STARBOUND
NATIONAL TALENT COMPETITION

REGIONAL RULES & REGULATIONS

1. **No Refunds will be issued for any reason. (***For the 2027 Season only, refunds for entry fees (minus any credit card processing fees) will be issued for any event canceled by Starbound.) Privacy Policy: We do not share customer data with anyone.**
2. If submitting paper Gift Certificates as payment of entries, they must be original certificates. Gift Certificates issued from 2021 and beyond were uploaded to your Teacher Center and can be applied directly at check out.
3. 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.
4. Entries are accepted on a first come/first served basis and are limited to performance time available. Facsimile entries will **NOT** be accepted.
5. 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.***
6. **All payment/pricing deadlines will be strictly enforced.**
7. Submissions will NOT qualify or be recognized as an "entry" until PAID IN FULL by verified funds and ALL necessary information is provided including: Full Names of all Contestants, (First & Last), Contestant Birthdays, to include (Month, Day & Year), Category, Division and Routine Title.
8. **ALL CHANGES** to original submitted entries must be completed ONLINE in your Teacher Center at least 11 days before the event. No verbal requests will be honored.
9. Any changes made to any entry within 10 days of a competition will be subject to a **Change Fee** of $20.00/entry. Changes requiring assistance from the Starbound office will be assessed a change fee. Changes made online directly by the customer 11 days or more prior are not assessed any change fees.
10. Limit of 3 (three) Solo entries per contestant at each Regional Competition.
11. Vocalists need to supply their own microphones, mixing board and cables.
12. ALL INDEPENDENT entries must register via Independent Entry Form.
13. If a question should arise concerning the age of a contestant, proof of age by birth certificate must be provided.
14. Only contestants who qualify at regionals, may compete in the national finals. Substitutions or additions are not allowed.
15. Reduced-size 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.
16. If a contestant does not compete on the scheduled day and time for their division, they may be allowed to compete for evaluation and award but not for overall high score.
17. Contestants must enter the same category and be from the same Studio, in the finals for which they qualified in the regionals.
18. Age is determined by the contestant's age as of **January 1, 2027 for the 2026-2027 season.**
19. Elite Gold, High Gold, Gold, High Silver and Silver winners at regionals are eligible to enter the National finals.
20. Types of entries are Solo, Title, 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 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 contestants that conveys a story, involves character costuming, is usually performed with a variety of ages and has a maximum time limit of 8 minutes. Title entries are separate from Solo entries and each division must be entered and paid for separately.
21. In the dance categories, the time limit is 2:45 minutes for Solos & Titles, 3 minutes for Duet/Trios and Groups; 5 minutes for Line and 8 minutes for Production routines. **A musical tag or dance-on or dance-off stage counts toward the allotted time, as does any time necessary for set up or breakdown of props or scenery**. Extended time routines must be declared immediately upon entering online with the exact routine length (in Minutes and Seconds) provided. Any extended time routine is subject to an additional charge per dancer, in increments of one minute starting with the first second of overtime. Failure to declare an extended time routine in advance may result in disqualification.
22. **Dimensions and any assembly/disassembly information for props and scenery, including time necessary, must be declared, at the time of registration, at least 1 week (7 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 if requested.
23. **On-Line Music upload in MP3 format is available, however, we require that you bring a backup hard copy. Each contestant must furnish his/her own music on a USB. The music files must be properly labeled with routine number and routine name.** Upload Deadline: Music must be uploaded at least 7 days in advance of all Regional events and at least 14 days in advance of all National Events or the uploaded music will not be available for use at the competition.
24. There is a limit of two (2) Acro passes in all categories except Open, Character and Acro where they are unlimited.
25. Solos in the Theater/Acting category must consist of up to a 2:45 minute or, 3 minutes for Duet/Trio or Group routine 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, physical presentation and memorization. Costumes are optional and will not be judged.
26. 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.
27. Aerial acts are **NOT permitted.**
28. Contestants will compete in the following age groups: 6 & Under, 7 & 8 yrs., 9 & 10 yrs., 11 & 12 yrs., 13 & 14 yrs., 15 & 16 yrs., 17- 19 yrs., 20 yrs. & Over. For Duet/Trio & Groups, the average age determines the age group in which they perform. Add the ages of the contestants and divide by the number of the contestants. If the average ends in .5 or over, round up to the next age. Accurate names and birth dates of all contestants **MUST** appear on the entry form/registration. The oldest contestant cannot go more than two age categories down from their actual age due to the average age, and the registration will be adjusted to comply.
29. **A contestant is not allowed to compete against himself/herself in any Solo category.**
30. 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, at which point the judges' decision will be final.
31. **Video recording, cameras and Photography are prohibited.**
32. 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.
33. 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.
34. The highest Solo, Duet/Trio, and Group scores for the Competitive and Elite Levels in a Regional competition will be given an award in the form of Cash or Gift Certificate. Separate Awards are given for Line & Production Categories in the form of Cash or Gift Certificate. Gift Certificate amounts will be uploaded to the Teacher Center for future use.
35. Mini Division- Ages 6 & Under and Petite Division- ages 7 & 8. These categories enable younger children to have an opportunity to win Top Awards.
36. Teachers' category, ***with separate Awards and Prizes!*** A Teacher is any person over age 21 who is employed to choreograph and conduct their own class. Teachers cannot compete in student categories.
37. 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.
38. Starbound National Talent Competition does not discriminate. We are an equal opportunity competition for the purpose of performing arts evaluation.

S T A R B O U N D N A T I O N A L T A L E N T C O M P E T I T I O N
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