



## USASF Dance Sanctioning Standards 2025-2026

All USASF member competition event producers who produce dance competitions must meet the following **minimum** standards for a competition, which includes All Star dance divisions and categories, to be sanctioned. The USASF Dance Sanctioning Compliance Committee will oversee all reported sanctioning non-compliance violations.

### 1. General Event Standards:

- A. A properly equipped EMT or athletic trainer is present and ready to handle emergencies.
- B. \$2,000,000 (Aggregate) in general liability insurance coverage.
- C. USASF dance rules, guidelines and policies must be followed and enforced.
- D. Only offer divisions, levels and categories from the approved USASF Age Grid and Levels and USASF Sanctioned Competition Classification Chart.
- E. Have at least one current season USASF Certified Dance Legality Official onsite at the Dance Worlds qualifying event.
- F. Team performance will not be scheduled earlier than 7:00 am and perform no later than 11:00 pm.
- G. Have a documented plan on-site in competition venues that outlines how to handle emergency situations. Event management staff must review the plan before producing an event. By signing the annual USASF Company Member Agreement, event producers will affirm such a plan is in place.
- H. Make best efforts to follow the USASF Recommended Standards for Judges & Scoring at USASF Sanctioned Competitions (below).
- I. All music played at sanctioned competitions must comply with applicable copyright law.
- J. All full-time employees of USASF Member Event Producers working at USASF Sanctioned Competitions will have background checks through the USASF member database or other screening provider chosen by the Event Producer.
- K. Communicate dressing area details to registered programs/teams one week prior to the competition. Providing PUBLIC bathrooms as the only changing area is not allowed.
- L. Make best efforts to schedule Tiny, Mini, and Youth dancers no closer than 30 minutes between routines when crossovers occur. NOTE: This only applies to USASF sanctioned dance performances (not solos, duets, or trios).
- M. Have an individual on site designated by Event Producer responsible for routine stoppage.

### 2. Official Event Warm-Up Area Standards:

- A. Provide at least one 42' x 42' vinyl dance floor (Marley, Roscoe, Harlequin, or similar) over a floating wood floor or sport court (Vinyl dance floors **MAY NOT** be laid directly on concrete). The floor may be laid from front to back (like Worlds) or side to side, put together with gaffer's tape or equivalent.
- B. Provide information regarding warm-up room surface at the time of registration (before payment).
- C. Bare concrete, grass, and/or uneven surfaces are not allowed.
- D. If warm-up areas are outdoors, provide suitable foul-weather alternatives.
- E. Provide a method of cleaning warm-up area surfaces of bodily fluids, dust and debris from prior performances.
- F. Consider providing additional stretching areas for teams to utilize for skills and routine run-throughs before using the warm-up area.



- G. If more than one full-size vinyl dance floor (42' x 42') is not provided as part of the warm-up rotation, a strip of vinyl dance floor surface must be provided for dancers to warm up technical skills.
- H. Backstage time between a team completing warm-ups and taking the competition floor should be no sooner than 8 minutes and no longer than 30 minutes. NOTE: Teams delayed performing after 30 minutes should have the opportunity to warm up again or be given an area to rewarm up their muscles.

### **3. Event Performance Area Standards:**

- A. Provide industry-recommended performance floor: A vinyl dance floor that includes a minimum of a 42" X 42" Marley, Roscoe, Harlequin (or similar) floor over a floating wood floor or sport court. Vinyl strips may be laid from front to back (like Worlds) or side to side put together with gaffer's tape or equivalent.
  - a. Vinyl dance floors and similar floors all range in strip/panel size. Teams should check with the Event Producer for specifics being offered at their events.
  - b. The Dance Worlds performance floor surface will be a Marley floor. There will be a center line from the front of the floor to the back.
- B. Bare concrete, grass, and/or uneven surfaces are not allowed.
- C. An unobstructed ceiling height of 15 feet over the performance floor must be provided.
- D. If performance areas are outdoors, provide suitable foul-weather alternatives.
- E. Provide a method of cleaning performance area surfaces of bodily fluids, dust and debris from prior performances.

### **4. Disclosures:**

- A. Any minimum standards that are not met in the Warm-Up and/or Performance Area must be disclosed to all competitors no later than at the point of registration (i.e. before payment is received).

## **GOLD STAR COMPETITION MINIMUM STANDARDS**

Gold Star Competitions are those that exceed the USASF Dance Minimum Sanctioning Standards.

### **1. Performance Area Standards:**

- A. Are the same or exceed the USASF Dance Minimum Sanctioning Standards.
- B. Notice of Disclosure (item 4) is not applicable.

### **2. Dance Panel Judging Standards:**

- A. Assign one USASF Dance Certified Legality Official to each panel of scoring judges.
- B. At least two scoring judges with a minimum of 2 years of dance adjudication experience on the scoring panel OR
- C. At least one scoring judge who has previously been an adjudicator for The Dance Worlds.
- D. Notice of Disclosure (item 4) not applicable.

## **RECOMMENDED STANDARDS**

### **Judges & Scoring at Sanctioned Competitions:**

- Conduct judges meeting/orientation/training before the start of the competition.
- Have a Legality Official serve their role separate from panel judges (not serving both roles)



- Consider having one Legality Official per panel of scoring judges.
- 5-minute minimum (6 min recommended) to watch and score routines
- Video playback capability for Legality Officials
- Follow the '[USASF Routine Interruption Due To Injury](#)' protocol for all sanctioned events. Currently, this is a recommendation to all event producers. The protocol is to protect everyone's interest, with the focus on the injured athlete during an event.
- Schedule meal and restroom breaks for judges
  - Length of break should be considerate of distance/accessibility to restrooms and food. If a 6-min break is scheduled on paper and the restroom is a 3-4 min walk, a 6-min break may not be long enough. Similarly, if food is a 20-minute walk and considering long lines with competition attendees, dinner cannot be 30 min unless a staff member is assigned to go buy food with the judge's money. EPs should be mindful that if team performance is delayed by a costume change, music failure, etc., a bio break for judges is still necessary and should not be routinely skipped, nor a mealtime, to 'make up time' lost in the schedule.
  - Access to water and/or refreshments while judging
    - If no water and/or refreshments are provided, EPs should communicate the plan and or options available to the judges.

#### **Event Producer Compliance Sanctioned Competitions**

*(This information may also be found in Section 6.2 of the Code of Conduct and Compliance and is duplicated here for convenience.)*

#### **Section 6.2: Sanctioned Competitions**

C. For any USASF sanctioned Competition with All Star Classification, Event Producer Members must comply with the following provisions:

1. Event Producers must verify that every team representing a USASF Member Club competing in an All Star division has an official USASF roster associated to such Competition. This may not be applicable to teams representing USASF Member Clubs in the All Star Event Trial and All Star Exhibition Classifications.
2. When Event Producers are notified by Member Clubs of any roster changes made (a) after the Competition locks or (b) after the team checked in, but before the team takes the floor, the Event Producer must make such changes to locked rosters to which they were notified prior to the Competition closeout.
3. Event Producers must verify all Adult Members' eligibility and identification at sanctioned Events prior to providing credentials (i.e. wristbands, lanyards, etc.) which permit access to restricted areas.
4. Event Producers must have a process by which they manage and monitor access to restricted areas (i.e. warm up, backstage, etc.).
5. Event Producers must ensure their USASF sanctioned Competition stays a NO RECRUITING ZONE.
6. During its USASF sanctioned Competition, the Event Producer must, to the best of its ability, investigate, address and resolve any reports or allegations of noncompliance by Members in attendance, this includes roster violations.
7. Event Producers must disqualify teams with Roster violations, and if applicable, revoke awarded bids to the Cheerleading or Dance Worlds. This includes roster



violations adjudicated by the USASF post-Competition.

8. Within 72 hours after the conclusion of the Competition:
  - a. Event Producer must complete close out reports;
  - b. Assign World bids in the Member profile (if applicable); and
  - c. Using the Event Producer Reporting form for Non-Compliance the Event Producer will submit the details for non-compliance violations that were reported, investigated and resolved at the Competition and the action that was taken by the Event Producer:
    - i. Non-compliance that was resolved on site with no action taken,
    - ii. Non-compliance, including roster violations, that resulted in a warning, disqualification and/or removal from the Competition.

### **USASF Recommended Standards for Judges & Scoring at Sanctioned Competitions**

- Required judges' meeting/orientation/training before the start of the competition
- Have a separate Legality Official and deduction judge per panel (it should not be the same person)
- When possible, there should be a separate difficulty and technique judge per category
- 5-minute minimum (6 min recommended) to watch and score routines
- Video playback capability
- Any score changes must be communicated to the scoring judge
- Follow the [USASF Routine Interruption Suggested Guidelines](#) for all sanctioned competitions
- Scheduled meal and restroom breaks for judges
  - o Length of break should be considerate of distance/accessibility to restrooms and food. For example, if food is a 20 minute walk and have long lines with competition attendees, dinner cannot be a 30 minute break. Event Producers should be mindful if a team's performance is delayed, a bio break for the judges is still necessary.
- Access to water and/or refreshments while judging
  - o If no food and beverage is provided, Event Producers should communicate that to the judge and the options available.