



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING *Dancer of the Year*

If we are a Junior, Teen or Senior DOTY contestant, do we have to arrive by June 29th?

Yes, there are no exceptions to the arrival time. If contestants are not in attendance by their Orientations on June 29th, they are not eligible to compete in DOTY.

What is on the schedule for Young DOTY contestants?

Young DOTY contestants will be scored in Performance only - their only commitments are their Orientation and their Title Competition. There are no adjudicated classes or Opening Number choreography. Rather than doing a video introduction, they will get to introduce themselves live on stage, saying their Contestant #, Name, Age, Hometown, Title of Solo, and a brief thank you. They may not say the name of their studio, teachers, or choreographer. They can practice this beforehand and we will also rehearse at their Orientation.

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. Commitments will be gone over with dancers, their parents and teachers. Following Orientation, Junior/Teen/Senior 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 two days will be long. Junior, Teen and Senior contestants should not make any plans for their first two days (June 29th & June 30th). They will have breaks, but should expect full days. In the days following, Opening Number brush-up rehearsals MAY be scheduled until each title competition takes place. These rehearsals are mandatory, however the Nationals Competition schedule takes precedence over Opening Number rehearsals. If you have a conflict during the rehearsal, you may let your choreographer know that a teacher will be calling you out of rehearsal in order to compete and you may return when your performance is finished. There will also be an Opening Number blocking/dress rehearsal scheduled for each age division on the stage.

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 (Junior, Teen, and Senior) of contestants. This is separate from the convention classes offered to all National Championship competitors. Each class is 90 minutes long and dancers must take all 4 classes (Ballet, Tap, Jazz, and Contemporary/Lyrical). The Title judges will score each dancer in each class. These scores are added to the performance score to determine the winners (see below for details). There will be high score class awards presented at each competition. All classes are mandatory.

What is the dress code for adjudicated classes?

Female contestants: Black leotard. Ballet: pink tights. Jazz, Tap, Contemporary/Lyrical: Black dance shorts, black tights or tan tights. NO leggings, baggy shorts, bra tops, sports bras or cropped tops. 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 DOTY?

Our title panel consists of 5 scoring judges, with the highest score and the lowest score dropped in tabulation. Each judges' class score is out of 15 points, for a total possible combined class score of 45 from each judge - your Ballet class score added together with your top 2 class scores. The solo performance score will be out of 100 points from each judge. In addition to announcing class winners, we will also award a Top 10 for Young DOTY and a Top 20 for Junior, Teen, and Senior DOTY.

Can you tell me about the Video Introduction?

Between June 29th and the night of their 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 also perform their Opening Number at the 12 & Under Gala on the evening of July 5th. The Teen & Senior Dancer of the Year Contestants will also perform their Opening Number at the 13 & Over Gala on the night of July 7th. All contestants are absolutely encouraged to stay through to their respective galas to perform again.

What do contestants wear for the Opening Number?

We allow contestants to bring their own costume according to their choreographer's guidelines. These can all be items brought from home, please do not feel pressure to go out and purchase anything new specifically for Opening Number. You are welcome to bring multiple options to show your choreographer. Please make sure you can dance/move freely in all options! We will share guidelines from choreographers for each age division in the weeks leading up to Nationals.

What are the "Contestant Introductions" before the Audition Classes?

JUNIOR/TEEN/SENIOR DOTY Contestants will introduce themselves to the judging panel one at a time with their name and age, followed by 15-20 seconds of dancing (32 counts) in a style of their choice to our music - can be jazz, tap, tumbling, contortion, hip-hop, ballroom...you name it! This allows the panel to see their personality and individual strengths. It is very helpful for the judges to put a face and a name to each contestant number prior to the first audition class. We will announce the songs that will be used for each age division prior to your arrival in Providence.

Additional Reminders:

- 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 one they regionally competed or won with.
- DOTY contestants are not exempt from the National Championship registration fee. This is also how they access convention classes and gala tickets.
- All DOTY schedules are subject to change. Any changes will be communicated via the BAND app.

Any questions from studio owners regarding the competition for America's Dancer of the Year can be sent to Hannah@americandanceawards.com. Please note that ADA does not communicate with parents directly.