

17th Annual

Dance Aberdeen Invitational Festival Registration Handbook



April 9th, 10th, 11th, 2026

Hosted @ Lakeview Church

Located on the corner of Highway 16
and Boychuk Drive, Saskatoon,
Saskatchewan

ABOUT US

The Dance Aberdeen Invitational Festival is an annual event that takes place in Saskatoon. It was created to allow dancers from small, rural communities and regional cities to come together for a fun and positive experience.

There are many benefits to our festival:

- Professional video adjudication to assist and encourage all dancers at any level to grow and improve.
- A lovely venue for friends and family to enjoy seeing their favorite dancers on stage.
- Dancers make friends and memories that last a lifetime.
- Fair, constructive, and positive adjudicators that appreciate and admire the dancer's love of dance, and the innovative and artistic choreography of the teachers. Dance Adjudicators are different every year so as to offer new ideas and different perspectives for our dancers.

Dance Aberdeen Invitational Festival is organized and ran by parent volunteers of the Dance Aberdeen Club, a non-profit organization that runs the festival to support our yearly operations.

Dance Aberdeen truly appreciates your past attendance, and we love seeing all the beautiful dance numbers your studios provide.

MANDATE

Dance Aberdeen Invitational Festival provides an opportunity for recreational, non-professional schools of dance to attend a competition that provides positive and educational experience. Our festival encourages and supports all dancers, while also recognizing teamwork, leadership, individual excellence, and hard work.

RULES AND REGULATIONS:

- **Entry package deadline is November 15th, 2025.**
- **Studios registrations are accepted on a *first come, first serve basis*.**
 - Dance Aberdeen reserves the right to finalize club selections based on availability, and may revoke an invitation to Festival at any time if circumstances change.
- Return the excel spreadsheet to the email address aberdeendancefestival@gmail.com
Your forms will be processed upon arrival of your fees.
- **Send e-transfer danceaberdeentreasurer@gmail.com**
- Cheques (payable to Dance Aberdeen) are to be submitted to:
Aberdeen Dance Festival
c/o Stephanie Gray
P.O. Box 102
Aberdeen, Sask.
SOK 0A0
- No refund on cancellations. Changes to entries must be submitted on excel spread sheet. There will be an additional fee to any additions added after the November 15th deadline.

DATES TO REMEMBER

July/August

Invites to clubs will be emailed. Clubs who RSVP yes will be sent the pre-registration link to hold their spots.

September 3rd

Registration packages will be emailed out to clubs who pre-registered.

September 15th

Deadline to RSVP to hold spots via pre-registration.

October 1st

Registration opens. Registrations will start being accepted at this time. Payment in full required at time of registration.

November 15th

Deadline for registration at Midnight

December 31st

First Draft of Schedule will be sent for review

January

Final draft will be out.

March 1st

MUSIC DEADLINE

April 9th, 10th, 11th, 2026

FESTIVAL!

TERMS OF PARTICIPATION

1. Definition of recreational, non–professional: max 1 hr/discipline (instruction) per week per discipline not including exam or technique classes
2. Clubs are taken on a first come first serve basis with all clubs who have received an invite
3. Dance Clubs cannot register exclusively solo, duet and trios. Clubs cannot have more than a 2 (solos) to 1 (groups) ratio. (Some exceptions may be made at the discretion of Dance Aberdeen; please contact our Festival Coordinator with any questions/exceptions required).
4. All dancers entered must attend with their primary dance studio. Exception: if you have an outside dancer that does a duet or trio with a dancer from one of our registered clubs, they can dance for adjudication and medals but are not eligible for awards or dance off. (Ensure a note is made with your registration)
5. Award winning dances, from a previous year, containing the same choreography and same music will not be permitted.
6. No dancer(s) can compete in two or more groups (large or small) in the same genre group (this includes if they are in two separate age categories).
7. A dancer can do a duet or trio in one genre but cannot do multiple duets or trios with different combination of dancers in one genre in the same age category.
8. Undesirable conduct demonstrated by dance participants, parents, teachers or audience may result in expulsion from the Festival.
9. Parents are not to contact the Festival Coordinator directly and will be expected to communicate through their club.
10. There will be NO teacher feature.
11. 19+ dancer will not be eligible for awards or Dance Off.
12. We will need signed permission to use previously used Choreography from another Choreographed Dance. The signed permission will need to be in by March 1st. Failure to do so will result in disqualification from awards and Dance Off; it may also result in not being invited back next year.
13. In the event the Festival is cancelled (ie; Fire, Flood, or Pandemic) The Aberdeen Dance Festival will hold back a 10% administration fee of your registration and refund the remainder.

*Club Clothing or names of dancers are NOT ALLOWED ON STAGE. This includes during dancing, the setting up/removing of props etc.

*Songs that mention names of the dancers or teachers are not allowed.

REGISTRATIONS

A maximum of 580 spots are available, so please have your Pre-Registration in early. An email will be sent indicating acceptance into the festival!

There will be NO REFUNDS In the event that your club has to pull from Festival and the Festival is going forward.

Registrations, via excel forms, are due by November 15th at midnight. Please read all instruction in full as many things have changed on the new registration form.

1. Props on and off (this is to add time to the session to avoid going over in time)
2. Fixed cells: many of the cells will not be able to change and there is a drop-down menu that you can pick from. Please use all boxes even if it is not applicable.
3. Your name of your dance at registration submitted is the name of your dance. There will be a \$5 fee if you need to change the name of your dances.
4. Check to make sure you are entering your dance in the correct genre. If we are required to change this later, you will be asked to resubmit your dances and will have to pay again for the new genre. We have a syllabus in this document for all of the genre's so please double check you are entering correctly. You may be disqualified from awards if the adjudicators feel you have been entered in the wrong category.
5. **Please do not:** type in information in Caps Lock; put the last name in the first name column; use last name in title of a dance. If we have to correct this there will be a \$30 + charge to the club. You will be given a deadline to make corrections to avoid charges.
6. Do not leave blank lines in your roster.
7. No DANCER last names are to be used in the title of a song.
8. When entering the dancer's names, please make sure that each dancer's name is entered the same way throughout the registration.
9. When entering, make sure you are starting at the top of the file page.
10. We will only accept registrations completed using Microsoft Excel. Do not use any free version (Numbers or Open) as they will corrupt our files.

COSTS:

Before November 15th:

Solos - \$32 per dancer
Duets and Trios - \$30 per dancer
Groups - \$26 per dancer

After November 15th:

Solos - \$37 per dancer
Duets and Trios - \$34 per dancer
Groups - \$30 per dancer

(Please note that if you switch dancers to a new club or genre you will have to pay these fees as there are several changes that will need to be made)

Corrections:

\$30 + for correcting incorrectly entered information
\$10 per song we are required to convert or rename

GROUP TIMING:

Solos 2 1/2min
Duets 2 1/2min
Trio 2 1/2min
Small group (4-8 dancers) 4 minutes
Large group (9-19 dancers) 4 minutes
Open/Stage (> 20 dancers) 4 minutes
Production (12 or more dancers) 10 minutes plus 5 minutes for set up and take down

Please note that if you need more time, it will disqualify your dance from awards

Genres and categories:

Novice **N** No child in the group has performed on stage
Special Considerations **S** one or more dancers with special considerations
Student Choreography **C**

(Note there will no longer be teacher feature allowed at Festival.)

AGE CATEGORIES

- Age is determined as of December 31 of year applying
- For duets oldest dancer determines age category
- For groups and trios, it is the average age of all dancers in the group. Calculate age for decimals as such: .45 round down, .5 round up.
- Should any competitor be an artistic director, instructor, or assistant instructor (who has completed high school) they will not be eligible for awards OR Dance Off.
- Each category may be split after 8 entries.
- Anyone 19 and older is not eligible for awards or Dance Off.

MUSIC

- Music must be submitted no later than March 1st.
- We will send you a Dropbox folder to add your music to.
- Your music must be formatted as requested (your music will not work otherwise)
- **All music must be in a mp3 OR m4a format NO EXCEPTIONS will be made (This is at the request of our sound technician.)**

Any music not submitted by March 1st, needing to be replaced by another song, or reformatted may be subjected to a \$10 fee per song. Anything not received by April 1st will be removed from festival with NO REFUND. If there are any issues with music please contact the office and we will take it to our sound technician.

Format of music:

(Session number and dance number)-(title)-(genre)-(starting on or off stage).mp3

Group Example: **212-NewYork-tap-on.m4a** (session 2 number 12 New York tap starts m4a)

Solo/Duets Example: **1005-Jodi-ballet-off.mp3** (session 10 number 5 Jodi ballet starts off mp3)

If music is not formatted as above it will be sent back for you to be corrected or you will be charged a \$10 fee for each song we correct.

ADJUDICATORS

Dance Aberdeen contracts 2 adjudicators. Our adjudicators are experienced and qualified. We will post on our Facebook page: **Dance Aberdeen Invitational Festival** as soon as we receive their current bio and picture. Dance Aberdeen will be providing video adjudication by Fragment Media.

We are very careful to ensure that our adjudicators only receive the information necessary to adjudicate. Their programs only contain club codes and first names. We ensure they have a separate room from our office to take breaks and have meals. All our Dance Aberdeen club members are instructed to not talk about their dancers or any other dancers with the adjudicators. We ensure that our dancers are not with us when we need to converse with the adjudicators.

****Club clothing/names of dancer or instructor etc. are not allowed on stage or in the use of songs****

Adjudicators are changed every year to provide varied feedback and ensure impartiality.

MARKS AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- Session awards are posted as quickly as possible following the end of the session
- Dance off participants are chosen after each session, one per adjudicator, and are entirely the adjudicators choice. A dancer can only be entered twice as a solo in the Dance Off
- Overall awards are chosen after the last session that includes that genre and are the adjudicator's choice. The dancers who are eligible for overall awards will have danced in groups as well as their solos or duets. A dancer is still eligible even if they only danced in groups.
- All award envelopes will be placed in the club boxes for the teacher to pick up.
- No one will be permitted into the office after the last session until dance off starts. Please make arrangements to pick up your packages ahead of time if you will be leaving early.

MARKS

Gold with Distinction	90 & over
Gold	85-89
Sliver	80-84
Bronze	<79

OFFICE ETIQUETTE:

Office Rules

- Instructors all must sign in when they arrive at festival and let the office know the following;
 - If you club has any major changes
 - If you have any dancers that will not be participating in dance off
- Instructors are only allowed in the office to inform the office staff of changes and/or cancellations
- If the door is closed it means you are NOT allowed in
- Marks and awards will be available no sooner than 1hr after each session NO exceptions.
- Office bathroom is only allowed to be used for dancers who are under the age of 6 or need a quick costume change in between dances (costume changes need to be prearranged with office staff ahead of time)

DANCE OFF

- Dance off is judged by 3 or 4 Judges that are not involved with Dance Aberdeen. They are not dancers and are judging upon entertainment value only.
- **NO substitutions for dancers in Dance Off**
- At the end of each session we will post who made it into dance off for that session. We will post the schedule for dance off shortly after final session is over. If your club does not intend on staying for Dance Off please let the office know at the start of festival so we can let our adjudicators know.

Dance off Placements

1st place Solo or Duet

1st place Group

2nd place over all

3rd Place over all

STAGE

- Stage is 30 X 45 feet with large backstage wings.
- The cement floor in the church can be scratched so DO NOT drag props etc.
- Tap shoes only to be worn on stage. If your dancers start on stage left tap shoes need to be removed or tap covers worn while walking to the other side of the stage; this is so we do not distract the dancers on stage performance.
- Any damages caused to the church is the responsibility of the studio whose dancer was involved.
- No glitter will be allowed in the church. The use of glitter will be cause for disqualification of group or dancer.

- **Sessions can run up to 45 minutes ahead.** It is your responsibility to watch the tv for session numbers and keep track of where we are at in the session.
- Dancers must be ready, in line, 4 dances before they are to be on stage. **Please note: We will not come looking for you in the gym, we simply do not have enough volunteers.**
- Only 2 groups allowed backstage waiting at a time.
- **IF YOU ARE NOT THERE WHEN THE BELL RINGS YOU WILL SCRATCHED.**
- **Once the dancers are done dancing, please leave the backstage immediately.**
- **Instructors are only allowed backstage if they have a dance number on stage.**

AUDITORIUM

- The auditorium has comfortable seating for 700
- Prices for entry into Auditorium will be announced and posted closer to the date of Festival. Payment can be made via Cash or Debit Card.
- No food or drink allowed in Auditorium.
- **No Photos and/or Videos will be Allowed. Failure to comply will result in removal of offender to protect our dancers and the instructor's choreography. If the offender is a parent of the dancer on stage, the dance/dancer will be disqualified.**

CHANGE AREA

- **Food and drinks NOT are allowed with the exception of water in sealable containers.**
- **Please keep interactions between clubs positive and respectful.**
- Each dance club will have a designated change area in the gym, with each area having a power source
- When sharing an area please respect each other. Do not move other dancers' items. If you are sharing try stay one club on one side and try to keep a clear walk way through the area.
- Please leave your change area clean and tidy each day.
- Boys change area will be in the hallway near the backstage area.
- Bathrooms are NOT to be used as change area or for doing makeup/hair
- If you have a dancer that needs help from a member of the opposite gender, or require gender neutral change areas, please inform the festival committee ahead of time and we will make arrangements.

PRACTICE AREA

- Clubs may practice in the practice area in the gym OR directly outside of the gym in the large hallway area. Please watch for signage to be sure you are practicing in appropriate areas. Some areas of the church are blocked off and *we are not allowed entry there*.
- Keep your music at a reasonable level as several clubs practice at the same time.
- You may run through once then move to the side for the next group
- No tap shoes in practice areas.

GENERAL

- LOCATION - Lakeview Church Site 510 Saskatoon, SK. South of HWY 16 and Boychuck Drive intersection.
- Doors will open daily at 8am; we ask that each evening you leave promptly after last session is completed.
- There will be a concession on site. A Menu will be shared with clubs prior to Festival.
- Marks and awards will be posted on our *Dance Aberdeen Invitational Festival* Facebook page as well as on the bulletin board in the front Foyer
- Any issues please contact office staff at festival located in the green room.
- No verbal abuse will be tolerated by students, instructors or parents.
- We are all volunteers and will try our best to make the festival a great experience.
- **The church does not allow inappropriate moves, music or costumes failure to comply may result in clubs not being invited the following year**
- **We reserve the right to run 45 minutes ahead. First session of the day will always start at the posted time.**
- PLEASE inform parents that communication is to go through you the club and not to contact Dance Aberdeen directly for schedule times and refunds. We will be sending you a parent package this year to email to your parents and will be on our website also.

We are so excited to see you all soon!

Dance Syllabus/Genre Definitions

Please review definitions as we have updated them on the advice of past adjudicators of our festival. This will insure you have entered your dancers accordingly (emphasis is more on the difference of Demi Character and Character also Modern.)

Acrobatic Dance

This category is for a dance routine that demonstrates controlled movements and acrobatic tricks along with dance. The majority of the routine must consist of acrobatic moves and tricks

Song and Dance

This category is a performance that includes signing (NO LIP SYNCING) to the instrumental music. NO TRACK VOCALS ARE ALLOWED. If utilizing track vocals dancers are to be entered into the OPEN category.

Musical Theatre

Any dance medium portraying a theme through acting, lip syncing, dramatization, and /or mime. LIP SYNCING IS REQUIRED and routines must contain at least 30% dance steps.

Classical Ballet

Dance that uses and recognized classical technique) R.A.D. Cicchetti, Vaganova, etc.) and classical steps and is interpretive of the music. This can be done either in ballet Slipper, Pointe, or Demi-Pointe and is categorized accordingly.

Character Ballet

Character dance is a style of ballet deriving inspiration from national or folk dances from around the world. Character dances have a strong rhythm, which reflects their folk origin. Movements tend to be less stylized than in classical ballet, allowing greater individual expression and diversity. Some examples of character dance adaptations, that would be registered in this category are: the national dances from Russia, Poland, Spain, etc. (ie flamenco style and German Folk dancing)

Demi-Character Ballet

Routines that have a strong classical base but portrays a character or tells a story and develops the character through dance. Pointe or Ballet slippers may be worn and are categorized accordingly. Use of Props must be noted in your registration application.

Hip-Hop

*This category is for dance that consists of street style dancing using styles like, hip-hop, street, funk, house, breaking, popping, locking, krumping, stepping, social dancing etc. **Lyrics that contains language of a sexual nature will not be permitted, nor will any inappropriate gestures-This may result in disqualification from awards and/or Dance Off at the adjudicator's and festival coordinator's discretion.***

Jazz

Modern or classical jazz dance. A Maximum of 3 acrobatic moves allowed in this category (this means any move that where the HIPS pass over the shoulders. Illusions, front and back rolls are NOT considered Acro trick and are allowed). Anything else will result in a ineligibility for awards and/or Dance off.

Examples:

Two dancers do a walkover at the same time = one trick

Three dancers perform three different tricks at the same time (walkover, backflip and aerials = 3 tricks)

Contemporary

Contemporary dance is a fusion of dance genres and grew out of classical and jazz techniques. Instead of rejecting classical style, which is detached from a more traditional style. This style retains elements of lightness and fluidity: often about unchoreographed movements as influenced by philosophy: has a strong emphasis on understanding music, rhythm, and space while recreating the technical and classical lines: it conceptualizes a theme, less about narrative and more about educating, provoking and exploring different movements. A dance in this category should ask the following questions; is it dancer-centric (allows personal exploration through music); is there a specific visual or internal theme; does it include classical lines that are distorted in a way that is new and different; and does it use techniques from the classical syllabuses.

Modern

Modern dance emerged in the 20th century as a rejection to classical ballet. Technique has been developed under the influences of Graham, Limon, Horton, etc. It is derived from inner emotions and gives accent to mood there is a deliberate use of gravity, is free in form, uses contract/ release movements as well as use of floor work, fall and recovery and improvisation.

Tap

This category is for a dance that produces varying rhythmic patterns. Emphasis in this category is on tap technique and not character, jazz and acrobatics. Dance must contain at least 80% tap steps. No pre-recorded tap sound is permitted

Open

Dance routine styles that do not fit into a defined category, and typically contains dance steps from two or more categories.

Production

Restricted to one entry per studio. Production number are typically large choreographies that tell a story or are built around a theme.

***NEW* Student Choreography**

This genre is new and is as follows:

- *All students participating MUST Choreograph the ENTIRE dance on their own.*
- *ANY genre of the student's choice*
- *Will be placed as one entire group within the festival, there will be no separation of Age or Genre, DEPENDING on enrollment/registration numbers*
- *Anyone 19+ (not a teacher) can place a choreography in festival HOWEVER they are not eligible for awards OR dance off*