



RULES & REGULATIONS



UNITED WE DANCE

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GENERAL RULES

UDO/ENCORE DANCERS

Age verification will be available at some of our Encore Events. You will only need to complete this if you are under the age of 18 and will only need to do this once. You can do this on registration where UDO/Encore 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.

For Encore Weekend; Dancers may compete in ONE Solo Style, TWO Duo styles and a maximum of FOUR Team styles.

For British Dance Festival; Dancers may compete in ONE Solo Style, TWO Duo styles and a maximum of THREE Encore Team styles (This includes 1 x Entry into the Unleash Your Style Category)

For Encore Regionals; Dancers may compete in ONE Solo Style, TWO Duo Styles and a maximum of TWO Team Styles - *Please check the event page for each individual competitions as this may differ.*

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 be near the holding area and ready to dance at least 20 minutes before stepping onto the floor.

UDO reserves the right to combine categories (e.g Beginner, Intermediate & Advanced) and make it an Open Category if entries are low.

At least 50% of the qualified Team must remain the same when competing at Major Championships.

Dancers must wear DANCER Wristbands on the floor.

You will only be permitted to dance at the British Dance Festival if you have qualified. You can view our qualification rules for the British Dance Festival on page 7. Please ensure you have registered for the relevant event no later than 2 weeks before the Competition.

When moving up an age category, dancers are permitted to move down one ability level (e.g Mini Advanced → Junior Intermediate). However, dancers cannot move down to Beginner. If they are already a Beginner, they will remain in Beginner when moving up in age. If they are Intermediate, they must stay in Intermediate when moving up an age group.

CODE OF 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.
- Dancers must remain in their permitted floor space whilst dancing. Limited movement is permitted within one's own dance space. Rolls, jumps, split leaps, handsprings, 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, each Solo/Duo will have a 30 second solo spot, the music will start from the beginning each time. Please Note: All Solo & Duo categories will be split into Beginner, Intermediate & 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, Intermediate or Advanced categories for your Solo/Duo.
- Team Categories can also be combined if the number of entries we receive are low for each division.
- 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.



WHAT IS ENCORE WEEKEND?

Encore Weekend was founded in 2013 and is proud to be The Ultimate Dance Experience! This premier and professionally run competition welcomes a wide range of dance styles in 4 different age categories, including:

Commercial, Lyrical/Contemporary, Musical Theatre, Jazz, Ballet, Tap and Street Dance.

Dancers can showcase their talent by competing in Solos, Duos, and Teams. *(Please refer to the Solos/Duos and Teams Rules sections for genre-specific entry details.)*

Throughout Encore Weekend, dancers also have the chance to participate in inspiring workshops with industry professionals, enjoy judge demonstrations, and take part in unforgettable themed parties that you and your dance school will cherish for years to come!



WHAT ARE ENCORE REGIONALS?

In addition to Encore Weekend, we also host Encore Regionals – exciting one day competitions for Solos, Duos, and Teams.

At our Encore Regionals, you can compete in **Commercial, Contemporary/Lyrical and Musical Theatre/Jazz** in 4 different age categories.

These regional events provide another fantastic opportunity (as well as Encore Weekend) to qualify for our flagship event: the **UDO British Dance Festival**.

The British Dance Festival brings together the best of both worlds – the well-established UDO Street Dance competition and our prestigious Encore Styles of Dance.

WHAT GENRES ARE ON OFFER AT AN ENCORE WEEKEND?

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 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!

CONTEMPORARY / LYRICAL

Contemporary/Lyrical 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.

CONTEMPORARY / LYRICAL - 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

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 ARE WE 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 kids you will not lose any points.

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 ARE WE 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 ARE WE 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.

REGISTRATION

PRE - EVENT REMINDERS

- All Dancers must have a **UDO Membership number** to register for an event.
- New Encore Members must Create a UDO Membership (Complete the membership form). Once you have created a membership, you must register for your category.
- You can create a **UDO Membership** here: https://www.udostreetdance.com/gb_en/signup
- It is the Dancer / Parent / Guardian / Dance Teacher's responsibility to ensure that the Dancer/s are registered to dance before the specified closing date and in the correct age division and category.
- If the number of dancers in a **Team** changes before a competition, please inform UDO Head Office or contact the UDO representative in your country up to **one week prior to the event**.
- Registration will be available online to register from at **least 3 months** before an event is due to take place.
- 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 Head Office - hello@theudogroup.com
- Team, Solo and Duo entries for all Encore competitions must be submitted online via the relevant events page. Entries will be completed by Jot Form and supplied to the teacher in advance.
- Entries must be **NO LATER than 7 days** before a **regional competition** and **14 days before the 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. 7 days before a regional event and 14 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. This also applies for the British Dance Festival & Encore Weekend.
- 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.

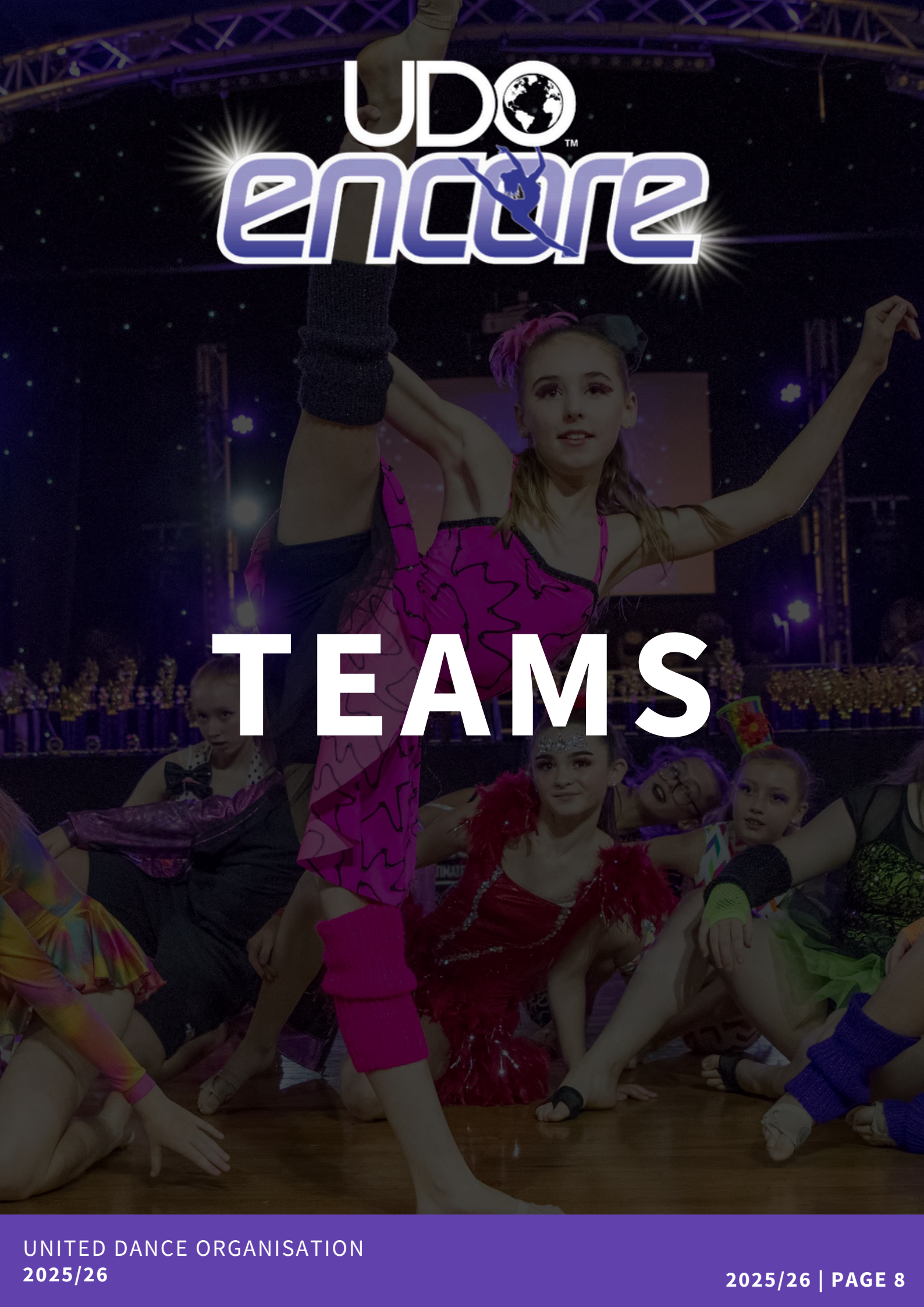
HOW TO QUALIFY FOR THE BRITISH DANCE FESTIVAL

HOW TO QUALIFY FOR UDO STREETDANCE (AT BDF)	HOW TO QUALIFY FOR ENCORE (AT BDF)
ATTEND A UDO UK REGIONAL OR 2.0 COMPETITION	ATTEND EITHER ENCORE WEEKEND OR AN ENCORE REGIONAL
HOW TO QUALIFY FOR UDO STREETDANCE & ENCORE (TO BE ABLE TO COMPETE IN EVERYTHING!)	
ATTEND A UDO UK REGIONAL OR 2.0 AND EITHER ENCORE WEEKEND OR ENCORE REGIONAL	





UDo encore



TEAMS

- Each team must have a minimum of 5 dancers with a recommended maximum of 25 Dancers. If you are concerned, please confirm and check the size of the stage of the event you wish to attend.
- Dancers are permitted to compete in **multiple Team Genres** of their choice e.g. a dancer can compete in a Contemporary/Lyrical and Commercial team but **a dancer cannot dance in two teams of the same genre** e.g. 2 commercial teams or 2 Contemporary/Lyrical teams.
- Each team may include one **designated swing dancer** who is not part of the original registration. This dancer can be **used in cases of unforeseen circumstances or injury**. The usual rule preventing dancers from performing in multiple teams within the same genre **does not apply to the swing dancer**. However, if the swing dancer is older and their inclusion results in less than 75% of the remaining team dancing within the appropriate age division, the team will be reclassified into the older age category. If the need for the swing dancer arises before the event, **suitable evidence must be provided to explain why the original dancer is unable to participate**.
- 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

TEAM MUSIC & PERFORMANCE

- It is the Choreographer / teachers' responsibility to ensure that the Team music is checked and sent to hello@theudogroup.com 5 days before an event.
- Each team needs to have back-up music on either a USB / CD / Alternative Device 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 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).
- There will be a **1 POINT PER JUDGE** Deduction per team if Team Music is handed in / uploaded after the deadline.

DEADLINE FOR UK REGIONALS - WEDNESDAY BEFORE THE COMPETITION

DEADLINE FOR MAJORS - MONDAY BEFORE A WEEKEND EVENT

Any music handed in after these deadlines will have the points deducted.

BEGINNER, INTERMEDIATE & ADVANCED

2 MINUTES, 30 SECONDS

These are maximum timings, there is no minimum time limit.

TEAMS

PENALTIES

POINTS AND RANKING

We're now introducing *rank penalties for significant rule breaches related to performance time and language.**

TIME:

- If a routine exceeds the time limit by 10 seconds or less, a point penalty will apply.
- If it exceeds the limit by more than 10 seconds, a rank penalty will be enforced.

LANGUAGE:

- For teams that have multiple instances of clear inappropriate/Bad language, the Head Judge now has the authority to issue a rank penalty instead of a point deduction.

*A rank penalty means that once teams have been ranked using the skater system, the penalised team will automatically drop one placement. In contrast, a point penalty is applied to the scores before the rankings are calculated.



TEAMS

AGE CATEGORIES

UNDER 8'S (4-7)	UNDER 12'S (8-11)	UNDER 16'S (12-15)	OVER 16'S (16+)
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ABILITY CATEGORIES

BEGINNER	INTERMEDIATE	ADVANCED
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- Ages are based around the academic / sporting year, e.g. the age the dancer becomes during the school year (1st September to 31st August) will be the age that they compete in for the entire year. For example, if you turn 12 on 1st July 2018 then you must compete in Under 16's (12-15) from 1st September 2017 until 31st August 2018.
- 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 up to the next age division. e.g. 2 Over 16, dancers out of a team of 8 can compete in Under 16's (12-15), If there are 3 Over 16's, the team will enter Over 16's.
- Once the academic year is complete (31st August) the teams that have won with 5 or more teams in their category, placed 2nd or 3rd twice (with 5 or more teams in their category) or teams that have placed 4th - 5th twice with 8 or more teams in their category, will move up a category for the next UDO/Encore running Year. Results from the previous seasons will be taken into account for this rule.
- Once a team has moved up an age category, they will be permitted to drop down from Advanced to Intermediate, but no team will be able to drop down to beginners. If you are in advanced, and haven't been placed in a year - you will be able to write to the committee to request to move down an ability category.
- Please note that for Beginner teams, no more than 50% of team dancers can be above Beginner level in solo or duos.
- If there are 8 teams or less in a category the UDO reserves the right to combine certain categories.
- Each category is open to: All teams that have never competed in an Encore competition, but wish to compete at the stated level. (If you wish to have your level assessed by our judges, Please send a video of your team set to hello@theudogroup.com and they can recommend your starting level.
- If you're mixing up teams for the new season, a new Beginner team must include at least 75% new dancers. No more than 25% of the new team can have previously competed in a category above Beginner. For Intermediate and Advanced teams, this requirement remains at 50%.

TEAMS

JUDGING CRITERIA

TEAMS WILL BE JUDGED ON THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA, PLEASE REFER TO WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR SECTION FOR INFORMATION ON EACH DANCE GENRE.

SCORING		MAXIMUM POINTS
VARIETY	• Portrayal & execution of the style • Variety of choreography used	10
MUSICALITY & CREATIVITY	• Interpretation of different beats & phrasing • Original movement ideas, uniqueness & originality of combinations • The creative throughout the piece overall • Use of music and attention to detail throughout	10
CHOREOGRAPHY	• Difficulty level of choreography • Overall use of space and spatial awareness, and use of smooth transitions.	10
PRESENTATION	• Attentiveness, enthusiasm, energy, confidence • Routine execution and perfection • Use of floor / stage, transitions, formations & positioning of the piece • Enthusiasm, Confidence, Energy	10
JUDGES OPINION	• This is the individual opinion of each judge.	10

General Note

- 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.

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

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:

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 Judges assessment section of the marks before the teams are placed. There will also be a ranking penalty, Please see page 10 for more information.





SOLOS AND DUOS

SOLO & DUO

GENERAL RULES

- Please note the same applies for Solos & Duos as it does for teams e.g. Ages are based around the academic / sporting year.
- Each category is open to: All Dancers that have never competed in an Encore competition, but wish to compete at the stated level. (If you wish to have your level assessed by our judges, Please send a video submission to hello@theudogroup.com and they can recommend your starting level.
- Once the academic year is complete (31st August) the Solos/Duos that have won with 5 or more in their category, placed 2nd or 3rd twice (with 5 or more in their category) or have placed 4th - 5th twice (with 8 or more in their category) will move up a category for the next UDO/Encore running Year. Results from the previous seasons will be taken into account for this rule.
- Once a Solo/Duo has moved up an age category, they will be permitted to drop down from Advanced to Intermediate, but no Solo/Duo will be able to drop down to beginners. If you are in advanced, and haven't been placed in a year - you will be able to write to the committee to request to move down an ability category.
- Solo/Duo Advanced heats will run in the same way as all other divisions but on reaching the final each dancer/duo will perform a solo spot of their routine for a maximum of 6 counts of 8 or 30 Second Solo Spot.
- 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 Beginner and the other dancer is Advanced, then the Duo is permitted to dance in Intermediate.
- If none of the dancers compete in Solo, then the Duo will use the same rules as solos.
- If you're a New Dance Teacher, Assistant Dance Teacher, and / or a professional dancer to the UDO/Encore you will be able to compete in Intermediate or Advanced for Solo and Duo. Although after a Judges assessment you may be upgraded to a higher division for the year.



SOLOS & DUO CATEGORIES

AGE & ABILITY CATEGORIES

UNDER 8'S (4-7)	UNDER 12'S (8-11)	UNDER 16'S (12-15)	OVER 16'S (16+)
BEGINNER	INTERMEDIATE	ADVANCED	

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. Under 8's Contemporary/ Lyrical Beginner, Intermediate & 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.



PROCEDURE, MUSIC & WHAT THE JUDGES ARE LOOKING FOR

PROCEDURE

- Dancers will be called to the side of the stage (holding area) in category and age by the MC. and be separated into heats. They 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 TOP 5 for Solos & Duos)
- 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!

MUSIC

- Music will be set by Encore for: Contemporary/Lyrical Solos (FINALs ONLY), Contemporary/Lyrical 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.

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)



UNITED DANCE ORGANISATION

PARENT AND CHILD

PARENT & CHILD

This category is a crowd favourite at UDO / Encore Events. You can now partner up with up to 2 Children per parent! You do not need to qualify to enter the Parent & Child division at any of our Majors.

- Dancers will be called to the side of the stage (holding area) by the MC.
- Music will be played at random by the DJ.
- Dancers will dance on the floor at the same time as the other dancers in their heat.
- Recalls will be announced continue until the final (Top 5 is placed for Parent & Child)
- UDO offers Parent and Child categories at selected events. Parent & Child is usually at our Major Championships but could be added into a Regional. This will be updated on a per event basis.
- A parent must be registered as a member of UDO in order to compete. When creating a UDO Membership account, you must ensure that your account states 'Parent' AND 'Dancer' - If this is not the case, please contact UDO Head Office hello@theudogroup.com
- Classification of a Parent and Child Duo or TrioQuad is that of a dancer/child and their Mum, Dad, Aunty, Uncle or Grandparent or Guardian.
- Please note this is not a 'little or large' category, so a younger dancer and older dancer dancing together are not permitted unless they are stated as the relation listed above.
- If you are unsure, please request further details from the UDO Head Office.





UNITED DANCE ORGANISATION

ANY QUESTIONS?

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 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 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.
PRE & POST EVENT	• 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 / @udoencore • 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.



UDO ™ *encore*

