



UNITED DANCE ORGANISATION

INCLUSIVE / ACCESSIBLE CATEGORY RULES

UNITED WE DANCE



CONTENTS

GENERAL RULES - UDO/ENCORE DANCERS	2
CODE OF CONDUCT & TEACHERS	3
WHAT QUALIFIES AS A DISABILITY?	4
WHAT IS THE INCLUSIVE/ACCESSIBLE TEAMS CATEGORY	5
THE GENRES REPRESENTED	5
A GENRE BREAKDOWN	6-7
INCLUSIVE / ACCESSIBLE TEAMS CRITERIA	8
INCLUSIVE / ACCESSIBLE TEAM SCORING SYSTEM	9
ANY QUESTIONS?	10



GENERAL RULES

UDO / ENCORE DANCERS

Age verification will need to be completed if you are **under the age of 18** and you will only need to do this once. You can do this on registration where UDO Staff will require **original document proof of identity** (e.g Passport, Driving Licence). This must be completed during your **first 6 months as a member**.

Dancers must wear **DANCER** wristbands on the floor. Dancers must be in the holding area and ready to dance at least **20 minutes before** stepping onto the floor.

Team entries for the **Inclusive/Accessible Category** must be submitted online via the relevant events page - **www.udoencore.com**

It is the Dancer/Parent/Guardian/Dance Teacher's responsibility to ensure that the Team is **registered to dance** before the specified closing date and in the correct category as outlined below.

Registration will be available online to register from **at least 3 months before an event** is due to take place. Entries will be completed by JotForm and supplied to the teacher in advance. Entries must be **NO LATER than 21 Days before the Event**. No late registrations are accepted on the day of an event.

New 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

Any changes or questions must be asked or submitted before the date that the registration is due to close. (i.e. 21 days before the major events)

Music for teams has to be uploaded via email to 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.

Mitigating circumstances outside of the Encore/UDO rules must be submitted to the Encore/UDO Committee for their consideration.

CODE OF CONDUCT

- Dancers are **not permitted** to touch the Judges, Staff 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.
- **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 manner.
- **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. If there are 4 teams or less in a category the Encore/UDO reserves the right to combine certain categories.

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

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 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.



WHAT QUALIFIES AS A DISABILITY?

A person with a disability is someone who has a long-term physical, mental, intellectual, sensory, or developmental impairment which, in interaction with various barriers, may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.

TYPES OF DISABILITIES THAT QUALIFY:

Physical Disabilities

- Mobility impairments (e.g. use of wheelchair, crutches, prosthetics)
- Muscular or neurological disorders (e.g. cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy)
- Amputations or limb differences
- Chronic pain or fatigue conditions (e.g., arthritis, fibromyalgia)

Sensory Disabilities

- Visual impairments (e.g., blindness, low vision)
- Hearing impairments (e.g., deafness, hard of hearing)
- Dual sensory impairments (e.g., deaf-blindness)

Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities

- Down syndrome
- Autism spectrum disorder (ASD)
- Global developmental delay
- Cognitive disabilities affecting learning or comprehension

Neurological and Mental Health Conditions

- Epilepsy
- Brain injuries
- Mental health conditions (e.g., PTSD, anxiety, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder)
- ADHD or other neuro-diverse conditions

Note: *The category also welcomes individuals who identify as neuro-divergent if their condition significantly impacts their daily functioning or communication.*

Eligibility Notes

- *Dancers may be self-identified or formally diagnosed.*
- *We do not require proof of diagnosis, but we trust participants and their guardians/coaches to enter this category in good faith.*
- *The goal is to create a space where ability is celebrated, and everyone feels respected and supported!*

WHAT IS THE INCLUSIVE / ACCESSIBLE CATEGORY?

Our main aim of this category is to make Dance Inclusive and Accessible for everyone! We want to give every single Dancer the chance to shine and showcase their talents regardless of ability.

This Category is open to ALL STYLES of Dance at the UDO British Dance Festival and is specific to Street Dance at UDO Europeans & UDO World Championships.

For now, this category is for TEAM Routines and will remain as an OPEN category so there will be no age splits.



THE GENRES REPRESENTED

STREET DANCE
COMMERCIAL
CONTEMPORARY / LYRICAL
MUSICAL THEATRE
JAZZ
BALLET & TAP

GENRE BREAKDOWN

STREET DANCE

Street dance is an umbrella term for a large number of Social Dance Styles such as: Breakdancing, Popping, Locking, House, Waacking etc. Social Dance Styles have many accompanying steps and foundations, created organically from a culture, a moment in time, a way of life, influenced by natural social interaction.

STREET DANCE - WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

This is where we assess the Street Dance Techniques you have chosen to show in your performance. We recognise 11 foundation styles of street dance: (Hip Hop, House, Locking, Popping, Breaking, Vogue, Waacking, Krump, Dancehall, Litefeet & Afro). You will be marked based on the quality of your performance, portrayal and execution of the style techniques.

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 artist's concerts.

COMMERCIAL - WHAT WE ARE 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 WE ARE 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

Musical Theatre dancing is less of a particular style, and more of a description of dancing that is rooted in the diverse history of Broadway musicals. Relying heavily on a knowledge of Ballet, Tap and Jazz, Musical Theatre dancers place a high focus on musical interpretation.

MUSICAL THEATRE - WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

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

GENRE BREAKDOWN

JAZZ

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.

JAZZ - WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

We are looking for well represented Jazz Technique, Clean Routines and Energy. Jazz Technique will include elements of Jumps, Precise Arm / Leg movements and breathtaking twists. We want Dancers to express themselves with enthusiasm and put on a performance!

BALLET / TAP

Ballet Dance Firstly originated in France & Russia. There are 4 different styles of Ballet - Classical, Romantic, Neoclassical & Contemporary. Tap dance is a form of dance characterised by using the sounds of tap shoes striking the floor as a form of percussion. Two major variations on tap dance exist: Rhythm tap and Broadway tap.

BALLET / TAP - WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

We are looking for Well Presented Ballet & Tap Technique. The sound of the Tap Shoes hitting the floor needs to be clearly presented & Ballet Technique needs to include clear lines and definition.



INCLUSIVE / ACCESSIBLE TEAMS

JUDGING CRITERIA

SCORING		MAXIMUM POINTS
VARIETY	<p>PORTRAYAL & EXECUTION OF THE STYLE (This can be any style of Dance at British Dance Festival.</p> <p>Variety of Choreography used.</p>	10
MUSICALITY & CREATIVITY	<p>Interpretation of different phrases - This focuses mainly on the Dancers noticing basic sounds. This does not mean you need to hit certain beats, it's more about being aware of the changes within the music.</p> <p>Original movement ideas, uniqueness & originality of combinations.</p>	10
CHOREOGRAPHY	<p>Difficulty level of Choreography - The scoring is relevant in relation to the group performing and their ability.</p> <p>Overall use of space on the dance floor & use of creative transitions - This scoring is relevant in relation to the group performing and their ability.</p>	10
STAGECRAFT	<p>Use of floor / stage</p> <p>Attentiveness, Enthusiasm, Energy & Confidence - These can be used and demonstrated to the best of your ability! We want to see you express yourself in different and unique ways.</p> <p>Routine execution - This is relevant to the strength of the team.</p>	10
PERFORMANCE SKILLS / SHOWMANSHIP	<p>The creative throughout the piece overall</p> <p>Use of music and attention to detail throughout</p> <p>Enthusiasm, Confidence, Energy</p>	10
JUDGES OPINION	This is the individual opinion of each Judge.	10

General Note:

- A maximum of 3 minutes for a set.
- Level & Ability will always be taken into account when scoring.
- 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.

INCLUSIVE / ACCESSIBLE TEAMS SCORING SYSTEM

Judges will grade per section using the following scale:

0 - 2	3 - 4	5 - 6	7 - 8	9 - 10
BELOW AVERAGE	AVERAGE	GOOD	VERY GOOD	EXCELLENT
<i>Please note that Judges may use increments of 0.25, 0.5, 0.75 and 1 to scores in accordance with the above scale.</i>				

Penalties will be given for the following:

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
<i>One point per Judge per penalty will be deducted for the above rule breaks. These penalty marks are deducted from the Judges assessment section of the marks before the teams are placed.</i>	

General Rules:

- Each team must have a **minimum of 5 dancers** with a recommended **maximum of 38 Dancers**. If you are concerned, please confirm and check the size of the stage of the event you wish to attend.
- 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 uploaded via email to hello@theudogroup.com 5 Days before the event.
- 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).

ANY QUESTIONS?

<p>REGARDING DANCERS</p>	<p>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 UDO on your behalf).</p>
<p>AT AN EVENT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be directed to the Contest Coordinator (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 during an event.
<p>PRE & POST EVENT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be directed via Email using the relevant contact form on the website. For general queries, please email hello@theudogroup.com • Social Media: via Facebook private message to our page: @udostreetdance • 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.

