determined by the competition officials. The competition officials will determine if the team will be allowed to perform at a later time. If decided by officials, the team will perform the routine again in its entirety, but will be evaluated ONLY from the point where the interruption occurred. The spot in the schedule where the re-performance is to take place is at the sole discretion of competition officials.

B. FAULT OF TEAM

In the event a team's routine is interrupted because of failure of the team's own equipment and/or music, the team must continue the routine.

The degree and effect of the interruption will be determined by the competition officials and a possible penalty of 5 points per judge will be assessed. The degree and effect of the interruption will be determined by the competition officials. The competition officials will determine if the

team will be allowed to perform at a later time. If decided by officials, the team will perform the routine again in its entirety, but will be evaluated ONLY from the point where the interruption occurred. The spot in the schedule where the re-performance is to take place is at the sole discretion of competition officials.

C. INJURY

1. The only persons that may stop a routine for injury are: a) competition officials, b) the gym owner / head coach from the team performing or c) an injured individual.
2. The competition officials will determine if the team will be allowed to perform at a later time. If the competition officials allow a routine to be performed at a later time, the spot in the schedule where the re-performance is to take place is at the sole discretion of competition officials. The team may (pending the injury's impact on the routine) perform the routine again in its entirety, but will be evaluated ONLY from the point where the interruption occurred.
3. The injured participant that wishes to perform may not return to the competition floor unless:
 - a. The competition officials receive clearance from, first, the medical personnel attending to that participant, the parent/guardian (if present) AND THEN the head coach/advisor of the competing team.
 - b. If the medical personnel do not clear the participant, the participant can only return to the competition if a parent or legal guardian in attendance signs a return to participation waiver. In the event of a suspected concussion, the participant cannot return to perform without clearance from a medical professional, even with a waiver from a parent or legal guardian.

IV. HOW TO HANDLE PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS

Any question concerning the rules or procedures of the tournament will be handled exclusively by one designated representative of the team (i.e. studios/gyms, directors, coaches and advisors) and will be directed only to a Tournament Official. Such questions should be made prior to the team's competition performance. Any questions concerning the team's performance should be made to a Tournament Official immediately after the team's performance.

V. INTERPRETATIONS AND RULINGS

Any interpretation of any aspect of these Rules and Regulations or any decision involving any other aspect of the tournament will be rendered by the Worlds Competition Rules Committee. The Worlds Competition Rules Committee will render a judgment in an effort to ensure that the tournament proceeds in a manner consistent with the general spirit and goals of the tournament. The Rules Committee will consist of the Tournament Director, Head Judge, and either the USASF Rules Committee Chairman or a tournament official designated by the Chairman. The Tournament Director may appoint additional members to those listed above to be members of the Worlds Competition Rules Committee.

VI. FINALITY OF DECISIONS

By participating in this championship, each team agrees that the decisions by the judges will be final and will not be subject for review. Each team acknowledges the necessity for the judges to make prompt and fair decisions in this competition and each team therefore expressly waives any legal, equitable, administrative or procedural review of such decisions.

VII. SPORTSMANSHIP

All participants agree to conduct themselves in a manner displaying good sportsmanship throughout and following the tournament. The directors, coaches and advisors of each team is responsible for seeing that team members, coaches, parents and any other persons affiliated with the team conduct themselves accordingly. Severe cases of unsportsmanlike conduct are grounds for disqualification as explained in this document above.

VIII. DEDUCTIONS AND DISQUALIFICATIONS

Any team in violation of the “General Competition Rules” will be assessed a ten point (10) per judge deduction for each violation. Any team that does not adhere to the terms and procedures in the “General Competition Rules” may be disqualified from the competition and automatically forfeit the right to any prizes or awards presented by the competition. In addition, the team may also forfeit the opportunity to participate in the Dance Worlds the following year.

IX. SCORES AND RANKINGS

Individual judges score sheets are for the exclusive use of each particular judge. Each judge has the responsibility and authority to review and submit his or her final scores and rankings prior to the final tally of the scores for all teams. Scores and rankings will be available only to studios/gyms; directors, coaches and advisors at the conclusion of the competition. In the event of a tie, the judge’s ordinal rankings will break the tie. Ties will not be broken, except to determine the Bronze, Silver and Gold places in finals.

X. APPEARANCES, ENDORSEMENTS AND PUBLICITY

All teams winning titles, awards or prizes agree to have all appearances, endorsements and publicity approved through the USASF office.

XI. RULES

The Dance Worlds follows USASF Dance Rules and Guidelines. They are listed on the www.USASFDance.net or www.USASF.net website.

XII. AGE DIVISIONS

Junior	14 years & younger	Open
Senior	18 years & younger	Jazz, Pom, Hip Hop
Senior Coed*	18 years & younger	Hip Hop
Open	14 years & older	Jazz, Pom, Hip Hop
Open Coed*	14 years & older	Hip Hop

**Coed is defined as 2 or more males.*

TIME LIMIT: All routines must be a MINIMUM of one minute and 45 seconds and a MAXIMUM of two minutes and 30 seconds.

***For more information go to www.USASFDance.net or
www.USASF.net or www.IASFworlds.org or call
1-800-829-6237***