

# MANDURAH FESTIVAL OF DANCE

## RULES AND CONDITIONS OF ENTRY FOR THE FESTIVAL

### ALL COMPETITORS DANCE IN THIS FESTIVAL AT THEIR OWN RISK

Failure to comply with any of the following rules and conditions will result in disqualification and withholding of prizes. The decision of the committee in all questions or disputes arising out of, or not provided by these rules, shall be final. All entries received are subject to the proviso and shall not be subject to any appeal at law as being contrary to the spirit of friendly competition upon which this Festival is based.

1. **CODE OF ETHICS:** The Festival does not tolerate inappropriate, unfriendly or unsportsmanlike behaviour at any time by students, teachers or parents. There will be zero tolerance to rude and aggressive behaviour. The Mandurah Festival of Dance is an all-inclusive dance event and expects behaviour to be fitting and appropriate at all times. Choose your music carefully, lewd and inappropriate lyrics and extreme language will not be accepted. Choreography and costume design must be age appropriate and suitable for the purposes of this Festival. Tights must be worn as part of costuming. This can include various styles such as  $\frac{3}{4}$ , stirrup, footless and traditional.
2. **ENTRIES CLOSE:** 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026 (LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED) however, if an item has been omitted from an already entered school a late fee of \$20.00, plus the appropriate entry fee, will apply. After the section (first) draft has been finalised, no exception will be made.
3. **AGE LIMITS:** Ages for the Festival are as of the 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2026
4. The section draft will be issued 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026.
  - 5a. All amendments to the section draft must be in by 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026.
  - 5b. 1<sup>st</sup> Draft will be available 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026
  - 5c. Final Draft Program will be available to teachers 4<sup>th</sup> June 2026
6. Advertising in the program closes 28<sup>th</sup> May 2026
7. Entry to Mandurah Festival of Dance in 2026 will be via a competition management software. Please see link in email and cover letter for all details including payment and music upload.
8. This Festival is open to all students from bona fide dance schools - individual competitors cannot apply.
9. No competitor who has been taught, coached or advised by the adjudicator during the three months prior to the competition dates will be eligible to enter the Festival.

10. A competitor whose name is omitted from the program due to an administration oversight will be required to perform first in the appropriate section
11. No competitor may appear more than once in any section.
12. Competitors must report back stage 20 minutes prior to the section in which they are to perform.
13. Competitors who do not appear when their number is called may perform at the end of the section. However, they will not receive a mark. They will receive a report.
14. If a competitor commences a dance, then stops for any reason other than a technical fault on behalf of the organisers, then that competitor may appear again at the end of the section. However, they will not receive a mark. They will receive a report.
15. **TIME LIMITS:** Entrants exceeding time limits will be disqualified. The item will be timed with the commencement of music or first body movement of the dance (whichever comes first) until the last dance movement including curtsey/bow and exit off stage.
16. Only competitors, teachers and officials will be allowed side stage. Should a performer require props, their helpers (within reason), will be allowed to take props on stage, clear the stage at the end of the item, then immediately leave the backstage area.  
NO parents or siblings are permitted side stage to watch.  
NO infants or toddlers either in strollers or with an adult will be permitted side stage.  
This ruling also applies to teachers.
17. Teachers may only remain in the wings whilst a competitor from their own school is performing. Other school members/students may not.
18. During performances, competitors in the same section must stay within the area marked by a white line side stage (Opposite Prompt). Competitors who need to commence their performance from Prompt side may move to that area one or two dances prior to their number.  
The Fly Rail Door (Prompt side), is not to be used during the Festival by competitors.
19. Props and scenery may be delivered to the back stage holding bay at the **COMMENCEMENT** of the required session. They must **THEN** be removed from this area at the conclusion of the same session.
20. **NO** real flowers, fruit, foliage, vegetables, rosin, powder, flour, body oils, straw props or any breakable items are to be used or worn by competitors. No glitter is to be thrown on stage and glitter decoration on props should be sealed.  
Classical dancers who ignore the ROSIN ruling will face a penalty.

21. Competitors must perform the work of the school whose name appears on the entry form or their own work.
22. A competitor can only represent one school at any time during this festival.
23. No prompting is allowed (with the exception of the 6/under sections).
24. No lighting or special effects are to be used (white stage only). No teacher is permitted to instruct the lighting technician during their performance.
25. If the adjudicator is approached by any competitor, teacher or a family member of any participating school before and during any item, disqualification of that item will occur immediately.
26. Due to copyright conditions and regulations, the recording of performances by anyone other than the official camera technicians, is not permitted. No video, camera or electronic device equipped to record, is to be used in the auditorium. Contravention of this could result in associated competitors or schools being disqualified. As it could be deemed illegal, substantial fines may be imposed.
27. **PROTESTS:** A protest against any competitor or any decision must be made in writing to the Protest Committee within one hour after the completion of the section. This must be made with a protest fee of \$30.00 which will be refunded if the protest is upheld. The case for the protest will be heard during the next session break and will be dealt with at the Protest Committee's discretion. No further correspondence will be entered into. **In the event of a timing dispute the parties concerned, along with the protest committee, will refer to and view the recorded video in question to determine the result of the dispute in accordance with Rule 15.**
28. The Mandurah Festival of Dance reserves the right to amend or refuse any entry on any ground pertaining to the rules.
29. The Mandurah Festival of Dance reserves the right to change the adjudicator for any reason whatsoever.
30. In the case of duos/trios, quartets and troupes, the eldest entrant's age will determine the age group of the item.
31. All troupes & ensembles must have five or more members.
32. All soloists must dance within their own age group according to the Festival's age limit cut off point.
33. Competitor reports are to be collected back stage at the end of each session by teachers only or one delegated adult representative.
34. No substituting of any entrant, including troupes on the day. However, under certain circumstances and after conferring with the committee in advance of the Festival, a substitution may be allowed.

**35. OPEN CLASSIFICATION:**

Is any competitor who has won a first place in any competition of the same genre prior to the Festival's close of entry date; or if a competitor has danced in an OPEN section at the Mandurah Festival of Dance they cannot revert back to NOVICE in the following year for that genre.

**NOVICE CLASSIFICATION:**

Is any competitor who has not won a first place in the same genre prior to the Festival's close of entry date.

When a competitor moves from the 6/under to the 8/under solo age group, they may enter in the novice classification regardless of previous 6/under first placing.

**36. COMPETITOR AGGREGATE POINTS:**

OPEN:	1 <sup>ST</sup> - 5 points,	2 <sup>nd</sup> - 3 points,	3 <sup>rd</sup> - 1 point
NOVICE:	1 <sup>ST</sup> - 3 points,	2 <sup>nd</sup> - 2 points,	3 <sup>rd</sup> - 1 point

Where an equal number of aggregate points are accrued, there will be a count back of qualifying solo adjudicator marks.

**37. Any competitor who performs in the Mature and Motivated section cannot perform in any other section of the Festival.**

If any adult competitor wishes to dance in any of the 17/over sections, they cannot perform in any Mature and Motivated section.

**38. CURTAINS: Front of house curtains may only be used in ensembles, troupes, demi character and acrobatic sections. No mid tabs permitted in any item during the Festival.**

**39. Teachers cannot scribe for the adjudicator.**

**40. COSTUMES: Tights must be worn in all instances as part of costuming for this festival. All costuming should be age appropriate. There will be a penalty deduction if tights are not worn.**

**41. Entry fees for the MFOD are non-refundable once the draft has been finalised. The MFOD will not be responsible for any loss of time, or expense incurred by the competitor.**

**42. The Mandurah Festival of Dance will not be responsible for loss or damage of any competitor's property.**

## TIME LIMITS

(Items will not receive a score if they are over time)

### 6/Under Only

Any genre solo/duo/trio/quartet	2.5 minutes
Any genre ensemble or troupe	4.0 minutes

### Song and Dance Only (does not include 6/under)

All solos both Open and Novice	4.0 minutes
All duo/trio/quartet	4.0 minutes
All troupes and ensembles	5.0 minutes

### Other Genres

All duo/trio/quartet	3.0 minutes
All troupes and ensembles	5.0 minutes

### Novice Solos

8/under, 10/under & 12/under	2.5 minutes
14/under & 16/under	3.0 minutes

### Open Solos

8/under, 10/under, 12/under, 14/under & 16/under	3.0 minutes
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### 17/Over Solos

All solo genres	3.0 minutes
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- ❖ Please note, all of the ABOVE items, indicate a maximum time allowed and not necessarily the time that must be done

### Scholarship sections (must be strictly adhered to)

2 minutes minimum  
3 minutes maximum

## RULING FOR DANCE GENRE SECTIONS:

### Including Rules and Conditions pertaining to all dance sections

All sections will have the following age categories except where otherwise indicated:

8 years and under	.....	Novice and Open
10 years and under	.....	Novice and Open
12 years and under	.....	Novice and Open
14 years and under	.....	Novice and Open
16 years and under	.....	Novice and Open

6/under solo sections will not be classified

17/over solo sections will not be classified

Mature & Motivated solo sections will not be classified

Dance Ability section will not be classified

Improvisation sections are not classified and have two age groups:

7 – 12 years of age                      ..... Intermediate

13 years and over                        ..... Senior

### 1. CLASSICAL BALLET:

- **No rosin** is allowed to be used at this Festival
- Any recognised formal classical method can be performed
- Classical music (without vocal accompaniment) must be used
- No stage or hand held props in solo performances
- **Boys** must wear appropriate traditional ballet attire including tights and pumps
- **Girls** must wear ballet tights and a short tutu only in a solo section. (The length of the top layer reaching and touching the dancer's wrist when in demi second position of the arms). Short and long romantics may be worn in other sections.
- There will be a penalty deduction if tights are not worn.

1.1 Solo

1.2 Duo/trio/quartet

1.3 Ensemble

### 2. NEO CLASSICAL BALLET:

Is a classical base genre

Always performed by classically trained dancers with true classical technique and lines. However, there can be minimal diversion from the balletic aesthetic to include flexed hands and feet, angular arm lines and some parallel work with unconventional formations of dancers and groups. It must be performed with simple (no glitter/sequins or elaborate trims) costuming to show off the choreography and body dynamics within the choreography).

It does not include acrobatic or gymnastic tricks, nor are the styles of slow modern lyrical, contemporary or Negro spiritual permitted.

- Music from any era may be used. However, there can be NO LYRICS included in any piece – instrumental only.
- Minimal props
- Ballet pumps, or point shoes, or bare feet only
  
- Simple costume with no trim or embellishments (this includes sequins, pearls etc). Tights must be worn.
- There will be a penalty deduction if tights are not worn.

2.1 Solo

2.2 Duo/Trio/Quartet

2.3 Ensemble

3. **DEMI CHARACTER:**

This genre is based on any recognised formal classical ballet technique. Portrayal of a storyline must be as strong and equal to the dance content.

- It cannot be a repertoire
- Props may be used. (Please refer to Rule 21)
- Classical music only. NO VOCALS OR LYRICS
- Tights must be worn
- There will be a penalty deduction if tights are not worn.

3.1 Solo

3.2 Duo/Trio/Quartet

3.3 Ensemble

4. **NATIONAL:**

All national dances must represent a country and its traditions.

- Authentic music, steps and costumes are required
- Irish and Scottish nationals are accepted
- Set exam routines from a dance syllabus belonging to any formal dance organisation cannot be used
- It cannot be a character dance
- Tights must be worn
- There will be a penalty deduction if tights are not worn.

4.1 Solo

4.2 Duo/Trio/quartet

4.3 Ensemble

5. **CONTEMPORARY:**

Is a CLASSICAL base genre.

To be based on any recognised classical method using such concepts as:

- Cunningham technique – using the body's own line of energy
- Graham technique – focus on the use of contraction, release, fall and recovery
- Limon technique - gravity and weight with fall, rebound, recovery and suspension
- Music is optional
- Costuming to be appropriate and tights must be worn.
- There will be a penalty deduction if tights are not worn.

- 5.1 Solo
- 5.2 Duo/Trio/Quartet
- 5.3 Ensemble

6. **JAZZ:**

A performance based on modern dance form that includes jazz techniques. Combines energy, rhythm and polished routines.

This section cannot include:

- Choreographed singing and miming.
- No more than three (3) acrobatic tricks. A tumbling and aerial sequence is not one trick. The number of acrobatic moves in the sequence will be counted independently.
- A one-mark deduction will be taken off the item's score for every trick taken after the first three counted.
- Tights must be worn with costume.
- There will be a penalty deduction if tights are not worn.

- 6.1 Solo
- 6.2 Duo/Trio/Quartet
- 6.3 Troupe

7. **BROADWAY JAZZ:**

Influenced by Classic Broadway Shows and Iconic Choreographers. Choreography should contain jazz technique.

This section cannot include:

- Choreographed singing.
- No more than three (3) acrobatic tricks. A tumbling and aerial sequence is not one trick. The number of acrobatic moves in the sequence will be counted independently.
- A one-mark deduction will be taken off the item's score for every trick taken after the first three counted.
- Tights must be worn with costume.
- There will be a penalty deduction if tights are not worn.

- 7.1 Solo
- 7.2 Duo/Trio/Quartet
- 7.3 Troupe

8. **LYRICAL:**

Is a THEATRICAL base genre.

Must convey the emotion of the song's lyrics through the choreography of the dance. Emotional expressions of the face and body are necessary to tell a story that evolves with the lyrics of the song chosen.

- Lyrical dance fuses modern, jazz & ballet in its choreography.
- The music chosen **MUST CONTAIN LYRICS**
- Tights must be worn.
- There will be a penalty deduction if tights are not worn.

- 8.1 Solo
- 8.2 Duo/Trio/Quartet
- 8.3 Troupe

9. **TAP**

Any style, technique, music and combinations of timing will be accepted.

- Tights must be worn
- There will be a penalty deduction if tights are not worn.

9.1 Solo

9.2 Duo/Trio/Quartet

9.3 Troupe

10. **SONG & DANCE:**

Any genre of dance or comedy may be used to present this section; however, it is not “Musical Theatre” and the singing segments and the dance segment of the Song & Dance routine should be evenly balanced and equally strong.

- NO voice over or backing vocals/lyrics can be used during the competitor’s own singing segment/s of their item.
- Tights must be worn
- There will be a penalty deduction if tights are not worn.

10.1 Solo

10.2 Duo/Trio/Quartet

10.3 Troupe

11. **MUSICAL THEATRE:**

Musical Theatre items are a piece from an actual stage or film musical. The piece presented should be authentically portrayed as per the musical/character(s) chosen. The performance may combine song, spoken dialogue, drama and acting. (Please note that timing for this section comes under the general genre time rules)

- No dancing
- No backing vocals
- Clothing/costume/props must suit character(s) being portrayed
- Please write character(s) name and musical in track title on music submission

11.1 Solo

11.2 Duo/Trio/Quartet

11.3 Troupe

12. **ACROBATIC:**

This section must contain Acrobatic tricks, (and/or contortion work), and dance element of equal strength. **TIGHTS MUST BE WORN.** There will be a penalty deduction if tights are not worn.

12.1 Solo

12.2 Duo/Trio/Quartet

12.3 Troupe

### 13. HIP-HOP

Hip-hop refers to street and funk dance containing a wide range of styles and, includes primarily breaking, locking and popping.

- Breaking (Break Dancing) is power moves and freezes that are more floor orientated
- Locking is freezing from a fast movement and 'locking' in a certain position, holding that position for a short while before continuing on at the same speed as before. It relies on fast and distinct arm and hand movements with more relaxed hips and legs and includes quite a lot of acrobatic skills and physically demanding moves.
- Popping is based on the technique of quickly contracting and relaxing muscles to cause a jerk in the dancer's body done to the rhythm of a song, for example a Robot.
- MUSIC Choose carefully. This is a student/family orientated festival. Lewd and inappropriate lyrics and extreme language will not be accepted.
- Tights to be worn at discretion of costume design

13.1 Solo

13.2 Duo/Trio/Quartet

13.3 Troupe

### 14. 6 YEARS AND UNDER CATEGORY:

There are restrictions on the number of dances candidates can participate in for this age group. The maximum of nine (9) items is the most any one child can compete in.

- One (1) Classical solo may be entered by each candidate
- One (1) Theatrical solo may be entered by each candidate
- One (1) Tap solo may be entered by each candidate
- One (1) Duo/Trio or Quartet Classical
- One (1) Duo/Trio or Quartet Theatrical
- One (1) Duo/Trio or Quartet Tap
- One (1) Classical ensemble
- One (1) Theatrical ensemble
- One (1) Tap ensemble

14.1 Classical solo – may include any form of Classical dance

14.2 Classical Duo/Trio/Quartet – any style

14.3 Classical ensemble – may include any style

14.4 Theatrical solo – may include any form of Jazz, Acrobatic, Song & Dance or Hip Hop

14.5 Theatrical Duo/Trio/Quartet – any style (except tap)

14.6 Theatrical Troupe – any style (except tap)

14.7 Tap solo

14.8 Tap Duo/Trio/Quartet

14.9 Tap ensemble

15. **IMPROVISATION:**

This section is entirely about musical interpretation – nothing else. No marks are allocated for costume trim, head pieces etc  
After listening once to the music set by the adjudicator, the candidate will then be required to perform an improvised routine showing their own interpretation of the music piece.

This section is not included in the allocation of aggregate points in the Festival.

**NO TEACHERS ARE PERMITTED TO ACCOMPANY ANY STUDENT OR BE PRESENT IN THE BACK/SIDE STAGE AREAS DURING THESE PERFORMANCES.**

**Classical** – Girls: plain class leotard, hair off face and in a bun, ballet tights, ballet pumps or pointe shoes.  
Boys: white dance singlet or fitted dance T-shirt, black tights, either black ballet pumps OR white ballet socks over tights with white pumps.

**Modern** – Girls: plain class leotard and jazz tights or fish nets OR  $\frac{3}{4}$  jazz pants or long leggings. Hair off face in a bun and Jazz shoes to be worn.  
Boys: dance singlet or fitted dance T-shirt, jazz pants and shoes.

**Tap** – Girls: the same as for Jazz OR a tap skirt or leotard. Tap shoes  
Boys: the same as for Jazz OR Formal dress shirt any colour and black trousers

**Lyrical/Contemporary**

Girls: plain class leotard, hair off face and in a bun, ballet tights, ballet pumps or pointe shoes.  
Boys: white dance singlet or fitted dance T-shirt, black tights, either black ballet pumps OR white ballet socks over tights with white pumps.

- No costumes to be worn
- No ornate head pieces are to be worn
- No costume jewellery is to be worn

**Intermediate** ..... 7 – 12 years of age

**Senior** ..... 13 years and over

**No underage entries will be accepted**

**Music** ..... Presented by the adjudicator prior to the section  
Maximum time of music piece 60 seconds

- All competitors in the section will wait in a designated room with no music feed and no teacher or parent contact
- No mobile phones are allowed in with the competitor
- The first competitor will listen to the music side stage and then perform whilst the next competitor listens to the music side stage etc

- After each candidate has performed, they will wait in the back stage area until the end of the section. All competitors will then go side stage for the adjudication

15.1 Classical (formal only – no other related genre)

15.2 Modern

15.3 Tap

15.4 Lyrical/Contemporary

**16. MATURE & MOTIVATED:**

Structured for adult performers who are in their senior years in age or, who have only started learning dance as an adult. Competitors who compete in this section cannot compete in any other section of the Festival, with the exception of the Production item. Choreography and costume design should be appropriate for general exhibition.

16.1 Solo, Duo/Trio/Quartet of any type of dance. This section will be danced all together in the one Item, however, at the Programme Co-ordinator's discretion, should sufficient entries be received, this Item will be divided into sections

16.2 Troupes and Ensembles .... Two different genre troupes may be entered by the same school with some of the same performers. However, should there be sufficient numbers to separate a section, then the event will be split over different dates/times. This ruling will only apply to the M&M section.

Teachers, please nominate on your entry form the style of dance your entry is. This will enable us to categorise the section if entries permit.

This section is not included in the allocation of aggregate points in the Festival

**17. SCHOLARSHIP SECTIONS:**

There are TWO age categories for both the Classical Scholarship and the Theatrical Scholarship:

JUNIOR SCHOLARSHIP BOTH CLASSICAL AND THEATRICAL:

9 – 13 years of age

SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP BOTH CLASSICAL AND THEATRICAL:

14 years and over

NOTE: In both classical sections of the scholarships, 'Repertoire' pieces may be performed within the existing rules of a TWO minute minimum and a THREE minute maximum timed routine and NO hand-held props.

All of the existing directives for participation in the Scholarships will apply to both Junior and Senior sections

These sections are open to students who want to advance their skills, knowledge and prospects of building a future career as a professional performer.

Therefore, this section is closed to any performer who has previously worked in a full time or part time capacity as a dancer with this being their main source of income.

A minimum of 6 (six) dancers must nominate in either the Classical or Theatrical Scholarship for the relevant section to be part of the Festival Programme. Should there be insufficient nominees in either section the students already entered will receive a full refund of any fees paid. Scholarship recipients receive a perpetual and keep sake trophy, certificate, flowers and a cheque covering the monetary prize. To qualify for any of the scholarship sections, entrants will be required to compete in the following:

#### CLASSICAL SCHOLARSHIP:

1. The candidate must compete in TWO (2) or more OPEN classical based solo sections of the festival. These sections will consist of a choice from the following:
  - i Classical
  - ii Neo Classical
  - iii Demi Character
  - iv National
  - v Contemporary
2. The dance performed in the Classical Scholarship section must be a Classical dance showing formal classical training and done to classical music.  
(It cannot be Neo Classical, Demi Character, National nor Contemporary)
3. Entrants must perform a solo not previously danced during the Festival (either by themselves or any other competitor)

#### COSTUME RULING:

- Girls: Costume must be a short tutu. The length of the top layer must reach and touch the wrists when arms are held in the demi seconde position. Knees and mid thighs must be well shown. Classical ballet tights and ballet pumps or pointe shoes must be worn. Hair off the face and in a bun
- Boys: Appropriate costume tunic with coordinating ballet tights and pumps.

#### THEATRICAL SCHOLARSHIP:

1. The candidate must compete in TWO (2) or more OPEN theatrical based solo sections of the festival.  
These sections will consist of a choice from the following:
  - i Modern (includes jazz, musical comedy & cabaret)
  - ii Lyrical
  - iii Tap

- iv Song & Dance
- v Acrobatic
- vi Hip Hop

The dance performed in the Theatrical Scholarship section cannot be a Song & Dance item. However, it can be a choice of all other theatrical based genre. Costuming must be appropriate to the routine.

Entrants must perform a solo not previously danced during the festival (either by themselves or any other competitor).

**Time for all of the scholarship routines, must be a minimum of two (2) minutes and a maximum of three (3) minutes, including curtsey and stage exit.**

In a show of courtesy to the Festival and the Adjudicator, all scholarship contenders must attend the Gala Night to await the announcement. If the winner of the scholarship is not present, the adjudicator will then be given permission to give the award to the seconder for the scholarship.

**18. DANCE ABILITY:**

This section is designed for people with special needs who love to dance! It is open age (no restrictions) and any genre may be performed. There will be one section:

**18.1 GROUP**

**This section is not included in the allocation of aggregate points in the Festival**

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Failure to comply with any of the aforementioned Mandurah Festival of Dance Rules and Conditions, will involve penalties such as disqualification or deduction of marks.

The decision of the committee in all questions or disputes arising out of, or not provided by these Rules and Conditions, shall be final.

Dushenka Moanaroa  
 Chairperson  
 For and on behalf of:  
The Committee  
MANDURAH FESTIVAL OF DANCE