



SECTION III: DANCE TEAMS

Part 1: Entry Guidelines and Awards

ENTRY GUIDELINES

1. College/university teams may compete in the following styles: Pom, Jazz, Hip Hop and Team Performance. At any event, we may choose to combine categories or add additional categories in order to increase competitiveness or for any other reason at its discretion. **Teams may not enter the same routine in more than one style at the same competition.**
2. At The College Classic national competition, we will have Spirit Showdown divisions. Regional or Virtual Competitions may have Spirit Showdown divisions at our discretion. If we do not have a Spirit Showdown division at a Regional or Virtual Competition, then college/university teams at that event may compete their Spirit Showdown routine in the Open division.
3. **The same program at the same college or university may not enter multiple routines in the same division of the same style (e.g., two teams from the same program entered in Division II Jazz)** when all of the dancers in both routines are the same. If a **program** wishes to enter multiple routines in the same division **of the same style** and all dancers are not the same in each routine, then the **program** must designate different team names (e.g. Alaska State University Blue Team and Alaska State University Gold Team), and the following shall apply:
 - a. If there are one or more overlapping dancers in the routines, then only the highest scoring routine will advance to finals and receive a placement in the final awards.
 - b. If there are no overlapping dancers in the routines, then all routines are eligible to advance to finals and receive a placement in the final awards.

If there are multiple programs from the same college or university competing in a division (for example, an official athletic team and a club team), the limitations above will apply to each program separately.

4. The following team size guidelines will apply:
 - a. Team size will be determined as of the registration date.
 - b. At least 5 dancers must be registered to perform in each team routine. A team will still be allowed to compete if they drop to fewer than five dancers at performance time but at least five dancers must be registered and paid for in order for the routine to compete.
 - c. Teams may use a different number of dancers in each routine subject to the minimums above required to be registered.

**ELIGIBLE TEAMS**

1. REGIONAL COMPETITIONS AND COLLEGE CLASSIC: College teams may compete at all Dance Team Union regional competitions, in addition to The College Classic.
2. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
 - a. Each team must be an official dance team at the team's college/university either under athletics or as a club sport or fine arts program. Regardless of the character of the team's designation at the university (athletics, club sport, fine arts), the team will be grouped for competition with other teams in accordance with the Competition Divisions section below. **Multiple teams from the same college/university may compete in the same event and in the same division as each other, as long as they are both recognized as official dance teams at such college/university.**
 - b. Teams from outside the United States may compete in regional or virtual competitions or the College Classic in the division at or above the division they would compete if their team was from the United States **(as determined by The College Classic based on available data, in The College Classic's sole discretion).**
 - c. An All-Star team for which all performing dancers are from the same school (or from the same cooperative school or group of schools if not disallowed by their state) may choose to compete in a school division for any category it enters.

ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS

Any performer who is eligible to be a member of their team based on their college's or university's eligibility rules may perform at The College Classic or any Dance Team Union regional or virtual championship. We reserve the right to require documentation at any time in order to confirm, in our sole discretion, whether an individual is eligible to compete.

COMPETITION DIVISIONS

Teams may be grouped within each style into divisions based upon their NCAA, NAIA or similar sporting affiliation or division (provided, however, that all teams from NCAA Division I FBS schools participating in the Big Ten, Big 12, ACC, SEC and Pac 12 for the 2023-24 football season will be considered Division 1A and all other Division I schools will be considered Division I). A team will not be considered to be within a division until its athletics programs are eligible to win national championships in that division (i.e., if a school moves from NCAA Division II to Division I, it will remain in Division II for our purposes during any waiting period for championship eligibility). Any split between divisions will be determined by us based upon the number of entries received for each competition. At any event, we may choose to combine categories (such as jazz and lyrical or Divisions 1 and 2) or add additional categories in order to increase competitiveness or for any other reason in its discretion. Any team may elect to "compete up" – that is, compete in a division for teams of larger school sizes in accordance with the above guidelines. Teams may not elect to "compete down" with teams of smaller school sizes.

**NO SINGLE TEAM DIVISIONS**

At The College Classic, we will combine any division that contains only one team into any other division at our discretion. Single Division 1A teams will be combined first with Division I (if Division I has one or more teams) then with Division II, III, Open, NAIA or Community College in that order, while all other single team divisions will be combined into the next highest division with one or more teams (example: Open Team Performance has 6 teams entered, Division III Team Performance has 1 team entered in Team Performance, Division II has 0 teams and Division 1 has 12 teams. The Division III team will compete in Division I). This may result in divisions that include multiple school sizes in a single style (e.g. Division 1/1A Team Performance) or multiple styles in one or more divisions competing in an Open division. No single team divisions will be permitted at The College Classic **unless The College Classic determines in its sole discretion that there is a division that cannot reasonably be combined with any other division.**

REGIONALS AWARDS

1. Trophies will be awarded to at least the top 50% of teams in each division for each style.
2. Additional specialty awards may be awarded at our discretion.

COLLEGE CLASSIC AWARDS

1. At least 50% of teams that compete in the preliminary round will ultimately advance to finals. No semifinal or Second Chance Round will be held.
2. Finalists in categories with 6 or more finalists will compete figure skating-style (in sub-groupings with lowest scores competing first, based upon their scores from the previous round, but within each sub-grouping, teams will draw for random order). Finalists in categories with 5 or fewer finalists will compete in reverse order of their preliminary scores.
3. All finalists will receive trophies. In addition, all College Classic champions will receive banners, jackets or fleeces, and rings. In recognition of the tremendous success of each champion, no Grand Champion award(s) will be given at The College Classic.

THE DANCE BATTLE ROUND AT THE COLLEGE CLASSIC

The College Classic will hold a Dance Battle Round at the National Championship. The primary purpose of the Battle Round is to promote a fun, supportive environment for selected teams in various styles of dance to showcase their routines for each other and the viewing audience. The College Classic will conduct the Battle Round in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. Within the Dance Battle Round:
 - a. Individual Dance Battles will be divided by dance style.
 - b. The total number of Dance Battles and groupings of styles will be announced by The College Classic prior to the National Championship.



2. No scoring or critiques will be done by judges in the Battle Round. Judges will view all routines in each Battle, collaborate and announce a Battle champion shortly after the conclusion of the applicable Battle. Each dance judge will be asked to vote for a winner based on overall performance quality, showmanship, and best representation of the style(s) presented. Battle champions will receive a Battle Cup (and bragging rights until next year's National Championship!).
3. In the interest of allowing teams to see and cheer on all other participating teams, **no dance team may perform more than once in the Dance Battle Round.**
4. The College Classic may invite teams to participate in a Battle Round beginning after the conclusion of all preliminary routines for teams eligible for that Battle Round, and invitations may continue to be issued throughout finals for that group of teams. For example, if preliminaries for all Jazz divisions eligible for the Jazz Battle conclude Saturday at 5:00 pm, and the Dance Battle Round is scheduled to begin Sunday at 7:00 pm, then The College Classic may issue Jazz Battle invitations at any time between those times, based on either preliminary or finals performance, in The College Classic's sole discretion.
5. Preliminary round scores and finals performance quality will be a factor in determining Battle Round invitees; however, these will not be the only determining factors. The College Classic may also consider factors such as entertainment value, showmanship, creativity, appropriateness for a "battle" atmosphere, and/or judge recommendations in issuing invitations. No team is guaranteed to participate in the Battle Round by virtue of having the highest score in preliminaries, and a team with a lower score may be invited to the Battle Round if it meets one or more criteria set forth above.
6. A schedule for each Battle within the Dance Battle Round will be published in advance of the National Championship with start times for each Battle category; however, a specific performance time for each participating team will not be published in advance.
7. **Battle Round invitations and results are completely independent of the official results of The College Classic National Championship.** Battle Round results are based solely on the team's performance in the Battle Round, in accordance with the Battle judging criteria set forth above. National Champion results are based solely on the team's performance in Finals for its style and division, in accordance with the score sheet for such division.



Part 2: Dance Routine Guidelines

GENERAL SAFETY

The coach of a team is responsible for monitoring the safety of each element of a dance and determining that it is safe to perform. The character of the skills being performed, as well as the skill level of the dancers performing those skills, should be considered by the coach in making this determination. All of the skills listed below as well as any other movement should be evaluated for safety by the advisor/coach prior to competition.

TECHNICAL CONSULTANT

At The College Classic, a technical consultant will be available during practice and official warm-ups to assist coaches with any questions or issues they have regarding the safety of their routines. During the season, teams may request the assistance of a technical consultant. If a coach/advisor is unsure of the safety of a skill, he or she can submit a video of the activity in question to info@danceteamunion.com. If a team has received approval for a track from another competition, they may rely on that approval for safety consideration purposes.

TUMBLING AND TRICKS

1. Front/back aerials and aerial cartwheels, as well as movements where all weight is borne on the dancer's hands and/or head, such as headsprings, should not be executed with poms in both hands that are not hands-free poms.
2. Drops directly to the knee, thigh, back, front, head, shoulder, head, neck or seat onto the performing surface are generally considered to be unsafe. In order to address the safety issue, the dancer should first bear weight on the hand(s) or foot/feet.
3. Landing in a push-up position onto the performance surface from a jump in which the legs are in front of the body and swing behind are generally not considered to be safe.
4. Dancers should not land directly on the head/neck at any time from an airborne skill. Any kip up motion should also initiate from the back/shoulder area touching the ground.

LIFTS AND PARTNERING

1. The Executing Dancer should be supported from a Supporting Dancer who is in direct contact with the floor throughout the entire skill. (Exception: Kick Line Leaps).
2. Hip over-head rotation of the Executing Dancer(s) is generally not considered to be a safety issue, as long as the Executing Dancer is returned to the performance floor on his/her feet or hands with support from the Supporting Dancer(s).
3. Simultaneous over or under another dancer that includes hip-over-head rotation by both dancers is generally not considered to be safe.



4. Drops to the knee, thigh, back, front, head, shoulder, or seat onto the performing surface are generally considered to be unsafe. In order to address the safety issue, the dancer should first bear weight on the hand(s) or foot/feet.

RELEASE MOVES

1. It is generally not considered to be unsafe for an Executing Dancer to jump, leap, step, or push off a Supporting Dancer, and a Supporting Dancer may generally release/toss an Executing Dancer without creating a safety issue.
2. "Basket tosses" are not considered to be safe for dance teams. However, a dancer may be safely released and caught in a dance lift with his/her head above his/her feet.

COMPETITION ROUTINE GUIDELINES

1. Teams may make substitutions in the event of injury. Substitute participants must be listed on the team's participant roster in the team's registration form.
2. Any equipment or items that may damage the performance floor are prohibited. **Floor markers (including, without limitation, tape, rope, or cones) are not permitted at The College Classic but are permitted at Regional Competitions so long as there is nothing affixed to the actual performance floor (e.g., taping the floor for the purpose of marking is prohibited) and so long as use of floor markers by a team does not delay the competition beyond the published scheduled performance time(s) for the team.**
3. **There is no minimum or maximum time limit for any routine; however, a team must notify us upon registering and no later than two weeks before the competition if any routine is longer than 2 minutes 30 seconds, for scheduling purposes.**
4. A responsible adult must be present to assist in the start and finish of the routine music. **IT IS RECOMMENDED TO UPLOAD YOUR MUSIC TO THE REGISTRATION SOFTWARE BY ONE WEEK PRIOR TO COMPETITION.**

JEWELRY

Jewelry will be allowed for dance team members, so long as it is not considered hazardous to the safety of the performers. We reserve the right to require a team to remove any jewelry it deems hazardous at any point during the competition.

PROPS

Props are permitted in any dance category as long as they are wearable, handheld, or freestanding and can be taken off or released safely (as determined by The College Classic). No dry ice, confetti, glass, canned smoke, water or other liquid, **flammable material** or other similar loose material that may obstruct the judges' view or affect the condition of the performance floor may be used. Backdrops are not permitted - any props must be able to be used/moved by a single dancer. Poms may be used only in the Pom, Team Performance and Spirit Showdown

categories. No prop may be tossed off the performance floor or used in any way that risks damage to any persons or property in the vicinity of the performance floor (including, without limitation, the ceiling, a performance backdrop or any lighting on the front of the floor). For any questions or concerns regarding prop choice, please send a photo of the prop to us prior to the competition.

AUDIENCE INVOLVEMENT

Crowd appeal is an important element of any dance team performance; however, teams will be judged based only on performance elements taking place on the competition floor. Involvement of non-regular members of a dance team (“Other Participants”) in the performance of the routine is allowed in the Spirit Showdown divisions only, subject to the following restrictions:

1. Only registered and paid individuals may be on the official performance floor
2. Any Other Participants must be located in the Fan Zone and stay in the Fan Zone for the entire performance
3. The involvement of Other Participants is subject to all of the rules and regulations set forth herein for competing dancers, including the safety guidelines.

SECTION IV: CHEER TEAMS

Part 1: Entry Guidelines and Awards

ENTRY GUIDELINES

College/university teams may compete in Co-Ed or All-Girl categories, as well as the Partner/Group Stunt category. Any mascot that is part of a college/university's official spirit program may compete in the Mascot category. A college or university may enter one routine in each team routine style (maximum of 2 routines total), and an unlimited number of Partner/Group Stunt or Mascot routines. If a college/university wishes to enter multiple team routines in a single team category, they must designate different teams (e.g. Lincoln University Gold Team and Lincoln University Silver Team) and only the top scoring team will be eligible to receive a final awards placement. The following team size guidelines will apply:

- a. Team size will be determined as of the registration date.
- b. At least 5 performers must be registered to perform in each team routine. A team will still be allowed to compete if they drop to fewer than five performers at performance time but at least five performers must be registered and paid for in order for the routine to compete.
- c. Teams may use a different number of performers in each routine subject to the minimums above required to be registered.
- d. Two (2) performers must compete in each Partner Stunt routine. Partners may be of the same gender or different genders. Three (3) or four (4) performers must compete in each Group Stunt routine.
- e. Any Co-Ed cheer team with 1-4 male cheerleaders will compete in the Small Co-Ed division; all other Co-Ed teams will compete in the Large Co-Ed division.
- f. Only one (1) mascot may perform in any routine in the Mascot division; however, there is no limit on the number of individual mascots who can enter the Mascot division from the same college/university. Every performer must be an official mascot that is considered as such within the college/university's official spirit program.

ELIGIBLE TEAMS

College/university cheer teams and mascots may not compete at Dance Team Union regional competitions, but are encouraged to compete at The College Classic and the College Virtual Championship. Each team must be an official cheer team at the team's college/university either under athletics or as a club sport or fine arts program. Regardless of the character of the team's designation at the university (athletics, club sport, fine arts), the team will be grouped for competition with other teams in accordance with the Competition Divisions section below. Teams from outside the United States may compete in The College Classic in the division at or above the division they would compete if their team was from the United States.

***ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS***

Any performer who is eligible to be a member of their team or perform as a mascot based on their college's or university's eligibility rules may perform at The College Classic. We reserve the right to require documentation at any time in order to confirm, in our sole discretion, whether an individual is eligible to compete.

COMPETITION DIVISIONS

Teams may be grouped within each style into divisions based upon their college or university football classification (provided, however, that all teams from Division 1A football schools outside the Big Ten, Big 12, ACC, SEC and Pac 12 will be considered Division 1). The split between divisions will be determined by us based upon entries received for each competition. At any event, we may choose to combine categories or divisions or add additional categories or divisions in order to increase competitiveness or for any other reason at its discretion.

NO SINGLE TEAM DIVISIONS

At The College Classic, we may combine any cheer division that contains only one team into any other division at our discretion. Single Division 1A teams may be combined down, while all other single team divisions may be combined up into the next largest division within one or more teams. This may result in divisions that include multiple school sizes in a single style (e.g. Division 1/1A Co-Ed Cheer) or multiple styles in one or more divisions competing in an Open Cheer division. No single team divisions will be permitted at The College Classic.

COLLEGE CLASSIC AWARDS

At least 50% of teams that compete in the preliminary round will ultimately advance to finals. No semifinal or Second Chance Round will be held. Finalists in categories with **six** or more finalists will compete figure skating-style (in sub-groupings with lowest scores competing first, based upon their scores from the previous round, but within each sub-grouping, teams will draw for random order). Finalists in categories with **five** or fewer finalists will compete in reverse order of their preliminary scores. All finalists will receive trophies. In addition, all The College Classic champions will receive banners, jackets or fleeces, and rings. In recognition of the tremendous success of each champion, no Grand Champion award(s) will be given at The College Classic.

THE CHEER BATTLE ROUND AT THE COLLEGE CLASSIC

The College Classic will hold a Cheer Battle Round at the National Championship. The primary purpose of the Battle Round is to promote a fun, supportive environment to showcase selected athletes' skills and routines for each other and the viewing audience. The College Classic will conduct the Battle Round in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. Within the Cheer Battle Round, there will be two Individual Cheer Battles:
 - a. Pyramid Battle, for cheer teams selected by The College Classic for the Battle, and

- b. Tumble Rumble, where any team may select one (1) cheerleader to participate. The College Classic may allow more than 1 cheerleader to represent a team at its sole discretion.

More details will be provided by The College Classic leading up to the event.

2. No scoring or critiques will be done by judges in the Battle Round. Judges will view all performances in each Battle, collaborate and announce a Battle champion shortly after the conclusion of the applicable Battle. Each judge will be asked to vote for a winner based on overall technical quality, crowd appeal, difficulty and creativity. Battle champions will receive a Battle Cup (and bragging rights until next year's National Championship!).
3. The College Classic may invite teams to participate in the Pyramid Battle beginning after the conclusion of all preliminary routines for teams eligible for that Battle Round, and invitations may continue to be issued throughout finals for that group of teams. For example, if preliminaries for all divisions eligible for the Cheer Battle conclude Saturday at 5:00 pm, and the Cheer Battle is scheduled to begin Sunday at 7:00 pm, then The College Classic may issue Cheer Battle invitations at any time between those times, based on either preliminary or finals performance, in The College Classic's sole discretion.
4. Preliminary round scores and finals performance quality will be a factor in determining Battle Round invitees; however, these will not be the only determining factors. The College Classic may also consider factors such as entertainment value, showmanship, creativity, appropriateness for a "battle" atmosphere, and/or judge recommendations in issuing invitations. No team is guaranteed to participate in the Battle Round by virtue of having the highest score in preliminaries, and a team with a lower score may be invited to the Battle Round if it meets one or more criteria set forth above.
5. A schedule for each Battle within the applicable Battle Round will be published in advance of the National Championship with start times for each Battle category; however, a specific performance time for each participating team will not be published in advance.
6. **Battle Round invitations and results are completely independent of the official results of The College Classic National Championship. Battle Round results are based solely on performance in the Battle Round, in accordance with the Battle judging criteria set forth above. National Champion results are based solely on performance in Finals for that style and division, in accordance with the score sheet for such division.**