

Newbie Guide to Competitions:

- **What Time Is It??:**
 - **Arrival Time:** This is the time that you and your dancer need to arrive at the venue to get ready *ahead* of your run time
 - **Run time-** The time your dancer's group or solo meets to practice before they perform. Dancers should be dressed and ready to dance at this time. We will post a designated meeting area for run-throughs on Band. Please, **do not leave** the venue after your run-through.
 - **Performance time:** This is the approximate time your dancer will compete on stage. Please keep in mind that sometimes competitions run ahead of (and occasionally behind) schedule. Dancers will meet in the run-through area with the teacher in charge approximately 7-10 entry numbers ahead of theirs. The run-through teacher will take the dancers backstage to check them in before they perform. Parents are not allowed backstage.
- **Dressing Rooms:**
 - **Location-** Sometimes competitions assign dressing rooms and sometimes it's a first come, first served basis. Dressing rooms may vary from day to day. We will make a Band post regarding the location of the dressing room each day. The competition will always designate a male dressing room.
 - **Behavior-** We will most likely share a dressing room with another studio. We expect that dancers and parents will be respectful and accommodating of other studios. If an issue arises, please take it up with one of the WAD teachers. Please avoid confrontation with other parents and children. Only one parent or non-dancer sibling is allowed in the dressing room with your child. It is too crowded for extended family.
 - **Cleanliness-** Keep your belongings organized. Throw away your garbage. Pick up after yourself. Please be good stewards.
- **Levels and Age Groups:**
 - **Levels-** Most, but not all, competitions have a level scale that teachers enter the dances under. This scale may be based on a variety of conditions, including, but not limited to, hours of technique classes taken during the week and number of years competing. An example of levels from Symposium is: Classic, Select, and Elite.
 - **Age groups-** All competitions break competitors into age groups. Your dancer will be adjudicated based on their age and competitive level. Most competitions place the age cut-off on January 1st. All ages for group dances are averaged using this date. The arrangement of age groups varies from competition to competition. An example of age groups from Starz is: 2-4; 5-8; 9-11; 12-14; 15-18; 19+

- **Awards: Attendance at awards and Encore performances is mandatory for ALL dancers.** This is a fun experience where your dancer can bond with their team, while supporting their fellow competitors. Your dancer will join all of the competitors on stage to receive their adjudication, overall, and/or judges award. While the numbers are being tallied, the DJ will play some fun songs for the participants to dance to.
 - **Adjudication-** This is the score the judges have given the dance. The score the dance is given will fall into an “Award Level.” The names of award levels will vary depending on which competition we are at. An example from Symposium (high to low) is: Diamond, High Gold, Gold, Silver, and Bronze. Soloists will receive a trophy, which they can keep. Typically, group dances will receive one trophy for the whole group that the studio keeps and either ribbons or pins for each member of the group to keep. Duos/trios may receive one trophy, or one for each member, which they may keep.
 - **Overall-** Overall is how the dance scored in comparison with all of the dances in their category/age group. Typically, there will be a top 10, top 5 or top 3. It is dependent on the number of entries. Sometimes a dance will place in the overalls, sometimes it won't. If a group dance places in the overalls, the trophy or plaque will stay with the studio. Soloists and duo/trios may keep theirs.
 - **Judges Awards-** These are special awards given by the judges when a dance or performer catches their eye. Not everyone will receive a judge's award. If a soloist, or duo/trio receives a judge's award they may keep it. Group judge's awards will stay with the studio.
 - **Encore Performance-** If your dancer's group is chosen for an encore performance it is an honor and a privilege. This means that the judges were so entertained by your routine that they are giving you the opportunity to dance again. Not all competitions offer this.
 - **Behavior-** Dancers are expected to be engaged and present at awards. Clap for and be supportive of all studios. Be gracious and thank the judges when receiving your award, even if you may be disappointed in the outcome.
 - **Who gets to accept the trophy?-** For group dances, only one representative is allowed to retrieve the award from the judge. To make this fair, we pick a member of the group that does not also have a solo or duo/trio. If all members have a solo/duo/trio, or if several do not, we pick a name from the hat for each competition.

- **Costumes:** Before you leave home, **triple check** that you have all of your costumes, accessories, hairpieces, tights, and shoes. If your dancer is missing items they may not be allowed to perform and will be placed on probation. Hair is considered part of the costume. Be sure hair is styled according to instructions and looks clean and neat.

- **Competition Audience Etiquette:**

- **Enter/Exit:** Please only enter and exit the theater between performances, not during. It is very distracting to the dancer to see someone walking around during their performance.
- **Noise:** Be respectful of the performers and other audience members by silencing your phones and not talking during performances. It is okay to cheer, but please do not have private conversations while dancers are on stage. If you have a grumpy toddler or fussy infant, I feel your pain. Please try to find seating near an exit so you can make a quick get-away, if need be. Any extra noises can be a distraction to the dancer.
- **Commentary:** Please refrain from talking negatively about other dancers during or after their performance. We are all in this together. How would you feel if someone sitting next to you remarked negatively about your child's dance?
- **Guests:** Family and friends may watch at no charge. Please advise them to come early and remind them of the aforementioned protocol.
- **Pictures and videography:** Video and photography of any kind is strictly prohibited at competitions and can result in point deductions and disqualification. Professional pictures and videography are available for purchase at the competition.

- **Expectations:**

- **Be supportive:** Your dancer is nervous, excited, and anxious. Emotions are on overload and ready to explode. Dancers are notorious for putting unnecessary pressure on themselves. All they need from you is your love, encouragement, and support. Please don't add to their pressure. Lots of patience. Lots of deep breaths. Lots of hugs. Lots of grace.
- **Critiques:** Leave the critiques to the teachers and judges. All your dancer needs to hear from you is that you love watching them dance, and you are proud of them.
- **Concerns:** If you are having any issues with another student, parent, or members of another studio, please bring your grievances directly to Ms. Bekki, or one of WAD's faculty. Do not ever take it up directly with the child, parent, or studio in question. Enjoy your time with your child. Let us sweat the small stuff.

- **Judges' Critiques:**

- Judges' critiques will be given to the studio 3-7 days after the competition is over. Each teacher will go over group critiques with the class during their scheduled class time. Soloists and Duo/Trios will go over their critiques with their teacher during their private lesson. Remember it is only three people's opinions. Receive their corrections with open minds.