



# 2012 COMPETITION RULES AND GUIDELINES

## ENTRY GUIDELINES

All entries for Regional and National competitions will be registered on a first come, first served basis, and will be limited to the amount of performance time available. Some competitions **WILL** fill up more than 30 days before the competition date. *Entries are not considered "Registered" until full payment is received.* All entries must be registered online, mailed or faxed. Entries via email will not be accepted. **We do not currently accept independent entries.**

### Online Registration

If you competed with us in 2011, you already have a studio profile with your 2011 students in a database! If you are new to Stage One, you can register at [www.StageOneDance.com](http://www.StageOneDance.com), or fill out this form and mail or fax it to the office.

### Payment

<b>Solo:</b>	\$90 per entry
<b>Duet/Trio:</b>	\$100 per entry
<b>Group/Line:</b>	\$35 per person
<b>Photogenic:</b>	\$30 per entry

### 2011 Extended Fees:

Solo \$93; Duet/Trio \$103; Groups \$38 per person

Entry fees should be combined into one method of payment, and are requested in the form of a check, money order, cashier's check or credit card payment. There will be a \$20.00 returned check fee for any items returned as "unpaid" from any individual or studio, and all future payments must be in the form of money order or cashier's check.

### NO REFUNDS AFTER THE CLOSING DATE.

Changes may be made to entries until 14 days before the competition. After that deadline, you will need to call the office to make changes, and each change will incur a \$5.00 fee payable immediately by credit card. This includes changes made at the competition.

### Early Bird Rebate

Stage One offers a rebate to studio entries exceeding \$2,000, postmarked **WITH PAYMENT 35 days** before competition. A 5% rebate will be offered to studios that submit entries online via our Directors' Zone with payment and to studios that mail entries with payment by the deadline. Rebates will be mailed to the studio owner or director within 30 days after the competition. If a check is returned as "unpaid," no rebate will be given. **Rebate Deadline for Regional Competitions: 35 days; for National Finals: 45 days**

### General Entry Information

Competition schedule, studio confirmation and CD labels along with directions to the competition will be mailed to the studio director at least 10 days prior to the competition.

Please be ready to perform at least 1 hour prior to your performance time. You must be prepared to perform when scheduled or earlier if asked. Legitimate costume change issues of less than 4 routines will be accommodated. In the interest of running on time, Stage One reserves the right to modify the schedule. The wrongful withholding of numbers may result in disqualification of the routine from High Point Awards.

Routines that compete at a Stage One Regional will qualify for the National Finals. All National Finals entries must qualify at a Regional event.

## DIVISIONS/LEVELS/CATEGORIES

### Age Divisions

4 and under, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-15, 16-17, 18-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40 and over.

For jazz, lyrical and tap categories, ages will be broken down: 4 and under, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20-29, 30-39, 40 and over.

Any combined age division with more than five entries will be broken down into individual ages.

### ALL AGE DIVISIONS AT REGIONAL COMPETITIONS OR AT NATIONAL FINALS WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE AGES OF THE PERFORMERS AS OF JANUARY 1, 2012.

To determine the age division, average the performers' ages and drop the decimal point. Example: 12.0-12.9 will compete in the 12-year-old age division.

The same group of performers cannot compete more than once in exactly the same division, category and age division. The group may compete in the exact division, category and age division with some variance to the members of the group.

Soloists may perform a maximum of three solo routines (in three different categories). Stage One reserves the right to limit solo entries due to time constraints. Once the solo limit has been reached, no more solo entries will be accepted.

### Age Groups

Petite:	8 & under	Senior:	16-19
Junior:	9-12	Adult:	20 & over
Teen:	13-15		

**Bump Rule:** Groups that include dancers of different age groups will compete no more than one age group below the oldest dancer, regardless of the average age. For example: if a routine includes a dancer age 16 (Senior age group), but the average age is 11 (Junior age group), the routine will compete in the Teen age group. The production category is the only exception to this rule.

**Adult Rule:** If any duet/trio, small group, large group or line has any dancer age 20 or over, they must compete in the Adult age group. This applies to even one dancer in a routine who is 20 or over. No exceptions.

### Performance Levels

Stage One will have three performance levels for ALL age groups (Petite, Junior, Teen, Senior and Adult).

**Rising Star (Recreational)-** This level is designed for dancers who attend 3 hours or less of classes/rehearsals per week, and who have limited or no competition experience. High Point Awards will be presented to Rising Star routines.

**Shooting Star (Intermediate)-** This level is designed for dancers who attend 3 to 5 hours of classes/rehearsals per week, and have some competition experience. Shooting Star routines are eligible for High Point Awards and cash prizes subject to cash award rules.

**Elite Star (Elite)-** Those dancers who study more than 5 hours per week, and have considerable competition experience should enter as Elite Stars. The Elite Star level is open to all performers, and routines are eligible for High Point awards and cash prizes subject to cash award rules.

**Teachers, please use fair judgment when placing groups into performance levels. The different levels are designed to give dancers a level playing field of competition, not to allow your best dancers to win more awards.**

### Some examples to consider:

1. A routine with dancers of different levels should be entered in the performance level that applies to more than 50% of the dancers.
2. If a mixed-level routine has more than 50% intermediate dancers, but you feel the overall level of the routine is elite, please be fair and enter the routine as Elite Star.
3. If your studio has multiple competition companies, please consider the placement of each company individually. It is possible that several companies should compete in the same level. Performance levels should not be used to keep dancers from competing against one another.

If you do not select a performance level, you will automatically be entered as an Elite Star. Soloists may only compete in one level.

If you feel you need to adjust your dancers' performance levels from Regionals to National Finals, please contact the office.

**Performance Categories-** for more specific information regarding categories, please see our website.

Gymnastics tricks are allowed in any category as long as the style of dance is predominantly the category entered.

### MUSIC GUIDELINES

Each entry is required to furnish 2 quality CDs for each routine. Please have only 1 song per CD. Printed labels will be sent along with the studio confirmations. If you do not have Stage One labels, please mark your CD in permanent ink with the studio name, routine number and contestant number.

Teachers, please turn in all your music for the entire competition when you register. Place all CDs in performance order.

### Time Limits

Solo: 2:45 minutes	Large Group: 4 minutes
Duet/Trio: 2:45 minutes	Line: 5 minutes
Small Group: 3 minutes	Production: 6 minutes

Extended Times- Extended prices are \$3 additionally per routine for solos and duet/trios, and \$3 additionally per person for all groups

### Extended Time Limits

Solo: 3:15 minutes	Large Group: 4:30 minutes
Duet/Trio: 3:15 minutes	Line: 5:30 minutes
Small Group: 3:30 minutes	Production: 8 minutes

Failure to comply could result in a 15-point deduction.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

NO cameras of any kind are allowed during a performance. This includes smart phones with video capabilities. Violation may result in the disqualification of a routine from the High Point Awards.

No dangerous substances (including, but not limited to: water, gels, rosin, aerosols, glitter, confetti, etc.) that might damage the integrity of the dance floor may be used during a routine.

A time schedule will be available at least 7 days prior to events. Every regional schedule is based on the breakdown of entries for that particular city. Since we cannot know this breakdown until all entries are processed, we will, at that time, set a schedule designed to accommodate the majority of entrants. It is our goal to have days end at a reasonable time, especially Sundays, when students attend school Monday. This would not necessarily be possible if we followed a pre-determined format.

High Point Awards winners at any 2011 National Final MAY NOT compete with the same routine at any of the 2012 Regional Competitions.

Stage One reserves the right to expand the dates of any competition due to number of entries, move the competition to a new location due to unforeseen circumstances, or cancel any event that does not qualify with a minimum number of acceptable entries. If cancellation occurs, all entry fees will be refunded.

Absolutely no coaching.

Any teacher, parent, performer or participant displaying improper conduct can result in disqualification with loss of entry fees.

Stage One National Dance Competition shall in no way assume any responsibility for accidents or theft.

All protests must be in writing and made by a studio director prior to the awards ceremony for that particular division. All protests must be signed.

Performers' give permission to Stage One National Dance Competition to use performers' photographs and/or videos in connection with advertising and television broadcasts.

For information about judging guidelines and awards, please see our website.