

REGISTRATION

- Entries are accepted on a first come basis and are limited by the time restriction for each location.
- Studio directors determine the competition level of each dancer. Each routine's level is determined by the level of the dancers registered.
- All entries must register through a studio.

PERFORMANCE LEVELS

NOVICE- This level is for beginner dancers who train 1-3 hours per week. The Novice level is eligible for high score placement in the Novice level and Judge's Choice awards. Novice dancers may compete a maximum of 1 solo.

(example of Novice Skills - Single Pirouette, grand jetes/Acro Skills that require two hands to be placed on the ground/Walking and Moving, pivot turns/Flexibility such as front/side battements, Tap Steps such as shuffles, flaps, heel drops, that follow a consistent tempo and rhythm. This dancer demonstrates an overall understanding of their routine from choreography, musicality and technical steps but have not quite mastered those skills and can use more time improving in the classroom.

INTERMEDIATE - This level is for intermediate dancers who train LESS than 6 hours per week. The Intermediate level is eligible for adjudication awards, category placement, high score placement in the Intermediate level, Judge's Choice awards, and Triple Threat Titles. Intermediate dancers may compete a maximum of 3 solos. Example of Intermediate Skills- double pirouettes, connection turns, traveling jumps/Acro Skills that involve only one hand and aerial skills/Walking and Movement Patterns, Flexibility such as front, side and back battements illusions, developes, Tap Steps such as cramp rolls, tap turns, maxi fords, buffalos, single time steps,, steps that begin to demonstrate different rhythmic timing and involving weight changes. This dancer demonstrates an overall understanding of their routine from choreography, musicality and technical steps while displaying control of dancers body with minor inconsistencies in presentation of skills

ADVANCED - This Level is for advanced dancers who have extensive competition experience and training. Advanced level dancers train 6 hours or more per week. The Advanced level is eligible for adjudication awards, category placement, high score placement in the Advanced level, Judge's Choice awards, Triple Threat Titles and Entertainment Titles and Cash Awards. Advanced dancers may compete a maximum of 3 solos Example of Advanced Skills: multiple pirouettes, a la second turns, changing of spots/Leaps that include switching leg placement, tilt jumps, traveling leap sequences/Acro Skills such as multiple connected tumbling passes, execution of skills without use of hands, Flexibility such leg turns, /Tap Steps such as single/double pull backs, single wings, changing shuffles with clear and precise sounds.

TALENT UNLIMITED: This level is designed for dancers with special needs who want to showcase their love for dance in a welcoming and nurturing environment. The Talent Unlimited division will have it's own overall category and will still be eligible for special awards as well as judge's awards.

ROUTINE PLACEMENT

Routines with the exact same dancers must compete in the same age division and level.

Solos - Dancers must compete in the level they are registered.

Duet/Trios - The most advanced dancer determines the level of the routine.

Small and Large Groups - No more than 49% of the dancers may be from a higher level.

AGE DIVISIONS

Age Division is determined by average age of performers, Mini 4 - 6, Petite 7 - 9, Junior 10 -12, Teen 13 -15, Senior 16 -20. If the average age of the group is 15.9, the entry will compete in the 15 year old age division.

A performer's age is determined by their age as of January 1st, 2023.

Studio directors must be prepared to present birth certificates should a protest arise.

Routines may compete no more than 1 age division lower than the oldest dancer in the routine.

Example: Any entry with a dancer 16 years old, or older, may not compete in any age division lower than 13-15.

The age division of productions will be determined by the average age of all dancers.

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 routine including a teacher is not eligible for overall awards. A teacher is someone who choreographs or teaches class and is 20 years of age or older. Entries with teachers in them may perform for adjudication only. This does not apply to student teachers under 20.

DIVISIONS

Solo (1 performer)

Duet/Trio (2-3 performers)

Small Group (4-9 performers)

Large Group (10-19 performers)

Line (20 or more performers)

Mega Line (20 or more performers; routine utilizing scenic pieces for choreographic impact or conveying a recurring theme through music or story.)

TIME LIMITS

Solo	2:45 Minutes
Duet/Trio	2:45 Minutes
Small Group	3:00 Minutes
Large Group	3:00 Minutes
Line	5:00 Minutes
Mega Line	8:00 Minutes

PERFORMANCE
CATEGORIES

- Acro:** Routine containing acrobatic and gymnastic moves. Choreography must also contain 50% dance technique.
- Ballet:** Routine consisting of classical ballet movement and technique.
- Baton:** Routine using baton(s) and baton technique. Will be judged on both baton technique and dance moves, steps and choreography.
- Character:** Dancers must portray an easily recognizable character.
- Contemporary:** Routine consisting of contemporary jazz/lyrical technique.
- Contortion:** Included here is very wide display of flexibility involving extreme and dramatic bending, stretching, arching, and balancing of the human body. Extreme back-bends and front bending are demonstrated in this category. Judging criteria will focus on proper placement in chest stands, over splits, and contortion positions in elbow stands, handstands, etc... Contortion is most commonly combined with Acrobatic elements and gymnastics passes. It may be blended with some ballet like arms and gestures, however the focus must concentrate on Acro/Gymnastics and contortion technique.
- Circus Arts:** A performance featuring content originating from circus-based disciplines or acrobatics including but not limited to hand balancing, silks or other circus apparatus.
- Ethnic:** Routine containing folkloric choreography.
- Hip Hop:** Routine consisting of mostly hip hop or street style moves.
- Jazz:** Routine consisting of primarily jazz technique.
- Lip Sync:** A portrayal of a stereotype or impersonation through pantomime and costume; mimicking the voice in the music. Lip Syncing must be performed to all words in the song.
- Lyrical:** Routine should demonstrate balance, extension, isolations and control. Dancers should interpret the lyrics of a song.
- Modern:** A form of dance based on interpretation or other origins of dance, performed in an abstract or contemporary mode.
- Musical Theatre:** Routine choreographed to a song from a Broadway or movie musical.
- Open:** Routine consisting of more than one style of dance or that does not fit into any other category.
- Pointe:** Routine containing pointe technique. At least 50% of the performers must be on pointe. Category only available in the Intermediate and Advanced Levels.
- Pom Pon:** Any routine displaying precision marching and sharp choreography with the use of pom poms. Must utilize pom-poms for at least 50% of the routine.
- Production:** (Mega Line Division Only) A Routine that utilizes multiple dance genres for choreographic impact or conveys a recurring theme through music or story.
- Street Jazz/Funk:** Sub-genre blending elements of funk, hip-hop, and classical jazz. Often emphasizes the down beat, isolations, and angular movement. Choreography utilizes a more commercialized mindset with less strictness to the classic origins of jazz and hip-hop.
- Student Choreography:** Any routine that has been choreographed by a dance student who is under 20 years of age.
- Tap:** Routine consisting of tap technique. No prerecorded tap sounds allowed.
- Vocal Open :** Routine containing Vocal presentation showing musical range, pitch, style and timing. Song needs to be performed in concert style. One handheld, wireless microphone is provided by True Talent. No dancing required.
- Vocal Pop:** Routine containing Vocal presentation showing musical range, pitch, style and timing. Song needs to be performed in concert style. One handheld, wireless microphone is provided by True Talent. No dancing required.
- Vocal Showtune:** Routine can be any type of Vocal presentation showing musical range, pitch, style and timing. Song needs to be from a movie or Broadway show. One handheld, wireless microphone is provided by True Talent. No dancing required.
- Monologue:** a spoken passage from a show or written work. Can be comedic, dramatic, or any style. One handheld, wireless microphone is provided by True Talent. No dancing required.

Only 3 acrobatic tricks are permitted in any dance category except Acro, Contortion, Circus Arts, Character, Open, Hip Hop and Production.

Acrobatic tricks are defined as movements learned in an acrobatic class such as cartwheel, walkovers, headsprings or any trick that goes over the head. A tumbling pass/synchronized tumbling pass (for example, roundoff back handspring) counts as one acrobatic trick.. The only exceptions to this are forward, backward, shoulder rolls and handstands.

Soloists may not compete against themselves in the same performance category.

In a duet/trio. or group routine 50% of the performers must be different when competing in the same age and

JUDGING GUIDELINES

- Every performance will be critiqued according to the competition level, age, and category by a panel of 3 judges.
- Each judge will use a 100 point scale and will consider Technique, Difficulty, Execution, Choreography, Showmanship, and Overall Effect.
- Performers who exit the stage prior to the end of their performance will not receive a score if the judges do not feel enough of the routine was completed. The performance is eligible to perform again for adjudication only.(this does NOT include music malfunction or costume malfunction)
- Judges will also take into consideration whether routines are age appropriate and placed in the correct performance level.

Dancers placed incorrectly will be moved up to the appropriate level regardless of whether the overall has already been given.

- The decisions of the judges are final. Each judge will give a verbal critique for every entry.
- All entries will receive a True Platinum, Platinum, High Gold, or Gold.
- HOW DO LIVE CRITIQUES WORK?
- The dancers are asked to stay on stage following their solo and Duet/Trios. One of our professional judges will provide live feedback over the microphone to the dancers. All feedback will be presented in a very positive, inspiring and constructive manner. This format allows for an educational experience where the dancers are able to apply their critiques immediately to their next routines with the purpose of improving as the day goes on. Note: the feedback given to the dancers will pertain only to what the dancers have control of ex: technique, execution, stage presence etc.

Adjudication

True Platinum	295 - 300
Platinum	283 - 294.9
High Gold	271 - 282.9
Gold	270.9 & Below

Extended time is available for purchase. Solos, duets, trios, small groups, and large groups may be extended by 1 minute. Lines and Productions may be extended by a maximum of 5 minutes.

AWARDS

Adjudication & Ordinal

- Every entry will receive an adjudication pin and receive ordinal placement 1-3 Trophy and 4-10th medal.
- Dancers in duet/trios or groups will receive an adjudication card, and ordinal trophies or medals
- Entries must compete prior to their awards ceremony to be eligible for High Score Awards.
- High Score Awards will be given in each competition level, age and size division.
- Soloists and duet/trios with identical dancers may only place with their highest scoring routine.
- Top 3, Top 5 and Top 10 will be awarded based on number of entries per age, size and division.
- Vocal routines are not eligible for high score awards unless there are 3 or more in the division. If there are 3 or more, a vocal overall will be awarded.
- Title Awards: Every Advanced soloist is entered into the Title competition. Miss True Talent and Mr. True Talent. Winners will receive a crown/hat and t-shirt. Title Winners are judges choice and are not based on adjudicated score.
- Special Awards: Given at each awards ceremony at the discretion of the judges and competition directors.
- Photogenic Award: Studio Owners should submit a 8x10 color or black and white photo with name, age, and studio name on the back. The photogenic award will be given during the last group awards ceremony of the event. Photos will be returned in the packets picked up by the studio director at the end of the competition.
- Triple Threat Titles: Three entries, with the same dancers in 3 different categories. (example Mary & Lacy perform 3 duos -ballet, tap & open) This award is determined by combining all three scores. The highest combined score will be crowned a Triple Threat! Intermediate & Advanced dancers in the Petite, Junior, Teen and Senior age divisions are eligible. If you win the Triple Threat Title you are not eligible for the Mr or Miss Title.
- Double Take Regional Nominee: Awarded to the Most Entertaining Routine of the regional competition. All Regional Nominees will be showcased on social media at the completion of the season . The Junior and Senior dances with the most "likes" will be invited to Nationals for an ENCORE PERFORMANCE!
- Dancers are only eligible to win one title at a regional competition.

High Score Cash Awards

	NOVICE	INTERMEDIATE	ADVANCED
Solo	\$50 True Bucks	\$50 True Bucks	\$50
Duet/Trio	\$50 True Bucks	\$50 True Bucks	\$50
Small Group	\$75 True Bucks	\$75 True Bucks	\$75
Large Group	\$100 True Bucks	\$100 True Bucks	\$100
Production	\$125 True Bucks	\$125 True Bucks	\$125

- All true bucks/cash prizes will be awarded to the studio.
- True Bucks will be given to the first place High Score Award winners in the Novice and Intermediate Divisions when there are 5 or more routines entered in that age and size.
- Cash awards will be given to the first place High Score Award winners in the Advanced Division when there are 5 or more in that age and size.

PROPS

- Props must be set up and removed within 3 minutes, productions may use 5 minutes. If your routine/prop includes anything that will litter the stage, studio representatives must be prepared to clean the stage in less than 2 minutes.
- No dangerous props may be used. True Talent reserves the right to veto a prop.
- No baby powder, liquid, hairspray, paint, glitter, or anything that could leave a residue on the stage, may be used.

No material under 1/2 an inch may be used.

Use of any illegal prop will result in a 5-point deduction. Studio Directors will be notified when a dance is in violation of our rules.

NOTE: Due to health risks we do NOT allow fog/smoke machines or strobe lights to be used during any performances. True Talent reserves the right to limit prop size depending on facility requirements. Please contact our office with any specific prop questions.

MUSIC

All music must be uploaded at least 1 week prior to the event.

All music that has not been uploaded must be turned in at the Sound Booth at least 30 minutes prior to your studio's first routine. True Talent will accept Flash Drives, no IPODs or CDs 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: 016 Hairspray, 145 Yankee Doodle, 613 Red Wagon)

Please note that audio files are accepted in MP3 & M4A format only, up to 50 MB each. We recommend MP3 format.

Back up music must be provided on a flash drive and must be picked up on site.

True Talent cannot guarantee any of these items will be available to be mailed back to the studio after the competition. There will be a \$10 fee for any items that need to be shipped.

True Talent does not allow any additional microphones or equipment to be plugged into our sound system.

If the music stops for any reason, the dancers will be given the opportunity to re-perform without penalty.

Please note - True Talent will NOT tell dancers to stop performing, that decision is left to the teacher or dancer's discretion.

General Rules

- Only Studio Directors may question routines for rule infractions, however any protest must be made in writing to the competition director within 30 minutes of the performance.
- Deposit payments and competition fees are non-refundable.
- All contestants, teachers and parents attending a True Talent competition give permission for any photographs or videos taken during the competition to be used to promote future events.
- Except when there is a technical difficulty, any re-performance of a routine will be for adjudication only.
- ABSOLUTELY NO personal videography or photography is permitted during a performance. Failure to abide by these rules may result in disqualification. True Talent reserves the right to have anyone violating this rule removed from the facility.
- No food, snacks or beverages are allowed on stage. This includes all award ceremonies.
- There will be a \$50 fee for all checks returned by the bank.
- True Talent reserves the right to refuse the entry of any studio.
- Every dancer must have a signed release form.
- Only competitors, teachers, studio owners, and prop coordinators are allowed backstage. Studio Owners and teachers will be given backstage passes to identify themselves to True Talent team members. Prop crew must be accompanied by a teacher with a backstage pass.
- All competitors may only compete with one studio at an event and will be judged by a well-qualified panel of judges. All decisions are final.
- True Talent cannot enforce any plagiarism without proof of a piece of choreography being copy-written.
- True Talent and the host venue are not responsible for any lost personal property or injury during the event. By registering your dancer/child, you agree that True Talent and staff are not responsible for any lost property or injury during the event.
- True Talent reserves the right to cancel any events due to inclement weather, lack of registrations, or any other unforeseen circumstances. Registration fees will be refunded in this instance. True Talent reserves the right to change any event location, venue, or date. Registration fees will not be refunded in this instance.
- Failure to comply with these rules can result in point deductions or disqualification. It is the responsibility of the studio owner/teacher to review the rules and regulations with both the participants and their parents.