

2025-26 WHAT'S NEW

We are excited to share new changes for the 45th Anniversary 2025-26 Season with you below. The following are the excerpts from the full rules and regulations outlining “What’s New” Only. Please visit the Competition Rules and Regulations page for full details.

SCORING SYSTEM:

NEW:	JUDGING BREAKDOWN	NEW:	PERFORMANCE SCORING*
	40 points _____ Technique		1st Place _____ 97-100 points
	25 points _____ Choreography/Musicality		2nd Place _____ 93-96.99 points
	10 points _____ Costuming		3rd Place _____ 89-92.99 points
	25 points _____ Overall Performance		4th Place _____ 85-88.99 points
	100 Total Points possible from each Judge		

DANCE STYLES:

UPDATED:

Open – All entries that do not fit into any other Style including but not limited to the following types:

1. Fusion of Mixed Styles (Typically opposing styles i.e., Ballet & Hip Hop etc.)
2. Specialty - Clogging, Ballroom/Latin (i.e. Waltz, Jive, Cha Cha, Samba etc.), Modern (Graham, Horton etc.), Cheer/Pom, Bollywood, African, Cultural/Traditional, Circus Arts & Contortion, Can-Can, and Novelty etc.
3. Acro-Gymnastic - must include four (4) or more Tricks to be Open*

NEW:

TRICK - Defined as movement/elements not generally taught in a dance class as described below:

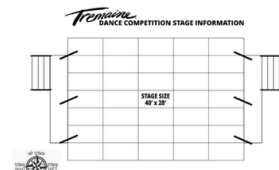
A singular movement/element or combination/pass associated with traditional gymnastic tumbling vocabulary that achieves inverted (Upside Down) orientation with both hands & feet off the ground (at the same time or not) and traveling over the head to complete a full rotation (airborne or not) (i.e., Handspring, Aerial, Tuck, Walkover, Side Somi, etc.) Tricks may also include any element with a rotation/revolution on a horizontal plane where the body is parallel to the floor (i.e. butterfly twist) or is a ground supported combination (i.e. Valdez handstand pirouette).

NOT A TRICK – Anything that is a ground supported power movement (Weight bearing, having contact with the floor) either balanced or in motion with one stationary support that does not achieve hands & feet over head rotation/revolution as outlined above (i.e., Illusion, Scorpion, Kip Up, Elbow Stand, Chin Stand, Hand Balancing, transitional elements etc.) or Jumping movement (i.e. Barrel Jump, Butterfly, Axel etc.). Any of the above may be considered a trick in combination with elements that achieve hands & feet over head rotation/revolution as outlined above.

1. A pass or combination occurring simultaneously in succession with one or more elements constitutes one Trick.
2. General Lifts between one or more dancers (providing support via weight bearing connection) are not considered Tricks. If a lift becomes airborne with or without rotation and without connection to the other dancers, then it will be deemed a trick at the judge’s discretion (i.e., Stunt/Flyer Toss etc.)
3. Traditional Hip Hop vocabulary associated with “Breaking” is NOT considered a trick unless it achieves hands & feet over head rotation/revolution.
4. Traditional ballet partnering is NOT considered a trick.
5. Transitional movement is not considered a Trick.

Please Note: Understanding the subjective nature of choreography, additional elements may be defined differently and considered a trick depending on the context (Control, Execution and Sequence) of the movement. This shall be determined by the judges in their sole discretion. ****The Decision of the Judges is Final****

COMPETITION STAGE:

Semi Finals Competition Stage is approx. 40' x 28' x 30" NEW: WINGS*: Our stage has 4-foot wings on each side w/3 legs. <i>*Please note that some venues have space restrictions and we cannot guarantee wings at all venues.</i>	
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SCHOLARSHIPS

NEW: One Mini Scholarship (1-Time Convention) selected by the faculty will be presented during the Mini Showcase

2026 NATIONAL FINALS UPDATES – July 6-11, 2026

1. All Summer Dance Competition will take place on July 6, 2026.
2. National Finals Competition will begin on July 7, 2026.
3. Classes will take place on July 8, 9, 10, 11, 2026.
4. 45th Annual Gala will take place on the evening of July 11, 2026.
5. No Mini Classes during the 2026 National Finals.
6. A Pre-Teen Ballroom (Ages 11-13) will be added during the 2026 National Finals ONLY.
7. Gold, Silver, Bronze awards added for Solo & Duo/Trios in addition to the combined Group, Line & Productions.
8. Summer registration will open at the end of January 2026.