

## Section 1: Performance Levels, Routine Placements, Age Divisions, Group Sizes and Performance Categories

Routines will compete and be scored based on four categories:

### Section 1A: Performance Levels

Journey has created 4 Performance Levels for competition. It is up to studio owners/directors to place their dancers in Performance Levels accordingly. Each routine's Performance Level will be determined by the level of dancers in the routine.

**Beginner Level:** The Beginner Level is for dancers who have limited or no competition experience. A dancer in the Beginner Level may compete in no more than **7 routines**. Beginner Dancers may compete in the Intermediate Level and Advanced Lines and Productions. A Beginner dancer may compete no more than 1 solo.

**Intermediate Level:** The Intermediate Level is for dancers who have moderate competition and dance experience. If dancers have limited competition experience but above average technique and performance skill, they should be placed in the Advanced Level. A dancer in the Intermediate Level may compete in no more than **9 routines**. Intermediate dancers may compete in Beginner and Advanced group routines. An Intermediate dancer may compete no more than 2 solos. Intermediate Soloists will also be eligible for the Intermediate Title.

**Advanced Level:** The Advanced Level is for dancers, regardless of their routine count, who have significant competition and dance experience, or who have advanced technique and/or performance skills. Dancers who perform in **10 or more routines** will automatically be placed in the Advanced Level. **\*New this season\*** Dancers in the Advanced Level may also compete in the Intermediate Level and Beginner Lines and Productions. A dancer in the Advanced Level may compete no more than 3 solos. Advanced Level soloists will be eligible for the Advanced Title.

**Celebration Level:** The Celebration Level is a unique opportunity that gives dancers who have special needs or different abilities and may face developmental or physical challenges a chance to celebrate their love of dance. Dancers who perform in the Celebration Level will be critiqued fairly within their abilities. Scoring will focus on showmanship and musicality. Routines will be adjudicated and are eligible for Judge's Shoutout Awards and Excellence Awards only. Dancers who perform in the Celebration Level are not eligible to compete in any other level of competition.

- At every Regional competition, the judging panel will have the ability to **Level Up** dancers to a higher level based on the overall skill set, technical ability and performance quality of each routine. In order for a routine to be officially Leveled Up, it must meet the following criteria: is nominated to be Leveled Up by each judge on the panel, receives the approval of the Lead Judge, earns a top range score by the judging panel and receives the Event Director's approval to be Leveled Up.
- If a routine is Leveled Up and the new division has not taken place, the Leveled Up routine may re-compete in its appropriate division and will still be eligible for Overall awards.
- If a division has already been completed and presented Overall awards, the Leveled Up routine will be for adjudication only and will not be eligible for Overall awards.
- If a group routine is Leveled Up to a higher level, the individual dancers comprising the routine will each remain in their current level. If a routine is Leveled Up, any routine with the exact same dancers will also be Leveled Up.
- \*New this season\*** Each dancer may only be registered under one studio per event. A dancer cannot compete under multiple studios at the same event.

### Section 1B: Routine Placements

- Solos: Dancers compete in the Performance Level they are registered.
- Duo/Trios: **\*New this season\*** No more than 49% of the dancers may be from a higher Performance Level.
- Small Groups, Large Groups & Lines: No more than 49% of the dancers may be from a higher Performance Level.
- Productions: No more than 25% of the dancers may be from a higher Performance Level. Production Age Divisions are determined by the average age of performers, 12 & Under and 13 & Over.
- Routines that consist of the exact same dancers must compete in the same Performance Level and Age Division.

### Section 1C: Age Divisions

Each entry will be placed in one of the following age divisions based on the average age of all performers in the routine. A performer's age is determined by their age as of **January 1st**. When averaging the age, all decimals are dropped. Studio directors must be prepared to present birth certificates should a protest arise.

Age Divisions	
Age Division	Ages
Mini	6 & Under
Petite	7-9
Junior	10-12
Teen	13-15
Senior	16-19
Adult	20 & Over

- Age Divisions for Productions are determined by the average age of performers, 12 & Under and 13 & Over.
- Routines may compete no more than 1 Age Division lower than the oldest dancer in the routine, except in the Production Division.  
*Example - Any entry with a dancer 16 years old, or older, may not compete in any age division lower than 13-15.*
- Any person who is visible on stage once the routine has started and prior to the end of the routine will be considered a performer and is subject to age division and group size rules.
- Any group including a dancer who is 18 years old or older, AND out of high school, cannot be entered in our 12 and under age division, regardless of the average age.
- Any routine including a teacher or an adult is not eligible for overall awards. A teacher is someone who choreographs or teaches class and is 20 years of age or older. Routines with teachers in them may perform for adjudication only. This does not apply to student teachers under 20.

### Section 1D: Group Sizes

Routines will be placed in a division listed below based on the number of dancers in the routine:

Group Sizes	
Group Size	Number of Performers
Solo	1
Duo/Trio	2-3
Small Group	4-9
Large Group	10-19
Line	19+
Production	20+

- Upon registering, routines with 19 or more dancers will be given the opportunity to register as a large group or line. Routines with 20 or more dancers may register as a line or production. This should be determined by the routine length and purpose.  
*Example - If a group with 20 dancers is 4 minutes long, it is eligible to compete as a line or production. However, if a group of 20 dancers is 6 minutes, it is only eligible to compete as a production.*

### Section 1E: Performance Categories

Routines will be placed in the Performance Category that best describes them based on the descriptions below:

Performance Categories	
Category	Description
Acro	A routine containing a combination of dance technique and acro/gymnastic movements. Choreography must also contain at least 50% dance technique.
Ballet	A routine containing classical Ballet technique; no acrobatic/gymnastic tricks are allowed in this category.
Ballroom	A routine consisting of classic or Latin ballroom technique and style.
Baton	A routine using baton(s) containing Baton technique.
Character	A routine that portrays an easily recognizable character.
Clogging	A routine consisting of clogging technique and performed in clogging shoes.
Contemporary	A routine combining Jazz and Lyrical technique to interpret the music.
Folk/Ethnic	A routine incorporating one or more ethnic styles of dance.
Hip-Hop	A routine demonstrating street style jazz incorporating hip hop and/or funk choreography.
Jazz	A routine consisting of primarily jazz technique.
Lyrical	A routine that has dynamic emotion and expressive movements demonstrated with fluidity, balance, extension and control.
Modern	A routine containing at least 50% Modern dance technique to interpret the music.
Open	A routine consisting of multiple or unspecified styles of dance.
Pointe	A routine using pointe shoes and consists of pointe/toe technique. At least 50% of the performers must be on pointe. <b>BEGINNER</b> dancers may <b>not</b> compete in this category.
Pom	A routine using pom-poms incorporating precise and definite movements.
Song & Dance	A routine consisting of both singing and dancing of any type. Music may only have back-up voices.
Student Choreography	A routine choreographed by students with minimal assistance from an instructor.
Tap	A routine using taps on shoes displaying tap technique. No prerecorded tap sounds allowed.
Theatre	A routine featuring any style of dance from a Broadway, Movie or Television Show.
Vocal	A routine that is any type of vocal presentation; no lead vocals are allowed; backup vocals are permitted.
Wild Card	A routine consisting of any dance style or any combination of styles.

- Soloists may only perform ONE solo per category.
- In a duo/trio or group routine, 50% of the performers must be different when competing in the same age, Performance Level and category.

### Section 1E: Performance Categories cont.

- Only 3 acrobatic tricks are permitted in any category except Acro, Character, Hip Hop, Open, and Wild Card. An Acro trick is considered anything where both feet pass over the head. Examples: round off back handspring back tuck, round off back hand spring, round off back layout, etc. If a routine exceeds the Acro tricks permitted, it will be moved to the Acro category onsite.
- Beginner routines that use pointe shoes but not in the Pointe category will be Leveled Up to the Intermediate or Advanced Level if the majority of the routine is on pointe.
- Vocal Routines will be eligible for separate overall if there are 5 or more routines in the category. If there are not at least 5 routines in the category, the routine will be for Adjudication only.
- Journey will provide TWO wireless microphones. No additional sound equipment or microphones may be used or connected to Journey's sound system.

## Section 2: Scoring and Awards

A panel of competent judges will judge all routines. Each judge will give each entry a score out of 100 possible points and will consider Technique, Difficulty, Execution, Choreography, Showmanship, and Overall Presentation. The three scores will be added together to produce the total adjudication and overall score.

### Section 2A: Judging

- Scoring is calculated using one decimal place (e.g. 278.1).
- All routines will receive a **Platinum Pro, Platinum, High Gold or Gold** adjudication. (please keep reading for Adjudication Scale):
- Routines placed incorrectly will be Leveled Up to the appropriate level regardless of whether the overall has already been given.
- Judges will take into consideration whether routines are age appropriate and placed in the correct Performance Level.
- Director Only Notes will be given to the studio owner/director when a judge believes the content of a dance is not family friendly, racially inappropriate, culturally insensitive or over sexualized. Director Only Notes will be given out after the performance session.
- All decisions of the judging panel are final and cannot be contested.
- Every routine will receive a video critique from each judge.
- Performers who exit the stage prior to the end of their routine will not receive a score if the judges do not feel enough of the routine was completed. Performance is eligible to perform again for adjudication only.

### Section 2B: Adjudicated Scoring

Each routine will receive an adjudicated award based on their total scores:

Adjudication Scale	
Adjudication	Total Score
Platinum Pro	291-300
Platinum	279-290.9
High Gold	267-278.9
Gold	255-266.9

### Section 2C: Category Awards

- First in category awards will be awarded when there are 3 or more routines in a category.

### Section 2D: Overall Awards

- Routines must compete prior to their awards ceremony to be eligible for Overall Awards.
- Overall Awards will be given in each Performance Level, Age and Size Division.
- Top 3, Top 5 and Top 10 will be awarded based on number of routines per age, size and division.
- Solos and duo/trios with identical dancers may only place with their highest scoring routine.
- Vocal routines are not eligible for Overall Awards unless there are 5 or more in the division. If there are 5 or more, a vocal overall will be awarded.
- Production Overall Awards will be presented in 12 & Under and 13 & Over Divisions in each Performance Level.
- Dancers ages 20 & above are ineligible for Overall Awards
- Celebration Level dancers are ineligible for Overall Awards.

### Section 2E: Cash Awards & Gift Certificates

Division	1st Place Cash Prize: Advanced	1st Place Journey Gift Certificate: Intermediate	1st Place Journey Gift Certificate: Beginner
Solo	\$50	\$50	\$50
Duo/Trio	\$50	\$50	\$50
Small Group	\$100	\$100	\$100
Large Group	\$100	\$100	\$100
Line	\$125	\$125	\$125
Production	\$150	\$150	\$150

### Section 2E: Cash Awards & Gift Certificates cont.

- Cash awards will be given to the first place Overall Award winners in the Advanced Level.
- Gift certificates will be given to the first place Overall Award winners in the Beginner and Intermediate Level.
- The Solo and Duo/Trio divisions must have at least 20 routines in order for a gift certificate/cash prize to be awarded.
- All group divisions (including Productions) must have at least 10 routines in order for a gift certificate/cash prize to be awarded.
- All cash prizes will be issued to the studio the entry was registered with.
- Routines in the adult division will not be eligible for overalls or gift certificate/cash prizes.

### Section 2F: Additional Awards

- **Photogenic Award:** Awarded to the contestant judged most photogenic based on visual appeal, expression, and age appropriateness. Submit a recent 5x7 or 8x10 photo (color or B&W) at the event with the dancer's name, age, and studio on the back. Winner announced during the final group awards ceremony.
- **Judge's Shoutout Awards:** These uniquely crafted awards from our judges acknowledge various achievements and are presented at every awards ceremony.
- **Solo, Duo/Trio & Group Excellence Awards:** These awards are chosen by the judges to acknowledge achievements by soloists, duo/trios & groups.
- **Title Awards:** Every soloist in the Intermediate and Advanced Level is entered into the *Featured Dancer Title Competition* in their respective Performance Level. Featured Dancer scores are separate and not related to the adjudication score. For this prestigious recognition, Judges base their score on overall performance and showmanship take precedence. This score is based on the performer's overall performance ability, personality, and entertainment skills in addition to technique. All genders compete together for Featured Dancer. Dancers ages 20 & above are ineligible to compete in the Title competition.
- **Life of the Party Studio Spirit Award:** This award will be presented to the studio displaying the most studio spirit, enthusiasm and exceptional sportsmanship.
- **Studio of Excellence:** This award will be given to a studio whose dancers, staff and parents best display overall courtesy and support to all fellow competitors throughout the duration of the event.
- **Best of Journey Awards:** These awards will be awarded to the highest scoring groups from the following performance categories: Contemporary, Hip Hop, Jazz, Lyrical, Tap, and Best of the Rest (all other styles combined). Routines must compete in the Advanced Level to be eligible for Best of Journey Awards.
- **Journey Classics:** Our judges will select certain group routines as Journey Classics. These routines will have their performance videos featured on our online Video Wall of Fame.
- **The Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced Mirror Ball Awards:** The overall highest scoring group entry from all the Small Groups, Large Groups, Lines, & Productions. This award will be awarded in each Performance Level.

## Section 3: Time Limits, Music and Props

### Section 3A: Time Limits

The following list contains each division's time limit:

Time Limits	
Division	Time Limit
Solo	2:45 Minutes
Duo/Trio	3:00 Minutes
Small Group	3:00 Minutes
Large Group	4:00 Minutes
Line	5:00 Minutes
Production	8:00 Minutes

- Extra Time is available for purchase. Solos, duo/trios, small groups, and large groups can be extended by 2 minutes, Lines and Productions can be extended by no more than 3 minutes.
- **\*New this season\*** Any prop setup or breakdown exceeding the allotted time must purchase extended time.

### Section 3B: Music

- Studio Owners/Directors must submit their music electronically via our online music upload system located within your Studio Center. All music must be uploaded at least 1 week prior to the start of your event. The following formats will be accepted: MP3, M4A and WAV. We recommend using MP3 format. Music uploading is mandatory.
- All music must be cut, edited and of the correct pitch. Our team will not make music edits or alterations onsite.
- Studio Owners/Directors should have at least two backup copies of all music. No CDs are accepted.
- If submitting a flash drive, please label it with your studio name. Each file should be labeled with the 3 digit entry # and routine name.  
(Example: 001 Work Me Down, 044 Pure Love, 309 We Go Up)
- Music containing inappropriate lyrics will be subject to a 1-2 point deduction.
- Journey will provide TWO wireless microphones. No additional sound equipment or microphones may be used or connected to Journey's sound system.
- If the music stops for a technical reason, the dancers will be given the opportunity to re-perform without penalty.
- Journey will NOT tell dancers to stop performing, that decision is left to the teacher or dancer's discretion.

### Section 3C: Props

- Props must be set up and removed within 2 minutes, productions may use 4 minutes. If more time is needed, please refer to our Extended Time rule for guidelines.
- Props may not be in the wings for more than 5 numbers prior to the routine and must be removed from the wings immediately after the routine.
- Props cannot be stored in the venue until the day of the performance.

### Section 3C: Props cont.

- All props must fit through a standard 36 inch wide doorway.
- Powders, liquids, paint, hairspray, lipstick, glitter, confetti, sand, fire, swords, knives, guns or anything that could leave a residue on the stage are NOT allowed.
- If your routine/prop includes anything that will litter the stage, studio representatives must be prepared to clean the stage in less than 1 minute.
- Routines causing prop delay or use of any illegal prop will result in 2 point deduction.
- Studio prop crews are required to follow ALL instructions as per the Journey stage team at ALL times.
- Journey reserves the right to limit prop size depending on facility requirements. Please contact our National Headquarters with any specific prop questions.
- Journey reserves the right to veto a prop.

## Section 4: Registration, Entry Fees and Additional Rules

### Section 4A: Registration

- Journey will start taking reservations on July 1st. Reservations will save your spot at an event without having to add dancers or routines. Please provide us with the approximate number of routines you plan to bring.
- Reservations are accepted on a first come basis.
- Once an event is Sold Out, studios will be moved to our waiting list or accommodated by another Journey event.
- Be precise. When registering for a competition, enter routine names, dancer names and studio names exactly as they should appear in the Journey Program. Your "final check" should happen once we publish the **Preliminary Schedule**.
- All dancers & routines must be correct and checked through the Studio Center. Any changes must be made prior to the competition. If a change occurs after the **Final Schedule** has been published or at the competition, a \$30 change fee will be incurred per change.  
*Changes include: change of performance level, change of age division, change of group size, change of performance category, addition or deletion of dancers & routines and change of routine name. Late or changed entries may not be reflected in the Journey Program.*
- All routines must be entered under a studio name. Journey does not accept entries independently of a studio.
- Journey reserves the right to refuse the entry of any studio.

### Section 4B: Entry Fees

- Studio Owners/Directors please contact us for all entry fees.
- All competition fees must be received in full no less than 30 days before the start of the event. Entries submitted after such time may not be eligible for the event.
- Payments must be made by credit card, certified check or money order. A bounced check will make the studio account holder subject to a \$50 bounced check fee. Credit card disputes will be subject to an \$80 chargeback fee.

### Section 4C: Additional Rules

- At Journey, we value loyalty to studios. We do not allow teachers or studio owners to solicit dancers from other studios at any of our events. The first offense will result in a warning. If any additional offenses occur, the studio will not be permitted to attend any future Journey events until further notice.
- If dance movements, music lyrics, or costuming are deemed to be too suggestive or otherwise inappropriate for our family audience, the routine will be scored lower by the judges or disqualified from the competition. Profane and derogatory language is considered inappropriate.
- Any rule break will result in up to a 2 point total deduction. It is up to the judging panel to determine the total point deduction.
- Only Studio Owners/Directors may question routines for rule infractions however any protest must be made in writing to the event director within 30 minutes of the performance.
- Unless a piece of choreography has been copywritten, Journey cannot enforce any plagiarism policies.
- All routines must perform according to their scheduled time unless a Journey Stage Manager grants permission otherwise.
- Lighting may NOT be adjusted during a performance including but not limited to stage and house lighting.
- Re-performances are for adjudication only unless a technical issue is caused by Journey. Costume malfunctions do not qualify. Dancers should exit immediately if one occurs and may be stopped by the Journey Team if necessary.
- **\*New this season\*** Individuals currently employed or contracted as Journey Team Members are prohibited from performing at any Journey event.
- No food, snacks or beverages are allowed on stage, this includes all award ceremonies.
- No alcoholic beverages are permitted at the competition, in the venue or in the hosting venue's parking lot.
- There will be a \$20 fee for any items that are left behind at the competition and need to be shipped.
- For the safety of the performers, absolutely NO videography or photography is permitted during a performance. Failure to abide by these rules may result in disqualification. Journey reserves the right to have anyone violating this rule removed from the facility.
- Journey Dance Competition LLC and host venue are not responsible for any personal injury/property loss before, during or after the event.
- Dancers, teachers, studio owners, and one parent or guardian per dancer are the only ones allowed in the dressing rooms. Journey reserves the right to remove anyone from the dressing room should it be deemed necessary.
- All dancers, teachers, studio owners, family members and audience members are required to comply with rules and regulations set forth by our hosting venue. Those who do not may be removed from the event by either a Journey Team Member or the hosting venue's staff.
- By attending or competing in a Journey event you are agreeing to the use of your video and photographs by Journey Dance Competition LLC, all partners and affiliates to be used for promotional materials.
- Journey Dance Competition is not required to refund any registration fees in the event of a cancellation due to any of the following events (which causes are hereinafter referred to as "Force Majeure"), to the extent beyond its reasonable control: acts of God, accident, riots, war, terrorist act, epidemic, pandemic (including the Covid-19 pandemic), quarantine, civil commotion, breakdown of communication facilities, breakdown of web host, breakdown of internet service provider, natural catastrophes, governmental acts or omissions, changes in laws or regulations, national strikes, fire, explosion, or generalized lack of availability of raw materials or energy. For the avoidance of doubt, Force Majeure shall not include (a) financial distress nor the inability of either party to make a profit or avoid a financial loss, (b) changes in market prices or conditions, or (c) a party's financial inability to perform its obligations hereunder. Journey Dance Competition LLC will always attempt to reschedule an event whenever possible.
- No cash refunds will be issued under any circumstances. Account credits will be issued for entry/dancer removals if this is done prior to the event.
- Journey Dance Competition LLC reserves the right to cancel any and all events due to lack of registration, inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances. Furthermore, Journey Dance Competition LLC reserves the right to change an event's location, venue and/or date(s).