

General Information, Rules & Guidelines

North Island Festival of Performing Arts

Feb 20 - Feb 29, 2024

(schedule to be confirmed in December 2023)

Dance Gala: March 2, 2024

Venue:

Sid Williams Theatre

Cliffe Avenue

Courtenay, BC

Registration: November 1-15, 2023

Website: www.nifpa.org

Email: info.nifpa@gmail.com

The North Island Festival of Performing Arts is put on by a non-profit Society run by a volunteer Board. Our goal is to provide a Festival that is a fun, educational and friendly competition. At our NIFPA Dance Festival we strive to provide an opportunity for dance performers of all ages and levels to express their creativity, display their talents and expand their knowledge, skill and self-confidence. We ask all participating individuals, including participants, teachers, parents and volunteers, in our Festival, to respect, support and be kind to one another.

Please be sure to read the all of the rules. It is the responsibility of the studios to comply with all Festival rules and regulations and registration in the Festival is an acknowledgement by the studios to comply with these rules.

Registration in NIFPA festival is an acknowledgement and agreement that the studios have parent/guardian authorization for entry into North Island Festival of Performing Arts.

General Information

Competitors

- All competitors will enter through the lower parking lot in the back of the building.
- Please do not arrive more than 1 (one) hour before your scheduled session time.
- Competitors will check in with the NIFPA volunteer at the door and proceed to their assigned dressing room.
- We ask that competitors not attend if having symptoms of illness.

Dance Studios

- Studios must have a studio representative at the theatre if any of their competitors are at the theatre.
- Children under 12 may not be left unsupervised in the Green room and dressing rooms.
- Please enter through the lower parking lot in the back of the building.
- Check in with the NIFPA volunteer at the door; you will receive a lanyard to be worn in the theatre during festival days. Please wear your lanyard as this allows NIFPA volunteers and Theatre staff to know you are a studio representative.
- Green room and dressing room access begins 1 (one) hour before the start of each session.
- Studios will receive marks via email at the end of each day.
- At the end of festival, studios will receive a password to share with their dancers for access to adjudication videos.

Green Room and Dressing Rooms

- No parents are allowed in the backstage/dressing room areas of the theatre.
- Please do not use the public washrooms for hair and makeup, please use the dressing rooms.
- Studios will be pre-assigned an area in dressing rooms for their dancers.
- There will be a designated area of the Green room for warmup. **This is a warmup area ONLY; NO rehearsals are allowed, no music allowed.**

Theatre

- Admission to watch festival sessions will be by donation via TipTap pay system. NIFPA relies on donations to cover festival costs and appreciates all donations.
- Participant dancers in festival are not required to pay admission.
- Admission to theatre seating will commence 15 minutes prior to the start of sessions
- Cell phones, pagers, watches must be silenced in the theatre. Please dim the brightness also to avoid distraction of the performers.
- No food or drinks (except water) are allowed in the theatre
- Please remember this is an adjudicated performance. Please refrain from calling out or whistling; use clapping to show appreciation after the performance. Noise from the audience can be picked up by the adjudication microphones. The exception to this rule is for the Hip Hop routines where we encourage all to support the performers on stage.
- **No warmup or rehearsal is permitted in the theatre lobby.**

Stage

- Stage flooring for dance at the theatre is Rosco Adagio; dimensions 26' 3" x 26' 3".
- **Please lift and carry the props on and off stage so as not to mark or damage the dance floor.**
- **Solo dancers ONLY may warm up on stage prior to session starts while the curtains are closed. NO rehearsals on stage once the festival begins.**
- Dance studios are not permitted to mark the stage for any dance number. Stage marking will be done by the theatre technician (back-left, centre, right; centre stage; front-left, centre, right).

Lost, Stolen Items

- Please do not leave valuables unattended anywhere.
- Please report any lost or stolen items to the NIFPA volunteers or the Theatre staff.

Liability Waiver

- The North Island Festival of Performing Arts Society (the 'Society') is not responsible for any claims, demands or damages concerning injury to any competitor that may occur during the North Island Festival (the 'Festival')
- The Society is not responsible for any claims, demands or damages to musical instruments, 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 of the Society from claims, demands, damages, actions or causes of action arising out of our in consequence of any loss, injury or damage to any competitor or any competitor's personal property incurred while attending or participating in the Festival. This clause shall also apply to all member of the public attending any and all events.
- NIFPA accepts no responsibility for any participant contracting communicable diseases during the Festival and events which will be conducted in keeping with all Public Health orders in effect at the time.

Rules and Regulations

- The NIFPA Board of Directors 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.
- NIFPA reserves the right to split or combine categories or age groups according to the number of entries. If any class has 10 or more entries, the class will be split according to age. Split classes will be adjudicated separately.

Photography and Video

- By registering in NIFPA, participant(s) acknowledge and agree that they are giving 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.
- No videos, photography or tape recording is allowed during sessions.
- Photographs of dancers on stage is not allowed at any time.

Complaints and Protests

- Complaints or protests must be made in writing to the North Island Festival of Performing Arts Board and accompanied by a protest fee of \$20.00. A committee will be formed of three members of the Festival Board, whose decision will be final. The protest fee will be returned should the protest be sustained.
- The complaints can be emailed to info.nifpa@gmail.com or mailed to:
North Island Festival of Performing Arts
Box 3193
Courtenay, BC V9N 5N3

Boundaries

The boundaries for the North Island Festival of Performing Arts are:

- S.D. 47 Powell River
 - S.D. 68 Nanaimo Ladysmith
 - S.D. 69 Qualicum-Parksville
 - S.D. 70 Alberni
 - S.D. 71 Comox Valley
 - S.D. 72 Campbell River
 - S.D. 84 Vancouver Island West
 - S.D. 85 Vancouver Island North
- To qualify for NIFPA Awards or to be eligible for Provincial Recommendations participants must be entered under a studio within these boundaries.
 - All entries to NIFPA must be under a performing arts organization/business or educational institution with a business licence and adequate insurance coverage. Independent entries into NIFPA are not permitted; please speak with your studio for information.

Registration

Registration

- All competitions are open to amateurs only. The term “amateur” shall mean one who is studying under a qualified teacher and whose principal income is not derived from services or from solo performances in the particular category in which one is competing.

- Registration is based on ages as of December 31 of the year preceding Festival.
- Registration will be open from November 1 and close November 15 at 10pm.
- Registration is online via: <https://nifpa.signup.dance/> . The link for registration will be on the nifpa.org homepage.
- Studios, please see the Guideline for Registration (Appendix A) for further technical details on how to register.
- All participants must sign the online waiver through the online registration system.
- All music must be submitted via the online registration system no later than January 15th.
- All registered selections must have title at registration and cannot be registered as TBA.
- 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.

Divisions and Age

- **Solos, Duets and Trios :** Age is as of December 31 of the year preceding Festival. All dancers must be within the age limit of the class. The age of the oldest dancer will determine the age category.
- **Small (4-7 dancers) and Large (8+ dancers) Groups:** Age is as of December 31 of the year preceding Festival. The ages of the dancers will be averaged to determine the age category. No dancer can be more than 2 (two) years older than the age category group. Please contact NIFPA by email if the age of your oldest dancer is more than the 2 years allowed.

Registration Fees

- Solo ----- \$70 per dancer
 - Duets/Trios ----- \$80 per group
 - Small Group (4-7 dancers) ----- \$90 per group
 - Large Group (8+ dancers) ----- \$110 per group
 - Production Groups ----- \$200 per group
- Payment for registration is completed through the online registration system via [STRIPE.com](https://stripe.com) and is necessary to complete registration. All credit cards are accepted.
 - No refunds are permissible, except for accident or illness. Requests for refunds are to be in writing (emails are accepted) and accompanied by an explanation of withdrawal.
 - Please notify NIFPA asap with any withdrawals.

Competition

Music, Choreography and Costumes

- Registration in NIFPA is an acknowledgment of agreement to abide by the Copyright Act of Canada with regard to material being performed for NIFPA festival and events.
- Studios/teachers should ensure that the music lyrics, movement, and costumes are age appropriate and not provocative or offensive. All entries must be appropriate for a family audience, regardless of the age of the performer.
- Costume definition includes accessories - shoe, hat, glove, corset, handkerchief, fan, umbrella, cane, and jewellery.
- Prop definition includes any object placed on the stage that gives the performance specific period, place or character including but not limited to set pieces such as chairs, stairs, boxes, etc. Smaller objects are referred to as "hand props".
- Instrumental or percussive use of voice is to be considered as music.
- No more than two acrobatic tricks where the hips pass over the head are allowed in all disciplines, excluding Acro and Hip Hop. (Back and front walk-overs, flips, tumbling passes, etc.) Acceptable movement not counted as acrobatic tricks are handstands, cartwheels, front/back rolls, dolphin rolls, and technical movements within the discipline.
- Lip synchronization is permitted in Modern Stage and Hip Hop only.

Re-dances

- Re-dances for technical difficulties will not be penalized.
- If a competitor who is under 12 (11 or under) leaves the stage prior to their performance being completed, they may re-dance without penalty.
- If a competitor 12 years or older leaves the stage prior to their performance being completed, they may re-dance with a 5 mark deduction.

Time Limits

- Performances will be timed from the beginning of the performance to the end.
- Presets/bows will not be timed.
- The following time limits will be strictly enforced. Overtime performances will be adjudication only.
- **Solos:** 3 minutes maximum
- **Groups:** 6 minutes maximum
- **Song & Dance Solos:** 4 minutes maximum
- **Production Groups (Song & Dance and Hip Hop):** 12 minutes maximum

Adjudication

- Two adjudicators will provide a video adjudication for each performance.
- Each performance will receive a percentage mark, unless the entry is for adjudication only.
- All marks are confidential, and will be provided to the studios at the end of each day.
- The Adjudicator's decision will be final; the Discipline Specialist will have the final say within their discipline.
- 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.
- If 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.
- Adjudicators will talk to the dancers after each session and placements and standings will be presented on stage.
- The entire adjudication is to be treated as a performance and attendance by dancers is expected.

Adjudicator Workshops

- Adjudicator workshops will be scheduled for each discipline and will be open to all festival participants once registration is complete and if space warrants.
- Attendance is **mandatory for provincial solo representative eligibility**. Written feedback from adjudicators will not be provided, however, participation, technique, and ability will be considered by the adjudicator for provincial recommendations.

- Studios must email info.nifpa@gmail.com by November 15th with a list of provincial rep contenders with the dancer's name, discipline and age. Those dancers will be registered in the appropriate workshop. Payment for the workshop is the responsibility of the dancer and is paid directly to NIFPA via e-transfer to finance.nifpa@gmail.com .
- Where space warrants, the workshops will be opened up to all other festival registrants. Registration will be done via email to NIFPA by the dancers and paid for via e-transfer prior to the start of Festival.
- Workshop fee: \$35 per workshop

Scoring and Placements

- Standings and 1st, 2nd and 3rd placements will be announced onstage.
- Ties for 1st place are not permitted.
- Solos, Duets and Trios will receive medals for placement.
- Groups will receive a wristband for each dancer for placement. Studio reps may collect wristbands in the lobby and distribute.

Standings Levels:

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| 95% and over: | Diamond |
| 90% - 94.99%: | Platinum |
| 85% - 89.99%: | Gold |
| 80% - 84.99%: | Silver |
| 75% - 79.99%: | Bronze |

Provincial Recommendations

Solos

- To be eligible, a dancer must have participated with 2 (two) contrasting 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 solo entry in the particular class.
- Registration in adjudicator workshops for provincial eligibility must be completed no later than November 15th by email to info.nifpa@gmail.com by studios. No late entries will be accepted.
- All solos within a discipline will be averaged to obtain eligibility mark.
- Provincial eligibility for stage requires two contrasting solos in two of: jazz or lyrical jazz , tap, song & dance, modern stage, acro and hip hop.

- Provincial eligibility for modern - solos must be contrasting in style.
- Any competitor receiving a Provincial nomination from another Festival is ineligible for a nomination to the PABC Provincial Festival from NIFPA whether the offer has been accepted or not.
- Provincial Solo Dance Class Levels:
 - Level I (Junior) - age 10-12
 - Level II (Intermediate) - age 15 years and under
 - Level III (Senior) - age 18 and under
 - Provincial Excellence - age 20 and under

Virtual Dance Groups

- Adjudicators may recommend up to two groups in each provincial dance class that are felt to be at an exceedingly high standard
- To be eligible, the group must participate in one of the dance classes listed below, achieve a mark of 85% or higher, have a group average age between 10 through 20 with no dancer older than 20, have a total time limit of **5 minutes** and study within our boundaries.
- Provincial Virtual Group Dance Classes:
 - Class 200 - Grace: duo/trio, small group or large group: classical ballet, contemporary ballet, Demi-character, interpretive ballet, neo-classical
 - Class 300 - Essence : duo/trio, small group or large group: modern, contemporary or lyrical
 - Class 400 - Power: duo/trio, small group or large group: jazz, hip hop/street or acro
 - Class 500 - Performance: duo/trio, small group or large group: tap, musical theatre or song and dance

Awards and Concerts

- As per each discipline's requirement 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.
- 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 (if held). All Reps, Alternates and Merited Participants will be acknowledged at the Provincial Showcase (if held). More information will be provided closer to the event time.

- Registration to Provincials for all Representatives and Representative groups will be paid for by NIFPA. If funds are available, additional money may be awarded to reps to assist with travel costs.

Categories

- In most disciplines, the rules for soloists are written with provincial eligibility in mind, to avoid disqualifications at that level. Therefore, we have 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. 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. 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 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). 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, Southeast Asian, 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, behaviour, or emotional state. Movement should be related to the intent of the music. Vocals allowed in music.

STAGE CLASSES

Provincial eligibility requires 2 solos; one solo in jazz or lyrical and one from another category.

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. Live voice not permitted; lip synchronization is permitted. 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 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.

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 or stunts. **No reference to violence or derogatory sexual content or language is permitted** or deductions will be made.

ALL DANCE DISCIPLINES

Young Choreographers — Age Groups 11+ - Props depending on class

- This category will be divided by style and, if required, by the number of performers (not choreographers) and by the choreographer's age grouping.
- Adjudication will be on the choreographer (not on the dancer(s)).
- Young Choreographer categories will receive standings; no placements will be announced.

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 another 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 NIFPA Board by February 1st prior to Festival via email info.nifpa@gmail.com .

Appendix A

Studio Guidelines for Registration

Registration opens November 1st and ends November 15th at 10 p.m.

The registration system is DanceSync hosted by TMMDance. Below are some tips to help with registering.

- The link for online registration is <https://nifpa.signup.dance/> . It will be posted on the nifpa.org homepage.
- You will need to set up an account of your studio or login with your previous account login and password. Make sure you select the correct competition and year.
- Teachers/Studios - to prepare and make registration easier you can create a worksheet listing all your students; **first and last name**, (these can be in separate or same column), **birthdate**, and **gender**. This document must be saved as a CSV (comma separated value) file. Then you will upload it to your account and it will be the last time you enter student data. Note: this information may be added with each entry as well.
- You will need the **Title** for each selection as these are what separates each entry. Titles can be edited later but you will need to have one; TBA is not permitted.
- You will need the **time/length** of each piece - this can be a guesstimate and is for ensuring we program enough time.
- You will need the **choreographer** for each entry.
- You will select a **discipline** and **class** for each entry.
- You will need to designate if the entry starts the dance **Onstage; Offstage Right; Offstage Left; or both**.
- You will need to select if an entry is Non-competitive and note whether you want them to be separated in the program in the note field. Please followup with an email to info.nifpa@gmail.com .
- If prompted, you will need to select **En Pointe** and/or **Provincial Rep** if either of those apply. Please select provincial rep only for those soloists who meet the eligibility requirements and for all eligible solos in the dance class. **(Please note: Studios must also email info.nifpa@gmail.com with their Provincial rep lists by November 15th.)**
- Students can then be connected to the entry from the list of students inputted previously. The student list can be manipulated by age of kids to aid in finding students in a large list.
- Payment will be collected using STRIPE.com. Payment is necessary to complete registration. All credit cards are accepted.
- **Online waiver links** are to be sent to participant families by the studios for completion through DanceSync. Studios can monitor completion through their DanceSync accounts.