

— KWINANA —

DANCE FESTIVAL

Kwinana Dance Festival – 2026 Rules

Please read all rules carefully. By entering this competition, you agree to be bound by these rules.

Code Of Conduct

1. The Kwinana Dance Festival is a community-based festival run by the Koorliny Arts Centre (Festival Administration) which aims to provide a competitive arena for both dancers and schools, in a fair and non-malicious environment. It seeks to aid participants to increase their self-esteem and confidence and promote a sense of fair play. Dancers, teachers, and participants (including parents) must respect each other and the work that they perform. **Foul language and adult themes are not acceptable in any music or choreography, either on or off-stage, during the course of the festival.** Canvassing of students by teachers and students from another school will not be condoned. Any participants who, in the opinion of the protest panel, are found to exhibit inappropriate behaviour can, at the discretion of the panel, lose aggregate points, positions, or be disqualified from the festival.

Eligibility To Enter

2. Students enrolled in any dance school located within the boundaries of the cities of Kwinana, Rockingham and Cockburn. Schools outside this area who have entered in 2019 and 2020 will continue to be eligible to enter until such time as they do not enter for two consecutive years. If this happens, they will lose their eligibility.
3. Entries will only be accepted from dance schools/studios who meet the eligibility requirements.

Note:

- Entries will not be accepted from individuals.
 - If a dancer is enrolled in two dance schools for different dance styles, ie. School (A) for Classical Ballet, and School (B) for Hip Hop, they may be entered by both schools for the appropriate sections. Any aggregate points awarded will be awarded to the relevant school for that specific entry.
4. All competitors must have been enrolled in that school/company they are entered with prior to July 1, 2026.
 5. Closure or change of ownership of schools: Dancers who have transferred dancing schools after July 1, 2026, due to the closure of their school, or due to a change of ownership of their school, may still be eligible to enter at the discretion of Festival Administration and subject to their enrolment in an eligible school. In this case, the principal of their new school should contact Festival Administration to obtain special dispensation (in reference to Rule 3).

6. This festival is open to all children and adults who are bona-fide amateurs. Anyone who receives an income from dance shall be deemed to be a professional dancer and therefore not eligible to enter **with the following exceptions:**
- Any dancer under 18 years of age, who has performed in no more than two professional productions in the previous year, shall be deemed to be an amateur.
 - A student teacher must be a bona-fide student i.e., enrolled and attending classes as a student, is NOT a qualified dance teacher, but who may teach under the supervision of a qualified teacher, for which they may receive free or discounted lessons or a small cash payment.
 - Dance school owners/principals and teachers who receive payment for teaching, whether appropriately qualified or not, may compete, but only in duo/trio/quartets and troupes, and in Mature & Motivated or the appropriate age section e.g., 18 and over. They may not dance in age sections AND a Mature & Motivated section (as per Rule 11). They may not compete in any solo section.
7. Entries will not be accepted from any school with outstanding debts to the Koorliny Arts Centre (City of Kwinana).

Dates

8. The proposed dates for the **KWINANA DANCE FESTIVAL 2026** are from Tuesday, September 29, 2026, to Sunday, October 4, 2026. Final dates will be confirmed once all entries are received and collated. It should be noted that, subject to the number of entries received, Festival Administration reserves the right to change the commencement date or extend the festival as required and accepts no liability for any inconvenience this may cause.
9. The closing time and date for entries is **midnight on Friday, July 31, 2026.**
LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
Music must be uploaded to the portal by Monday 14th September 2026

Age Limits

10. Entrant's age will be their age as of September 30, 2026. The age for a Duo/Trio/Quartet or Group is determined by the oldest competitor included in that entry, although a teacher may choose to enter a Duo/Trio/Quartet or Group in a higher age group.
11. No competitor may dance in a Mature & Motivated section AND an age section eg.18/over. The minimum age to compete in a Mature & Motivated section is 21 years.

Entry Fees

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| 12. All Solos | at | \$12.00 |
| Duo/Trio/Quartets (each person) | at | \$12.00 |
| Troupes/Ensembles (each person) | at | \$12.00 |

Entry fees include GST. A Tax Invoice will be issued to each school on receipt of entries. Schools with outstanding invoices past the invoice due date will not be permitted to participate in the 2026 Kwinana Dance Festival. Entry fees are not refundable. The decision of Festival Administration in all questions and disputes arising shall be final.

Entry Information

13. All details must be entered through the KDF Online Portal, including the competitor's full name, date of birth and Dancing School.
14. A Certificate of Currency for Public Liability insurance is required from every school competing. This must be uploaded at the time of submission of entries. Minimum cover required is \$5,000,000. If this expires before the end of the festival, an updated certificate will be required as soon as it is available.
15. Competitors must perform the work of the School/Company whose name appears on their entry form.
16. No competitor who has been taught, coached or advised by the adjudicator in a private dance studio during the twelve months prior to September 29, 2026, shall be eligible to enter these competitions.
17. No competitor may appear more than once in any one item, with the exception of contestants participating in Mature & Motivated Troupes and Own Choreography. Competitors taking advantage of this concession should note that Festival Administration cannot guarantee that the minimum time normally allowed for costume change can be programmed.
18. Each school may have one understudy per group or Duo/Trio/Quartet entry in the event of a dancer being injured or ill. Festival Administration is to be advised of any substitution **before** reporting backstage. Substitutes must be eligible to compete in that section. Failure to comply with any of the rules and conditions will involve disqualification and withholding of prizes.
19. All troupes are to consist of no less than five dancers and must have no more than originally included on the entry form.

Payments

20. All entries will be invoiced by the City of Kwinana and must be paid in full by the due date shown on the invoice.

Open And Novice Definitions

21. Open and Novice categories will apply in all sections from 9/under upwards. 7/under sections will be split into OPEN and NOVICE only if the number of entries allow.

7/under competitors will retain their NOVICE status irrespective of their results from this and other competitions.

- **OPEN:** Any competitor who has danced in an open session at any competition, or who has won a first place in a novice section at any competition, is classed as an **OPEN DANCER** in that dance style. (If a competitor has been awarded first place in a novice section after entering the Kwinana Dance Festival, they must notify the Festival Administration and will be moved to the appropriate item if it has not yet passed, they will be void from entering a novice section.)
- **NOVICE:** Any competitor who has NOT been awarded a first place in a novice section or has not danced in an open session prior to this competition is classed as a **NOVICE DANCER** in that discipline.
- **PROMOTION:** Where a student is promoted through disqualification, the student will not lose their novice status automatically but may request this if they wish.

The decision of Festival Administration in all questions and disputes arising shall be final.

Scoring & Awards

22. Prizes will be awarded at the adjudicator's discretion; however, a first place will only be awarded where the standard of a performance warrants a first place. Where only one or two entries are received for a section, age groups may be combined where appropriate for programming purposes; however, each age group will be adjudicated separately.

23. Aggregate Awards - The number of solo performances by a performer is not limited.

For the purpose of awarding aggregate points these will be limited as follows:

- 5/u & 7/u - 3 solos
(Festival administration will allocate aggregate points using the 3 highest scores across any 3 solos)
- 9/u and older - 4 solos
(Festival administration will allocate aggregate points using the 4 highest scores across any 4 solos)

Aggregate points are awarded as follows:

	<u>Novice</u>	<u>Open</u>
First	(5 points)	(6 points)
Second	(3 points)	(4 points)
Third	(1 points)	(2 points)

In the event of a tie, there will be a count back and the number of firsts, seconds and third places will decide the "Highest Aggregate of the Festival". A place in an Open section will rate higher than the equivalent place in a Novice section. If they still cannot be separated, the decision will be made by the adjudicator. Only solo performances are included in the calculation of aggregate points for individual trophies.

24. Only schools with more than 25 entries in the festival are eligible for the School Highest Performance Aggregate trophy.

25. The Outstanding Dancer of the Festival and Junior Outstanding Dancer are selected by the adjudicator. The following are guidelines, but not rules, to assist selection:

- Should compete in at least four different styles e.g. Classical, Jazz, Tap and Contemporary, at least two of which should be solos.
- Should obviously be stronger technically than other dancers in their same age section.
- Should demonstrate stage presentation and personality.
- At the discretion of the adjudicator, it is expected that the “Outstanding Dancer of the Festival” would normally come from 15/ under, 17/ under or 18/ over sections. The dancer would show a readiness for making a professional career in dance.
- The Junior Outstanding Dancer of the Festival may be no older than 13 years of age.

Time Limits

26. Time limits will be strictly enforced. Entrants exceeding time limits will be disqualified. The time of the item will be taken from the commencement of the music or the dancer's first movement, until the music ends.

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| • All 5/u & 7/u solos & duo/trios (<i>including Music Theatre</i>) | up to 2.5 mins |
| • All Novice solos 9/u & 11/u (<i>except Music Theatre</i>) | up to 2.5 mins |
| • All Own Choreography Solos 11/u, 13/u, 15/u, 17/u, 18/o | up to 2.5 mins |
| • All Novice solos 13/u, 15/u, 17/u, 18/o & M&M (<i>except Music Theatre</i>) | up to 3 mins |
| • All Open solos (<i>except Music Theatre</i>) | up to 3 mins |
| • All duo/trios (<i>except 5/u & 7/u & Music Theatre</i>) | up to 3 mins |
| • All Music Theatre solos & duo/trios (<i>except 5/u & 7/u</i>) | up to 4 mins |
| • All troupe & ensemble items | up to 4 mins |

Music & Performance

27. All music must be submitted in MP3 format ONLY, via the online portal at time of entry. Please ensure that each track title is clearly marked as follows: - Performer/s Name, Age Group, Category/style, Dance School.

A theatre technician will control the playing of all music and controlling the volume from the sound desk. It is also advisable to bring a backup copy with you on the day, on either a phone, iPad, or laptop. Should the need arise to use one of these alternate options, the teacher will be required to operate the device, which MUST BE CUED ready to play and on “Do Not Disturb”.

28. Competitors must report to the loading dock fifteen minutes before the time of their performance.

29. There should be no music tags after the dance finishes. The technician will stop the music at the conclusion of the main dance. ‘Dance off’ tags are a subtle form of branding and are inappropriate.

30. Competitors who do not appear when their number is called may perform at the end of their section. The awarding of marks and eligibility for a trophy will be at the discretion of

the adjudicator. A competitor whose name is omitted from the program will normally be required to appear after the competitors listed in numerical order.

31. If a competitor commences an item and stops because of a technical hitch, they will be allowed to dance again at the end of the item. If a dancer stops for any other reason (e.g., they forget their dance), competitors 13/u or younger will be allowed to dance again at the end of the item; however, competitors in the 15/u and older sections will not be given a second chance.

32. **Only competitors and authorised personnel are allowed backstage.** Teachers may stand at the side of the stage **only while their own students** are performing on stage. **No more than two (2) teachers and two (2) students under their care will be allowed at the side of stage at any one time.**

33. There is strictly no prompting of students over the age of seven years, and strictly no prompting of students of any age from the auditorium. Teachers, including student teachers, may not sit in the front row. Doing so may result in penalty or disqualification. Penalties are as follows:

Coaching violations:

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| • Level 1 | First time | penalty -5% of marks awarded |
| • Level 2 | Second time | penalty -10% of marks awarded |
| • Level 3 | Third time | Disqualification |

34. Any performance that is deemed by the adjudicator or the Festival Administrator to contain adult themes or foul language in either the music or the choreography will be disqualified.

Props

35. **Use of props:** Props are to be set on stage immediately prior to the item and any props **used must be removed from backstage on completion of the session.** Curtains may not be used when loading props onto the stage. **No set of any kind is allowed. This includes props or any item that is placed on stage purely for visual effect.** Any props used must be essential to, and included, as part of the dance performance i.e., a box in an Acro routine, or a set of steps. The only exception is for Demi-Character items.

Hay and straw are not acceptable and will not be allowed on the stage as they present a hazard to other competitors. **A maximum of 30 seconds will be allowed for the placement of props. A warning bell will sound at 25 seconds. If the dancer(s) are not ready to commence after 30 seconds a penalty will be incurred of 5% of the marks awarded for each 10 seconds thereafter.**

36. Dancers must provide their own props. Chairs, furniture or any other object that is the property of the Koorliny Arts Centre may be used only for the purpose for which it was designed. **THEY MAY NOT BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE.** e.g., Koorliny Arts Centre chairs are used solely for sitting on NOT for standing or rolling on, or any other purpose.

37. Branding (i.e., school name or logo) on stage is not allowed on props, costumes or tags. School jackets are permitted for medal presentations.
38. No lighting or special effects are to be used.

Video Recording/Photography

39. Due to copyright and regulations, the recording of performances (either visual or sound) is not permitted without an AMCOS licence and the written consent of the teacher and choreographer. A professional company will be commissioned to video performances, only with the approval of all participating copyright owners. **No other video cameras, cameras with flashes, sound recording equipment, mobile phones or tablets with built-in cameras are to be used in the auditorium for any purpose.** Teachers are advised to ensure their parents are aware of this. Any recordings made will be destroyed by Management. Any breach of this rule may result in the disqualification of the competitor(s) being filmed.

Protests

40. If any competitor, teacher or parent, before the completion of all sessions, approaches the adjudicator, *other than in connection with an official protest and at the invitation of the Festival Administrator*, this will result in that competitor being disqualified.
41. Written protests against any competitor or any decision may only be lodged by a dance school Principal, at any time up to two hours after completion of the relevant session, **along with a fee of \$50**. If the protest is upheld the \$50 is refundable. However, if the protest is deemed frivolous, the \$50 is forfeited.
42. Protest Panel: The protest panel will consist of four dance school principals and Festival Administration. For each and any protest the principals on the panel shall be drawn by ballot from the principals present in the building. The principal whose school initiated the protest shall not be eligible for inclusion in the ballot. Any member of the panel may veto the membership of the panel, in which case, the entire panel shall be redrawn until an approved panel is elected. The panel shall decide the protest by simple majority, having given both parties to the protest a single opportunity to address the panel. The panel may request additional information from any party at any time.

Other

43. Please ensure that your students are available for the entirety of the festival. We cannot accept requests for students to perform on specific dates or at specific times.
44. The draft program, once completed, will be conveyed to schools/studios for their viewing. The draft program is not final and may be adjusted to correct administrative and entry errors. **It is not for publication or reference. Ticket bookings should not be made from the draft program. Any school found to have distributed a draft program will be disqualified.**

45. Once the final program has been printed, the items/sessions cannot be reallocated to other time slots, unless a power failure or other Act of God requires the times be amended.
46. Competitors and audience must maintain silence during rendition of all items in the program. Mobile phones and tablets **MUST BE SWITCHED TO SILENT** prior to entering the auditorium or backstage areas.
47. The use of the stage by dancers to rehearse during breaks between sessions in the Festival is strictly prohibited with the exception of Acro contestants scheduled to perform in the following session, for the purpose of warm-up exercises. The Amphitheatre stage **MAY NOT BE USED FOR REHEARSALS AT ANY TIME**. This area is currently not in use.
48. In the event of the competition not taking place for any reason, no liability will be accepted by the Koorliny Arts Centre for any loss of time or expense incurred. Festival Administration will not be responsible for loss or damage to competitors' property and will not be responsible for their personal safety. All competitors enter and perform at their own risk.
49. Festival Administration reserves the right to amend or refuse entry on any reasonable grounds.
50. The decision of Festival Administration in all questions and disputes arising shall be final.
51. Festival Administration reserves the right to terminate the employment of the adjudicator for any reason.
52. By entering this competition, you agree to be bound by these rules.

Definitions

53. Classical: any recognised method will be accepted with appropriate costuming and with ballet pumps or pointe shoes.
54. Neo-Classical: Classical ballet developed to a neo-classical along the lines originated by George Balanchine or similar masters – based on true classical ballet lines and technique with a less formal approach to body, arm and foot positions. Flexibility of body without acrobatic tricks can include splits and handstand to the floor. Must be performed with minimalist costuming to show off the choreography and body dynamics within the choreography. Ballet pumps, pointe shoes or bare feet only.
55. Demi Character sections must portray a story and show any recognised classical ballet technique. Classical music to be used with no voice-over or vocals.
56. National: all national dances must be authentic with authentic (not character) costume. Set exam routines from a dance syllabus belonging to any organisation may not be used.
57. Contemporary: to be based on any recognised method (using, but not limited to, such concepts as Cunningham technique – using the body's own line of energy, Graham

technique – focusing on the use of contraction, release, fall and recovery, Limon technique – gravity and weight with fall, rebound, recovery and suspension etc.) Music is optional, simple props.

58. Jazz: All modern dance forms accepted e.g., commercial, jazz funk, jazz, but not Hip Hop (see rule 64). There should be no choreographed singing and no more than four (4) acrobatic tricks, whether performed as a sequence or separately.
59. Broadway Jazz: Broadway dancing is less of a particular style, and more of a description of dancing that is rooted in the diverse history of Broadway musicals. Broadway/Musical theatre dancers are, first and foremost, actors and place a high focus on musical interpretation. There should be no choreographed singing in this section.
60. Lyrical: the dancer must convey the emotion of the song's lyrics through dance. Emotional expression of the face and body are necessary to tell a story that evolves along the lines of a song to which lyrical dance is performed. It fuses modern, jazz and ballet in its choreography to achieve this. The music must contain lyrics.
61. Music Theatre: may include any style of dance. No voice-over or backing vocals of any description are allowed in sections where the competitor(s) is singing. Voice-over on the backing music will only be allowed in sections where the competitor(s) is just dancing. Though not a requirement, entrants are strongly encouraged to include song and dance elements performed simultaneously as is typical in a musical production, particularly in the older age groups.
62. Tap: any style is acceptable. Competitors in any Tap section must have taps on their shoes.
63. Acrobatic: must contain acrobatic tricks and dance elements.
64. Hip Hop is characterised by flexibility and isolations – moving a specific body part independently from others. The feet should be grounded, chest down and the body kept loose, easily alternating between hitting the beat and moving through musicality. It is very rhythmic, involves a lot of footwork and radial movement of the hips and may include popping and krumping.
65. Family items: may be entered in Duo/Trio/Quartets or Group sections, and in any style. Subject to the number of entries a variety of styles may be combined into one item. An entry must include at least two generations of the same family. e.g., child +/- parent/aunt/uncle +/- grandparent/great aunt/great uncle. An entry made up of brothers & sisters or cousins are not eligible for the Family section – they must enter the appropriate age section. An exception may be requested where there is a clear generational gap (e.g., 20 years) between the competitors. This will be at the discretion of Festival Administration.
66. Mature & Motivated: this section is for adult competitors, often in the senior age group, teachers, or those who have learned to dance as an adult. Entrants cannot be currently in formal syllabus training for examinations grades or competition work. The minimum age to compete in a Mature & Motivated section is 21 years. Competitors who dance in this section may not compete in any 18 and over section. Mature & Motivated entrants

are only eligible for two perpetual trophies, the Adult Encouragement Award and the Highest Mark Overall in Any Adult Section.

67. Improvisation: 5/u, 7/u, 9/u, 11/u Jazz, Hip Hop & Lyrical (3 separate items/styles). 13/u, 15/u, 17/u, 18/o Jazz, Hip Hop, Lyrical & Contemporary (4 separate items/styles). Music choice and length is at the adjudicator's discretion. Competitors listen to the music and then choreograph steps to the music on the spot. This section is entirely about musical interpretation only, no marks will be allocated for costumes. Students should wear suitable dance attire (Branding i.e., school name or logo is not permitted). Entries in this section are not awarded aggregate points.
68. Superstars: this section is for those schools with ability students, includes any style and is not subject to age limitations. Students may enter solos, duo/trio/quartet sections and troupes.
69. Own Choreography: Routines must be entirely choreographed and performed by the student. Solo entries only in the following age groups: 9/u, 11/u, 13/u, 15/u, 17/u and 18/o. All dance styles compete together within each age group and are not divided into separate style sections. Maximum time limit 2.5 minutes. Entries in this section are not awarded aggregate points.
70. Champion Dancer: This section is a new initiative being trialled for 2026.
- Entry fees for 2026 will remain the same as the standard solo entry fee. If the section continues beyond 2026, pricing will increase from 2027 onward.
 - Champion Dancer section will be offered in the following 3 age groupings:
 - (5 & 7 under) (9, 11 & 13 under) (15, 17 under & 18 over)
 - To be eligible, performers must compete in at least two open solos of any genre throughout the festival to enter the Champion Dancer section.
 - Routines performed in the Champion section may either be repeated from earlier festival sections or be a new routine.
 - Style includes all genres within the same Champion section.