STARBOUND
NATIONAL TALENT COMPETITION

NATIONALS RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Enter "On-Line" at www.starbound.net
- **No Refunds will be issued for any reason except cancellation by Starbound.**
- **Privacy Policy: We do not share customer data with anyone.**
- Registration Deadline for National Finals is ***14 days prior to the competition date.***
- Entries are accepted on a first come/first served basis and are limited to performance time available. Faxed entries may NOT be accepted.
- Paper Gift Certificates must be submitted in their original form. Since 2021 all Gift Certificate awards are uploaded into your Teacher Center for use at online checkout.
- **PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS**: To pay 60 days or more before the event, payments will be accepted by Credit Card or Wire Transfer that is RECEIVED no later than **3pmEST** on the cutoff date. Within 60 days of the event, Cashier's Checks or Money orders will also be accepted as payment. We are NOT responsible for any delays in receipt of payment caused by the Postal Service or other shipping carriers. ***NO Personal or Studio Checks will be accepted.***
- **All payment/pricing deadlines will be strictly enforced.**
- Submissions will NOT qualify or be recognized as an "entry" until PAID IN FULL by verified funds and until ALL necessary information is provided including: Full Names of all Contestants, (First & Last), Contestants' Birthdays (to include Month, Day & Year), Category, Division, Level and Routine Title.
- **All contestants must sign a release and it must be handed in at the competition at registration.**
- You MUST review your Confirmation of Entries for accuracy and make any necessary changes at least ***14 days prior to the Nationals event***. Changes received after that time, are **subject to a change fee of $20 per entry**. **ALL CHANGES** to original submitted entries must be in ***via email***, no verbal requests will be honored. Changes to original entries **MUST** be submitted ***14 days prior to the event*** or they **WILL NOT** be implemented. Changes requiring assistance by the Starbound Office will be assessed a change fee. Changes made online directly by the customer 15 days or more prior are not assessed any change fees.
- If a question should arise concerning the age of a contestant, proof of age by birth certificate **must** be provided.
- Only contestants who qualify at Regionals may compete in the National Finals. Substitutions or additions are not allowed.
- Reduced-sized groups will be permitted in the Finals. If a group goes down to two or three, it becomes a Duet/Trio, however, a Duet/Trio may **NOT** be reduced to a Solo.
- Contestants must enter the same category and level and be from the same Studio in the Finals for which they qualified in the Regionals. (Music and routine may change, but category and level **MUST** remain the same.) Contestants with new studios must re-qualify for National Finals in order to compete.
- Age is determined by the contestant's **age on January 1, 2027** for the entire 2026-2027 season. **Changes to age at the event will disqualify performance from Showcase and Top Awards**.
- Elite Gold, High Gold, Gold, High Silver and Silver winners at Regionals are eligible to enter the Finals.
- Types of entries are Solo (1 contestant), Title (1 contestant), Duet/Trio (2 or 3 contestants), Small Group (4 - 9 contestants), Large Group (10 - 19 Contestants), Line (20 or more contestants) or Production (15 or more contestants). Please note that a Line is a group of 20 or more performers with a maximum time limit of 5 minutes. A Line is a dance done in unison with precision and doesn't usually involve props or scenery. A Production is a group of 15 or more that conveys a story, involves character costuming, is usually performed with a variety of ages and has a maximum time limit of 8 minutes.
- Limit of 3 (three) Solo entries per contestant at each National Competition.
- In the dance categories, the time limit is 2:45 minutes for Solos & Titles, 3 minutes for Duet/Trios and Groups, 5 minutes for Lines & 8 minutes for Productions. **A musical tag or dance-on or dance-off stage counts toward the allotted time**. A deduction of 1 (one) point per 5 (five) seconds overtime may be made. ***If Props or Scenery are used for a routine, the set-up time and take-down time will be counted as part of the routine and must be accounted for at the time of registration online.*** Extended time routines must be declared immediately upon entering, with the exact routine length (in Minutes and Seconds) provided. Any extended time routine is subject to an additional charge of $5.00 per contestant, per each additional minute interval starting at 1 second over the time limit. Failure to declare an extended time routine in advance may result in disqualification.
- Vocalists need to supply their own microphones, mixing board and cables should more than one handheld microphone be required.
- All INDEPENDENT entries must register via Independent Entry Form.
- **On-Line Music upload is available, however, we require that you bring a backup hard copy. Each contestant must furnish his/her own music on USB. The Music File must be properly labeled with contestant number and routine name.** Upload Deadline: Music must be uploaded at least 14 days in advance of all National Events or the uploaded music will NOT be available for use at the competition.
- **Dimensions and any assembly information for props and scenery must be declared during online routine entry at least 2 weeks (14 days) in advance of the competition.** Any undeclared props may be prohibited from use at the event. Studios must provide proof of prop declaration at the event.
- There is a limit of two (2) Acro passes in all categories except Open, Character and Acro where they are unlimited.
- Solos in the Theater/Acting category must consist of up to a 2:45 duration or, up to 3 minutes for Duet/Trios or groups from an original or published play, speech, book or movie. Judging will be based on difficulty and interpretation of the piece, use of voice, appropriate eye contact, poise and physical, presentation and memorization. Costumes are optional and will not be judged.
- Freestanding props are allowed; however, smoke, water, fire, swords, knives, and scenery/props requiring rigging or electrical connection are **NOT** permitted. Contestants may NOT use body oil.
- Aerial acts are **NOT permitted**.
- Contestants will compete in the following age groups: 6 years & Under, 7 & 8 years, 9 & 10 years, 11 & 12 years, 13 & 14 years, 15 & 16 years, 17 – 19 years and 20 & Over. For Duet/Trios, Groups and Productions the average age determines the age group in which they perform. If the average ends in .5 or over, round up to the next age. Names and birth dates of all contestants **MUST** appear on the entry form. The oldest contestant cannot go more than two age categories down from their actual age due to the average age.
- **A contestant is not allowed to compete against himself/herself in any Solo category.**
- **Videography and Photography are prohibited.**
- All Starbound participants consent to the use of their picture and/or voice by Starbound National Talent Competition, Inc. without royalty, fee, or other compensation.
- Cash Prizes are awarded to the Dance Studio. We reserve the right to reduce cash amounts or award Gift Certificates in lieu of cash prizes.
- The Top 5 Junior Petite Groups, Top 10 Junior Groups, Top 10 Teen Groups, Top 10 Senior Groups, Top 5 Lines and Top 5 Productions will perform at our Live Web Cast Showcase. "Intermediate" level groups are only eligible for the Jr. Petite Showcase and will not be included in the Showcase lineup for the Older Divisions. Starbound reserves the right to reduce the number of showcase performances based upon event size. Separate CASH & Prizes will be awarded to the winners of the Junior Petite Group division, Junior Group division, Teen Group division, Senior Group division, Line division and the Production division. *(Please note: No more than 1 routine from each studio may perform at Showcase in a division with 5 or less performances. No more than 2 routines from each studio may perform at Showcase in a division with 10 or more performances. If more than the maximum routines qualify, the highest scoring routines or Studio Director's choice will determine the selection.*
- Awards will be given to all Elite Gold, High Gold, Gold, High Silver and Silver winners. Awards are based on composite scores and **NOT** on placement within an age group. Therefore, there could be several Gold winners within one age group in a category.
- Mini Division – Ages 6 & Under, Petite Division- Ages 7 & 8. This category enables young children to have an opportunity to win Top Solo Awards.
- Teachers' category, with separate Awards and Prizes! A Teacher is any person who is employed to choreograph and conduct their own class and is 21 years or older. Teachers cannot compete in student categories, if a teacher is in a group with students, it becomes a teacher's category.
- Any routine not performing on the day it is scheduled will not qualify for Top Awards or Showcase.
- Three levels of competition are available: "Intermediate" (Two or less instruction hours/week & no more than one year of prior competition experience), "Competitive" (Five or fewer instruction hours/week & five or fewer years of prior competition experience) & "Elite" (Advanced Level with significant competition experience). Duet/Trio & Group Levels are determined by the level for the majority of the dancers, except that no Elite dancer may compete at the Intermediate level in a Duet/Trio or Group. All soloists must compete all of their solos at the same level. Levels are determined in advance by the Studio/Teachers based upon the above criteria, but may be altered by the judges on site. All judges' decisions will be final.
- 20 and over age groups are not eligible to compete in the Showcase.
- The number of Top Awards announced in each division will be dependent upon the number of entries received. At any time, we reserve the right to change the number of Top Awards based upon the number of entries received.
- Starbound National Talent Competition does not discriminate. We are an equal opportunity competition for the purpose of performing arts evaluation

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