

UDO North America Rules

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GENERAL

All UDO Members:

- New UDO Members [Create Membership](#) (Complete the membership form), ensure only one number is allocated for a dancer, if you have more than one contact us using jo@theudogroup.com
- Ensure all information on your profile is kept up to date
- If you are unable to amend a field or have a query then contact the UDO office: jo@theudogroup.com
- Tickets are currently available

UDO Dancers:

- Each dancer must become a member of the UDO and have a current UDO Membership
- Proof of identity and age will be required during the initial membership stage
- Age verification must be completed before the UDO World Championships
- The dancers registered in a crew may be checked by UDO on the day to verify they are the correct dancer in the competing Team and in the correct division and category
- Dancers are only permitted to dance for one crew during a competition
- Crews will qualify and dance in the same category they have entered in for the whole UDO year (1st September until 31st August), this includes Worlds.
- It is the responsibility of the dancer, parent, guardian or studio owner / choreographer to ensure registration for an event has been completed before registration is closed

Conduct:

- Dancers are not permitted to touch the judges or other members of the public during performance
- Props are permitted providing they are not dangerous and can be cleared from the dance floor immediately after your performance. (No talc, glitter, water must be thrown down on to the stage!)
- Outfits must be age appropriate
- No inappropriate movement / gestures (i.e. No explicit sexual or offensive movements)
- Breach of these rules will result in a warning, penalty or disqualification.

Note: Penalties for teams see page 5

Crew Judging

Crews are judged on the following criteria:

Scoring	Max Points
<p>1. TECHNIQUE - Execution, performance and portrayal of street dance styles</p> <p>This is where we assess the street dance techniques you have chosen to show in your performance. We recognise 9 foundation styles of street dance: (hip hop, house, locking, popping, breaking, vogue, waacking, krump and dancehall). You will be marked based on the quality of your performance, portrayal and execution of the style techniques.</p> <p>The age category and division will also be taken into consideration.</p> <p>There are no numerical or time requirements for what you should show - it is entirely up to you. You do not have to perform styles in chunks as the judges will recognise legitimate street dance techniques wherever you decide to place them in your performance. Your score will take into account each style you perform (if you show more than one) so please bear in mind quality rather than quantity should be the goal.</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>2. EXECUTION - choreographic identity - crew synchronicity - dynamics and movement quality - use of levels</p> <p>This is where we assess the level of your crew skills and the execution of everything other than street dance technique. This means the choreography you decide to perform that doesn't necessarily include foundation technique, can score points for you based on the crew skills on show - synchronicity of the dancers in timing and shapes, use of different heights and levels, the quality of the movement on show and the use of different dynamics in your execution. We also encourage you to explore your choreographic identity - what moves, skills, ideas gives your crew its own identity. We want you to stand out for being you, not for trying to be like anyone else. We are trying to move away from the idea of a standard set and look forward to seeing what people will bring to their performances.</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>3. CREATIVITY - originality - concepts/themes - musicality - music choices</p> <p>As well as wanting to focus on the quality of performances with this update of the criteria we are really looking to push your creativity. Whether that be with themes and concepts for your sets or originality in your movement or even in your song choices. All these things will show up as creative, and some facets of your creativity will score you points in more than one criteria (i.e. a creative way of transitioning in your formations will get you points for creativity and stagecraft, well-executed originality in your moves will get you points in creativity and execution etc). Another aspect of creativity we look for is musicality. Bringing the music to life in interesting ways will add to your performance through your utilisation of musical accents, rhythm and tempos.</p>	<p>10</p>

<p>4. PERFORMANCE SKILLS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - confidence - focus - energy - projection <p>This is where we judge the level of your performance when you hit the floor. The confidence and focus on show during the performance. The projection of the movement to the audience and whether the energy can be felt beyond the stage. Even the commitment to characters if there is more of a narrative element to the performance. Basically, the way a crew brings life to their performance when they take to the stage.</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>5. STAGECRAFT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - formations - transitions - positioning - use of the stage <p>This is where we can judge your utilisation of the stage space during the performance. The accuracy and alignment of your formations. The smoothness and flow of the transitions of the dancers on and around the stage. The positioning of the individual dancers to make the formations appear as they should. Even the use of the whole expanse of the stage. A mixture of these things can really add to a performance.</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>6. JUDGES OPINION</p> <p>This is where we give our judges a chance to score the performance as a whole. It is not as quantifiable as the other criteria but rather it is based on the judges' individual feelings towards the performance, outside of the way of critiquing it based on our criteria. We always have a diverse range of dance specialists represented on our judging panels so as choreographers your job is to try to appeal to the diverse range of judges we have!</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>General Note</p> <p>Age and level will always be taken into account when scoring. The older and/or higher up the ability scale you go, the more we expect in terms of your execution The full scale of 0 - 10 will be used We encourage teams to do what they want to do and not just what they think will win. Self-expression, creativity and originality are key.</p>	

Judges will grade per section using the following scale:

0-2 = Below Average 3-4 = Average 5-6 = Good 7-8 = Very Good 9-10 = Excellent

Please note that Judges may use increments of 0.25, 0.5, 0.75 and 1 to scores in accordance with the above scale.

Penalties will be given for the following:

Below is a list and its abbreviations:

- L** = Obscenities or inappropriate language in music
- C** = Inappropriate costume for age category
- M** = Inappropriate movement for age category
- T** = Music and/or performance over stated time

One point per Judge per penalty will be deducted for the above rule breaks.

Any deductions for penalties will be taken off. These will be monitored and allocated by the Head Judge. These penalty marks are deducted from the Judges assessment section of the marks before the teams are placed.

- Outfits must be age appropriate and family viewing appropriate, this will be at the judges' discretion as to when penalties apply.
- No inappropriate movement / gestures (i.e. No explicit sexual or offensive movements)

CREW RULES

General:

- Each crew must consist of a minimum of 5 dancers, with a recommended maximum of 26 dancers (this depends on the size of the stage)
- If a choreographer needs to replace any of the original crew members registered during the online registration, add in additional members or reduce the number of dancers in the crew on the day, they must inform the Registration staff before the crew competes
- Refer to General rules (See page 2)

Conduct:

- Refer to Conduct rules (See page 2)

Music:

- It is the Choreographer / studio owner's responsibility to ensure that the crew music is checked and uploaded to UDO two weeks prior to the event. Each crew needs to have back up music on either a USB or CD with only the track that they require at the event
- Music should be free from swearing and inappropriate language as deemed by the judges. Any penalties will be notified to the crew representative; we will attempt to notify the representative at the event
- The music should be balanced at a set level for playing, the DJ will make no adjustments on the day for sound (if you need more info or help with this then please contact us)
- Music must be cut to the correct time limit - Music length: 2 minutes 30 seconds

Age divisions & Category Levels:

- Ages are based around the academic / sporting year, i.e. the age the dancer becomes during the UDO dance year (September 1st to August 31st) will be the age that he/she competes in for the entire year. For example, if you become 12 on July 1st 2017 then you must compete in Under 14 from September 1st 2017 until August 31st 2018.
- A minimum of 75% of the competing crew must be within the age division they are competing in. The crew are allowed to have a maximum of 25% who are older. However, they can only be older up to the next age division. i.e. – if you had 12 dancers in your under 14 crew, 9 dancers would have to be under 13 years of age within the dance year (1st September to 31st August), 3 dancers could be older either 14, 15, 16 OR 17 years of age. You would NOT be allowed to use dancers 18 years or older.
- There are 5 age divisions within the team sections, they are:
 - Under 10's
 - Under 12's
 - Under 14's
 - Under 18's
 - Over 18's
- Each age division is also split into category levels, these are:
 - Beginner
 - Novice
 - Intermediate
 - Advanced
- The above categories are the current divisions offered at Worlds. UDO North America will offer the following categories:
 - Juniors (music max 2 minutes 30 seconds)
 - Under 14 Open and Under 14 Advanced (music max 2 minutes 30 seconds)
 - Under 18 Open and Under 18 Advanced (music max 2 minutes 30 seconds)
 - Over 18 Open (music max 2 minutes 30 seconds)
 - The Ultimate Category (music max 2 minutes 30 seconds)

Open categories are for crews who are new to Hip Hop or competing and Advanced categories are for crews who have experience in Hip Hop competitions or performance. The Ultimate Category must be entered by all adult advanced crews but is also open to mixed aged crews.

*Please note the Ultimate Category will run at the Organizer's discretion should there be less than 15 crews entered. Crews entered will revert to the Over 18 Advanced category / Showcase category with less of a prize if this decision is made.

Crew categories by levels:

Beginner

- This category is open to all crews that have never competed in a UDO Hip Hop competition. Also, crews that currently dance at UDO in a Beginner level and have never won (with 5 or more crews in the category) or been placed in the top 5 (with 8 or more crews in their category)
- Crews will compete in this category for all competitions they enter during the UDO running year (1st September until 31st August)
- Once the year is complete (31st August) the crews that have won with 5 or more crews in their category or crews that have placed twice (from 2nd to 5th) with 8 or more crews in their category, will move up to the Novice category (if offered) for the next UDO running Year
- Music length is 2 minutes maximum, anything over this will be penalised
- No more than 50% of crew dancers can be above Beginner / Novice level in solo or duo

Novice

- This category is open to all crews that have never competed in a UDO Street Dance competition, but wish to start at a novice level
- It is also open to crews that currently dance at UDO in a Novice level and have never won (with 5 or more crews in the category) or been placed in the top 5 (with 8 or more teams in their category)
- Crews will compete in this category for all competitions they enter during the UDO running year (1st September until 31st August)
- Once a crew has danced at this level they are not permitted to drop back down to Beginner
- Once the year is complete (31st August) the crews that have won with 5 or more crews in their category or crews that have placed twice (from 2nd to 5th) with 8 or more crews in their category, will move up to the Intermediate category for the next UDO running Year
- Music length is 2 minutes maximum, anything over this will be penalised

Intermediate

- This category is open to all crews that have never competed in a UDO Street Dance competition, but wish to start at an Intermediate level
- It is also open to crews that currently dance at UDO in an Intermediate level and have never won (with 5 or more crews in the category) or been placed in the top 5 (with 8 or more crews in their category)
- Crews will compete in this category for all competitions they enter during the UDO running year (1st September until 31st August)
- Once a crew has danced at this level they are not permitted to drop back down to Novice until they move up an age division, or if they have never been placed within 1 year they can send a request to the UDO North America committee for consideration
- Once the year is complete (31st August) the crews that have won with 5 or more crews in their category or crews that have placed twice (from 2nd to 5th) with 8 or more teams in their category, will move up to the Advanced category for the next UDO running Year
- Music length is 2 minutes 30 seconds maximum, anything over this will be penalised

Advanced

- This category is open to all crews that have never competed in a UDO Street Dance competition, but wish to start at an Advanced level
- It is also open to crews that currently dance at UDO in an Advanced level
- Crews will compete in this category for all competitions they enter during the UDO running year (1st September until 31st August)
- Once a crew has danced at this level they are not permitted to drop back down to Intermediate until they move up an age division, or if they have never been placed within 1 year they can send a request to the UDO North America committee for consideration
- Music length is 2 minutes 30 seconds maximum, anything over this will be penalised

Crew registration / Entry for an event:

It is the Choreographer / studio owner's responsibility to ensure that the crew is registered to dance before the specified closing date and in correct age division and category as outlined below.

- Crew registration will be available online for the teachers to register from at least 3 months before the event is due to take place
- Crew entries must be submitted ONLINE via the relevant events page
- Entries must be no later than 10 days before the event
- Any changes or questions must be asked or submitted before the date that the registration is due to close
- Uploading crew music in MP3 format to UDO website. This can be done when registering the team or after registration. It's the teacher's responsibility to ensure quality, volume, music length and clean music is uploaded
- Studio owners / choreographers are responsible for bringing a back -up of their music to the event, in case there is any technical failure with the upload

Questions regarding Crews

Any queries or questions in regards to crews should only asked by the Choreographer / studio owner (Any Parents and or dancers please direct your questions to your Choreographer / Teacher and they will liaise with UDO on your behalf).

Questions at an event:

- Can be directed to the Contest Co-ordinator (situated side of stage next to the DJ and MC) or
- The UDO registration / reception (near the main entrance)
- If you are unable to find these, then please see a UDO member of staff (clearly marked Event Staff T-shirts) situated at the doors and stewarding in the halls and they will direct you
- Under NO circumstances are you to directly approach the Scrutineer or Judges

Questions pre-and post-event:

- Can be directed via Email
- Via Facebook private message to our page
- By telephone into the office

Crew Judging / What are the Judge's looking for?

All crews are judged on the criteria (See pages 3 and 4)

Quads

This section is for 4 dancers to choreograph to a set track set by UDO and perform as a "team" of 4. All quads will perform to the same track specific to their age.

This section is only split by age at both North American Championships and Worlds:

Under 10

Under 14

Under 18

18+

You must dance in the age category of the oldest dancer ie/ if a quad has 3 dancers who are 17 and 1 dancer who is 18 then the quad must compete in 18+

More than 1 quad may be on the stage at a time as part of a heat. The Judges will select the best from each heat to move forward to quarter finals, semi- finals and finals in each age category.

Duos

Music:

- Music will be played at random by the DJ
- There will be set BPM (Beats per minute) for each category depending on the level you are dancing in; the BPM's are as follows for Duos.
- Beginner & Novice - 110-130BPM
- Intermediate - 100-130BPM
- Advanced - 90-130BPM

(For North America we will just have an Open Category split by ages Under 10, Under 14, Under 18 and Over 18 using BMP 110 – 130)

Duo Dancing Procedure:

- Dancers will be called to side of stage (dancer holding area) in category and age by the MC.
- The contest co-ordinator will check them off the list and if needed will separate them into heats.
- Dancers will then be split into heats depending on the number of dancers in that category and the size of the dance floor / stage.
- Each dancer will be advised by the contest co-ordinator the heat they are in.
- Dancers will remain in the holding area until their heat has been called to the floor.
- Dancers will then come onto the floor once their age division, category and heat has been announced by the MC.
- Dancers will dance on the dance floor at the same time as the other dancers in their heat.
- The judges may move and select the dancer numbers they want to recall to the next round.
- That heat will leave the floor and the next heat will be called, the cycle will be repeated until all dancers from that category and age division have danced.
- Recalls will be announced by Age division & category and the numbers of the dancers that are successfully through to the next round will be called to the dance floor to dance again.
- Recalls will continue until we have reached the dancers required for a Final (this is usually 5 dancers for Duo). Judges will then place the dancers.
- The agreed top 5 placed dancers will be awarded trophies, the remaining finalists (if any) will be awarded medals.
- Ensure you do not miss your category that you have registered in as you will not be permitted to dance in another category. If you are not ticked off at side of stage before the category begins dancing you may not be allowed to dance.

What are the Judges looking for?

- Judges will be looking for the following:
- Musicality (Dancing in time with the music)
- Showing a variety of movement & Choreography
- Energy, Enthusiasm and Confidence
- Uniqueness & Interpretation

In addition to the above for Duos the Judges will also look at:

- Synchronicity (Mirror Image)
- Connection (Choreography complimenting each other)

Age divisions & Category Levels:

- Ages are based around the UDO year, i.e. the age the dancer becomes during the UDO year (1st September to 31st August) will be the age that he/she competes in for the entire year. For example, if you become 12 on 1st July 2017 then you must compete in Under 14 from 1st September 2016 until 31st August 2018.
- There are 7 age divisions within Duo sections that UDO offer globally. They are:
 - o Under 6's (5 years and under)
 - o Under 8's (7 years and under)

- o Under 10's (9 years and under)
- o Under 12's (11 years and under)
- o Under 14's (13 years and under)
- o Under 16's (15 years and under)
- o Over 16's (16 years and over)

(Each UDO Country reserves the right to combine / reduce age categories).

- Please remember the age rules, for example if are 15 now but turn 16 before the 1st of September then for dancer age purposes you will be classed as 16 for that year, therefore you must dance in the Over 16's.
- Please note if you are a Dance Teacher and / or professional dancer, then you must compete in Advanced.
- Below are the categories offered Duos, with the exception of the Under 6 division that is offered at an Open level only.
- Duos Categories: o Beginner o Novice o Intermediate o Advanced
- The UDO reserves the right to combine certain categories and / or age divisions (i.e. Beginner/Novice or Intermediate/Advanced and some occasions dancers may be combined into an open category by age)
- Heats of approximately 5 quads on the floor at any one time down to Semi-Final / Final, each heat will last for approximately 60-90 seconds

Duo categories by levels:

Beginner/Novice (Open)

- This category is ideal for dancers who are new to Hip Hop or competitions.
- The UDO reserves the right to combine certain categories and / or age divisions (i.e. Beginner/Novice or Intermediate/Advanced and some occasions Duo's may be combined into an open category by age)

Intermediate

- This category is ideal for dancers who are fairly experienced in Hip Hop and used to competitions.
- Once a Dancer has danced at this level they are not permitted to drop back down to Beginner/Novice (Open) until they move up an age division, or if they have never been placed within 2 years they can send a request to the UDO committee for consideration.

Advanced

- This category is for dancers who are experienced in Hip Hop and dance regularly at competitions. Teachers must dance in this category.
- Once a Dancer has danced at this level they are not permitted to drop back down to Intermediate until they move up an age division, or if they have never been placed within 2 years they can send a request to the UDO committee for consideration.

- Advanced heats will run in the same way as all other divisions, on reaching the final each dancer will perform a solo spot of their routine for a maximum of 12 bars (48 beats).

The above are the current divisions offered at Worlds. For 2018 UDO North America will offer:

- Under 10 (both dancers must be Under 10 years old)
- Under 14 (both dancers must be Under 14 years old)
- Under 18 (both dancers must be Under 18 years old)
- Over 18 (One dancer must be Over 18 years old)

Each age division will have a different track, selected by the DJ on the day but within BPM of 110 - 130.

The categories will run in heats as described above with finalists performing a solo spot of 48 beats

1 v 1 Battles

These are split by age and style. At the World Championships we offer:

Junior (Under 16)
Senior (16+)

Breaking
Hip Hop
House
Locking
Popping

For North America we will offer:

Junior Hip Hop
Junior All Styles

Senior Hip Hop
Senior All Styles

For All Styles any track can be played by the DJ and any style can be shown by the dancer. The Judges will be looking for the best dancer overall. Generally a dancer will show the same style as the track but this is not compulsory.

For example, a dancer could show a locking piece from Round 1 all the way through to the Final even if a locking track was only played once. If they were deemed the best dancer then they would continue to make it through the rounds.

How it will work

If more than 8 dancers enter a category then there will be Heats for that category with a maximum of 10 dancers in each round.

The best 8 dancers will then be selected to perform a 30 second showcase in the Quarter Finals.

The best 4 dancers will be selected from this for the Semi-Finals where they will 1 v 1 battle for 1 round of 30 seconds each.

The best 2 dancers will be selected from this battle for the Final where they will be 1 v 1 battle 2 rounds of 30 seconds each.

If there are 8 or less dancers in the category then it will start with the 30 second showcase at the Quarter Finals.

Qualifying for Worlds

The Semi – Finalists and Finalists for each category will qualify for Worlds. If you have entered All Styles in North America and reach a Semi – Final you can then select which style you would like to enter at Worlds.

Solos and Crew Battles

Globally UDO offers other categories. If these become available at your event they will feature on the event page and the rules for these will be updated.

If you are going to attend Worlds 2019 with your crew and wish to take part in solos then please contact jo@theudogroup.com. Qualification is not necessary for Crew Battles and again Jo can assist you with this category.

How to Qualify for Worlds

Currently the only qualification event for North America is December 1 – 2 2018 in Orlando.

Categories in brief for UDO North America Championships 2018

Crew categories:

Under 10 Open (beginners / first timers with 75% of the crew being aged Under 10 years old)

Under 10 Advanced (dancers who are used to performances, competitions and 75% of the crew are Under 10 years old)

Under 14 Open (beginners / first timers with 75% of the crew being aged Under 14 years old)

Under 14 Advanced (dancers who are used to performances, competitions and 75% of the crew are Under 14 years old)

Under 18 Open (beginners / first timers with 75% of the crew being aged Under 18 years old)

Under 18 Advanced (dancers who are used to performances, competitions and 75% of the crew are Under 18 years old)

Over 18 Open (beginners / first timers with 75% of the crew being aged Over 18 years old)

Ultimate Category (\$10,000 cash prize money. Crews who are used to performances and competitions with 75% of the crew being Over 18 years old OR any mixed age crew who think their kids are dope enough to enter prize money category).

*Please note the Ultimate Category will run at the Organizer's discretion should there be less than 15 crews entered. Crews entered will revert to the Over 18 Advanced category / Showcase category with less of a prize if this decision is made.

Quads:

Under 10 (all 4 dancers must be aged Under 10 years old)

Under 14 (all 4 dancers must be aged Under 14 years old)

Under 18 (all 4 dancers must be aged Under 18 years old)

Over 18 (all 4 dancers must be aged Over 18 years old)

Tracks have been set for each age category. All quads perform in heats at the same time (roughly 4 or 5 on stage at a time for about 90 seconds) then for finals they perform individually again for about 90 seconds. Only the first 90 seconds of the track needs to be choreographed.

Duos:

Under 10 (both dancers must be Under 10 years old)

Under 14 (both dancers must be Under 14 years old)

Under 18 (both dancers must be Under 18 years old)

Over 18 (One dancer must be Over 18 years old)

Each age division will have a different track, selected by the DJ on the day but within BPM of 110 - 130.

1v1 Battles

Junior (Under 16)

Hip Hop

All Styles

Senior (16+)

Hip Hop

All Styles

* For All Styles any track can be played by the DJ and any style can be shown by the dancer. The Judges will be looking for the best dancer

overall. Generally a dancer will show the same style as the track but this is not compulsory.