

OFFICIAL RULES & REGULATIONS OF DANCESTAR ONLINE WORLD COMPETITIONS

Powered by ESDU

Amended and effective as of July 1st, 2020.

The Official Rules and Regulations Manual of DanceStar contains participant's entry requirements, standard procedures, and rules and regulations for competing in the ***DanceStar Online World Competitions*** presented by DanceStar International Ltd.

By registering for the ***DanceStar Online World Competitions***, participants agree to the Dancestar Online Rules and Regulations of DanceStar International Ltd.

DanceStar Online World Competitions in a competitive online format provide all dancers the opportunity to showcase their artistry and technique in different dance styles. Participants showcase their ultimate skills and performance in a choreographed routine. DanceStar judging panel consists of highly recognized world-leading dance professionals and pedagogues, who in an objective and transparent way make their final decisions about the winners. DanceStar encourages creativity, team spirit, fairness, and strives to create an environment appealing to all dancers, making the world their stage.

• 1. COMPETITIONS OVERVIEW

1.1. ***DanceStar Online World Competitions*** consist of ***DanceStar Online World Qualifier*** and ***DanceStar Online World Finals***. ***DanceStar Online World Competitions*** are open to all amateur and professional dancers. Any dance school, academy, crew, or individual dancer has the right to participate. All ***DanceStar Online World Competitions*** are endorsed and supervised by ESDU – European Show Dance Union, an acclaimed and leading international dance federation which guarantees the highest technical and organizational quality of dance competitions and events.

1.2. Registration for ***DanceStar Online World Competitions*** has to be done online through the DanceStar Registration Portal at www.dancestar.org

1.3. ***DanceStar Online World Competitions*** require registration that has to be done until the registration deadline.

▪ 1.3.1. ***DanceStar Online World Qualifier***

DanceStar Online World Qualifier is a qualifying competition for ***DanceStar Online World Finals***.

DanceStar Online World Qualifier is a dance competition where participants can show their skills in front of DanceStar judging panel, by uploading their videos

- Dance schools can apply to ***DanceStar Online World Qualifier*** with any routine performed and recorded according to the Official Rules and Regulations of the ***DanceStar Online World Competitions***.
- Each video has to be uploaded separately. Routine videos must be recorded and uploaded in video quality at least 720p and the camera must be centre focused with all the dancers and choreography being clearly visible, without close-ups.
- Videos characterised as inappropriate will be disqualified.
- No editing is allowed and the video has to be recorded in one piece

- Video recording begins when the dancers are all set up for the performance, as no set up is advisable once the video starts
- Each routine will be presented and played on the competition Playlist published at DanceStar website
- Video upload will be visible in our playlist within a day
- The earlier the video is uploaded, the longer it will appear in the Playlist. From the moment of the video upload, there are 28 days on disposal for making the payment of starting fees. Otherwise, after the mentioned period, the video will be deleted.
- DanceStar judging panel will judge each routine by watching the recorded performance. For each dance performance points and comments will be given. By the number of points achieved the routine will be qualified for ***DanceStar Online World Finals 2020*** in A league, B league, or non-qualified.

The results will be visible on DanceStar website under DanceStar Online World Qualifier Results, and also through the DanceStar accounts.

Routines who have already qualified at one of the DanceStar Live Competitions 2019/2020 for A or B League will be moved into the ***DanceStar Online World Finals 2020*** Competition. Qualified routines need to be confirmed as performances for the ***DanceStar Online World Finals 2020***.

After receiving judging comments from the ***DanceStar Online World Qualifier***, dancers are allowed to make a new video, and improve their routine, by replacing the old video with the new improved one. The Registration Portal for applying to ***DanceStar Online World Qualifier*** will be opened from **July 1st until September 30th, 2020**.

Results will be published until October 7th, 2020.

▪ 1.3.2. ***DanceStar Online World Finals***

DanceStar Online World Finals is the ultimate competition where only qualified dancers and routines are allowed to compete. It consists of two leagues: **League A** and **League B**

- Depending on the official score per routine achieved at ***DanceStar Online World Qualifier***, such routine may be qualified for either League A or B at ***DanceStar Online World Finals***
- In order for a routine to qualify for ***DanceStar Online World Finals League A***, the routine must score a minimum of 85 points out of 120 (*Note: for more information on the scoring system see Article 8*)
- In order for a routine to qualify for ***DanceStar Online World Finals League B***, the routine must score between 60 and 84 points out of 120 (*Note: for more information on the scoring system see Article 8*)
- A qualified routine can differ when presented at the ***DanceStar Online World Finals*** according to the following regulations:

A routine can be changed up to 20% in order to improve the performance in accordance with the judges' comments received at ***DanceStar Online World Qualifier***. The routine must maintain the essential choreographic elements and work presented at the ***DanceStar Online World Qualifier***

Dancers may be substituted, removed or added if requested in written form to the DanceStar Competition Organizer and/or Judiciary Director stating the circumstances for such request

▪ 1.3.3. **DanceStar Online World Finals TOP 20**

DanceStar Online World Finals TOP 20 is the most challenging competition within **DanceStar Online World Competitions**. **DanceStar Online World Qualifier** includes the possibility of a routine to be nominated for **DanceStar Online TOP 20**. Out of all Gala Night 2020 nominees (chosen at already held DanceStar Live Qualifiers) and new nominees from online qualified videos, the TOP 20 choreographies will be selected by DanceStar Judges panel and officially presented.

These 20 choreographies will be battling to win the title of the “**OVERALL WINNER**” of **DanceStar Online World Finals**, and for a money prize of € 1.500-.

Out of all nominees, the final selection will be made by the official TOP 20 judges panel. (*Note: for more information on the scoring system see Article 8*)

● **2. PARTICIPANTS**

- 2.1. Dancers must abide by the Online Rules and Regulations of DanceStar International Ltd.
- 2.2. Dancers entered into **DanceStar Online World Competitions** are responsible for providing accurate personal information and documentation certifying their national eligibility and dates of birth
- 2.3. Failure to correctly provide proof of national eligibility, ages, and dates of birth may result in disqualification, suspensions, and/or other severe penalties deemed necessary by the Judiciary Director
- 2.4. Each dancer must be a citizen or resident of the country they represent. The Competition Organizer has the right to ask for proof of citizenship or residency
- 2.5. Participants must complete and sign, where necessary, all forms, including but not limited to registration and music
- 2.7. Release of Likeness: By registering to any of the **DanceStar Online World Competitions**, it is understood that each dancer allows DanceStar and the competition organizer, agents or sponsors to use the uploaded video of the dancers’ performances in all forms of television, motion pictures, home video, internet, social media, radio, press releases, media, public relations, and other promotion/media vehicles whether now known or hereafter devised

● **3. AGE DIVISIONS**

- 3.1. Age divisions for **DanceStar Online World Competitions** are as follows:
 - MINI: from 4 to 8 years of age
 - CHILDREN: from 9 to 11 years of age
 - JUNIORS: from 12 to 15 years of age
 - SENIORS: 16 years of age and older

A competitor’s age is taken on the last day of the upcoming **DanceStar Online World Finals** which is October 15th, 2020.

- A dancer falls into MINI Age Division if she/he is born between 25/05/2011 and 24/05/2015 (both dates included)
- A dancer falls into CHILDREN Age Division if she/he is born between 25/05/2008 and 24/05/2011 (both dates included)
- A dancer falls into JUNIOR Age Division if she/he is born between 25/05/2004 and 24/05/2008 (both dates included)
- A dancer belongs to SENIOR Age division if she/he is born before 24/05/2004

- 3.2. All age divisions are allowed to perform together.
- 3.3. A routine's Age Division is calculated by arithmetic mean of the age of the dancers falling into the eldest Age Division and the dancers falling in the Age Division preceding the eldest if any. Examples are given in the table below
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	MINI	CHILDREN	JUNIOR	SENIOR
X	X		X	X
X	X			
X	X			X
X				X
X	X	X		

- *Note: Green fields show Age Divisions used for the calculation of the age division applicable to the routine*

Example: In the case of a formation consisting of dancers falling into MINI, CHILDREN and JUNIOR Age Division, only ages of JUNIOR and CHILDREN dancers will be used for calculation of age division applicable to the routine.

In the case of a category (either Duo/Trio/Quartet or Group or Formation) consisting of dancers falling into MINI, CHILDREN and JUNIOR Age Division, only ages of JUNIOR and CHILDREN dancers will be used for calculation of age division applicable to the routine. The calculated mean will be rounded down to the full number.

	MINI	CHILDREN	JUNIOR	SENIOR
X	X	X	X	

Note: Green fields show Age Divisions used for the calculation of the age division applicable to the routine

- 3.4. Competition Organizer and/or Judiciary Director reserves the right to verify the participants' age by asking for appropriate documentation
- 3.5. If a dancer is competing alone in an age division, he or she can request to be moved to the elder age division **Note: The DanceStar Registration Portal will automatically calculate the age of each dancer when registering as well as age division of the routine registered**

● 4. CATEGORIES

- 4.1. At the **DanceStar Online World Competitions** participants can present themselves in one or more of the below-listed categories:
 - 4.1.1. **Solo:** 1 dancer
 - 4.1.2. **Duo/Trio/Quartet:** 2/3/4 dancers
 - 4.1.3. **Group:** 5-12 dancers
 - 4.1.4. **Formation:** 13 + dancers
 - **Note:** 1. **Production Number, as a discipline, has to have a minimum of 9 dancers**
2. **The number of dancers performing a routine are automatically compared to the number of dancers registered. Competition Organizer and/or Judiciary Director may disqualify the routine or charge penalty fee when the number of dancers performing exceeds the number of dancers registered in the DanceStar Registration Portal. A penalty fee will be calculated by multiplying the actual number of dancers performing with the applicable Starting Fee.**

- **5. DISCIPLINES**

- 5.1. **DanceStar Online World Competitions** consist of many different dance styles, that bring together dancers with different background and artistic expression in order to create an environment where dancers can get inspired by diversity and artistically grow.
- 5.2. Participants can present themselves in one or more of the disciplines listed below:

CLASSICAL CHAPTER

- Ballet
- National /Folkloric Dance
- Contemporary Modern
- Lyrical
- Jazz
- Musical Theatre
- Tap Dance

OPEN CHAPTER

- Open
- Acrobatic Dance
- Production Number

URBAN CHAPTER

- Urban Dance Styles*
- Commercial Dance**
(Formerly Known As MTV)

**refers to Hip Hop Dance/Choreography, Locking, Popping, Waacking/Punking, Vogueing, House Dance, Krump, Stepping, DanceHall and B-Boying/B-Girling*

*** refers to: Party Dances or Club Dances (popular or trendy dances), MTV*

NEW ONLINE DISCIPLINES

- Bollywood dance
 - Belly dance
 - Latin show
- 5.3. A detailed explanation of Classical Chapter disciplines:
 - 5.3.1. **BALLET DANCE:** Choreography consisting of classical ballet technique, steps, movement and music. Allowed are these different classical ballet styles: Historical Dances, Classical Ballet, Neo-Classical Ballet, Postclassical Ballet, Character dance from the classical ballet repertoire. Original choreographies are allowed (for example Swan Lake, La Bayadere, etc.) as well as newly created choreographies. Dances can be performed with the use of ballet slippers or in pointe shoes. Dancers under the age of 12 are not allowed to wear pointe shoes unless approved by the Head Judge and/or Judiciary Director

- 5.3.2. **NATIONAL/FOLKLORIC DANCE:** A routine using the ethnic style of dance, such as Spanish, Hawaiian, polkas, gumboots, belly dance, etc. Folk dances are dances that are developed by people that reflect the life of the people of a certain country or region. Original choreography is allowed but not necessary. The folkloric dance tradition must be preserved. The costumes and music must reflect the tradition of the country of origin
- 5.3.3. **CONTEMPORARY/MODERN DANCE:** Inventive movements incorporating different styles with a classical foundation. Modern dance is very specific with a definite set of rules for each of the disciplined styles. Martha Graham, Horton, Limon, Dunham, and Cunningham are the major modern styles. There are other styles that have branched off from those such as Paul Taylor, Parsons, and Alvin Ailey. These are performed barefooted and unlike ballet involve a sense of being grounded as opposed to floating. Contemporary dance can be almost anything. It can be performed barefoot, *en pointe* or even in socks on stage. It may or may not be performed to music, sounds, or nothing at all except the counts or breath of the dancers. This category will also include the new commercial American contemporary styles, as seen in works by Mia Michaels, Sonya Tayeh and Erica Sobol
- 5.3.4. **LYRICAL DANCE:** Routine should demonstrate balance, extension, isolations, and control utilizing the lyrics or mood of the music. Lyrical dance exists only in competition dance and in dance studios. It is a literal representation of the music using a combination of ballet and jazz with a little bit of modern thrown in for good measure. It is usually performed in foot undies and tends to be romantic and emotional in approach. Music with vocals and lyrics is preferred but not a rule
- 5.3.5. **JAZZ DANCE:** Jazz is an energetic dance style, consisting of unique moves depending on the specific style and the era of jazz. The moves must reflect the jazz dance technique (layouts, jazz pirouettes, fan-kicks, jazz walks, etc.) which are based on the technique from classical ballet training. As long as the jazz dance vocabulary is used, the music can vary. From classic jazz, theatre jazz, Latin jazz to modern-day music. Jazz dance encourages individual expression and the development of personal style
- 5.3.6. **MUSICAL THEATRE:** Musical theatre is a form of performance that should combine acting and dance. The story and the emotional content of a musical – humour, pathos, love, anger – should be communicated through the choreography. All styles are permitted including both classical and contemporary musicals. Examples: from the 1930 (Singing in the Rain, Oklahoma, Cabaret, Sweet Charity) up to the present day (Mamma Mia, Producers, Chicago, Wicked, etc). Storyline, characterization and costume must reflect the chosen musical theatre piece. The musical character must be recognizable
- 5.3.7. **TAP DANCE:** Creating syncopated rhythms with the use of tap shoes. The routine must contain tap technique and primarily tap work. It is preferred for tap sounds not to be pre-recorded in music
- 5.4. A detailed explanation of Open Chapter disciplines:
 - 5.4.1. **OPEN DANCE:** A choreography presenting a combination of disciplines listed under DanceStar Classical Chapter or an original individual style. Emphasis should be placed on originality when combining different dance styles and techniques. Clear and pure dance technique in any chosen style is required
 - 5.4.2. **ACROBATIC DANCE:** A routine showing controlled acrobatic moves such as walkovers, limbers, handstands, chest rolls, etc. It may also contain gymnastic passes. All acrobatic elements should be linked with dance steps. A clear dance choreography must be present throughout the whole routine. Acrobatics and gymnastics should only be used if they are properly integrated and do not dominate the routine Acrobatic Dance may contain flexibility moves or contortionist moves

while it must contain dance moves, steps and choreography. Acrobatics are defined as typically gymnastic and not dancing elements (salt, flick-flack), jumps and lifts are not included in this definition

- 5.4.3. **PRODUCTION NUMBER:** Must have a clear theme or story which takes the viewer on an imaginary journey that has a beginning, middle and end. All dance styles are allowed. Choreography should be built upon idea and creativity accompanied by appealing costumes, strong presentation, and expression. Live singing is allowed only in this discipline. Production Number, as a discipline, has to have a minimum of 9 dancers

○ 5.5. A detailed explanation of Urban Chapter disciplines:

- 5.5.1. **URBAN DANCE STYLES:** Deriving from Urban Dance culture, the choreography can combine different dance styles of Hip Hop such as e.g. *Oldschool* and *Newschool*

Oldschool includes: Popping, Locking, Jazzrock, Hype,...

Newschool includes Newstyle, Krumping, Dance Hall,...

Housedance (footwork, jacking, and lofting) is considered as part of this category. Also includes wacking, voguing and experimental.

Existing choreographies should be used for inspiration, but should not be copied – creativity is essential as Hip Hop is a personal expression of emotions or situations and experiences. Abusive language and violent expressions are forbidden in music and performance. Acrobatic/Break movements are allowed but dancing has to dominate

- 5.5.2. **COMMERCIAL DANCE (formerly known as MTV):** A fusion of different dance styles with newly created choreographies inspired by MTV's impact, variety shows and popular singers, party dances, or club dances (popular or trendy dances). It is a commercial style of Jazz, a fusion of Jazz, Funk, Hip Hop, or other styles, which are performed both live and in video clips alike. The accent is on presentation, style, expression, and performance

○ 5.6. A detailed explanation of the New disciplines:

- 5.6.1. **BELLY DANCE:** a dance of Middle Eastern origin, emphasizes complex movements of the torso, especially abdominal muscles. Choreography needs to be authentic, and it must represent the Eastern culture. The use of oriental props, costumes and appropriate accessories is advisable. Acrobatic movements, turns, and spins are allowed but the accent must be on the dancing itself. Special attention will be given to the use of hips, body in continuous motion, abdominal muscle control, shivers, and vibrations.
- 5.6.2. **BOLLYWOOD DANCE:** a film dance consists of many differing dance styles including Indian Classical, Bhangra, Arabic, Folk, Tribal, Latino, Hip Hop, Street Dance...This discipline must apply the technique, grace, speed, style, versatility, body isolation, spatial awareness, energy, facial expression and emotion, whether solo, towards a partner or within a group. Acting skills need to be shown. Indian costumes and props are an integral part of the performance.

- 5.6.3. **LATIN SHOW:** dance style performances to Latin music or Latin-inspired music. Costumes may be Carnival, African, Futuristic, Street, Caribbean. Theatrical movements, musicality, variety of dance and patterns, originality, total performance, costume, and props should be in a strong presentation.
- 5.7. If a routine is registered and performs in an incorrect discipline as declared by the judges, it will be judged by the judges of the discipline it was registered in and will then be moved to the correct discipline. There won't be a deduction of points, however, this dance can also be qualified for **DanceStar Online World Finals**, and automatically registered into the correct discipline.

- **6. TIME LIMITS**

- 6.1. Duration of each routine performed at any of the **DanceStar Online World Competitions** has to abide to the rules below:
 - 6.1.1. Solo: 1:00 – 2:00 minutes
 - 6.1.2. Duo/Trio/Quartet: 1:00 – 2:00 minutes
 - 6.1.3. Group: 2:00 – 3:00 minutes
 - 6.1.4. Formation: 2:00 – 4:00 minutes
 - 6.1.5. Production Number: 3.00 min – 4.30 minutes
- 6.2. Time limits have a window of 5 seconds. Failure to stay within these time limits will result in a 20-point deduction
- 6.3. Longer duration of the routine/ video will be tolerated, but only with consulting the DanceStar Competition organizer first, and receiving the approval in written.

- **7. VIDEO REQUIREMENTS**

- 7.1. Video for a routine has to be uploaded via the DanceStar Registration Portal
- 7.2. Uploaded video file has to be at least 720p quality. The low video quality may affect negatively routine's final score
- 7.3. The deadline for video upload is September 30th, 2020 for **DanceStar Online World Qualifier** and October 15th, 2020 for **DanceStar Online World Finals**. No changes or edits will be accepted beyond this time period
- 7.4. In a case that video is not uploaded by the deadline, the routine will not be allowed to compete.
- 7.5. The routine must be performed in its entirety
- 7.7. The competition music in uploaded videos must not contain inappropriate or offensive language, and music must allow clean and continuous dance performance
- 7.8. Choreographers may be required to provide the following music information in writing to the competition organizer for each song used in the routine. The following information will have to be provided: Title, Artist, Composer, Publisher, Recording Company
- 7.9. Due to varying copyright laws, the Competition Organizer does not guarantee that a routine's music will be used on television or other distribution mediums. The Competition Organizer reserves the right to ask for the replacement of music with one that is acceptable

- **8. SCORING SYSTEM**

- 8.1. A routine is evaluated according to the **Technique, Choreography, Level of Performance** and **Overall Impression** criteria for the highest possible score of 120 points
 - 8.1.1. The technique is weighing **40%** of the routine's final score. The judges will evaluate the synchronization, timing, mobility and stabilization, skills, execution of the movements performed, the quality of movement throughout the routine, including head, arm, leg, and body placement, footwork, standing and *air* and synchronization of the dancers depending on the technical requirements of routine's discipline. Dancer(s) must maintain control of the speed, direction, momentum, and body placement throughout the routine. Dancers must also demonstrate awareness of spacing between dancers through a full range of unique, complicated and challenging formations and interactive partner moves and patterns
 - 8.1.2. Choreography is weighing **30%** of the routine's final score. Choreographing and presenting a routine in a unique and one of a kind way with innovative elements as well as creative ways of expressing and the transformation of choreographer's ideas into a routine are highly appreciated by the judges. However, original choreography is allowed in all disciplines. Elements such as full and creative usage of the stage and the floor, innovative movements, transitions, and interpretation of the music (if used) are considered an essential part of an outstanding choreography. Choreography should be appropriate for the ability and age of the performers.
 - 8.1.3. Level of performance (also referred as Difficulty of Execution) is weighing **15%** of the routine's final score. Level of performance is measured by difficulty of the demonstrated movements by all the dancers in a routine and the variety of styles performed where such variety is considered as a part of the discipline. The level of performance should match the technical abilities of the dancers.
 - 8.1.4. The overall impression is weighing **15%** of the routine's final score. The level of authentic and uninhibited presentation of a routine consisting of individual attitude, energy, posture, uninterrupted display of confidence measured by facial expression, eye contact and body movement, enthusiasm, passion, connection with the audience that generates an emotional response (excitement, joy, laughter, melancholy, sadness) relative to the discipline and story presented will be judged. Clothing and accessories worn should represent and reflect the story presented. Performance and choreography should correlate with routine's music. Also, the dancer's ability to perform simultaneously to the music is considered by judges. Movements and patterns performed to the simulated sounds of the dancers in the absence of recorded music (e.g., foot-stomping, hand-clapping, vocals, etc.) will also be considered musically and judged. Dancers should perform in sync where the same is a part of choreography i.e. dancers' range of movement, speed, timing, and execution of moves should be performed by all dancers in unison. The dancers have to be prepared in the same way they would perform live, using the innovative and creative selection of costumes, interesting props, and make-up, completing professional appearance. The routine should leave a memorable and lasting impression
- 8.2. The judging panel consists of 3 specialized judges for each routine and discipline.

Each judge assigns points on a scale from 1 to 10 for each of the criteria mentioned in paragraph 8.1. per routine. Maximum number of points a judge can give per routine is 40 points. The maximum number of points per routine is 120.

- 8.3. Routine evaluation represents a summary of the points given by each judge. Routine evaluation and judges' comments are available in the DanceStar Registration Portal until

October 7th, 2020 for **DanceStar Online World Qualifier** and until October 30th, 2020 for **DanceStar Online World Finals**.

- 8.4. In order for a routine to qualify for **DanceStar Online World Finals League A**, the routine must score a minimum of 85 points out of 120
- 8.5. In order for a routine to qualify for **DanceStar Online World Finals League B**, the routine must score between 60 and 84 points out of 120
- 8.6. Dancer(s) registered in any of the disciplines can perform in unlimited number of routines in the same category and discipline.
- 8.7. In order for a routine to be nominated for **DanceStar Online World Finals TOP 20**, the routine must score a minimum of 105 points out of 120. Out of all nominees, the final selection will be made by the official **DanceStar Online World Finals TOP 20** judges' panel.

● 9. PLACEMENTS AND AWARDS

DanceStar Online World Competitions conclude with publishing the results and the award winners at DanceStar website. The complete list of placements and results can be seen on www.dancestar.org

- 9.1. **Special Awards** are given at:
 - 9.1.1. **DanceStar Online World Qualifier** as follows:
 - Certificate of Attendance
 - 9.1.2. **DanceStar Online World Finals** as follows:
 - Certificate of Attendance
 - Certificate of Placement
 - Best Male Talent Award Overall wins € 400
 - Best Female Talent Award Overall wins € 400
 - Best Choreography Award A-league wins € 400
 - Best Choreography Award B-league wins € 400
 - 9.1.3. **DanceStar Online World Finals Overall Winner** as follows:
 - 1st place wins € 1500

● 10. FEES

- 10.1. Registration Fee of € 12. - per dancer is charged once per season. DanceStar season starts in September of a current year and ends in October following year. After settling the Registration Fee, the dancer has the right to participate at **DanceStar Online World Qualifier** and **DanceStar Online World Finals**. Registration fees are non-refundable.
- 10.2. Starting Fee is charged per **DanceStar Online World Competition** per dancer per routine.
- 10.3. Before application to any of the **DanceStar Online World Competitions**, it is obligatory to register at the DanceStar Registration Portal. After the registration and application for a **DanceStar Online World Competition**, the DanceStar Portal will automatically calculate the pending fees
- 10.4. Penalty Fees:
 - 10.4.1. Any change to a registered routine after the deadline of the competition will be charged with a € 30, - penalty fee