

Official
Rulebook
2025 edition

Open Dance Australia

October 2nd, 3rd & 4th, 2025
Suncoast Events Centre

@opendanceau

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Introduction

Open Dance Australia is a live dance event created to bring together studios, independent dancers, and companies from across the country in a vibrant celebration of talent, diversity, and artistic excellence.

Our mission is to promote cultural exchange, empower emerging artists, and increase the visibility of dance in all its forms. Through both competitive and non-competitive performances, we aim to create a space that values inclusion, passion, and professionalism.

This document outlines all the rules, requirements, and technical details for participating in the **2025 edition** of the Open Dance Australia showcase and competition.

Dates: October 2nd, 3rd & 4th, 2025

Location: [Suncoast Events Centre](#) (7-13 Keil Mountain Rd Woombye QLD 4559, Sunshine Coast, Australia)

Website: <http://opendancebrasil.com/australia>

Instagram: [@opendanceau](#)

Facebook: [/Open-Dance-AU](#)

Registrations

General Information

- ◆ Each studio or independent dancer must nominate:
 - 1 Group Representative (required)
 - Optional: Additional Representatives, Technical Assistants

Registration Timeline & Fees (Until September, 18th)

Solo/Variation (per routine)	\$50
Duo (per routine)	\$60
Trio (per routine)	\$70
Small Group (per dancer)	\$20
Large Group (per dancer)	\$15
Additional Studio Representatives	\$40

Competitor Pass – \$20.00

The Competitor Pass gives dancers full access to the event as official participants for solos, duos and trios. It includes:

- ◆ Entry to the venue (as a competitor, not as part of the general audience)
- ◆ Access to backstage, dressing rooms, and the audience area for the entire event
- ◆ An official event wristband – must be worn at all times, including across multiple days if you're competing more than once
- ◆ Note: Competitor Pass is not required for troupes

Important Rules

- ♦ Each entry must be submitted through our registration system with accurate information.
- ♦ Payments are processed through our official partner platform. Accepted method: PayPal.
- ♦ If a dancer is registered under more than one school/group, each group must pay their own fees for that dancer.
- ♦ Each choreography can only be registered **once**.
- ♦ All music files must be uploaded by **September, 18th, 12:00 PM**.
- ♦ Changes after this date will not be accepted.
- ♦ **By registering, participants agree to all rules and term.**

Cancellations & Refunds

- ♦ No refunds will be issued in case of withdrawal by the participant.
- ♦ In case of event cancellation due to force majeure, refunds will be processed within 30 days.
- ♦ Entries are limited and may close before the deadline if maximum capacity is reached.

Awards & Prizes

General Awards

- ♦ All competitive performances will be evaluated by a qualified jury and will receive a score between 5.0 and 10.0.
- ♦ Prizes will be awarded according to the following ranges:

Placement	Score Range	Award Type
1st Place	9.0 – 10.0	Trophy or Medal
2nd Place	8.0 – 8.9	Trophy or Medal
3rd Place	7.0 – 7.9	Trophy or Medal
Highly Commended	5.0 – 6.9	Participation Certificate

Note: At Open Dance, we follow an inclusive scoring system. All participants who receive a score within the third-place range – from 7.0 to 7.9 – are awarded a third-place trophy or medal. The same applies to second and first place: anyone who reaches the corresponding score range receives the respective award, regardless of the number of participants.

Special Awards

- ♦ The following cash prizes and special recognitions will be awarded after the final session of the festival:
 - **Best Female Dancer:** 50 AUD + Trophy
 - **Best Male Dancer:** 50 AUD + Trophy
 - **Best Duo / Pas de Deux / Trio:** 75 AUD + Trophy
 - **Best Group Performance:** 100 AUD + Trophy
 - **Best Choreographer:** 50 AUD + Trophy

Special Mentions & Sponsor Awards

- ♦ May include training grants, scholarships, or mentorship invitations.
- ♦ The awarding of scholarships and training invitations is at the discretion of each partner institution or company. Open Dance Australia is not responsible for travel costs or arrangements related to prizes granted by third parties.

Prize Delivery

- ♦ Monetary awards will be paid by bank transfer or PayID within 30 days after the event.
- ♦ Winners must provide valid banking information upon request from the event organizers.

Dance Styles

Participants may enter routines in any of the following dance styles. Each style will be judged within its own technical and artistic framework.

Ballet - Repertoire

Classical ballet variations from traditional ballets (e.g. Swan Lake, Giselle). Pointe work expected when applicable.

→ **Variation only** – Max: 3 minutes

Ballet - Open / Neoclassical / Demi-Character

Includes classical ballet technique with original choreography. May include theatrical or abstract themes.

→ **Solo:** 3 min | **Duo/Trio:** 4 min | **Group:** 5 min

Jazz

High-energy routines focused on sharp technique and musicality. Can range from classic jazz to modern commercial styles.

→ **Solo:** 3 min | **Duo/Trio:** 4 min | **Group:** 5 min

Contemporary

Expressive and fluid movement based on modern techniques. Encourages emotional storytelling.

→ **Solo:** 3 min | **Duo/Trio:** 4 min | **Group:** 5 min

Tap

Any style or tempo of tap dance. Judged on rhythm, clarity, and musical timing.

→ **Solo:** 3 min | **Duo/Trio:** 4 min | **Group:** 5 min

Lyrical

Fusion of ballet and jazz with emotional expression. Focuses on storytelling through lyrics and movement.

→ **Solo:** 3 min | **Duo/Trio:** 4 min | **Group:** 5 min

Hip Hop

Urban/street dance style. Can include breaking, popping, or commercial styles.

→ **Solo:** 3 min | **Duo/Trio:** 4 min | **Group:** 5 min

Acro

Combines acrobatic elements with dance technique and choreography.

→ **Solo:** 3 min | **Duo/Trio:** 4 min | **Group:** 5 min

Song and Dance

Live singing combined with dance. Judged on vocal and dance technique. No lip-sync.

→ **Solo:** 3 min | **Duo/Trio:** 4 min | **Group:** 5 min

Broadway / Musical Theatre

Dance inspired by musical theatre, emphasizing character and stage presence.

→ **Solo:** 3 min | **Duo/Trio:** 4 min | **Group:** 5 min

Student Choreography

Original work choreographed by a student dancer (not a teacher or professional).

→ **Solo:** 3 min | **Duo/Trio:** 4 min | **Group:** 5 min

Open

Any dance style not listed above (e.g. cultural, folkloric, ballroom, belly dance, etc.).

→ **Solo:** 3 min | **Duo/Trio:** 4 min | **Group:** 5 min

Age Divisions

Participants will compete in the following age divisions. The age is calculated based on the dancer's age on **October 1st, 2025** (the day before the event begins).

- ♦ **Tiny Tots:** 4 Years and Under
- ♦ **Mini:** 6 Years and Under
- ♦ **Petite:** 8 Years and Under
- ♦ **Pre-Junior:** 10 Years and Under
- ♦ **Junior:** 12 Years and Under
- ♦ **Teen:** 14 Years and Under
- ♦ **Senior:** 16 Years and Under
- ♦ **Open:** 17 Years and Over

Group Entries (More Than 1 Dancer)

For duos, trios, and groups, the average age of all performers determines the age division:

How to calculate:

1. Add the ages of all performers in the routine.
2. Divide the total by the number of performers.
3. Round down to the nearest whole number.

Example:

Dancers aged 9, 10, 14, and 16 = total of 49

$49 \div 4 = 12.25 \rightarrow$ average age = **12**

This routine competes in the **Junior (12 & Under)** division.

Important Notes:

- Age divisions may be merged or split at the discretion of the event organizers, depending on the number of entries.
- Dancers may perform in multiple age groups only if competing with different routines.
- Age groups apply to **both competitive and non-competitive entries**.

Categories & Formats

Participants may enter the competition in the following formats:

- ♦ **Solo/Variation:** 1 dancer | Max: 3 minutes
- ♦ **Duo:** 2 dancers | Max: 4 minutes
- ♦ **Trio:** 3 dancers | Max: 4 minutes
- ♦ **Small Group:** 4 to 9 dancers | Max: 5 minutes
- ♦ **Large Group:** 10 + dancers | Max: 5 minutes

Partner Dancers

Dancers who appear in a routine only to assist (e.g. demonstrating or helping) but are not being judged as featured performers must still be registered and paid for.

Rules for Partners:

- ♦ May perform outside their age division.
- ♦ May appear in multiple routines across divisions.
- ♦ Must be listed as **"(Partner)"** in the registration form.
- ♦ Example: Thomas Smith (Partner)

If a dancer is performing both as a partner and as a competitor in other routines, they must be registered separately for both roles.

Additional Guidelines:

- ♦ Dancers can appear in multiple routines, styles, and categories.
- ♦ The same choreography cannot be repeated in more than one entry.
- ♦ Any changes to dancer lineups must be communicated before the registration deadline.

Non-Competitive Showcase

The **Non-Competitive Showcase** is an opportunity for dancers and schools to present their work on stage without being evaluated by the jury. It is ideal for:

- ◆ *First-time performers*
- ◆ *Recreational dancers*
- ◆ *Younger age groups*
- ◆ *Studios seeking stage experience without pressure*
- ◆ *Pre-professional or community pieces wanting visibility without scoring*

Key Features

- ◆ *Open to **all ages and styles***
- ◆ *Same stage, lighting, and scheduling as the competitive sessions*
- ◆ *Dancers will receive **participation certificates** and **judges' feedback***
- ◆ ***No scores**, rankings, or awards are assigned*

Time Limits

Time limits for the Non-Competitive Showcase follow the same rules as competitive entries:

- ◆ **Solo/Variation:** 1 dancer | Max: 3 minutes
- ◆ **Duo:** 2 dancers | Max: 4 minutes
- ◆ **Trio:** 3 dancers | Max: 4 minutes
- ◆ **Small Group:** 4 to 9 dancers | Max: 5 minutes
- ◆ **Large Group:** 10 + dancers | Max: 5 minutes

Registration Timeline & Fees (Until September, 18th)

Solo/Variation (per routine)	\$50
Duo (per routine)	\$60
Trio (per routine)	\$70
Small Group (per dancer)	\$20
Large Group (per dancer)	\$15
Additional Studio Representatives	\$40

Registration & Guidelines

- ◆ *Routines must be registered under the **Non-Competitive** section during online registration.*
- ◆ *Music, costumes, and choreography are free choice, respecting 'general stage rules.'*
- ◆ *Dancers may enter both competitive and non-competitive routines, provided each routine is registered separately.*
- ◆ *Showcase entries **do not count toward awards or age division rankings.***

Rules & Guidelines

These rules apply to all participants in both **competitive and non-competitive divisions**. By registering, all dancers, teachers, and representatives agree to comply with these conditions.

General Participation Rules

- ♦ All participants must be officially registered and paid in full by the registration deadline.
- ♦ The person responsible for registration is assumed to have all necessary permissions from parents/guardians and choreographers, including image release consent.
- ♦ Each studio or independent dancer must appoint **at least one adult representative**. Up to **two representatives** may be registered **free of charge**. Any **additional representatives** will be subject to the **Studio Representative Fee**.
- ♦ Only registered participants and authorized representatives will have access to backstage and technical areas.

Time Limits

- ♦ All routines must stay within the allowed time limits for their category.
- ♦ Overtime may result in **penalties or disqualification**.

Music & Audio

- ♦ Music must be uploaded in **.mp3 format**, max file size: 10MB.
- ♦ All music must be submitted by **September, 18th at 12:00 PM (AEST)**.
- ♦ A backup of all music must be brought on a **USB drive** to the event.
- ♦ **No pre-recorded vocals** allowed in Song and Dance routines.
- ♦ Music with **explicit or inappropriate language** will not be accepted.

Costumes, Props & Scenery

- ♦ Costumes must be age-appropriate and stage-safe.
- ♦ Quick-change time must not interfere with the event flow.
- ♦ Props are allowed if they can be placed and removed **quickly and safely** (within the allocated time).
- ♦ **No use of water, fire, glitter, live animals, smoke effects, sprays, or substances** that may damage or dirty the stage.
- ♦ Fixed scenery and dangerous stage mechanisms are prohibited.

Technical & Stage Use

- ♦ No scenery or effects that delay the next routine will be allowed.
- ♦ All performances will use the same **standard lighting** provided by the venue.
- ♦ Specific lighting changes or cues must be requested **in advance**, if applicable.
- ♦ Tech sheets and stage dimensions will be shared before the event.

Disqualification Criteria

A routine may be **stopped or disqualified** if:

- ✦ A dancer is nude or wearing only undergarments/tape
- ✦ Dangerous or prohibited elements are used
- ✦ The routine exceeds the maximum time limit by more than 30 seconds
- ✦ The music contains inappropriate content

Certificates & Feedback

- ✦ All dancers will receive a **digital certificate of participation**.
- ✦ Competitive dancers will also receive **judges' notes and scoresheets** after their session.
- ✦ Feedback will be shared via email or WhatsApp through the group representative.

Judging Criteria

All competitive routines will be evaluated by professional judges with extensive dance and performance backgrounds. Each routine will receive a score from 5.0 to 10.0, based on the following criteria:

Evaluation Criteria

- **Technique**
Execution of proper dance technique and body alignment.
- **Choreography**
Creativity, originality, and appropriateness of the choreography.
- **Musicality**
Timing, interpretation, and connection to the music.
- **Performance Quality**
Stage presence, confidence, energy, and emotional expression.
- **Costume & Presentation**
Suitability, cleanliness, and coordination with the theme/music.
- **Overall Impact**
Artistic impression and activeness of the performance as a whole.

- ✦ Each category may be weighted equally, unless otherwise stated by the judging panel.

Placement	Score Range	Award Type
1st Place	9.0 – 10.0	Trophy or Medal
2nd Place	8.0 – 8.9	Trophy or Medal
3rd Place	7.0 – 7.9	Trophy or Medal
Highly Commended	5.0 – 6.9	Participation Certificate

There are no tiebreakers: all routines that fall within the same score range will receive the corresponding placement.

Judges' Decisions

- ♦ All decisions made by the judging panel are **final and non-negotiable**.
- ♦ No appeals or protests will be accepted regarding placements or scores.
- ♦ Respect toward judges and staff expected at all times; any inappropriate behaviour may lead to disqualification.

Results & Feedback

- ♦ Detailed feedback and scoresheets will be sent via email or through the registered group representative.
- ♦ Scores may also be made available on the event's website after the final session.

Music & Costumes

This section applies to all routines, both competitive and non-competitive. Dancers, teachers, and representatives are responsible for ensuring their music and costumes follow the guidelines below.

Music Submission

- ♦ All music files must be uploaded during registration via the official platform.
- ♦ Accepted format: **.mp3 only**, maximum file size: **10MB**
- ♦ Final deadline: **September 18th, 2025, at 12:00 PM (AEST)**
- ♦ If music is not submitted by the deadline, the routine will be **automatically disqualified** (no refunds).

You may register choreography first and upload the music later, as long as it is submitted by the deadline.

Backup Music

- ♦ A **USB flash drive** containing all routine music must be brought to the venue.

The Open Dance team and technical crew are **not responsible** for any music issues if no USB backup is provided.

Music Restrictions

- ♦ Absolutely no explicit **lyrics, offensive language, or inappropriate content**.
- ♦ **No pre-recorded tap sounds** are allowed for tap routines.
- ♦ In **Song and Dance**, live vocals must be performed by the dancer on stage. No lip-syncing allowed.

Costumes

- ♦ Costumes must be appropriate for the dancer's age **and style**.
- ♦ Costumes should allow full range of motion and be **safe for performance**.
- ♦ Footwear must be suitable for the floor type and choreography.

Costume design should **enhance** the performance - not distract from it.

Costume Restrictions

The following are **not allowed** on stage:

- ♦ *Nudity or costumes that simulate nudity*
- ♦ *Costume changes during the performance unless seamless and part of choreography*
- ♦ *Loose items that may **fall off** or cause slipping*
- ♦ *Any element that leaves **residue, glitter, or stains** on the floor*

Technical Info & Stage Use

The Open Dance Australia stage will be shared by all participants across styles and divisions. To ensure fairness, safety, and efficiency, the following technical guidelines apply:

Stage Specifications

- ♦ *Detailed stage dimensions and lighting plans will be emailed to all registered participants prior to the event.*
- ♦ *A **standard lighting setup** will be used for all routines.*
- ♦ *Custom lighting is **not available**. Cueing changes may be requested if technically feasible but must be submitted at least **2 weeks before the event**.*

Props & Scenery Rules

Props are allowed if they comply with the following rules:

- ♦ *Must be placed and removed quickly by dancers or their staff*
- ♦ *Cannot damage or dirty the stage*
- ♦ *Must not exceed setup/removal time*
- ♦ *No stagehand or crew support is provided by the event*

Prohibited items include:

- ♦ *Water, fire, glitter, powder, smoke, fog, sprays, confetti, sharp or breakable objects*
- ♦ *Live animals, pyrotechnics, or any effect that could pose a safety risk*

Performance Timing

- ♦ *Routines must begin within **30 seconds** of the stage being cleared and ready.*
- ♦ *Delays may result in disqualification.*
- ♦ *The entire routine – including entrance and exit – must stay within the maximum time limit for the category.*

Safety & Cleanliness

- ♦ *If a routine leaves **residue, damage, or debris**, the group may be charged a cleaning fee and/or disqualified.*
- ♦ *All participants must ensure the stage remains safe for following routines.*

Backstage Protocol

- ♦ Only dancers scheduled to perform in the current session will have access to backstage.
- ♦ Each dancer may only enter backstage **during the session they perform** – no access to other sessions unless registered as a support role.
- ♦ All participants must wear **event wristbands** at all times.

Wristbands & Accreditation

- ♦ All dancers, representatives, and technical assistants will receive an event wristband during accreditation.
- ♦ Wristbands must be worn at all times while inside the venue.
- ♦ Only registered and accredited individuals will be allowed backstage, in dressing rooms, or near technical booths.
- ♦ Lost or damaged wristbands may be replaced for a \$50 AUD reissue fee.

Backstage Access

- ♦ Only participants performing during that session may access the backstage area.
- ♦ Dancers are not allowed backstage for sessions in which they are not performing, even if other teammates are dancing.
- ♦ Group representatives and technical assistants have access only during sessions in which their group is scheduled to perform.
- ♦ Backstage opens 1 hour before the start of each session.

Dressing Rooms

- ♦ Dressing rooms will be shared. Please respect others and keep the space clean.
- ♦ No glass containers, sprays, or flammable products allowed.
- ♦ The event is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Do not leave valuables unattended.

Audience Access for Participants

- ♦ All dancers, registered representatives, and assistants have free access to the audience when wearing a wristband (as long as seating is available).
- ♦ Access is allowed only if seats are free – all participants must respect the venue's seating capacity and fire safety limits.
- ♦ Final audience access information will be sent by email closer to the event.

Image Rights & Authorizations

By registering for Open Dance Australia, all participants and their legal guardians agree to the terms below regarding participation, image use, and responsibility.

Use of Image & Media Consent

- ✦ By participating in the event, all dancers (or their legal guardians, if under 18) **authorize the use of their image**, voice, and performance in photos, videos, and promotional materials.
- ✦ These materials may be used for marketing, documentation, streaming, and promotional purposes – on the website, social media, press, or any other media outlet.
- ✦ This authorization is **granted free of charge**, valid for an **indefinite period**, and applies to national and international distribution.

Note: Recording (video/photo) is not permitted. Only the official event media team is allowed to capture high-quality footage inside the venue.

Participation Authorization

The person responsible for registering a dancer (e.g., studio owner, teacher, parent):

- ✦ Confirms that they have obtained all **necessary permissions** to register the participant(s), including parental consent for minors and authorization from the choreographer.
- ✦ Takes **full legal responsibility** for the content, originality, and appropriateness of the choreography and participation.
- ✦ Confirms that the work registered does not infringe on the rights of others (no plagiarism or unauthorized use of choreography, music, or visual content).

Legal Disclaimer

- ✦ Open Dance Australia and its production team are **not legally responsible** for any third-party claims related to unauthorized choreography, music, costume, or image use submitted by participants.
- ✦ Any legal matters arising from misuse or lack of authorization will be the responsibility of the person who submitted the registration.

Submission Agreement

- ✦ By completing the registration on our platform, the responsible person declares:
- ✦ “I acknowledge and agree to the terms and conditions of Open Dance Australia 2025. I confirm that all dancers under 18 have parental or legal guardian approval to participate. I authorize the use of images, recordings, and names of registered participants for promotional purposes, without financial compensation.”

Tickets & Audience Access

Open Dance Australia welcomes families, friends, and the community to attend and celebrate the dancers' performances. Below are the details for ticket access, pricing, and conditions.

Ticket Sales

- ♦ Tickets are sold **per session** (e.g., morning, afternoon, or evening block).
- ♦ Ticket purchase information will be released soon.

Ticket Pricing

Early Bird	\$15 (per session)
At the Door	\$20 (per session)

Children Under 3 – Free Entry

Children aged **2 years and 11 months or younger** are entitled to **free entry**, provided they are accompanied by a paying adult and a **valid proof of age** (ID or birth certificate) is presented at the door

Audience Access for Participants

- ♦ Registered **dancers, group representatives, and technical assistants** may enter the audience area **free of charge**, subject to:
 - Availability of seats
 - Proper use of wristband at all times
- ♦ If the session is at full capacity, entry may be restricted for safety reasons.

General Notes

- ♦ Audience members must **not block aisles, exits, or reserved technical zones**.
- ♦ Standing or gathering near the stage or sound booth is **not allowed** during performances.

Final Notes & Contact Information

General Terms

- ♦ Any issues not explicitly covered in this rulebook will be resolved by the event's **Direction and Coordination** Team.
- ♦ The organization reserves the right to:
- ♦ Merge or split age divisions or categories depending on registration volume.
- ♦ Adjust the schedule, sessions, or format as necessary for safety or logistics.
- ♦ Refuse participation in cases of misconduct or violation of rules.
- ♦ This rulebook may be updated or modified without prior notice. Any changes will be communicated via email and social media.

Contact Information

For questions or assistance, please reach out to our official channels:

- ♦ Email: opendanceaustralia@gmail.com
- ♦ Website: opendancebrasil.com/australia
- ♦ Instagram: [@opendanceau](https://www.instagram.com/opendanceau)
- ♦ WhatsApp (Enquiries Only): [+61 490 459 198](https://wa.me/61490459198) (Isabella Rodrigues)

*** Thank You! ***

Thank you for being part of Open Dance Australia 2025. We can't wait to celebrate dance, talent, and community with you.

Let the stage shine — and let your art speak!