UDO encore™

RULES & REGULATIONS



UNITED WE DANCE

UNITED DANCE ORGANISATION
2026/27

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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, Contemporary/Lyrical, Musical Theatre/Jazz (MT Jazz) & Unleash Your Style.

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 dancers with the opportunity to qualify for both the Encore World Championships and our annual UDO British Dance Festival, which brings together the established UDO Street Dance competition with our prestigious Encore Styles of Dance.

Our Encore Regionals also qualify you for a European Dance Stars Event. *(Please see Dance Stars Website for more information as rules differentiate - https://dancestarscompetitions.com)*

CATEGORIES

SOLOS (ENTER 1 PER DANCER)	DUOS (ENTER 2 PER DANCER)	TEAMS (ENTER 2 PER DANCER)
Commercial Contemporary/Lyrical	Commercial Contemporary/Lyrical Musical Theatre/Jazz	Commercial Contemporary/Lyrical Unleash Your Style



WHAT IS ENCORE WORLDS?

Established in 2013, Encore has continued to grow and evolve, bringing dancers together for an unforgettable competition experience. Now, Encore Worlds has replaced Encore Weekend, taking the event to the next level with an exciting World Championship experience for dancers and dance schools.

Encore Worlds is a premium, professional competition celebrating a diverse range of dance styles, including: Musical Theatre, Jazz, Contemporary / Lyrical, Commercial & Unleash Your Style.

Dancers have the opportunity to take to the floor and showcase their talent across Teams, Duos, Solos, Parent & Child, Parent Teams, Inclusive/Accessible Teams & The University Dance Challenge. Please see the rules sections for full details on the categories and styles available.

Qualification for Encore Worlds can be achieved through our Encore Regional events, giving dancers the opportunity to progress from the regional stage to the prestigious World Championships.

Expect an incredible weekend featuring workshops from industry professionals, inspiring judges' demonstrations, exciting competition and unforgettable entertainment, all culminating in the ultimate celebration of dance.

CATEGORIES

SOLOS (ENTER 1 PER DANCER)	DUOS (ENTER 2 PER DANCER)	TEAMS (ENTER 3 PER DANCER)
Commercial Contemporary/Lyrical	Commercial Contemporary/Lyrical Musical Theatre/Jazz	Commercial Contemporary/Lyrical Musical Theatre Jazz Ballet/Tap



WHAT GENRES ARE ON OFFER AT AN ENCORE 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 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!

UNLEASH YOUR STYLE

Unleash Your Style is a brand-new open category at the Encore Events, giving you the chance to compete in any dance style of your choice – Ballet, Salsa, Tap, Irish and more! This is your space to shine, as long as your style doesn't fall under our existing standalone TEAM categories: *Commercial, Contemporary/Lyrical, Musical Theatre or Jazz.*

UNLEASH YOUR STYLE - WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR

Judges will be looking for originality, creativity, musicality and individuality. Dancers should showcase their own unique style and personality, demonstrating strong technique, confident performance and a clear connection to the music. This category is all about freedom of expression. Be bold, be creative and show the judges what makes your style uniquely yours!

GENERAL RULES

UDO/ENCORE DANCERS

Dancers may compete in ONE Solo Style, TWO Duo styles and a maximum of TWO Team styles per event at Encore Regionals.

Dancers may compete in ONE Solo Style, TWO Duo Styles & a maximum of THREE Team Styles per Event at Encore Worlds.

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 & Advanced) and make it an Open Category if entries are low.

At least 50% of the qualified Team must remain the same throughout the competition season.

Dancers must wear DANCER Wristbands on the floor.

You will only be permitted to dance at the British Dance Festival, Encore Worlds or Dance Stars if you have qualified. You can view your qualification status on your UDO Membership Account. To qualify for either of these events, you need to attend an Encore Regional.

Please ensure you have registered for the relevant event no later than 2 weeks before the Competition.

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 the UDO British Dance Festival & Encore Worlds regardless of placings or wins. Once they have placed, they will move up a category when the next Encore/UDO year begins.

Age Categories 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 they competes 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.

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). 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

Entries must be no later than 10 days before a UK Regional Competition. Please see your Country Representative for deadlines in your Country.

Entries must be **NO LATER** than **14 days before the British Dance Festival** and **Encore Worlds.** Any changes or questions must be asked or submitted before the date that the registration is due to close.

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.

Encore Events may combine age groups or divisions, based on attendees and entrants to each event.

Team Music has to be submitted via hello@theudogroup.com *(or to the relevant Franchise Holders email)* 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 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 AN ENCORE REGIONAL	



UNITED DANCE ORGANISATION

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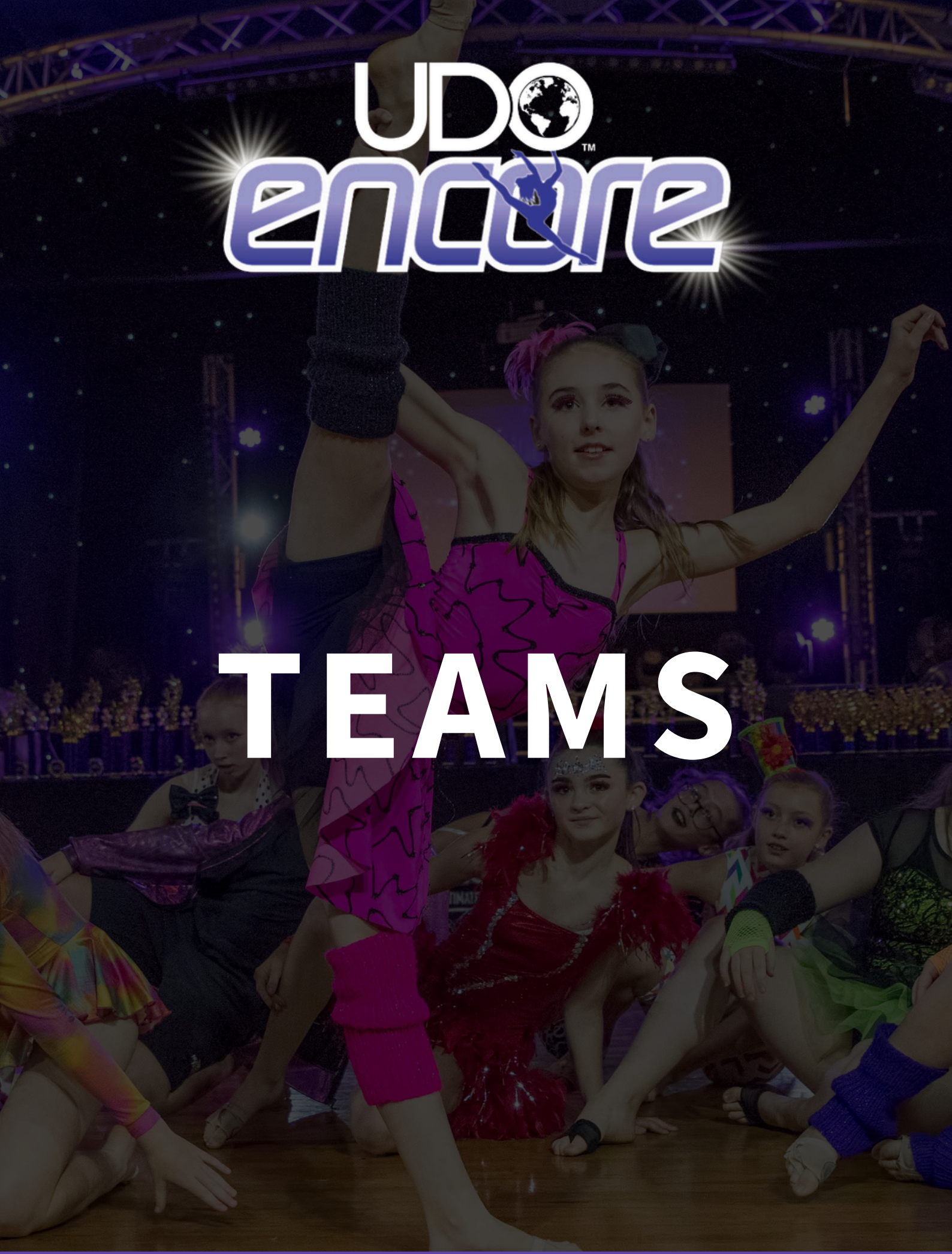
HOW TO QUALIFY FOR ENCORE WORLDS

HOW TO QUALIFY FOR UDO ENCORE CHAMPIONSHIPS		
AT AN ENCORE REGIONAL	**AT THE UDO BRITISH DANCE FESTIVAL**	**INTERNATIONAL QUALIFICATION**
PLACE TOP 3 IN YOUR TEAM CATEGORY OR TOP 5 IN SOLOS AND DUOS	PLACE IN A FINAL AT THE UDO BRITISH DANCE FESTIVAL (ALL ENCORE CATEGORIES)	IF THERE ISN'T A QUALIFIER IN YOUR COUNTRY, YOU CAN SUBMIT A VIDEO ENTRY



UNITED DANCE ORGANISATION

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TEAMS

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TEAMS

GENERAL RULES

- Minimum - 5 dancers. Recommended Maximum - 25 dancers.
- Dancers **are** permitted to compete in Multiple Team Genres of their choice but a dancer cannot dance in two teams of the same genre e.g. 2 Commercial teams or 2 Contemporary/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.

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 ahead of the 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

AGE CATEGORIES

UNDER 8's (4-7)	UNDER 12's (8-11)	UNDER 16's (12-15)	OVER 16's (16+)

- Age Categories 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 they competes 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. Over 16 (16+) can compete in Under 16 (12-15).
- Once the year is complete (31st August) the Teams that have won with 3 or more teams in their category or Teams that have placed twice (from 2nd to 3rd) with 5 or more teams in their category, will move up a category for the next UDO/Encore running Year.
- Once a team has moved up an Age Category, they are permitted to drop back down an ability Category.
- For advanced, if teams have not been placed within 1 year they can send a request to the UDO committee for consideration.

ABILITY CATEGORIES

BEGINNER	INTERMEDIATE	ADVANCED

Each category is open to:

- All teams that have never competed in a UDO/Encore competition.
- 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 4 teams or less in a category the UDO reserves the right to combine certain categories.
- Once you have competed in a Category, you must remain in this category for the Competition Season. (September - August)

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 • USE OF MUSIC AND ATTENTION TO DETAIL THROUGHOUT • THE CREATIVE THROUGHOUT THE PIECE OVERALL	**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 PERFORMANCE • USE OF FLOOR / STAGE, TRANSITIONS, FORMATIONS & POSITIONING OF THE PIECE	**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.*	



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.





SOLOS AND DUOS

SOLO & DUO

GENERAL RULES

- Please note the same applies for Solos & Duos as it does for teams e.g. Age Categories 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.
- Once a dancer has won (with 5 or more dancers in their category) or placed twice (2nd - 5th with 8 or more), they get moved up a level.
- Dancers are not permitted to drop down an ability category once they have moved up, unless they move up an age category. For advanced, if a Dancer has not placed within 1 year they can send a request to the UDO/Encore committee for consideration to move back down.
- Solo & Duo Advanced heats will run in the same way as all other divisions, on reaching the final each Solo & Duo will perform a solo spot of their routine for a maximum of 6 counts of 8 (roughly 30 seconds).
- You will Dance at the British Dance Festival & Encore Worlds in the same category you qualified in at a Regional.
- Duos must compete in the age division of the eldest dancer. The Duo's ability level will be determined by the individual levels of both dancers. Where dancers compete at different levels, the Duo should compete at the appropriate level between the two. For example, if one dancer is Beginner and the other is Advanced, the Duo must compete at Intermediate level.
- If none of the dancers compete in Solo, then the Duo will compete in the highest Age Category and Dance in the ability category of their choice.
- If you're a Dance Teacher, Assistant Dance Teacher, and / or a professional dancer - you will compete in Advanced for Solo and Duo. If you have not placed in the past 18 months, you will be eligible to send a written request to the UDO to change your division for this 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. Beginner, Intermediate & Advanced Soloists/Duos 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. The BPM of the track for each category will be suitable for the age and ability of the dancers.

SET SONGS

	SOLOS (BEGINNER, INTERMEDIATE & ADVANCED)	
	COMMERCIAL	CONTEMPORARY/LYRICAL
UNDER 8's (4-7)	RANDOMLY SELECTED BY THE DJ AT THE EVENT.	HEATS: MUSIC IS RANDOMLY SELECTED BY DJ FINAL ONLY: SET SONG
UNDER 12's (8-11)		
UNDER 16's (12-15)		
OVER 16's (16+)		

	DUOS (BEGINNER & ADVANCED)		
	COMMERCIAL	CONTEMPORARY/LYRICAL	MUSICAL THEATRE/JAZZ
UNDER 8's (4-7)	SET SONG	SET SONG	SET SONG
UNDER 12's (8-11)			
UNDER 16's (12-15)			
OVER 16's (16+)			

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.
- Encore Regionals will place Top 5 for Solos, Duos & Teams.
- Encore Worlds & British Dance Festival will place Top 7 for Solos, Top 5 for Duos & Top 7 for Teams.
- 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.

- Dancers must remain in their permitted floor space whilst dancing. Limited movement is permitted within one's own dance space. Rolls, jumps, split leaps, walkovers are permitted as long as they are safely executed 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 get 6 counts of 8 (roughly 30 seconds). The music will start from the beginning each time except for Commercial Solos where the music will continue until the end of the track and be replayed if any dancers are yet to do their spot. 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 or Advanced categories for your Solo/Duo.

- 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 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.



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PARENT AND CHILD

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2026/27

PARENT & CHILD

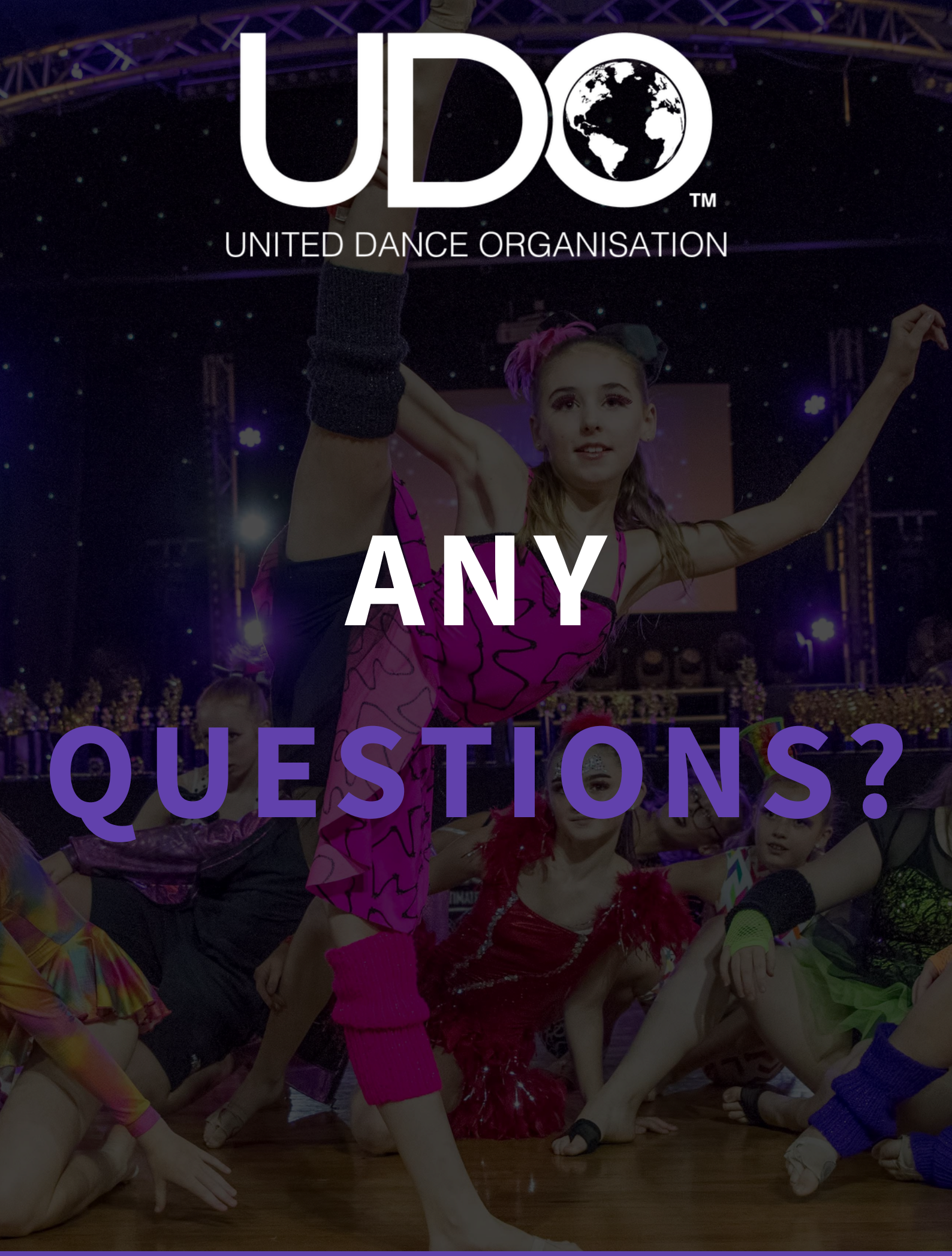
This category is a crowd favourite at UDO / Encore Events. You can now partner up with up to 2 Children per parent! You do not need to qualify to enter the Parent & Child division at any of our Majors.

- 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 & will 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.



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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.



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