



Competition Guidelines 2026

1. Age Categories

Participants are divided into age divisions to ensure fair and balanced judging:

- Minis: Ages 6–8
- Pre-Competitive: Ages 9–11
- Juniors: Ages 12–13
- Teens: Ages 14–15
- Seniors: Ages 16–18
- Adults: Ages 19–25

Age is calculated from the date of competition. That means whatever age they are at the time of the competition is the age category they will be registered in. At check-in, the organization reserves the right to verify ages. All participants must bring a valid ID (passport, national ID card, or other official document) as proof.

Pointe Shoe Regulations (Classical & Neoclassical categories)

To ensure dancer safety and fair judging, pointe shoe usage is regulated:

- Minis and Pre-Competitive: Pointe shoes are not permitted.
- Juniors: Pointe shoes are optional. However, dancers on pointe and those in flat shoes will be evaluated in the same group. Judges will take into account whether a dancer performed on pointe in the choreography category (worth 10% of the total score).
- Teens, Seniors, Adults: Pointe work is generally expected. Flat shoes may be worn, but dancers should be aware that this choice may negatively influence their overall score, as pointe ability is considered part of the technical expectations at these levels.

2. Dance Styles

IDC Berlin welcomes a wide variety of dance styles. Entries may be submitted in the following categories:

- Classical Ballet / Neoclassical
- Contemporary
- Modern Dance
- Character Dance / National Dance / Folklore
- Jazz Dance / Showdance / Musical
- Hip Hop / Street / Commercial / Funk
- Choreographic Composition (abstract or experimental works)

IDC Berlin reserves the right to combine categories if participation numbers are low. This applies only to the competitive ranking and does not affect age divisions or performance levels.

3. Ensemble Classification

Performances are grouped according to the number of dancers on stage:

- Solo: 1 dancer
- Duet / Trio: 2 or 3 dancers
- Group: 4 or more dancers

Depending on overall participation numbers, the competition reserves the right to combine or adjust categories to ensure a balanced schedule.

Age Calculation for Groups

For groups with mixed ages, the official competition age category is determined by calculating the average age of all group members, rounded down to the nearest whole number.

Example:

Participants aged 14, 14, 13, 11, and 15 → total = 67.

$67 \div 5 = 13.4$.

The group competes in the 13-year-old category (rounded down).

Multiple Solos

A dancer may perform more than one solo in the same style/age category. Each solo will receive its own adjudication. However, for purposes of announcing the Top 5 highest scores, only the dancer's single highest-scoring solo will be included. Each individual dancer is limited to two solos per event.

4. Time Limits

Time restrictions are strictly enforced to maintain fairness and scheduling efficiency:

- Solos: 2:30 minutes
- Duets / Trios: 3:00 minutes
- Groups (up to 11 dancers): 3:30 minutes
- Large Groups (12+ dancers): 4:00 minutes

Performances exceeding the limit may purchase up to 30 seconds of extra time with a surcharge. If a routine exceeds the time limit without advance registration of overtime, the entry will have a point deduction or be disqualified.

Time restrictions may be

5. Registration & Entry Fees

Fees may differ based on event and location, please refer to event website.

Deadlines

- Registration will close once event is full or at the latest on (see event deadline).
- All music files must be uploaded by music deadline.

Entries are only considered confirmed once payment and waivers are received.

6. Music Requirements

- All music must be uploaded through the registration form by the deadline.
- Please ensure the quality of your music files. Music files that are not of quality for a live presentation will be requested to be replaced.
- Each participant or school must also bring a USB stick with a backup copy of all music files.
- It is the responsibility of the dancer, teacher, or school to ensure that they have the legal right to use the chosen music. IDC Berlin cannot be held liable for unauthorized use of copyrighted works. If claims or fees arise from the misuse of copyrighted material, the responsibility lies entirely with the participant or school that submitted the entry. Contestants are not responsible for GEMA registration.

7. Competition Rules & Procedures

- All performances are live before the jury and audience.
- Exceeding the time limit without permission will result in disqualification.
- Costumes and props must be appropriate for all ages and audiences. Performances may not include offensive, discriminatory, or suggestive content.
- Dancers are expected to treat one another, as well as staff and judges, with respect. Any inappropriate behavior, including bullying, verbal abuse, or obstruction of another competitor's performance, will lead to disqualification.

- The jury's decision is final and cannot be appealed.

Rehearsals

Private rehearsals on the stage are not allowed. All dancers should prepare in advance at their schools. To ensure that younger participants have a chance to orient themselves, there will be a rehearsal spacing block before the competition begins, reserved for all Minis. This time is for spacing only, not for full rehearsals.

8. Backstage & Supervisors

- Each school is allowed 1 supervisor backstage per 8 registered dancers (e.g., a school with 24 dancers may register 3 adults).
- Supervisors may be teachers, parents, or guardians. Their responsibilities are:
 - Accompany the dancer backstage.
 - Ensure the dancer arrives on stage on time.
 - Leave the backstage area immediately with the dancer after the performance.
- Supervisors must be pre-registered. Information about supervisor registration will be provided after the school completes the main registration.
- Registered supervisors will have access to all backstage areas as well as the audience (according to capacity- if the audience is full, supervisor should give their seat to a ticket holder)
- Unregistered adults will not be allowed backstage under any circumstances. Failure to respect this policy will result in disqualification of the school or participant concerned.

9. Judging Criteria

Scoring System

Each dancer is evaluated on a 100-point scale:

- Technique (40%) – Accuracy, control, and mastery of movements.
- Artistry & Stage Presence (30%) – Emotional expression, interpretation, confidence, and engagement with the audience.
- Choreography (10%) – Creativity, originality, and effectiveness of the piece.
- Staging & Performance Execution (20%) – Cleanliness of formations, synchronization, spacing, timing, and the overall polish of the performance.

Each entry is judged by four jurors. The lowest of the four scores is dropped, and the remaining three are combined for a total maximum of 300 points.

Performance Levels:

Every entry will receive an adjudication based on their total score, regardless of their placement:

- 150-179= Merit
- 180- 225 = Topaz
- 226- 239 points = Silver
- 240-290 points = Gold
- 291- 300 = IDC Legend

Rankings:

All entries compete against other entries within the same subcategory, determined by age division, dance style, and entry type (Solo, Duo/Trio, Group, etc.).

During the Awards Ceremony, only the overall highest-scoring entries in each entry type and age division will be announced. These results combine **all dance styles**, meaning the Top 3 highest scores across every style in that age division and entry type will receive awards.

Following the event, complete rankings for all subcategories will be available. To receive your detailed results and placement, please contact us by email.

Tie Scores

In the event of a tie, the entry with the higher **Technique** score will be ranked higher. If the tie remains, the higher **Artistry & Stage Presence** score will determine the placement. If the scores are still tied, both entries will share the same placement.

10. Awards & Prizes

At the end of each age division, the following distinctions will be announced:

- Top 3 Solos of all styles
- Top 3 Duets / Trios of all styles
- Top 3 Groups of all styles

In addition, the highest overall solo score in each age division will receive the Best Overall Talent Award.

Special Awards

- Most Improvement
- Greatest Artistry
- Best Choreography
- Scholarships to schools, intensives, or workshops

- Gift vouchers
- Dancewear
- Cash prizes

11. Audience & Tickets

- The competition is open to the public. Seating is limited; advance purchase is highly recommended.
- Tickets may be purchased online or at the door (subject to availability).
- Photography and video recording by audience members is strictly prohibited. IDC Berlin will provide professional media coverage, which will be available after the event.

12. Schedule & Masterclasses

- The detailed order of the competition will be published 1–2 weeks before the event.
- Masterclasses will be available for sign-up leading up to the event. Please check on the event website for further details. Participation in the competition is not required to attend masterclasses; they are open to all interested dancers. Participation in the masterclasses is not mandatory for contestants.

13. Props

All props must be set up and removed by the participants within the allotted entrance and exit time. Props must not damage the stage or endanger other participants. Liquids, open flames, confetti, glitter, sand, or similar materials are prohibited unless expressly approved in advance by IDC Berlin.

14. Rights & Choreography Permissions

Choreographic works fall under copyright protection. To comply with international copyright law:

- Works by choreographers who have been deceased for more than 70 years may be performed freely (public domain).
- Works by living choreographers, or choreographers deceased less than 70 years, require written permission from the choreographer or their legal heirs.
- Unauthorized performances may lead to legal claims for usage fees. If such claims arise, the responsibility rests solely with the registering school or dancer. IDC Berlin accepts no liability.
- Works by George Balanchine are specifically noted as requiring proper authorization.

15. Disclaimer & Liability

- IDC Berlin and the hosting venue are not responsible for any injuries, accidents, or property loss during the event.
- IDC reserves the right to adjust logistics if necessary, including:
 - Relocating the competition to a different venue.
 - Changing the date or time.
 - Extending the event across multiple days.
- IDC may cancel an event due to insufficient registrations, severe weather, or other unforeseen circumstances. If the event is cancelled and cannot be rescheduled, participants will receive either a refund or a credit for the following year. If the event is rescheduled, no refunds will be issued.
- Participants must regularly check their email and the official IDC website for any updates.
- In the event of a pandemic, epidemic, government restrictions, or any other circumstances beyond the control of IDC that prevent the event from taking place as planned, including restrictions on large public gatherings, IDC reserves the right to reschedule the event. If rescheduling is not reasonably possible, the competition or event may be conducted in an online format. Registration fees will remain valid for the rescheduled or online event and will not be refunded on these grounds.
- Participants who are not present backstage when their entry is called may be disqualified from the competition.

16. Credits and Refunds

A refund (limited to the entry fees only) will be granted solely in cases of physical injury. Any request for a credit must be supported by an official letter from a specialist physician (a note from a family doctor will not be sufficient and will not be accepted). The letter must be written on the doctor's official letterhead, include an ink signature and practice stamp, and must be sent directly to kontakt@idc-dance.com no later than two weeks before the first day of the competition.

If IDC Berlin is notified later than two weeks prior to the first competition day, only 50% of the entry fee(s) will be issued as a credit.

Media Release

By registering, all competitors agree that IDC Berlin may record and distribute photos and videos of the competition. These materials may be used for television, online promotion, social media, websites, or other outlets deemed appropriate. All rights to this material remain the sole property of IDC Berlin. Participants and their guardians waive any claims regarding the use of such media.