



Dear Studio Owners,

Enclosed you will find our 2021 National Championship information packet. We are thrilled that you are joining us at the Westin Boston Seaport District July 9th-15th, 2021.

While we anticipate maintaining many of our COVID-19 safety and cleaning policies for the health and well-being of our attendees, we are not planning to run our competition in studio block format. We are working diligently with our venue partners to create a path forward that abides by all state, local, and venue guidelines.

As it is an ever evolving landscape, we will be implementing and advertising these protocols as they become available from the State of Massachusetts as we approach July. We are looking forward to an exciting and safe experience for all.

We can't wait to see you in Boston. Let's dance!

Bobby DiNicola, Executive Director

Julie LaMancuso, Tour Director

REGISTERING FOR NATIONALS

Registration for the American Dance Awards 2021 National Championship is now LIVE on our website! You can copy over your entries from any regional ADA event. You can then make edits to them in your Nationals registration. Important: please do not edit your entries in the regional registration. **Registration must be completed by June 1st, and payment received in full by June 15th in order to be eligible for our National Championship. Dancer of the Year (DOTY) paperwork deadline is May 25th.**

Each age division of America's Dancer of the Year (title) has a separate event created, so please enter your Ultimate Challenge and Title Winners only in the appropriate event they qualified for. If the dancer qualified at a 2020 New Brunswick, NJ, Worcester, MA, Phoenix, AZ or a Canadian Dance Awards event, the dancer is still eligible but must compete in the age level of their current age as of January 1, 2021. If they have moved into the next age division, please contact us so we can approve and verify the move up. Please do not enter any National Championship solos in the Title registration, and please do not enter Title Contestants' entries in the National Championship registration - they are separate events in DanceBUG!

See below for more information on registering for America's Dancer of the Year.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP REGISTRATION FEE

This season, we are lowering our mandatory Registration Fee from \$125 to \$65. We want this fee to be feasible for families after this past season. Each registered student will pay a one time \$65 mandatory Registration Fee. This fee includes access to ALL convention classes, admission to the Video Awards Gala for dancer and two adults, and awesome discounts on merchandise and photo/video packages! **A full cash refund will be issued if COVID-19 restrictions do not allow us to have a Gala and/or convention classes.*

PROP LOAD IN

Please be aware that we can only accommodate free standing props. No rigging of any kind can be provided. **Any studio requiring a large prop delivery, must coordinate with the ADA Office to set up a time of arrival so we may alert the hotel staff.** If they are delivered in a box truck of any kind, it must be removed immediately from the dock after the props are unloaded. A designated prop storage area will be assigned.

ARRIVAL TO NATIONALS

Studio Owners should check in at the ADA Office on site to receive their Teacher Bags and all pertinent information for the week, any time on July 8th or 9th. You will receive copies of the Championship competition schedule, Dancer of the Year schedules, convention class bracelets, and more!

TEACHER MEET & GREET AND WELCOME PARTY

We would like to cordially invite all Studio Owners and their teachers to join us for a Meet & Greet on July 8th at 7pm, location TBA. This open Q&A session will address any last minute questions, additions, changes etc. It keeps the event organized and stress free. Also - come join the ADA Staff and your fellow attendees for a Welcome Cocktail Party on July 10th from 8pm on, location TBA. It will great evening of camaraderie and celebration. Please join us at both events!

OUTLINE OF EVENT SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

7/8 – Title Orientations, Adjudicated Classes, and Opening Number Rehearsals begin for America's Dancer of the Year (Junior, Teen and Senior DOTY)

7/9 – National Championship competition, America's Young Dancer of the Year

7/10 – National Championship competition

7/11 – National Championship competition

7/12 – National Championship competition, America's Junior Dancer of the Year, America's Teen Dancer of the Year

7/13 – 12 & Under Dance Off and Video Awards Gala!

7/14 – National Championship competition, America's Senior Dancer of the Year

7/15 – 13 & Over Dance Off and Video Awards Gala!

HOTEL ROOM BLOCK

Please see the link on the Nationals page of our website to secure a room at the Westin Boston Waterfront - rooms are going fast! We've secured a room rate \$199, and a flat rate for parking of \$25. All questions regarding booking are to go through the Westin directly.

AMERICA'S DANCER OF THE YEAR

Attached is some very Important Information and a Fact Sheet for all 2021 Dancer of the Year (DOTY) contestants. Please forward them to your eligible dancers, as the paperwork is due May 25th to Titles@AmericanDanceAwards.com. These documents can also be found on the America's Dancer of the Year page of our website, for easy download. ***This is open to dancers who received an Ultimate Challenge medallion or regional title jacket in 2020 or 2021.***

Congratulations!

On behalf of American Dance Awards, we offer our sincerest congratulations on being chosen to compete in our prestigious international title competition, *America's Dancer of the Year!*

We are excited to see you at our 2021 National Championships at the Westin Boston Seaport District. We know you will enjoy your experience learning an Opening Number from a respected and sought-after industry choreographer, participating in adjudicated classes in all genres, and making friendships to last a lifetime. Over the past 29 years, the most well-rounded dancers have been crowned with the highest honor at American Dance Awards. We look forward to your participation!

We would like to have the necessary information for all contestants as soon as possible. This will enable us to prepare for our National title competition. Please submit the enclosed form by email to Titles@AmericanDanceAwards.com, or you can mail a hard copy to P.O. BOX 971028 Boca Raton, FL 33497.

All contestants will submit **by email** a black & white vertical headshot with a **white background** (minimum 5x7", 1500x2100px, 300ppi). *We will not accept any hard copies of headshots by mail.* Please clearly label the email and photo file (Dancer's Name - DOTY Age Division - Studio). These pictures are used in our National Championship program and will be displayed in the lobby.

The deadline to submit all DOTY paperwork and headshots is May 25th. If your paperwork and headshot is not received timely, you will forfeit your spot and will not be eligible to participate. All headshots and forms can be emailed to Titles@AmericanDanceAwards.com. Please use this email address for all Title related correspondence.

Below you will find a brief overview of the Dancer of the Year schedule. Contestants must be present at their respective Orientations to participate, no exceptions. The Opening Numbers will be performed at their Title Competitions, and at the 12 & Under (July 13th - Junior DOTY) or 13 & Over (July 15th - Teen & Senior DOTY) Video Awards Galas!

2021 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR AMERICA'S DANCER OF THE YEAR Please plan your travel and arrival accordingly. No late arrivals are permitted.	Young DOTY Contestants	Orientation afternoon of July 9 th , Title Competition evening of July 9 th
	Junior DOTY Contestants	Orientation/Rehearsals/Classes morning of July 8 th , Title Competition afternoon of July 12 th
	Teen DOTY Contestants	Orientation/Rehearsals/Classes morning of July 8 th , Title Competition evening of July 12 th
	Senior DOTY Contestants	Orientation/Rehearsals/Classes morning of July 8 th , Title Competition evening of July 14 th



WINNER'S NAME _____

WINNER'S ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE/PROV. _____

ZIP/POSTAL CODE _____ PHONE _____

WINNER'S EMAIL _____

STUDIO NAME _____

STUDIO OWNER/CONTACT _____

STUDIO ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE/PROV. _____

ZIP/POSTAL CODE _____ PHONE _____

STUDIO EMAIL _____

WHAT CITY DID YOU WIN IN? PLEASE INCLUDE 2020/2021/VIDEO SUBMISSION _____

DATE OF BIRTH, AGE, AGE DIVISION (as of January 1st, 2021)

DOB ____/____/____ Age _____

Age Division (circle) Young 7-9 Junior 10-12 Teen 13-15 Senior 16-21

TITLE OF YOUR PERFORMANCE FOR NATIONALS _____

CHOREOGRAPHER _____

For Junior, Teen, and Senior DOTY only:

Leotard Size (female) _____ T-shirt Size (male) _____

PLEASE CIRCLE THE CLASSES YOU WISH TO BE SCORED IN:

(Minimum 2 in addition to ballet, you may choose all)

BALLET (MANDATORY) JAZZ TAP MODERN ACROBATICS

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Studio Owner/Teacher Signature _____ Date _____

FEES: YOUNG DANCER: \$200.00 JUNIOR, TEEN, SENIOR DANCER OF THE YEAR: \$275.00

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING DANCER OF THE YEAR

If we are a Junior, Teen or Senior DOTY contestant, do we have to arrive by 10:00am on July 8th?

Yes, there are no exceptions to the arrival time. If contestants are not in attendance by 10:00am on July 8th they are not eligible to compete in DOTY.

Are parents and teachers allowed to attend orientation?

We encourage all parents and teachers to attend orientation. This is when we review all responsibilities, schedules and activities for the contestants.

What takes place at the orientation?

Dancers have the chance to meet the ADA Staff, Title Coordinator, Opening Number choreographer, and their fellow contestants. Opening Number costumes, class schedules, video introduction schedules and more will be distributed. Commitments will be gone over with dancers, their parents and teachers. Open question and answer session. Following orientation, contestants will go right into closed rehearsals or adjudicated classes.

Are parents and teachers allowed to observe rehearsals and adjudicated classes?

No, all rehearsals and title classes are closed.

How do you schedule rehearsals?

The first day will be long. Junior, Teen and Dancer contestants should not make any plans for July 8th. They will have breaks, but should expect a full day. In the days following, rehearsals and/or judged classes will be scheduled for a few hours each day until each title competition takes place. We try to schedule rehearsals when dancers are not involved in regular competition. If there is a conflict, you may talk to your choreographer to compete at your scheduled time. Competition takes precedence over Opening Number rehearsal, but Judged Classes, however, take priority and you will be able to hold or move your performance without penalty.

What are the adjudicated classes?

In an effort to choose the most well-rounded technical dancer for each title, ADA presents audition classes for each age group of contestants. The title judges will score each dancer in class. These scores are added to the performance score to determine the winners (see below for details). Ballet (*mandatory*), tap, jazz, modern & acro classes are offered in each age level. Contestants are required to participate in at least 3, but may choose 4 or all 5 classes. There will be high score class awards presented at each competition. It is recommended dancers take as many classes as possible.

What is the dress code for adjudicated classes?

Female contestants: Black leotard. Ballet: pink tights. Jazz, Modern, Tap, Acro: Black dance shorts, black tights or tan tights. No leggings, baggy shorts, bra tops or sports bras. Audition ready appearance.

Male contestants: Black or white tank top or form fitting t-shirt. Black dance tights, shorts, or pants. Audition ready appearance.

How does judging work for title?

Our title panel consists of 5 judges, with the high score and the low score dropped in tabulation. Each judges' class score is out of 15 points, for a total possible point value of 45 - top 2 scores and the mandatory ballet score from each judge. The talent score will be out of 100 points from each judge.

Can you tell me about the video introduction?

Between July 8th and the actual title competition, each age level (Junior, Teen & Senior) will be part of a special video recording session with our production team, where they create an introduction to be played before their solo performance! Contestants will state their name, hometown and state, the type of dance they will perform and a little extra personal message of their choice. Dancers are not to mention the name of their studio, teachers, or choreographers. The videographer takes a head and shoulder shot of each contestant. Attire for the videotaping is whatever the dancer feels comfortable in, but **absolutely no green can be worn**. Hair and makeup may be worn however they choose. Total introduction is 10-15 seconds.

When will the Opening Number be performed?

The opening number will open each title competition. The Junior Dancer of the Year contestants will perform their opening number at the 12 & under Video Awards Gala on the evening of July 13th. The Teen & Dancer of the Year Contestants will perform their opening number at the 13 & over Video Awards Gala on the night of July 15th. All contestants are encouraged to stay through to their respective galas to perform again.

What do contestants wear for the Opening Number?

All participants will receive an email from the ADA Titles Team with details on any shoes, tights, or pieces from home that need to be brought. Dancewear will be provided for the base of the contestants costume, and it is yours to keep!

- Young DOTY contestants will be scored in Performance only. There are no adjudicated classes or opening number choreography.
- Contestants may not compete their solo from the title competition at any other time during the National Championships. Different solos will be accepted for the National Championship competition, without regional pre-qualification.
- Contestants may compete any solo they choose for the America's Dancer of the Year competition, it does not have to be the one they regionally won with.

Any questions regarding the competition for America's Dancer of the Year can be directed to Titles@AmericanDanceAwards.com. All paperwork is due by May 25th, no exceptions.

THE DANCE OFF

The top scoring entries from each category (Solo, Duo/Trio, Small Group, Large Group, etc.) in each room (team) of competition will perform once again in the exciting National Championship Dance Off! Dance Off participants are determined by the performance score only from the National Championship Competition. High score entries in each category are announced at the Video Awards Gala! It is a night not to be missed. Gala tickets for two adults and one dancer are included in each dancers' registration fee.

9 & Under Dance Off

The top 3 Solos, and the top 10 Duo-Production entries from each team compete in the Dance Off for a \$1,000.00 Cash Scholarship - the Rosemarie Boyden Memorial Award.

12 & Under Dance Off

The top 5 highest scoring entries from each category (solo, duo/trio, small group, large group, etc.) from each team of competition will compete in the Dance Off.

13 & Over Dance Off

The top 7 highest scoring entries from each category (solo, duo/trio, small group, large group, etc.) from each team of competition will compete in the Dance Off.

Dance-Off Regulations

- No soloist will perform more than once in the Dance Off. Duos cannot be the same dancers.
- NEW FOR 2021: No studio is allowed more than 2 entries in any one category, with the exception of soloists.
- Cash award winners are determined by their Dance Off performance.
- The number of routines entered into the Dance Off from each room is contingent on the number of entries total.
- The Dance Off will be judged by the Dance Off and Title Panel.

THE ELITE SIX

From the Dance-Off entries, the Elite Six is chosen (in both 12 & Under and 13 & Over) to re-compete at our Video Awards Gala! The top 6 highest scoring Duo-Production entries and top 6 highest scoring Solos will be announced immediately following the Dance Off. They will then dance again for a packed Video Awards Gala audience. Making the Elite Six is HUGE – it means you are the top 6 out of thousands of performances!

The Elite Six is tabulated **LIVE** for the audience by use of a skating system. Each judge holds up a card with a number on it (1-6) for how they rank each entry! The winner is determined by a majority of 1's or a majority of the lowest numbers, based on the skating system. This tabulation method is not only exciting and exhilarating, but it is also completely transparent for the performers and the audience!

ELITE SIX SOLOS (IN 12 & UNDER AND 13 & OVER) CASH SCHOLARSHIPS

1st Place: \$300.00 Scholarship

2nd Place: \$200.00 Scholarship

3rd Place: \$100.00 Scholarship

ELITE SIX GROUPS (IN 12 & UNDER AND 13 & OVER) CASH SCHOLARSHIPS

12 & Under Winner - *The George Lon Memorial Award*

13 & Over - *The Gloria Jean Cuming Award of Excellence*

1st Place: \$5,000.00 Scholarship

2nd Place: \$3,000.00 Scholarship

3rd Place: \$2,000.00 Scholarship

4th, 5th, 6th place: \$500.00 Scholarship

AMERICA'S ULTIMATE STUDIO

Recognizing versatility in the training of your dancers!

At American Dance Awards, we value the wide range of quality dance education offered to your students. Many schools strive to create a well-rounded program, and we feel that should be rewarded! Each year at our National Championship, one studio will win a \$1,000 cash prize and be named America's Ultimate Studio.

TO QUALIFY, YOUR STUDIO MUST HAVE AT LEAST ONE ENTRY IN EACH OF THE FOLLOWING 10 CATEGORIES:

12 & Under

Tap

Jazz

Ballet

Contemporary or Lyrical or Modern

Hip-Hop or Musical Theatre or Acro

13 & Over

Tap

Jazz

Ballet

Contemporary or Lyrical or Modern

Hip-Hop or Musical Theatre or Acro

At Nationals, you will nominate the 10 (ten) routines from these prerequisite entries that you would like to go toward your composite score (using scores from the National Championship competition). You may only denote 1 (one) from each age and genre to be considered. For example, you will not have multiple 13 & Over Contemporary scores factoring in. You will denote which routines you will enter through our Ultimate Studio Nomination Form. This must be submitted prior to the start of National Championship competition.

The top 5 studio nominees will be announced prior to the 13 & over Dance-Off, with America's Ultimate Studio being awarded at the 13 & Over Gala!

Rules and Regulations regarding Ultimate Studio:

- Solo/Duo/Trio entries are not eligible, nominated routines must be Small Group – Production.
- There is NO EXTRA CHARGE to be considered for America's Ultimate Studio.
- Routines do not have to make the Dance-Off to be eligible. There are no additional performances needed, as your scores are compiled from the National Championship competition.
- Of the 10 entries, 5 must be choreographed by a weekly, in-house choreographer. We appreciate your adherence to this guideline.
- Please make sure nominated routines are in the appropriate subjects. Routines entered incorrectly may be disqualified at the sole discretion of the ADA judging panel and Directors.
- A studio that wins must wait 2 years to be considered for America's Ultimate Studio again.

GEORGE LON ESSAY CONTEST

Our friend George Lon was everyone's friend. He inspired dancers of all ages through his thoughtful and creative Special Awards. His way with words made a lasting impression to all who received them. All registered competitors are welcome to submit a 250 word or less essay for 2021 George Lon Essay Contest. The winners in both 12 & Under and 13 & Over will read their winning submission at the Gala!

2021 ESSAY TOPIC “Who inspires me to dance?” Please email your essays to Julie LaMancuso at Julie@AmericanDanceAwards.com by June 15th to be eligible. Winners will be announced at the Gala and invited on stage!

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RULES & REGULATIONS

Upon entering the American Dance Awards or the Canadian Dance Awards, it is agreed that all students, parents, relatives and teachers will not hold the American Dance Awards, Canadian Dance Awards, staff, directors, or the host facilities responsible for any injury or loss of property during the event.

Studios are responsible for distributing the following rules to all participating families:

1. NO CAMERAS OF ANY TYPE WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE DRESSING AREAS OR BALLROOM. Anyone concealing a camera and asked more than once to remove it from the dressing areas or auditorium will result in removal from the auditorium and/or disqualification of their school.
2. Parents are not to contact the ADA office via phone or email. All inquiries will be made through their participating studios, for clarity and efficiency of communication.
3. Upon entering any American Dance Awards LLC sponsored event, it is agreed that all students, parents, relatives and teachers will not hold American Dance Awards LLC, it's staff/directors or the host facilities responsible for any injury or loss of property during the event.
4. There is no limit to the number of entries a studio or dancer may submit, with the following exceptions: Soloists may not compete in the same subject more than once. If they have a second solo in the same subject, it must enter as Non-Competitive. No soloist will compete more than three (3) solos in any single event. Duo-Class entries will not compete against themselves in the same subject, unless 50% of the group changes. A second Duo-Class in the same subject may be entered as Non-Competitive or in an age level above. Production entries may have the same dancers and compete more than once in the same category.
5. Age appropriate music, choreography and costumes will be utilized. All entries must be considered family entertainment. Any entry not considered family entertainment will be penalized and or disqualified at the sole discretion of the ADA judging panel/directors.
6. All studios will abide by the Music Policies and time limits as listed on our website.
7. All entries will check in with the Stage Manager at least five (5) numbers prior to their scheduled performance. ADA does not hold entries unless previously arranged by Studio Owner/Teacher with the Stage Manager.
8. The results of a competition are final. No teacher, student or parent will question the judging panel or Directors.

9. All parents, teachers and students will hold the art of dance in the highest regard. There will be no derogatory statements concerning another studio or fellow dancer at any time. ADA is a supportive and encouraging environment.
10. Any teacher, parent or student walking in front of the judges' table during a performance will be disqualified and asked to leave the event.
11. All dancers will graciously accept and say thank you when presented with an award.
12. Any studio, dancer or parent that abuses the dressing area will be disqualified and/or asked to leave the event. Each studio and participant will be responsible for the complete clean up of their dressing areas.
13. There will be no coaching from the wings or audience.
14. All participants accept the manner and method of judging set forth by the directors. The directors have the right to change the manner or method at any time they deem necessary. The directors reserve the right to add high score awards when they deem necessary.
15. There will be no claiming of an area for changing or private warm-up. Dressing rooms are shared space.
16. Dancers will not sit on the floor in the vicinity of the judge's tables in any auditorium.
17. With the exception of the judges and staff, there will be no food or drink allowed in the auditorium.
18. There will be no spray painting of props/shoes in the building or parking lot.
19. Any dancers that are 13 & Over and leave the stage during a performance are not eligible for a medal standing.
20. Soloists will be divided into male and female categories, and by exact age.
21. There will be no use of knives, swords, or other dangerous items/props.
22. Props are allowed, but must be free standing. If there is any "litter" on the stage after a performance, a crew must be ready for clean-up immediately following the performance. Rehearse setting props – they must be set up & removed as quickly as possible. Make sure there are enough people setting the scene to insure it is done as fast as possible. No person setting props will wear a studio jacket, shirt, or logo. Dancers should not set props.
23. If a judge feels an entry is not in the correct subject (jazz, lyrical, modern, etc.), the entry will not be penalized. When awards are presented, the host will announce the style or subject the entry was adjudicated as. If the entry is entered in the ADA National Championships, the entry must be entered in the category in which it was adjudicated at the regional event.
24. All participants give their permission for any photograph or video taken of them by American Dance Awards LLC to be used in promotion. This includes ads, television, sales videos, website, social media, newsletters, brochures and any other form of marketing both print and digital on behalf of American Dance Awards LLC.