



2017-18 USASF Dance Divisions & Categories

USASF CATEGORIES

JAZZ

A jazz routine encompasses traditional or stylized hard-hitting, crisp and/or aggressive approach to movement and can include moments of softness while complementing musicality. Emphasis is placed on body alignment, extension, control, uniformity, communication and technical skills.

POM

A Pom routine contains important characteristics such as strong pom technique (clean, precise and sharp motions), synchronization, visual effects and may incorporate Pom Elements (i.e. pom passes, jump sequences, leaps/turns, kick lines, etc). Poms must be used 80% of the routine.

HIP HOP

A Hip Hop routine can incorporate any street style movement with an emphasis on execution, style, creativity, body isolations and control, rhythm, uniformity and musical interpretation.

CONTEMPORARY/LYRICAL

A contemporary or lyrical routine uses organic, pedestrian and/or traditional modern or ballet vocabulary as it complements the lyric and/or rhythmic value of the music. Emphasis is placed on control, sustained, expressive movement, body placement, contraction/release, use of breath, uniformity, communication and technical skills.

KICK

A kick routine emphasizes control, height uniformity, extension, toe points, timing and creativity of a variety of kick series and patterns. A kick is defined as one foot remaining on the floor while the other foot lifts with force. Kicks and kick series must comprise 80% of the routine.

VARIETY

A Variety routine must incorporate a blend of at least two or more dance styles listed in the USASF Categories. (Jazz, Pom, Hip Hop, Contemporary/Lyrical and/or Kick) All styles will compete together in this category. The style of dance performed will determine which "category" rules a team will follow in the appropriate age division.

PREP

The Prep **designation** is offered for emerging teams and dancers. All Category styles in each Age Division will compete together in Prep (Prep Jazz, Prep Pom, Prep Hip Hop, Prep Contemporary/Lyrical, Prep Kick and/or Prep Variety), or may be split when the Splitting Rule for Prep applies. (See "Combining and Splitting," below. Also see "Crossovers," below, for rules about participating on Prep and Non-Prep teams within the same style.)

For a list of the Divisions and Categories that will be offered at The 2018 Dance World Championship, please visit www.usasf.net

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PRIMARY AGE DIVISIONS

Note: Divisions are listed by 1) Age 2) Team Size, then 3) Gender. The appropriate Routine Style Category (Jazz, Pom, etc.) will then be added to the end of the Division name.

Division	Age	Team Size	Gender
Tiny	6 years & younger	4 or more dancers	N/A
Mini Small	9 years & younger	4 - 14 dancers	0 males
Mini Large	9 years & younger	15 or more dancers	0 males
Mini Coed	9 years & younger	4 or more dancers	male(s) and female(s)
Mini Male	9 years & younger	4 or more dancers	0 females
Youth Small	12 years & younger	4 - 14 dancers	0 males
Youth Large	12 years & younger	15 or more dancers	0 males
Youth Coed	12 years & younger	4 or more dancers	male(s) and female(s)
Youth Male	12 years & younger	4 or more dancers	0 females
Junior Small	15 years & younger	4 - 14 dancers	0 males
Junior Large	15 years & younger	15 or more dancers	0 males
Junior Coed	15 years & younger	4 or more dancers	male(s) and female(s)
Junior Male	15 years & younger	4 or more dancers	0 females
Senior Small	18 years & younger	4 - 14 dancers	0 males
Senior Large	18 years & younger	15 or more dancers	0 males
Senior Small Coed	18 years & younger	4 - 14 dancers	male(s) and female(s)
Senior Large Coed	18 years & younger	15 or more dancers	male(s) and female(s)
Senior Male	18 years & younger	4 or more dancers	0 females
Open Small	14 years & older	4 - 14 dancers	0 males
Open Large	14 years & older	15 or more dancers	0 males
Open Small Coed	14 years & older	4 - 14 dancers	male(s) and female(s)
Open Large Coed	14 years & older	15 or more dancers	male(s) and female(s)
Open Male	14 years & older	4 or more dancers	0 females

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COMBINING and SPLITTING

Event Producers may not further combine or split All-Star categories and/or divisions by style, level, skill, age or ability, other than outlined below unless prior, written approval is received from the USASF.

1. Primary Age Divisions will be combined first by team size when applicable, then by gender. *(Clarification: Mini & Youth teams may first combine by gender and then size as long as a program is not forced to compete against itself)*
2. A "Dance" Category may be offered to combine categories (by Age Division) when fewer than three teams are registered in a Category. Specific rules apply. See below.
3. Prep Divisions/Categories may be split when there are three or more teams registered in a Category. Specific rules apply. See below.

1. Combining by Small and Large Team Size

If there are fewer than three teams in Small and/or Large in Mini, Youth, Junior, Senior and/or Open Divisions within the same Category, Small and Large divisions must be combined. *(Example: If there are two teams in Senior Small Pom and five teams in Senior Large Pom, Divisions will be combined into Senior Pom.)*

- a. Small and Large will **not** combine if it means that a program will compete against itself. *(Example: Senior Small Pom and Senior Large Pom teams from the same program will not be combined into one division that would cause them to compete against each other. If a program chooses to register two teams in the same Age, Team Size and Category (like Senior Small Pom), the teams will compete against each other.)*
- b. When there are 10 or more teams in any Small or Large division, event producers may further split that division by team size, provided a minimum of three teams remain in all resulting divisions.

2. Combining Age and Gender

If there is only one team registered in any **Mini, Youth**, Junior, Senior or Open Division within the same Category, Event Producers must combine (in this order), as long as a program is not forced to compete against itself:

- a. **Mini Coed with Mini Male, Youth Coed with Youth Male**, Jr Coed with Jr. Male, Sr. Coed with Sr. Male and Open Coed with Open Male
- b. **Mini with Mini Coed, Youth with Youth Coed**, Jr. with Jr. Coed, Sr. with Sr. Coed and Open with Open Coed
- c. **Mini with Mini Male, Youth with Youth Male**, Jr. with Jr. Male, Sr. with Sr. Male and Open with Open Male

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3. Combining Categories to Create A “Dance” Category

The Dance Category (formerly known as “Open”) may be offered to establish competition when fewer than three teams are registered in any Category within an Age Division. If combined, all Category styles (Jazz, Pom, Hip Hop, Contemporary/Lyrical, Kick or Variety), in each Division, (Tiny, Mini, Youth, Junior, Senior or Open), will compete together in this category. *(Example: When one team is registered in Junior Jazz and two teams are registered in Junior Pom, the event producer may combine Junior Jazz and Junior Pom to create Junior Dance.)*

Exceptions:

- Categories will not combine into Dance if there are three or more teams registered in a category. *(Example: If there are 3 teams in Junior Jazz, 2 in Junior Pom, 2 in Junior Hip Hop and 1 in Junior Kick, the event producer will combine the Pom, Hip Hop and Kick teams into the Junior Dance Division/Category and will leave Junior Jazz as a separate Division/Category).* Note: There should always be more than one team in the Dance category.
- Categories and Divisions will not combine into Dance if it means that a program will compete against itself. *(Example: Junior Jazz and Junior Pom teams from the same program will not be combined into one division that would cause them to compete against each other. If a program chooses to register two teams in the same Age, Team Size and Category, the teams will compete against each other.)*
- The “Dance” category is not a Worlds Bid category.

4. Splitting Tiny:

All performances, regardless of style, in these division categories will be judged against each other unless one of the splitting rules applies. Then, Event Producers will split Tiny into separate Categories (Jazz, Pom, Hip Hop, etc.), if:

- There are two teams from the same program registered in the same Age Division. *(Example: Tiny Jazz and Tiny Pom teams from the same program will not compete against each other. However, if a program chooses to register two teams in the same Age, Team Size and Category, the teams will compete against each other.)*
- Event Producers must split Tiny Divisions within the same category into Small and Large (as outlined in grid) if there are 10 or more teams in the division before the split occurs. There must be at least 3 teams in each division once the split occurs
- There are three or more teams in the same Category, and at least two remaining performances in any one category including the “Dance” Category.

5. Splitting Prep:

All performances, regardless of style, in these division categories will be judged against each other unless one of the splitting rules applies. Then, Event Producers will split Prep into separate Categories (Prep Jazz, Prep Pom, Prep Hip Hop, Prep Contemporary/Lyrical, Prep Kick or Prep Variety) by Age Division if:

- There are two teams from the same program registered in the same Age Division. *(Example: Junior Prep Jazz and Junior Prep Pom teams from the same program will not*

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compete against each other. However, if a program chooses to register two teams in the same Age, Team Size and Category, the teams will compete against each other.)

- b. There are three or more teams in the same Category, and at least two remaining performances in any one category including the "Dance" Category.

AGE REQUIREMENTS:

(Age Requirements, Divisions and Categories for the 2018 Dance Worlds can be found at usasf.net and in The Dance Worlds Bid Packet.)

1. The Division (age) of a team is determined by the age of the oldest competitor.
2. Any team, from any country, may enter any USASF Division as long as they abide by the age requirements of that Division.

The age of the competitor as of August 31, 2017 will be the age used for competition purposes throughout the 2017-18 season for Tiny, Mini, Youth, Junior and Senior Age Divisions. **All USASF member athletes must be 3 years of age in order to participate.** *(Note: Junior teams that compete for a Bid to The Junior Dance Worlds will follow the age requirements outlined in the application process posted on USASF.net)*

For Open (International) Divisions, the eligible age for the athletes will be determined by the "calendar year of the competition" (Dec. 31 of the same year that the competition occurs) for its age cut off date. **Athletes that are not 14 on or before December 31, 2017 may not compete with an Open team before November 1, 2017.** A calendar year is considered January 1st – December 31st. The USASF recognizes the concern with fielding teams of a broad age range and highly recommends that individual programs be vigilant in monitoring participants of various ages on the same team and that, whenever possible, a team's composition is made up of participants of similar ages.

CROSSOVERS

1. Dancer(s) may compete in more than one division and/or category as long as they abide by the age requirements in all divisions in which they compete.
2. Prep
 - a. Dancer(s) may compete in both Prep and Non-Prep categories with the following limitations:
 - i. **They may not compete in routines in the same category. (i.e. Dancer(s) may not compete in Youth Hip Hop and Youth Prep Hip Hop)**
 - ii. **They may not compete in routines in the same category in a different age division. (i.e. Dancer(s) may not compete in Youth Prep Pom and Junior Pom)**
 - iii. **Jazz & Contemporary/Lyrical ONLY:**
Dancer(s) may not crossover and compete in Prep and Non-Prep performances in the Jazz & Contemporary/Lyrical categories. (i.e. Dancer(s) may not compete in Youth Prep Cont/Lyrical and Youth Jazz)
 - b. Dancer(s) may progress from a Prep to a Non-Prep Team in the same category style over time, but may not first compete on a Non-Prep team and later compete on a Prep team in the same style. *(Clarification: dancers may only move forward in levels of progression, not backward). (Exception: When only one team is registered in a Prep Division Category the team may move to the Non-Prep category at that event without breaking Crossover Rule 2b at future events.)*

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