WORLD DANCE SHOWDOWN
2027 COMPETITION RULES

Updated 11-03-26. Subject to change. Please check back for updates.

The World Dance Showdown is an independent dance event hosted by Dale and Tanya Curry from Ft. Wayne, Indiana. The purpose of this event is to provide dancers with an opportunity to develop their dance skill, socialize with other dancers and perform in front of a supportive audience of their peers. Dancers of any experience level are invited to attend and participate in this social dance competition. Competitors will be judged fairly and earn valuable experience that will prepare them for other dance competitions.

The World Dance Showdown is a dance event for dancers who enjoy line and partner (couples) dances and gather their friends to create routines and dance those routines as a part of a couple, as a line dancer, a choreographer or with a dance team. Competitors are encouraged to utilize proper dance technique, dance positions, styling and recognizable lead and follow techniques in their dancing. The competitions offered at the World Dance Showdown are for social dancers although professional dancers may participate in certain categories.

These rules describe the competition divisions and categories for dance team, line, couples and choreography, World Dance Instructor and the Dance Hall Dance Off Team and Top Line Dancer competitions. Please check in regularly for updates to these rules. As a competitor, you will be responsible for knowing and understanding the most current version of the rules on competition day. Please contact Dale and Tanya Curry if you have any questions at 260-466-2484 or hellotanyacurry@gmail.com.

Dancer unity and camaraderie are essential to a dance competition event. Although dancers will be ranked and awards given to the top dancers in each category, it is important to remember that we are one community, working together to promote line and partner (couples) dancing. We recommend that line dancers, couples, choreographers and dance teams seek out and meet each other and support and cheer for each other during the dance competitions and after the event.

COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS

Applies to all competitions at the World Dance Showdown:

The dance competitions at the World Dance Showdown include line, solo and partner (couples) dances. Couples competition dances include Two-Step, East and West Coast Swing, Country Swing and Pattern Partner Dances. Line dancers will compete in one of three pre-selected line dances for their division, in the Dance Hall Dance Off Line Dance Finals and in the choreography competition for the original song created by a Nashville recording artist. Choreographers can create line and pattern partner dances for the choreography competition.

Dance Teams can enter their routines in one or more of the categories for line/solo, partner/couples and combination routines. Teams can have two, three, four or more dancers. The Legacy dance team division is for dancers over 55 years of age. Safety is a priority when performing dance routines. Because of this lifts, drops, aerials, stunts, acrobatic moves, throwing and carrying of dancers, splits, lying and sitting on the floor are only allowed in the Show-Stopper dance competition category and should be used with great caution. Please notify the competition coordinator if lifts, drops, aerials and stunts are going to be used before the competition starts. We recommend a spotter from your team be placed on the floor while you are performing to monitor a stunt.

Dancers should demonstrate basic step patterns and variations of those step patterns in their routines. Routines may include multiple line and partner dances and sections of solo dancing that match the phrasing of the music. The word "solo" refers to any dance steps or patterns that are not part of a line dance or partner dance. Dancers might add a section of solo steps to change formations, accent a tag in the music or play (act-out) sections of the music. Solo movements take the dancers out of their basic line dance or partner dance routine momentarily as they move across the floor. Variations to line dance steps can be used. The choreography should match the theme and lyrics of the song. Dancers are encouraged to change formations, use hand motions, vocals, poses and facials during their routine and utilize these dance movements to emphasize segments of the song to entertain the audience.

Dancers in line/solo dance team routines may connect for up to 8 counts of music at a time. Examples of this would be to slap or clap hands, change formations, or other creative choreography elements in the routine that involve touching another dancer. These periods of connection should be limited because the routine is primarily for dancers performing their individual role in the routine. If dancers connect in a line/solo routine—the connection may not be to dance as a couple as in a pattern partner or couples dance. Extended periods of connection in the line/solo dance team routine could result in penalties on the judges score sheet.

Dancers in partner/couples dance team routines may disconnect for up to 8 counts of music at a time. These periods of disconnection should be limited because the routine is primarily for dancers performing in partnership. Extended periods of disconnection in the partner/solo dance routine could result in penalties on the judges score sheet.

Costumes:

The costume requirements described here applies to all dance competitions at the World Dance Showdown. Dancers may choose to wear matching or non-matching custom or pre-made costumes of their choice. Elaborate costumes are not required. T-shirts and social dance attire are acceptable for any of the competitions. Costumes should be tasteful and appropriate for the dance type and should match the theme and style of the dance routine.

Costumes may be a blouse, skirt, one piece jumpsuit, shorts or slacks for women and shirt, pants and belt for men. Men may also wear vests, suit jackets, ties, suspenders or other costume items appropriate to the routine. If buttocks might be revealed during the dance, dance underpants should be worn for best coverage. Shirts may be tucked or un-tucked.

Cowboy hats, belts and boots may be worn but are not required for men or women in the couples, line dance, choreography and Dance Team competition. Choice of shoes should be comfortable and appropriate to the dance style.

Costume modifications such as tear away, reversible skirts and hat tricks may be used during the dance routine provided it does not compromise safety of the dancers while they are performing. Props are only allowed in the Show-Stopper dance divisions for couples, line dancers and dance teams as well as in the Theatrical Performance line dance division. Costume accessories such as fans and scarves may be used in the choreography competition if it is part of the choreography.

Dance Music:

Competition music may be country or non-country in all dance competitions and should be appropriate to the dance style and theme of the dance. Couples competition music will be provided to couples for all of the competitions. Competition music for the line dance competition will be provided in advance for each competition line dance.

For all competition categories where dancers select their own music; Show-Stopper Dance Team, Show-Stopper Couples, Show-Stopper Line Dancer, Theatrical Performance, Choreography and all Dance Team divisions, music selection may be country or non-country or a combination of both for custom mixes. Dance Teams, Show-Stopper and Theatrical competitors can use as many songs as they want in their routine provided the time limits are met. Dance Team divisions will not be separated by music type as in the past. All music must be edited and combined into one mix for the competition. The DJ will not be able to change from one file to another during your performance.

Music selection must be in good taste and not contain explicit, vulgar language or profanity. Music selection may not contain messages or themes relating to disturbing, uncomfortable, sexual, inappropriate or violent scenarios. The words Ass, Shit and Damn are allowed in songs used in the Choreography, Dance Team, Show-Stopper and Theatrical Performance competitions. But, the song should have a limited number of these words. Vulgar language that includes words other than those mentioned here are not allowed in songs used in competitions at the World Dance Showdown. You may bleep these words or choose another song.

Songs used in competition with disapproved words could result in penalties on the judges score sheet.. Please keep in mind that this is a family, social event with dancers who come from all

walks of life. It is our intention to provide a holistic, family friendly environment for everyone to listen and dance to great music and have a good time.

Music information and mp3 files must be submitted by August 10, 2026 for all dance team, choreography and Show-Stopper entries where contestants select their own music. Please email your music in mp3 format only to hellotanyacurry@gmail.com. Please submit one music file for each dance team category you enter and one music file for each Show-Stopper and Theatrical Performance competition you enter. In addition, please bring a backup of your music to the event on a usb drive and keep it with you.

Please label your music with the name of your dance team or your name and the competition category for that routine. For example: "*Hardwood Shiners Line/Solo Dance Team."* If you are a couples or line dancer and entering the Show-Stopper or Theatrical Performance competition, label your music with your name and the competition category for the routine. For example: "*Dale & Tanya Curry Couples Show-Stopper*" A sound check of your music will not be done by the DJ but he/she will check the levels to ensure they are loud enough. If you prefer to have a sound check of your music, please let the DJ know.

Choreographers should include the name of the song and artist that the dance is done to on the step description of the dance. We will use the radio version of the song listed on the step sheet for the choreography competition. If you need a special version of the song please send us the mp3 before August 10th. You may email this to hellotanyacurry@gmail.com.

Competition Logisitics:

Competitors will be notified of their performance time in advance. Dancers should be in the performance area 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the competition. Competitor numbers (BIB numbers) will be worn for dances where multiple dancers are on the floor at the same time. When wearing a BIB number, pin it on the back of your pants or area on the back of your shirt that is visible from a distance on the dance floor. Pins will be available at the registration desk and at the competition coordinator's desk next to the dj booth.

Team, couples or line dance practice may be scheduled with the event director in advance and will not be on the competition floor unless you practice before the competition floor opens. Practice time will be scheduled on a first come, first serve basis and may be limited to early morning or late evening time slots on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. We will try to accommodate everyone.

A competitors meeting will be held on Thursday night for choreography competitors. A competitors meeting will be held on Friday night for all couples, dance team, line dance and dance instructor competitors. All competitors are encouraged to attend. Please check the event schedule prior to the event and be at this meeting for important announcements.

DANCE TEAM COMPETITION

DANCE TEAM COMPETITION CATEGORIES:

Dance teams vary in size and complexity of routines they perform. Groups of dancers are encouraged to participate in this competition to entertain the audience and share their unique line, partner and couples dances with the audience. Teams may compete in any or all of the categories available using different dance routines. Dancers who are 55 years of age or older may perform in the Legacy Dance Team category and any Dance Team competition category.

Dance routines in all competition categories must be 3-5 minutes long. Routines should match the music selection. Music may be country or non-country.

To determine the best category for your Dance Team, consider your team size and dance style (Line, Partner, Combination or Show-Stopper), You may enter in all categories following the rules and guidelines of the category. The same routine may not be entered in more than one category. Dance Teams may perform different routines in the same category and may perform in multiple categories.

If you compete at other events and need help matching your existing dance routine to a category, please call Tanya Curry at 260-466-2484 or email hellotanyacurry@gmail.com

Duo Dance Teams Combination Routine:

This Dance Team category is for two dancers only, same or mixed gender. The dance routine may be line, solo, partner dancing or a combination of each of these dance categories.

Trio Dance Team Combination Routine:

This Dance Team category is for three dancers only, same or mixed gender. The dance routine may be line, solo, partner dancing or a combination of each of these dance categories.

Quad Dance Team Combination Routine:

This Dance Team category is for four dancers only, same or mixed gender. The dance routine may be line, solo, partner dancing or a combination of each of these dance categories.

Line/Solo Dance Team Routine

Minimum of 5 dancers. Routines may be all line dancing or line dancing with solo dancing interspersed throughout the routine. (see competition requirements regarding solo dancing)

Partner/Solo Dance Team Routine

Minimum of 5 dancers. Routines may be all partner or couples dancing or partner and couples dancing with a minimum number of solo segments interspersed throughout the routine. (see competition requirements regarding solo dancing)

Combination Dance Team Routine

Minimum of five dancers. Routines may be line, solo, partner, couples or mixed but at least one minute of the routine must be line dancing and at least one minute of the routine must be partner/couples dancing. Props and stage sets **may not** be used. Lifts, drops, aerials, stunts, acrobatic moves, throwing and carrying of dancers, splits, lying and sitting on the floor **are not** allowed in this category. This is not a theme related Show-Stopper or Cabaret category.

Hip Hop Dance Team Routine

Minimum of 3 dancers. Dance Teams may perform a line/solo dance routine to the Hip Hop music of their choice. Dance styling must be Hip Hop. Hip-hop dance is a high-energy, culturally rich street dance style known for its freestyle, rhythmic, and improvisational nature, blending percussive body movements, intricate footwork, and expressive isolations to the beats of music. Key elements include popping, locking, waving and street/party dances; emphasizing individual style, attitude, and athleticism. Break dancing, lifts, drops, aerials, stunts, acrobatic moves, throwing and carrying of dancers, splits, lying and sitting on the floor **are not** allowed in this category. Music selection must be Hip Hop in nature.

Legacy Dance Team Routine

Minimum of 5 dancers. Ninety percent of the dancers on this team must be at least 55 years of age or older. Routines may be line, solo, partner/couples or mixed.

Show-Stopper Dance Team Routine

Minimum of 3 dancers. Routines may be line, solo, partner/couples or mixed. Teams may use costumes of their choice to accent the theme of the routine. Any and all styles of dancing may be incorporated in this routine. Singing and acting is allowed in this routine while dancing. Props and stage sets may be used. Lifts, drops, aerials, stunts, acrobatic moves, throwing and carrying of dancers, splits, lying and sitting on the floor are allowed in the Show-Stopper dance competition category and should be used with great caution. Teams will be given five minutes to set up and an additional five minutes to tear down before and after their performance.

Please discuss your Show-Stopper routine with the Event Director in advance to prepare staging and storage of props and sets. Please be aware that storage is limited at the event venue.

World Dance Showdown Grand Champion Team Award:

A Grand Champion Dance Team will be selected. This award will be given to the dance team with the highest overall rating based on dance skills, performance ability, team spirit, interaction with other teams and contribution to their local area and dance community. To be considered, a team will be asked to write a one page essay describing the team's origins, purpose, dance routines in use, practice and performance activities, unique or special events they are involved in and contributions they have made to the public. Team spirit and interaction with other teams will be evaluated at the World Dance Showdown event. The average score of all dance team competitions entered by each team will be computed and combined with the essay and spirit score to determine the Grand Champion Dance Team award recipient. The team must compete in at least one dance competition category at the World Dance Showdown to qualify. Team essays are due on August 15, 2027. Please email this to hellotanyacurry@gmail.com

TEAM COMPETITION SCORING FORMAT:

1. CHOREOGRAPHY – 32 points
    a) Variety, complexity and uniqueness of dance movements
    b) Overall flow and combination of dance routines, use of transitions between dances, dance routines, entrances and exits.
    c) Artistic interpretation of the dance music selected.
    d) Use of floor space and available dancers.

2. EXECUTION – 32 points
    a) Rhythm, timing and synchronization of dance steps
    b) Proper execution of footwork, hand and body movements, skirt work/hat tricks, formation changes, tunnels, pinwheels, directional changes, contra lines execution, couple's dance moves and maneuvers.
    c) Line and circle spacing, alignment, placement and unity of dancers.
    d) Dance styling featuring proper dance technique, dance positions, styling, and recognizable lead and follow techniques.

3. PRESENTATION/SHOWMANSHIP – 36 points
    a) Entertainment Value-ability to capture and hold the audience attention.
    b) Attitude—Team spirit and partnership, enthusiasm and pride of group, unification among dancers.
    c) Appearance—Energy and excitement level, poise, body movements and facial expressions.
    d) Costuming—Choice of outfits for style of dance, hats for men and boots/shoes for ladies and men. Costumes need not match. Elaborate costumes are not required.

Costumes must be in good taste, clean, appropriate for performance and enhance the group's appearance.

DANCE HALL DANCE OFF DANCE TEAM COMPETITION

The Dance Hall Dance Off Dance Team social dance competition is for groups of dancers who dance in dance halls, bars, community centers, reception halls and small dance studios. We salute these dancers who keep dance alive in their local community, taking lessons weekly, dancing on the weekend, bonding and making long lasting friendships while inspiring others to join them in their dance activities.

Get your friends together to promote your local dance hall, bar or club by participating in the Dance Hall Dance Off. You choose the music and dance your favorite line and/or couples dances with your group. No experience, no costumes and no dance routines needed. Just dance. Have fun. 3-5 minutes. Minimum of 3 dancers.

Judges will rank groups based on how they work together as team, how much fun they are having, how they motivate and inspire the audience and represent social dancing in the bars, clubs, dance halls and community venues they represent.

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COUPLES/PARTNER DANCE COMPETITION

The World Dance Showdown couples dance competition is for dancers with or without previous competition experience. Couples will use basic lead and follow technique and creativity in designing dance patterns that fit their individual style of dance as it relates to the dance division, dance type, dance music and couple's ability to perform the patterns. Dancers will select their division based on years of dance experience and may choose to dance in a higher division if they feel they are qualified to do so. Dancers over 55 years of age may dance in the Legacy division or the division of their choice. If you need clarification on the dance division that fits your experience, please contact the contest coordinator—Dale Curry, 260-466-2484 or hellodalecurry@gmail.com. Music for all divisions, except "Show Stopper" will be provided in advance. Couples will dance in the same division and dance with the same partner for all of the dances selected.

COUPLES DANCE DIVISIONS:

The following dance division description is a guideline to help couples select their dance division although couples can place themselves in the higher division of their choice. Couples must

dance in the same division for all dances. Dancers may not enter one dance in one division and another dance in another division.

Beginner – 0-18 months of couples dance experience, no competition experience; have no formal dance coaching or private lessons other than group dance classes.
Intermediate – 0 to 2 ½ years of couples dance experience; may have little or no competition experience; may have some formal dance coaching; may have taken some private lessons and taken group dance classes.
Advanced – over 2 ½ years of couples dance experience; may have competition or no competition experience; may have formal dance coaching, may have taken private lessons and taken group dance classes.
Legacy – Both partners must be 55 years of age or older, may have competition or no competition experience; may have formal dance coaching, may have taken private lessons and taken group dance classes.

COUPLES DANCE CATEGORIES:

Two-Step: Any basic progressive 2-Step pattern using 6 counts of music (quick-quick-slow-slow counted 1-2-3-5 or slow-slow-quick-quick counted 1-3-5-6) may be used. Variations to the basic footwork, syncopations and pattern breaks are allowed but should not be overused.

East Coast Swing Basic Triple East Coast Swing is a stationary dance with a pattern using 6 counts of music following this timing: 1&2 3&4 5 6 and 1&2 3 4 5&6 7 8. The East Coast Swing is a stationary dance that uses rotary patterns and is performed with semi-Cuban motion, emphasizing downward compression. Variations to the basic footwork, syncopations and pattern breaks are allowed but should not be overused.

West Coast Swing: Basic West Coast Swing is a stationary dance with a pattern using 6 or 8 counts of music following this timing: 1 2 3&4 5&6 and 1 2 3&4 5 6 7&8. West Coast Swing is a smooth, stationary dance with slotted patterns and rhythm accents, emphasizing back-beat.

Country Swing: There are several dance step patterns and styles involved in country swing. At the time these rules were published, there is no standard for Country Swing competition. Because of this, dancers may enter this competition and choose to dance the step pattern of their preference. No lifts, drops, aerials, stunts, acrobatic moves, throwing and carrying of dancers, splits, lying and sitting on the floor are allowed in this competition. Couples who want to use this type of movements in their Country Swing dance should compete in the Show-Stopper Couples Competition.

Pattern Partner Dances: The World Dance Showdown pattern-partner dance competition is for dancers with or without previous competition. Two dances will be included in this competition and will be posted on the competition page of the www.worlddanceshowdown.com website on

or before April 15. Dancers must perform the first two patterns of the dance as originally choreographed. Subsequent dance patterns may be done with individual styling and step variations as long as the step/beat count and the general flow of direction is the same as originally choreographed. Dancers will dance in the same partner for both dances.

Dancers may have the same or different partners for the Couples Division and the Pattern-Partner Divisions. This is an open dance division with all dancers dancing in the same division.

SHOW STOPPER COUPLES COMPETITION:

Couples Choice. Couple performs solo, one contestant (couple) on the floor at a time. One lead and one follow partner required. Dancers of any experience level may enter this competition. This is an open dance division with all dancers dancing in the same division.

Select your favorite medley of music and couples dances. The couple may use any type of music in their routine. Dancers create the routine. Choose Pattern Partner, Couples dances or both performed in combinations. Any couple's dances can be selected from country, swing or ballroom dancing. These moves are allowed but not required in this category: lifts, drops, aerials, stunts, acrobatic moves, throwing and carrying of dancers, splits, lying and sitting on the floor are allowed in this competition. Whole or partial songs may be used to create your own music mix. Props and costumes of your choice are allowed. Time limit 3-5 minutes. Please refer to the music section regarding music requirements and providing your music in advance to the Event Director.

LINE DANCE COMPETITION:

Dancers of any experience level may enter this competition. Dancers will be notified of competition dance(s) on April 15, 2027 and the music on May 5, 2027. Dancers must perform the first two patterns of the dance as originally choreographed (vanilla). Subsequent dance patterns may be done with individual styling and step variations as long as the step/beat count and the general flow of direction is the same as originally choreographed. Dancers will select their division based on years of dance experience and may choose to dance in a higher division if they feel they are qualified to do so. Dances must dance in the same division for all three dances and not mix dance divisions based on the dance chosen for the division.

LINE DANCE DIVISIONS:

Beginner – 0-18 months of line dance experience, no competition experience; have no formal dance coaching or private lessons other than group dance classes.

Intermediate – 0 to 2.5 years of dance experience; may have little or no competition experience; may have some formal dance coaching; may have taken some private lessons and taken group dance classes.
Advanced – over 2.5 years of dance experience; may have competition or no competition experience; may have formal dance coaching, may have taken private lessons and taken group dance classes.
Legacy—Must be 55 years of age or older. May have competition or no competition experience; may have formal dance coaching, may have taken private lessons and taken group dance classes.
Show-Stopper Solo Line Dancer—This is an open division. Dancers dance solo. (see description below)

LINE DANCE SELECTIONS

Three line dances will be selected for each line dance division. Dance names, step descriptions and videos will be released on April 15, 2027 and posted on the www.worlddanceshowdown.com website, competitor page and on the event facebook page : Https://www.facebook.com/groups/worlddanceshowdownevent
Line Dance Music will be posted on May 5, 2027

Line dancers select a division based on the description in the previous section. When registering for this competition online, please select the dance as labeled—Dance 1, Dance 2, Dance 3 chosen from your division. If entering more than one dance, please enter all dances from the same division. Dancers may not enter one dance from one division and another dance from another division. To qualify for the overall winner in your division, dancers must enter all three dances. Show-Stopper Line Dancer scores are not included in when determining the overall winner for your division.

New 2027 **Backroad Booty Line Dance Competition**—Nashville recording artist Chad Mac is releasing a new song in January 2027 called Backroad Booty. The World Dance Showdown is holding a choreography competition between January and April 15, 2027 to create the Official Worldwide line dance for this song. See choreography competition description on page 17. The winning line dance will be announced on May 15. This line dance will be used in a line dance competition at the event and will be open to line dancers of all levels. This is an open dance division. The music will be published on all music platforms online and at www.worlddanceshowdown.com.

SHOW STOPPER SOLO LINE DANCER:

Dancer selects dance and music and performs solo, one dancer on the floor at a time. Dancers of any experience level may enter this competition. This is an open division. Select your favorite medley of music and line or solo dance patterns. You create the routine. You may dance one line dance or multiple line dances combined into one routine. Any line dance choreographed by the contestant or another choreographer may be used. Whole or partial songs may be used to

create your own music mix. Please refer to the music section regarding music requirements and providing your music in advance to the Event Director. Props and costumes of your choice are allowed. Time limit 3-5 minutes.

THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE SOLO DANCER

New for 2027 Dancers select dance and music and perform solo, one dancer on the floor at a time. Dancers of any experience level may enter this competition. This is an open division. Dancers perform a showcase dance routine acting out and showing artistic expression of the music and its story. Dancers select a show tune, movie or TV theme song, broadway musical, opera or theatre musical composition and create a dance routine that is made up of steps incorporating different dance styles. A variety of dance steps, NOT repetitive line dances should be used. Dance styles may include a combination of these and other styles not listed here: line dance, country and western, jazz, hip hop, break dance, krump, shuffling, whacking, locking, soul, disco, ballet, lyrical, contemporary, tap, folk, modern, belly, disco, hula, Irish and any other cultural dances. Whole or partial songs may be used to create your own music mix. Please refer to the music section regarding requirements and about providing your music in advance to the Event Director. Props and costumes of your choice are allowed. Time limit 3-5 minutes.

COUPLES, LINE AND SOLO DANCE COMPETITION SCORING FORMAT:

1. CONTENT - 32 points
Variety, complexity and originality of dance positions, moves and dance maneuvers. Selection of dance maneuvers and combinations of these maneuvers and their relationship to the music

2. EXECUTION - 36 points
Proper execution of the basic step patterns, framework and hand, head, arm and body movements. Timing rhythm, balance and smoothness of dance.

3. PRESENTATION/SHOWMANSHIP - 32 points
Attitude, enthusiasm, energy and excitement. Pride in partnership/solo dancing. Relationship with audience. Costuming.

***New 2027* TOP LINE DANCER DANCE HALL DANCE OFF COMPETITION:**

The World Dance Showdown is searching for the Top Line Dancer in hometown bars, dance halls, clubs, studios, event centers, American Legions, YMCAs, VFWs, community centers, schools, fairs and festivals—wherever dance lessons and dances are held.

The Top Line Dancer Dance Hall Dance Off line dance competitions will be held in venues across the country to find the #1 Top Line Dancer for each hometown location. Three placings will be awarded. The first place winner at each location will qualify to participate in the finals at

the World Dance Showdown where the Top Line Dancer for the 2027 will be crowned. The competition dances that Top Line Dancers will compete in at the World Dance Showdown finals will be announced on July 26, 2027.

ORIGINAL CHOREOGRAPHY COMPETITION:

Please read these rules carefully if you are entering this competition to select the appropriate division for your dance.

Dancers of any experience level or age may enter the choreography competition. This is your chance to showcase your creativity. You will choreograph a Line or Pattern Partner dance and demonstrate it yourself or with friends. The choreographer entering the dance must have a weekend pass to the event. You may enter up to three dances in each category for a total of 12 entries combined for all divisions. Dances entered in the Pinnacle and Backroad Booty choreography competition divisions do not count in the 12 maximum number of choreography dances entered. Competitor selects and provides the music information to be used for all competition except for Backroad Booty choreography competition. Please refer to the music requirements in the general section of these rules as it relates to music selection and submission to the World Dance Showdown.

Depending on the total number of entries registered as we get closer to the event date, we may stop taking more entries in one or more choreography divisions when the number of entries in that division is X (to be determined). Please register your entries with dance names, step sheets and videos (for International choreographers) as soon as possible. Please do not register a choreography dance on www.danceplace.com without a dance name. Please email your step sheet in pdf or word format immediately after you register your dance to wdsstepsheets@gmail.com. Entries without a dance name on www.danceplace.com and without a step sheet will not be processed. Please note that there are no refunds for dance competitions entered.

Since this is a choreography competition, dances will be judged primarily on choreography (content/phrasing/flow). But, proper execution will be considered. It will be easier for the judges to evaluate a well-executed dance and a dance that is performed with clean execution is easier to learn and fun to do. 100 possible points will be given based on content, variety, originality and uniqueness of the dance and its relationships to the music chosen. Phrasing, flow, steps, balance of movement and directional changes will be considered. Entertainment value, promotional potential and how well the dance will be liked by other dancers will be judged as well. The name of your dance will be evaluated.

CHOREOGRAPHY COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS

No prior dance choreography experience is required. Choreographers will dance each entry through completion of four "vanilla" repetitions of the dance for all divisions except phrased. Phrased line dance entries in the Phrased dance division I and II will dance through completion of the final tag or restart. The DJ will fade the music when you stop dancing.

Placements will be given for each line dance choreography division. An overall line dance choreographer award will be given. To qualify for this overall line dance choreographer award a choreographer must enter at least one line dance in each of the following line dance choreography divisions: Beginner/Improver, Intermediate/Advanced and Phrased (either division I or II). Entries in the Christian, Hip Hop, Soul, Jazz, Pattern Partner and Pinnacle Divisions will not be included in the determining the overall line dance choreographer award.

Any genre of music may be selected for the choreography competition. See the music selection requirements of these rules for other requirements relating to music allowed in the World Dance Showdown dance competition. When entering the Hip Hop, Jazz, Soul and Christian music choreography divisions, please use the music that matches these divisions.

A dance name, step description and video (for international choreographers) is required with your choreography entry when you register for this competition. Step descriptions received before July 15, 2027 will be added to the dance step description book which is available for sale in ebook and usb format.

Please list the dance name, your name, your email address, the level of the dance and the music used for the dance on the step description. Please use the first music/song stated on the step description in your competition performance at the World Dance Showdown. This is the song that we will play when you perform the dance in the competition. Please keep your step description to one page if possible. Please only use black ink on your step sheets.

International competitors: please read the International page of the World Dance Showdown website for more information about how to enter the choreography competition and send your step sheets and videos. The deadline to enter the International Choreography competition is June 26. Videos and Step Sheets are due at this time.

Dances winning first place in any choreography competition at any event any time in the past, including WDS 2025 and WDS 2026 may not be entered in the 2027 World Dance Showdown dance choreography competition other than in the Pinnacle division.

CHOREOGRAPHY DIVISIONS

New for 2027 Four new line dance choreography divisions were added in 2026. Hip Hop Line Dance, Soul Line Dance, Christian Music Line Dance and Pinnacle Line Dance. Because of the huge success of those divisions, a Jazz division is added for 2027. Due to these additions, please enter dances with Hip Hop, Jazz and Soul styling in the division for that type of music and style of dance. Hip Hop, Jazz, Soul and Christian music line dances should not be entered in the Beginner/Improver or Intermediate/Advanced or Phrased I and II divisions. If your Hip Hop, Jazz, Soul or Christian music dance is a Pattern Partner dance, you may enter it in the Pattern Partner division,

1. Beginner/Improver Line Dance—This division is for dances that are appropriate for first time and new line dancers. Beginner/Improver dances should not have any of the steps shown in the Intermediate/Advanced Line Dance division description.

PLEASE READ: Dances with no tags and restarts, any number of restarts or only one tag may be entered in this division. Dances with at least one tag and restart or multiple tags must be entered in the Phrased Dance Division II. Dances with multiple sections (ABC) must be entered in the Phrased Dance Division I.

2. Intermediate/Advanced Line Dance—This division is for dances with some beginner/improver dance steps AND primarily OTHER STEPS that are not beginner level such as Boogie Walk, Develop, Spin, Mashed Potatoes, Running Man, Apple Jack, Moon Walk, Ronde de bras, Turning Sailor, Sugar Foot, Twinkle, Camel Walk, Count "a", Swivet, Arabesque, Heel Jacks, more than a ¼ Monterey Turn, Rolling Grapevines, Progressive Turns, Multiple patterns in succession with Progressive Turns, Triple Turn, Vaudeville, Wizard Step, Sailor Shuffle, any turn over ¼ in a syncopated dance step (an & count), except for a basic triple step, is considered an intermediate move. Not all intermediate steps are listed here.

PLEASE READ: Dances with no tags and restarts, any number of restarts or only one tag may be entered in this division. Dances with at least one tag and restart or multiple tags must be entered in the Phrase Dance Division II. Dances with multiple sections (ABC) must be entered in the Phrased Dance Division I.

3. Phrased Line Dance Division I—This division is for dances with multiple and different segments (phrases) that may or may not happen in order: A,B,C,A,A,B,B or other order. Dances with restarts only will not be considered as phrased and/or a dance with only one tag less than 24 counts, which happens only once, will not be considered as a phrased dance. However, a dance with both a tag and restart will be considered phrased and should be entered in the Phrased Line Dance Division II. This is an open division—not based on skill level of the dance.

4. Phrased Line Dance Division II—This division is for dances that are not Phrased ABC but includes at least one tag and restart, multiple tags, and/or multiple tags and restarts throughout

the dance. A dance with restarts and no tags are not considered phrased. This is an open division—not based on skill level of the dance.

5. Hip Hop Line Dance—Dance styling for this line dance choreography division must be Hip Hop and the music must embrace the Hip Hop sound as well. Hip-hop dancing is a high-energy, culturally rich street dance style known for its freestyle, rhythmic, and improvisational nature, blending percussive body movements, intricate footwork, and expressive isolations to the beats of music. Key elements include popping, locking, waving and street/party dances; emphasizing individual style, attitude, and athleticism. Break dancing, lifts, drops, aerials, stunts, acrobatic moves, throwing and carrying of dancers, splits, lying and sitting on the floor **are not** allowed in this category. Music selection must be Hip Hop in nature. This is an open division—not based on skill level of the dance—any level of dance may be entered. The line dance must repeat. Hip Hop dances that have ABC sections or any number of tags and restarts may be entered in this division.

6. * New for 2027* Jazz Line Dance—Dance styling for this line dance choreography division must be Jazz and the music must embrace the Jazz sound as well. Jazz dancing is an energetic, expressive style of dance characterized by rhythmic footwork, sharp and fluid movements, body isolations, syncopation, kicks, turns, and creative styling. Jazz combines precision, flexibility, musicality, and individual expression, often incorporating elements of Broadway, contemporary, and modern jazz dance.

In line dance competitions, jazz choreography should demonstrate recognizable jazz techniques and styling while maintaining the structured footwork and patterns of line dancing. This is an open division—not based on skill level of the dance—any level of dance may be entered. The line dance must repeat. Jazz dances that have ABC sections or any number of tags and restarts may be entered in this division.

7. Soul Line Dance—Dance styling for this line dance division incorporates basic line dance steps, full body movements: hip and body rolls, smooth, flowing steps that allow the dancer to express themselves as if they are "one" with the music. The music selection embraces the true essence of soul which includes the sounds of Motown, Deep Soul, Southern Soul, Chicago/Memphis Soul, and newer forms such as Neo-Soul, Psychedelic Soul, and Quiet Storm, blending gospel's passion with R&B's rhythm to create heartfelt, emotive music evolving into funk, disco, and contemporary R&B. This is an open division—not based on skill level of the dance—any level of dance may be entered. The line dance must repeat. Soul dances that have ABC sections or any number of tags and restarts may be entered in this division.

8. Christian Music Line Dance---This line dance choreography division is for dances done to Christian music by musicians in any genre. This is an open division—not based on skill level of the dance—any level of dance may be entered. The line dance must repeat. Christian music line dances that have ABC sections or any number of tags and restarts may be entered in this division.

9. Pinnacle Line Dance—This line dance choreography division is for dances that won a first, second or third place award at any choreography competition in the past including at the World Dance Showdown 2025 and 2026.

Choreographers entering this division with their first, second or third place dances may also enter other divisions in the World Dance Showdown 2026 Choreography competition with different dances. This is an open division—not based on skill level of the dance—any level of dance may be entered. Dances that have ABC sections or any number of tags and restarts may be entered in this division. Note: Dances that won a first place award at any choreography competition in the past may not be entered in any choreography division other than Pinnacle. Entries in this choreography competition do not count in the 12 dance limit for choreographers entering choreography divisions 1 to 11.

10. Pattern Partner Dance—this is a dance that is done with a partner. Partners may be same or mixed-gender. Partners may change during the dance making it a mixer Pattern Partner Dance. This is an open division—not based on skill level of the dance. We recommend that at least two couples demonstrate the dance; with the choreographer being one of the dancers. If this is not possible, please let the competition coordinator know. Placements will be awarded for this division but this choreography dance will not be included in determining the overall line dance choreographer award.

11. *** New for 2027*** BACKROAD BOOTY CHOREOGRAPHY DIVISION

Nashville recording Artist Chad Mac is releasing a new song called Backroad Booty in January 2027. This choreography competition is to create the Worldwide Official line dance for the song. The dance should be 32 counts and a Beginner/Improver or Low Intermediate level dance. All dances entered in this competition will be in the same division. The music will be published on all music platforms online and www.worlddanceshowdown.com. This competition will be held between January and April 15, 2027. Choreographers will videotape themselves doing four vanilla repetitions of the dance to music and send the video to hellotanyacurry@gmail.com through wetransfer.com. Choreographers may include other dancers in the video for the dance. A step sheet must be emailed to wdsstepsheets@gmail.com when the dance is registered. The deadline to enter this competition is April 15, 2027 or sooner if the max limit of entries is reached.

The winning dance will be used in a line dance competition held at the World Dance Showdown. Choreographers may enter one dance in this division. Entries in this choreography competition do not count in the 12 dance limit for choreographers entering choreography divisions 1 to 11. A limited number of entries will be accepted and the competition will close when that limit is reached.

PLEASE NOTE: Lifts, drops, aerials, stunts, acrobatic moves, throwing and carrying of dancers, splits, lying and sitting on the floor are not allowed in the choreography competition. Vulgar or crude movements are not allowed. Movements beyond the point of flirtation, humor or comedy could result in penalties on judges score sheets.

CHOREOGRAPHY COMPETITION SCORING FORMAT

1. CONTENT—35 points. Variety, originality and uniqueness of dance, relationship of steps to the musical beat, styling, tempo and timing

2. PHRASING/FLOW—35 points. Flow of steps in each direction of movement and wall changes, relationship of step patterns to each other, balance of movement, easy and smoothness of motions.

3. ENTERTAINMENT VALUE/PROMOTIONAL POTENTIAL—15 points. How well the dance will be liked by other dancers, potential longevity of dance, ability of the dance to go viral across and between countries. The ability of the dance to inspire dancers to get up and dance.

4. EXECUTION—10 points. Proper demonstration of the dance steps and patterns as written on the step description.

5. DANCE NAME—5 points. Creativity of name and its relationship to the steps and dance music.

INTERNATIONAL CHOREOGRAPHERS

Please read the International page of the World Dance Showdown website for more information about how to enter the choreography competition and send your step sheets and videos.

WORLD DANCE INSTRUCTOR COMPETITION

This competition is for social line dance instructors who are teaching dance lessons in their community: in a dance hall, bar, community center, studio, school, social dance event or in a garage, basement or at a park. Based on this description, any and all dance instructors are welcome to enter this competition. You need not be an instructor at the World Dance Showdown to participate. Dance instructors teaching at the World Dance Showdown may enter this competition. Line dance instructors will receive scores in three judging categories to determine the overall World Dance Instructor of 2026. The judging categories are 1) Dance Instruction 2) Interview 3) Lesson Plan. The winner of this competition will win a position to teach a workshop at the World Dance Showdown 2028.

Depending on the total number of entries as we get closer to the event date, we may stop taking more entries for the World Dance Instructor Competition when the number of entries in this division is X (to be determined). Please register for this competition as soon as possible.

WORLD DANCE INSTRUCTOR SCORING FORMAT:

1: DANCE INSTRUCTION—40 points. Instructors will be given 3-5 minutes to teach a 32 count improver level dance on stage to judges who will be sitting in the audience. No students will be on stage learning the dances. Judges will observe knowledge of dance, understanding of steps, teaching expertise, style, presentation, confidence and skill to clearly teach the dance, ability to inspire judges/dancers and make them feel excited about the dance. Music will not be played. Competitions going overtime or teaching a dance that is over 32 counts and beyond improver level will incur point deductions on the judges score sheets.

2: INTERVIEW—30 points. Instructors will be given 3-5 minutes to answer one or two interview questions. Instructors will answer questions in front of a live audience. Judges will observe instructor knowledge, confidence, attitude, presentation and ability to provide the best answer while presenting himself/herself as an instructor. Competitions going overtime will incur point deductions on the judges score sheets.

3: LESSON PLAN—30 points. Instructors will prepare a one page essay describing a curriculum for teaching dance lessons and how they structure a dance class. This should include how they select dances, how many dances they teach in the lessons and how they structure curriculum from week to week. This lesson plan must be sent to hellotanyacurry@gmail.com by the 15th of August in pdf or word format.

If you have any questions about these rules and guidelines please contact Dale & Tanya Curry at hellotanyacurry@gmail.com or call 260-466-2484.