

Following the unacceptable behaviour of some of our competitors in 2016 we have reluctantly decided that any unacceptable behaviour by a competitor will result in their immediate exclusion from the festival, with no appeal.

Please note that footballs will be confiscated and held until the end of the festival.

The venue has a very strict policy - No Smoking/Vaping anywhere on the school premises. Both inside and outside. If their staff see our festival visitors/participants smoking/vaping it falls back on us as a festival. They could stop us from using the premises in the future.

We must remind you that entering the festival implies that you agree to these Regulations which clearly state that parents are responsible for their children. Apart from backstage whilst performing, dancers and visiting children aged 16 and under must be accompanied by a parent/carer/chaperone at all times.

1. The festival is only open to amateur performers.
2. The festival does not accept liability for the infringement of copyright, recording or performance rights arising out of any competitor's accompaniment or performance.
3. Singing is allowed only in the Musical Theatre classes.
4. Pointe work is not allowed in classes age 12 and under.
5. Contemporary and Contemporary Ballet classes:
 - a) Solos - competitors must be age 13 to 18 years to enter
 - b) Duets/Trios/Quartets/Groups – competitors must be age 13 to 21 years to enter
6. Watford Dance festival is not a childcare organisation in the full meaning of the Children's Act 1999. Parents and teachers are reminded that the safety of young people and their belongings is the responsibility of parents and teachers during the festival.
7. Parents of younger children (6 years and under) may accompany them to the side of the stage, but if they wish to remain to watch the performance (at the discretion of the stage manager), then they must be in possession of an admission ticket.
8. The use of cameras, video cameras and mobile phones is forbidden in the theatre.
9. Provision for sound will be via a CD player. We advise all competitors to bring 2 copies of their music in digital form – USB stick and mobile phone. Please ensure music is clearly labelled with the competitor's name and dance discipline, together with any written synopsis if applicable.
10. Music must be handed in at least 30 minutes before the start of the class.
11. Competitors must be ready to dance 30 minutes before the programmed start of their class.
12. The festival Committee reserves the right to restrict the number of entries in any class, or to combine classes for adjudication.
13. Any class may be withdrawn or re-arranged should the number of entries warrant it.
14. A competitor may dance only once in any one Solo, Duet or Trio/Quartet class.

15. A school may enter only one group in any one group class.
16. The same dance may not be performed in more than one class.
17. Gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded to first, second and third places in all classes except groups.
18. Certificates will be available to order at the festival for all classes.

These can be ordered in the foyer.
19. The adjudicator may withhold any award if he or she considers that an insufficient standard has been attained.
20. Competitors must enter their own age group - age to be taken as at 31st August 2023. In the case of non-solo classes the age to be considered is the age of the oldest child in that duet/trio/quartet/group.
21. Due to new rules out of our control we have to collect additional information about the individual competitors and their chaperones. This has to be submitted to Hertfordshire County Council.

This information will be requested from the schools to be submitted at the same time as the entry forms. For the purpose of the Regulations this information will be referred to as the BOPA (Body of Persons Application) information.

22. Payments are due on submission of entries. Payment must be received via on-line bank transfer. The bank details will be advised along with the entry forms when they are emailed out to the schools.

Entries will not be accepted until payment is received AND the festival has received the BOPA information for every competitor.

Closing date for entries is Saturday 6 January, 2024.

23. Entry fees cannot be refunded if for any reason a competitor is unable to attend.
24. The festival Committee reserves the right to substitute or to engage additional adjudicators and to hold competitions on dates and at places other than those notified in the syllabus.
25. The adjudicator's decision is final. No competitor or teacher may communicate directly or indirectly with the adjudicator.
26. Complaints must be sent in writing within 7 days of the end of the festival to the festival Chairman

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