

NIFPA RULES AND REGULATIONS

- **Registration by your studio is agreement to comply with our Rules.**

Failure to comply with the Festival Rules as will result in the competitor receiving “adjudication only”

1. **Liability Waiver:**

The North Island Festival of Performing Arts Society (the ‘Society’) is not responsible for any claims, demands or damage to musical instruments, equipment, props, or any other personal property. The Society’s acceptance of a competitor’s application for entry into the North Island Festival will release any responsibility of the Society or volunteers for the Society from claims, demands, damages, actions or causes or action arising out of or in consequence of any loss, injury or damage to any competitor or any competitor’s personal property incurred while attending or participating in the North Island Festival. This clause shall also apply to all members of the public attending any/all events.

2. **Entry/Photograph Authorization:**

The studio/teacher acknowledges and agrees that they have parent/guardian authorization for entry in the North Island Festival. In registering, participants(s) acknowledge and agree that they are giving their consent that photographs, taken by a person acting on behalf of the Society, of participants/students/ dancers may be used by the Society for promotional and fund-raising purposes, may be released to the media and remain the property of the Society.

3. The Board reserves the right to alter the time for any competition if special circumstances warrant, and due notification of such change being given and reserves the right to cancel any of the arrangements detailed in the Rules or Program as it deems necessary.

4. The Boundaries for the North Island Festival of Performing Arts are:

S.D. 68 Nanaimo Ladysmith	S.D. 69 Qualicum-Parksville
S.D. 72 Campbell River	S.D. 47 Powell River
S.D. 71 Comox Valley	S.D. 85 Vancouver Island North
S.D. 70 Alberni	S.D. 84 Vancouver Island West

To qualify for NIFPA Awards or to be eligible for Provincial Recommendations participants must be entered under a studio within these boundaries as independent entries are not allowed.

Each discipline also has special conditions to meet as well, please read those rules to ensure compliance.

5. **All Music must be submitted via online registration no later than January 15th.**

6. Communication with the adjudicator throughout the festival is not allowed. It is, however, understood that necessary training and discussion may take place between the performer and adjudicator during adjudications or workshops.

A friendly “hello” or “compliment of service” is always welcome.

7. When an adjudicator decides that an entry is in the wrong class, the performance will receive “adjudication only” in the class the adjudicator deems is correct.

8. **Music, Choreography and Costumes**

Studios/Teachers should ensure that the music lyrics, movement, and costumes are age appropriate and not provocative or offensive to the audience. All entries must be appropriate for **Family Audience**, no matter the age of the performer.

9. No dance studio to mark stage for any dance number. Marking should be done by the theatre technician and only the traditional markings, (back – left, centre, right; centre stage; and front – left, centre, right). Please bring it to a Board member’s attention if this is not done or needs to be fixed.
10. No videos, cameras or tape recording allowed during the sessions. Cell phones, pagers, watches with alarms, etc. must be silenced in the theatre. Dim the brightness to avoid distraction to the performers which occurs with flickers of light from the audience.
11. Noisy Audience –Remember – this is an adjudicated performance not a concert or show. Absolutely no hooting, hollering, whistling, etc. permitted – either as the dancers enter the stage or during the performance. Showing appreciation following the performance is acceptable. **Exception:** Hip Hop – we encourage all to support the dancers onstage.
12. **PROPS** – any restrictions are noted in the class definitions below.
Using the following definitions.
Costume – includes accessories - shoe, hat, glove, corset, handkerchief, fan, umbrella, cane, and jewelry.
Prop – any object placed on the stage that gives the performance specific period, place or character including but not limited to – set pieces like chairs, stairs, boxes etc.
Smaller objects are referred to as “hand props”.
13. **Provincial Recommendations:** To be eligible, a dancer must have participated with 2 solo classes in the dance discipline for which they are being recommended (ballet, stage or modern); attend the appropriate adjudicator’s workshop; study within our boundaries; and achieve an 85% on *each* recommended entry. All solos within a discipline will be averaged to obtain eligibility mark. Provincial Eligibility for stage has one restriction –cannot be based on lyrical and jazz solos – must do a tap or modern stage also. In the Modern Discipline: solos *must* be contrasting in style.
14. Any competitor receiving a Provincial nomination from another Festival is ineligible for a nomination to the PABC Provincial Festival from the NIFPA whether the offer has been accepted or not.
15. **Adjudicator Workshops** will be scheduled for each discipline and will be open to all festival participants once registration is complete and it is determined the space for each workshop. While written feedback will not be provided, **attendance is mandatory for provincial eligibility.** Participation, technique, and ability will be considered by the adjudicator for recommendations.
16. **Awards and Concerts**
 - (a) As per each discipline’s requirements of 2 solos, awards may be given to encourage and assist entrants in their pursuit of artistic studies. The number of awards will depend on the amount of money in the award fund.
 - (b) Wrap Up Shows. Any entrant may be chosen to perform at the Dance Gala and must be prepared to appear if requested. All Provincial Reps will be invited to perform in the Provincial Showcase. *All Reps, Alternates and Merited Participants will be acknowledged at the Provincial Showcase.*
 - (c) All registration to Provincials is paid for all Representatives. If funds are available, additional money will be awarded reps to assist with travel costs.
17. All entries must be under the umbrella of an established performing arts organization or educational institution which has a business license and adequate insurance coverage

18. A dance routine can be performed only once in a competition during the festival. A routine can be repeated from a previous year provided it is presented by a different person or persons.

19. Solos, Duets and Trios

Birthdates must be listed on the entry, age as of December 31st of the year preceding Festival. Except for small and large groups, all dancers must be within the age limit of the class, **the age of the oldest dancer will determine the age category.**

20. Small (4-7) and Large (8+) Groups

Based on dancer's age as of December 31st of the year preceding festival. The registration program will then average the ages to determine the age category. No dancer can be more than 2 years older than the age category grouping. **Please email us in if the age of your oldest dancer is more than the 2 years allowed.**

21. If any class has ten or more entries, the class will be divided according to age. Split classes will be adjudicated separately.

22. The Adjudicator's decision shall be final with the Discipline Specialist having the final say within their discipline.

23. Routines will be timed from the beginning of the performance to the end. Presets/bows will not be timed. These time limits are strictly enforced. Overtime performances will be adjudication only.

All Solos 3 minutes maximum

All Groups 6 minutes maximum.

S&D ONLY: Solos-4 minutes max; Productions-12 minutes max. (Hip Hop and Song & Dance only)

24. For a competitor to receive a Placement of First, Second or Third; they must obtain a mark of at least 80%. *No ties for 1st place are permitted. Further, **must obtain a mark of 85% to receive a first place.*** Adjudicator's decision will be respected.

25. Lip synchronization permitted in **Hip Hop** only.

26. No more than a total of two acrobatic tricks where the hips pass over the head are allowed in all disciplines, excluding Acro Jazz and Street. (back and front walk-overs, flips, tumbling passes, etc.) **Acceptable movement not counted as an acrobatic trick – Handstands, cartwheels, front/back rolls, dolphin rolls, and technical movements within the discipline.**

27. Instrumental or percussive use of voice is to be considered as music.

28. All marks are confidential.

29. No rehearsals on the theatre stage once the festival begins. **Dancers may warm up on stage prior to each session.**

30. Please remember that in most disciplines the rules for soloists are written with provincial eligibility in mind – to avoid disqualifications at that level. Therefore, we have also tried to note where groups are given more leeway to allow exploration and expressions of choreography.

BALLET CLASSES

CLASSICAL BALLET – All Age Groups – No Props. This category is for all classical ballet – Soft shoe OR En Pointe. No vocals allowed in music for solos – all group entries may use music with vocals. If numbers are sufficient, demi and pointe will be separated.

BALLET REPERTOIRE VARIATION – All Age Groups – No Props. Soft shoe OR En Pointe No vocals allowed in music. If numbers are sufficient, demi and pointe will be separated.

OPEN BALLET – All Age Groups – No Props. Ballet combined with other dance elements and components pushing its limitations. This class replaces previous year's interpretive, contemporary, and lyrical ballet classes. Soft shoe OR En Pointe. No vocals allowed in music for solos – all group numbers may use music with vocals and are not required to wear shoes. If numbers are sufficient, demi and pointe will be separated.

DEMI-CHARACTER – All Age Groups – Props to show characterization of story. Dancer must perform ballet technique from the waist down and the character from the waist up. Clear characterization must be present in choreography. Costume and title is *not* enough to qualify a routine as Demi Character. Props can be used as an integral part of the characterization or story. Soft shoe OR En Pointe. No vocals allowed in music for solos (contemporary ballet solos may have lyrics) – all group numbers may use music with vocals. If numbers are sufficient, demi and pointe will be separated.

NATIONAL – All Age Groups

A routine of national origin, authentic in the style and costume of any country (ie: Ukrainian, Polynesian, East Indian, Spanish, Russian, First Nations etc). No set competitive dance

MODERN CLASSES

Provincial Eligibility requires 2 CONTRASTING solos.

MODERN-CONTEMPORARY – All Age Groups.

Free movement of dance encompassing various dance disciplines with modern technique as its underlying base a constantly evolving style of movement that gives physicality to human ideologies and concepts with emphasis on engaging the whole body. Vocals allowed in music.

MODERN-INTERPRETIVE– All Age Groups

Dance that uses a recognized modern technique to tell a story, express a feeling, interpret a character, behavior, or emotional state. Movement should be related to the intent of the music. Vocals allowed in music.

HIP HOP

Hip Hop – All Age Groups – Minimum use of props

A constantly evolving form of dance that relies on individualism and personal style and emphasizes the expressive power of movement – should include but not be limited to choreography that incorporates a blend of contemporary funk and street style with jazz techniques. May include moves such as gliding, popping, locking, waving and utilize house, old-school and new school. May also include gymnastics, power moves or any series of tricks of stunts. **No reference to violence or derogatory sexual content or language** or deductions will be made.

STAGE CLASSES

Provincial Eligibility requires 2 solos. Restrictions: cannot be 2 jazz solos.

JAZZ – All Age Groups

Use of isolated movements, combined with recognized jazz technique showing strong sense of rhythm and coordination. Must be pure dance. No more than two acrobatic tricks are permitted in this category.

LYRICAL – All Age Groups

A dance that is generally performed to music in slower tempos and interprets the lyrics or intent of that piece of music. This genre uses a soft jazz-based technique with facial and body emotion to portray an idea, story, or mood.

ACRO – All Age Groups

Free movement, improvised and usually characterized by syncopated rhythm and use of isolated movements and acrobatic tricks.

TAP – All Age Groups

Entries will be adjudicated on foot work, rhythm, style, and presentation. No interpretation of a story line. No tap sounds in music.

MODERN STAGE – All Age Groups

No live voice or lip synchronization. Dance must be suited to stage or music production. Routine must be entertaining and diversified (no straight-line work) with a character base to it.

SONG AND DANCE – All Age Groups – Minimum use of simple props

A routine suited to stage production. Equal effort in dancing, singing, and acting will be an integral part of the overall performance. Routine must comprise **voice** and **dance** and will be adjudicated on both.

ALL DANCE DISCIPLINES

Routines should be registered within the appropriate discipline and will be scheduled accordingly.

YOUNG CHOREOGRAPHERS – Age Groups 11+ – Props depending on class

This category will be divided by the number of performers (not choreographers) but will be placed in the Choreographer's age grouping as defined in all other classes. For example: if a 13 year-old choreographer sets a piece on 3 performers with the oldest being 10; then the piece will be placed in the Young Choreographer – Trio, 14 and under group.

Further direction for Young Choreographer:

Student chooses own music, theme, and style (discipline – must be noted); and has the option to perform their own piece or set it onto other dancer(s). Performers must be listed on entry. Comprehensive notes must be submitted for the adjudicator to review. Choreographers should think of the following when creating and include as much of the process as possible in their notes.

- Theme/story.
- Use of space. Levels (highs, lows, close, far).
- Relationships within a piece. Dancer/music or in group pieces with one another.
- Staging/Movement. Visual impact – positions onstage.
- Costume(s).
- Discipline Breakdown the routine in counts and/or steps in written form. Use technical terms as appropriate. **Also, may use recorded video but this must include the above not just a run through of the dance.**
- Choreographer Bio (not required but is an added touch).
- End Result: someone could take these notes or video and use to set piece upon dancer(s).

Teachers/Studios please encourage your young choreographers with:

- Use of studio to practice.
- Mentoring – helping with structure of creative process/choreography.
- Correction of technique to ensure safety and health of dancer(s).

Student must submit written/video choreography to the Board by February 1st of prior to Festival. (info.nifpa@gmail.com)