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WHAT IS AN ENCORE REGIONAL EVENT?

UDO are excited to bring you UDO's Encore Regionals - The Ultimate Dance Experience. This is a premium and professional competition format for genres of dance including; Commercial, Lyrical/Contemporary & Musical Theatre/Jazz (MT Jazz).

With this new format Encore will offer dancers the opportunity to compete in Teams, Solos & Duos. (See the Solos/Duos and Teams rules section for details in which genres you can compete in at an event)

Encore Regional events provide the opportunity to qualify for our annual British Dance Festival which combines the established UDO Street Dance competition with our prestigious Encore Styles of Dance.

WHAT GENRES ARE ON OFFER AT AN ENCORE REGIONAL EVENT?

COMMERCIAL

Commercial is a Dance style taken from many other dance disciplines (Such as Jazz, Street and modern) . It's a combination of self expression, energy and performance. This is an upcoming style of Dance that is becoming increasingly popular within the Dance Industry.

You will regularly see this style of dance in music videos, on TV shows or commercials and at music artists concerts.

COMMERCIAL - WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR

We want to see your choreography bring the music to life. We want your performance to relate to the music and have both movement and music synchronicity. We also encourage you to explore your choreographic identity. We want you to stand out for being you!

LYRICAL/CONTEMPORARY

Lyrical/Contemporary Dance is a combination of Ballet and Jazz Dance. Choreographers use the lyrics from songs to inspire the routine. This Style focuses on strong emotion and offers individuals the chance to express themselves freely through movements, portraying the emotion and story of a song.

LYRICAL/CONTEMPORARY - WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR

We are looking for creativity and dance content whereby the dancer(s) interpret the music with good technique. Whilst tricks are allowed in this genre, the performance should have a good balance of dance/movement content and acrobatic movements.

Musical Theatre/Jazz

A form of Theatrical Dancing that combines the songs from Broadway Musicals with the movement of classic Jazz Styles. Jazz is an umbrella term to encompass many different branches, including Technical Jazz, Commercial Jazz, Musical Theatre Jazz. It is fast, fun and incorporates many of the same elements as Ballet and Contemporary including leaps and pirouettes.

Musical Theatre/Jazz - WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR

We are looking for creativity, energy and Jazz technique. Dancers are allowed to sing over the track and/or mime the lyrics for any Musical Theatre/Jazz performance. However, if your routine does not include singing/miming of any kind, this does not mean you will lose points.

GENERAL RULES

ENCORE/UDO Dancers:

- Require original document **proof of identity** & age verification. This must be completed during your **first 6 months** as a member.
- Dancers may compete in **ONE Solo Style, TWO Duo styles** and a maximum of **TWO Team styles per event**. (This applies to **Encore Regionals ONLY**)
- You **may not compete twice** in the **same genre** (i.e perform two solos/two duos or compete in two different teams in the same genre at one event).
- Dancers must wear DANCER wristbands on the floor.
- All dancers will qualify and dance in the **same category** they have entered in for the **whole ENCORE / UDO year** (1st September until 31st August). This includes British Dance Festival & UDO Worlds, regardless of placings or wins. Once they have placed, they will move up a category when the next Encore/UDO year begins.
- Dancers must be in the holding area and ready to dance at least **15 minutes before** stepping onto the floor.
- Encore/UDO reserves the right to **combine categories** (e.g Beginner/Advanced) if the category has low numbers.

Registration & Event Entry

Pre-event Entry Changes:

- It is the Choreographer/Dance Teacher/designated representative responsibility to ensure that a dancer is registered.

Registration / Entry for an event:

- It is the **Dancer/Parent/Guardian/Dance Teacher's** responsibility to ensure that the Team/ Duo/Solo is **registered to dance** before the specified closing date and in correct age division and category as outlined below.
- Registration will be available online to register from at **least 2 months** before an event is due to take place.
- New Encore Members must **Create Membership** (Complete the membership form) Each dancer must become a member of the UDO on www.udostreetdance.com. Once you have created a membership, you must register for your category.
- To purchase Tickets please ensure you are logged in to a UDO **membership account**.
- Parents registering children: Due to data protection, a dancer under the age of 16 needs to be registered by a **parent whose membership is linked to theirs**. UDO must link the accounts, so if your account is not linked please contact the UDO Office: hello@theudogroup.com
- Team, Solo and Duo entries for all Encore competitions must be submitted online via the relevant [events page](#). To register for a UDO Event, please refer to the UDO Website: www.udostreetdance.com
- Entries will be completed by Jot Form and supplied to the teacher in advance.
- Entries must be **NO LATER than 10 days** before a regional competition and **21 days** before the World Championships, British Dance Festival, and Encore Weekend.
- Any changes or questions must be asked or submitted before the date that the registration is due to close. (i.e. 10 days before a regional event and 21 days before the major events)
- Any regional organiser may combine age groups or divisions at their discretion, based on attendees and entrants to each event.
- Music for teams has to be uploaded/submitted via hello@theudogroup.com at least 5 days before the event, A backup USB or CD should also be brought with you on the day of the event.
- **No late registrations are accepted on the day of an event.**
- Mitigating circumstances outside of the Encore/UDO rules must be submitted to the Encore/UDO Committee for their consideration.

Team Judging

Teams will be judged on the following criteria, please refer to **WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR SECTION** for information on each Dance Genre.

Scoring	Max Points
Variety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portrayal & execution of the style • Variety of choreography used 	10
Musicality & creativity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretation of different beats & phrasing • Original movement ideas, uniqueness & originality of combinations 	10
Choreography <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulty level of choreography • Overall use of space and spatial awareness, and use of smooth transitions. 	10
Stagecraft <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attentiveness, enthusiasm, energy, confidence • Routine execution and perfection 	10
Creativity and Musicality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The creative throughout the piece overall • Use of music and attention to detail throughout 	10
Judges opinion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is the individual opinion of each judge. 	10
General Note <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	

TEAM RULES

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. These penalty marks are deducted from the Judge's assessment section of the marks before the teams are placed.

General Rules:

- Minimum - 5 dancers. Recommended Maximum - 25 dancers.
- Dancers **are** permitted to compete in TWO Team Genres of their choice e.g. a dancer can compete in Lyrical and Commercial teams or Lyrical and M.T./Jazz but a dancer cannot dance in two teams of the same genre e.g. 2 commercial teams or 2 lyrical teams.
- If a team changes by over 50% during the competition year and you wish to be considered as a new team, please contact the UDO Head Office. If you wish to change your team name, category age or division for any reason you will also need to contact the UDO Head Office - hello@theudogroup.com or encore@theudogroup.com

Team Music and Performance:

- It is the Choreographer / teachers' responsibility to ensure that the Team music is checked and uploaded to the UDO website **two weeks prior** to the UDO's major Championships (Worlds, British Dance Festival and Encore Weekend).
- It is the Choreographer / teachers' responsibility to ensure that the Team music is checked and uploaded/submitted to the UDO/Encore **5 DAYS** before an Encore Regional via hello@theudogroup.com
- Each team needs to have **back-up music** on either a USB or CD with only the track that they bring with them to the event.
- Music should be free from swearing and inappropriate language as deemed by the judges. Any **penalties** will be notified to the team representative.
- The music should be **balanced** at a set level for playing, the DJ will make **no adjustments** on the day for sound (contact us for help with this).
- Music needs to be a maximum of 2 minutes & 30 Seconds. Any team that exceeds this will incur penalties and a team representative will be notified.

Team Age Divisions & Category Levels:

- Ages are based around the **academic / sporting year**, The age the dancer becomes during the school year (1st September to 31st August) will be the age that he/she competes in for the entire year. For example, if you turn **12** on **1st July 2018** then you must compete in **Under 14** from **1st September 2018** until **31st August 2019**. Dancers will be **ranked with points** throughout the year in their category.
- A minimum of **75% of the competing team** must be within the age division they are competing in, with **25% permitted to be older**. However, they can only be older by one age division. No over 18-year-olds can compete in the u14 team category.
- Once the year is complete, the Teams that have **won** with **5 or more** teams in their category or Teams that have **placed twice** (from 2nd to 5th) with **8 or more** teams in their category, will **move up a category** for the next Encore / UDO running Year.
- Once a team has moved up a category, they are **not permitted** to drop back down. For advanced, if teams have not been placed within 1 year they can send a request to the UDO committee for consideration.

There are **4 age divisions** within the TEAM sections on offer at Encore, they are:

Minis (Ages 4-7) Juniors (Ages 8-11) Teens (Ages 12-15) Seniors (16+)

These age categories may not be available for every regional, the selection of ages/divisions for sections is at the discretion of the competition organiser for each event. This will be published before the event.

Team categories by levels:

Beginner & Advanced

- Each category is open to:
 - All teams that have **never competed** in an Encore Event, but wish to compete at the **stated level**.
 - Teams that **currently dance** at the **stated level**, and have **never won** (with **5 or more** teams in the category) or been placed in the **top 5** (with **8 or more** teams in their category) or been placed in the **top 7** in **European Championships** (with **8 or more** teams in their category).
- If there are **4 teams or less** in a category the Encore/UDO reserves the right to **combine** certain categories.

SOLO & DUO RULES

Music:

Music will be set by Encore for Contemporary/Lyrical Solos & Duos, Musical Theatre/Jazz Duos & Commercial Duos.

Music for Commercial Solos will be played at random by the DJ. The BPM of the track for each category will be suitable for the age and ability of the dancers.

Solo/Duo Dancing Procedure:

- Dancers will be called to the side of the stage (**holding area**) in category and age by the MC.
- Dancers will be separated into **heats**.
- Dancers will dance on the floor **at the same time** as the other dancers in their heat.
- **Recalls** will be announced by **age division & category**, and continue until the final (this is approx. **7 dancers for Solo** and **5 dancers for Duo** finals).
- Do not miss your category; you will **not be permitted** to dance in another category. If you are not ticked off at the side of the stage before the category begins dancing, you may not be allowed to dance!

What are the Judges looking for?

- 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 complementing one another)

Conduct:

- Dancers are not permitted to touch the judges or other members of the public during performance.
- Props are permitted, providing they comply with **Health & Safety regulations**. Props must be cleared easily from the dance floor immediately (i.e. **No** fire, chalk, talc, glitter etc may be thrown onto the stage). The stage must be left in the condition on which it was entered.
- **Lyrical & Commercial Solo / Duo Dancers** must remain in their **permitted floor space** whilst dancing. Limited movement is permitted within one's own dance space. Rolls, jumps, split leaps, head springs, walkovers are permitted as long as they are completed safely and not in anyone else's dance space or breaching any other dancer or judges safety. **Note:** We are looking for Dance content so your solo should have 80% dance content and movement but 20% can be Acrobatics if you wish.
- If you are an **Advanced Soloist/Duo** and you reach the final 5, each Solo/Duo will have a 30 second spot, the music will start from the beginning each time. **Please Note:** All Solo & Duo categories will be split into Beginner & Advanced and there is a possibility they could be combined based on the number of entries we receive. Therefore, the music set for each AGE CATEGORY will be the same regardless of if you are in the Beginner or Advanced categories for your Solo/Duo.
- **Commercial Outfits** must be **age appropriate**, we expect children to be covered in the correct areas and not to wear something that shows too much skin.
- Please ensure there is **NO** inappropriate movement / gestures permitted (i.e. No explicit or offensive movements) Judges do not wish to see any dancer performing in a non-age appropriate manner. When performing routines please be mindful of the audience, we cater for all ages from under 6 and above, So when expressing yourself be mindful of inappropriate movements for our varied audience. If unsure what is deemed in-appropriate please contact Encore/UDO for clarification on this matter.
- Dancers in a Solo/Duo are **not permitted** to use any tricks in the heats. All tricks must be kept to the final. "Trick" = anything construed as a gymnastic or acrobatic move where both hands and feet are off the floor at any given time throughout the **trick**, or where a dancer is not in full control of their body e.g **flips, side aerials, front aerials, back handsprings, somersaults**.

Breach of these rules will result in a warning or disqualification.

Age divisions & Category Levels:

Ages are based around the Encore/UDO academic year.

There are 4 Age Divisions within the **Solo and Duo** sections, they are:

Minis (Ages 4-7) Juniors (Ages 8-11) Teens (Ages 12-15) Seniors (16+)

Not all regionals will offer all age groups as above. Each regional will advertise the ages and divisions they have on offer for their specific date in advance. Please always check with the competition organiser before booking onto an event so you are aware of what is on offer.

There will be set Music for each AGE division and Style of Dance. E.g. Mini's Contemporary/Lyrical Beginner and Advanced Soloists will have the same Music to perform too. This is to ensure that if categories need to be combined then they will still dance to the same song.

Solo & Duo Ability Categories: Beginner & Advanced

Duo Notes: Duos will dance in the same age division as that of the eldest dancer.

- The category level can be based on the middle ground between the 2 dancers, i.e. if one dancer competes as a Solo dancer in Under 12 Novice (UDO), and the other dancer is Under 16 Advanced, then the Duo is permitted to dance in the Under 16 Intermediate.
- If none of the dancers compete in Solo, then the Duo will use the same rules as solos.

Solo & Duo category levels explained:

- Please note the same applies for Solos & Duos as it does for teams i.e: Ages are based around the Academic / Sporting year.
- Each category is open to: dancers who have not competed previously, but consider themselves to be within that ability category/Dancers who had competed previously, but never won (with 5 or more dances in their category) or placed (with 8 or more dancers in their category).
- Once a dancer has won (with 5 or more dances in their category) or placed twice (with 8 or more), they get moved up a level.
- Dancers are not permitted to drop down a category once they have placed and moved up.

Teachers:

- If you're a **New Dance Teacher, Assistant Dance Teacher**, and / or a professional dancer to Encore/UDO you will be able to compete in Intermediate/Advanced for Solo and Duo. Although after a Judges assessment you may be upgraded to a higher division for the year.
- If you're an **existing Dance Teacher, Assistant Dance Teacher**, and / or a professional dancer competing with Encore/UDO at an Advanced level and have not placed in the past 18 months, you will be eligible to send a written request to Encore/UDO to change your division for this year.

Any Questions?

Regarding Dancers

- Any queries or questions regarding Dancers should only be asked by the Choreographer / Dance teacher. (Any Parents and or dancers please direct your questions to your Choreographer / Teacher and they will liaise with Encore/UDO on your behalf).

At an event:

- Can be directed to the Contest Coordinator (situated side of stage next to the DJ and MC) or The Encore 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 Scrutineers or Judges.

Pre & post event:

- You can contact us via Email using the relevant contact form on the website. For general queries, please email hello@theudogroup.com
- Via Social media private message to our pages:
Instagram: @udostreetdance @udoencore
Facebook: United Dance Organisation, UDO UK, or Encore
- By telephone into the office – please call 02920 799 199.
- All of the above may only be dealt with during the office hours of 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday.