



The A.S.D.U. international dance Guidelines

As of September 2021

1. The Competition

Once a year, the **A.S.D.U. INTERNATIONAL** hosts national championships and the International Championships. The duration is as follows:

- a) National Championships: 1 - 4 days
- b) International Championships 3 - 4 days

2. Participant Guidelines

- a) All competitions are open to all members of a dance school or dance organization/club.
The dance school / organization must be a member of the **A.S.D.U. INTERNATIONAL**
- b) First-time participation in an **A.S.D.U. INTERNATIONAL** competition is also possible without association membership (guest competitor status).
- c) A participant may compete for one school/organization.
- d) Qualification for the International Championships:
 - Open to competitors who have qualified in national competitions.
 - Competitors from countries without national competitions are automatically eligible to compete in the European Championships.
A danced qualification is only valid for the current tournament season.

3. Registration

3.1. General

- a) Registration must be made through the **A.S.D.U. INTERNATIONAL**. Entries are only valid with proof of paid entrance fee.
- b) Upon registration, the **A.S.D.U. INTERNATIONAL** gains all production rights. The unlimited rights applies to all filming and photography from the competitions, which can, in every respect, be transmitted per whatever media form (particularly per TV broadcasts as well as video media and online, via on-demand-services) and other interactive usages.
- c) The number of participants and dances are, in principle, not limited. It is recommended, however, that the schools/organizations register as soon as possible, as the **A.S.D.U. INTERNATIONAL** has the right to reject late registrations if there are an excessive number of entries.
- d) If registration must be withdrawn after the registration deadline and portal closure or do not appear in the competition, the full registration fees will be charged and there is no entitlement to a refund.



- e) Any change to the registered dance contributions after the registration deadline is subject to a fee and can only be paid after receipt of € 20.00 on the account of A.S.D.U. INTERNATIONAL. The A.S.D.U. INTERNATIONAL reserves the right to accept and agree to changes.

3.2. Age Groups

A competition is comprised of a mini-, a children-, a junior-, and a general classes. The age cut-off-date is 1.1. of the current year.

The average age of the dancers determines the age group (**exception: Solo category**).

Minis:	6,0 <= dancers age < 9,1 years old
Children:	9,1 <= dancers age < 12,5 years old
Junior I:	12,5 <= dancers age < 15,5 years old
Junior II:	15,5 <= dancers age < 19,5 years old
General Category:	19,5 year of age and older

3.3. Categories

Solo:	one dancer
Duo/Trio:	two / three dancers
Small Groups:	4-10 dancers
Groups:	11 or more dancers

3.4. Disciplines

Registration of a dance in a respective discipline is to ensure that the dance is judged "with its own kind"; in other words the dance is evaluated based on the characteristics of the particular discipline. To ensure impartial scoring, the trained and qualified jury will judge the dances based on specific criteria. The individual dances will be compared to the others in the same discipline and category. The dance style is crucial in assigning the dance number to a discipline.

Classic/Ballet: Classical ballet techniques danced in ballet slippers or pointe shoes. It is possible to dance original choreography as well as parts of well-known pieces. The jury places extra value on proper technique and especially attitude. The emotion of ballet must be conveyed and represented in the technique, posture, and stage presence. Pointe is allowed beginning in the Junior 1 age-group, which means the dancer must be at least 12.5 years old (in all categories).

Contemporary/Modern: It is important that the various modern styles, for example Graham, Limon, Horton, Cunningham or Chladek, to name a few, are incorporated in these dance numbers. In addition, contemporary and neo-classical movements are permitted. Above all, contemporary/modern dance is not disco dancing.



Lyrical Dance: Lyrical dance is an emotion-based fusion of the styles of ballet, jazz, modern dance and contemporary enjoyable and can also contain elements of acrobatics. According to Jennifer Fisher, lyrical dance is strongly associated with clearly shown emotional moods, fast-moving choreographic strategies, emphasis on virtuoso performance, illustration of song lyrics and, in group form, exact unison. The style is usually danced more accentuated than ballet, but not in the style-typical poly-rhythm of pure jazz. Mastering the basic techniques of jazz, ballet and modern dance is mandatory. Lyrical dance uses these fundamental techniques to create a new aesthetic that emphasizes expression, emotion and choreographic innovation. Song texts can be interpreted and presented in the form of dance, but deliberately integrated acting moments from the sphere of influence of dance theater can also be used. No style dominates, but the styles serve the form of expression of the dancer or the choreographer.

Jazz Dance: There are various jazz-styles which are permitted – classical Jazz, Broadway Jazz, Lyrical Jazz or Latin Jazz. Main features include isolation movements (polycentric) parallelism, contractions, collapse, coordination, impulses and the danceability at different levels.

Urban Dance Styles: (formally. Hip-Hop/Funk/Street style): All established Urban Dance Styles, such as Locking, Popping, Electric Boogaloo, House, Crumping, BBoying (may not dominate the number), Party Dances, Wacking or Vogueing are allowed. In the presentation, several recognizable styles should be present; likewise the characteristics (music, expression, and clothing) of the style should be regarded. Acrobatic elements are allowed, however must not dominate (Acro Dance) and must homogeneously fit into the performance.

Careful consideration should be given to selecting the proper clothing, as many of the styles' movements lose their effect when presented in the wrong clothing. The dance's elements and key features must be clearly expressed.

BBoying/Breakdance: BBoying consists of top-rocking, down-rocking, freezes und power moves. Acrobatic elements are also allowed. The focus should be the dance-like elements and the characteristic of the dance is to be followed. The presentation will be judged based upon the diversity, variation, and technique, as well as the homogeneity of the various individual styles and techniques.

Acro Dance: Acrobatics may be combined with different dance styles, for example BBoying/Breakdance, Hip-Hop and much more. Acrobatics is not only allowed, but also required, and must outweigh the dance elements.

Step/Tap-dance: It is important to master the step techniques. There are several different step styles allowed. This category also includes Irish Dance – the Irish step-dance. It is incredibly important that, if tapping is present on a CD that it is not audible.

Song & Dance: Dancing and singing must be balanced 50/50. All types of dancing and music styles are permitted. There are 3 hand-held microphones and 3 headsets available; at least 1 microphone must be used. It is important that the live-singing is audible and that on the performer- provided CD only a background choir is audible.



Musical: No live singing is allowed in the performance. The music selected should be originally from a musical or dance films (for example Grease, Dirty Dancing, StepUp, ...). Above all, it is important that the nature of the musical number is clearly recognizable. Choreography from the original (film/musical) is not allowed.

Production Number: The theme and/or context, as well as the story line of the performance must be clearly recognizable. The time-limit is restricted to a maximum of 4:30 minutes. Choreography based on the original staging is not permitted. Furthermore, only groups (of 11 or more dancers) may compete in this category. All styles of dance and live singing are allowed.

Folklore/Character/Ethnic Dance: Original choreography is allowed, but not required -it is important, that the original characteristics of the dances are preserved. Original movements should dominate the number; additionally music and style can be original. The costumes must be adapted to the original.

Commercial Dance Styles: This discipline consists of different dance styles and elements, which have characteristics of the MTV tradition. Modern and contemporary interpreted choreographies are to be paired with the music of famous singers / bands / club and party sounds. In commercial style, a combination of jazz, funk, hip-hop and many other styles can be found in live performances and music videos. The focus is on an expressive and animated performance that resembles current trends in the music and dance scene.

Open: All techniques, dances and performances that are not unique to one of the other designated disciplines or which combine various dance techniques / styles are classified as the discipline Open.

3.5. Time Limits

Solo, Pair/Trio: 1:30 - 2:00 minutes

Small groups, Groups: 2:00 - 3:00 minutes

Production Number: 3:00 - 4:30 minutes

Exception: Classical dance numbers – the music may be longer or shorter, as per the original choreography.

The timing begins with the apparent beginning of the dance and ends with the apparent end of the number. There is a time limit lenience of 5 seconds. (Production Number: 15 sec.) If the dance number goes over, or under, the time beyond the lenience limits there will be reduction of 20 points.



4. Scoring System

4.1. Criteria

Overall Impression: impression, presentation, energy,

Choreography: creativity / originality

Technique: dependent upon the dancer's level; concerns and implies the level of learning/performance

Level: technical difficulty, execution, synchronization when appropriate

4.2. General

- a) For each criterion, there is a maximum of 10 points, for a total possible 40 points per judge.
- b) The jury is comprised of 5 judges per dance.
- c) The "Skating System" is used: the highest and lowest scores are disregarded. Therefore, the highest number of points possible is 120.
- d) The jury's decision is final and binding.
- e) There are 2 judging classes:

A-Class (Amateur): For all hobbyist dancers from schools/ organizations/ dance groups. All above mentioned age classes, dance styles, categories and disciplines are welcome!

ProAm-Class (Professional Amateur): For all professionally trained dancers, dance teachers, and other instructors (regardless of compensation) and professionals (additionally professionals with amateurs, dance teachers with their students, or with one another). All above mentioned dance styles, age classes and disciplines, however only in the categories solo, pair/trio!
ATTENTION: If a ProAM dancer dances in the general age group, the contribution automatically upgraded to the general age group, since a ProAm Dancers may only compete in their own general age group.

- f) Points is for Junior I and older; dancers on point must be at least 12.5 years old (for all categories)

5. Competition Structure

The competition is organized as follows:

- a) Preliminary / Qualification Round
- b) Final Round



6. Award Ceremony

- a) The awards ceremony will follow the end of the competition.
- b) An A.S.D.U. INTERNATIONAL representative and a representative of the competition organizer will conduct the awards ceremony on stage. The participants and their school leaders must be present. In case a competitor must leave the competition early, the competition director must be informed.

7. Music

- a) The school or the organization is responsible for their own music (selection, technical condition and preparation). "Explicit lyrics" (insulting, racist and sexually offensive lyrics) are prohibited. Disregarding these rules will result in a deduction of 20 points from the dance number's score.
- b) The music is reproduced by uploading mp3-files when registering the dance in the registration portal. A backup has to be made on usb stick and must be kept ready if necessary.
- c) A change of the music between national championship and European Championships is not permitted.
- e) Delays and interruptions caused by not following these regulations will result in a deduction of 20 points from the dance number's score.

8. General Rules

8.1. Organizational Matters

- a) By registering for an A.S.D.U.international competition, the competitors accept the official rules of the A.S.D.U.international
- b) The competition committee may make inquiries, either before or after dance numbers, if the jury has doubts about the accuracy of the dancers' age. The dances must be able to prove their age.
- c) No signs or assistance from the trainer/guardian during the performance.
- d) The schools/organizations are responsible for the accident risks of their participants.
- e) 20 points may be deducted for the following:
 - >> Too late or incorrect provision of music.
 - >> Major changes (= > 20%) to the qualifying choreography
 - >> More than 5 Sec. over or under the time limit
 - >> Predominantly (= > 20%) ball-room dancing elements or Rock'n Roll
 - >> For all violations of the ASDU's rules.
- f) A person responsible for the organization may obtain information about the various disciplines etc. during the teachers-meeting (time and place will be announced).



- g) Unsportsmanlike and disruptive behavior during the event may disqualify the competitor, and, in extreme cases, the school/organization may be removed from the competition.
- h) Trainers, as well as guardians and spectators, can be removed from the competition for unsportsmanlike behavior or for disrupting others.
- i) Individual modifications are only possible with prior approval by the competition director.

8.2. Artistic Matters

- a) Definition „Acrobatic“: The body does not touch the ground (Salto, Flick Flack) excluding jumps and lifts.
- b) Acrobatic and gymnastic arches, wheels, etc. should only be used when they are involved directly in the dance and must not dominate the number.
- c) The competition line-up must be observed. Should a costume-change break be necessary, the competition director must be informed directly before the final round, and as soon as the line-up is known.
- d) Competitors may take the stage after the number is called and proceed to their starting position. Competitors leave the stage upon conclusion of the number and the final bow.
- e) All performances, music, costumes, and styles are permitted, as long as they are not indecent or offensive.
- f) The use of props is allowed, as long as the props are used directly in the dance and are brought on and off stage by the dancers.
- g) Individual lighting effects, such as open fire or fire-works, are prohibited.
- h) Creativity, originality of ideas and movements, surprise effects, and affective use of the stage are important elements in all disciplines.
- i) The choreography should be customized to the dancers' abilities. Choreography used in previous competitions may be reused after 3 years. The copying, imitating and taking over of choreographies for example from the internet, dance films and more, is not permitted and has a deduction of 20 points.
- j) Individual performances can only be judged in solo competitions. All other categories are judged at the group level.
- k) Couple/triple dances should be choreographed so that the relationship between the dancers is evident.
- l) Live-Singing is only permitted in the "Production Number" and "Song and Dance" categories.
- m) A dancer may only participate in a maximum of 2 dances per discipline/category/age groups.
- n) If a dance is registered in the incorrect discipline, the jury will reassign it to the correct discipline without a deduction of points.
Note: should participants already be registered twice in a discipline and category, the jury's reassignment does not allow for a third performance in the discipline and category.
- o) A dancer may only skip 2 age-groups (for example: a Mini may not participate in Junior 2 age group productions and also a Mini or Child may not participate in the General age group).